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AIKS **नाद**
naad

A Monthly Publication of **all india kashmiri samaj**



Glimpses of AIKS First Executive Meet on 26th September 2021



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THIS MONTH'S COVER

This cover is
about recent killings
in Kashmir Valley

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As I am penning down my impressions, the community is confronted with yet another unprecedented situation which has taken us back to the nightmares of the seventh exodus in 1990 that made us refugees in our own country. My heart bleeds for the inhuman and brutal killings of our brethren in cold blood. There are two fallouts of this new terror against the Hindu minority in the valley. One, our brethren, who braved the wrath in 1990s and stayed back in the valley, holding the tricolour aloft of the Indian democracy while the air in the valley was full of hatred for India, today are shaken and, perhaps contemplating to desert their hearths that they clung to for the last thirty-one years. Second, the encouraging picture post UT formation – of development and progress – has received a setback with a yawning hole in its intelligence infrastructure that failed to predict the threat. Based on the sequence of events and the information pouring in bits and pieces, one can safely conclude that it has been more a case of complacency than of infrastructure deficiency. I am reminded of the signboards on the Srinagar – Jammu highway, way back when we used to travel back home, that would read, “Savdhani Hati, Durghatna Ghati.” It looks to be a classic case of complacency of the signboard caution.

I am sure the LG and his government would have taken a cue from these incidents and must have, already, tightened its intelligence network and the security system to ensure there is no recurrence of such unfortunate incidents. Besides, its government machinery will have to instil

confidence amongst the minority community living there which is at the brink of leaving the valley.

My heart goes out to the families of the martyred brothers and sister, praying for Moksha to their Aatmas and strength to their families to bear the loss. Namah Shivai!

This October issue of NAAD coincides with the 74th Anniversary of Kashmir's Accession to India. The then Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, had signed the Instrument of Accession on 26th October 1947, thus joining the other princely states and embark upon the democratic system of governance adopted by the Union of India. We have a distinguished panel of writers who have written on the subject that makes this issue a very special reading. It has some historical contents that will make this issue of NAAD a document of reference for tomorrow.

Team NAAD, every month, brings to its readers articles and features of importance to the community. It has assumed larger importance as our next generation is increasingly drifting away from the history and culture because of the scattered nature of the community. NAAD serves as a powerful tool of connecting the youth with its roots through its rich articles and features. Behind the scene, month after month, there is a lot of effort put together by the team NAAD to present to its esteemed readers this richness of our heritage. It needs your patronage and that is the smallest payback its readers can provide to it. Please subscribe to NAAD and give it the strength to serve you uninterrupted.

Namaskar!

युकांउकायउ *M. Anand*



Religious Minorities In Kashmir, Sitting Ducks

By the time this issue of Naad will land in the hands of its readers the community members of all hues and colours, notwithstanding ideological or organizational affiliations, would have completed the ritual of strongly condemning and condoling the heinous murder of five persons in five days in the Kashmir valley and five security personnel in the Jammu region and it would obviously be supported by the Press releases and TV bytes. When the dust settles after the gory incidents, the cycle of life would have again moved at its own pace with this yet another dark chapter consigned to the dustbin of the History.

But have we become any wiser after the incidents? That only time will tell. First let us have a look at the statistics of civilian and Security personnel killings so far in the year. According to Police

figures the Union Territory of J&K saw 28 killings so far out of which 4 were local Hindus one Sikh 2 non local Hindu Labourers.

The online statement issued by TRF in the aftermath of the killings is self-explanatory and reads thus – 'Shaheed Gazi Squad carried out the attack. These teachers had on August 15 harassed and warned parents with dire consequences if any student did not attend the August 15 function. We want to make it crystal clear that domicile holders, stooges and collaborators, whatsoever their religion, won't be spared'. TRF, a transnational terrorist organization, the possibility of Pakistan's hidden hand and Pro-Pak elements in Kashmir cannot be ruled out for the greater cause of Islamizing Kashmir. Such selective soft targets earn them the much-needed publicity required to sustain the momentum. What is shocking is the inability of the Political class to read, the very obvious, the writing on the wall.

The targeted killings of religious minorities brought back the horrendous memories of 1990 uprising and selective killings of community members which resulted in the exodus of almost entire Kashmiri Pandit community from the Valley. The latest orgy of killings bears the stark resemblance with the same old pattern - kill one scare one thousand. The

violent incidents against the hapless minorities have had an uninterrupted continuity, but can anyone forget the mass massacre of Kashmiri Pandits in Sangrampora, Wandhama, Telwani, Nadimarg and mass killings of the Sikhs of Kashmir in Chitisinghpura (Mattan). Each orgy of bloodletting and mayhem bears distinct stamp with same theme, refrain and aim – Kashmir Banega Pakistan. Like earlier the killers this time too have used religious epithets for Hindu victims to justify their targeted killings like 'RSS stooge' and for others 'Police informer' and 'traitor'.

The present wave of Killings spearheaded by The Resistance Front (TRF), a faceless organization which purportedly was born nine months after the abrogation of special status and article 370, has adopted a different nomenclature to make it look like a political issue than a religious one. It seems a wilful departure from previous practice of having heavily religious loaded and sounding names like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jash-e-Mohammad which operate as religious crusaders. The recruiting and operational style of TRF is also at variance, like to attract new crop of soldiers JeM used young, stylish and English spouting boy Burhan Wani as its poster boy to glamorize the terrorism by uploading his macho style images with an AK-47 gun slinging from his shoulders on the social media. TRF uses videos of live encounters to sell its deadly capability to the gullible youngsters for purposes of recruitment. Because of the style it has succeeded in creating a broad network of over ground foot soldiers who carry out killings of soft targets.

As an aftermath to the latest situation the dominant sentiment among the displaced community is as much that of

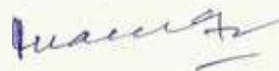
despair and helplessness. Even after more than 32 years of exile the campaign of killings and ghost of violence continues to haunt us. The slender thread of hope which had been generated by PM package, employees living and settling there has withered away and now reports coming in suggest that they are also packing bags and heading back to Jammu and giving rise to the fear of another bout of displacement. For KPs, the question of Return to the Home has been oscillating between Hope and Despair, as it is often mired in issues of security and government political Will. The community's hopes and aspirations, therefore, continue to remain clouded in a sense of fear and insecurity.

Needless to say, that in the best of circumstances any idea or move of the return and rehabilitation will not fructify if the threat perception, insecurity and prevailing anti-minority sentiment is not addressed to the satisfaction of displaced community. Present developments do not in any way inspire or instil a sense of confidence in them. As people have a reason to feel let down from this dispensation for choosing to ignore the crucial survival issues of this beleaguered community.

On behalf of All India Kashmiri Samaj, I pay tributes to the martyred brethren and extend our condolences to the bereaved families. May Almighty grant moksha to the departed Aatmas.

On the auspicious occasion of the Navratra, I wish all humanity be blessed by Mata Navdurga with peace, prosperity, universal brotherhood and happiness!

Namaskar!



- Dr. Ramesh Raina



General Secretary's Column

This month began with very bad tidings for the community which was otherwise in a somewhat festive mood post abrogation of Article 370. The spate of killings carried out by terrorists brought back the haunting memories of early 90's which most of us were trying to forget. Militants strike again with same ferocity and impunity, resorting to selective killings and striking at will, with a design to intimidate Hindu minorities including Kashmiri Pandits once again from the valley.

This was in stark contrast to what Govt. of UT has set itself on the task of the process of Return and Rehabilitation of KP Migrants and also assuring dispensation of justice like compensation for distress sale properties, Issuing Domicile Certificates and advertizing for jobs under PM's Package scheme, starting process of Construction of hutments/ transit accommodation for KP migrants etc. But with one single fell swoop, the Militants have shown that Kashmiri Pandits are not welcome in the valley and that only Nizam-e-Mustafa and Sharia Laws will prevail in Kashmir. The government machinery including the intelligence has proved to be total failure. Post these incidents we KP's need to think twice before embarking on a return plan as envisaged by the government in closed air conditioned rooms without knowing the ground realities.

The brief details of the activities organized during the month is as under:

Balidan Divas : September 14 is the day when community in India and around the

globe remember their Martyrs, who laid down their lives for us to live in peace. This day in 1989 our first Martyr Pt Tikka Lal Taploo fell to the assassin's bullets. To commemorate the day Jammu & Kashmir Vichar Manch (JKVM) in collaboration with All India Kashmiri Samaj organized Balidan Divas at B.K.Ganjoo Park (Kali Badi Marg New Delhi) which saw good participation of community members despite Covid restrictions. In the press communiqué issued by AIKS President Dr. Romesh Raina reiterated AIKS commitment towards striving and seeking for better living conditions for the under privileged members of the displaced community.

Monthly Relief Assistance : On 18th September 2021, AIKS issued a press communiqué wherein it urged the state government and Relief Commissioner Jammu for early release of monthly assistance to displaced Kashmiri Pandit relief holders and the President also spoke to the Relief Commissioner regarding the urgency of the issue as many relief holders, especially old and sick who were solely dependent on the cash assistance for their daily sustenance and medical needs.

Consultative Group Meeting : AIKS organized the weekly meeting of its Consultative Group at its R. K. Puram Head Quarter on Sunday, 19th September 2021 to discuss its future plans-- Doable and Workable Agenda and way forward. The meeting saw the participation of all its

key/prominent members like S/Shri/Smt M. L. Malla, Dr. Sudhir Sopory, Vijay Kashkari, Sanjay Saproo, Alka Lahori, Manorama Bakshi, R. K. Bhan, Rohit Dhar, Vijay Kachroo, Sanjay Raina, Kuldeep Kaul including its office bearers.

First AIKS Executive Committee Meeting :

As decided in its weekly Consultative group meeting, AIKS organized its first Executive Committee meeting on 26th September 2021. The meeting was hosted by Kashmiri Sewak Samaj Faridabad at Sharika Bhawan, Faridabad. The meeting was attended by all the prominent members like S/Shri/Smt M. L. Malla, Dr. Sudhir Sopory, Vijay Kashkari, Sanjay Saproo, Alka Lahori, Manorama Bakshi, R. K. Bhan, Rohit Dhar, Vijay Kachroo, Sanjay Raina, Kuldeep Kaul, M. K. Machama, Dr. S. K. Handoo, Roop Krishan Kher, I. K. Killam, Sanjay Kaul, and many representatives of affiliates like Shri Ashok Labroo President from Jodhpur Association, Mr P.N. Ambardar and Mrs Nancy Ganjoo from Chandigarh, and representatives from Ambala, Gurgoan, Noida, Faridabad. The affiliates from Kolkota, Mumbai, Gujarat, USA etc. participated virtually.

AIKS Press Communique : AIKS issued a press communiqué on 23rd September 2021 wherein it called for an enquiry into the killing of a young Kashmiri Pandit police personnel Sh. Ajay Kumar Dhar at Handwara Kashmir.

Follow Up Meeting : As a follow up of the AIKS Executive Committee meeting held on 26th September 2021, a meeting of AIKS Consultative Group was organized at its Hqr. on 30th September 2021 and was well attended by the members.

Virtual Meet : AIKS organized virtual meeting with its affiliates in India and abroad on 3rd October 2021 to decide on the future plans, wherein all the prominent members participated.

An All Party Meet : An All party meeting of prominent KP organizations in NCR was organized at AIKS Hqrs On 6th October 2021, wherein many KP leaders/ activists like S/Shri M. L. Malla, Dr. Sudhir Sopory, Utpal

Kaul, Kamal Hak, Daleep Mattoo, Satish Mahaldar, Bansi Razdan, Alka Lahori, Manorama Bakshi, Vijay Kashkari etc. participated and discussed the situation and way forward in view of the barbaric killing of Sh. M.L. Bindroo in Kashmir.

Protest Demonstration : AIKS actively participated in a protest demonstration at Janter Mantar organized by all prominent KP Organizations on Saturday, 9th October 2021. It condemned the barbaric killing and demanded action against the militants and terrorists involved in the killing of a KP chemist, a domiciled Bihari vendor and two teachers belonging to minority community in broad daylight.

MEMORANDUM TO President of India : In a memorandum to Honourable President of India, AIKS president brought to His notice the fast changing scenarios of Kashmir, wherein Militants have again started burning and desecrating our Shrines and Temples and also started killing and threatening our community members on one pretext or the other, and pleaded for his personal and early intervention.

Virtual Meet with Affiliates : In view of continuous killings of the members of the minority community in Kashmir and to decide on the future course of action and plans, AIKS organized virtual meeting with its affiliates in India and abroad on 10th October 2021, wherein all the prominent members participated.

Forthcoming programmes of AIKS include:-

AIKS is organizing "J N Kaul Memorial Lecture" on 17th October 2021 from 3.00 p.m onwards at Kashyap Bhawan, Noida.

On 24th October 2021, AIKS is organizing a programme in Constitution Club, New Delhi from 3.00 p.m on the occasion of "Accession Day".



Sh. Puran Patwari

Report on the First Executive Committee Meeting held on 26 September, 2021

The meeting was organised in J N Kaul Memorial Hall at Sharika Bhawan, Faridabad which was facilitated by Kashmiri Sewak Samaj, Faridabad. The meeting started as scheduled and was attended by majority of the members. The meeting started with the introduction by Shri Puran Patwari, the General Secretary, and observance of two-minute silence in memory of all those who laid their lives for protecting the place. The meeting was chaired by The President Dr Ramesh Raina, who presented his Presidential address.

In his address, the President welcomed all the delegates who had come from far off places. He thanked the President of KSS, Faridabad for offering the premises for conducting the meeting. While welcoming the new executive committee, he said that AIKS will start on a clean slate with positive mindset and open a new chapter in the operations of the organisation. Sensing the need for a closer connect with the member organisations across the globe, he said that AIKS will start an outreach programme. The meetings will kick start, initially with NCR, Jammu and Kashmir units where emphasis will be to work for inter and intra organisational harmony. AIKS will follow an achievable and doable socio-political agenda under the existing organisational guidelines which include:

1. Political empowerment at all the conceivable areas of the mainstream politics of UT of J&K
2. Creation of legitimate minority space for displaced KP community and creation of a minority commission would constitute the first step. Experts are working on the blue print that soon will be put to debate.
3. Create a balanced approach with the help of the KP organisations towards the underprivileged sections of our society living in Purkhoo, Nagrota, Muthi and Jagati. People belonging to this section and without shelter be provided an accommodation in any of these camps.
4. Try to create co-ordination among various donor KP organisations.
5. Being an affiliate driven organisation, AIKS will accord prominence to affiliates in the core decision making process.
6. Will establish a connect with various central govt and local govt agencies for effective implementation of various welfare schemes for the displaced KP's living outside J&K be brought under the Ayushman Bharat Sehat Insurance Scheme which is sanctioned only for the people of UT at the moment.
7. Will work for the increase in monthly relief of the displaced KPs.

The President also acknowledged the role of CWP in J&K high court for effective follow up by AIKS Jammu team and the senior community lawyers that led to the formation of web portal for the distress sale at the instructions of the hon'ble high court.

Besides this, he also made the announcement of launch of two prestigious annual lecture series:

1. J N Kaul Memorial Lecture-each year on his birthday
2. M K Kaw memorial lecture-each year on his birthday

An interim financial report by the treasurer was placed before the EC members.

Members were served snacks and tea under strict Covid protocol.



ALL INDIA KASHMIRI SAMAJ (REGD.)

(APEX BODY OF INDIAN & OVERSEAS KASHMIRI PANDIT ORGANISATIONS)

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Dr. Ramesh Raina

President

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MEMORENDUM SUBMITTED TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE SH RAM NATH KOVIND HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Your Excellency,

It gives me an immense pleasure to address your Excellency for the first time after taking over the charge of All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS). Your Excellency needs no fresh introduction to All India Kashmiri Samaj, the apex organisation of Kashmiri Pandits having more than 60 Affiliates both within India and abroad. I feel privileged to send you warm greetings on my and on behalf of all the Affiliate organisations that this organisation has the honour to represent.

As you are aware that AIKS is on the forefront of pleading the case of exiled Kashmiri Pandits, that involves their day to day and long term survival and is in constant contact with the powers that be. Your Excellency is well aware of the problems of Kashmiri Pandits who have been away from their land for more than 30 years now. Today Kashmir is without Kashmiri Pandits. This has led to their socio-political alienation from the state. AIKS once again is taking the lead in drawing the attention of your Excellency towards the tragic and unfortunate incident of desecration of Bhargshakha Mata Temple at Mattan in Anantnag district Kashmir on the intervening night of October 1 and 2, 2021.

While the acts of vandalism of the temple complex and desecration of the sanctum sanctorum of the much revered temple deserves condemnation by one and all, we urge Your Excellency's help and support to get the whole matter looked into with all the seriousness that it deserves. As Your Excellency is aware that the incident, quite naturally, has sent shock waves in the community across the world and look upon your excellency for the justice.

Contd...2/-

AIKS Affiliated Units at:

- Inland** : Agra, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Ambala, Amritsar, Bangalore, Bahadurgarh, Baroda, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Delhi, Dharamshala, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgraon, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Indirapuram, Indore, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Jammu, Jodhpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Moradabad, Nagpur, Noida, Panchkula, Pune, Ranchi, Sahibabad, Shimla, Srinagar, Udaipur, Varanasi
- Overseas** : U.K. & U.S.A



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Dr. Ramesh Raina

President

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-2-

It is urged that the state administration comprehend the elements behind this heinous crime and also unravel the conspiracy theory, if any, of the incident and ensure that such incidents are not repeated in future as it poses a great threat to the civilizational existence of displaced community. These temples and shrines constitute the living symbols of the socio-cultural life of the displaced community.

In this context, Your Excellency, the passage of Temples and Shrines Bill assumes more significance now than ever before. As the Apex body of all KP organizations, the AIKS sees these temples and shrines as collective community assets and symbols of their identity, therefore plead for the control and management of these vital assets and their preservation for our posterity.

