

Kashmir Sentinel

INSIDE

□ FOCUS: Farooq Pitting Pandits against RSS-----Page 3
 □ SOCIETY: Impatience lies the reward-----Page 4
 □ FEATURE: Sangrampura Visit & After-ll-----Page 5
 ● Pan Islamic Fundamentalist dimension-----Page 6-7

● Two years of NC misrule-----Page 6-7
 ● Farooq tames Advani-----Page 6-7
 □ MEDIA SCAN-----Page 8
 □ CULTURE: Kashmiri Pandits Shaiva thought & Sufism-----Page 9
 □ News Brief-----Page 10

JKENG 00333/26/AL/TC/94 JK No. 1213/18
Largest Circulated English Fortnightly of J&K

Vol 4
 No. 10

Regd. JM-32
 October 16-31, 1998

Pages 12
 Price Rs.5/-

Indian State chasing a mirage

KS Correspondent
New Delhi

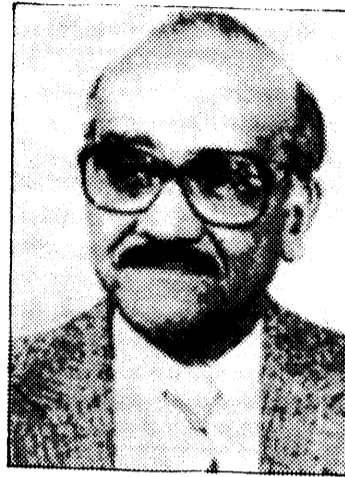
Lest the snows melt and cause an avalanche, the Indian state would like to keep the temperature low. With the winter fast approaching and the terrorist operatives well entrenched after crossing over to this side of the simmering boundary with Pakistan, both the Union Home Minister and the Governor of J&K have been talking in unison on the situation in strife torn Jammu and Kashmir.

In recently published interviews of Sh. L.K. Advani and Sh. Girish Chander Saxena, in a National Daily, the twosome have accepted that the situation is far from improved in the state. In the same breath, both have gone on length in highlighting the shooting of a few Bollywood movies and arrival of some tourists in the valley to prove that by next summer a possible

return of the exiled Pandits may be possible.

The contradictions in their statements bring out the confused state of mind of the Government of India and its lack of a perspective in dealing with the situation. They would like to keep alive the oft repeated claims of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and at the same time are unable to commit perjury when confronted with facts.

"The deterioration in situation started in 1984 when they (Pakistan) started implementing their strategy through Punjab. We succumbed to the campaign they unleashed against Jagmohan in which... Indian political parties became a party. ... I still hold hot pursuit as a legitimate right of a country that is subjected to this kind of an attack. ... But I don't regard it appropriate at this point. ... I would not like to take steps which enlarge the conflict", holds Sh. L.K. Advani.



Girish C. Saxena
 Governor, J&K State

Sh. Saxena in his interview admits, "... Some heavier weapons have started coming in, mortars, a few missiles, antitank missiles, antiaircraft guns Then there is a lot of sophistication in mine blasting and IEDs which are blasted by remote control. ... On the whole it has been a good policy on our part not to use tanks and

aerial bombardments. ... We do not raise the temperature beyond a point."

Keeping in line with the Principles of Panchsheel, the corner stone of Nehruvian foreign policy, the Indian state even after receiving the worst battering during last ten years in Kashmir as well as on the eastern frontier, is still busy putting the ice-packs on the sizzling eruptions of a full-fledged military offensive by the Pan-Islamists backed by the neighbouring state. A declared threat from Taliban and Osama Bin Laden's money and muscle power is being underplayed to keep the opinion and response cool.

"The Taliban factor is not there, per se. We have been dealing with a sizeable number of Afghans who have seen war and are Taliban types. ... Their training camps are the same. ... It is only that some of them head

in the direction of Mazaar-i-Sharif and some of them in the direction of the valley. ... while some of them may have overrun most of Afghanistan, they will be no match for the Indian army", says the Governor. He further adds that if *"the Taliban do come, it is only the arithmetic which will bother us. There will be more bloodshed and we will also take a few more casualties."*

The Governor who has been the former Chief of RAW and former Security Advisor to Prime Minister Rajeev Gandhi also agrees that *"the foreign mercenaries are calling the shots. ... and that territorially the arc of militancy has extended to Jammu sector."*

Given these observations, it is surprising that the Indian state continues to chase the mirage of a negotiated settlement with Pakistan and in order to facilitate their wishful thinking are fast losing time to act.

Farooq's anti-ecology game City forest being converted into a golf-course

KS Correspondent

SRINAGAR: Dr Farooq Abdullah who is alleged to have a business interest with an industrialist of Delhi, is moving fast to convert the pristine city forest project of Srinagar into an 18-hole golf course. The project which was given a go-ahead by Sh Jagmohan has been dumped by the CM not only to avenge Jagmohan but to fulfil his personal economic interests by obliging his friend and business partner who recently purchased the Oberoi Palace Hotel from Dr. Karan Singh, observers claim

The area spreads over 907 hectares of land stretching from the boulevard on Dal Lake to the Zabarwan range with its upper boundary traced to the ridge rising at the base of Zethyar nullah. The park envisages several historic and religious sites dating to antiquity.

The status of a national park was accorded to the site when some experts studied the topography and found the area of a great significance for preserving several species including the endangered Hangul. Later, the wild-life department opened a 'captive breeding centre' in the middle of the park where, even today, a couple of animals, including the endangered snow-leopard cubs are surviving. The boundary of the golf-course under construction extends to the middle of this centre.

The Farooq government which succeeded in getting the park denotified, asserts that the golf-course does not extend to the park and that there is no work in progress. The fact remains that bulldozers and mechanical shovels are operating and mercilessly cutting hundreds of trees to clear the land. The swamp of about 60 hectare land which was supposed to be upgraded into a wetland has also been partially filled up.

KP organizations oppose return move

KS Correspondent

JAMMU: Most of the Kashmiri Pandit organizations have opposed proposed move of return of KP's at this juncture and described it immature, ill conceived and counter productive.

KP Sabha Amphala organised a seminar to elicit public opinion on the subject. The community members were of the who participated in the seminar opinion that time was not ripe for return. An overwhelming majority ridiculed governments machinations aimed at return without addressing the root causes of displacement and warned against the dangerous consequences of such efforts. The speakers also appealed community to get united at this crucial juncture.

Reacting to the press conference of NC MLC Mr Bushan Lal Bhat and Roop Krishen Raina in Srinagar about willingness of KP's to return to Valley, Sabha leaders criticised them for their hollow claims and asked such leaders to return to their native places and live without protection.

All State Kashmiri Pandit Conference (ASKPC) leaders also took strong exception to the

press conference of self styled community leaders and held Farooq Abdullah responsible for exodus. Demanding a probe into causes of exodus by a retired chief justice, Sh AN Vaishnavi, President ASKPC, dared political leaders to shun security and live in Valley to inculcate confidence among minorities.

All Displaced Kashmiri Employees Forum (ADKEF) in a meeting said that though employees were not opposed to the return but the situation in not conducive for the same yet. It also blamed Farooq government for its failure to solve genuine demands of displaced employees and urged government to release CCA and HRA besides time bound and regular promotion benefits in favour of displaced employees.

The non camp Kashmiri Migrants Munch while expressing their cherished desire to return to Valley, urged government to take necessary steps regarding security, employment, livelihood, restoration of properties etc before initiating the process of return.

Kashmiri Hindu Fire Suffers Forum described the present security scenario in Valley explosive and said that KP's will not

allow them solves to be sacrificial goats.

In a press release, general secretary of the forum Mr PN Tufchi described Farooq's assertion's about security scenario as outrageous and contrary to factual position. He apprehended that such loose talks may provoke militants to repeat another Wandhama.

Lashing out at Farooq's irresponsible statement that Jammuites will not tolerate migrants any more, he said that KP's are grateful to people of Jammu for their help and migrants never usurped the rights of Jammuites. It may be noted that recently in a function at Jammu in an attempt to provoke Jammuites against KP's, Mr Farooq Abdullah said that people of Jammu region will not tolerate migrants any more as they were facing several problems including un-employment.

As reported in the earlier issue, at the end of the seminar 'The Proxywar-New Challenges' organised by Panun Kashmir, a resolution was moved by Dr Ajay Chhangoo seconded by all community members resolving to resist any attempts of coercing the displaced Pandits to return to Kashmir in present situation.

Time is not ripe for return

Dear Sir,
I thank you for the issue of Kashmir Sentinel (Martyrs Day Special) received by me by post.

The issue contains various topics of interest and literary value. I have preserved the same in my personal library.

Stories about possible return of KPs to the Valley have been floating in the media for the last two months or so. Kashmir Sentinel too has authenticated this rumour in its issue of Sep-Oct 1998. Dr Abdullah, the Chief Minister has also expressed in his interview to Indian Express Chandigarh Dtd. 11/10/98 that conditions are conducive for the return of "migrants" and that the process is on for those hailing from

rural areas.

It is really encouraging that doors of the Valley are being reopened for Pandits. But they shall have to think hundred times before leaping over to the other end of the Jawahar Tunnel and brood over pros

LETTERS

and cons, so that the bunch of grapes offered to them do not taste sour if and when they land in their homeland.

N.N. Mujoo,
979/10, Panchkula

Sir,

The work done in the fortnightly 'Kashmir Sentinel' is greatly appreciable. It has brought out in the previous issues, all the cruelties inflicted

on the community. Our fullest cooperation and support is with you.

A.K. Koul
Secretary
All General Insurance
Kashmir Migrant
Employees Forum
Jammu

Sir,

On 13/10/98, I got the issue of Kashmir Sentinel (Martyrs' Day Special). It was my first time to get it and contained enough of information.

I want to enlist as regular subscriber for this paper as published from Jammu.

I await your receipt of this letter.

M.M. Ganjoo
Gutam Budh Nagar
NOIDA (UP)

Martyrs' day observation news pour in

Kashmiri Pandits at Ludhiana observed Martyr's day on 14 September. The programme was organised by Kashmiri Sabha Ludhiana.

Panun Kashmir Unit Pune also observed the day by organising a seminar.

Meanwhile, Kashmir Sabha Ludhiana was reconstituted with Dr T.K. Koul, Dr M.K. Ham and Mr A.K. Dass as President, Vice-President, Gen. Secretary of the Sabha respectively.

Please Renew Your Subscription

This is for information of all our subscribers that in case you have not renewed your subscription so far, kindly renew it now.

Subscription for one year is Rs 100/- only. Please send your cheque or draft in favour of "KASHMIR SENTINEL" and for outstation cheques please add Rs 15/- as bank charges.

For Overseas subscription send 40 US Dollars or Rs 1700 in Indian currency

BUSINESS MANAGER
KASHMIR SENTINEL

149, RAM VIHAR, OLD JANIPUR, JAMMU

Subscribe to Sentinel

Form for Subscription/Renewal

I am sending herewith Rs..... in words
(.....) as
new subscription/renewal charges for one year
through demand draft/cheque
No:.....drawn in favour of
KASHMIR SENTINEL.

Signature

Fill in your complete address in capital letters

Name.....

Address.....

District.....State.....Pin.....

Tel.....

BEST WISHES

KASHMIR SENTINEL

Wishes a prosperous
and a happy
married life

to

PAWAN & CHERRY

Son & Daughter-in-law of
Smt. & Sh. P.N. Raina

APPEAL



SH ASHOK KUMAR RAINA of Trichal (Pulwama) a dedicated social worker and an activist of PK is suffering from kidney failure. Presently he is admitted in PGI Chandigarh and advised immediate trasplantation.

To save this precious life, we APPEAL all brethren to donate liberally in his bank Act.No. 01190016142 SBI Purani Mandi, Jammu or send to their present address H.No: 422 Sector: 2 Vinayak Nagar, Muthi, Jammu

PANUN KASHMIR

THOSE WHO LEFT US

(15-9-98-15-10-98)

Kashmir Sentinel and Panun Kashmir Foundation mourn their sad demise and pray for peace and rest to the departed souls.

