

KASHMIR Sentinel

Let Truth Prevail

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Panun Kashmir Holds National Convention-2007

KS Correspondent

JAMMU, Sep 14: Panun Kashmir held a day long convention at Abhinav Theatre Jammu today. It was attended by over 1200 delegates from all parts of the country and good number of invitees. This convention, coincided with Kashmiri Pandits' Martyrs Day, being held every year to commemorate the beginning of the religious-cleansing. Special guests on the occasion were leaders of Maharashtra Hindu Jan Jagrut Samiti-Dr. Durgesh Samant, Dr. Viren Tawade, Mr. Shri Ram Kale and Ms Sangeeta. Other speakers at the convention were Prof. Hari Om, Former Dean of Faculty of Arts, University of Jammu and Mr. Chander Mohan Sharma, an advocate and President Praja Parishad.

The Convention had three sessions. In the introductory session **Dr. Shashi Shekhar Toshkhani**, a leading scholar on Kashmir History and Culture was felicitated. In his address Dr. Toshkhani recalled with pride the contribution made by Kashmiri Hindus in the past to the religion and culture of Indian sub-continent, Central Asia, China and Tibet etc. Dr. Toshkhani, known for his seminal contribution on Kashmiri language, History, Ritual Arts and practices heaped praises on Panun Kashmir and its leadership for keeping alive the banner of resistance to the forces responsible for unleashing genocide against Kashmiri Hindus. He also recited his heart-rendering poems on exile.

The second session was the political session. In the last session there was a cultural variety programme by members of the community and school children living in Mishriwala and Purkhoo camps. In the morning the traditional **Ganesh Astuti** after the lighting of the lamp was presented by children of Abhay Higher Secondary School, Muthi. **Visnu Prarthana** and **Mata-Lila** was presented by children of Saraswati Niketan



Dr. S.S. Toshkhani being felicitated by Panun Kashmir. Also seen in the picture are (L to R) Dr. Durgesh Samant, Advocate Sh. Chander Mohan Sharma & Prof. Hari Om.

Kendra, Purkhoo. Traditional Kashmiri Leelas were presented by Sh. Pawanji, Sanjay Ji of Mishriwala and Sh. Raman Ji of Durga Nagar. Sh. Omkar Nath Ambardar of Trikuta Nagar presented Leelas which held the audience captive. Poet **Gopi Krishan Bhat** (Bahar) energized the audience through a presen-

Rich Tributes Paid To Martyrs

tation '**Zagtas Havav Bhata Kya Gav**'. Veteran TV and Radio Artist Sh. Pyare Lal Handoo enthralled the audience through his Monologues.

Veteran Poet and Researcher, **Sh. Arjun Dev Majboor**, despite his failing health, reached the venue to recite his celebrated poems.

The resolutions were moved by Sh. Sunil Bhat and passed through a voice vote. The General Secretary Report along with copies of Resolution No: 1 and 2 were distributed among the audience. The sessions were ably compared by **Major (Retd.) Yoginder Kandhari, Sh. Behari Lal** and **Sh. Satish Sher**. At the end of the Convention the vote of thanks was presented by **Sh. Kamal Wangnoo**.

The presentations made by different speakers are as follows: **Dr. Durgesh Samant**, Hindu

Jan Jagrut Samiti was the Guest of Honour. In his address he recalled how his organization and Panun Kashmir joined hands to hold "Saakshatkaar" exhibition at different places in Maharashtra. He declared that there were no two opinions that the two organisations will remain together in future also. He

praised Panun Kashmir leadership and said it was imbued with vision to lead the community's struggle. Dr. Samant recalled an anecdote during '**Saakshatkaar**' saying Panun Kashmir leaders worked first as activists and then leaders.

Dr. Samant said common Hindu in Maharashtra on seeing the photo exhibition on Pandits' genocide exclaimed 'Why this was hidden from us by national leaders and media. Media never told us about such a big genocide'. Dr. Samant said that whatever appears in newspapers was different from ground reality and separatists held the media glare.

Jan Jagrut Samiti leader heaped praises on Dr. Ajay Churangoo and Mr. Kuldeep Raina for projecting religio-cultural identity of the community without feeling apologetic. Dr.

Samant said it was unfortunate that when Hindus talk about their religion and civilization it is dubbed as communalism. He also praised the work done by Panun Kashmir organ, **Kashmir Sentinel**.

Dr. Samant, while referring to Ganesh Vandana programme recalled the significance of Ganesh Chaturthi in Maharashtra. He informed that Lokmanaya Tilak successfully used it to create anti-colonial consciousness and national resurgence among Hindus. Dr. Samant said that it was good that Panun Kashmir felicitated Dr. SS Toshkhani and added that he was overwhelmed by his presentation.

Dr. Samant said that Hindu Dharam was scientific and Indian civilisation owed its existence to Sanatan Dharma. He stressed the need to fight Jehadic terrorism.

(From Page 1)

Dr. Samant said in present day India history with reference to Hindus is being related with an objective to de-emphasise Hindu identity. He attributed it to the fact that Hindus were conquered people where Turks, English and socialists distorted their perspectives and self-image. Dr. Samant said in present day India to tell the truth was a crime and recalled how Maharashtra Muslim Mahasangh was creating

(Contd. on Page 7)

- Panun Kashmir and Kashmir Sentinel condoles the demise of the following members of the community.**
1. Sh. Bushan Lal Raina S/o Late Sh. Sham Lal Raina
R/o Goshbugh District Baramulla Kmr; presently residing at H.No: 465, Sec-2, Vinayak Nagar, Muthi. 22/4/2007

2. Sh. Prem Nath Zutshi R/o Nai Basti Anantnag, Kmr; presently at 785-A opposite New Shakti High School Janipur, Jammu. 22/4/2007

3. Sh. Omkar Nath Tikoo R/o Nazulk Mohalla Anantnag, Kmr; presently residing at H.No: 171, Lane-2 Block-A, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu. 22/4/2007

4. Smt. Lalita Raina (Kissu) W/o Late. Sh. Lok Nath Raina (Kissu) originally resident of Rainawari Sgr, Kmr; presently residing at H.No: 51, Udhewalla Bohri Camp, JRC Home of Handicapped Jammu. 23/4/2007

5. Sh. Lassu Koul S/o Late Sh. Mukund Lal Koul, R/o Rangir, Budgam, Kmr; presently at Sect-1, H.No: 25, Laxmi Nagar Muthi, Jammu. 24/4/2007

6. Pt. Amar Nath Ganjoo S/o Late Sh. Sarwanand Ganjoo originally resident of 116-Narsingh Garh Sgr, Kmr; presently residing at 129-Sector-A Subash Nagar, Jammu. 24/4/2007

7. Sh. Girdhari Lal Koul S/o Late Sh. Shamboo Nath Koul (Khudbali) originally resident of Naisarak Habbakadal Sgr, Kmr; presently residing at H.No: 699, Minal Apptts. Shalimar Garden Ext-II Sahibabad Gaziabad (UP). 24/4/2007

8. Sh. P.K. Matto (IAS) Retd. Chief Secretary HP, resident of Bloed-D Flat No: 801, Sector-7, Plot 6, Satisar Appts Dwarika, New Delhi. 24/4/2007

9. Sh. Girdhari Lal Pandita S/o Late Sh. Balak Ram Pandita formally resident of Zalura Sopore Kmr; presently residing at Rohini Delhi. 25/4/2007