(Dr. Ramesh Raina)

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AIKS MEDIA COMMUNIQUE

AIKS SEEKS ACTION AGAINST THE CULPRITES FROM LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

New Delhi October 3, 2021 AIKS (All India Kashmiri Samaj) held an emergency meeting of its major affiliates in Delhi NCR to take stock of the situation emerging from the tragic and unfortunate desecration of Bhargshakha Mata Temple at Mattan in Anantnag district to discuss the matter threadbare and evolve an effective follow up plan. The meeting was held at its Headquarter 3/244 , RK Puram, New Delhi on October 3, 2021.

While the acts of vandalism of the temple complex and desecration of the sanctum sanctorum of much revered temple was condemned by one and all in a unified voice, it was urged upon the state administration and Honourable LG's office to look into the matter with all seriousness it deserves and comprehend the elements behind this heinous crime. The meeting also called upon the district administration to look into the conspiracy theory, if any, behind the incident and see to it that such incidents are not repeated in future, as it poses a great threat to the civilizational existence of displaced community.

The much revered shrine of Tripur Sundri locally known as Bhargshakaha Bhagwati, located atop of a hillock overlooking the ancient and holy town of Martand (now Mattan) was subjected to the acts of vandalism and desecration of the Shrine on the intervening night of October 1 and 2, 2021 which has as much sent shock waves among the members of exiled community across India and overseas as hurt the religious sentiments of its devotees.

The members of the community at the meeting expressed a sense of dismay and outrage at such open acts of disrespect and desecration of our holy places by the such elements who are hell bent on creating disharmony between the two communities and erasing the Hindu religious and cultural history of Kashmir; they said it was highly deplorable and condemnable.

In order to bring this ugly incident involving the desecration and dishonoring of the religious and cultural high points of beleaguered community having been thrown out of their homes and living in a state of exile for past 30 years, under national spotlight the meeting passed a resolution and sent a memorandum to the President of India urging him to seek an urgent action taken report from the local administration, as also to reassure and assuage the hurt sentiments of displaced community.


(Puran Patwari)
General Secretary

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Date: 23rd September, 2021

AIKS PRESS COMMUNIQUE

AIKS CALLS FOR ENQUIRY IN THE KILLING OF YOUNG KP COP AT HANDWARA

NEW DELHI SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

All India Kashmiri Samaj, the apex body of KP organizations in India and abroad while expressing shock over the brutal killing of yet another Pandit brethren, Pt Ajay Kumar Dhar, by his colleague at a temple complex in Handwara. Shri Dhar was shot dead in the middle of night by his colleague and the incident is termed as mistaken identity. AIKS demands a thorough probe into this latest killing of community youth and all other spate of killings in recent days.

Shri Ajay Kumar Dhar, an employee of J&K Police had been putting up at the temple complex for some time ever since he had joined Handwara Police station.

Expressing deep condolences with the bereaved family, AIKS in its emergency meeting prayed for the peace of the soul of young boy. The apex body also called upon the UT government especially the Lt. Governor to initiate an inquiry into this unfortunate incident and unravel the mystery and conspiracy behind such spate of killings of KP youth especially in recent past. It also urged the Lt. Governor to announce a ex gratia and compensation apart from employment to the next of the kin of the deceased.

The Apex body President Dr. Romesh Raina said that such incidents not only create a fear psychosis among the community employees working in the valley, but also will put spanner in any government efforts to see the exiled community heading back home in near future.


(Puran Patwari)
General Secretary

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AIKS PRESS COMMUNIQUE

AIKS PRESIDENT DR RAMESH RAINA REITERATES AIKS COMMITMENT TOWARDS BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE UNDER PRIVILEGED DISPLACED KASHMIRI PANDITS

New Delhi September 14, 2021-Kashmiri Pandit's martyrs day was held in Delhi on the occasion of Shaheed Pt.Tika Lal Taploo who attained martyrdom on this day in 1989 outside his home in Srinagar Kashmir, on Tuesday in the BK Ganjoo memorial Park New Delhi. It was organised jointly by All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS) and Jammu Kashmir Vichar Manch. The programme was conducted strictly in accordance with the covid protocols.

AIKS is an apex body of Kashmiri Pandits having affiliates both within India and Abroad and in view of it being an important day of its calendar all of its affiliate organisations spread throughout the length and breadth of the country and overseas observed the Balidan Diwas with the participation of fellow community members to pay their obeisance to the martyres.

The Balidan Diwas (memorial day) started with the observance of 2 minutes silence in memory of all those who fell to the bullets of their assassins in the wake of terrorism in early Nineties followed by offering floral tributes to the martyrs and recounting the sacrifices made by them towards the community cause and bode them a tearful adieu. With the recitation of Bagwat Geeta Hymns thereafter the atmosphere around turned somber. Speakers paid rich tribute to the ultimate sacrifices of the KP martyrs who had given their lives for the future of their people and the Valley of Kashmir. They condemned the atrocities committed against the displaced community of Kashmiri Pandits and the crimes against humanity by the Pakistan proxies in Kashmir.

Dr Ramesh Raina AIKS President said that Pt.Tika Lal Taploo's Killing was not a one-off killing but marked unfolding of a gory and well-crafted design of Pakistan and its proxies in Kashmir where terrorism was gaining foothold and took in its sway many stalwarts of the community like Pandit Prem Nath Bhat, Sarwanand Koul Premi along with his son Virender, Justice Nila Kanth Ganjoo, Lassa Koul, Naveen Sapru and many more. Seen from the prism of such gory killings, exodus of Hindus from Kashmir was not an unforeseen event, he said that it was a brutal campaign that was planned much earlier than it happened and it was Pakistan's atrocious intention since the Indo-Pak war of 1965 which took its nastiest form during 1989-90.

From then on, terrorists killed, one by one and in groups such as Sangrampura, Nadimarg, Chitisinghpura and others thousands of Kashmiri Pandits in a targeted manner. Many women belonging to the minority Kashmiri Pandit community were raped, before being murdered. Such targeted killings and rape crimes created an environment of extreme fear for the miniscule community of Kashmiri Pandits and they started leaving the Valley. Over the next few months, the entire Kashmiri Pandit community, with an estimated population of 4 lakh at that time, left the valley as the governments at the Centre and in the state watched as mute and tongue tied spectators, Dr Raina said.

He further said that their tragedy has been worsened by the fact that even 30 years after the crimes committed against them, nobody has been punished. The gruesome killings, including massacres, and rapes have gone unpunished due to the lack of political will but AIKS was committed in pursuing the injustice meted out to the community in a resolute manner. He reiterated the commitment of AIKS towards the better living conditions for the under privileged sections of the displaced community. In his brief speech, he also talked about the proposed AIKS outreach programme with the authorities and effective follow up in this regard.

The programme concluded with the resolve that the issues had to be taken up with the authorities together and that the sense of togetherness be exhibited at all levels.


(Puran Patwari) 14/9/21
General Secretary

AIKS Affiliated Units at:

- Inland : Agra, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Ambala, Amritsar, Bangalore, Bahadurgarh, Baroda, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Delhi, Dharamshala, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgraon, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Indirapuram, Indore, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Jammu, Jodhpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Moradabad, Nagpur, Noida, Panchkula, Pune, Ranchi, Sahibabad, Shimla, Srinagar, Udaipur, Varanasi
- Overseas : U.K. & U.S.A



OF PROTESTS AND DHARNAS



In the aftermath of recent spate of killings of minority community members, four within a span of three days, which included one Kashmiri Pandit businessman, one domiciled Bihari vendor, one Sikh lady principal of a school and one male school teacher belonging to Jammu, it is a sense of déjà vu for most Kashmir watchers. What set the last two killings especially apart from rest was the fact that it reminisced the modus operandi of early 90s terror and blood-letting orgies of pro-Pak groups, thus creating a fresh sense of fear and insecurity among the KPs

and other minority groups, who had now thought that perhaps the worst was behind them and were looking forward to a peaceful stay in their beloved valley. But alas! That was not to be. Terror has reared its ugly head again and like proverbial frightened pigeons left over KPs and PM package employees are heading to safer environs of Jammu and elsewhere.

Community reaction, obviously, was on the expected lines. Putting aside their ideological and organizational differences, the community rose to the occasion and put up

a united front under one single banner and staged a strong protest at iconic Jantar Mantar to put across a stern message to the powers that be that any more killings of our brethren will not be tolerated. Whether PM Package employees or left-over community members in the valley, they are our representatives and we see them as our own extension there, our ambassadors and our own kith and kin and their security should be prime concern of the government, they warned in unison. It was the time and occasion to put the government on notice—No more fiddling with our sentiments; we have had enough of this hide and seek game; put a stop to it once for all; why should always a KP be at the receiving end; just because we are patriotic and wear nationalism on sleeves--. The numbers were impressive and media coverage extensive.

As run up to the protest march and dharna, there had been many opinions thrown around regarding the most effective way to register a collective outrage and angst against such selective killings. One was the way Sikhs had marched to the central secretariat in Srinagar and carried the body of the principal along. It was suggested that taking a cue from Sikhs a delegation of KPs should descend on UT capital and hold an impromptu presser, or a collective dharna at Srinagar. Perhaps tempers were running so high and nobody thought it plausible to think who were we going to address to in Srinagar, who was going to be our target audience. Add to the melee was a voice message by a lady Corporator exhorting the community to come down to Lal Chowk and stake claim to the valley or else risk losing it for good.

The point is that with respect to the victimhood, are we sailing in the same boat as Sikh community. No, their target audience was Pakistan, not India. For obvious reasons, we all know that the two communities enjoy greater amount of bonhomie borne by the fact that Sikhs never migrated from the valley and have always roamed freely and fearlessly in the valley. Again, the fact was borne out by sheer number of Sikhs who were part of the protest march. In such an eventuality (holding



dharna in Srinagar) we as community would have simply cut a sorry figure, with hardly any KPs present in the valley, perhaps the PM package employees would have shunned such a show for fear of identification and reprisal attacks, as one employee put it 'that would be our last day in the valley'. Quite understandable, it was the best strategy for them to lie low.

Important to know that Sikhs draw their strength from the economic and political empowerment of the community in many global economies, almost running the government in Canada, at a dominant position in UK, South Africa and many other countries. So, they were speaking from the point of strength, both as a martial community who cannot be cowed down and also underlining the message that they have power wielding patrons around the world. Also, those who have some sense of history will remember that during the human massacre of partition in 1947, the Hindus preferred to flee when marauding Muslims abducted their young girls and women, but Sikhs put up a stiff resistance by drawing daggers almost giving them back in equal measures, by inflicting wound, killing and many other things. This



fact is not lost on Muslims in the valley and fear factor has always been there.

Also, we should not be oblivious of the fact that Pakistan's deep state is trying very hard to create an anti-India grand alliance within India by bringing Indian Muslims, Sikhs and Dalits on one platform. In this design though Dalits are playing a hard ball but Pakistan has not given up on them yet. The desperation is so strident and stark that only a couple of years back ISI stooges, both

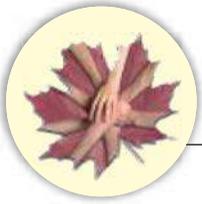
under and over ground, tried to fish in troubled waters during a police and agitators show down in R S Pura (Jammu) when a Sikh youth was killed in police firing when some of his community members had given a call celebrating or observing Bindrawale anniversary.

And we, as Hindus who have had to face an ignominious exit from the valley in the face of Jihadi Islamic militant onslaught on us because we were an 'extension of India' in Kashmir, draw our strength from **India**; more India as nation is strong, more empowered we feel. In early 90's India was at its weakest--politically, economically and diplomatically, and we had to leave Kashmir en masse. Today it is role reversal, Pakistan is at its weakest, facing its worst existential crisis. And we don't have to add more to the woes of India by calling it out in Srinagar. After all it is no less an embarrassment for India as the latest bout of killings have taken wind out of the sails of its 'Naya Kashmir' slogan and post Article 370 abrogation narratives it has been selling to the world. The big question it faces is whether the peace was deceptive and beneath the surface the pot had never stopped boiling. As the country is faced with a gigantic task of putting valley back on track, we, nationalists to the core, should not be seen behaving as impediments in achieving that end.

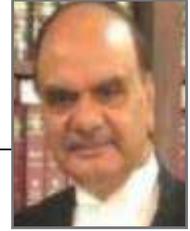
APPEAL!

Team NAAD, every month, brings to its readers articles and features of importance to the community. It has assumed larger importance as our next generation is increasingly drifting away from history and culture because of the scattered nature of the community. NAAD serves as a powerful tool of connecting the youth with its roots through its rich articles and features. Behind the scene, month after month, there is a lot of effort put together by the team NAAD to present to its esteemed readers this richness of our heritage. It needs your patronage and support in terms of articles and that is the smallest payback its readers can provide to it. Please write articles for NAAD and give it the strength to serve you uninterrupted. Please send your articles on Email-Id: hqaiks@gmail.com

- Editor-in-Chief, Naad



- Ashok Bhan



Five brutal killings in less than 48 hours have triggered a huddle in the security establishment for hard befitting counter-terrorism modus-operandi.

Kashmir

Killing Innocent Civilians, Pakistan's Move to Revive Terrorism

Having lost the ideological and operational capabilities, Pakistan is looking all set to revive dead terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Over the past many decades, people and security forces had defeated Pakistan's machinations both at ideological and security levels. The recent killings are pointers that those across the Line of Control (LoC) are out to take advantage of the political vacuum and resort to killing innocent civilians.

The handlers across the LOC, having lost most of their local mercenaries and operators at the hands of security forces, have tasked the fewer terrorists to launch selective killings to vitiate the security and peace ecosystem in the valley.

The success of the Indian Army and security forces were visible due to a large number of terror commanders been killed in the last few years. Anyone who is appointed as a commander in terror ranks is tracked using various means and targeted using multiple approaches. Due to this, the number of active terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir has reduced drastically. This prompted Pakistan to issue new instructions to the terrorists to avoid confrontation with the security forces. Terror attacks in the last few years resonate with this strategy.

The holding of Panchayat and District Development Councils elections and people's massive participation in the democratic process defeated the ideology of terrorism. It

created a major setback to the overground support structure of terrorists and people accused these elements as villains of Kashmiris and Kashmiriyat.

Ever since the abrogation of Article 370 and the start of “Operation All Out”, remarkable changes had taken place on the ground with a decrease in terror activities. Firstly, due to the increased crackdown on terror sympathizers and financiers, new recruitments were affected. Secondly, since the vigil on the LoC is very strict and a three-tier security deployment is maintained, the availability of arms and ammunition to terrorists was reduced. Thirdly, due to their utter desperation, terror groups, in frustration have started targeting soft targets like Kashmiri Pandits who have a negligible presence in the valley, political leaders, soldiers on leave and social leaders.

Biggest pain for Pakistan

Kashmir was witnessing the return of peace once again and people had understood that terrorism and separatism cannot flourish in Jammu and Kashmir. This is the biggest pain for Pakistan, which has been trying to internationalize the Kashmir issue for over seven decades. By creating a communal rift, it wants to give few more days of life to the dying terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. It also wants to reinstate fear in the minds of common Kashmiri people that to get killed, one need not be an influential person. Being from a minority community is sufficient enough. However, the way things are changing on the banks of the mighty Jhelum, and the way people are participating in building a peaceful state, it is certain that Pakistan has no takers politically in the Valley.

Barely two days after three people including a businessman, Shri Makhan Lal Bindroo, were killed in Srinagar, terrorists attacked another school in the Eidgah area of Srinagar and killed its principal and a teacher after checking the identity cards of all staff and ensuring that these were the two from the minority communities. Five cowardly killings in less than 48 hours have triggered another

debate over the changing modus-operandi of terrorists in Kashmir Valley. This kind of terrorism is not new. Their tactics are “Kill one and Scare a thousand.” That is how they succeeded in hounding out the entire population of Kashmiri Pandits from their roots of more than five thousand years engraved in the soil of the Valley.

There were many events in the last few months which prompted terror perpetrators sitting across our western border to think of a new strategy to revive terrorism. Lal Chowk of Srinagar where even hoisting our National Flag was not possible, Janmashtami processions were made after almost three decades.

A significant number of Kashmiri Pandits started returning to their native places and Srinagar was comparatively peaceful than the previous years. The peaceful co-existence between both the communities was being established and so it was natural for terrorists sitting across to get worried. Therefore, they instructed their puppets in Kashmir Valley to launch targeted attacks on the Hindu community so that a communal rift and an atmosphere of fear can be created among the residents. Here are the key points of Pakistan’s new terror strategy:

1. Initially, from 1989 onwards the insurgency had been launched by Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). It rose over the few years advocating for the establishment of Nizam-e-Mustafa (Rule of Muhammad). The Islamist groups proclaimed the Islamization of socio-political and economic set-up, merger with Pakistan, unification of ummah and establishment of an Islamic Caliphate. Liquidation of central government officials, Pandits, liberal and nationalist intellectuals, social and cultural activists was described as a necessary part of the armed struggle to rid the valley of un-Islamic elements.

2. Though the murders of Kashmiri Hindus had been a routine feature even much before Indian Independence, the mass murder of Kashmiri Hindus started over 32 years ago on Sept. 14, 1989, when a community leader, Shri Tika Lal Taploo, a lawyer and senior BJP leader fell victim to the terrorist’s bullets. His

killing set off a series of target killings of KP leaders and young, old and even infants at the hands of trigger-happy terrorists who used to celebrate counting the heads. These murders continued so much so that a terrorist Bitta Karate confessed on a local TV he had killed a couple of dozens of KPs and that now he had even lost the exact count.

3. New breed recruited with pistols:

a. Three civilians were shot dead in Kashmir Valley starting from Tuesday evening in separate incidents. The first incident took place in the Iqbal Park area of Srinagar. At about 7:25 PM., the owner of a medical shop, one Shri M L Bindroo, was shot outside his shop. "Srinagar Police received information about a terror crime incident near Iqbal Park Sherghari area of Srinagar. Officers attending the terror crime spot learnt that the owner of Bindroo Medicate namely Makhhan Lal Bindroo was shot at by the terrorists near his shop at Iqbal Park. He received grievous gunshot injuries in this terror incident and was immediately evacuated to a nearby hospital, however, he succumbed to his injuries," informed the police.

b. The second incident took place at around 8:15 in Madina Chowk, Lal Bazaar area of Srinagar, where terrorists shot dead a non-local (street hawker) identified as Virender Paswan, a resident of Bhagalpur in Bihar.

c. The third terror crime incident was reported in the Shahgund area of Bandipora where terrorists shot dead another civilian identified as Mohd. Shafi Lone resident of Naidkhai. Police have registered cases regarding these terror crime incidents. An investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of these terrorist crimes.