1. Sh Amar Nath Koul; presently at Jammu. 12/9/98.
2. Smt Shanta Ji Kalla W/o Sh Pushkar Nath Kalla, R/o Nai Sarak; presently at 23/24 Clonel's Coloy, Talab Tillo, Jammu. 12/9/98
3. Jawaha Lal Tikoo, R/o Handwara; presently at Qtr. No: 459 Mishriwala Camp, Jammu. 14/9/98.
4. Bansi Lal Koul, R/o Kawdara; presently at Naseem Bagh Campus University of Kashmir, Kashmir. 15/9/98
5. Sh Shamboo Nath Peshion, R/o Tikkar Kupwara; presently at Garhi Udampur, J&K. 17/9/98.
6. Brij Nath Pandita, R/o Umanagri; presently at Mohali Chandigarh Kothi No: 577/3 B-1, Chandigarh. 18/9/98
7. Baby Swati Mattas D/o Smt & Sh Kuldeep Mattar; presently at Jammu. 19/9/98.
8. Smt Dulari Kachroo, R/o Purshyar Srinagar; presently at C/14 Upper Shiv Nagar, Jammu. 19/9/98.
9. Sh Prithvi Nath Jalali, R/o Rainwari; presently at 18-A, New Plot Ext. Jammu. 20/9/98.
10. Smt Parmeshori Kaul, R/o Srinagar; presently at H.No: 3, Lane No: 1 Ashok Nagar, Canal Road, Jammu. 20/9/98.
11. Sh Sandeep (Vicky) S/o Sh Sukh Dev, R/o Deeri Pulwama; presently at H.No: 111 Lakar Mandi Janipur, Jammu. 20/9/98.
12. Smt Channa Wanchoo D/o Late Arjan Nath Sumbli; presently at Bhopal, M.P. 20/9/98
13. Smt Kamla Wati W/o Late Sh Rugh Nath Dadroo, R/o Anantnag; presently at Qtr. No: 430, Block-S Toph Sherkhanian, Jammu. 21/9/98
14. Sh Sham Lal Bhat, R/o Vessu Anantnag; presently at Barian near Kalaka Mandir Ward No: 1, Udampur. 22/9/98
15. Smt. Uma Koul (Khodballi); presently at A/6-89 IAF Colony Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-57. 22/9/98
16. Sh Vish Nath Jad, R/o Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag; presently at 271-BH/East Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. 22/9/98
17. Sh Sham Lal Raina, R/o Sheetal Nath, Sathu, presently at 305F, CDA Quaters Narwal Payeen Satwari, Jammu. 23/9/98.
18. Smt Chand Rani Bhat, R/o Chakura Pulwama, presently at 6 Forest Qtrs. Salain Talab, Udampur. 23/9/98.
19. Sh Krishan Bhat, R/o Anantnag; presently at W.No: 4, Karan Nagar, Near Pune Villa, Udampur. 24/9/98
20. Sh Piaray Lal Raina, R/o Khrew; presently at Qtr. No: 171, Muthi Camp Phase-1, Jammu. 25/9/98.
21. Sh Nila Kkanth Kaul; presently at 151, Old Janipur, Jammu. 27/9/98.
22. Smt Sheela Raina W/o Sh M.L. Raina, R/o 812 Subash Nagar, Jammu. 28/9/98.
23. Sh Triloki Nath Raina, R/o Habba Kadal; presently at H.No: 16 Sharda Vihar Lane-2, Sangtara Morh Pouni Chak, Jammu. 28/9/98.
24. Sh Dina Nath Pandit, R/o Budgam, Kulgam; presently at 41/D, Sector-1 Durga Nagar Lane No: 2, Jammu. 28/9/98.
25. Sh Omkar Nath Bhat, R/o Murrar Pulwama; presently at 115-Laxmi Nagar, Muthi, Jammu. 29/9/98.
26. Sh Shyam Lal Garyali; presently at 2/53 Kamla Nagar, Yamuna Nagar, Jagadari, Haryana. 29/9/98.
27. Smt Asha Dhar W/o Sh Moti Lal Dhar, R/o Budgeer Ali Kadal; presently at H.No: 72, Lane No: 3, Sector-3 Nanak Nagar, Jammu. 30/9/98.
28. Smt Rattan Rani W/o Sh Nand Lal Razdan, R/o Akoora Anantnag; presently at 823 Canal Eye Clinic Lane Krishna Nagar, Jammu. 30/9/98.
29. Swami Shivji Bagati, R/o Lolab Kupwara; presently at H.No: 38, Lane No: II, Anand Nagar Bohri, Jammu, 2/10/98.
30. Sh Triloki Nath Zutshi, R/o Sathu Barbar Shah; presently at F-114 Sector No: 20 Noida, (UP). 2/10/98.
31. Sh Mashir Nath Bhat, R/o Zewan; Presently at Estate Qtrs. Block No: 13 Qtr. No: 188 G.Point Kali Bari Marg, New Delhi-4/10/98.
32. Smt Jai Kishori Kaul W/o Sh PN Kaul (Naz); presently at 168 Street 15, Talab Tillo, Jammu 4/10/98.
33. Master Rohit Bhat S/o Sh Jawahar Lal Bhat, R/o Mehjoor Nagar; presently at 100 Durga Naga Sector-II, Jammu. 5/10/98.
34. Pt. T.N. Munshi, R/o 243 Panjwaktar Road, Jammu. 6/10/98.
35. Pt. Pitamber Nath Ganzu, R/o Alikadal; presently at 585-B Upper Shiv Nagar Subash Nagar, Jammu. 6/10/98.
36. Sh Moti Lal Chackoo, R/o Basantbagh; presently at H.No: 162/5 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. 7/10/98.
37. Smt Ppyaree Bhat, R/o Khrew; presently at Bagwati Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu 7/10/98.
38. Smt Babli Pandita W/o Sh AK Pandita, R/o Banamohalla; presently at 121-Apna Vihar Kaluchak Jammu. 7/10/98.
39. Smt Roopa Kaul W/o Sh Som Nath Kaul, R/o F-156, Gurah Bakshi Nagar, Jammu. 8/10/98.
40. Smt Janki Mali, R/o Damjan Vessu; presently at Shakti Nagar, Udampur, Jammu. 8/10/98.
41. Smt Neerja Koul W/o Sh Vipin Ji Koul, R/o Baramulla; presently at C/o Sh Avtar Raina 110 TOMAL Borhi, Jammu. 9/10/98.
42. Smt Tulsi Devi Raina W/o Sh Vasudev Raina; presently at 5/42, Patoli Mangotrian, Jammu. 10/10/98.
43. Janki Nath Kaul (Aunsa); presentiv at 150, Sec:7 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. 11/10/98
44. Smt Daizy Pandita W/o Monu Ji Pandita, R/o Badyarbala; presently at 101-B, Tirath Nagar, Shiv Mander Lane, Talab Tillo, Jammu. 11/10/98.
45. Smt Raj Dulari Handoo, R/o Gampatyar; presently at 170-C Pocket E near G.T.B. Enclave LIG Flats Delhi. 12/10/98.
46. Smt Durga Ji Bali R/o Ali Kadal; presently at 121-Lower Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal, Jammu. 14/10/98.
47. Sh Kashi Nath Trisel, R/o Ladho Pulwama; presently at Q.No: 263, Mishriwala Camp Jammu. N.A.

Ignoring Core Issues

Farooq pitting Pandits against RSS

Special Correspondent

Dr Farooq Abdullah is perhaps the smartest politician on the Indian scene today. His organisation, the National Conference is the most experienced regional party in ruthlessly pushing its chartered agenda. Promotion of exclusivist Muslim identity, Muslim precedence and keeping J&K outside the political organisation of secular India continue to be the politics of National Conference. Dr Farooq also has his personal agenda the perpetuation of his dynastic rule through his son, Umar Abdullah. As a wily politician, he is a past master in marketing his interests.

The last two years of governance have alienated National Conference from every segment of Kashmir society. Massive corruption, clannish interests, insensitive governance and doublespeak have destroyed its credibility as the chief spokesman of Kashmiri Muslims.

Initially the NC leadership tried to counter alienation of common man by raking up diversionary separatist politics of 'autonomy' and sought to stabilise its rule by resorting to unethical politics of defection.

Dr Farooq's desperation to refurbish his image at all-India level stems from this compulsion. The national opinion has also linked normalcy with return of Pandits to their homes and hearths. Normalcy in the context of Pandits implies not only complete routing of insurgency in its ideological and militaristic dimensions but also in terms of 'social acceptability' (secular coexistence) of Pandits by the majority Muslim community in Kashmir.

On both these counts, Dr Farooq Abdullah has failed the nation. If his ultra-nationalistic rhetoric is aimed at keeping centre away from a dialogue with other separatist factions, Dr Farooq's sham posturing on Pandit return attempts to put the blame on Pandits themselves for their unwillingness to return without addressing the core issues related to their long-term retention in the Valley.

The ground situation in the state continues to be worsening. Mercenaries have totally taken over and terrorism is going high-tech. The heavy casualties being suffered by security forces have become a matter of serious concern. During the last 40 days, there have been 240 casualties, killed/wounded among army personnel, the highest since insurgency broke out in 1989. Terrorist militancy has taken firm grip in Jammu region as well. Minority Hindu killings continue to take place as and when

terrorists decide. Migration from Hindu pockets in vulnerable areas is leading to a slow demographic change. In many areas, Hindus are forced to lead a 'compromised' life. Though fatiguing of a section of local militants, particularly in the capital city of Srinagar is there, but the overall situation is worsening. For the first time in the last nine years the Kashmiri Muslim seems apprehensive and uncertain about the developing situation.

To counter the impression that the situation is deteriorating, National Conference is trying to highlight the "gains" of Amarnath yatra, visits of tourist groups, successful shooting of "Bollywood" films and the opening of a cinema theatre in the high security zone of Sonawar.

The National Conference faces serious dilemma. If it remains silent on the issue of Pandits' return, its credibility gets a knock. And if it seriously pursues the redressal of core issues connected with return, it works against the consensus in Kashmiri Muslim society. While the extremist sections of Muslim society are opposed to linking normalcy with return of Pandits, more moderate sections share a total consensus on exclusion of Pandits from the Kashmiri society. Pandits in any case continue to be the soft targets for Muslim Communalism.

So far the National Conference has been doing everything possible to forest all any measures that could seriously initiate the process of Pandits' return. Its brief to the administration on the issue of forcible and fraudulent occupation of Pandit property so far has been to preempt any action that could release this property from the occupation of unauthorised occupants. On the issue of jobs, promotions etc, the ruling National Conference is ensuring total cleansing. Similarly on the plane of social dialogue between two estranged communities, the Farooq government through its negative policies has deepened the polarisation and destroyed the scope of any serious or comprehensive dialogue.

Instead of initiating any positive measure to win the confidence of displaced Pandits, National Conference has launched a disaffection campaign against Pandits in Jammu and elsewhere.

Issue of return of Pandits is being used by the National Conference to serve many ends. It wants to regularise the ad-hoc Muslim, employees (4583) recruited against displaced employees posts. Its assessment is if Pandits are coerced to return

FOCUS

in unfavourable conditions, many Pandits will opt for either premature retirement or even resignation from state services. This will facilitate the regularisation of ad-hoc employees. Second dimension is that through pressure on delinking displaced employees' pay bills from security related

On the political plane, National Conference's stand on "coerced token return" has far reaching consequences. It successfully pits Pandits against the Sangh Parivar, forces dilution in BJP's stand on core issues concerning Kashmir and helps to alienate Pandits completely from the national mainstream.

expenditure, centre can be coerced to pay the entire security related expenditure. Displaced employees in any case face blackmail in both the situations.

On the political plane, National Conference's stand on "coerced token return" has far reaching consequences. It successfully pits Pandits against the

Sangh Parivar, forces dilution in BJP's stand on core issues concerning Kashmir and helps to alienate Pandits completely from the national mainstream.

Pandits' stand on return has remained i) discussion on core issues leading to exodus and its reversal, (ii) rehabilitation to be directly taken over by the centre and (iii) return of normalcy prior to return. Normalcy in Pandits' perception essentially implies reversal of the process of communalisation. Also displaced Pandits have rejected the policy of 'phased return'. Since BJP under pressure from Dr Farooq Abdullah has rejected these conditions, Pandits' hostility to Sangh Parivar seems natural. By pitting Pandits against Sangh Parivar, National Conference has succeeded in taking away one of the main three emotive issues from BJP's electoral plank. Other two issues being reconstruction of Ram Temple and expulsion of Bangladeshi infiltrators. With Pandits turning against BJP, the party has to search for some new issue to refurbish its image as the premier party of Indian Hindus.

Secondly, National Conference has fully exploited the vulnerability of BJP to stay in power and get some 'secular' credibility. During the last five decades BJP's stand on Kashmir has been opposition to Muslim sub-nationalism of National

Conference/Plebiscite Front, abrogation of Article 370 and demographic change. It also talked about regional aspirations of Jammuites, Ladakhis, free hand to Army to curb anti-national elements and declaration of Doda as the disturbed area. On all these issues BJP has diluted its stand, with grave implications for nation's security.

Thirdly, in the vote-bank and fractious politics of India, BJP had served as the last hope for hapless Pandits. With BJP's total surrender to Dr Farooq on the question of Pandits' return, Pandits stand totally alienated from the national mainstream. This can only gladden the hearts of separatists as the last outpost of social resistance against their politics is collapsing.

Since the process of 'phased experimentation can at the maximum be attempted at a small section of the community i.e. govt employees, the rest of the community whose stakes in return ie stand gradually eroded will be forced to ask many uncomfortable questions. So far the community had refrained from raising serious questions regarding conduct of Kashmir policy, handling of Muslim question and the rôle of dramatis personnal in relation to Kashmir. 'Phased return' if it is accomplished will only be pyrrhic victory of NC-Sangh Parivar combine.

Appeal to Readers

KASHMIR SENTINEL is the largest circulated English fortnightly of J&K State. It is circulated in India and Abroad and has a readership of above twenty thousand. It has now become the only genuine voice of Kashmiri Pandits in exile.

KASHMIR SENTINEL covers wide range of topics from people to politics, despair to hope, history, culture, identity, aspirations as well as opportunities for survival. Undiluted news, views and analysis is brought to you by its dedicated team of political analysts and area specialists in the editorial board.

We are in a crucial phase at present times. Five thousands years of history is behind us. We are sure we will rise again more rejuvenated, more glorious than before. In spite of our best efforts it is not possible to achieve without your help and cooperation. So please join us in this struggle.

You can help us in following ways:

- Please send your subscription in favour of Kashmir Sentinel. It costs just Rs 100 per year or 40 Dollars for overseas.*
- You can also support us through advertisement from your company, corporate sector or otherwise as per the tariff details given in this paper separately.*
- You can also gift subscription of this paper to your friends or relatives.*

Your prompt action will help us in building this institution for future generations.

**Management Board
KASHMIR SENTINEL**

149, Ram Vihar, Old Janipur, Jammu-180007 (INDIA)

In patience lies the reward

By A.N. Dhar

It is said that those who love God are subjected to a lot of sufferings. The sufferings cannot be endured without patience and God gives you that also. KPs are a God fearing community, who having lost their home and hearth, have become almost nothing on earth. If they are told to have patience they will turn around to you with a peculiar quizzical look that how much of patience now?

People who know Kashmir, have enjoyed its beauty and loved its rivers and valleys and tilled its lands, will know how hard it must have been for Kashmiri Pandits to try to find a patch of land, may be on the rocks of the Tawi or the fraction of a room in a hostel in Delhi or Chandigarh or Shimla or Mumbai to begin their lives a new.

Theirs has been a terrible story. Glory be to those who have shown courage, sometimes with help but often without it. I am not wrong when I say that perhaps none of them is begging today. That is also a great story—a story of perseverance, ability to hold one's head high. When

the history of their sufferance is written, it will be in golden letters.

Will they go back to their homes? This is the main question today. There have been

SOCIETY

waves of hopes and fears. There have been intimations since before the parliamentary and assembly elections that the militancy is on the retreat and the guns are falling silent. Not that this is the true picture because almost every day in parts of Jammu and Kashmir the people still get killed. But there has been an improvement from the early years of this decade. Yet it has not been such that the Kashmiri Pandits can be bold enough to pack up their things again and troop the Banihal pass and go back. When things seemed to improve, Sangrampora came up like a bloody sword.

The Chief Minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has made several attempts to set a time-table for the migrants to return. At first he said that government employees drawing salaries should be asked to return. But the killings continued. He also said that the

migrants would be helped to rebuild their houses which had been destroyed. Did this come to pass? The militants fear that their task will be over if peace returns. When Kashmir was settling down somewhat, Doda went up in flames.