10. Smt. Janki Mall W/o Late Ram Chand Koul, R/o Magam Kmr; presently at Qtr. No: 255, Block-V Phase-IIIrd Purkhu Camp, Jammu. 27/4/2007

11. Master Atul Handoo S/o Vikas Handoo originally resident of Kalwal Mohalla Rainawari Sgr, Kmr; presently residing at B-1, Neel Padam Kunj Vaishali Gaziabad (UP). 27/4/2007

12. Smt. Man Mohini wife of Late Sh. Bal Kishen Revoo originally resident of Gundh Ahalmar Nai Sarak Sgr; presently at H.No: 131, Lane No-1, Ploura Dokh Near Talab (Sharika Asthapan), Jammu. 28/4/2007

13. Smt. Kamalawati Koul W/o of Late Pt. Sarwanand Koul formally of Soibugh Budgam, Kmr; presently at 151, Durga Nagar, Sector-1, Jammu. 28/4/2007

14. Smt. Nancy Bhat W/o Sh. Hirday Nath Bhat originally resident of Tangpura Pulwam, Kmr; presently residing at H.No: MCJ-50, Lane No: 4, Buta Nagar, Paloura, Jammu. 30/4/2007

15. Sh. Keshav Nath Bhat S/o Late Sh. Ram Chand Bhat, R/o Danow Kulgam, Kmr; presently at H.No: 25, Saraswati Vihar Lower Muthi, Jammu. 1/5/2007

16. Smt. Indrawati (Gavre) W/o of Late Sh. Janki Nath Raina of Nahama Distt. Kupwara, Kmr; presently at Qtr. No: 300 Battal Balya Camp Udampur. 1/5/2007

17. Kashi Nath Bhat S/o Late Sh. Krishan Dass Bhat formerly resident of Diver Tral Kmr; presently residing at H.No: 26, Lane No: 1, Naseeb Nagar, Janipur Jammu. 2/5/2007

18. Smt. Krishna Kotru wife of ML Kotru R/o D-81 Opp. Cooperative Public School, Sector-1, East Ext. Trikuta Nagar. 2/5/2007

19. Smt. Durga Devi W/o Late Sh. Zind Lal Dembi, R/o Chanapora Sgr; presently at Lane No: 1, Tomhal Patta Bordhi. 3/5/2007

20. Sh. PN Koul S/o Late Prasad Joo Koul formerly resident of Karafali Mohalla Sgr; presently at Sector-B/1 Laxmipuram Chinore, Jammu. 3/4/2007

21. Smt. Shobhawati W/o Late Sh. Gopi Nath Bhat originally resident of Lower Verinag Bongund Anantnag, Kmr; presently at 29-Pragati Lane Camp, Gole Gujral Jammu. 3/5/2007

22. Smt. Lalita Shori W/o Late Sh. Prathvi Nath Bhat of Karafali Mohalla Taraboni Lane IInd Bridge Sgr; presently residing at H.No: 127, Govind Nagar, RC Road Sector-2, Tallab Tillo Camp. 4/5/2007

23. Smt. Raj Duilari Bhat W/o Sh Mohan Lal Bhat originally resident of 74, Lal Nagar Chanapora Sgr; presently residing at 41-B, Pkt-A, SFS Flat Mayur Vihar-III, New Delhi. 5/5/2007

24. Sh. Kashi Nath Hakeem originally resident of Rainawari Ghat Jogi Lankar Sgr; presently residing at H.No: 237/B, Sector-2 Gangyal Jammu. 5/5/2007

24. Mr. Udit Misri S/o Dr. RM Misri resident of H.No: 14/1, Bawani Nagar, Gole Pulley Talab Tillo, Jammu. 6/5/2007

25. Sh. Ashok Jee Rawal originaly resident of Khrew Kmr; presently residing at H.No: 81, Near BDO Office Kallar Udampur. 7/5/2007.

26. Smt. Sheela Je W/o Sh. Badri Nath Tiku (Miskeen) originally resident of Ganpatyar Sgr; presently residing at 112-B, Gate No: 3 Freedom Fighters Colony Nebsarai Saket New Delhi. 7/5/2007.

27. Smt. Phoola Bhan W/o of Late Sh. ML Bhat formerly resident of Badyar Bala Sgr; presently residing at Sector-3, Pandoka Coloney Jammu. 7/5/2007

28. Sh. Mahadev Bhat of Devar Tral presently residing at H.No: 45, Lane No: 2 Shyam Vihar Gole Pully Talab Tillo, Jammu. 8/5/2007.

29. Sh. Vishnath Dhar S/o Late Sh. Lassa Ram Dhar originally resident of Tullamullah Ganderbal Kmr; presently residing at 10/3 K.B. Nagar, Bantalab Jammu. 10/5/2007.

30. Sh. Janki Nath Pandit S/o Lt. Sudarshan Pandit of Toru Anantnag Kmr; presently at H.No: 213, Opposite Chruch School Udampur. 10/5/2007.

31. Smt. Oma Shori Bhat W/o Late Prem Nath Bhat formerly of Gund Ahalmar Nai Sarak Sgr; presently residing at Vinayak Nagar Baisakhi Colony Sector-III, Muthi Jammu. 10/5/2007.

32. Smt. Somawati W/o Late Dr. NN Pandita of Bagiyas Chattabal Sgr; presently residing at H.No: 13, Lane-4, KB Nagar Bantalab Jammu. 11/5/2007

33. Smt. Tarawati Raina W/o Late Pt. Shvi Jee Rania of 81-Reshi Mohalla Habbakadal Sgr; presently at 1752, Sector-8 Faridabad Haryana. 11/5/2007

34. Sh. Kuldeep Raina S/o Sh. TK Raina resident of Flat No: 6D, Sector-13, Rohini Delhi. 11/5/2007

35. Smt. Prabhawati Kaul W/o of Late Sh. Maheshwar Nath Koul of Chack Vessu Anantnag Kmr; presently residing at Mahesh Niwas H.No: 5, Lane-1 Hari Vihar Kunjwani, Jammu. 12/5/2007.

36. Dr. Shanta Bhan W/o Dr. R.N Bhan originally resident of Habba Kadal Sgr; presently residing at 107, Plot B-6, Sector-4 Rohini New Delhi (12/5/2007)

37. Sh. Janki Nath Bhat S/o Late Sh. Sarwanand Bhat of Gulab Bagh Sgr; presently at H.No: 44/4 Kailash Vihar Barnai Jammu. 12/5/2007

38. Sh. Radha Krishen Bhat S/o Late Sh. Shiv Ji Bhat formerly of Chakura Pulwama Kmr; presently residing at 3/109 Indira Vihar Janipur Jammu. 13/5/2007

39. Sh. Jawahar Lal Bhat (Bulbul Nagami) originally resident of Chadoora Nagar Kmr; presently residing at H.No: 207-A, Sector-2, Gangyal Garden. 13/5/2007

40. Pt. Radha Krishen Raina S/o Sh. Shiv Je Raina, R/o Pinglish Tral Kmr; presently at H.No: 147-A, Jawahar Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu. 13/5/2007

41. Sh. Pushkar Nath Koul S/o Late Sh. Nand Lal Koul of Kanni Mohalla Rainawari Sgr; presently residing at 5820-A, Sector-38 (W) Chandigarh. 13/5/2007

42. Smt. Roopawati Raina of Agahamam Habbakadal Sgr; presently at 376-A, Shakti Khaud-1st, Indra Puram Gaziabad (UP). 13/5/2007

43. Sh. Badri Narian Seli S/o Sh. Reshishur Nath Seli, R/o Ram Bagh Sgr; presently residing at 74-B, Block-5 Dawalgiri Appts. Sector 34, Noida. 13/5/2007.