There is a sense in the intelligence apparatus that ISI has asked the left-over terrorists to recruit a new young breed of uneducated street urchins and give them pistols and use them to kill soft targets since these young boys are inexperienced and novice, they are used to kill unarmed, unprotected soft targets like people of the

minority community, small-time politicians and community leaders. The overground workers analyse the target well and when there is no threat of security forces in the vicinity, they strike. Not only this, but they also resort to shoot and scoot strategy which means strike the target and run away. In most of these cases, escape routes are planned well in advance and overground workers and sympathizers of terror groups help in the same. Due to this, while there is no significant threat of getting killed in retaliation as these soft targets are not well protected, the identity of the killer remains secret, and an atmosphere of terror grows significantly.

The valley has been put on high alert after almost all attacks in Jammu and Kashmir during this year, terrorists used pistols and grenades to kill security forces or soft targets. These weapons can be easily hidden and carried to the site of action without getting noticed.

Further, it is easy to escape using these weapons which makes the detection and identification of the perpetrator difficult. A very large portion of all seized weapon caches on the LOC/ International Border was made up of pistols and grenades only, which signifies the theory that there is a change in Pakistani strategy and terrorists are changing their way of working.

4. Shy political leaders: Another trend observed during all these killings is the reaction by certain political leaders. They are the first ones to react and they are the first ones to condemn the central government's policies rather than targeting cross-border terrorism. At the same time, social media like Twitter gets flooded with messages floated by ISI controlled handles who create an atmosphere of misinformation while Pakistani politicians try to internationalize the issue by making fiery statements. This indicates that there is someone from across the border driving all this.

PAKISTAN is perceived as a failed State by peace loving Kashmiris and therefore she is described as a Villain by Kashmiris.

(The author is a Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court of India and; a Geo-political Analyst and a distinguished Fellow USI)

Instrument of Accession of Jammu and Kashmir

Whereas the Indian Independence Act, 1947, provides that as from the fifteen day of August, 1947, there shall be set up as Independent Dominion, known as India and that the Government of India Act, 1935, shall, with such omission, additions, adaptations and modifications as the Governor-General may by order specify be applicable to the Dominion of India;

AND WHEREAS the Government of India Act, 1935 as so adapted by the Governor-General provides that an Indian State may accede to the Dominion of Indian by an Instrument of Accession executed by the Ruler thereof:

Now Therefore

I. I, Shriman Inder Mahendra Rajrajeshwar Maharajadiraj Shri Hari Singh Ji, Ruler of Jammu and Kashmir in the exercise of my sovereignty in and over my said State Do hereby execute this my Instrument of Accession, and

1. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India with the intent that the Governor-General of India, the Dominion Legislature, the Federal Court and any other Dominion authority established for the purposes of the Dominion shall, by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession, but subject always to the terms therefore and for the purpose only of the Dominion, exercise in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir (hereinafter referred to as "this State") such functions may be vested in them by or under the Government of India Act, 1935 as in force in the Dominion of India on the 15th Day of August, 1947 (which Act as so in force is hereinafter referred to as "the Act").

2. I hereby assume the obligation of ensuring that due effect is given to the provision of the Act within this State as they are applicable therein by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession.

3. I accept the matters specified in the schedules here to as the matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for this State.

4. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India on the assurance that if an agreement is made between the Governor-General and the Ruler of this State where by any functions in relations to the administration in this State of any law of the Dominion Legislature shall be exercised by the Ruler of this State, then any such agreement shall be deemed to form part of this Instrument and shall be construed and have effect accordingly.

5. The terms of this my Instrument of Accession shall not be varied by any amendment of the Act or of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, unless such amendment is accepted by me by an Instrument supplementary to this Instrument.

6. Nothing in this Instrument shall empower the Dominion Legislature to make any law for this State authorizing the compulsory acquisition of land for any purpose, but I hereby undertake that should the Dominion for the purpose of Dominion law which applies in this

State deem it necessary to acquire any land I will at their request acquire the land at their expense or if the land belongs to me transfer it to them on such terms as may be agreed or in default of agreement determined by an arbitrator to be appointed by the Chief Justice of India.

7. Nothing in this Instrument shall be deemed to be a commitment in any way as to acceptance of any future Constitution of India or to fetter my discretion to enter into arrangement with the Governments of India under any such future Constitution.

8. Nothing in this Instrument affects the continuance of my sovereignty in and over this State, or save as provided by or under this Instrument the exercise of any powers, authority and rights now enjoyed by me as Ruler of this State or the validity of any law at present in force in this State.

9. I hereby declare that I execute this Instrument on behalf of this State and that any reference in this Instrument to me or to the Ruler of this State is to be construed as including a reference to my heirs and successors.

Given under my hand this 26th day of October nineteen forty seven.

Sd/- Hari Singh

Maharaja Dhiraj of Jammu and Kashmir

I do hereby accept this Instrument of Accession.

Dated this twenty seventh day of October, Nineteen hundred and forty seven.

Sd/- Mountabatten of Burma
Governor General of India

27th October, 1947

SCHEDULE

The matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for the State.

A. Defence

1. The naval, military and air forces of the dominion and other armed force raised or maintained by the Dominion; any armed forces, including forces raised or maintained by an acceding State, which are attached to, or operating with the armed forces of the Dominion.

2. Naval, Military and Air force works, administration of cantonment areas.

3. Arms, firearms; ammunition.

4. Explosives.

B. External Affairs

1. External Affairs, the implementing of treaties and agreements with other countries, extradition, including the surrender of criminals and accused persons to parts of His Majesty's Dominion outside India.

2. Admission into, and emigration and expulsion from, India, including in relation thereto the regulation of the movements in India of persons who are not British subjects domiciled in India or subjects of any acceding State; pilgrims to places beyond India.

3. Naturalisation.

C. Communications

1. Posts and Telegraphs, including telephones, wireless, broadcasting and other like forms of communication.

2. Federal Railways; the regulation of all railways other than minor railways in respect of safety, maximum and minimum rates and fares, station and service terminal charges, interchange of traffic and the responsibility of the administration of such on railways as carriers of goods and passengers, regulating of minor railways in respect of safety, the responsibility of the administration of such railways as carriers of goods and passengers.

3. Maritime shipping and navigation, including shipping and navigation on tidal waters; admiralty jurisdiction.

4. Port quarantine.

5. Major ports, that is to say, the declaration and delimitation of such ports, and the constitution and powers of Port Authorities therein.

6. Aircraft and air-navigation; the provision of aerodromes, regulation and organization of air traffic and aerodromes.

7. Light house, including light ships, beacons and other provisions for the safety of shipping and aircraft.

8. Carriage of passengers and good by sea or by air.

9. Extension of the powers and jurisdiction of members of the police force belonging to any unit to railway area outside unit.

D. Ancillary

1. Elections to the Dominion Legislature, subject to the provisions of the Act and of any order made there under.

2. Offences against laws with respect to any of the said matters.

3. Inquiries and statistics for the purposes of any of the aforesaid matters.

4. Jurisdiction and powers of all courts with respect to any of the aforesaid matters but, except with consent of the ruler of the Acceding State, not so as to confer any jurisdiction or powers upon any courts other than courts ordinarily exercising jurisdiction in or in relation to that State.



- Dr. K. N. Pandita



Jammu & Kashmir Accession to India is more than Justified



Copious literature has been produced during the last half a century on the accession of J&K State to the Indian Union on October 26, 1947. Most of it tells us the why and how of the accession. Pakistan, claiming to be a party to the dispute, has been stubbornly refuting what the defenders of India's stand on Kashmir say. It is the Pakistan-initiated and abetted incursion of Kashmir in October 1947 that ultimately led to the State's accession to India.

However, not many people know that the Pakistani cronies in conjunction with the outgoing colonial collaborators hatched the conspiracy of Kashmir incursion much ahead of the declaration of independence on 15 August 1947. Upright historians know that

the geographical entity called Kashmir has been integral to the "Great Game in Central Asia" of the imperial powers, and continues to be so even today though, of course, in its new avatar.

In this write-up, I have tried to tell my readers how Pakistan hatched a conspiracy of grabbing J&K State by treachery, sedition and muscle power with the tacit agreement of the remnants of its colonial collaborators. Three-quarters of a century down the line, Pakistan has been waging wars with India; resorting to proxy wars, armed infiltration, suicide bombing, propaganda blitzkrieg, Theofascism and lamenting for the "Gordian Vein" (Shahrug). Tricks and pretensions did not work nor shall they work for another century

to come. But, wait a while; it did work in a sense, and Pakistan lost one half of its territory. We do not wish Pakistan to disintegrate; we want a progressive, hard-working and visionary Pakistani society to think to realise the immense benefits it can derive from Indian friendship and vice versa.

I have culled out the following excerpt from my book *Ten Studies in Kashmir History and Politics* and adapted it to meet the requirement of the occasion.

On 17 July 1947, about a month before the declaration of the independence of India, All J&K Muslim Conference (AJKMC) held a convention in Srinagar, at the residence of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, prominent Muslim Conference leader (later on founder-President of the Azad Kashmir Government) wherein a majority of the participants decided in favour of the State's accession to Pakistan except Choudhri Hamidullah Khan, the then acting President of AJKMC who was in favour of the independence of J&K State.

Operation Gulmarg

Operation Gulmarg was the code name given by the Pakistan army to the secretly planned incursion of Kashmir by the tribesmen of the NWFP. According to the Indian military sources, Pakistan Army prepared a plan called *Operation Gulmarg* and put it into action as early as 20 August 1947, just six days after Pakistan became the newly independent state following the partition of India. The plan got



accidentally revealed to an Indian officer, Major O.S Kalkat, then serving with the Bannu Brigade as Brigade Major, and had opened a DO letter of 20 August 1947 marked "Personal/ Top Secret" and signed by General Frank Messervy, the C-in-C of the Pakistan Army. It was addressed to Kalkat's Commanding Officer Brig. C P Murray, who was away at another post. Pakistani officials suspected Kalkat and placed him under house arrest. He escaped and made his way to New Delhi on October 18. *The Kashmir Sentinel* of October 2007 has given the fascinating story of the Major Kalkat episode. (<http://kashmirsentinel.org/there-was-enough-evidence-about-tribal-raid/>)

The story of hatching the conspiracy of Kashmir incursion has been admirably traced by the twin authors of the well-known volume *Freedom at Midnight* (Dominique Lapeer and Larry Collins, Vikas Publishing House, pp 436 *et seq*)

On 24 August, Jinnah told his military secretary Col William Birnie to go to Kashmir and arrange for him a two-week stay there in September to recover from exhaustion. Five days later the British officer returned with a reply that stunned Jinnah. Maharaja Hari Singh did not want Jinnah to set his foot on his soil even as a tourist. Jinnah understood that the situation in Kashmir was not evolving according to the plan he had envisioned. Forty-eight hours later Jinnah government infiltrated a secret agent into Kashmir to evaluate the situation and determine Maharaja's real intention. The report which the agent brought was shocking. Hari Singh had no intention of joining his state in Pakistan. It was something the founders of Pakistan could not tolerate.

In mid-September, Liaquat Ali Khan convened a secret meeting of a select group of collaborators in Lahore to decide how to force the Maharaja's hands. The plan of NWFP chief minister Qayyum Khan of deploying tribesmen for Kashmir incursion was agreed upon. King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan was already instigating the Pathans for rejection of the Durand Line and also the expansion of the

Afghan kingdom up to Peshawar. Sending these barbarous tribesmen to Kashmir for the twin purpose of waging Islamic *jihad* in an infidel-ruled state and providing a big opportunity to the tribesmen for general loot and rapine of infidels in Kashmir were good enough to make the conspiracy a success.

The operation had to be a complete secret and finances were to be provided from the secret fund of the Prime Minister. Neither the officers of the Pakistan army or her civil servants nor the British officers and administrators in the service of the new state were to be given access to the secret.

Three days later in the cellar of a ramshackle building in Peshawar's old walled city, a group of tribal leaders met the man chosen to arouse their emotions and lead them on their march to Srinagar. He was Major Khurshid Anwar. Within hours, in the mud-walled compounds of their villages in Landi

personally given me his assurance he is too."

Cunningham: "You would better inform him of what is going on up here."

Liaquat Ali Khan's government had arranged the departure of General Messervy to London to synchronise with the march of the tribesmen into Kashmir. Before leaving for London for arms negotiations, Messervy enquired of Prime Minister Liaquat Ali, who assured him saying, "His (Messervy's) fears were groundless. Pakistan would not tolerate such an action. I shall immediately contact the Chief Minister of the Province and order him to stop his outrageous action."

This is the story of the conspiracy of tribal invasion of Kashmir in 1947. This is also the story of the first prime minister of Pakistan telling lies and falsehoods. We have another source of information about the conspiracy.

Sardar Shaukat Hayat, the then President

This is the story of the conspiracy of tribal invasion of Kashmir in 1947. This is also the story of the first prime minister of Pakistan telling lies and falsehoods. We have another source of information about the conspiracy.

Kotal along the Khyber, the Pathans passed the ancient call of Islam for war, the *jihad*. From one bazaar to another bazaar secret emissaries began to buy hardtack and gurrh, a mixture of cornmeal, ground chickpeas and sugar. Taken twice or three times a day the mouthful could sustain a Pathan for days.

The British officers in NWFP, namely Governor Sir George Cunningham and Lt Gen Sir Frank Messervy, the C-in-C of the Pakistan army were talking to each other on the telephone as this:

Cunningham: I say, old boy, I have the impression that something strange is going on here. For days, trucks crowded with tribesmen chanting *Allah o Akbar* have been pouring through Peshawar. My chief minister seems to be stirring up the Pathans. Are you certain that the government is still opposed to a tribal invasion of Kashmir?"

Messervy: "I can assure you I'm opposed to any such idea and the Prime Minister has

of All India Muslim League writes that he was given the command of the Kashmir invasion and he asked for the services of Brigs Sher Khan and Akbar Khan. Them, Gen Kiyani (formerly of INA), Col. Dara and Taj Khanadeh were also associated with the planning of the Kashmir invasion. He adds that Khurshid Anwar contacted the chiefs of about fifteen tribes of NWFP who included Afridis, Mahsud, Yusufzai, Wazir, SubhanKhel, Mohmand and Mengal etc. These tribal *lashkars* were led by religious leaders like Pir of Manki Sharif, Pir Sahib Lander, Pir Zakodi Sharief, Kaptan Mir Badshah Mahsud, Badshah Gul Mohmand and others

Researchers had noted the considerable movement of Pukhtoon tribesmen during September-October 1947. By 13 September, armed Pukhtoons drifted into Lahore and Rawalpindi. The Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ismail Khan noted a scheme to send

tribesmen from Malakand to Sialkot in lorries provided by the Pakistan government. Preparations for attacking Kashmir were also noted in the princely States of Swat, Dir and Chitral. Robin James Moore (*Making the New Commonwealth*, 1982) states that “there is little doubt that Pashtuns were involved in border raids all along the Punjab border from the Indus to the Ravi.”

Pakistani sources deny the existence of any plan called **Operation Gulmarg**. However, Shuja Nawaz, a PoK author lists twenty-two Pushtoon tribes involved in the incursion of Kashmir on 22 October 1947.

On 13 October 1947 prominent leaders of the Muslim Conference met in Paris Hotel in Rawalpindi. The meeting resolved to set up an Azad republican government. It said that Maharaja's government would cease to be from midnight of 14 October 1947.

Dr Malik Abdul Ghani Asghar writes (Kashmir *ka uruj wa zawal*) that the underground government of Muzaffarabad worked on a scheme of arresting Maharaja Hari Singh. The names of some Kashmiri political activists were given in code only. The

task of organizing the volunteer force for the Kashmir campaign was left to one Chowhan (?) the commander-in-chief for internal forces in Kashmir. The temporary Azad Kashmir government made a formal announcement saying that nobody was permitted to run the administration in Azad Kashmir under the instructions of the Maharaja's government

There is some controversy about the beginning of the "Azad Kashmir government". Some writers say that the first President of the clandestine government was Sardar Ibrahim Khan while others believe that Ghulam Nabi Gilkar was the real originator of the underground rebel government announced as early as 14 April 1947. However, it appears that in its formal composition on 24 October, Sardar Ibrahim Khan was declared the head of the clandestine government. On that occasion, Ibrahim is reported to have issued a declaration the text of which has been incorporated by Prem Nath Bazaz in his work *History of Freedom Movement in Kashmir* (pp 622-23).

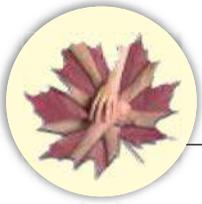
AIKS DELEGATION CALLS ON DEVENDER SINGH RANA

New Delhi - October 14, 2021: AIKS delegation led by its President Dr. Ramesh Raina and accompanied by S/Sh. Sudhir Sopory, Dalip Koul, Vijay Kashkari and Puran Patwari called on Sh. Devender Singh Rana and Sh. S. S. Slathia on October 14, 2021. Dr. Ramesh Raina and the team felicitated them by presenting a Shawl and a Bouquet on their joining BJP. The opportunity was also used to apprise Sh. Rana and Sh. Slathia about the issues confronting the displaced KP community and the insecurity caused by the recent spate of minority killings in the Valley of Kashmir.

Dr. Ramesh Raina, introduced AIKS, its aims and objectives and its role in espousing the cause of Kashmiri Pandit displacement. He presented them an agenda, a road map prepared by AIKS in the several AIKS held conclaves to prepare a fool proof document which was presented by it before the Govt. of India and all its political institutions for the past few years. Prof Sopory stated that the recurrent killings of the people belonging to minorities at regular intervals is a cause of concern to the people living in Exile. Sh. Vijay Kashkari said that it is important to understand that terrorism no doubt is down but not out. Sh. Dalip Koul explained now is the time to instill the sense of confidence in the beleaguered community by taking some bold measures. Shri Puran Patwari, General Secretary AIKS thanked Sh. Devender Singh Rana Sh. S. S. Slathia for giving an audience to AIKS.