So what should the migrants do? There is little of the advice that one can give. They cannot but have patience. They must know that some day blood will cease to flow. Kashmiri Pandits have been among the most humanistic citizens of the country. They must not give up this attribute of their lives. To sustain themselves they must convince themselves that a terrorist's bullet knows no caste, creed or colour. It enters a body, spills the blood and the terror spreads. Even the Muslims have not been spared. If their humanistic approach remains, it will be difficult for the barbarism to find a room.

In the ultimate analysis, sacrifice, humanism and a capacity to stay together will help this suffering community overcome their odds. In only patience will their rewards lie.

Lure of Mountains

Prof Som Nath Dhar

Back in my younger days, I had a compulsive urge to trek and go up to the hills and down the dales of Kashmir. The two hills in Srinagar—Shankaracharya and Hari Parbat attracted me immensely then as my favourite jaunts. The Shankaracharya hill is topped by an ancient, venerated Shiva temple. Hari Parbat, the guardian deity of the Valley, Sharika Devi, also bears on its crest a fort built by Emperor Akbar.

A couple of us, school pals, would start in the small hours, when stars still shone in the firmament, to go round and up the Hari Parbat. We used to go barefooted. My grandmother, Vishimal, had a ready explanation, that it would "earn us spiritual merit", or may be, spare the wear and tear of our shoe. As a result, the soles of our feet would get blisters and bruises. Dear granny had palliatives to offer about these as well, "If you get hurt on your way to the shrine, it implies that you were earnest to get to the abode of the goddess; but if it takes place on your return, that means your desire to rush back to mundane life." In the evenings, we used to climb the Shankaracharya hill. In due course, we sturdy climbers, reduced the time to reach the hill top to 17 minutes. Thus began my tryst with the mountains.

Years later, when I took over a job in Sri Pratap College, I launched the Kashmir Fellowship Society, to inculcate the climbing and trekking spirit among the youth. College students, faculty members and some interested outsiders, became the members of the society. Admission for membership to the society had a strict provision: "Condition of the weather will not affect the programme". Every member of the society had to carry the MFS (Member Fellowship Society) card, and

would use the initials, MFS, after the name on the stationery. The first General Secretary of the Society was MK Dhar, who rose to be the Diplomatic Editor of the HINDUSTAN TIMES. True to the objective of the society, inclement weather, snow or slush, didn't deter us from our outdoor activities. Apart from an umbrella, our climbing aid was just a solitary stick.

One winter morning, on our climb to the Shankaracharya hill, we spotted, what some said was "a huge cat" and others, rightly, "a leopard". Fortunately for us, the leopard was looking at a dog, accompanying a Mem, near the foot of the hill. We ran for our lives and took shelter in the temple. "Dangerous indeed," said the burly temple priest, "Don't worry, dears,

ADVENTURE

I know how to tackle the beast". We felt assured, though we were still trembling with fear. Hours later, we took a devious route to climb down the hill to the city.

Our climbs to Zaberwan mountain from Chashma Shahi (one of the famous Mughal Gardens) became frequent events looked forward to. In summer and autumn months, the scenery from the Zaberwan peak is most exhilarating. There is the vast expanse of the Dal Lake and the Srinagar town with meandering Jhelum on the one side and a deep gorge on the other.

In autumn, the tall grass on the mountain turns very dry. Even with a shoe-nail touching a rock, a spark of fire emanates. A simple burnt match-stick can cause hell of a fire. That is what happened one afternoon. Suddenly a blaze went up and

spread literally like wildfire.

The place of the then ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, situated on the lower ranges, would have been devastated with this wild fire. We were panicky. We fled for our lives, like so many Tarzans, as it were. The villagers were quick enough to quell its spread further. The palace was saved.

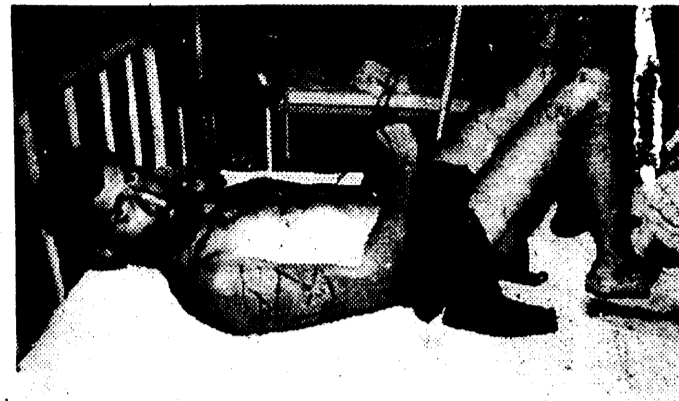
A posse of enquirers from the palace, however, traced us in the college and summoned us for interrogation.

"Who was responsible for lighting match-sticks and causing the fire?" they queried, again and again. We expressed our ignorance. Nevertheless, we were reprimanded severely.

Our enthusiasm for mountain-climbing didn't ebb. We hiked to Ahrabal Falls, the highest waterfall in Kashmir, Mahadev Peak (about 500 metres), Ailpather Lake (situated above Gulmarg) and several other peaks in Kashmir. Frequently, we spotted bears and other wild animals, but luckily, always, came away unscathed.

Once when Jawaharlal Nehru was holidaying in Gulmarg, I approached him for a written word of encouragement for our motley group—the Kashmir Fellowship Society, of which I was the president and Jia Lal Kilam, a well known Vakil, the Vice President. The message came. Panditji, in his inimitable language, reiterated love for the mountains of Kashmir and, appreciated our climbs to high altitudes.

"This is a movement", he said, inter alia, "which should spread to other states". MK Dhar had the message; unfortunately, he misplaced it.



Malik Shah who was tortured by Hizbul Mujhideen militants in a Mahore Village, undergoing treatment at GMC Hospital in Jammu. Photo courtesy KASHMIR TIMES

Militants' writ runs large in Mahore Villager tortured, HM scribbled on arm

KS Correspondents

JAMMU, Sept 24: Militants writ runs large in Sui Bathoi, Mahore where they tortured a villager scribbling HM (Hizbul Mujahideen) on his right arm with a sharp edged weapon.

He has been identified as Malik Shah, son of Mohammad Shah.

He was admitted to government Medial College (GMC) hospital here late this evening by his family members. He has cut marks all over his body and burn marks on his face and feet.

Narrating his woeful tale of torture, Malik Shah said that on Sunday he was grazing his cattle in the village periphery along with his minor son when about six militants appeared from nowhere at about 5 PM.

Sighting them he tried to escape, but the latter caught hold of his son. "I was apprehended by some villagers who are sympathizers of militants he said.

Malik Shah was then taken by ultras to the house of his cousin—Ali Shah and made to stand against a wall. Ali Hussain is a teacher in Jablan government school.

Militants first beat me with rifle butts and when I fell unconscious they started inflicting cut marks on my body. Showing the wounded ribs and back, he said when the pain became unbearable, they scribbled HM with a knife on his right arm.

Militants later left the village leaving him bleeding in his cousin's house. But they again came and did not allow any body to lift him to hospital for treatment. "I remained there for one and a half day. I was bleeding, but none of my relatives came to my rescue. They did not even offer me food during this time". Malik Shah said.

On Tuesday morning, my sister-in-law came to my cousin's house and prayed for

my release touching latter's feet. I was in the afternoon when he allowed her to take me home. Since I was unable to stand on my legs, my brother was called who lifted me on his back and took home.

Malik said he was removed to Mahore hospital in the evening. He was today referred to GMC hospital for advanced treatment.

Malik identified one of the militants who tortured him as Talib Hussain, son of Dudoo of Halsat.

He said he had some land dispute with his cousin who hired militants to eliminate him.

He said he was tortured in presence of Ali Hussain, his brother—Jaffar Ali, Yousfaj, Jamal, sons of Ghulama, Jamal, son of Ramana, Sharief, his son Maznoor, Asghar Ali, Nabi Shah, sons of Nooran Shah and Sadiq son of Zaman Shah. Alleging that these persons were sympathizer of militants, he said he was tortured at their instance.

Asked if militants were harassing other Muslims also in Mahore villages, he said only those who did not support them were being tortured.

One Ghani, son of Sandoo of the same village was tortured by militants on Sunday evening for not obeying the latter.

Ultras killed Kamar Din and Sandoo—a retired police constable by slitting their throats early this month, he said.

A lohar of the same village has also fallen prey to militant's bullets, he said.

Malik Shah said there was no BSF movement in their village where militants have set up permanent hideouts. The latter can enter any house anytime and demand food, he said.

There was an immediate need to set up permanent security forces pickets in the village, he said.

Sangrampura Visit & After - II

By Shailendra Aima

In the last issue, you read about the experience of the Pandit Delegation on their first day in Kashmir. The ordeal from Srinagar Airport to Hotel Centaur via Sangrampura was a spine chilling experience. This issue brings to you the experiences of the Delegation on second day i.e. on 5th April, 1998 which filled us with a feeling of disgust and remorse.

After reassuring the security arrangements at Hotel Centaur and requesting Ashok ji and Raina Sahib to have a comfortable nap, the three of us switched off the lights of the anteroom. At around 1.00 AM, we talked to Kuldeep Raina and Vijay Tikoo in Jammu and briefed them regarding the arrangement we had succeeded in ensuring. None of us personally knew this BSF Commandant and had not seen him. We asked our Jammu team to call back by 5.30 in the morning after checking with the Delhi team and some more friends in the security setup. Kuldeep called us at 5.30 and conveyed the satisfaction of the entire team but with a request that we should not take undue risks and let there be no misadventures.

By six, we had taken bath and changed. Ashok ji was observing a fast and while he was still busy with his morning prayer, there was a gentle knock at the door. "Good morning," greeted a firm yet friendly Dy. Cmt. Singh. He was in his full battle gear, supporting a bulletproof black jersey. By now, some friends in Centaur had brought us two flasks full of tea. Ashok ji continued with his meditation while we sipped tea and talked to Singh.

At exactly 6.30 AM, we walked out of our suite. The entire corridor leading to the ground floor had been cordoned by the Jawans of BSF, each supporting an RCL and a black BP jersey. The Hotel staff was perhaps not aware of our movement and while we were boarding the special BP vehicles of BSF, four to five pheron clad bearded young men with AK-47 rifles approached us and wanted to know whether we were leaving. Singh told them that we would be back in half an hour after meeting some high officials. The BSF party zoomed out of the Centaur and in next 20 minutes we had reached the BSF battalion Headquarters. The Comdt. had talked to us on the wireless, twice in the morning and was happy to

see us. We had a welcome tea with him followed by a sumptuous breakfast of Paranthas, curds, salads and fruit.

While talking to him, we felt safe. We were also aware that this brave soldier had shown exemplary courage in frisking us away from the Hotel Centaur. The Commandant also conveyed that he would do every thing possible to make us comfortable and move around in Srinagar to take stock. And he got to business soon.

We were taken to the BSF headquarters where a farewell party of the outgoing IG BSF was going on. We met the outgoing as well as the new IG who instructed their officers to extend all possible help to the Delegation. Later we were taken to their Headquarter-Operations.

In the meanwhile the DIG had talked to the DC Srinagar and conveyed to the administration that we were safe. In our presence, he asked the DC for some time so that the Delegation would meet him. The DC was not only reluctant but conveyed that the government would like the Delegation to be dumped at airport and flown back to Jammu. It was clear to us that a particular vested interest dominated by the fundamentalist elements within the state administration was contemptuous and hostile to the Kashmiri Pandits (Hindus). We decided to forget about the state administration and worked out our own programme with the help of the BSF. We were eager to visit Pandit localities and meet those who were still holed up in Srinagar.

Pandit localities

We knew that there were only 62 Pandit (Hindu) families in entire Budgam district (figures provided by people and corroborated by DC/SP Budgam). It was astounding to know that only 54 KP families resided in the entire old Srinagar city (figures after our labour and confirmed by security forces), i.e. from Lal Chowk to Neelam Chowk to Balgarden to Karan Nagar to Fateh Kadal to Zaina Kadal, to Circular Road to Sathu Barbar Shah to Habakadal to Malyar to Ganpatyar via Gawkadal and areas falling within.

The separatist Hurriat leaders, the National Conference leadership and Kashmir administration had been speaking a lie and exaggerating that 5000 KP families were still residing there. These figures were being thrown at Pandits to blackmail them that if they staged demonstrations this would endanger the lives of tens of thousands of Pandits who were still in Kashmir. Even some of the Pandit leaders would seem eager to believe these cock and bull figures to the detriment of Pandit assertion.

From Malyar to Gawkadal, the entire locality appeared a

ghost town. Barring shops and houses on the two sides of this road, which stood closed and partly burnt, the entire locality clubbed between this road and Nai Sarak was in ruins with houses raised to the ground and the debris supported dogs, stray cattle and a hide out for terrorists and a dumping ground for their arms and ammunition. Similarly, thousands of other Pandit houses had been either burnt or demolished in rest of the areas.

We went deep inside these localities. Every time, we decided to do so, a contingent of forty to fifty BSF personnel would cordon the area and press in the sniffer dog squad. We would be asked to put on BP jerseys which we refused since the same were too heavy.

The entire area was a battlefield supporting huge bunkers fitted with automatic weapons, but many a time no match to the sophisticated heavy mortars and machine guns which have been in the possession of the Pakistan trained terrorist squads.

From the soldiers we learned about the ambushes laid by these terrorists and the casualties of the soldiers. Only two days prior to this visit two of the BSF soldiers had been killed in Fateh Kadal area during a search operation. We were also shown the cache of arms, ammunition and improvised explosive devices being used by Islamic mercenaries which were highly sophisticated. A small pen-bomb and a lipstick-grenade had the capacity to kill two persons in a radius of two meters, and the same could be used by a small child of five years. An IED using a gas cylinder and RDX could blow even a five storey building.

Temples

We were eager to visit the temples in the city. We were first taken to the Somyar temple. The temple complex had been converted into a BSF company headquarter and supported a four storey bunker, surrounded by sandbags and housed about a hundred BSF personnel. It was neat and clean and a BSF *pujari* (priest) performed the *puja*. We took tea and snacks with the Officer in-charge who narrated how two of his guards had been killed there by the terrorist attack a fortnight before.