44. Sh. Kashi Nath Koul S/o Sh. Laxman Joo Koul of Khah Bazar Anantnag Kmr; presently residing at H.No: 55, Lane-4, Near Mini Market Greater Kailash Jammu. 15/5/2007

45. Sh. Zanardhan Pandita R/o Khonmoh Kmr; presently residing at Tommal Anand Nagar Saraswati Vihar Ext. Jammu. 15/5/2007

46. Sh. Triloki Nath Koul S/o Late Sh. Gwash Lal Koul of Chandapora Habbakadal Sgr; presently residing at H.No: 20, Lane No: 1, Basant Nagar, Janipur. 15/5/2007

47. Sh. Brij Lal Bhat S/o Late Sh. Nand Lal Bhat originally resident of Raghunath Mandir Sgr; presently residing at B-2/440 Yamuna Vihar Delhi. 16/5/2007

48. Smt. Soomawati Talash W/o Sh. Radha Krishen Talashi R/o Village Sallar Anantnag/Shali Ten Sgr; presently residing at H.No: 153, Lane No: 14, Laxmi Nagar, Muthi Jammu. 17/5/2007

49. Smt. Ratna Kakroo of Zaindar Mohalla Sgr; presently residing at 107, Sector-1 Indra Vihar Old Janipur Jammu 17/5/2007

50. Smt. Arandati W/o Late. Sh. Jia Lal Raina of Salia Anantnag, Kmr; presently residing at Camp Qtr. No: 353 Phase-II Mishriwalla Jammu. 17/5/2007

51. Smt. Arandati Chaku W/o Sh. JN Chaku of Bagth Jogilankar Rainawari Sgr; presently residing at 8-B/D Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. 17/5/2007

52. Sh. Sarwanand Pandita S/o Sh. Nath Ram Pandita Village Nagri Malpora Kupwara Kmr; presently residing at Qtr. No: 501, Jhiri Phase Camp, Mishirwalla, Jammu. 17/5/2007

53. Sh. Bansi Lal Saraf S/o Late Sh. Mahadev Ram Saraf originally resident of Batapora Shopian Kmr; and 68-Lal Nagar Chanapora Sgr, Kmr; presently residing at 78/2 Sanjay Nagar Jammu. 18/5/2007

54. Sh. Neel Kanth Koul, R/o Dab Wakoora Ganderbal Kmr. 18/5/2007

55. Smt. Vijay Miskeen W/o Sh. Rattan Lal Miskeen originally resident of Ganpatyar Sgr, presently residing at H.No: 154 EWS Colony Sector-1, Roop Nagar. 18/5/2007

56. Smt. Sarla Raina (Soapou) W/o Sh. TK Raina originally resident of Channapora Sgr; presently residing at H.No: 26, Lane No: 13, Swarn Vihar Police Colony, Jammu. 18/5/2007

57. Pt. Bal Jee Thusoo of Laderwane, Kmr; presently residing at H.No: 20, Mana Basti Tali Morh Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal, Jammu. 20/5/2007

58. Sh. N.N. Koul (Pahalwan) S/o Late Sh. Gopal Koul of Sgr; presently at H.No: 48, Lane-2, Adarsh Nagar, Bantalab Jammu. 20/5/2007

59. Smt. Kamlawati Bhat W/o Late Sh. Dina Nath Bhat of Chowkpora, Bhagati Kanipora Sgr; presently at Sector-22 Nav Sansad Vihar Society Plot No: 24, Dwarika, New Delhi. 20/5/2007

60. Smt. Raj Rani Akhoon W/o Lt. Sh. Bal Ji Akhoon originally resident of Kralyar Rainawari Sgr; presently residing at PDD Qtrs Canal Power House Jammu. 21/5/2007

61. Smt. Lacha Kuji (Durga Devi) W/o Lt. Sh. Resh Ram Bhat originally resident of Sheetal Nath Satho Sgr; presently residing at Tomal Morh Lane-9, Bhoori, Jammu. 21/5/2007

62. Sh. Bal Ji Bhat S/o Late Sh. Sansar Chand Bhat formerly resident of Serru Dangarpora Pattan Kmr; presently residing at H.No: 107, New Colony Kerth, Bari Brahmana Jammu. 21/5/2007

63. Smt. Santosh Dulloo wife of Sh. MK Dullo of Kharyar Habbakadal Sgr; presently residing at 89/1 Vivek Vihar, Paloura Jammu. 22/5/2007

64. Sh. Kashi Nath Bhat of Subash Nagar Govt. Qtrs. Block T- No: 455 fomerly resident of Khrewa Kmr 22/5/2007
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EDITORIAL

MARTYRS' DAY

On 14th September Displaced Kashmiri Hindus would observe Martyrs' Day. 18 years back Pt. Tika Lal Taploo became the first victim to the campaign of religious-cleansing launched by Islamist separatists in Kashmir. For communities under genocidal attrition observance of Martyrs' Day has a wider significance. It is not only an occasion to pay homage to Martyrs but also to firm up resolve to put an end to the process of genocide. Demonstration of resolve has to go beyond rhetorical flourishes, to draw cool-clear headed assessment of the ground realities. An exiled group which is oblivious to its own survival will never survive in history.

Religious-cleansing of Kashmiri Hindu community was neither a historical aberration nor an accident. It was inbuilt in a situation that enfolded in Kashmir soon after 1947. If terrorists are to be blamed for indulging in physical terror against the members of Pandit community, who should be held responsible for enforcing and perpetuating genocide against it? Communal leadership in Kashmir valley cannot be absolved of its blame. If Pandit community's deprivations remain unaddressed—with property being grabbed through forcible/fraudulent occupation and community's other assets taken over by the govt. for 'public utility' purposes without its consent who is to be blamed? Why do Sangrampora, Telwani, Wandhama, and Nadimarg massacres occur? Because 'Tokenist return' and 'Symbolic Secularism' take precedence over serious long-term rehabilitation of the community based on reversal of genocide and ushering in of a genuine secular order in Kashmiri society.

Displaced Pandit community faces major challenges on three counts. One, its deprivations continue to remain unaddressed. This position is not going to change so long as Pandit community continues to face political exclusion in the system. Rights flow from political empowerment. Cosmetic concessions through pursuance of apologetic politics or by cutting deals with Muslim communalism cannot substitute for a dispensation where Kashmiri Hindus are empowered politically on genuine basis. The redressal of the deprivations of displaced Kashmiris is thus linked with the broader struggle for political rights. Politics of 'incomprehension' and 'betrayal' needs to be firmly countered by heightening socio-political awareness in the community and building durable political anchors.

Second challenge is the issue of return and rehabilitation. The very fact that major chunk of the displaced community continues to stay put in Jammu is in itself an evidence that Pandits want to return to their homeland. But who is to determine the type of dispensation

in which the entire community can return and perpetuate itself. It is the exiled community that has to decide the type of dispensation it requires for itself by drawing upon the experience of history and existential reality. The Pandit community has already been fouled once; it cannot be refouled second time. At the same time why the displaced people should be deprived of normal conditions of living so long as they remain away from their original homes? This demands delinking redressal of deprivations from the process of return and rehabilitation.