(Puran Patwari)
General Secretary



- S.N. Pandita



Those Rare Moments & the Accession of **KASHMIR TO INDIA**

For centuries, through the medieval times, Kashmir remained wallowed in the mire of ignorance and servitude of bondage. However, this historical thralldom, by a strange combination of circumstances, ushered into an era of progress, advancement and modernity, for the first time ever, with the Dogras occupying the throne in Kashmir in

And yet it is unfortunate that the Dogra rule in contemporary times is only remembered for the last few months of Maharaja Hari Singh's rule during the tribal invasion and his delayed accession to India in October, 1947. While Kashmir's accession to India is final and irrevocable, it is also a moment of watershed in the history of the



1846. The Dogras produced four rulers- Maharaja Gulab Singh, Maharaja Ranbir Singh, Maharaja Pratap Singh and Maharaja Hari Singh. However, it has been the historic privilege of Dr. Karan Singh, the lone surviving scion of the erstwhile royal dynasty, to spearhead the transition of Kashmir from feudalism to democracy in independent India.

subcontinent. However, the events that occurred in the lives of some of the key players in the run up to this historical moment have, generally speaking, remained eclipsed. If history is the story of men who make it, then a brief recall of those rare moments just hours prior to Kashmir's accession to India may perhaps help us doff some dust that has

gathered around this historical event and also help gain some insights into the controversies that envelope some of its main protagonists.

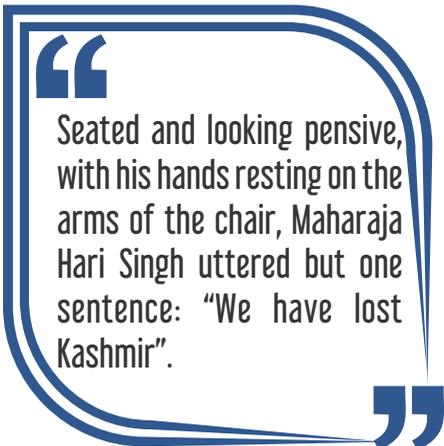
Shortly before the transfer of power on August 15, 1947, Pandit Ram Chand Kak was replaced as Prime Minister by Major General Janak Singh. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir then declared its intention to enter into Standstill Agreements with India and Pakistan. Pakistan signed the Agreement. India, on the contrary, dithered with a wait and see policy and sought time to understand its implications. Despite of the agreement with Pakistan, relations between Kashmir and Pakistan soured. This followed with hit and run border raids on Kashmir by Pakistan all along its 450 mile frontier.

Early in October 1947, Major General Janak Singh was replaced by Mehar Chand Mahajan as Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir. He took charge on October 15, even as the trouble from Pakistan kept on increasing. The all out invasion of Kashmir started on October 22, 1947. The raiders comprised Afridis, Wazirs, Mahsuds, Swathis and soldiers of the Pakistan Army on leave led by regular officers who knew Kashmir sufficiently well. The advancing invaders came from Abbottabad along the Jhelum Valley Road to capture Ghari and Domel to arrive at Muzaffarabad. Next, the raiders marched towards Baramulla along the road to Srinagar with their next destination being Uri. The raiders continued to advance and on October 24 they captured the Mahura Power House plunging Srinagar into complete darkness. With this achievement the raiders that day announced that they would reach Srinagar in next two days and celebrate the Eid on October 26 by offering Namaz at the famous Hazratbal Mosque.

However, on the 24th itself, the Government of India received a desperate appeal for military help from the Maharaja. Simultaneously, the Supreme Commander Field Marshall Auchinlek informed the government about the advancing raiders and their intentions. As a result, an urgent meeting of the Defense Committee presided by Lord Mountbatten was held on the morning of 25th October at Delhi. The Committee recommended, the Secretary of States under the Home Ministry, V.P. Menon, to fly to Srinagar for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation to report back to the Government of India.

Accompanied by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's Private Secretary, Dwarka Nath Kachru and several officers of the Army and Air Force, Menon in the same afternoon flew in a British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) plane to Srinagar. It was a chartered plane commissioned to fly back the stranded British nationals in Srinagar due to the ongoing conflict. As the plane landed at the Srinagar airstrip, Menon and his team were greeted by the oppressive stillness of silence akin to a graveyard.

From there, Menon and Dwarka Nath Kachru headed straight to the Prime Minister Mehar Chand Mahajan's residence. After the confabulations, Menon and Mahajan headed next to meet the Maharaja at the palace. There, they found the Maharaja distraught and fazed by the developing crisis and feeling completely helpless. Realizing the gravity of the grim situation Menon knew that the first thing to be done was to get the Maharaja and his family out of Srinagar. He knew that if the Government of India did not come to his rescue, it was more than certain what fate awaited him and his family in Srinagar. There was no doubt that the raiders would settle for



Seated and looking pensive, with his hands resting on the arms of the chair, Maharaja Hari Singh uttered but one sentence: “We have lost Kashmir”.

nothing less than his death after his capture and then loot all the valuables of the palace.

In these circumstances, V.P. Menon advised the Maharaja to leave immediately for Jammu and take with him his family and other valuable possessions. Assured that the Maharaja would abide by his categorical advice to leave for Jammu anytime during the approaching night and after gathering more ground information from credible sources, V.P. Menon headed for the Guest House in the early hours of the 26th for a little rest and a small nap. Just as he was about to sleep, after reaching the Guest House, his phone rang. It was an urgent call from Mehar Chand Mahajan informing Menon that it had come to his knowledge that the raiders had arrived in

and a crew of six or seven air force officers. Arriving at the aerodrome before the dawn had cracked in Srinagar; they found it flooded with people in contrast what he had seen in the previous evening when he had landed there. As Menon was about to board the special plane, an Indian Air Force Dakota freighter without seats, a Hindu woman in tears with two young girls approached V.P. Menon imploring him to take them to Delhi and thus save them from the ignominy other women in Kashmir had suffered at the hands of the marauding raiders. Menon was left with no option and agreed to take them along with him.

The woman beseeching Menon, on that cold October morning of Srinagar, to take her



Srinagar and it would thence be unsafe for them as well to stay in Srinagar.

Menon hardly believed the caution but could not deny the advice since it had come from the Prime Minister himself. He accepted Mahajan's advice to leave Srinagar immediately. However, there was a small crisis on the availability of the transport that would take them to the aerodrome. The Maharaja, only a few hours earlier, had taken all the cars with him. There was only an old jeep left to ferry them. In this vehicle were bundled Mehar Chand Mahajan, V.P. Menon

and the two young girls to Delhi was none else than the grand-daughter-in-law of the sometime Home Minister of Kashmir, Bhagat Narain Das who served the state during the rule of Maharaja Pratap Singh. The two girls were his grandnieces (sisters-Usha and Uma) who had come to Srinagar that summer to spend holidays in Gulmarg. The Bhagat family, at the time, lived at Ram Munshi Bagh and was the guest of their family friend J. N. Khosla who was a professor. During the flight to Delhi, Usha sat on her *potli*, the cloth bundle that served as a seat, next to V.P.

Menon. Decades later, Usha Bhagat came to become Private Secretary to Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

Even as Menon that day landed in Delhi, Maharaja Hari Singh was still trudging the road on way to Jammu. Maharaja Hari Singh drove his own car with his European French-jeweler- friend and advisor on foreign investments Victor Rosenthal by his side on the front seat with two staff officers with loaded guns in the rear seat. The Maharani and other women entourage including the wife of the Deputy Prime Minister Ram Lal Batra followed in the vehicles towing the Maharaja's car. The young Yuvaraj Karan Singh sitting immobile in a wheelchair with a heavy plaster cast around his hip was carried in a station wagon that his father previously used during his hunting trips. All through the night, the royal convoy drove haltingly until it finally reached the palace in Jammu sometime

Indian Territory. Mountbatten insisted that it was the only basis the troops could be sent forth to rescue the State from further pillaging by the invaders. He also underlined that the accession was conditional subject to a plebiscite that would be held after the order was restored.

Soon after the deliberations of the Defence Committee were over, V.P. Menon yet again accompanied by Mehar Chand Mahajan flew back to Jammu the same day in the evening. On arrival at Jammu, Menon came down straight to the palace which he found in a state of utter turmoil and chaos with valuable articles strewn all over the palace. At the time, the Maharaja was fast asleep after a tiring journey he had made while travelling from Srinagar to Jammu during the day and the previous night. Without wasting any time, Menon woke up the Maharaja and apprised him all that had happened during the meeting

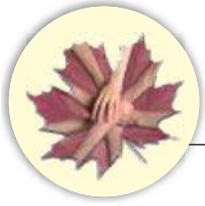
Without wasting any time, Menon woke up the Maharaja and apprised him all that had happened during the meeting of the Defence Committee in Delhi. Maharaja readily agreed to accede to India and signed the Instrument of Accession.

by late evening on the 26th. Throughout the journey Maharaja Hari Singh did not speak a word. However, at last, when he reached Jammu and pulled up at the palace, the Maharaja took a seat. Behind him, stood one of his staff officers. Seated and looking pensive, with his hands resting on the arms of the chair, Maharaja Hari Singh uttered but one sentence: “We have lost Kashmir”.

Far away, after having left Srinagar in the first light of the morning of October 26, V.P. Menon went straight to the meeting of the Defence Committee. There, he reported his impressions of the situation in Kashmir and the extreme necessity of rushing the military force to the aid of the Maharaja for saving Kashmir from the raiders. During the meeting Lord Mountbatten expressed his reservation doing so, until the Maharaja acceded to the Indian dominion and thus became part of the

of the Defence Committee in Delhi. Maharaja readily agreed to accede to India and signed the Instrument of Accession. He then composed a letter addressed to Lord Mountbatten imploring the need of rushing the troops to his rescue without any further loss of time.

Just as V.P. Menon, with the Instrument of Accession in his hand, was leaving the palace Maharaja Hari Singh told him: “Before (I) went to sleep, (I) had left instructions with the ADC that if (you) came back from Delhi, (I) was not to be disturbed as it would mean that the Government of India had decided to come to (my) rescue and (I) should therefore be allowed to sleep in peace; but that if (you) failed to return, it meant that everything was lost and, in that case, (my) ADC was to shoot (me) in (my) sleep”.



- B.L. Saraf

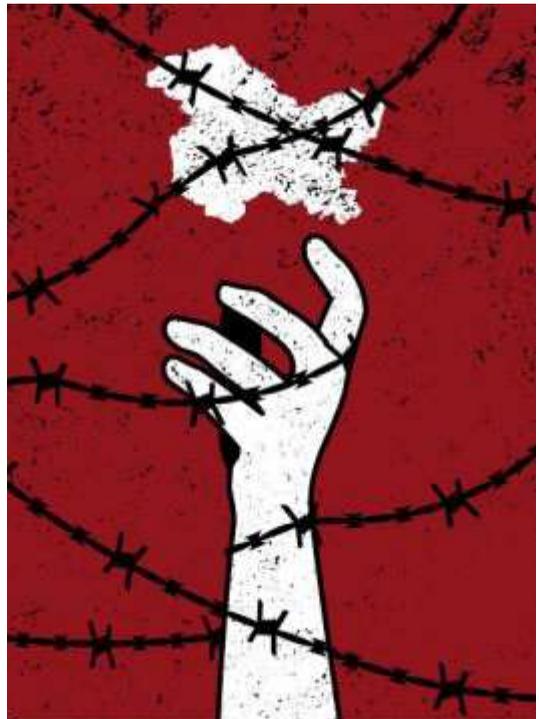


KASHMIR ACCEDES TO INDIA

Linkage of the Destiny is Irreversible

The 5TH August, 2019 constitutional developments may have settled some vital issues vis-a-vis Srinagar – Delhi relations, nevertheless, on occasions some aspects of the matter are fed into the international discourse which have a tendency to provide ammunition to the inimical forces – within and without – to question these relations. Therefore, the irreversibility of Kashmir–India relations has to be reasserted as and when occasion arises. October, 26th is, indeed, one such occasion when we have to renew J&K's tryst with India's destiny and reinforce the foundation it is based on.

26th October marks the event of J K State acceding to India. Legally, this development came around by signing a document called Instrument of Accession (IOA) by Maharaja Hari Singh, the Ruler, in favour of Indian Dominion. “The Instrument of Accession was the legal document designed to bring about accession between the princely states and either of two newly formed nations, India and Pakistan. It was executed by the government of India on one hand and by the ruler on the other.” Judith M Brown, *Modern India; The Origins of an Asian Democracy*, Oxford University Press, New York 1984 p 33.



But then, given the peculiar demographic cum geographic situation of the State, an attendant political issue of a huge consequence had to be addressed rather simultaneously: without which, in all

The chilling account of the days and how things turned round in favor of India is given vividly by V P Menon.

probability, settlement of legal position alone wouldn't suffice for Indo-Kashmir relations to emerge in that tumultuous period of 1947.

Genesis of Accession and History of Instrument of Accession

Initially, the Instrument of Accession was the legal document designed to create "Federation of India" by bringing about accession between the Princely States and The Crown's government. Its concept was introduced by the Government of India Act, 35. It however, didn't achieve the desired objective. The Act 35 was, mainly, aimed at setting up All India Federation, comprising Indian Provinces and the Princely States. The constituent units of the Federation were 11 Governors' Provinces, 6 Chief Commissioners' Provinces and all the States that agreed to join it. The States were absolutely free to join or not to join the proposed Federation. At the time of joining the Federation, the ruler of the State was to execute the Instrument of Accession in favor of the Crown. On acceptance of that Instrument, the State was to become a unit of the Federation. However, the scheme of accession could not be executed for various reasons which for the sake of brevity and not being directly germane to the topic won't bear a dilution.

Indian Independence Act, 1947

To give effect to their June 3, 1947 plan of leaving India and partitioning the sub-continent, the British Parliament passed Indian Independence Act, 1947 on 18th July 1947 with the aim and object:

"To make provision for setting up in India of two independent Dominions, to substitute other provisions for certain provisions of Government of India Act 1935 which apply outside those Dominions, and to provide for other matters consequential on or connected with setting up of those Dominions."

Section 4 Sub Section 2 of this Act introduced on the intervention of Congress party, authorized Indian States to accede to

either of the Dominions. Though an unfettered power to accede to the Dominions was given to the Rulers of the States, but it was hemmed in by the consideration that while exercising this right they had to keep in mind the underlying principle for the partition of India and creating two Dominions, based on the Muslim and non-Muslim majority areas. This principle was read over by Mountbatten to Hanwant Singh, ruler of Jodhpur, and thwarted his design to tie up with Pakistan, for which he was hobnobbing with Jinnah. Therefore, for a holistic evaluation of J&K's accession to India, emphasis has to be laid more on political aspect than the legal one. More so, because Ruler of the State was of a faith different than the majority of his subjects.

Seeds for Kashmir's association with the Indian National Congress and then to the Indian Dominion were sown in 1936-37, when Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah met with Indian nationalist leaders like Dr Saifudin Kichloo and Jawaharlal Nehru, in Lahore. Sheikh felt so impressed with their interaction that he remarked "I will work on Congress principle and have such party in Kashmir." *Aatish-e-Chinnar* p 209-10. And, "If Congress nationalists had to support Kashmir freedom movement, they will have to change." p 228 *ibid*.

As a step towards that direction the Muslim Conference formed in 1932, by the Kashmiri Muslims was converted into National Conference in 1937 – throwing doors open to all sections of Jammu & Kashmir society, irrespective of caste, color and creed. Henceforth, active association of National Conference with the Indian National Congress went under way, which culminated into Kashmir's accession with India, in 1947. But it did come at a price. The tribal raiders aided and abetted by the Pakistan government and regulars created a mayhem.

The chilling account of the days and how things turned round in favor of India is given vividly by V P Menon. He records in his book *Integration of Indian States* at pages, 397 - 400 "on the evening of 24th October, the

Government of India received a desperate appeal of help from Maharaja. They also received from the Supreme Commander information regarding raiders advance and probable intentions. On the morning of 25 October, a meeting of Defense Committee was held, presided over by Lord Mountbatten. This Committee considered the request of the Maharaja for arms and ammunition as also for reinforcement of troops, "It was agreed that I should fly to Srinagar immediately in order to study the situation on the spot and report to the Government of India. When I landed at the airfield, I was oppressed by the stillness of a graveyard all around. From the aerodrome we went straight to the residence of Prime Minister of the State. From his residence we both proceeded to the Maharaja's palace. The Maharaja was completely unnerved by the turn of events and by his sense of loneliness. There were no state forces left and the raiders had almost reached the outskirts of Baramulla.

We left Srinagar in the first light of morning of 26 October and immediately on my arrival in Delhi, I went straight to a meeting of the Defense Committee. I reported my impressions of the situation and pointed out the supreme necessity of saving Kashmir from the raiders. Lord Mountbatten said that it would be improper to move Indian troops into what at the moment was an independent country, as Kashmir had not yet decided to accede to either India or Pakistan. If it were true that the Maharaja was now anxious to accede to India, then Jammu and Kashmir would become part of Indian territory. That was the only basis on which Indian troops could be sent to the rescue of the State from further pillaging by the aggressor.

Soon after the meeting of the Defense Committee, I flew to Jammu accompanied by Mahajan. Maharaja was asleep. I woke him up and told him of what had taken place in the Defense Committee. He then composed a letter to the Governor General. He also signed the Instrument of Accession.