Next we visited the Ganpatyar temple which again housed another company of BSF. The entire temple had been fortified with sand bags touching even the fourth floor of the girls school which once functioned from the temple complex. We also saw the remains of two craters in the temple compound which had been caused by rocket attack of Islamic fundamentalists about two years ago from across the Jehlum river.

While we were busy taking photographs, the Comdt. accompanied by a few Muslims of the area, entered the temple complex.

We could recognize the milkmaid (*Gourbai*) and the local tailor. They both came forward and hugged Dr. Ajay as he belonged to the locality and had childhood association with them. When I told them about the maternal uncles of my father, the tailor told me of his association with my father and asked about his well-being. Emotional and nostalgic of our past, we wanted to know their reaction on our possible return. Sharp came the reply, "*Touhiv chajiv panay, van kath chuyun.*" (You went of your own, why should you come back.) They asked us how would we rebuild our nests and who would let us. They also reminded us of Sangrampura.

The Comdt. would not understand Kashmiri and wanted to know what was being talked about. He intervened and said that the Farooq government wanted our return. In unison, the locals asked him if Farooq could dare walk through these streets.

We next went to the **Katleshwar** and **Kharyar temples**. The temples had been bombed, defiled and desecrated. The idols had been uprooted and thrown out. Debris lay scattered both inside and outside. Four letter words and invectives both in English and Persian had been imprinted with coke and chalk on the walls. The Ganesh idol in Kharyar temple had been broken and defiled, and the Shivalingam in Katleshwar had been hit with some heavy objects as it bore the marks with chips of granite having come out. The granite must have been so hard that even the bomb-blast which had pierced the walls and caused extensive damage had failed to crack the shivalingam. We tried to put back the Lingam, but it was too heavy to be lifted by us. Ashok ji wanted us to perform puja, but the BSF personnel wanted us to leave fast as they apprehended an attack.

Next we went to the **Raghunath temple**. The destruction at the sight was beyond our comprehension. One had to be there to understand what had happened. The warlords of Kashmir had overtaken Sikander Butshikan.

Those of the readers who had visited the sight would remember that just next to the river, there used to be a beautiful ancient Shivalaya. The entire Shivalaya was nonexistent and even the base of this ancient Shiva temple had been dug and thrown into the river.

The main temple was in shambles and bore the marks of bomb-blasts and bullets. The idols had been removed and the walls were full of imprinted invectives and defiled beyond recognition. Human and animal excreta lay scattered on the floor.

The plight of **Rammandir** at Fateh Kadal and the temples at **Akhara** and **Sathu Barbarshah** were no better.

Interaction with Pandits

Our interaction with some KPs in the valley was apainful process. Though majority of our community members confided in us and in utter remorse cried "*Aise chhe mudmet eith varyee brohn*" (We died eight years ago), most of them had their own compulsions to stay back. Several stories are so humiliating that better we remain ignorant. We dined with a Pandit couple in Srinagar who while pouring their heart out said, "*Aise gaye eithen vareeyahan pat zind*" (we have come today to life after eight years).

Conclusion

We concluded that having connived at cleansing and whole sale displacement of the Pandit community from its historical homeland, the communalized Administration wanted to cleanse the valley of any remnants of Pandit presence. There was hardly any doubt left that these elements had the blessings from the highest authority in the government. The uncalled for and irresponsible statements from such authorities in the recent times appeared to be responsible for the massacre at Sangrampura as our observations suggested.

There was a general feeling of insecurity among the members of minority community in the entire valley. Even the members of majority community who met us expressed their haplessness to provide any help to the minority community.

The authorities in the state administration expressed an opinion that the fact-finding delegation must help the administration to motivate the members of minority community who were still in the valley to migrate to district headquarters as it would not be possible for them (the authorities) to provide security to every individual Pandit/Sikh family in far off places.

After visiting the valley and assessing the ground situation as well as the dimensions of Sangrampura killings, it was obvious that the posture of the government viz. a viz. the return of the Pandits had no relation to the ground realities. The situation developing in Jammu subsequent to Sangrampura killings and the government's hostile attitude towards the concerns of the community reflected that a sinister design was afoot to destabilize the displaced Pandits even in Jammu. It also appeared that some highest officials in bureaucracy were deliberately precipitating a crisis by their wrong advice and blatantly partial as well as communal attitude.

We stayed in Kashmir for two more days. It is not possible to provide a detailed overview of the entire experience for paucity of space in these columns.

Kashmir Sentinel

October 16-31, 1998

Indo-Pak Talks

Both the statesmen and political commentators have expressed satisfaction over initiation of the Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan. Dialogue, they claim is necessary for negotiating political and diplomatic stalemates. And the dialogue must continue. What adds to the gratification of political pundits is that the two countries have agreed to certain confidence building measures before they could attend to the disturbing question of Kashmir. Kashmir, claims Pakistan, is the focal agenda. India maintains, terrorism is the core issue.

As the two states have agreed to continue dialogue, there should be an expected change in the existing hostilities. But the ground reality tells a different story. Pakistani concentration of troops continues on the borders with India; there has been no letup in shelling on the international border as well as line of control; the infiltration of terrorists foreign mercenaries and even Pakistani regulars continues unabated; and cleansing operations in the upper reaches of Jammu sector are going on in full swing. Pakistan has refused to accept the relevance of Shimla agreement and has been insisting on third party mediation.

With the two countries having demonstrated their nuclear capability, with both the countries facing economic sanctions and a growing pressure from the international community to sign CTBT and NPT, it would have been appropriate for the two of them to work together in the direction of meeting these eventualities.

It would be impractical to assume that Pakistan shall give up its claim on Kashmir, it would also be premature to think that Pakistan would stop its interference in Kashmir. Pakistan has made substantial gains in Afghanistan and it is preparing to push Taliban in Kashmir, now. The proxy-war is a low-cost war and is well supported from the narco-arms deals of Pakistani ISI.

The India state, therefore, while involving itself in an honest dialogue, must crush terrorism with a heavy hand. It should do every thing possible to reverse the process of genocide let lose on the minorities in J&K state. The policy of appeasement towards a particular section of Kashmiri society needs be stopped and a dialogue with all sections of J&K society be established to find a political solution to internal strife in J&K. No compromise, please.

Kashmir Imbrogilo

The Pan Islamic Fundamentalists

By M.M. Khajuria

The "Kashmir Problem" is in this country and elsewhere perceived as Pakistan specific, basically emanating out of dispute about the accession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir on the partition of the Indian sub-continent. India swears by the finality of the states accession on the strength of the Instrument of accession signed by the Maharajah, endorsed by J&K National Conference, the representative political party led by the popular leader Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah and ratified by the Constituent Assembly, elected on the basis of universal adult franchise. Pakistan, on the other hand questions the validity of the accession. Her case primarily rests on the logic of the Muslim majority state having no option but to accede to Pakistan in pursuance of the partition of the Indian sub-continent on the basis of "Two Nation Theory".

In fact, Pakistan describes Kashmir as their "Unfinished Agenda of the Partition of India". She also buttresses her claim by harping upon the Kashmiri Muslims "Right of self-determination" to which India had once upon a time committed "herself. This clash of perceptions and interests led to three Indo-Pak wars. The mode of exploring the solution to the problem was spelled out in the Shimla Agreement signed by to the countries after India emerged victorious in the 1971 war. Since then bilateral negotiations have sporadically been taking place without much headway. Then came the Proxy War unleashed by Pakistan in 1988 souring the already uncomfortable relations further.

The deadlock has now been addressed by the Prime Ministers, Vajpayee and Nawaz Sharief. The Foreign Secretary level negotiations, under their

directions have commenced. In the meantime Pakistan guns keep on booming across the LOAC and the international borders dislocating normal life in the concerned areas and inflicting injuries and death upon innocent Indian civilians.

The scene depicted above is common knowledge. But is this the reality of the Kashmir dispute in its entirety? The answer has to be in the negative. This picture merely represents the part being played by some actors on the stage. The writers of the script, financiers, Directors and Producers of the "Drama" predictably operate behind the scene in comparative anonymity. They are the Pan Islamic Fundamentalists. While in the Indian sub-continent, Pan Islamic Fundamentalist focus upon "Hindu India" as the immediate target, Christianity is their real target in the long run. And when they talk of colonialism, imperialism or western civilisation, they are in fact referring to the adherents of Christianity. The competition between the Muslims and Christians, the two inheritors of the Jewish tradition is centuries old. The history of Muslim-Christians conflict isorated as the bloodiest in the annals of history of man kind. Countries changed hands, empires rose and crumbled as the Gazis and Crusaders vashed the earth with blood. If Muslims stormed into the holy city of Jerusalem in 637, the Christians conguered it back in 1099. The Christian Egypt was overrun by Muslims in 672. The Christians in turn won back Muslim Egypt in 19th century. And when Pope Urbal II unleashed the Crusaders in 1095, the Christians believed, it was merely a counter-offensive to recover former Christian lands. It now seems, the upsurge of Pan-Islamic Fundamentalism, if not effectively countered in time may plunge the humanity into another holocaust of undreamt of

dimensions and ferocity.

In September, 92 editorial of Eco Of Islam published in the Islamic Republic of Iran, it was stated:-

"At present in addition to over combat and confrontation with Islam the big and colonial powers have also found another means to deal more blows to Islam." A statement put forward in the "Economist" records to the effect that the war of Christianity with Communism ended with the victory of Christianity and today the war of Christianity with Islam was started, reflects depth and breadth of the objectives of the colonial world with regard to Islam". The Editorial further goes on to say:-

"Two famous publications such as "The Guardian" "Le Monde" in numerous commentaries have expressed the view that "We should not target the world of Islam. We explicitly announce that we do not fear normal Islam. We give warning to the fanatic and fundamentalist Islam and we think that our war is with this (form of) Islam".

The Editorial went on to add:

"What the Colonialists introduce as "normal Islam" is that Islam which accepts the oppression and tyranny of the despots and which pays no heed to the combating of colonialists." Surely this is not the Islam which Hazrat Muhammad introduced and for which the Prophet often engaged in Jihad with the oppressors during his life time." No wonder the Pan Islamic Fundamentalist are ferociously fighting against the "normal Islam" in Egypt, Algeria and Indian (J&K). In Kashmir political, religious leaders and intellectuals, who were judged inimical to the particular brand of fanatic Islam were identified and eliminated. The number of the victims in these countries alone runs into Lakhs. The Iran-Iraq war and the continuing destruction of Af-

ghanistan and muslims for ethnic reasons is astronomical blood bath gone name of Islam cleansing horrc where from almiri Pandit co squeezed out active massacre of munity, the belief, in the Jam the special Fundamentlaisr of the horror is il "exploits:" of Butcher in Doc skin his victim ence of his kin; Head Hunter, A tormentor of m children, he and creed as adherit Islam".

Pan Islamic debunk the conc State" Accordi entire Muslim tutes a single in cal entity. This t estingly propou dent Trar of Pal of today is not Islamic Fundarr longing to that dressing a work of Iqbal and Pal cently in Islamat

"Islamic con beyond the phys colour, caste emphasised the this concept. R building up of nal, he pleaded in view the coi and resources while making c ning (of develc ern weaponry) of life and conte conclusively ce a thesis of little fanatics, who n past of their fan a future in term The commity c

Perspective

Prof. K.N. Pandita

Early in 1990, NC-Con gress coalition government of J&K State headed by Dr Farooq Abdullah resigned. The issue at stake was the appointment of Jagmohan as the Governor. In Governor's oath-taking ceremony, held in open durbar, Dr Farooq had said that the Governor, Jagmohan could hold him by his ear lobe if he went wrong in the governance. And then, in April, Jagmohan was removed. Strangely enough Benazir Butto had strongly demanded removal of Jagmohan and the VP Singh

government succumbed.

From 1990 to 1996, the State of Jammu and Kashmir remained under Governor's rule owing to a termed insurgency which had destabilised the social and political institutions. During most of this period, Dr Farooq spent his time as a private resident in London paying an occasion visit to the New Delhi. By and large, he kept silent on what was going on the Kashmir. Most of the members of his Council of Ministers were also hibernating in Jammu. They continued to occupy the spacious government residential quarters and

enjoyed other facilities which the active ministers are provided. Even the MLAs (though the lower house was dissolved) also continued to occupy their MLA quarters plus normal perks. Additionally, they sent lists of the Muslim 'migrants' from their respective constituencies to the Relief Commissioner in Jammu and collected their relief amounts, certainly hefty ones, for further "disbursement". The condition of personal presence of the migrants before the office of the concerned relief commissioner was waived once the NC ministry

was formally fo elections. Nobo tionale behind which observed corruption.

In 1996 Leg bly elections w State and the N with a massive n led by Dr Faroo the 1996 Lok saying autonom later. Autonoi smaller, regio gional, was neve resignation in asked the ques condition of a

Two years

OPINION

Towards islamization of Kashmir

3rd Dimension

massacre of Muslim sectarian re- nical. And the s on all in the t. The ethnic or in Kashmir, ost entire Kash- mmunity was l now the selec- minority com- ievers of other mu region bear stamp of t. The enormity lustrated by the Abdullah, the la, who would s alive in pres- nd the dreaded bu Zubaid, the en, women and his masters de- ng to the "other

Fundamentalists cept of a 'Nation ng to them the Ummah consti- divisible politi- heme was inter- med by Presi- stan, which as owned by Pan entalists as be- fraternity. Ad- shop on "Vision istan 2010" re- ad, he declared:

cept of *Nation is ical boundaries, nd creed*" and need to revert to effering to the an Islamic arse- *We should keep iective interests of Islamic world ny future plan- pment of mod- . That the facts mporary history ntradicted such relevance to the ot only live in a cy but dream of s of revivalism. of nation states,*

the world over will do well to take notice of this serious threat to their very existence and join battle putting up a united front against the common enemy.

Jammu and Kashmir is critical for the survival of the secular character of its polity and preservance of India's composite culture. That Indian stakes in this conflict are high, goes without saying. But what is tragic is that the western powers in their insatiable greed for facilities to lay pipelines across Afghanistan by the American oil companies are even prepared to buy peace with the Medievalise Talibans secretly, while making appropriate noises about human rights and democracy in the world fora. They appear to be oblivious of the high price that these short term "gains" will cost them in the long run.