'Normality' in the real sense of the term would remain an elusive dream for Displaced Pandits for a long time to come. Permanent return of the Pandit community is contingent on three factors. One, the elimination of terrorism lock, stock and barrel and rebuilding edifice of law and order machinery on a durable basis. Also, Kashmir with diluted Indian sovereignty over it would keep a historically wronged minority under siege and in perpetual insecurity. Terrorist conspiracy in Kashmir is an extension of the larger campaign to create a South Asian or Global Islamic Caliphate. So long as the dynamics of the regional situation in Pakistan and Afghanistan do not change and PanIslamist conspiracy is defeated at global level comprehensively there can be no genuine heralding of peace in Kashmir. A Kashmiri Pandit agenda would include sensitizing the nation to the dangers posed by Islamist terrorism as well as loosened Indian sovereignty over Kashmir.

Second factor critical to Pandits' return is reversal of the process of communalization and talibanisation in Kashmir. A social milieu imbued with this retrograde ethos would hurt a minority at every step. In 1947 a constitutional dispensation based on Muslim precedence was worked out for J&K. Successive political regimes in the state cashing in on this indulged in policies of selective ethnic preference and ethnic exclusion to the disadvantage of Kashmiri Hindus, finally paving way for their destabilization. This dispensation institutionalized communalism and facilitated emergence of fundamentalism and secessionism. Kashmiri Pandits have a futuristic vision when they demand a dispensation based on citizenship principle and not on religious precedence, where there would be unfettered flow of Indian constitution to take care of their rights.

Third factor relevant to Pandits' return is building economic and social stakes for their return through reversal of genocide.

Lastly, Pandit community has to devise an agenda for maintaining its identity as a distinct ethnic group. This demands working out innovative, vibrant cultural strategies to build strong cultural and social anchors.

COMMUNICATION

R.N. Kao

Sir,

Thanks for your letter of 11/7/07 asking me to write about the life and work of Shri R.N.Kao for Kashmir Sentinel's special issue on national security, to be dedicated to him. I knew Ramji Kao quite well, but not enough about his work to feel able to accept your kind invitation. But to pay tribute to his national contribution is a very good idea, and I can think of some people who may be both competent and agreeable to do so.

One is his longtime co-worker Shri A.K. Verma, who later became Head of RAW himself. Also the author of a book on Security he lives not far from me.

Another is Shri Ashok Raina, a TV producer and author who wrote perhaps the first book about RAW. He lives in Gurgaon.

With all good wishes,

A.N.D.Haksar
NOIDA.

Prof. S.L. Pandit—a great educationist

Sir,

Achievements of eminent persons for having made valuable contributions in various fields, have been honoured by the community/state.

Late Prof. S.L. Pandit, born at Kulgam, Kashmir, in January 1908, a scholar, a great educationist, who has had a long distinguished academic career, who believed in mass awakening through education, who created a niche in the hearts of people who came into contact with him, occupied a pivotal position. It is pertinent to mention names of some of his students who made a name in their respective fields, such as General OP Malhotra, retired Army Chief, two Chief Ministers of States, Dr Farooq Abdullah (J&K State), Sh. PK Dhumal (Himachal Pradesh), Dr ML Raina (Punjab University), Dr. V.N. Datta (Kurukshetra University).

January 2008 marks the birth centenary of the late Prof. S.L. Pandit.

It is only in the fitness of things that on this important occasion, we bow ourselves in homage to his memory, for inspiring saga of his distinguished public service, by bringing out birth centenary souvenir.

—L.C. Kaul

D-40, Pamposh Enclave
New Delhi

To our readers
You can mail us at
kashmirsentineljk@yahoo.co.in

Hyderabad Police remains clueless on blasts

KS Correspondent

Even after a fortnight Hyderabad police continues to grope in dark about the identity of the terrorists responsible for the twin blasts which left 43 dead and equal number injured. This was the second blast in 100 days, the May 18 Mecca Masjid blast had taken toll of 6 people.

The Congress government in Andhra has been functioning through what Mahatma Gandhi once said-'policy of abdication'. It seems that blasts on August 25 were waiting to happen. There were enough warnings that Hyderabad was sitting on a volcano, yet imbecile Rajshekar Reddy government, which is more keen to garner 'Muslim votes' rather than attend to national security, did nothing. Even warning of Intelligence Bureau on August 23 had gone unheeded. IB had also tipped off AP Police about 2 terror operatives having sneaked into Hyderabad after Mecca Masjid blasts. To absolve itself of charges of utter incompetence the state government awarded liberal (5 lakh additional) ex-gratia compensation to the families of the victims. More annoying was the statement in which the state government expressed its helplessness in facing upto the terror. The Chief Minister said, **"Most of the times, the external terrorist organisations are responsible for this and the state government does not have the wherewithal to go with this sort of intelligence operations... We cannot have our intelligence network in Bangladesh and Pakistan to get information on that".**

Rizwan-the Suspect:

So far Hyderabad police has given us just two leads. One, **Neo-gel-90**, an ammonium nitrate based emulsifier, was used into clock-based bombs. However, the state government continues to issue contradictory statements about the source of explosives. Secondly, the police released the sketch of a 25 year old youth, which it said had triggered off the blasts on August 25. Eyewitnesses had said suspect was a 25 year old youngman who was carrying a black bag in open air auditorium. Following this lead, police found that a Bangladeshi named Rizwan Gazi closely resembled the sketch released by police. The whereabouts of Rizwan continue to be a mystery. While there were rumours that he has been nabbed in Madurai,

Hyderabad police deny it. Other reports said police narrowly missed nabbing Rizwan in Bangalore twice. After surrounding the hide-out of Rizwan, the reports added, the police wasted time by arguing with Autorickshaw driver over fare, allowing Rizwan time to escape. Rizwan and two other members of his family are absconding.

Rizwan, as per reports had made phone calls to Pakistan a day before blasts and to Bangladesh after the blasts.

Suspicious on Rizwan mounted after the arrest of his sister, Shareefa Rustomjah, a student in Tamil Nadu, from Hyderabad last week. A shop-

illegally in the old city of Hyderabad. Due to rampant corruption they have been procur-

Saudi Arabia. Sameer revealed that he through 15 agents had transported 10 kg RDX from

Bangladesh to Mumbai, Hyderabad and other places during an 18-month period prior to his arrest.

On the basis of interrogation of Sameer his contact in Hyderabad, Mohammad Imran, a bank clerk, his close relation Shoib Jagirdar, resident of Jalna (Maharashtra) and a Hyderabad native, Rafiuddin were nabbed. Another key operative arrested was Kaleem alias

Rafeeq. During narcoanalysis test he revealed that he had supplied mobile phone SIM cards to operatives of terror outfits from Bangladesh. Kaleem and Imran Khan have been described as

the persons to whom he supplied SIM cards and names of terrorists outside the country. Reports added that Imran had told police that 10 kgs of RDX, out of which 800 gms were believed to have been used in Mecca Masjid blasts,, were in the hands of terrorists hiding in the city. This is yet to be traced.

Intriguingly, despite interrogation reports of captured terrorists pointing to RDX delivery in Hyderabad police was not allowed to pick up suspects/sympathizers of terrorists even for questioning. It was only after August 25 blasts that Majid, brother of terrorist Shahid alias Bilal was held for questioning. The issue was raised in Parliament by leader of the opposition, Sh LK Advani on August 30. He said that three suspects Shoib Jagirdar, Abdul Satar and Mohammad Sayeed arrested for alleged involvement in Mecca Masjid blasts were allowed to walk free for political reasons. Shoib Jagirdar, reports say, was directly involved in Mecca Masjid blasts. He had been provided shelter by his relation Syed Imran Khan.