With the Instrument of Accession and the Maharaja's letter I flew back at once to Delhi and went to a meeting of the Defense

Committee which was arranged for that evening. There was a long discussion at the end of which it was decided that the accession of Jammu and Kashmir should be accepted, It was further decided that an infantry battalion should be flown to Srinagar the next day. This decision had the fullest backing of Sheikh Abdullah, who was in Delhi at that time and who had been pressing the Government of India, on behalf of the All – Jammu and Kashmir National Conference for immediate help to be sent to the State to resist the tribal invasion

Let us see what Meher Chand Mahajan has said in his book on the subject:

"We had decided by 25th evening to go to India if we could get a plane or else go to Pakistan for surrender. Kabul was suggested by some as a neighbour who may possibly lend a helping hand. Luckily at this crucial moment Menon arrived in a plane. An Instrument of Accession was executed and signed by Maharaja. Menon advised Maharaja to shift to Jammu. Sheikh Abdullah had quietly left by plane for Delhi on 25th. I was asked to accompany Mr Menon to Delhi for talks on question of accession and military aid. I accompanied him to India, where we reached on 26th morning. There I met Prime Minister of India and told him to give army take accession and give whatever powers you want to give to the Popular party."

Accession of Kashmir to India (The other story) pages 16, 17:

Sheikh Abdullah, who on all accounts was in Delhi at that time, has corroborated this account in his biography *Aatish-e-Chinnar at pages 416 – 417* and records that V P Menon returned to Delhi on 26th October with signed Instrument of Accession.

Then, we have it from Mountbatten's Press Secretary, Allen Campbell-Johnson:

"Mountbatten attended the Defense Committee on Saturday 25th at which General Lockhart read out telegram from the Headquarters of the Pakistan Army stating that some five thousand tribesmen had attacked and captured Muzaffarabad and Dommel. Reports that they were already little

more than thirty-five miles from Srinagar, the Defense Committee considered the most immediate necessity to rush in arms and ammunition as requested by the Kashmir government. The problem of troops reinforcement was considered, and Mountbatten urged that it would be dangerous to send troops unless Kashmir had first offered to accede. No final decision was taken on these vital questions on 25th, but it was agreed that V P Menon should fly to Srinagar **at once** to find out the true picture there. The information which VP Menon brought back to the Defense Committee the **next day**, was certainly disturbing. Maharaja also signed a letter of accession which V P Menon was able to present to the Defense Committee ... In the light of this depressing data, the Defense Committee decided that Maharaja's accession should be accepted and that a battalion of infantry be flown in at the dawn next day. *“Mission with Mountbatten -Jaico publishing House pages 188-189.*

According to Allen Campbell – Johnson, the legality of the accession is beyond doubt, it should be stressed that accession has complete validity both in terms of British governments and Jinnah's express policy statements.

Dr Karan Singh has corroborated the fact. In his statement read out to the participants of National Integration Convention at Jammu on 27th October 2001, the 54th Anniversary of the Accession, he said “Regarding the events of 1947, my father

Maharaja Hari Singh realized that with the whole sub-continent engulfed in communal violence, he had to be very cautious in deciding the future of the State. He, therefore, offered Stand – Still Agreement to both Pakistan and India. But in October an invasion was launched from Pakistan and, in order to save the State from fatal destruction, he signed Instrument of Accession in Hari Niwas, Jammu on 26 October 1947. In fact, I was in the palace to witness the momentous occasion” (Association of Communal Harmony in Asia (ACHA) – Archive of Kashmir Records quoted by Dr Suryakant Nath in his essay “Myth of Instrument of Accession – Reappraisal”, published in International Journal of Applied Research 2016: 2 (3) 17-21.

Above narrated historical record speaks for itself that finality of J&K's relationship with India rests on sound legal and political foundations. Pakistan often goes to the town interjecting a conditionality of plebiscite into to the business of accession. That argument has been debunked long ago. So stands the accusation leveled against Nehru rebutted that he had tagged idea of right of self-determination to the finality of accession. There is voluminous literature available on this aspect to hold so which we leave to the other day.

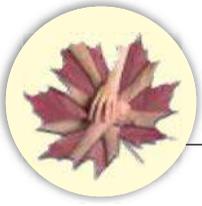
- The author is the Former Principal District & Sessions Judge

Winners of Tokyo Olympics 2021



Javelin Throw
Neeraj Chopra
GOLD Medal

Game	Name	Medal
Wrestling (57kg)	Ravi Kumar Dahiya	Silver
Weight Lifting (49 Kg Women)	Mirabai Chanu	Silver
Women's Singles Badminton	PV Sindhu	Bronze
Women's Welterweight Boxing	Lovlina Borgohain	Bronze
Hockey	Indian Hockey Team	Bronze
Wrestling (65 Kg)	Bajrang Punia	Bronze
Tennis	Ankita Raina	-



- Avtar Mota



Captain Diwan Singh on "MAHARAJA HARI SINGH"

Capt Diwan Singh (1919 -2014), ADC to Maharaja Hari Singh was privy to many inside decisions/ happenings during the crucial days of October 1947. In that capacity, he was a store house of first-hand information relating to several political developments during the last days of Maharaja's rule. I wish he had written a book to put many records straight and clear many misconceptions and wrong beliefs.

He remained steadfast in his loyalty to Maharaja Hari Singh till his death. He proved it when he resigned from army (he served as Staff Officer post 1947) in 1949 and decided to continue as Private Secretary to Maharaja under totally changed environment. At that time, the lonely Maharaja was asked to leave the state and live as exile in Mumbai. No one was prepared to move with him as his Secretary/ ADC. Capt Diwan Singh returned to Jammu only after Maharaja's death.

Born in a Rajput family from Palanwala, Jammu, Capt Diwan Singh's father had served state's forces and seen action in the first world war. And so did Capt Diwan Singh see action in Burma war. After 1947, he saw action in Poonch (siege of Poonch, August 1948) when Pakistani troops were driven away by Indian Army.

For people of the state especially Jammu province, he was instrumental in getting 500 acres of land donated by Maharaja Hari Singh that enabled him to set up D.A.V. Agricultural Collegiate School at Nagbani. After his return



to Jammu, he devoted his time and energy for this cause.

I had two (1996 and 1997) interactions with him during the period I headed Dumana, Jammu branch of our bank. In fact, during that period, he was instrumental in getting an extension counter of our bank opened inside Nagbani school. This extension counter was

to operate under Dumana branch. During those two interactions, he was kind enough to speak a little about those crucial days of 1947 when he happened to be ADC to Maharaja Hari Singh. I quote from my records/diary jottings of these two meetings. He said this:

“Maharaja Hari Singh spoke fluent Kashmiri. By complexion also, he looked like a Kashmiri.”

“Maharaja never believed in clarifying himself. Never made certain 'behind the curtain' decisions public that could have presented his true and real personality. Sometimes, I feel that history has been unfair to him.”

“He was far and very far above petty things. Contrary to the general impression that he was haughty, I have felt that he had a human heart. He was liberal, progressive and a firm believer in reforms. As ruler, never ever has he distinguished between members of his staff or public in general on the basis of caste, creed or religion. Many Muslims were in employment with State's Darbar. I mean on very high and

sericulture project, Industrial activity projects (turpentine industry, bat industry, match factory, carpet factory, woollen mill, silk factory), handicrafts emporium, J&K bank, village Panchayats, development of tourist resorts (Gulmarg and Pahalgam), Boulevard around Dal lake, or any other old public utility project, you shall find his contribution.”

“He put the last nail in the coffin of Begaar, prostitution and child marriage. Hindu Widow Remarriage Ordinance was formulated during his rule. The state subject rule was formulated by Maharaja in 1929. He passed an ordinance making primary education compulsory.”

“He did not believe in rituals. He was drawn towards Arya Samaj philosophy. He had also willed that no ritual be performed after his death but Yuvraj Karan Singh Ji and Maharani Sahiba did all the rituals and mourning as per Sanatan Dharma.”

“The ruling political set up at that time ordered him to move far away from his family, his home and above all his motherland. The

“He put the last nail in the coffin of Begaar, prostitution and child marriage. Hindu Widow Remarriage Ordinance was formulated during his rule.”

respectable posts. A few I can quote were Nawab Khushru Jung, his military secretary, Sahibzada Noor Mohammad Khan, a member of his inner personal staff and Sardar Abdul Rehman Effindi who had been provided with a house at Gupkar Road. Abdul Qayoom Khan was another secretary. Maharaja's head cook was a Muslim. Nizam of Hyderabad and Nawab of Palanpur were very close to him. Their families would be in Srinagar during summers and stayed as royal guests. Nawab Taley Mohammad Khan was his closest friend.”

“He coined the slogan “Justice is my Religion.”

“In our state, if you look around any old hospital, old Government School, old college, old Technical Institution, old road, old rail link, old power project, Irrigation system, old

manner in which Maharaja was exiled from the state in 1949 was a grave insult to him. This hurt remained with him till his death. As exile, he turned diabetic. He had some incurable boil on his neck. He endured all silently. Never made any hue and cry of his pain and suffering. He never spoke against any political personality that had connived to throw him out.”

“Mountbatten visited our state in June 1947. He stayed for about a week in Srinagar. One day before his departure, Mountbatten had told Maharaja, “Then I advise you to join Pakistan.” They were supposed to meet next day. But Maharaja sent a letter through me to be delivered to Mountbatten declining to meet him again. Maharaja's heart was always with India. I am more than sure on this issue.”

“Jinnah also tried to meet Maharaja

twice; first in August 1947 and then in September 1947 but Maharaja refused.”

“Even before the tribal raid, Maharaja wanted to accede to India and was waiting for the clearance from leaders essentially Pandit Ji . But Pandit Ji wanted Sheikh Abdullah and National Conference leaders to be released first. The leaders of National Conference along with Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah were released in September 1947. Probably Pandit Ji had some hostility towards Maharaja since 1946. Pandit Ji was well educated and the most influential leader at that critical turn of the history of the subcontinent.”

“Pandit Ji possibly felt that the key of Kashmir's tangled lock lay only and only with Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. Time proved him wrong. Pandit Ji was also cross with Maharaja for what he felt as his humiliation at Kohala bridge. The media reported it as the arrest of Nehru. Let me tell one and all that Pandit Ji was never arrested. He was merely stopped from visiting valley that was already boiling due to 'Quit Kashmir' movement. He was requested to stay in Maharaja's guest house near Uri and a cook and some servants were sent from Srinagar for him by Maharaja. Even Maulana Azad had been made to believe that Pandit Ji had been arrested.”

“As Maharaja came to know about the tribal raid, he personally wanted to lead his troops from front like a true Kshatriya. Inside Srinagar Palace, during those crucial days of October 1947, one day, I saw Maharaja in battle dress. He called his officers and asked us to be ready for any sacrifice to save our motherland. It was only Brigadier Rajinder Singh who stood like a rock and stopped Maharaja from visiting Uri and leading troops to stop the advancing tribal raiders.”

“I totally disagree with the popular belief that Maharaja ran away at night to save his life; let me make it clear that during those critical days, Maharaja's mind was only focused on driving away the raiders and saving his state and the people. Never ever he thought of leaving Kashmir. He was very firmly asked to or better say directed to move out from valley immediately by Mr V P Menon who suddenly

flew to Srinagar one day with draft of accession document. The painful decision to leave was reluctantly taken during afternoon of the same day. It was 25th October 1947. And we left during the night at 2 a.m. the same day. Sheikh Abdullah had sought an assurance from Pandit Ji that Maharaja will leave Srinagar before the formation of popular Government once the instrument of accession was signed. And Pandit Ji did not want to annoy Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.”

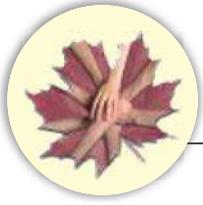
“We started from the Palace at dead of the night. I was in the back seat of Maharaja's car. Maharaja was on steering. Maharani Sahiba and other ladies followed us in separate cars. Maharaja could hardly carry all belongings in a few cars/vehicles. The stories about Maharaja taking everything with him on that fateful day are all false. Most of his belongings remained in Srinagar Palace when he was asked to leave in an absolute hurry. He did not say a word during the entire Journey to Jammu. Arriving at Jammu, He had a long sigh and said “We have lost Kashmir.”

“After 1947, the heavy golden throne of Maharaja was in the possession State Government and it was later donated to Central Government by Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad during Chinese aggression. Many Persian carpets, cutlery, furniture, gifts and valuable things were removed from the Palace post-October 1947. Even imported sanitaryware fittings were removed from the Palace after Maharaja left. Government occupied his Jammu palace and old palace in Srinagar. This was something unusual when you see other princely states in the country.”

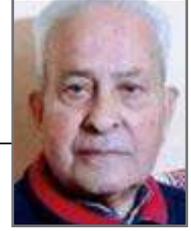
“The final Instrument of accession was signed inside Hari Niwas Palace, Jammu.”

“After signing the instrument of accession, that night he went to sleep a little early. He called me and said meaningfully,” we need to save people from marauding raiders. If Indian planes do not fly to Kashmir in the morning, shoot me in my sleep. Don't wake me up.”

PS: These are jottings made by me from what Capt. Diwan Singh spoke sometime during 1996 and 1997. These are not my views.



- H.L. Raina



Was J&K accession with India **Circumstantial or Accidental?**



A state of uncertainty prevailed in whole of Jammu and Kashmir due to, so called, disobedience movement in 1931. It involved peasants, artisans, and the workers in general. The sponsors of this movement were, obviously, the Muslims only as most of them belonged to the cadres. The non-Muslims opposed the rising tide so that the communal clashes could be avoided; yet it raised its ugly head when the rioters had attacked the Central Jail, Srinagar, where Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah with some of his associates were interned. The urchins wanted to open the jail gates in order to free the interns. The guards posted there felt they could

not cope up with the situation and asked for more reinforcement force to quell the uprising. This is supposed to have made the situation serious which resulted in the death of some people. The dead bodies were carried away for their burial at the graveyard next to Hazrat Bahudin Naqushbandi Shrine, who were supposed to be the martyrs according to the rioters and since then the day is being observed as Martyrs Day.

In fact, this day, Kashmiri Pandits suffered the most as the rioters had turned amok who broke open all sorts of attacks, abuses and arson. Whatever was at their command at that time, they used it against

Kashmiri Pandits who were helpless before these religious mobs. Incidentally, they could have been subjected to more atrocities but it is presumed that the ugly head of communalisation was subdued by the broad movement in Kashmir and the cases of agitation in Jammu which, sadly, reflected the communal sphere of contagion.

In 1933, the support of Sikhs was enlisted to work jointly for the welfare of the masses. Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, in Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference of 1932 said, "We should fight for the rights of all the communities. This is possible only when each community bears to appreciate the view point of the other community." It may be due to uncertainty of different points of views of locals and central cadres towards Kashmir. So, the Muslim Conference became in 1939 and instead National Conference took its space. Soon after this, 'Quit India' movement started in 1942 which was followed as 'Quit Kashmir' movement' by National Conference in 1946.

The Cabinet Mission was informed that the national demand of the people of Kashmir was absolute freedom from the autocratic rule of Dogra House. This followed the arrest of Sheikh Abdullah on My 20, 1946 and thereafter, we saw turmoil etc... Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru came and defied the law of State in June 1946 and he was taken into custody in Kohala while on his way to Srinagar. This is supposed to have served the tide against the ruler. This paved the fillip to "Quit Kashmir" movement which ultimately triumphed.

In the meantime, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, spared no means to convert Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah to his way of thinking but failed.

Shri R C Kak, the then Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir had dreamed of isolation of Jammu and Kashmir, was asked to quit from his office six days before India and Pakistan were declared Independent. Shri R C Kak, of course, had his own reasons for remaining staying in stand in short position.

Mahatma Gandhi too visited Kashmir, but he too wasn't heard. It is believed that the

treaty of Amritsar was, in reality, a deed of sale so, the State's accession remained undecided.

In the meantime, the movements of North Western Frontier tribesmen were detected and it is stated that 300 men of Sikh Battalion were flown on Tuesday October 28, 1947 to block the invasion by these tribesmen.

It is stated that three days before the transfer of power and accession time limit, the Kashmir Government announced its intention of signing the Standstill Agreement with, both India and Pakistan. IN fact, Government of India refrained from inducing Kashmir to accede. This crisis is ascribed to Maharaja's choice indecision.

Pakistan had created some sort of economic crisis for Kashmir by blocking some essential goods movement in spite of Standstill Agreement. The greatest problem was felt due to non-availability of salt which had become a big source of headache for the people. My father was posted in Drass where we used sea salt. We, therefore, collected on or two monds of salt to be taken to Srinagar but we also fell in the hands of Pakistan's advance there and, we all of a sudden, became their captives.

5,000 tribesmen had entered Muzaffarabad and Domel on 25th October and were only 35 miles from Srinagar. Maharaja felt to have fallen alone and helpless and, thus, he left with his wife and son on 26th October on strong advice of Indian representative who on the spot. It so happened that on the same day Maharaja signed the letter of accession to India, which gave complete legality to take any action thereafter by the Government of India.

This became necessary because Jinnah had given orders to Pakistan troops to move to Kashmir but it was Auchinlack who told Pakistan that the Kashmir had acceded to India which, therefore, had perfect right to send troops as the response of Maharaja's request.

Muzaffarabad was raided on 22nd October, 1947. Trouble in Poonch had started, although Brigadier Rajinder Singh was putting up a brave front against the raiders but,

ultimately loosing every effort including, perhaps, his life also.

From Mzaffarabad, the tribesmen (Kabalies) advanced towards Baramulla which was under their captivity for three days. During these three days, they let loose their Tandav of arson, loot, setting houses on fire and rapes of women. Even the nuns of the missionary sect could not escape this gruesome act. For them every yellow metal was supposed to be gold and they laid their hands over such metals everywhere. It is stated that they used to tell their people that they need “Hindu ka zar sur Sikh ka sar.” In such situation, a lot of ladies committed suicide by jumping into the roaring Kishen Ganga river.

Credit must be given to Shaheed-i-izam, Maqbool Sherwani, who was responsible for way laying their route to Srinagar and, of course, the great lady called “Hassina Begam” who kept the Kabalies busy with her dance for days together. These things worked as speed

breakers for the advance of the raiders to Srinagar.

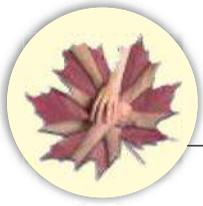
After the demise of Brigadier Rajinder Singh, the civil administration had collapsed. Peace Brigades and other National Militia took up the defence crying in the streets which boosted the morale of the people.