The Indian policy-makers and the world powers would be well advised to view the Proxy War in Jammu and Kashmir in the context of Pan Islamic threat and not in the limited sense of a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan and chose sides accordingly. The clarity of Pan Islamic perception of the issue of Kashmir was tellingly revealed as early as in June 1992 editorial of "Daw'ah Highlights" published from Islamabad (Pakistan) in the following words:-

"Two years ago, we predicted in our magazine editorial Kashmir's destiny was inseparably linked with United Islamic Ummah. The recent political developments and fall of communism sufficiently bear out that Kashmir is bound to emerge in the contiguous geographical expanse of Pakistan. Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and Muslim Central Asia". Let the democratic, secular and forward-looking people of the world sit up and take notice of the dangers looming large on the horizon before it is really too late.

Farooq tames Advani

By P.N. Kaul

We are witnessing a metamorphosis of the BJP-led government at the centre into the pseudo-secular governments of yester-years. It prided itself as a party with deep commitment to principles and ideals with a mission to undo the mismanagement of the affairs of the state & society and to revamp the societal and political structures in particular the vote-bank politics. But, now the sudden volte face is its irksome urge for survival in power at any cost even though it involves throwing over-board its long-held assumptions. It appears, too, to have fallen a prey to the temptations of the vote-bank politics like its predecessors which is why it is wooing what it had vowed to hate and spurn. Let us see the downward slide.

Concretising, let us examine the Home Ministry profile headed by Shri LK Advani. It says, "The government continues to be sympathetic towards all the Kashmiris who have heavily suffered as a result of the attacks by militants and terrorists in the past some years. Pandits alone have not suffered, hundreds of Kashmiri Muslims have had terrible experiences as well".

When not in power the BJP appraised the situation differently and made it amply known that Kashmiri Pandits had suffered religious and cultural cleansing at the hands of terrorists and any fall out on Kashmiri Muslims was accidental and not intended.

It is unfortunate that powers that be, under political expediency, have resorted to an unseemly comparison of the fate of an entire community in forced exile and diaspora with a handful of Kashmiri Muslims supposedly also having suffered.

The first-flush of ethnic cleansing of Pandits in the Valley constituting nearly 99% of the monumental avalanche of degradation was the handiwork of the

local, purely local, often euphemistically labelled as the 'mis-guided youth' with unflinching patronage and confidence by and large of the local co-religionists. And then there were no foreign mercenaries on the scene. It was a hundred per cent local affair with all the political outfits including National Conference vying with one another to extend a helping hand to them to achieve the long cherished objective. At the administrative level, the official line by word of mouth to the police personnel was not to jeopardise its own security in pursuit of terrorists. And that this treacherous line was laid down by no less a person than the Chief Minister himself, speaks. Of course, today he is prompt to denounce the dastardly killings of Kashmiri Pandits as ethnic cleansing because he is no longer the master of the situation as he was at the inaugural of the secessionist movement.

Deft in the art of changing colours Dr. Abdullah goes on threatening Kashmiri Pandits with invoking punitive measures like stopping their salaries and doles only to coerce them to return to the Valley to show his erstwhile companions and compatriots that he is doing his best to push them to shambles for one long and last sacrifice for their temerity to have denounced the movement for liberation from the yoke of infidels.

And the pity is that the BJP led government has fallen for it in the expectation to earn laurels for an achievement that eluded others unmindful of the consequences. Should such a situation come to a pass it is bound to sound death knell for the community of micro numbers left with the option of either conversion to Islam or total annihilation. In the former case they will be coerced to join and swell the militant ranks to prove their bonafides. Either way doomed, it would signal the end of all their troubles and there would be no exoduses and no more ethnic cleansing. And im-

portantly there would be no *raison de etre* for the union government to claim the Valley as an inalienable part of the union any more. There are many in the wings waiting for the burgeoning development to fructify and claim credit for it from the Kashmiri Muslims for their personal rehabilitation and service to the broader interests of Islam.

And what do the country and government achieve? Ignominy to have sacrificed a whole community and lost the game and part of the country too. And for this the nation and the country will never forgive those at the helm of affairs. As a spill-over effect it cannot survive and meet pershment.

To revert to the Home Ministry diatribe as reported in the press, it needs to be made amply clear, if any confusion still persists, that actually there has been nothing like Kashmiri Muslim migration. It was and continues to be contrived affair by the local political formations including National Conference to monitor the activities of the displaced Hindus and others and project before the world that Kashmiri Hindus alone have not been the victims of the Muslim terrorists and to spare the Muslims shame and infamy for having hounded out a community professing a faith different from theirs.

These pseudo-migrants acted as the fifth column of the Muslim terrorists and the Islamised administration conveying vital information and also indulging in virulent anti-India campaign. That is why these so-called Muslim migrants are not only above legal procedures but are lodged as peers and lords with unimaginable comforts and also paid fraudulently for greater numbers than existing. As against it the Hindu migrants are subjected to all hardships, indignities and vilification and are forced to grease the palm of the authorities for release of doles to them. It is a pittance for the Hindu

migrants and a largesse for the Muslim migrants. This officially 'contrived migration' with blessings from many quarters had larger connotations for the terrorist campaign and vilification of Hindu displaced persons. It also needs to be brought home that the so-called Muslim migration was and is only on individual and not on family basis involving those sections of Muslims who have business interests outside the state. Thus while they acted as informers and saboteurs and ambassadors of terrorism they also looked after their business interests at government expense with no threat to their properties in their native land unlike Pandits whose properties have been looted, vandalised and decimated with Islamised administration witnessing the orgy with indifference and total apathy. The wreck and ruin of the Pandit properties continues to date with the same impunity. The plaints and petitions to know the latest about their properties are an exercise in futility. If someone in the administrative set-up proves obliging and courteous, the stock phrase in response is 'all well and safe' when other sources point to the contrary.

Yet another specific point that needs to be dwelt upon concerns the private construction activity in the Valley reported in the Home Ministry's outburst which too has been equated with that of the compulsive constructions of modest-shelters by a few dispossessed Pandits in Jammu and elsewhere. This comparison is not only odious but is devoid of realistic appreciation of the compulsions facing the displaced community and as assessed is never an index of their well-being and prosperity.

Instead the private construction boom in the Valley, however, is the real indicator of the prosperity of the people across the tunnel and the same is financed by agencies which receive funds illegally and clandestinely from Islamic

(Contd. on page 11)

of NC misrule

rmed after 1996 dy asked the ra- l this decision s call legalised

lislative Assem- ere held in the C was returned andate. The NC q had boycotted Sabha elections y first, elections ny, greater or nal or sub-re- r an issue for his 1990. People tion, "Why the tonomy now?"

Obviously, the answer was that he was kowtowing with the militant groups and their leadership. He was reminded that his father, too, had appointed a three-member cabinet rank committee to go into the erosion of State's autonomy. But nothing had come out of it and it was generally believed that there was no violation of the constitutional provision or erosion of autonomy. The report had been shelved. But then his lieutenants launched a massive pro-autonomy campaign. At the hustings (elections for legislative assembly) most of the NC candidates made this slo-

gan as the catchword; "*Maan Ki Izzat 370, Bahan Ki Izzat 370, Beti Ki Izzat 370, Hamari Izzat 370*" (Mother's honour 370, sister's honour 370, daughter's honour 370, our honour 370). The common voter (incidentally the illiterate voter) thought that 370 was the pivot on which his future, his prosperity, his social ethos, his honour and every thing hinged in NC's chemistry, this slogan was to mollify the militant leadership thinking it would take the cue of party slowly inching towards their ultimate objective. When NC government took the reins of office,

it announced constitution of two committees, namely regional autonomy committee and sub-regional committee and sub-regional autonomy committee.

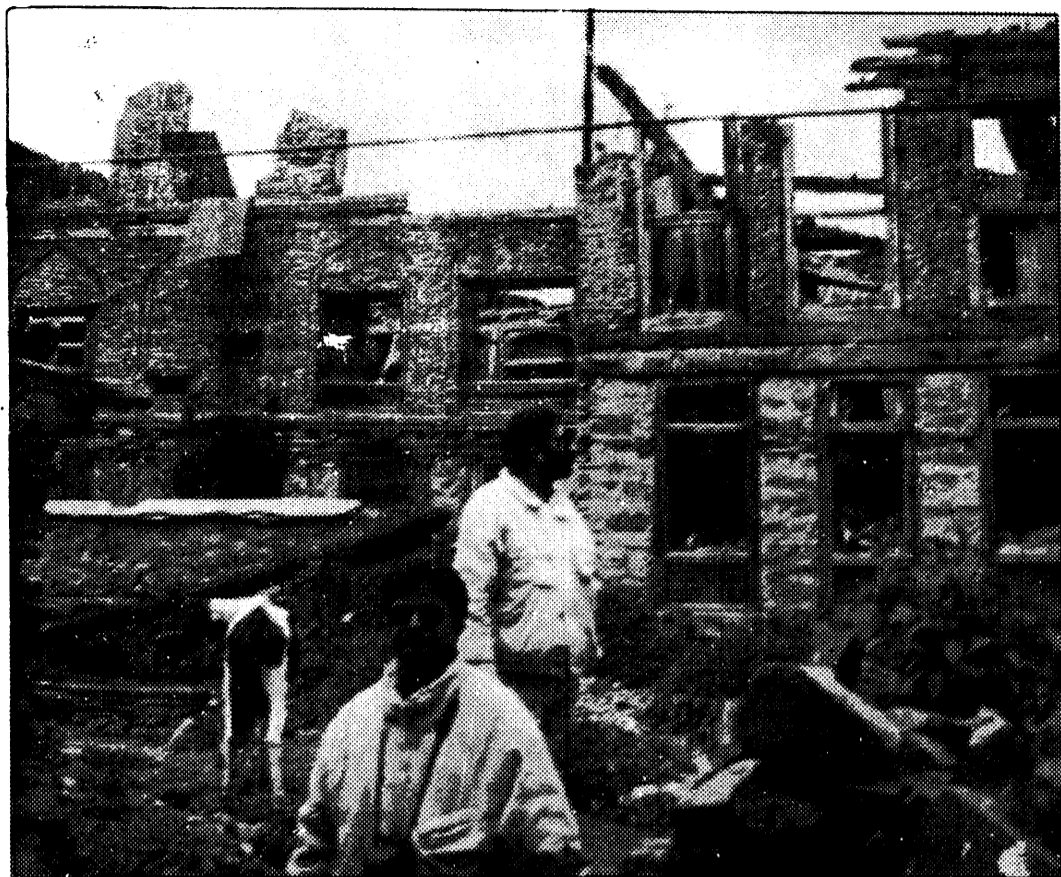
Autonomy euphoria was created but not without deep-seated controversies. Observers wanted to know the precise content and thrust of "autonomy". A cogent question which the government evaded answering was this: autonomy, theoretically being a political dispensation to meet the genuine aspirations of the minorities in a given state, was the government envisaging territorial, political, economic, ethnic or religious autonomy?

No answer came forth. As days rolled by, the euphoria

gradually died down and within a couple of months, NC stopped talking about autonomy. Not only that, within a year, the Chairman of Regional Autonomy Committee, Dr Karan Singh, resigned saying that the government was not serious about it though real reason was something else. The chairman of the sub-regional autonomy committee, Mr Dalraj Puri remained glued to his cabinet rank assignment. But last month, he suddenly released the first part of his proposal for sub-regional autonomy. This created a furore in NC senior ranks and the State Finance Minister made a scathing attack on him for releasing the report without government's

consent. Till this day, the matter rests there. In October Dr Farooq will complete two years of his government. It is a fairly long time and has to be assessed objectively. No doubt, he inherited a thorny crown of power and responsibilities. To a large extent, Kashmiris believe that he played a vital role in taking the state to the brink of disaster. As a guest of POK wing of Plebiscite Front in 1974, he had made forceful speeches against India and in favour of independent Kashmir. Tape recordings in some of them include the one in which he said that if even his father side with India, he would revolt against him. But back in

(Contd. on page 11)



Police Facilitate illegal occupation of migrants' houses

SRINAGAR: Even as many organisations including the State government are striving hard for the return of Kashmiri Pandits who had fled the Valley nine years ago, the very instruments of government machinery are encouraging illegal occupation of abandoned Pandit houses in many areas of the city.

According to illegal occupants, the police personnel from the concerned stations 'allocate' the house and the number of rooms they can occupy for which they have to pay them 'monthly rents'. For instance, in Chotta Bazar locality which falls under Karan Nagar police station, a three storey Pandit house has been 'allocated' to three families who have to pay rupees 300 per month to the police. In the ground floor of the house resides Qamar-ud-Din who hails from Bandipora and is serving as a forest guard. The first floor is occupied by his brother in law Mohammad Shafi and the second floor by Ghulam Mohammad, a local bus driver

whose house was washed away by floods four years ago.

Beside this house lies another three storey Pandit house whose ground storey is occupied by Mohammad Shafi Tabardar, a local resident employed in State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) as a Bus washman. The first and the second floors have been taken away by an Inspector, Mohammad Shafi deputed in the crime branch and by Shiraz who is a driver in police.

Another house adjacent to it has been 'allocated' to one family of Ghulam Mohammad Ahanger, a local resident.

"We are not doing anything wrong as we have been regularly paying our monthly rents to the police", said Gulshan Bano, wife of Mohammad Shafi Tabardar. According to her they were placed in the house by the police themselves four years ago. "Initially we refused to pay them the 'rent' but they arrested my husband forcing us to pay them", added Gulshan.

Each family is being taken rupees 300 every month failing which, the policeman start threatening them of their eviction.

Across the road, is another 3 storey Pandit house whose upper most storey was gutted six years ago. The police men have 'allotted' the two storeys of the house to five Bihari Families who are being taking rupees 2000 per month. But these people see their safety in keeping the police happy. As reasoned by an occupant who requested for anonymity, "why should we take confrontation with police when they provide us habilitation that too with 'safety for just rupees 300?'. Infact, about 15 days back, Border Security Force (BSF) party stationed in the area inquired of them about matter, but they plainly denied that police demands any thing from them.

State Times tried to contact the Station House Office (SHO) Karan Nagar Police Station, but he was not available for his comments.

Courtesy: STATE TIMES

Who knows, maybe someday

By Aasha Khosa

Emotion got the better of Virinder as he entered the main lane in downtown Srinagar's Rainawari locality. His face was suffused with passion as he strode the familiar path after ten years. The benign meat seller, the woman vegetable vendor, the milkwoman: the icons of his childhood memories were intact, a wee bit aged though. Smells familiar--the stink of overflowing drains; kitchen aromas wafting through the ventilators of mud and brick houses. Nothing was changed except the lone three-storeyed house where Virinder, his sister and elder brother had come up in life under the strict upbringing of their teacher parents. It lay in ruins, its charred silhouette baring the ravages wreaked on it. A bomb blast had totally disfigured it.