Mohammad Amjad, IInd in command in HUJI had been recruiting Hyderabad youth for training in subversion while they were in Saudi Arabia. Amjad has also been said to be involved in both the blasts of May and August in Hyderabad.

Abu Hamza, an Al Qaeda trained operative, has been linked to subversive activities in Hyderabad and Tripura. Headquartered in Rajshahi district Abu Hamza, described as an expert in manufacture of chemical bombs and having close links with Bangladesh Rifles, has been transporting arms shipment to a Tripura insurgent outfit. Hamza's involvement in Mecca Masjid blasts came to surface with the arrest of Abdul Satar, a renegade police informer. Sameer had told police that Satar was in Hyderabad in April 2007. Interrogation of Satar revealed that Hamza had left Rajshahi 10 days before Mecca Masjid blasts and returned 4 days before the blasts, Soon after Mecca Masjid blasts Hamza and his accomplice Khader alias Shafi of Moosarambagh had changed their SIM cards. Two other terrorists whose names had cropped up in connection with May 18 blasts have been identified as Nafeez, a Bangladeshi national and Azhar, a Hyderabad. Abu Hamza was

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A scene at the blast site in Hyderabad.

ing 'citizenship papers' without much difficulty. CMC Vellore authorities denied Shareefa was a student in the institution.

Names of Mohd Amjad, a HUJI terrorist and a native of



The people venting their anger at police.

keeper to whom she had gone with Rs 1000 note had alerted police. Shareefa told police that she was studying in CMC Vellore and had come to visit her brother and other relations. She could not produce any travel documents. On sustained interrogation Shareefa, a 27 year old woman, turned out to be a Bangladeshi, who had come recently from that country. Her brother Rizwan had been staying in Shivrampally under Rajinder Nagar Mangal in Ranga Reddy district on outskirts of Hyderabad. This family had been staying in the city for the past six years and had manoeuvred to obtain all the documents that could prove them to be citizens of India. As per one report more than 11,000 Pakistanis and Bangladeshi have been staying

Hyderabad and Abu Hamza alias Mohammad Shareefuddin alias Abdul Bari have been doing the rounds in hatching of conspiracy, both at Mecca Masjid on May 18 and at Lumbini Park on August 25.

Confessions of Naim Sheikh:

Five months back Indian intelligence agencies had learnt that an 8-kg consignment of RDX had been delivered to a HUJI cell preparing for strikes in Hyderabad. On April 2007 a HUJI squad was nabbed by BSF on India-Bangladesh border. The squad members included two Pak nationals, one Muzaffar Ahmed Rather of Kulgam and an Aurangabad-based computer Engineer Sheikh Naim alias Sameer. The latter had been recruited by Mohammad Amjad in January 2007 during his visit to

close associates of Mohammad Shariffudin alias Abu Hamza, a Bangladeshi operative. Kaleem corroborated version of Syed Imran Khan that they knew about the August 25 blasts and the identity of the accused. Imran told police about the Pakistani terrorists hiding in Hyderabad. Kaleem, arrested after Mecca Masjid blasts in May 2007, along with his aide Jagirdar, had forged documents to obtain SIM cards and delivered these to terrorists. The trio Imran had helped obtain fake passports for several key HUJI operatives. By the time police caught up with the Imran he had passed on the explosives to two men he knew only by code names. Neither was ever found. Kaleem, Imran and Jagirdar had worked together. Kaleem had revealed vital information-names of

Hyderabad Police remains clueless on blasts

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also believed to have been involved in Mumbai blasts.

Abu Hamza was also mastermind behind the formation of a new Jehadi outfit called Muslim Defence Force in Tamil Nadu. Hamza had been recruiting youth for training at an undisclosed destination in Gulf.

Two other key terrorists were arrested before August 25 blasts. Mohammad Shadab, a former police informer and contact of Shaheed alias Bilal, is said to have close links with ISI. The other terrorist identified as Mohammad Ibrahim revealed to police that ISI was running terrorist training camps in Baluchistan, where Indians and Bangladeshis were given training. He also said Bangalore was the target of terrorists operating from Bangladesh. Ibrahim had crossed over to Bangladesh in December 2004, then went to Pakistan for arms training. He was sent back to India, specifically tasked to attack software technology parks in Bangalore. Ibrahim had told police that Baluch camps were being run by regular Pak army personnel and not Jehadi outfits. He revealed that in Baloch camps, functional for the past two years, terrorists were given training in the art of assembly of improvised explosives from locally available material in groups of 4-5. Ibrahim had said that around 50 terrorists had received training in these camps.

Hyderabad police had arrested Ibrahim on the charges that he had been trained in Pakistan. He was booked in a petty case in Gopalapuram police station after a perfunctory questioning. But after the 'fidayeen' attack on State Task Force Hqrs. his role came to surface with arrest of ISI agent Nafeez. The latter revealed that Ibrahim and Kaleem a Bangladeshi national had gone to Pakistan for training in subversion. Ibrahim confessed during interrogation that he knew about Kaleem having been enticed for sensational action in Hyderabad. Kaleem turned out to be the suicide bomber. Had Ibrahim been interrogated properly, Task Force bombing could have been averted.

Other leads:

There were some other leads which police did not follow. On August 12 six terrorists including two Pakistanis were arrested by Gujrat police at Mandavi port in Kutch. On sustained interrogation two Pakistanis confessed

that Rs 24 lakh had been sent to terror operatives in Hyderabad. On August 21, GOI had sent a report that there was possibility of a terror attack in Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chandigarh. On August 25 a few hours before the twin blasts police had caught a 4 member gang including a Dubai national and recovered Rs 2.36 crore worth of fake currency from them. Three days before the twin blasts a terrorist who entered West Bengal from Bangladesh was arrested. He was affiliated to Hizbul Mujahideen and had been trained in Pakistan. In June this year three HUJI terrorists were arrested in Kolkata.

In June itself STF of UP police had arrested a top HUJI operative and close associate of Bilal-Jalaluddin alias Babu Bhai. He confessed to have transported 100 kgs of RDX and taken 100 UP Muslim youth for arms training in Pakistan and Afghanistan. This version was corroborated by 4 terrorists who were arrested subsequently. As per police Babu Bhai and Bilal were key accused in Samjauta Express blasts.

Explosives Source:

About the source of explosives used in twin blasts Hyderabad police has no definite clues. One version says Neo-gel-90, an ammonium nitrate based emulsifier used in to clock-based bombs came from Nagpur based **Amin Explosives Ltd.** On August 28, 2007 AP Police visited **Rajyasri Enterprises**, an explosives manufacturing and supplying company in Nalgonda district to check if explosives had come from this company. On verification there were discrepancies in quantity of explosives manufactured and supplied by this company. The authorities have stopped the supply of explosives from this company till further investigation. Nalgonda district near Hyderabad has large number of explosives factories. There have been allegations of irregularities and illegal supply of explosives from these in the past. On September 5, 2007 AP Police seized over 2.5 tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate in Mahbub Nagar district.