At the joint request of Maharaja Hari Singh and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, India accepted the accession on October 24, 1947 and decided to intervene with armed forces of India, who landed in Srinagar on October 27, 1947 when raiders were sacking, burning and looting around the Northern walls of the city. The first action of the army was to make Srinagar airport safe and secure. Then started the mopping up operation wherein we lost a number of valiant heroes of Army.

Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was sworn as Emergency Administrator on October 26, 1947 and the rest is the History.

Events of the Month	Navratra Starts	07 th October 2021
	Durga Ashtami	13 th October 2021
	Maha Navami	14 th October 2021
	Dushehra	15 th October 2021
	Ekadashi (Shukla Paksha)	16 th October 2021
	Poornima	20 th October 2021
	Ganesh Chaturthi (Karwa Chauth)	24 th October 2021
	Ashtami (Krishna Paksha)	29 th October 2021
	Ekadashi (Krishna Paksha)	01 st November 2021
	Amavasya (Deepawali)	04 th November 2021
Note	Panchak Starts on 15th Oct ends on 20th Oct 2021	

	Ashwin (Shukla Paksha) from 07 Oct 2021 to 20 Oct 2021	
	Kartik (Krishna Paksha) from 21 Oct 2021 to 04 Nov 2021	
Kartik (Shukla Paksha) from 05 Nov 2021 to 19 Nov 2021		



- S.N. Pandita



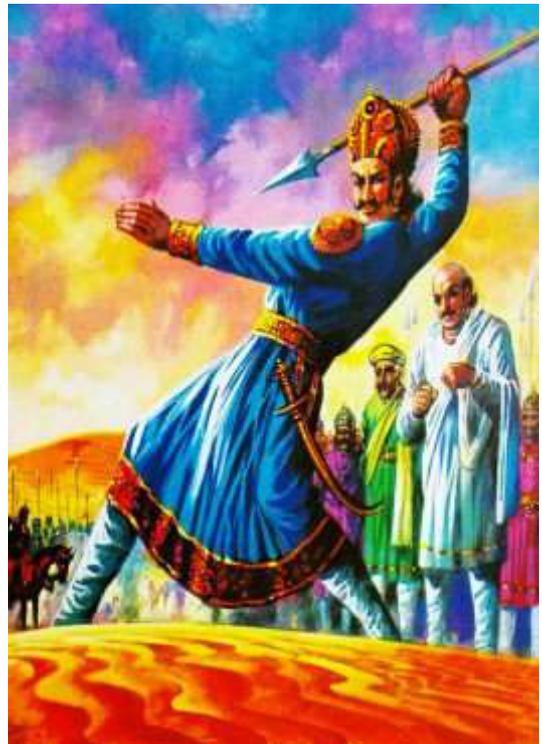
MUKTAPIDA 'LALITADITYA'

Alexander by Deeds; Abhinavagupta by Fate

Counted among the great Indian kings such as Ashoka, Vikramaditya, Harsha and Chandragupta- Lalitaditya, the great emperor of Kashmir adorned the throne between 699 to 735 AD, says Stein; 695 to 731 AD as per Shanker Pandit Panduranga and 724-761 AD according to the Chinese Tang annals. However, notwithstanding the variance in the dates of Lalitaditya's rule, there is unanimity that he was a contemporary of the French King, Charlemagne, and preceded Alfred, the King of England, by a century and Mohammed; the Prophet was already dead a hundred years but his religion Islam had not yet spread to India. This chronology thus puts his date as one who ruled Kashmir in the 8th century.

A scion of the Karkota dynasty, Lalitaditya's grandfather Durlabhavardhana was a man of humble origin but succeeded to a dynasty that was foreign and by marriage had connection with the preceding ruling family that had been settled in Kashmir for a couple of generations.

Shortly after he ascended the throne, Muktapida as per the tradition and the custom of the dynasty took to the honorific 'Lalitaditya', a name by which he has been inscribed in history. It was not long after, that he set off on campaigns of conquests through India. He asserted his authority over the hill tracts of northern Punjab, thwarted the Arab invasion in India, attacked and conquered Kanauj in Central India. Later, he conquered the Tibetans and succeeded in



freeing Tokharistan from the Turks and culminated his military campaigns with control over large swathes of territories in Central Asia. In all these intermittent military exploits, that lasted several years, he always returned victorious.

Executed with the élan and finis of a farsighted empire builder, these campaigns of Lalitaditya laid the strategic foundations of a strong Kashmir empire since “from this time for many centuries onwards till the time of

Akbar, the tide of conquest and political influence was to turn and instead of more advanced and masterful races from the direction of India spreading their influence over Kashmir, it was from Kashmir that conquerors were to go forth to extend their sway over the neighbouring territories”.

Evidently, these victory forays of Lalitaditya made him by far the most conspicuous figure, in the Kashmir history, who raised his kingdom to a pitch of glory it had reached never before or perhaps, attained since. And deservingly, therefore, Lalitaditya was considered a “universal monarch” who “conquered the world”.

During his conquering sprees, Lalitaditya brought with him learned men and skilled artisans from all countries and devoted his time and resources in building great public edifices. The creative works that were done during his reign are unmatched and the

constructions as well as love for creative enterprise.

Even as Lalitaditya was engaged in achieving victories and building edifices, he was also very actively concerned with the welfare of his subjects. He built canals, reclaimed swamps by drainage and irrigated large tracts of arid land for cultivation by erecting dams on rivers. During his brilliant career, the Kashmiri people enjoyed peaceful and rich life. At the popular level while people participated in various festivals and celebrations, Lalitaditya himself started an annual festival called Sahasrabhakta in which one lac Brahmans were fed for several days and given grain and cash in reward.

It is no gainsaying that during Lalitaditya's regime; Kashmir not only maintained its reputation and status as the knowledge centre but scholars from far and wide came to Kashmir for higher education.

During his conquering sprees, Lalitaditya brought with him learned men and skilled artisans from all countries and devoted his time and resources in building great public edifices.

edifices he built overwhelm the viewer. Among the towns he found, the main ones include Parnotas, the modern-day Poonch that is still a vibrant and flourishing town, Lalitapura, the present-day Lethapora and the magnificent Parihaspura that though currently survives only in ruins.

Lalitaditya's religious liberalism bears testimony in the structures like the four temples he built, namely the Parihaskeshva, Muktakeshva, Mahavaraha and the Govardhandev. He also built the stone temple of Jyestheshwara, a Vishnu temple at Lokapura and a temple dedicated to Lord Narasimha at Ushker, a site near the present-day Baramulla. However, his greatest memorial is the superb edifice of the Martand Temple, “the most striking example of ancient Kashmir architecture”. All these building relics are symbolic of Lalitaditya's artistic tastes and his great interest for massive

Simultaneously, during this time trade and commerce too prospered. Kashmir's economy was at its peak. Enormous wealth earned through victory campaigns and revenue collected from vassals filled the state coffers. Tax from trade routes to Central Asia came as a result of Kashmir controlling over these movements during Lalitaditya's days.

Obviously all this led to strong finance, amicable relations between people of all faiths and plenty of opportunities to prosper, encouraged creativity among talented and ambitious people. These circumstances evidently led Kashmir to reach the pinnacle of glory. A glory not just in terms of victories in wars or economic power, but in other aspects of liberal and tolerant intellectual wealth too.

As a patron of talents, Lalitaditya invited scholars from other countries to Kashmir and even honoured them. Perhaps, Lalitaditya's most unrecognized contribution to Kashmir's

glory comes from the fact that it was during his tenure he invited Atrigupta to Kashmir after his conquest over Kanauj by vanquishing King Yasovarmana. And it is well known that two centuries later, many generations after him, one of Atrigupta's descendants Abhinavagupta, "the great scholar and Saiva teacher and the dominant influence of his own and subsequent ages in all matters relating to Kashmir Saivism", took the intellectual and cultural glory of Kashmir to great heights. Therefore, based on much plausible reasoning accompanying historical facts, it can be stated that Lalitaditya created an empire on the enterprise of his conquests with "knowledge power, artistic interests and economic strength".

Continuing with his heroic deeds, Lalitaditya always had an eye on the political situation all around him. About the middle of the 8th century (740AD to 755AD) political situation in Central Asia was quite volatile. The Arab Caliphate had started posing a challenge to the Chinese Empire that eventually culminated in a war between the Arabs and the Chinese in 751 AD. Given his penchant and acumen in the strategic statecraft, these circumstances offered Lalitaditya a favourable ground to exploit the situation for the expansion of his kingdom and win new territories no Kashmiri king till then had set ever to conquer.

Responding to this significant political opportunity, the spirited and adventurous Lalitaditya left for the far-out campaign. Prior to it, he had never travelled in the north beyond Kashgar. The ensuing victory march led Lalitaditya to conquer the Tarim Valley that included Kucha, Turfan and the twin city states in the Taklamakan and the Gobi deserts. He continued marching on in his quest to achieve more victories.. Travelling along the mountain range, Lalitaditya next conquered the kingdoms of Niya and Keriya in 758 AD.

The victory campaign was, however, short lived and lasted no more than two to three years. Nonetheless, during this period, Lalitaditya deep within himself set out on a sort of a spiritual exploration that appears divinely inspired. As a result, fording through

the vast desert areas he was at the time, he lost contact with his capital state Kashmir. Anxious, his court councilors sent a messenger to him who took considerable time to locate him in the remote region of the barren wastes. Following this the messenger returned to the capital with the king's instructions.

The prophetic instructions sounded his personal sagacity and political strategy which, at the heart, carried his lasting desire to ensure the welfare of his kingdom. By premonition, Lalitaditya also conveyed his wish as to who should succeed him to take over the kingdom he had built by the sweat of his brow.

"Stepbrothers Kuvalayapida and Vajraditya were both Lalitaditya's sons". They, however, differed in "nature and temperament like chalk and cheese". Notwithstanding the predicament, Lalitaditya pronounced the final order and clearly spelled out the succession procedure between his sons. He, however, made no secret of his inner desire that his grandson Jayapida was groomed to "become like his grandfather". The final order was some kind of a declaration that Lalitaditya was abdicating the throne and did not intent to return to the kingdom ever. No news seems to have reached Kashmir thereafter.

Lalitaditya died while on this campaign in a foreign land. However, history is silent on "the how and why of his death". Even the fate of his military troops that he had led on this occasion remains unknown. Having embarked on a journey in an unknown land to whet his insatiable thirst of annexing territories to expand his kingdom, Lalitaditya instead, in the final phase of his life, abandoned power like an ascetic.

The death of this phenomenal and great king of Kashmir ever remains shrouded in the realms of mystery. However, the legend survives in the Kalhana's Rajatarangini.

"Some say the king died due to heavy snowfall; some even say he gave himself to fire in order to preserve his eternal prestige. Some others say that in Uttarapath (the far-off Central Asia), a region beyond human reach but reachable only by the 'Divine', the king went into the earth along with his army".



-M.K. Mam



Carpal Tunnel Syndrome



Carpal tunnel syndrome also known as median nerve entrapment is a fairly common condition wherein one of the main nerves of hand i.e. median nerve is compressed in a channel called carpal tunnel at the wrist. Carpal tunnel is a fibro-osseous tunnel where floor is a bony arch formed by small bones of the wrist- carpal bones and roof is formed by a fibrous but rigid transverse carpal ligament. Median nerve and flexor tendons to fingers and thumb with their sheaths pass from the forearm into the palm through this tunnel. Flexors tendons are rope like tissues that connect flexor muscles i.e. muscles that bend the fingers to the bone.

Aetiology : Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) remains an idiopathic syndrome i.e. definite cause is not known. However there are some factors that encroach upon the tunnel and result in CTS. It has been found that there is an increase in pressure in the tunnel. There may also be some problem with the blood circulation of the nerve which in turn affects it.

Any swelling of the structures in the tunnel or a mass in the tunnel increases pressure in the tunnel, with the result median nerve gets compressed. Various conditions that increase the volume and pressure within the tunnel and cause carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) are:

- a) Inflammation of sheaths of flexor tendons as happens in rheumatoid arthritis, gout, tuberculosis etc.
- b) Certain medical conditions that disturb fluid balance in the body result in swelling of tissues, thereby increase volume and pressure within the tunnel. This usually happens in hypothyroidism, pregnancy, obesity, renal failure, use of oral contraceptives, congestive heart failure etc. All these are medical problems the risk factors of CTS.
- c) Tumours and tumour like lesions of nerve or of synovial sheaths in the tunnel like a ganglion can encroach upon the tunnel and result in CTS.
- d) Contour of the tunnel can get altered in conditions like wrist fracture or dislocation where CTS will be acute in onset or osteoarthritis of carpal bones.

Certain professions where jobs involve using vibrating hand tools or extreme wrist motion or manipulation of objects with firm grip are more likely to have CTS. There is also a general notion in the people that use of computers is associated with CTS, however studies do not support this and it has been reported that there is no positive association between computer use and CTS.

Clinical presentation : Patient complains of pain associated with tingling and numbness of the thumb, index and middle fingers. The symptoms usually develop slowly over time and get worse during the night. Patient is frequently woken with burning pain, tingling sensation and numbness, and shaking or flicking the hand usually relieves the symptoms. There is decrease or loss of sensation in the median nerve distribution area i.e. thumb, index, middle fingers and outer side of ring finger. Patients may face difficulty using hand for tasks like holding a book to read, writing, using a computer key board, fastening a button etc. Some of the patients may notice the symptoms only on vigorous activity and may show minimal findings on a routine examination. Various provocative clinical tests help to corroborate the diagnosis. In latter stages there occurs thinning and



weakness of the muscles of base-ball of the thumb and patients report falling of objects from the hand. CTS is more common in women than in men. It can present in one or both sides. In lot many patients it usually starts with one hand and subsequently becomes evident in other unaffected hand also. It can occur in any age, however it is more commoner in 40-60 years age group. It is much more commoner in diabetics than nondiabetics. CTS has to be differentiated from nerve root compression in neck - radiculopathy that usually happens in a very common neck problem - cervical spondylosis or cervical disc prolapse and at times it may be there along with CTS. We have also to keep in mind that median nerve can also be affected because of diabetes, alcoholism or some vitamin deficiency.

Diagnosis : A detailed history and a thorough clinical examination helps in making the diagnosis of CTS. Electrodiagnostic tests like nerve conduction studies (NCS) is considered to be the gold standard in the diagnosis of CTS as it helps in localising the lesion and in addition provides information on the physiological health of the median nerve across the carpal tunnel. MRI is rarely needed especially when we are suspecting a tumour



or tumour like lesion in the wrist. Relevant blood tests are done to rule out the medical conditions.

Conservative treatment is useful in patients with mild to moderate symptoms. Resting the wrist and hand usually helps. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication (NSAIDs) decreases swelling and may relieve pain on short term. Supplements of

vitamin B6 and B12 are useful. Use of a hand splint that keeps wrist in neutral position and prevents its bending does help. Change of working position and the use of alternative non-vibrating equipment at work helps. If there is a specific cause like hypothyroid or rheumatoid arthritis, it has to be treated.

Surgical decompression is done when problem is severe, there is no response to nonoperative treatment and the symptoms last for more than six months without any relief. The transverse carpal ligament which is the roof of the tunnel is cut to increase the space and hence reduce the pressure in carpal tunnel. Surgery is supposed to be the cure of CTS as it addresses the root cause i.e. small volume of carpal tunnel. The procedure gives quick relief with good to excellent long-term outcomes in most of the patients. Surgical decompression can be done either by open method i.e. the conventional method or by endoscopic method (pin hole surgery) and this depends on availability of the expertise and patient's medical condition..

Formerly, Vice Principal, Professor & Head Of Orthopedics, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab. Past President, North Zone Orthopedic Association (drmkmamortho@gmail.com)

Theme of Vitasta Annual Number 2021-22

'KP GenNext Vision 2040 Aspirations, challenges and way forward for KP community.'

We invite participants to please submit your articles on above theme in approximately 1500 words and mail your submissions to the undersigned by October 15, 2021. As an encouragement specifically for the youth of our community to come forward with their views on the topic, we are pleased to announce the cash rewards for the best three entries in the age group of 40 years & below. Jury comprising of eminent persons will shortlist three best entries from the specified age group for the Cash Prize of INR 15,000/-, 12,000/- & 10,000/- for the Winner, 1st Runner-Up and 2nd Runner-Up up respectively. We look forward to hearing your candid views on how to shape and steer future of our community. Please feel free to call me (8420906100) or our editorial team member Mr Vikas Razdan(9007092323), if required. Vitasta annual numbers are now available in digital form on our website and can be freely accessed by all be in India or abroad. Appeal to all to please visit the website and enjoy the older issues most of which incidentally are relevant even in the current time.

Thanks and Warm Regards

Suman Raina
Editor, Vitasta
vitastask@rediffmail.com



Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.

www.koausa.org

A non-profit organization registered in the state of Maryland. Exempt from Federal Income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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October 06, 2021

PRESS STATEMENT OVER THE KILLING OF SH. MAKHAN LAL BINDROO

Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc. (KOA) expresses shock and deep anguish on the brutal murder of Sh. Makhan Lal Bindroo on Tuesday, Oct 5th, 2021. Sh. Bindroo was shot dead by the terrorists at his pharmacy near Iqbal Park, Srinagar, and the incident was followed by the killing of Sh. Virender Paswan, a non-local street vendor in Lalbazar.

Emotions of rage and cries are running high as we helplessly watch yet another innocent human being attacked by a gunman only because he was a Kashmiri Pandit. This incident has brought back the painful memories of 1990 when thousands of our community members were killed by the brutality of the terrorists. Many women were raped, many children rendered orphans and more than four hundred thousand of us fled to save our lives and honor. It has been 32 years and we still are not able to go home!