Virinder, who leads a comfortable though hectic life as an NMC engineer in Mumbai, was visiting Kashmir on the invitation of a relative who still worked in the Valley. His parents had abandoned the house and their prized belongings to escape the violence in 1990. Like all Kashmiri Pandit youngsters, Virinder nurtured deep anger and hurt at his community's plight.

With a heavy heart he looked at his house. A crowd had gathered; hushed silence gripped the bustling street. The open drain in front of the house was clogged at the door, its filthy effluents making a rivulet on the road. Cannibis, *dhatara* and other wild bushes grew in what was once the meticulously kept lawn, a passion with Virinder's professor father. Inside, the walls were intact but the sanitaryware and belongings were all missing. Slogans of 'Azadi' and names of militant organisations were scribbled with chalk on the charred wooden surfaces.

Virinder started climbing the debris-laden staircase, ready to cave in anytime. "Oh", "Ah!" "Take care", "Don't hurt yourself". The cacophony of concerned voices from the crowd broke the silence. Virinder was looking for traces of his father's treasure trove--a library col-

lected over the years. He returned sullen faced and empty handed.

Elderly Muslim neighbours initiated an exchange of pleasantries with the visitors. A middle-aged woman pulled Virinder aside and instructed him to carry her "double salaam" to his mother. Another man, his father's contemporary, shook hands before declaring it was wise to them to have left Kashmir. "What is here to look for, even for us?" Remorse and melancholy were writ large on elderly faces. The youngsters forming the outermost fringes of the crowd were heard justifying the damaging of the house. "Nobody would have touched it had the forces not occupied it".

Virinder was stopped by someone on his return trip. "I heard you are selling the house?" Virinder forced a smile and told the broker his information was incorrect. Still the man was ready to persuade the family to dispose of the house and insisted on knowing their Mumbai address.

Virinder was heart-broken for the next few hours. His parents had worked overtime to see their dream house take shape. His father was respected as an educationist and his mother, in spite of her job, found time to cultivate relations with Muslim neighbours. The children--Muslim and Hindu--played in the dusty ground adjoining a graveyard in the foothills of Hari Parbat fort. Virinder was no rival to anyone in coveted government jobs; like the majority of his community members, he and his brother had made their future outside Kashmir. Why should they have been hounded from their land?

As he said goodbye to his hosts, Virinder almost declared that He would persuade his father and other not to dispose of their properties in Kashmir. "You never know, things could change. Maybe after them twenty years..who knows?" I heard him telling his wife. "Maybe Arunima will come here to live." He held his one-and-half-year old close to his heart and his eyes brightened before he entered the airport.

(Courtesy: INDIAN EXPRESS)

Hackers ravage army website

By Shishir Gupta

NEW DELHI, Oct 15: Unknown computer vandals have hacked and transformed beyond recognition a website that the Indian Army had created to educate international opinion on the proxy war being waged by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

In place of the Indian Army's version, what the website now has is typical Pakistani disinformation on the happenings in the troubled Valley. That such an incident should have occurred on the eve of the Foreign Secretary-level talks in Islamabad--where both sides

would have an equal opportunity to state their position on Kashmir--has left Defence Ministry establishment here aghast.

Designed by the Psychological Operations wing of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps, the website can be accessed on "www.armyinkashmir.com". The data downloaded from it by *The Hindustan Times* today comprised familiar photographs, exaggerated figures of civilian casualties allegedly at the hands of Indian troops, cartographic jugglery and slogans popularised by the Pakistani spin doctors.

In the on-going war of words

with Pakistan, the Indian Army psychologists had felt the need to counter Islamabad's campaign on calumny through a well-documented website presenting New Delhi's version of the scenario in Kashmir. The inauguration of the computer facility was announced to the Indian media by Lt Col MK Bawa on behalf of the Army leadership.

The Army's initiative was not in a vacuum. The effort aimed essentially at negating the Pak propaganda machine that had virtually glutted the information highway with all kinds of ver-

sions and gory details of alleged blood-letting and mayhem in the Valley. In view of the increasing international focus on Kashmir, neither the Army nor the political leadership in India could have allowed Islamabad's wild claims go uncontested.

"Today the time has come for the media to join in the battle against the proxy war and fight shoulder-to-shoulder with the soldiers by using their pens", exhorted Col Bawa in a letter addressed to prominent Indian newspapers. He said the website has been created to make the security operations transparent

and to give to the world the latest on the happenings in Kashmir.

Ironically, the surreptitiously captured website now warns the users against setting foot in Kashmir where, according to the downloaded data, thousands have been killed, wounded, raped, disabled and burnt alive.

The war obviously is not confined to cartography. It is clear psychological warfare with the creators of the site also "saluting the mothers who are sacrificing their sons for freedom of Kashmir from India".

(Courtesy: HINDUSTAN TIMES)

Kashmiri Pandit

Late Kashyap Bandhu was not only a foremost reformer and a pioneer Journalist, he was also a great humourist-satirist. In 1940 in his weekly 'Desh' he drew caricatures of such collective personalities Kashmiri Pandits, Kashmiri Peasants, Kashmiri Traders, Kashmiri Leaders, Kashmir Gost, Kashmiri editors etc. while drawing these 'QALMI CHEHRE', Bandhuji said, our approach is corrective and reformatory and not critical or sadistic." We are thankful to Mr Shambo Nath Gurkha, the veteran journalist who worked in 'Desh' with Bandhu ji, for providing us these old writings and Dr KN Pandita for translating these from Urdu to English.

By Kashyap Bandhu

If Kashmir is a Junk house, Pandit is the master-piece of its show-room. He is more ancient than its archeological antiques. Gradually he is becoming the archeological remain of this country. Longevity of age suggests that his physical evolution has come to a standstill. His limbs and body are shrinking day by day.

Many physicians and faithhealers have made prescriptions for his metamorphosis. He did make use of some of these prescriptions. But his prescription for metamorphosis could not become as effective as that of Madan Mohan Malviya. These days also one prescription for metamorphosis is under use with him.

Mental State

This much briefly about his physical state. As regards his mental state, his horizons are wide and plain. He has never fixed any religious hurdle in this. Therefore anybody can traverse it without any hindrance. In his

mental horizons, from one way marches Mahatma Gandhi with his goat and from the other way marches staling with his red legions. Alongside this you will find Hitler holding the hand of Mussolini, and also Roosevelt and Churchill strolling. The Bhikshus of Buddha and their Viharas are also found along these path ways alongwith the Churches of Jesus, the hospices of prophet Mohammed and also the temples of Lord Krishna.

This segment of Kashmiri Pandit is very fertile but only clerically. Turnips are grown on it as yet which nobody in the market is prepared to buy for a pence even. But time is not far away when Kashmiri Pandit will grow cash crop in his fertile Valley with the help of new implements and tools.

About his heart

Comparing the expanse of his brain with his heart, we find a different picture. The latter is nothing more than a narrow lane. At one end of his narrow lane sits Mano Maharaj and on the other end the clerical men-

tality with a broken pen in its hand. In this age of motor vehicles and railways the need is to widen the lane of the heart, but owing to non-availability of experienced engineers this project cannot be put into action.

Political and Religious state

After examining his physical, mental and spiritual state, let us examine his political and religious status. His mental expanse has elevated his politics high so that the narrowness of his heart does not overpower his politics. If there were no religious percentages in India, if there were no question of religious minority and majority and with that the resurrection of Kashmir with minority-majority syndrome had not come up, he would not think in terms of being in a minority in this country and has begun to think of practical politics in the context of majority of this country. Therefore his present political development begins with government biscuits and ends c minority mixture. But this is only the

passing phase of his politics. He has a special place in the political landscape of this country which no other person in this country can fill.

As regards his faith, he is a victim of external and internal conflict. He wants to give up his conservation but cannot. He is free by birth from mental superfluousities, but at the same time is their prisoner also. His religious and social life is dominated by his better-half, but in terms of mental and spiritual framework, she is widely different from her husband. In order to stay put his household management, the poor fellow has surrendered his brain to his wife who sometimes gives his skull a strong jolt. This puts him on the horns of a dilemma. Sometimes, therefore, his so-called life is a bit insipid. Some of his hobbies are interesting. He is a fan of *roganjosh* which he consumes during the day and to counter it reads Kalyan at night. On beholding the suffering of beasts and insects, the Brahmin in him is moved. Rice may be

very costly, he will carry two or three hundred grams with him while visiting HariParbat in the morning to throw it to ants and insects. He is moved by the suffering of insects, but not by the privations of a widowed daughter or daughter-in-law in his house. He has been interested in the moving stars and heavenly bodies. He listens raptly to their influence on him and his future with as much curiosity as those waiting for *Derby* horse race lottery. He strongly believes in the impact of stars. He holds on to conventions and his daughters marriage eats up his earning in full. It has impact on his Brahmanism which gives him immense pleasure.

In short, he is an interesting being in the garden of Kashmir. The garden has no lustre without him. In his long life he has been many cataclysms which he braved and emerged more reinforced. After storms we heard him sing.

There are many more ages to come. Be not proud, you my annihilator.

Shiava thought and Sufisim

By Prof. M.L. Koul

The Shaiva thought of Kashmir as an amalgam of philosophical analysis and emotional response is typically Indian in its content and motivations. The Shaiva system of thought and the mystical perceptions emanating from it are at variance with the Islamic standpoint. Islam rejects the very idea of a finite being uniting with and absorbing in a transcendent God. Through the concept of Jesus Christ as an incarnation of God, Christianity (as a semitic religion) opened new vistas for mystical developments to sprout and take roots.

However, there were sufis who harboured a view point, which was deeply Indian in terms of thought and emotional response. They owed their origins to the vedantic, Buddhistic and neo-platonic seed-ideas that were sown and scattered in Persia and other central Asian regions by various institutions and their propounders living there. The sufis who echoed the dicta of the Upanishadic idealism like 'I am God' and 'Thou art that' had to face persecution and death.

The advent of Sufis into Kashmir in the wake of Muslim hegemony did not pave way for fusion of cultures. Instead it led to confrontation with local cul-

ture which was extremely tolerant and catholic in nature. Donning the robes of Sufis, these intolerant proselytisers were literally baffled when they came face to face with the cultural and civilisational depth of Kashmir. They had no such intellectual and aesthetic attainments as would enable them to comprehend the depths of multifarious religions, apparently diverse and varied, yet strung together through an inner bond of unity. They tried to wipe the slate clean but the slate refused to be wiped out and the writing remained.

The mystical concepts that had evolved in the region of central Asia as an off-shoot of Vedantic and Buddhistic influences did not bring moderation among sufis as far as their responses to religious adversaries and their cultural and civilizational symbols were concerned. They remained zealous in their concepts of *Kufra* and conversions of populations to their creed and precept. That all religions are equal and lead to the same destination of ascension and absorption in the infinite reality supposed to be a supervening sufi concept, never shaped them as harbingers of tolerance, harmony and broad-mindedness. The sufis never attempted to strike a lasting bond of human relationship with men

of other faiths with a view to strengthening the humanistic foundations of societal structures for a cohesive and meaningful life-patterns. Sufis never made any attempt to grasp the subtleties of Hindu world-view

The mystical concepts that had evolved in the region of central Asia as an off-shoot of Vedantic and Buddhistic influences did not bring moderation among sufis as far as their responses to religious adversaries and their cultural and civilizational symbols were concerned. They remained zealous in their concepts of Kufra and conversions of populations to their creed and precept.

and the mystical tendencies/yearnings emanating from it. Not a single sufi scholar has written a book on Hinduisim even from a critical point of view.

The pseudo scholarship of Mohibul Hasan, GMC Sufi,

PNK Bamzai, PN Bazaz etc unjustifiably equates Kashmir philosophy of Monism with Sufism, without diving deep into thought content with their impact on social and political milieu of the times. They in sheer ignorance fail to appreciate that monist Shaivism is a comprehensive philosophy with its theories on ontology, knowledge, axiology and aesthetics. In Sufism some religious codes are replaced by practices and disciplines, guided by pantheistic notions of indic origins. Sufis of India were not quietists, ascetics and pacifists. They strutted about the corridors of power and pelf, held political assignments and dabbled in politics. These worldly activities are cumulatively repugnant to a love-affair with God.

The role of leading Kashmir Sufis in forcible proselytisation harsh treatment of non-Muslim minorities and promotion of Islamisation, stands well-documented in the standard chronicles of that period e.g. Baharistan-i-Shahi, Tohfatul Ahabab, Zakhirat-ul-Muluk, Tarikh Hassan etc.

Intriguingly, the role of Lalla (Laleshwari) as a historical personage with broader commitments to the spirit of Indianess has gone unnoticed at the hands of scholars like Bamzai and Bazaz. She held aloft the ban-

ner of humanism, tolerance and catholicity at a time, when Kashmir was gripped by extreme religious intolerance due to the activities of central Asian Sayids. Lalla as a real pacifist-spiritualist provided solace to both the discomfited Hindus and the neo-converts traumatised by cultural conquest. In this painful situation of identity crisis, she riveted the attention of all when she reprimanded the proselytisers 'not to differentiate between a Hindu and a Muslim and if they are imbued with a grain of wisdom, they should recognise their original Shiva nature'.

Sir Richard Temple, Grierson, DD Kosambi, Bamzai and Bazaz have tried in vain to trace Sufist Islamist influences in Lalla's Shaiva thought and mystical musings. In total violation of historical method, they in order to buttress their pre-oriented thesis have given credence to concocted legends regarding Lalla. These speak of Mir Ali Hamdani having a dialogue with Lalla, where Lalla had to do all the learning and Mir Ali had no need to know about Hinduisim.

It is high time the scholars call a halt to the process of trivializing truth and get into the business of looking into details and distinguish the grain from the husk.

BRIEFS**Kashmir
Chalo-Laden***KS Correspondents*

At a time when mercenaries are ruling roost in the state and reportedly are controlling the militant operations in J&K state, Osama Bin Laden, Arab national and terror militant, has reportedly directed militants to gather in Kashmir for decisive operation.