Maldives Dimension:

Vulnerability of Hyderabad has been pointed out by reports from different agencies. AP Police said that at least a dozen trained operatives of extremist

groups have infiltrated into rank and file of some top IT Companies. Central agencies attribute Hyderabad blasts to a group of Muslim fundamentalists trained by ISI in new training centres in Maldives and Sri Lanka. Lately, an insecure President Abdul Gayoom had been patronizing fundamentalist and extremist elements and funding madrassas. Reports added that HUJI outfit was making use of a NGO to recruit Indian Muslims from southern cities and then despatching them to Male and Colombo for terrorism training. The same NGO had been getting funds through legal banking route and

Karnataka, Maharashtra, UP and West Bengal were being lured by ISI to carry out violent and subversive activities.

LeT has been publicly proclaiming that it was seeking 'liberation' of Hyderabad as part of creating '**South Asian Islamic Caliphate**' and using historical and religious demagoguery to this purpose. Officials claimed after attack on STF Hqrs. that 500 local Hyderabad Muslim youth had gone for arms training in Bangladesh and Baluchistan. Many Hyderabad terrorists have been to Bosnia also.

Abducting Pak nationals:

In the cabinet meeting convened soon, MK Narayanan wanted to know why the government has failed to round up Pakistani nationals who became untraceable after coming to India. He took MEA to task for not bothering about his note, asking them to closely monitor the movements of Maldives nationals. After being informed that of late

over 200 Pakistani nationals had become untraceable, Prime Minister himself promised to look into the matter. As per reports most of these are hiding in Western UP (128) and Haryana (63). It was further reported that majority of absconders had entered India through **Samjhauta Express** and were old hands in planning major terrorist strikes. Interrogation of 3 terrorists nabbed in Bijour revealed that SIMI was reaching out to these outfits for collaborations.

MIM role:

Hyderabad would continue to remain insecure so long as Congress continues to look for support to neo-fundamentalist, **Majlis Itihad-ul-Musalimeen**. A successor organisation to Razakaars of Nizam period, MIM has helped Jehadi cause by radicalising local Muslim youth and secondly, by stalling effective police action to counter subversive elements. It has maintained its grip over 18-lakh Muslim population through religious extremism demagoguery, chain of colleges and NGOs etc. MIM has not allowed effective policing, necessary to secure the city. Over the past few years of Congress rule it got shifted three police commissioners who wanted to act professionally. Police plans for detention of several dozen suspected HUJI sym-

pathizers were shot down by State government claiming it would fuel communal tension. Soon after twin blasts police had nabbed some students from Madrassas for questioning. Lot of hue and cry was raised. The Chief Minister succumbed to the pressure and asked police not to enter Darul Uloom Madrassa during night. Additional DGP K. Arvind Rao said that two Bangladeshi terrorists caught on Indo-Bangladesh border had revealed that they had received education at Darul Uloom. The madrassa authorities have been claiming that no Bangladeshi or West Bengal students were studying at the madrassa. The Congress government is unwilling to annoy MIM, its ally in the State and at the Centre. The country is paying the price for this alliance. Lately, the left parties in the state, which hitherto had been pandering to Muslim communalism, have woken up to the dangers posed by MIM. The efforts of the Left are being supplemented by two liberal Urdu papers- **Siyasat** and **Munsif**. P. Madhu, CPM MP believes atmosphere in old city is congenial for terrorist groups to thrive and asks, "How will the police investigate when the message is, leave MIM alone?" The AP Chief Minister has also been injecting communal dimension in governance by asking for reservations on the basis of religion. Muslims in AP constituted 8.4% employees in overall 9% population.

Investigations into the subversive activities also reveal that well to do Muslims have been indulging in subversive activities. On April 1, 2007 police had arrested Maqsood Ahmed, Resident of Malakpet, and Manager in Proline Garments showroom at Somajiguda. He had been recruiting local youth for subversion and was close associate of Bilal. Bulk of Hyderabad recruits to Jehadi cause have been from the group which served in Gulf. Other fundamentalist organisations active in city include Jamaat Islami, Tameer-e-Millat, and Darasgah-e-Jehad-O-Shahdat/Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Shaaer-e-Islam. Infact, MIM and Tableegi Jamaat have been locked in tussle for supremacy over the old city. The FIR registered by the police in connection with the blast on May 18 had said that the motive was to kill Sunnat-ul-Jamaat people by Ahle Hadees, a breakaway outfit of Tableegi Jamaat. This was contested by MIM.



The culprits-Rizwan & Kaleem alias Rafeeq

then distributing it to Jehadi groups. From Male trained terrorists are despatched to Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai either by air route or by sea route.

National Security Advisor, **MK Narayanan** has said that a foreign country knew about the Hyderabad blasts but did not pass on information to GOI. He however, did not identify the country. Mr Narayanan further added that Hyderabad has become vulnerable to terrorism because it is on the radar of 3-4 terror networks that are operating in the country. He identified three grids of terrorist gang-ups- **Hyderabad and Bangalore** having these grids at one level, another in **Varanasi and eastern UP** and third active in **Maharashtra and Gujrat**.

Sleeper cells:

Central agencies have also alerted Andhra government about Bangladeshi terrorists entering India in the guise of 'students' to stay at Islamic Study Centres from Lucknow to Hyderabad. In Hyderabad more than 11,000 Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals stay illegally, harbouring sleeper cells of LeT and JeM. Hyderabad has emerged as 'strategic base' of ISI in South India. In August 2006, MoS Home Mr Jaiswal admitted that local Muslims of AP besides

Qari's elimination unravels subversive network in Jammu

KS Correspondent

In a joint Operation Special Operation Group of Jammu Police and Delhi Police eliminated notorious Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist, Saifullah Qar in a house at Ramzanpura, near Roop Nagar, Jammu on August 11. Qarii, a Pak national was 'divisional commander' of the Jihadist outfit 'Jaish-e-Mohammed', police described him as mastermind behind July 5, 2005 attack on Ram Temple at Ayodhya. In the same operation another terrorist Zaffar Iqbal alias Umar, a resident of Tradkhan, PoK was injured and subsequently arrested.

Killing of Qari and subsequent arrests have unravelled the Vast subversive network functioning in Poonch district. During the past two years Qari had been operating from various hideouts in Poonch district.

Sources said that operation was launched soon after an input was developed by Delhi Police and IB during questioning of some terrorists of JeM terrorists. This revealed that Qari, alongwith his associate had taken shelter in the house of Abdul Rehman (of Mendhar) at Ramzanpora. Rehman was a trader in Saudi Arabia. At the time of operation Rehman's wife, Maqsooda Begum, a Govt. teacher, presently posted at Kalaban, Mendhar was present in the house. He himself had reportedly left Jammu a day before. Rehman was arrested a few days later after he came from Delhi.

A voter identity card issued in the name of Mohammad Raqeeb but carrying original photo of Qari was recovered from Qari.

Qari had been staying at Ramzanpora hideout for more than a month. He had taken admission in a private driving institute at Narwal and had used learning car driving to carry out reece of most parts of the city. The most wanted terrorist was moving freely in the city. Zafar Iqbal had enrolled himself at a computer Centre at Janipur, from where he was regularly in contact with Pak-based JeM terrorists. Iqbal's interrogation revealed that the duo were planning a strike in Jammu city in September. He also said they were expecting an arms/explosives assignment from Mendhar. On the basis of this information police

nabbed Master Mohammad Javed, a Physical Education Teacher in Mendhar and his brother Asif Khan. Javed had earlier been arrested under PSA. Zafar Iqbal's outfit was also responsible fro attack on SDPO Mendhar, Yougail Manhas, reports added.