Mr. Bindroo, the owner of Bindroo Medicate, was a well-trusted and respectable name for maintaining a quality pharmacy amidst many other competitors. He and his entire family had stayed put in the terror-stricken Valley throughout the insurgency of 32 years, providing warmth and personal care to the locals irrespective of their status and religion. He was an embodiment of love and tolerance and trusted his fellow Kashmiris! Mr. Bindroo is survived by his wife, Smt. Kiran Bindroo, son, Siddharth Bindroo, an endocrinologist, and Ms. Shraddha Bindroo, an associate Professor. The family currently lives in Srinagar's Indra Nagar locality.

Kashmiri Pandit community is a peace loving and progressive community who have survived the pain and brutality of the forced Exodus of 1990 through their perseverance. These acts of violence do not deter them. We continue to live by our values of nonviolence. Killing another one of us is not a victory for the terrorist!



Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.

www.koausa.org

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KOA strongly condemns this nefarious murder and earnestly demands an urgent action from the Govt. of India to bring to justice the perpetrators of this crime. Kashmiri Pandit community is very concerned that there has been increase in the incidence of terrorism in the valley in recent times, which may be directed towards the Pandits living in the valley. With terrorist outfits taking responsibility for these targeted killings, all peace-loving citizens of the valley should be concerned. It is also unfortunate that on one side, Kashmiri Pandits are encouraged to return to the valley and on the other hand, our brethren who are already living there continue to be the targets of the militants.

We send our deepest condolences to the family of Sh. Bindroo, may his soul rest in peace! His family has shown exceptional courage in this difficult time. We all stand in solidarity with them.

May God Bless our community!

Sincerely,
Archana Kokroo
President, CEO and Chairperson,
KOA Inc

KOA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit (Federal Tax ID 52-1294852), socio-cultural organization of Kashmiri Pandits (Hindus) residing in the United States. It serves as the premier Kashmiri Pandit institution with a fundamental purpose that lies in promoting Kashmiri Pandit heritage and its way of living, and a center of social learning that caters to the spiritual, cultural, physical, humanitarian and educational needs of the community.



Killings of Minorities Condemned

1. Kashmir Sabha Vadodara strongly condemns the dastardly killings of innocent minorities in Kashmir. First ML Bindroo, pharmacist and then the teachers. We pray for the departed souls. Om Shanti. We also join all KP organizations under AIKS umbrella which have unitedly condemned the killings. We urge the authorities to immediately provide security to minorities in Kashmir and stem the migration which has ensued again.

**Rajiv Kaul, President,
Kashmir Sabha Vadodara**

2. The latest series of in-human killings by the Pakistani sponsored terrorists of our brethren in the valley has left the community in a state of shock! It reminds us of the 1989 and 1990 massacre of our loved ones and runs shivers in our spines. The latest spate started with desecration of Bargashakha temple in Mattan and Karkut Nag, followed by the cold-blooded murder of Shri Makhan Lal Bindroo, Shri VirenderPaswan, Shri Mohammad Shafi Lone, Shri Deepak Chand and SmtSatinderKour. Our heart goes out to the families of the martyrs, who laid their lives

defying the nefarious plans of the Pakistani stooges. Kashmiri Sewak Samaj, Faridabad strongly condemns these dastardly acts and appeals to the Govt. of the UT and the Central Home Ministry to provide high level of security to the vulnerable communities and take stern action against the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

**President,
Kashmiri Sewak Samaj, Faridabad**

3. Kashmiri Pandits' Association, Mumbai strongly condemns the brutal killings of innocent civilians in the recent times in Srinagar. The Board of Trustees and the members of KPA, Mumbai are outraged at this inhumane and barbaric killing of the innocent people by the Jihadi elements.

The Kashmiri Pandits community is a peaceful and progressive community which was hounded out of the valley after facing genocide in 1989-1990. More than 4,00,000 of them were driven out after facing persecution at the hands of Islamic terrorists. They have been uprooted and homeless for more than 3 decades.

Just when efforts to rehabilitate them in the valley was started and our brethren were



encouraged to return, the Jihadi elements have resurfaced and the massacres continue, Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities have become helpless victims once again.

The members of Kashmiri Pandits' Association, Mumbai are deeply concerned about the security and safety of Hindus currently living in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. KPA strongly condemns these murders. We strongly urge the Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the Central Government to take all possible measures to ensure the safety and security of such citizens. Also, take an immediate action to combat Islamic terrorism and punish the perpetrators of this crime in Jammu & Kashmir.

We also convey our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends, whom lost their loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

**Sh. Krishen K Kemmu,
President, KPA, Mumbai**

4. Kashir Sabha Ambala Organized a Protest

In view of continued killing of Kashmiri Pandits and Sikhs in Kashmir by suspected militants, KASHIR SABHA AMBALA organized a protest meeting on 9/10/2021.

In the meeting, tributes were paid to all the martyrs, who were massacred by terrorists, on the basis of their religion. The Sabha is sending a memorandum to the J& K Administration, through All India Kashmiri Samaj, for a thorough probe and bringing the culprits to book.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. A. K. Watal, President of the Sabha said that a live protest by various KP Organizations is going on, at Jantar Mantar New Delhi.

Sh. Rajinder Kaw impressed upon to create a sense of security amongst the residual KP's living in the valley and the employees, recruited under PM package, living at different locations within Kashmir. Sh. B. B. Das also spoke on this occasion.

Thereafter a candle march was also taken out.

**Rajinder Kaw,
General Secretary, Kashir Sabha Ambala**

JKVM Observed Balidan Divas

September 14th the cremation day of Pandit Tika Lal Taploo is remembered as "Martyrdom Day" or "Balidhan Divas" by the Kashmiri Pandit community all around the world. The Smriti Sathal, Shaheed Pandit Bal Kishen Ganjoo Park near Kali Bari Marg is the Rajghat of Kashmiri Hindus where they pay tearful and floral tributes to their respected Martyrs.



Jammu Kashmir Vichar Manch has been observing this day since 2004 as a mark of respect for the Martyrs. Leading personalities who joined the occasion from time to time for paying tributes include Sh. Yogi Adityanath Ji, the then M.P and the current CM of Uttar Pradesh, Sh. Mahendra Nath Pandey Ji, MOS HRD, Sh. Manoj Sinha Ji, the then MOS Telecom and Lt. Governor JKUT now, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi MP etc.

Keeping in view the Covid protocol, this year the program was divided into two phases. The first phase being the physical tributes at the Smriti Sathal, Shaheed Pandit Bal Kishen Ganjoo Park.

As the tradition goes, Jammu Kashmir Vichar Manch in association with AIKS organized the tributes to Martyrs at the venue under very strict Covid protocol on September 14th 2021.

Sh. Ajay Pandita Ji senior Vice President



JKVM conducted and moderated the program at the venue.

The function started with the two-minute silence in respect of all those who laid down their lives in Jammu and Kashmir including the security personnel. Sh. Ajay Pandita Ji while addressing the gathering reiterated the need for youngsters to remember the sacrifices by KPs for their motherland.

Dr. Romesh Raina Ji, President AIKS while remembering the martyrs reiterated his commitment towards creating better living conditions for the under privileged displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

The tributes to the martyrs were also paid by a group of community youngsters from the JKVM youthbrigade.

Sh. Utpal Kaul Ji, Sh. Kamal Hak Ji, Col. TejK Tikoo Ji, Sh. Kamal Hak Ji, Sh. Ashutosh Taploo Ji and Sh. T.N.Razdan Ji were among



some senior community speakers who paid rich tributes to the Martyrs.

The ladies' team of JKVM also paid tributes to the martyrs. Smt. Veena Wanchoo Ji' srecitation of poem written and composed by her, surcharged the atmosphere which was already full of emotions.

The program got culminated with everyone joining in together for the Aarti, Diya Prajwallan, candle lighting and final floral tributes to the martyrs.

The complete program of Shradhanjali was conceived, coordinated and organised by the JKVM ladies team. The program which started at 3.00 PM and culminated with the prayer at 6.00 PM. The second phase started from 6.30 PM and continued till 9.00 PM.

This program was conducted by Sh. Sanjeev Raina Ji, Senior Vice president JKVM and Miss. Vanshika Pandita Ji, a young activist, moderated the program. The program constituted of a musical tribute by very renowned KP singers, musicians and composers. All the compositions were soulful and heart touching. Musical tributes were also given by some young budding artists from KP community.

We were also joined in by KP global diaspora in paying Shradhanjali to the Martyrs. Community members from about fourteen countries across the globe joined in to pay tributes.

"Five Days Spiritual Retreat" at SRMA, Nagdandi, Anantnag

"Five Days Spiritual Retreat" going on within "SRMA", Nagdandi, Anantnag with participation of our "Margdharshaks" Tridev's from Vivekananda Rock Memorial & Vivekananda Kendra , Kanyakumari



Mananyee Hanumantharaoji, Vice President, Mananyee Bhanudasji Dhakras, General Secretary, Mananyee Kishore Tokekarji, Joint General Secretary- Head Uttra Prant, Shri Manas Bhattacharyajee, Uttra Prant Sanghathak & our youth from clusters of Vessu, Mattan Sheikhpura Budgam besides members connected to Ashram. The Margdharshan is on, 1) Purpose & Mission of life 2) Vivekananda Kendra Movement, 3) Service Mission, the Type of Mission, 4) Spiritually Oriented Service Mission, 5) Essential behaviour for Mission accomplishment, 6) Adjustment with Co-Workers, 7) Secret of growth & stability of work, 8) Organisation, The total commitment. Luckiest I feel are those who are with us here. Maa Maa Kanyakumari bless you.

KSS, Faridabad Organized Vaccination Camp

Kashmiri Sewak Samaj, Faridabad organized Vaccination camp on 30th Sept at Sharika Bhawan, Faridabad supported by Kashmiri Overseas Association, Kakini Group and Narayana Super speciality Hospital.



BJP MLA Mr. Narendra Gupta and General Secretary District Faridabad visited the camp. 65 persons were vaccinated at the camp consisting of locals and the community members.

- Subhash Premi, Media Person

Kashmiri Sabha Ambala Paid Tribute to Martyr's on Balidan Divas

It has been now for 31 years that Kashmiri Hindus are living a life in exile. A lot of Kashmiri Hindus have been massacred.

However to mourn their deaths in general and Amar Shaheeds in particular, who laid down their lives for the cause of the community; 14th September is observed as Balidan Divas (Mourning Day) by all Kashmiri Hindus, all over the globe. This is the day when we salute Amar Shaheeds of the community namely; Pt. Tika Lal Taploo, Pt. Prem Nath Bhat, Pt. Sarvanand Kaul Premi, Pt. Neel Kanth Ganjoo, Smt. Sarla Bhat, Principal Ved Lal, Pt. Lassa Kaul and scores others: besides the, Hindus of Wandhama, Nadimarg, and other places, above all the armed forces and security men; who are guarding our country from enemies.

Therefore Kashmiri Hindus, who are living in exile in their own country, observe this day as a black day.

KASHIR SABHA AMBALA, which is a registered socio-cultural organization of Kashmiri Hindus living at Ambala also observed this day as a black day.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. A.K. Watal, President of the Sabha paid rich tributes to all the martyrs, who laid down their lives for composite culture of Kashmir. Sh. Rajinder

Kaw, General Secretary exhorted that the authorities need to ameliorate the sufferings of the Kashmiri Hindus in every possible way. Sh. M.J. Raina, Sh. Ramesh Kotroo, Sh. Virendar Bhat, Sh. G.L. Braru, Sh. V.M Pandit, Sh. Surinder Pandita, Sh. Suresh Kaul, Sh. B.B Das, Sh. Sunil Braru, Sh. Verinder Mujoo, Sh. Chaman Lal Bhat, Sh. Sunil and Sh. Avdesh Upmaneu were also present on this occasion.

Election Held in IACC

IACC: Indo-American Chamber of Commerce is happy to announce Shri. Kapil Kaul is elected as the new PRESIDENT OF IACC. Heartiest congratulations to him on the new endeavour. A Kashmir Pandit makes our community proud again.

Profile of Shri Kapil Kaul

Shri Kaul has 40 Years' experience in the commodity sector both in Marketing as well as Commodity purchase. Having a thorough knowledge of Automotive, FMCG and Commodity businesses. Currently Advisor at Rasoi Group. Executive Council Member of International Chamber of Commerce – India.



»» The statutory professional councils of India

All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE)

All India Council for Technical Education, under the AICTE Act, 1987. The Council is authorised to take all appropriate steps to ensure coordinated and integrated technical education development and maintaining standards. AICTE Website provides a list of approved institutes – state-wise for Degree and Diploma Programs in Engineering and Technology, M.C.A. & M.B.A., Pharmacy, Architecture & Applied Arts, Hotel Management & Catering Technology and M.E./M.Tech. / M.Pharm. /M.Arch.). The site also provides a list of programs accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (N.B.A.) under the AICTE. The website also provides a model curriculum for U.G. Programs and a list of books recommended for management education.

Website: <https://www.aicte-india.org/>

Medical Council of India (MCI)

The Indian Medical Council Act set up the Medical Council of India (MCI), 1956, amended in 1993. The Council is empowered to prescribe minimum standards for medical education required for granting recognised medical qualifications by universities or medical institutions in India. The Council is authorised to make regulations relating to the course and period of study, including duration of practical training to be undertaken, the subjects of examination, and the standards of proficiency to be obtained in universities or medical institutions for grant of recognised medical qualifications. The Council is also responsible for giving recommendations to the Central Government to establish new medical colleges, open further or higher courses of study, and increase admission capacity in any duration of study or training.

MCI website provides a list of courses

and colleges recognised by MCI in a searchable interface. Search can be university, state course wise. The site also provides the status of the application of medical professionals who apply for registration of the MCI.

Website: <https://www.mciindia.org/>

Indian Council for Agricultural Research

Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) ICAR has established various research centres to meet the country's agricultural research and education needs. It is actively pursuing the human resource development of farming sciences by setting up numerous agricultural universities spanning the entire country. It provides funding to nearly 30(Thirty) State Agricultural Universities, one Central University and several Deemed Universities. These universities employ about 26,000 scientists for teaching, research, and extension education; over 6000 scientists are used in the ICAR supported collaborative projects.

Website: www.icar.org.in/

Dental Council of India (DCI)

The Dental Council of India, constituted under the Dentists Act, 1948, is a Statutory Body incorporated under an Act of Parliament to regulate dental education and Dentistry throughout India. The Council is responsible for recognising dental degrees awarded by various universities and maintaining uniform standards of dental education in India. The Dental Council of India (DCI) lays down minimum requirements regarding staff and infrastructure and prescribes the syllabus and the scheme of examinations.

Website: <http://www.dciindia.org.in/>

National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)

National Council for Teacher Education is a statutory body set up under the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993 to facilitate planned and coordinated

development of the teacher education system in the country and for regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system. The Council, under Section 12, is responsible for the following activities and functions: to coordinate and monitor teacher education and its development in the country; lay down guidelines in respect of minimum qualifications for a person to be employed as a teacher; lay down norms for any specified category of courses or training in teacher education; lay down guidelines for compliance by recognised institutions for starting new courses or training; lay down standards in respect of examinations, leading to teacher education qualifications and examine and review periodically the implementation of the norms, guidelines and standards laid down by the Council. The Council is empowered to grant recognition of institutions offering courses or training in teacher education.

NCTE website provides details of institutions recognised by NCTE, including courses recognised by it.

Website: <http://www.ncte-india.org/>

Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), also known as Central Council, was constituted under section 3 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948. The PCI controls pharmacy education and profession in India, and it prescribes the minimum standard of education for qualification as a pharmacist. The admission rules, courses of study, or any other conditions are decided by PCI.

PCI Website provides a list of institutions that the Council approves. State Pharmacy Councils do registration of pharmacists.

Website: <http://www.pci.nic.in/>

Indian Nursing Council (I.N.C.)

The Indian Nursing Council is a statutory body constituted under the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947. The Council is responsible for regulating and maintaining a uniform standard of training for Nurses, Midwives,

Auxiliary Nurse-Midwives and Health Visitors. Amongst other things, the Council is to make regulations for: prescribes the standard curricula for the training of nurses, midwives and health visitors; and for training courses for teachers of nurses, midwives and health visitors, and exercise in nursing administration; prescribes conditions for admission to above classes, and defines the standard of examination and other requirements to be satisfied for securing recognition.

Website:

<http://www.indiannursingcouncil.org/>

Bar Council of India (BCI)

The Bar Council of India is empowered to make rules to discharge its functions under the Advocates Act 1961. Significant rule-making power is about laying down guidelines for the standards of professional conduct and etiquette to be observed by advocates. Bar Council is empowered to promote legal education and to lay down standards of legal education. It is done in consultation with the Universities in India imparting legal education and the State Bar Councils.

Counsel recognises Universities whose degree in law shall be a qualification for enrolment as an advocate. The Bar Council of India visits and inspects Universities or directs the State Bar Councils to visit and inspect Universities for this purpose: <http://www.barcouncilofindia.org>.

Central Council of Homeopathy (C.C.H.)

The Central Council of Homoeopathy, rooted under the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, prescribes and recognises all homoeopathic medicine qualifications. Any university or medical Institution that desires to grant a medical qualification in homoeopathy must apply to the Council. The Council is responsible for the constitution and maintenance of a Central Register of Homoeopathy and matters connected. All universities and boards of medical institutions in India must furnish all information regarding courses of study and examination. The Council is empowered to appoint

inspectors and visitors to examine facilities.

Website: <http://www.cchindia.com>

Central Council for Indian Medicine (CCIM)

The Central Council of Homoeopathy was formed, Under the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973. The Council prescribes and recognises all homoeopathic medicine qualifications. Any university or medical Institution that desires to grant a medical qualification in homoeopathy must apply to the Council. All universities and boards of medical institutions in India must furnish all information regarding courses of study and examination. The Council is empowered to appoint inspectors and visitors to examine facilities.

Website: <http://www.cchindia.com>

Council of Architecture

The Council of Architecture (C.O.A.), constituted under the Architects Act, 1972, was enacted by the Parliament of India. The Act provides for registration of Architects, standards of education, recognised qualifications and standards of practice to be complied with by the practising architects. The Council of Architecture is responsible for regulating the education and training of profession throughout India besides maintaining the register of architects. The registration with the Council of Architecture entitles a person to practice architecture, provided he holds a Certificate of Registration with up-to-date renewals. The roster also permits a person to use the title and style of the Architect.