Laden is already operating in J&K State through Harkatul-Ansar, and is even reported to have visited India some time back to coordinate militant activities.

**KP's police
posts attacked***KS Correspondents*

Since Farooq Abdullah began to talk of return of KPs to the Valley, the militants started to terrorise the left behind KPs in Valley. In a fortnight, they attacked 6 police posts, established for protection of minority community after Wandhama massacre, in Pulwama district to send warning signals to the government.

Meanwhile, militants burnt down 4 houses of KP migrants at Khulchour (Ranipora) and Bijbehara in Anantnag district.

**Rajju Bhaiya
visits Jammu***KS Correspondents*

JAMMU: Professor Rajender Singh alias Rajju Bhaiya, the chief of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, visited Jammu and addressed a rally of Swayam Sevaks at Parade Ground on 4th October to mark end of Vijay Dashmi celebrations.

He said that though central government has initiated steps to crush militancy in J&K, however, it will take time as large number of mercenaries including Afghanees and Sudanese are operating in the state.

He expressed his concern over the plight of Kashmiri Pandit migrants and in contrast to Farooq-Advani policy said that Pandits shall be taken back to their homes in Valley only after normalcy.

**Stolen idols
recovered***KS Correspondents*

ANANTNAG: Anantnag police recovered several stolen antiques from an art craft dealer at Boulevard Srinagar. The recoveries include an ancient black stone "Shiva Lingam", a marble idol of "Lord Shiva" and a Kusha Period stone plaque.

It may be recalled that during a decade long militancy, most of the temples in Valley have been vandalised, damaged and torched by militants and fundamentalists besides stealing the peerless idols and other costly items from these temples and shrines.

Unabated Terrorism--From 16 Sept. to 15 Oct.

October 1: In a major success troops eliminated 5 militants in the encounters in Rajouri district as 4 militants were killed in Kashmir valley. Militants shot dead a youth in Doda district while a body of a civilian was recovered from Beerwah. Meanwhile an ASI of SOG was hurt and a BSF vehicle damaged in an IED explosion triggered by militants in Baramulla district.

October 2: Special operation group of J&K Police eliminated two foreign militants in Poonch district while as a civilian was shot at by militants at Karfali Mohalla Srinagar.

October 3: Security forces achieved today a major success when they eliminated 9 militants in Poonch district while as militants gunned down one civilian each in Udhampur and Rajouri districts. Meanwhile, Pakistani rangers continued firing in border areas and a youth was killed in Hiranagar sector.

October 4: In a daring act, militants launched a heavy attack fired rockets and used heavy arms including UMG from all the corners on police station Surankote. The police personnel also retaliated and in heavy exchange of fire though there was no casualty on either side, however, station building was heavily damaged while a rocket hit tehsil office and damaged it in fire. Meanwhile, in other militancy related incidents 12 people--9 militants, 5 civilians, a BSF jawan and Jammu Kashmir police constable were killed in the state.

October 5: Special Task Force (STF) of J&K Police gunned down a regular Pak army officer in Arnas area of Udhampur district. It is first incident when a regular Pak army personnel was killed in interior of the state in a decade long militancy. Militants hit again in Srinagar city and gunned down a PSO attached with BJP activists. A civilian was killed in cross-firing in Bandipore while as 3 BSF jawans and 2 civilians were injured in a grenade attack in Valley. Militants again attacked a police post in Nadigam Shopian established for protection of minorities (KPs).

October 6: In a major anti-militancy drive, forces eliminated 14 dreaded militants in twin districts of Rajouri-Poonch. Militants also hit back in Valley and blew up a prominent counter insurgent, Nabjan's car in Tral area killing him and his other 11 relations and acquaintances. This act sent shock waves in pro-India cadres in the Valley. Militants also shot dead two brothers in Doda district.

October 7: Militants struck back in a big way in Poonch and killed 5 civilians and kidnapped two others in different operations. In the Valley militants killed 3 civilians including a NC block president in Sopore area while 1 militant was also killed.

October 8: While security forces achieved a major success when they eliminated 7 foreign militants in different encounters in Kupwara district, militants struck at least at 6 places in Srinagar city killed a cop while 22 civilians and 7 security personnel were injured in grenade and IED attacks. One IED blast occurred in close vicinity of secretariat damaging its wall and shattering window panes.

Meanwhile, 2 persons were injured in a grenade attack in Rajouri and a female doctor was shot at by militants in sub-district hospital Banihal.

October 9: Militants again exhibited their presence in Srinagar city when they shot dead a JKP constable and injured other in J&K Bank Branch Raminawari, lobbed a hand grenade on BSF pocket, while two foreign militants were killed in Bemina Srinagar. In other incidents in Valley one militant was killed while a surrendered militant was eliminated by militants.

October 10: In the Doda district, militants in the guise of Army men attacked two villages Sihote and Thath and looted 24 rifles from VDC members. The VDC members could not retaliate as militants had kept the villagers hostage at gun point.

Meanwhile, security forces eliminated Hizbul-Mujahideen "Platoon commander" in Bandipore (Kashmir).

October 11: Militants killed a civilian in Doda district while 4 militants believed to be residents of Pok were killed by troops in Valley. BSF foiled an infiltration attempt in Pargwal sector where they killed an intruder while others manage to escape back in injured conditions.

October 12: Militants served a severe blow to anti-militancy operations when they killed 9 Army men and injured 6 others in Doda district. Two militants were also killed 9 in the valley militants killed a forest guard, a surrendered militant and injured SI (JKP) at his home. There were 4 IED & grenade blasts in Valley. Meanwhile, a civilian who was injured in firing across border in Poonch succumbed to his injuries.

October 13: Four Pak militants and a civilian were killed in Valley while as two intruders were killed and any Army commandant served bid on life in Poonch district. Security forces recovered 18 rifles snatched from VDC members in Doda district. Militants yet again fired on police pickets established for minority protection at Muran and Pinglora in Pulwama district.

October 14: The security forces suffered heavy losses when militants gunned down a SI (JKP), 2 SPOs and two Army jawans while 23 cops were injured in different encounters in Surankote (Poonch). Militants again launched a heavy attack on Police residential quarters at Poonch. In valley, 3 civilians and 3 militants were killed in militancy related incidents. Meanwhile, a woman was killed in Pak firing in Akhnoor sector.

October 15: Militants killed an army lieutenant and his helper in Pulwama district while as 2 civilian and a militant were killed in other militancy related incidents.

Meanwhile, a VDC member was killed when militants attacked them at Sungli village in Baderwah. Minority community observed a Hartal and held demonstration in Baderwah demand-

ing arming VDC's with sophisticated weapons to counter militant attacks.

16 September: Troops killed 4 militants-2 in Rajouri, 1 in Pargwal (Jammu) and 1 in Valley, while militants killed eight civilians and a VDC member in the state. The dead include 5 family members of Ayub Gadssoo, a BSF source, who were killed by pro-Pak militants in their home village at Dagpora (Ganderbal) in Srinagar district.

17 September: The security personnel killed two militants in Poonch and Rajouri while militants killed a civilian in Baderwah. In militancy related incidents, 4 civilians were killed in the Valley. The dead include a Numberdar and a student.

18 September: Army killed Abid Hussain of Harkatul-Ansar and described him as the kingpin of Champnari and Thathri massacres. It may be recalled that few day earlier STF Doda arrested Sirajudin and claimed him to be the main accused of Champnari massacre.

Militants attacked police picket in Lehosot (Baderwah) and STF pickets at Duligam (Banihal) and Mughal Maidan Kishtwar. In Jammu city police arrested 2 KZF militants and recovered 20 bombs from Jeevan Nagar. Meanwhile, Valley observed a near total bandh on Hurriyat call against, as they claimed, state terrorism sponsored.

19 September: SOG party killed an top wanted militant Abdul Qayoom of Hizbul Mujahideen in an encounter in the house of a NC leader in Mangam in Baramullah district. The militants reportedly used to stay at NC activist house. Meanwhile, a counter insurgent was killed militants in the Valley while a woman was killed in crossfiring in Poonch district.

20 September: In militancy related incidents 5 civilians were killed in Valley while a BSF jawan was killed in Pak firing in Akhnoor sector. Security forces averted major tragedies by detecting and defusing IED's at Saini (Poonch) and Dharamkund. In a daring attack, militants kidnapped seven JKP personnel from a police post in Diver (Tral) who were there for protection of minority community. Later 5 of the kidnapped persons were released after relieving them of their weapons.

21 September: In militancy related incidents, 3 civilians-2 in Valley and 1 in Darhal (Rajouri) were killed. The dead include brother of separatist Hurriyat leader Abdul Haliq Haneef. While remaining 2 police personnel kidnapped yesterday were released unharmed, militants attacked another police post established for protection of minorities at Achan (Pulwama).

22 September: Security forces gunned down 6 foreign militants in two different encounters in Kupwara district while dead body of a J&K Police constable was recovered from Shangus (Anantnag). Meanwhile, militants shot at a foreign tourist from France and lobbed a hand grenade on a security picket injuring 3 BSF personnel in Srinagar city.

23 September: The security forces gunned down a Hizbul Mujahideen militant in a fierce encounter in Batpora (Pahalgam) while a Jamaat-e-Islami activist was gunned down by gunmen in Kulgam area.

Meanwhile, militants yet again attacked a police post setup for protection of minorities at Hariparigam (Pulwama).

24 September: In a major success security forces eliminated 12 militants-6 in Valley, 4 in Doda and 2 in Surankote (Poonch). The dead include a Pakistan National, Wasim Akram who was working as Northern India Chief of Lashkar-e-Toiba. Meanwhile, 2 civilian were killed in the state in different militancy related incidents.

25 September: Pak militants struck again in a big way and mowed down 3 civilians in Poonch district and 1 in Uri (Baramulla). A sub-inspector and a jawan of BSF were killed in a IED blast at Pattan. Meanwhile, Principal Higher Secondary school Thana Mandi (Rajouri) was seriously injured in a murderous assault on him by anti-national elements in league with some staff member. The Principal was attacked as has had hoisted Indian flag on Independence Day inspite of reported opposition from a couple of teachers.

26 September: BSF gunned down 5 intruders suspected to be Pak nationals on inter-national border in Ramgarh sector. Militants gunned down a civilian in Pattan while as 2 BSF jawans and 4 civilians were injured in a grenade attack at Exhibition Crossing in Srinagar. Meanwhile, an Army jawan was killed and 3 others injured in a 'pressure cooker' blast in Poonch district.

27 September: In their intensified activities, militants gunned down NC Block President at Harwan (Srinagar) while as a teenaged girl was killed in a rocket attack at Nagam (Handwara) and a 10 year old boy was killed in a grenade attack at Ompora (Budgam). Meanwhile, troops killed a militant in Rajouri district while as a suspected smuggler was killed in Arnia near border.

28 September: The security forces eliminated an intruder, suspected to be Pak national, in Poonch sector and foiled an attempt of infiltration of militants while as 3 militants including a women were arrested in Rajouri district. Pakistani rangers continued their shelling security positions and civilian population in Jammu sector.

29 September: The BSF gunned down 9 intruders believed to be Pak nationals in Ramgarh sector and recovered large quantity of explosive material from them while as militants gunned down 5 people including a jawan in different incidents in Valley.

30 September: While security forces eliminated 8 militants - 4 in Valley and 4 in Banihal (Doda), militants shot dead a VDC member and injured his wife and sister-in-law in Mahore looted cash and other goods and set ablaze his house. Security forces claimed to have arrested 21 exfiltrators and 13 militants surrender in Valley. Meanwhile, Pakistani rangers continued firing on IB and LoC.

Parallel judiciary?

Young girl commits suicide

KS Correspondents

State times, a local English daily carried a news story on September 26th about the suicide of a young girl Mahru Nissa at Chogal village in Kupwara district as she could not bear the humiliation by villager elders.

Rajab, a militant sympathiser and resident of same village, charged that the girl had a love affair with someone and subsequently a *jalsa* of village elders was called and "five member jury", influenced by militants, pressurized her to admit the affair and name the paramour. The girl denied the false charge but village elders ordered to tie her to a tree and even attempts were made by youth to strip her in full public view. The girl could not bear the humiliation and subsequently ended her life. The parents of the girl said that the mili-

tants had an eye on her which she refused and they made a plan to take revenge. Even one member of jury admitted to the reporter that he was threatened by the militants to do so otherwise he will be killed. Ironically, police had not registered the case.

The incident is not unique in nature. It is reported that "militant influenced parallel judiciary" is running in Valley since outset of militancy in 1989. The judges are named as "Amir Zila", "Amir Halqa" etc and they even pronounce the judgement of death which are being carried by militants. In recent past, Mr LK Advani, home minister Indian Union, told parliament that there was no information of parallel administration or "collection of tax", in any part of India including J&K. But, recently in J&K assembly Mohd Shafi Bhat, NC member, interrupted his finance minister on question of sales tax and informed the house that shopkeepers have paid their "sales tax" even with "fine" to some sources other than government. The statement was crystal clear about collection of tax by militants. Will government rise to occasion and relieve civilians of this agony or feign ignorance is to be seen.

Inquilabi showers praises on Farooq

KS Correspondents

SRINAGAR, Oct 7: Mohd Azam Inquilabi the premier separatist leader and godfather of gun culture, showering praises on Farooq Abdullah, chief minister J&K, in a press conference said that he (Mr Farooq) was concerned for safety of all people including separatist leaders. He said that negotiations was better course and lambasted Hurriyat Conference for its negative role and charged Pakistan for forcing her will on Kashmiris. He said that Hurriyat has lost its credibility as its members are now appointed in Washington and New York. It may be recalled that when Azam Inquilabi was first arrested in 80's, he was released on instance of Farooq Abdullah. Again when he was arrested by police describing him "publicity chief" of dreaded militant outfit "Harkat-ul-Ansar" he, as admitted by Inquilabi, was released on instructions of Mr Farooq Abdullah.

Chaos in entrance test

KS Correspondents

The common entrance test for admission to MBBS, Engineering and other courses was held amidst chaos and confusion. First, there was total confusion while issuing Roll No slips that resulted in public inconvenience. Due to incompetence of the competent authorities, people had to demonstrate and subsequently police lathicharged them resulting injuries to many candidates.