While security agencies had been hunting Qari in Pir Panjal ranges, Qari was silently putting up in a house in the Poonch town itself. Interrogation of arrested people led police to seize a big house at Kamsar Mohalla. Qari stayed often here with a woman of Mendhar, Nahida Kousar in an underground room linked to the house through a wardrobe. Security agencies also laid their hands on vital information about the Jaish network in the district. The house had been purchased by Qari after paying huge sum to Master Javed, the PET, presently posted at Govt. High School, Chak Banola in Mendhar tehsil. Zafar had told police that Javed was working as a hitman of Jaish outfit and was responsible for shifting them from Poonch to Jammu. The wardrobe hideout was identified by Javed himself, who himself was a frequent visitor to the basement hideout.

During investigation police found that Rehman's wife and Master Javed were both posted in High School at Chak Banola. He had persuaded her to allow Qari to live in her house. On August 17 police arrested 4 more Jaish terrorists, including a woman and her daughter from Mendhar tehsil. The women arrested from a hideout at village Bhati Dhara were identified as Zubaida Begum and Rubeena Kousar. Zubaida's husband, an ex-serviceman is already in judicial lock-up for the past two years due to his links with Jaish outfit and in funding militancy Mother-daughter duo were active terrorists of Jaish outfit for last few years and had been instrumental in shifting arms hawalas consignments for the terrorists.

Investigations further revealed that besides Kamsar mohalla house in Poonch town. Qari had purchased two more houses in Mendhar tehsil, including the one belonging to Zubaida's husband. The police also found deep involvement of Nahida Kousar, another young

girl in terrorist activities. Arrested people told security agencies that at least a dozen women terrorists were active in Poonch and Rajouri districts. Some of them had left the job of SPOs'. Reports said a number of Pakistani women were also being trained in JeM and LeT training camps in PoK. A number of women militants, affiliated to Jaish and LeT outfits have been nabbed in Ramban and Poonch recently. As per Army more than 400 terrorists including large number of foreigners were operating in Jammu region.

Few days after eliminating Jaish terrorist Saifullah Qari and apprehending his Pakistani associate Zafar Iqbal, SOG Jammu nabbed Nahida Altaf, daughter of a police Head Constable, posted in Police Control Room. Nahida, resident of Surankote was a third year student in Dogra Law College. An active terrorist of Hizbul Mujahideen she was arrested from a Maruti car. Police recovered a grenade launcher (under Barrel Grenade Launcher) and 8 rifle grenades from a bag hidden in the dickey by her. This was first time that the police recovered rifle grenades from terrorists in Jammu city. She revealed during interrogation that the arms consignment was given to her by a top Hizb terrorist Altaf Ahmed, resident of Gounthal. Soon after she spilled the beans the latter too was arrested. Altaf Ahmed was under detention in Central jail for last 8 years for involvement in terrorist activities. He had been released only 2 months back and had joined Hizb again. The arms consignment which was carried by Nahida was to be delivered to Fayyaz Ahmed Talakh alias Tallab, a top Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist and resident of Maliknag, Anantnag. Talakh was recently released from jail after 4 years and reports said that he owned Talakh Bakery at Lal Chowk, Anantnag and a canteen at Boys Higher Secondary School in Dayalgam.

Nahida told police that she had been working for Hizbul Mujahideen for past more than 1½ years. She had met Altaf Ahmed at Kot Bhalwal jail five to six times, posing herself as Altaf's Cousin. Besides Altaf, she is believed to have met some other terrorists as well in jail. She told police that for every task-carrying arms consignments or

conveying messages of terrorists-she was being paid Rs 25,000. Nahida revealed that Talakh was putting up in a city Hotel, while another HM terrorist, Bhatti was staying at Subash Nagar. Bhatti, cousin of Nahida and resident of Gounthal, was a close confidant of Altaf Ahmed, a HM terrorist. It was through him, she said she was lured into terrorism and met Altaf Ahmed. Bhatti's house in Subash Nagar was an active hide-out of Hizbul Mujahideen outfit and was frequented by terrorists of Surankote and Mendhar.

Interrogation of Nahida and Altaf Ahmed revealed that a number of students from Poonch and Rajouri who were studying in Jammu were on pay roll of Hizbul Mujahideen and LeT. Reports said they were being forced by the terrorists to carry explosives and hawala money to Jammu. From Jammu consignments were either dumped in some localities for future use or sent to Kashmir Valley or Doda district.

Meanwhile, Maqsooda Khatoon, a teacher in whose house Qari and Zafar Iqbal were staying was taken into custody on September 11 and turned out to be an active Jaish worker. She was booked for harbouring ultras and sent to jail. Rs 6 lakh was recovered from her house, which Qari had to use for pur-

chase of laptops and mobile phones to strengthen terrorist network in city, reports added. Police also established that Rubeena Kouser, arrested along with her from Bhati Dhara, Mendhar was local wife of Saifullah Qari. Police also seized a 10 marla plot purchased by Qari at Bantalab. The plot, reports added, was purchased to set up a hideout for terrorist activities in City.

Data recovered from Nahida's mobile phone revealed that she was in touch with at least 8 terrorists of Hizbul Mujahideen, two of whom have been lodged in Kot Bhalwal Jail while two each were operating in Surankote, Anantnag and Jammu city.

Interrogation of Zafar Iqbal revealed that he had infiltrated into Indian territory only two months before he was trapped. As per reports, he said that Pak army had upgraded 'ISI North' wing for fomenting terrorism and created a special fund of Rs 50 crore to set up sleeper cells in different Indian cities. This fund was also being used to rake up false allegations of human rights violations, and also to create 'Agents of Influence'. Zafar Iqbal's questioning also revealed that sleeper cells of terrorist outfits like JeM, HM and LeT have been activated by ISI and their agents in J&K in large number to create terrorist infrastructure.

Panun Kashmir observes Martyrs' Day at Ambala

KS Correspondent

AMBALA, Sep 14: An impressive gathering witnessed the observance of Martyrs Day at Ambala which started with 1 minute silence as mark of respect to the Martyrs'. The programme under the able leadership of Pt. J.L. Koul State Secretary Panun Kashmir, Haryana State was held at Brahman Sabha Ambala Cantt. Dr. K.D. Sharma a leading orthopedician and president Brahman Sabha Haryana was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Sharma while paying obeisance to the Martyrs' assured the organisers of his full cooperation. Sh. S.K. Kaul, Superintendent Engineer Department of Telecommunications, who was the Chief Guest, exuded KP's and all the nationalist forces to support and strengthen the PK moment. Sh. A.K. Wattal, President KP Sabha Ambala, Sh. Sanjay Pandita and Sh. Chandjee Raina where among the other prominent people who attended the programme. KP's from Yamuna Nagar and Kurukshetra also attended the programme.

Dr Ved Prakash (an ardent PK supporter) while showing solidarity with the organisers assured them of full support in future as well. JL Koul thanked the guests for their continued cooperation and support.

Panun Kashmir Holds National Convention-2007

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obstacles for holding photo exhibitions on Pandits' genocide. He continued that to tell the truth in India it required immense courage and efforts.