The Council prescribes qualifications and standards of education imparted in institutions imparting architecture education. It set forth the requirement of eligibility for admission, course duration, standards of staff & accommodation, course content, examination, etc.

The website provides the Act, rules and regulations of the Council of Architecture (C.O.A.). The site lists all institutions, colleges and universities that offer courses in architecture in India. **Website:** <https://www.coa.gov.in/>

Rehabilitation Council

The Rehabilitation Council of India, registered in 1986. However, it could not ensure proper standardisation and acceptance of the standards by other Organisations. The Parliament enacted the Rehabilitation Council of India Act in 1992, and the Rehabilitation Council of India became a Statutory Body on June 22 1993. The Parliament amended the R.C.I. Act in 2000 to work it broader-based. The Act casts onerous responsibility on the Council. It also prescribes that anyone delivering services to people with a disability, who does not possess qualifications recognised by R.C.I., could be prosecuted. Thus the Council has the twin responsibility of standardising and regulating the training of personnel and professionals in Rehabilitation and Special Education.

Website: <http://rehabcouncil.nic.in/>

National Council for Rural Institutes (NCRI)

The National Council of Rural Institutes is an autonomous society. Funded by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Registered on October 19 1995, Headquarters at Hyderabad. The primary objective of NCRI is to promote Rural Higher Education for advancing rural livelihoods with the instrument of education on Mahatma Gandhiji's revolutionary concept of Nai Talim, a functional education based on the values proposed by Gandhiji. Other objectives of the Council include teachers training, extension and research by networking with policy-making bodies such as U.G.C., AICTE and research organisations like CSIR, AICTE etc., and encouraging other educational institutions and voluntary agencies to develop following Gandhian Philosophy of education.

Website: <http://www.ncri.in/>

Veterinary Council of India

V.C.I. has the responsibility of making provisions for the regulation of the veterinary practice. And, for that purpose, regulate the standards of veterinary education, preparation and maintenance of an Indian Veterinary Practitioners' Register, Electoral Roll for the election of members under section 3(3)(g),

recommend for recognition or withdrawal of recognition of veterinary qualifications to the central government and matters connected in addition to that and ancillary to it.

Website: vci.gov.in

State Councils of Higher Education

Following the National Policy on Education, respective state governments have established State Councils of Higher Education (SCHE). These councils prepare coordinated programmes for the development of higher education in each state. Thus, they seek to consolidate the efforts and investments of institutions of higher education within the state.

»» Scholarships

Ministry of Education National Scholarship Scheme

The Union Ministry of Education has announced 82,000 scholarships under the National scholarship scheme for students who have passed Class 12.

The scholarship scheme is for meritorious students who have a family income of less than Rs 6 lakhs per annum. The scholarship will cover a part of their day-to-day expenses while they pursue higher studies. The scholarship is worth Rs 70,000. Students who have scored above 80 per cent in their State Education Board exam are eligible to apply. Selected candidates will receive Rs 10,000 for the first three years and Rs 20,000 per annum for the following years. Both males and females can avail themselves of the scholarship students. 41,000 are allocated for girls and another 41,000 for males. Candidates pursuing diploma or distance education courses are not eligible for the scholarship.

Students will require an Aadhar card to apply for the scheme. If they do not possess one, they can use other identity proofs, including an Aadhar enrolment I.D.D. Slip, driving license, passport, among others. The scholarship is eligible for five years only. To apply, visit the official scholarship website, select the Department of Higher education to access the "Central Sector Scheme of Scholarships for College and University Students". Read the official guidelines thoroughly. Register as a new user by

providing the details asked. Once the application is registered, the applicant can access the application form. On the application form, fill out the required information, upload necessary documents, and click on 'submit.' The last date to apply for the scholarship is November 30 2021.

»» Admission Alert

Joint Admission Counselling Delhi 2021 Admission to B. Tech/B.Arch. & Dual Degree B.Tech and M.B.A. (6 years)

Participating Institutions

Delhi Technological University (D.T.U.), Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW), Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi (IIITD), Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT) and Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU). Applicant must have obtained 60% marks aggregate in Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics. Passed in English core or elective, in the qualifying examination.

Rank in JEE (Main) 2021

Reservation for Kashmiri Migrants is one supernumerary seat in every Institution as per the following priorities.

Priority one : The applicant who has passed the qualifying examination from the Institutions within the location of Delhi N.C.R. The parents of the applicant are registered as Kashmiri Migrants in Delhi up to 11-06-2021.

Priority Two : Other Kashmiri Migrants

Commencement of Online Registration and choice filling.

- ❖ September 24, 2021 (Friday) from 10:00 AM
 - ❖ Closing Date and Time for Online Registration (Registration) Form filling and Choice filling.)
 - ❖ October 24, 2021 (Sunday) till 11:59 PM.
- Visit website www.jacdelhi.nic.in and fill in online registration cum counselling form. Pay Rs 1500 plus other charges, if any.

Online verification of documents KM (Kashmiri Migrants) & Bonus Points with reference only to IIIT-D

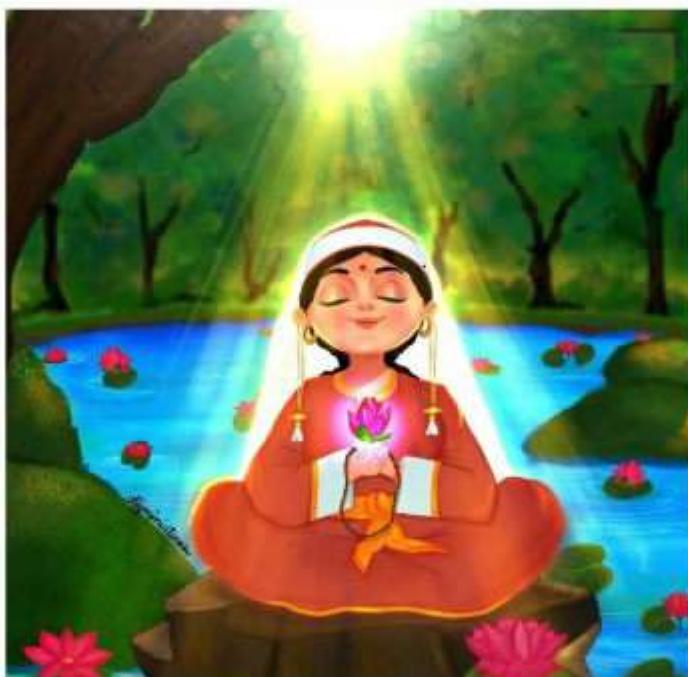
Feedback : vijaykashkari@gmail.com

Lockchaar - Kids Special

THE SHARIKA INCARNATE

In the early 17th century, a Kashmiri Pundit named Madhav Joo Dhar lived in Srinagar. He was an ardent devotee of Maa Sharika and used to offer prayers to her at a temple called "Hari Parbat". One day pleased by his love and devotion Maa Sharika appeared before him and offered him a boon. Madhav Joo requested her to be born as his daughter. The divine mother granted the boon and vanished.

Soon after, in the year 1621, in the month of Jyeshtha, on Poornima Tithi (full moon), a daughter was born to Madhav Joo and his wife. They named their daughter Alakhishwari, which means one who is imperceptible and indescribable.



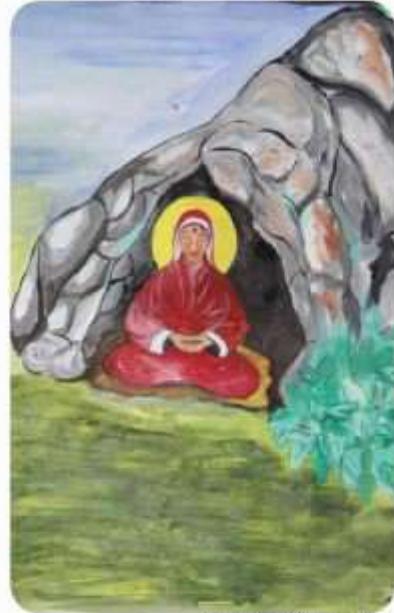
Art by: Savi Bhat

In her father's house, Alakhishwari's childhood was spent in the company of devotees. Her father was held in high esteem and spiritual seekers from far and near came to meet him. Her spirituality blossomed, and as she grew older, the spiritual tendencies within her increased. Her father became her guru and gave her spiritual initiation.

In accordance with the prevailing customs of the time, Alakhishwari was married at an early age to a learned youngman, Pandit Hiranand Sapru. As the legend goes, her in-laws and her husband could not reconcile to her spiritual bent of mind and the meditative spells she had gotten used to at her father's home. Her estrangement with the in-laws accentuated after a miracle which her mother-in-law failed to comprehend.

Finally, Alakhishwari renounced her home and selected a solitary retreat in north-east of Srinagar for her sadhna. Here she did intense tapasya (austerities) and began to glow with the fire of spirituality. At this point, people, attracted by her spiritual radiance began to come to her in large numbers.

Preferring to continue her spiritual practices in solitude, she moved to a village in north Kashmir. No one knew of her existence there, until a miraculous incident revealed her presence to the villagers. From there on she was referred to as Bhavani (the Goddess). Once, a spiritual seeker fascinated by her aura of spirituality asked her, 'What is your name?' Bhavani replied, 'My name is Roopa (one who has realized her own True Self).' That is how she came to be known as Roop Bhavani.



Art by: Bharti Harish



Art by: Savi Bhat

Many years had elapsed, and Bhavani now yearned to be released from her earthly body. On the Saptami tithi, in the month of Magha, in the year 1721, Roop Bhavani's soul took flight forever.

The legend relates how her devotees, filled with grief, carried her body towards the cremation ground. On the way they met the village head who, on seeing the funeral procession, asked whom they were carrying. On hearing that it was Roop Bhavani, he was very startled, for he had just seen Bhavani walking down the road by which he came! The devotees looked inside the coffin and found nothing there but some alak (locks of hair) and some flowers. She had merged with the Supreme, mother Sharika.



AIKS Matrimonial Service



Looking suitable match for our son born on 29 Nov.1982 time,12.57 a.m, height 177.8cm graduate in bio technology working as business development executive in eilisy's pune based soft ware company, at Noida. Interested may contact on 9414125738, 9116656996



Seeking suitable alliance for my son born on 23.11.1988 at Srinagar. Height 180 cm, pursuing MD (Anesthesia and Critical Care) from a reputed govt college. Residing at Gurgaon. Interested may contact at Email - aditya114@gmail.com, and WhatsApp no - 7827591418.



Looking for a suitable match for our son, born Sept 1, 1989, height 186 cm. A Computer Science Engineer from India and M.B.A from Stern Business School, New York. Currently working as Senior Consultant, operating from New York/ Chicago, and managing few India-based startups as entrepreneur, brand strategist and advisor. Girl, with pleasant personality, should be a Postgraduate from a reputed university either working in USA or willing to move to USA. Boy's family is Based in Dubai, with father working as a G.M of large US company and mother a home maker. Younger sister, a Masters in Mktg from U.S, is working in New York. Interested please contact on mob no +971506196474, Email-deepak_71@hotmail.com



Looking for a suitable match for our Son born on 17 January, 1989 at 6.55 AM. Place of Birth: Srinagar, Height :5'5". He has done 4 year degree B.H.M. in Hotel Management from Acharya



Institute of Management and Sciences Peenya Bangalore. Working at Chef de Partie, VOX Cinema Red Sea Mall, Jeddah Drawing Salary of 10 Lakh Per Annum. Permanent resident of Bulbul, Lankerji Ali Kadal Srinagar and Presently residing at: Shiv Dass Colony Tomal Anand Nagar Bohri H.No. 9/2. Interested may Contact on MB no. 9419166991, 9797558803.



Alliance for my daughter, DOB. 23rd April 1989, POB Srinagar, TOB. 1.45 PM, Height. 158, Qualification, BE Electrical from Bombay University, Job description software Engineer In MNC Pune, Permanent Address: Ali Kadal Srinagar, Present address Pune, Contact Number 918605012408, Email address: newmatrimonial90@gmail.com



Alliance is invited for our 1992 year born daughter. She has completed BE in IT from Kurukshetra University and is presently employed in TCS. Family originally hails from district Pulwama presently settled in Jammu. For Tekni and Kulawali please contact 9419227270, 7780857090



Looking for a suitable match for our son, born 2nd January 1991 at 6.30 PM at Jammu. Height - 5'11", B.E (C.S.E) Computer Science. From VTU University. Presently working as LEAD INSIDE SALES in Metric Stream (MNC) Company at Bangalore with handsome package. Interested persons may contact on: - MB No. 7006171324, 9055272134, 8717090262 & 8717090264, WhatsApp No. 7006171324 & 9055272134 and Email-Id: - hldhar1958@gmail.com



Seeking Suitable Alliance for our Son, Ht- 5'.10", Born on 20/12/1991 At New Delhi. The Boy has done five years post high school education in Advanced finance/accounting and hospitality/hotel management. Presently Looking after well-established family business of well to do family settled in Canada (toronto) for over 25 years.

Interested may contact kaul123@hotmail.com or WhatsApp +14168719147



Suitable alliance invited for our son born on 8th April, 1989, 1110 hours, 5 feet 10 inch tall, at Anantnag Kashmir. The boy is B tech Mechanical with MS applied mechanics from Ecole central's, DeNantes, France and is presently working as senior business Analyst, Sopra Steria India at Noida (UP). Interested may please call for tekni and biodata from WhatsApp number 9419765031, 7051961209.



Looking Suitable Match for my Son, Born on 22.10.1992, 13.52 Hrs at Jammu, Height 5'11". Done B.E from Mysore and MS from USA. Working as Software Developer in USA on H1B Visa interested may contact raina50@gmail.com, Mobile 9419191462, 9419114335.

Suitable Alliance for our daughter Born 22 August 1993, Height: 168 Cms. Bachelor's in Architecture from I.P University Delhi, working with an MNC at Bangalore. Please send Tekni and kulawali at Email: dhruva62@gmail.com OR Mob. No: 9868901676 & 8383032306.

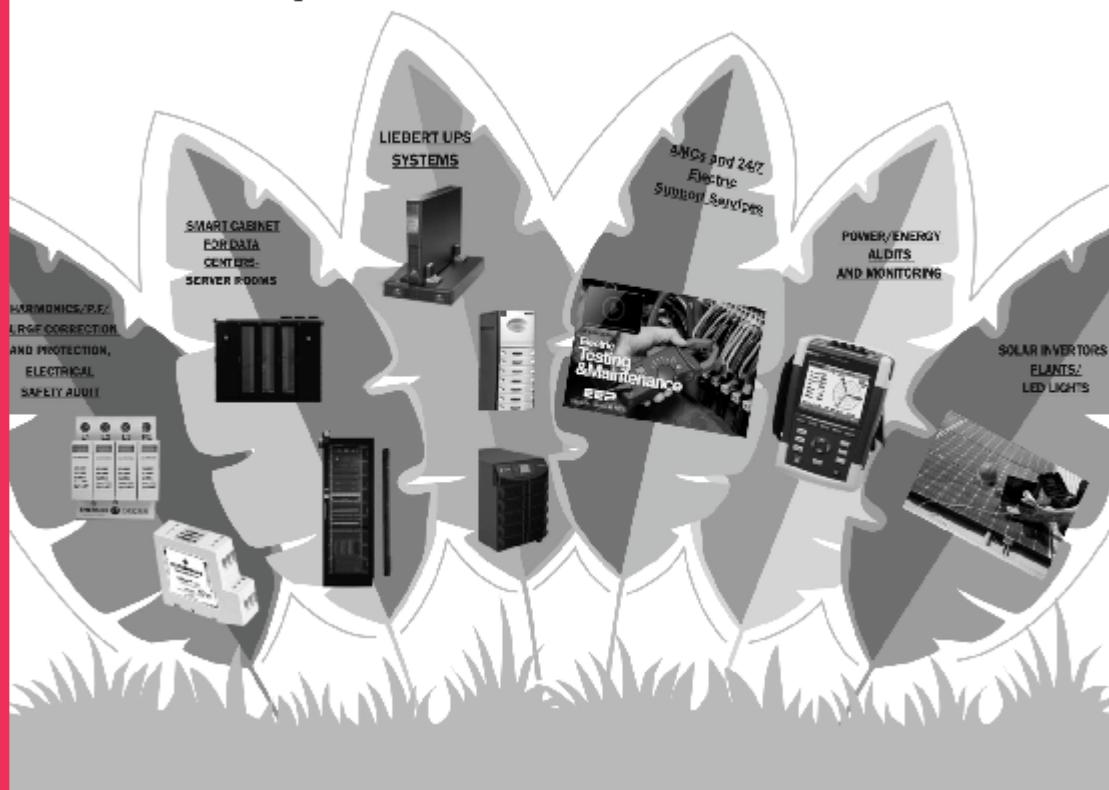


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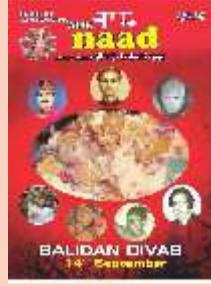
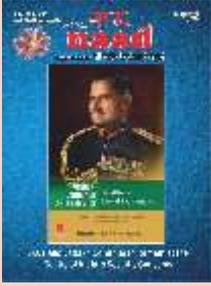
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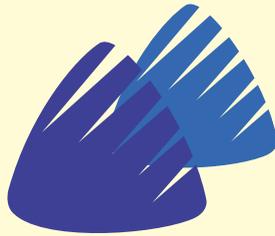
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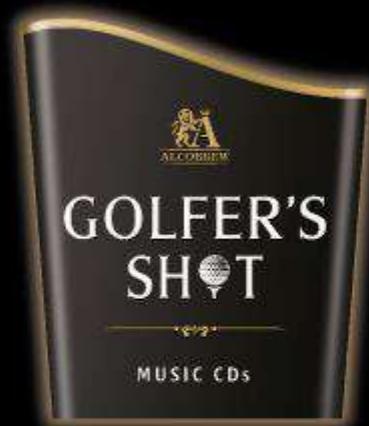
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