Total chaos and confusion

was witnessed during the conduct of the test. The test started at 9:00 AM (scheduled time) 9:30 AM and 10:00 AM at three different centres in Jammu city. Even three-three candidates appeared under single Roll Number. Womens College Gandhinagar was the most effected where people blocked highway for some hours, parents and students alleged that chaos was deliberately created by authorities to help some candidates of higher officials and legislatures and to the disadvantage of other candidates.

Two years of NC misrule

(cont. from Page 7)

Srinagar he reversed his stance and also took the reins of NC chairmanship into his hands. Three of his Mirpuri supporters for independence, who had come to Kashmir along with him, went back to UK humiliated and crestfallen. These Mirpuris and their clans have been instrumental in fomenting insurgency in Kashmir. But when he was ousted in 1984 and replaced by his brother-in-law, GM Shah, he spat venom against India and brought back to his mind the idea of fomenting armed insurgency with support from across the border.

Dr Farooq has the absolute majority in the Legislative Assembly. This arms him with extraordinary power and strength. But the question is whether he has used this power and public backing for any meaningful and constructive work? There are many doubts. According to knowledgeable sources, he and his lieutenants, especially among the younger cadres, are reported to be in liaison with pro-active militant leadership in the Valley. He is playing one against the other. Towards the Jamaat-e-Islami, he is undoubtedly soft-peddling because he has neither imposed any restrictions on their extremist activities

nor ordered the closure of their madrasas (seminaries) which are reported to be the breeding ground of fundamentalist ideology. He has not galvanised the NC cadres into fortification of secular and nationalist opinion in the state. The tantrums of "giving life and blood for India" becomes a hollow slogan when we consider his failures to contain the pro-radicalism in Kashmir. His another failure is that of effectively controlling the bureaucracy which has become very powerful having its own way. Even within the NC cadres, there are seniors opposed to many of his policies. Some are opposed to NC-BJP alliance. Senior members in the NC hierarchy did not like him inducting his son Omar Farooq straightaway into the organisation. He had even tried to get him a ministerial post in the Centre but that did not somehow click.

The general impression among the Kashmiris is that Dr Farooq Abdullah behaves like a circus joker bereft of essential ideology and principles of political philosophy. He can shake hands with the Satan if he finds it of any use to him. Real politics gets terribly distorted and mutilated when totally and absolutely divorced from ethics. Dr Farooq asks for ever increas-

ing funds from New Delhi but he never speaks a word about accountability and about raising of states resources. He has not been able to check corruption, nepotism and sycophancy. Out of thirty thousand jobs filled by his government, the reports are that more than 70 per cent have gone to the Jamaat-e-Islami sympathisers. Power situation in the State is as chaotic as it was ten years ago. Tourism is not taking off. Electricity pilferage has increased manifold. Bureaucratic sluggishness and lethargy are at their peak. But the CM is raising battalion after battalion of police force with dubious elements. His popularity rating in the public has come down and nobody today is prepared to accept that he is the one who can deliver Kashmiris from their present plight. He occasionally exudes threats and blackmail to coerce New Delhi into some sanctioning more and more funds and this is a situation of his creation. Alternatives and options are closed and the begging bowl is slung from the neck. At the same time, he is indulging in handing out threats to Pakistan, more so after Pokhran II prompting the BJP government to hot pursuit. The question with NC-BJP alliance is who takes whom to the gallows?

Farooq tames Advani

(cont. from Page 7)

lot. Camps continue to be in utter degrading state. It is conceded that the union government has little choice but to placate Dr Abdullah, notwithstanding his dubious and dangerous past, for the sorely needed three wretched votes of National Conference. But all this and more cannot be at the expense of the Pandit Community. It needs be reiterated that once the community is forced back into the Valley with terrorism still in ascendancy, though attempts are concertedly made to camouflage the reality, it will face an unprecedented onslaught from the well entrenched hostile forces that are ruling the roost in Kashmir.

In case it is really normal or near normal, why is high profile security provided to a whole host of politicians and officials? To prove the doubting Thomases wrong, let the Home Minister and the State Chief Minister walk about the lanes and by-lanes of the down town in Srinagar without security and see for themselves how normal it is. Perhaps they may not be with us to describe how peaceful and normal it was for them.

As is well known, the Kashmiri Pandits are the prime targets of terrorists. It will be ostrich-like to ignore the consistent killing spree of pro-India elements in the Valley and there are credible reports that old model 'liberation zones' have again mushroomed in areas that were sanitised by the security forces. Despatch of Pandits

at such a critical juncture would be a God-sent opportunity for the terrorists to unleash an unprecedented avalanche of murder and mayhem which even the security forces might not be able to cope up, thus exploding the myth of 'normalcy' and 'near normalcy' syndrome created and fancied to checkmate and off set the inimical forces working at international level. The recent remarks of General Malik are of far greater significance as they point to the hostile ambience surrounding the army formations deployed to stem the tide of insurgency.

The conspiracy which facilitated the onset of terrorism in the state needs to be unveiled by a high level probe by a serving Supreme Court Judge.

There are reports, not rumours, that the writ of the state government does not run beyond the headquarter premises in Srinagar and that there are Afghan terrorists living in the families in down town localities of Srinagar. It is really difficult to tell them from the natives who extend them all munificence and protection. Perhaps the official agencies are not unaware of this development and are at pains to provide them a safe cover.

The plea that the state cannot continue to provide succour and salary to the displaced employees and other human animals living in slums and hovels is a ruse to force their return for final decimation. Shri Advani and others in the Home Ministry could ask the

Chief Minister or to themselves whether or not it was a sheer failure of the state to provide the requisite protection of life and property to the unfortunate victims of terrorism. And if it is considered a failure of the state, it is under an obligation to provide succour to them and also to compensate them adequately for the enormous losses of their properties and consequent trauma that they have undergone.

The state government cannot wriggle out of the responsibility to meet the expenditure on the displaced persons and it is amply known that it does not have its own resources and has to beg for central grants. The Central government should prove its firmness by ear-marking the salary and relief of displaced people from out of the grants to the state as 'committed expenditure' not to be tampered with.

Aware of its own treachery to a segment of parotitic population of the state, it does not behove the government to envy the hard and honest toil of Kashmiri Pandit refugees for their own rehabilitation even though temporary at places where they are forced to eke out an existence. Atleast they have not mortgaged their souls to foreign enemies for destruction of their motherland.

Hail Advani, the Sardar Patel of India, sans the acumen to distinguish the real from the unreal. Let Advani stand up to the disguised communalism being unleashed by the National Conference and call a halt to the process of total islamization of Kashmir.

INTERVIEW

Stage-managed Pandit Visits**'I could not recognise my House'**

For several months, the state government, in the name of a 'social dialogue' has been taking groups of displaced Pandits to Kashmir valley. As per reports more than a dozen such delegations have visited the valley so far. Our interaction with the members of these delegations have revealed some interesting features of this entire process of the so called 'social dialogue'.

Invariably, all these delegations comprised of hand-picked persons chosen by the minority cell of National Conference under the supervision of the nominated NC member of the legislative council Sh B.L. Bhat. No functional and representative organisation of exiled Pandits has been invited so far to visit the valley and make the assessment of the situation there. In order to accord legitimacy to such delegations a few paper organisations have been floated in recent times headed by close confidants of the NC minority cell. Most of the displaced Pandits who chose to participate in such visits openly and on record confirmed that they participated in these ventures only to assess the condition of their properties, lodge proper FIR's or pursue their insurance claims. A large number of participants in such delegations also confirmed that they utilised the opportunity to explore possibilities of selling off their property.

However, with the exception of a few self-proclaimed representatives of displaced Pandits, almost all the participants in such delegations have refused to certify the NC claims of normalcy in the Valley and have invariably refused to address press conferences at the end of such visits.

We reproduce here the excerpts of an interview with Sh Moti Lal, the member of one such delegations that visited Kashmir recently.

--Editor

Q: What was your motive to visit Valley?

A: There were reports that after our migration from Valley, our houses were destroyed by unscrupulous elements and militants. We approached state administration several times in this regard but no response from them. Even they did not register our FIR's. This time we wanted to see ourselves and lodge reports about the loss in Valley itself.

Q: But government says these visits are organised to facilitate dialogue with majority community members and subsequently facilitate return of KPs. Was not it your motive?

A: I have already mentioned about our main motive and we seized this opportunity. However, it also provided us opportunity to assess the situation and test the truth of government claims.

Q: How your visit was organised?

A: Mr Bushan Lal of our village is a NC worker. He visited Valley last year also. He organised and arranged this tour after applying to Relief Commissioner. A Swaraj Mazda matador and a security of two personnel was arranged for us from Jammu.

Q: How were you received in Valley?

A: We reached late at Srinagar. We straightway went to the residence of Abdul Ahad Wakil, speaker and assembly member of our constituency. Surprisingly, he did not meet us though he was present there. His response was totally against our expectations. Then we telephoned Divisional Commissioner Kashmir. He admitted that they had prior information of our visit. However he expressed his helplessness as the man who had to arrange our stay was not present there. It was how administration greeted us. We were left with no option but to defend ourselves and arrange a hotel near Cinema at Lal Chowk Srinagar.

Q: Did You approach administration then?

A: Yes, Next morning, we met the Forest Minister, Chowdhry Mohd Ramzan, and a prominent National Conference leader, perhaps, Sheikh Nazir and then Division Commissioner. Their response was positive and even they expressed anguish over Mr

Vakils behaviour. The Divisional Commissioner gave us address of the hotel, near Dalgate, where our stay was arranged. We were also paid for the bill of Rs 2300/- that we had incurred on food and stay at the hotel. We also chanced to meet Bhushan Lal Bhat, MLC.

Q: How did he receive you?

A: Disgusting! he has no community feeling. His response was poor. I feel, he parrots voices of his political bosses to keep them in good humour. He is interested in his money, nothing else. He even invited us to attend the press conference which was later addressed by Roop Krishan Raina and Mr Bhat.

Q: Did you attend the press conference?

A: No, we were already disgusted with his behaviour. Also our assessment of security situation did not conform to what they wanted us to say in press conference.

Q: Who paid your bill at Dalgate hotel?

A: All expenses for such visits are borne by State government. Huge sums are being siphoned in name of social dialogue. The hotel owner where we stayed in, said that they charge Rs 65/- per head from government. When we complained of poor quality of food, he said that they have already paid huge bribes to government officials to get these contracts but their bills are not being cleared for months together. How can they provide quality food?

Q: The NC leaders claim that the situation is conducive for return. How do you feel?

A: Their claims are hollow. As I told you we had to arrange our stay for first night. Next morning one of the ministers whom we met expressed surprise over our providential escape as he (minister) said that the hotel we stayed in was mainly used by militants for their stay. We were provided 2 police men from Jammu itself, then our security was reinforced by 12 more security personnel from Baramulla to onward journey to our village. There is already an army establishment and further 2 CRPF buses had been despatched by civil administration in advance to our village. What was need of such heavy security if situation has improved. Moreover, secu-

rity bunkers are seen in every nook and corner.

Q: What did you find at your village?

A: Total destruction. The houses have been vandalised windows, doors, tinroofings, other fixtures removed. Only four walls are standing. Most of our trees have been cut. Fencings of



compounds and agriculture land have been removed. You can well understand the dimensions of destruction that I could not recognise my house. When one of the Muslim neighbours asked me if I was not going to enter my house, I expressed my surprise as where it stood though it was in front of me. Only some houses which are occupied by security forces are safe.

Q: Is there any temple in your village?

A: Yes, there were two temples in our village. Both stand destroyed and vandalised. There is a village Zeenipora, 1/2 km away from our village. There is the shrine of "Dhooni Mayee"; it has also a land allotted to it The temple and Dharmshallas have been torched and damaged. We asked majority community members, who till the land of the shrine, to give share to Mandir Committee. They avoided.

Q: How was response of civil administration?

A: Some officials were very cooperative while others hesitant to help. Even the police station officials avoided to register FIR's of our damaged property, for which we had risked to visit Valley, and even demanded huge bribes. However, it was after intervention of district administration, we succeeded to get our FIRs registered.

Q: What was reaction of administration to provide compensation for damaged property.

A: When we met Divisional

Commissioner in Srinagar, he said that he several times had asked government to provide compensation for damaged (not burnt) property without any response. Even he has lodged complaint for his own damaged property.

Q: The government last year passed 'Property Protection Act' and said that government will take control of migrant property. What steps have been taken by government in this regard?

A: As I said, most of the trees have been cut down. In our village, entire migrant land was uncultivated. Surprisingly, government auctioned the annual walnut fruit of migrants of our village for mere Rs 5000. Government appears to be legalising the unauthorised and illegal fruit sale.

Q: What are your impressions about the willingness of majority community with regard to KP's returns?

A: Who wants our return? During our visit in Srinagar, we visited some Mughal gardens. There was lack lusture. Muslims looked to us with mocking eyes. Even one of the persons called a bad name and said how are these Batta's (KPs') wandering here.

Even when we complained about destruction of our houses, they passed the buck on security forces. When we asked that it were not forces who would have carried even the stones of walls to their houses, they were speechless.

During our stay in Baramulla Dak Bungalow, two-three persons of our neighbouring villages came to meet us. One of them, elder brother of Mr Dilawer Mir, JD MLA, pleaded with us not to misguide our community. Tell them quite frankly that the situation was still explosive. Even one revenue officer at Sopore praised the move of KPs of fleeing the valley to save their honour.

Q: What do you feel about return then?

A: Sensing the mood of majority community, I can say that they have rejected us and our return is second to impossible. Only divine intervention can prove me incorrect.

Q: How do you assess the possibility of Rehabilitation of KP's after this visit?

A: If "Homeland" is impossible, then I would like community brethren to settle in rest of the country outside Jammu, as even Jammu is not safe.

Kashmir Sentinel

Printer Publisher	B.N. KAUL for and on behalf of Panun Kashmir Foundation
Editor	SHAIENDRA AIMA
Printed at	The Kashmir Times Press, Gangyal Jammu
Owned by	PANUN KASHMIR FOUNDATION
Published from	PANUN KASHMIR FOUNDATION 149 - Ram Vihar, Old Janipur, Jammu - 18 0007

PLASTICARIUM

31, INDUSTRIAL AREA, GANGYAL,
JAMMU-180 010 (J&K)
☎ 435766

Manufacturers of:

**Bridge Fixtures, Heat Transfer Units,
Heat Exchangers, Stainless Steel
Equipments
& Components, Textile Dyeing Machines,
Fabric Inspection Table, Hydroelectric
Components & Rubber Products.**