Dr. Samant said it was unfortunate that Aurangzeb's name continued to be associated with cities and avenues in India. He expressed concern over double standards of elite which targeted Tasleema Nasreen but said nothing against MF Hussain who through his paintings outraged Hindu religious feelings. He informed that 3 elected MLAs assaulted Tasleema Nasreen, yet case was registered against her. There were more than 1250 police complaints against MF Hussain yet he went scot free, he lamented.

Dr. Samant said that Hindus have to counter ideological attacks, which were equally dangerous. He added that the mindset of jihadi terrorism needs to be fought.

Prof. Hari Om, a leading Historian and a political commentator said that discourse on terrorism was changing due to efforts of patriotic forces. He said that defeatism was dangerous and added that India was a strong nation with great resilience. This was apparent from how it reacted on Ram Setu and foiled the dangerous game-plan which sought to delink Lord Rama from country's civilisation and Hindu religion. He recalled the role of Panun Kashmir in presenting Kashmir problem at international and national level. Dr. Hari Om expressed full support to Panun Kashmir.

Mr. Chander Mohan Sharma said that Kashmir issue was a larger problem and patriotic forces had to change the world perspective. He said this was age of media, argument and intellect and added that this had to be used effectively. Mr. Sharma said while global perspective on Muslim fundamentalism was changing but on Kashmir it was same as Government of India was not doing anything. He recalled how earlier also Government of India was insensitive to the plight of Indians, who were held captive in Pakistan in 1947.

Dr. Ajay Churangoo, Chairman Panun Kashmir in his keynote address said that denying genocide was double killing of victimised groups. He recalled how the world sought to deny genocide of Armenian Christians. 15 lakh Armenian Christians were massacred in 1915 by Turkey, where kurds, themselves victims of pogroms by Iraqis, acted as executioner army for Turks. He informed that 50000 skulls of Armenians were discovered by journalists accidentally at

Magda in Syria. In 1982 even Shimon Peres, Israeli President sought to discourage seminarists at a conference on Genocide from speaking about genocide of Armenians on the ground that Israel enjoyed good relations with Turkey. Dr. Ajay Churangoo drew this parallel to argue how negationism was part of every genocide. It was said that what happened to Armenian Christians was a great tragedy but cannot be called a genocide. This despite the fact that 15 lakh Armenian Christians lost their lives in the genocide.

Dr. Churangoo asked the exiled Pandit Community not to get overwhelmed with defeatism if what we think or wish is not happening. He said that commu-

due to efforts of Panun Kashmir Pandits were being described as victims of religious-cleansing by the global community.

Dr. Churangoo said that the exiled Pandit community was giving stiff resistance despite isolation at many levels. **"Some say Pandits were part of the ruling class, others said they were Brahmins. Some claimed that jobs had been grabbed by Kashmiri Hindus. We worked in this isolation. Your enemy has billions of dollars at his disposal,"** he added. He said that Kashmiri Hindus suffered deprivations to give best education to their children and sold property in Kashmir for a song to build 2 room-shelters in Jammu. Panun Kashmir leader praised

on some genuine transformation on their part. To substantiate it he said the response of Kashmir society to issues of criminalisation of society and Pandits' genocide was still the same. He informed that Muslim society in Kashmir was still attributing displacement of Kashmiri Hindus to Governor Jag Mohan, and asked how can you say that transformation has taken place when slitting of throats and bheading of innocent people continue to take place without a break". Dr. Churangoo said that religious-cleansing of Kashmiri Hindus took place because of large scale societal connivance, with society firmly in grip of communalism where moderate elements

has to be a political dispensation for displaced Kashmiri Pandits, otherwise Pandits would be kept hostages," he continued. Dr. Churangoo said that Kashmiri Pandits cannot accept a society which accepts criminalisation and where affluence is built on drug and counterfeit money. He added that return to such a society will lead to conversions.

He said that when he visited Hangalgund village the only remnant of once flourishing Pandit community was the samadhi of Saint Mirza Kak. He said that in the past Kashmiri Pandits returned without ensuring their rights and they had to face genocide every hundred years. He exhorted the exiled community not to allow enemy to succeed.



(L) Ganesh Astuti being presented by students of Abhay Higher Secondary School, Muthi. (R) A view of the audience



nity has to understand the psychology of the enemy and counter it. It must decide who were its friends and who were its enemies, he added. He made it clear that there will be no compromise with Muslim communalism and 'we will not say what happened in Kashmir was an aberration or there was brotherhood in Kashmir'. Panun Kashmir Chief said that the Pandit community, the victim of genocide, cannot return to a society where 157 throats were slit in past 6 months and people were beheaded at religious places. He described such a society which did not feel revulsion on it was a society with sick mindset.

Dr. Churangoo informed that it was because of Panun Kashmir's efforts that world today described terrorism not as "freedom struggle" but as jihadic terrorism. He recalled efforts of Panun Kashmir in countering views of **Amnesty International** and **Asia watch** which took view of state-specific violations only. He said that Panun Kashmir told Asia watch that society specific violations were worse where minorities become victims of societal connivance with terrorism. He informed that

the Pandit Community for creating a new ambience for their Devi-Devtas, Gurukuls and Ishta Devis in exile

Dr. Churangoo thanked Hindu Jan Jagrut Samiti for helping Panun Kashmir to stage 'Saakshatkar' exhibition at different places. He informed that Panun Kashmir was touring around the country to build linkages with patriotic forces to build national sensitivity on Pandits' genocide and counter jihadic terrorism. He said that Dan Burton, a lobbyist for Pakistan on Kashmir on whom Pakistan spent millions of dollars, changed his views after listening to just one presentation of Panun Kashmir.

Dr. Churangoo asked the exiled Pandit community to remain vigilant about new stratagems being employed by communalists in Kashmir to hoodwink Pandit community. He said that discourse on terrorism was changing and Islamic fundamentalists were under pressure. These forces in Kashmir wanted Pandits to bail them out and were resorting to tactical stratagems to keep Pandits in good humour. He said this strategy was not based

have no strength to articulate their views.

Referring to warnings which asked labourers to leave the valley Dr. Churangoo asked how it was possible in the absence of any organised campaign to witness simultaneous campaigns in Anantnag, Qazigund, Kulgam etc. He said the terrorist entrepreneurs operated through 'message'. Dr. Churangoo observed that in genocide the victimised groups have to seek accountability from tormentors. He added that Kashmiri, Muslim society still tries to rationalise our genocide. "If we go back to the same society on its terms it will be a suicide," he opined.

Dr. Churangoo said that it was strange that Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, who praises Yasin Malik, the man responsible for Pandits' genocide, is called by GoI to make a presentation at the working group meeting on Centre State relations. He said that return of 200-300 Kashmir Pandits does not mean secularism has returned in Kashmir. "If genocide of Kashmiri Pandits is to be reversed then there has to be accountability and perpetrators need to be punished so that there was no future refoolment. There

Pt Onkar Nath Trisal, veteran political leader and President of All Kashmiri Pandit solidarity conference did some plain speaking. He lashed out at the UPA govt and asked the exiled Pandit community to expose turncoats, opportunists and self-seekers in its ranks. Pandit ON Trisal said that his organisation harboured no illusions about UPA govt, a government which challenges our faith cannot protect our interests," he added referring to filing of affidavit on Ram Setu.

He referred to history to drive home the argument that Pandits have contributed immensely to the patriotic cause. In this context he quoted sacrifices of Pt. Pushkar Nath Zadoo, S/o Vasudev Zadoo, the then Divisional Engineer and Pt. Som Nath Bira. Pandit ON Trisal recalled the contribution of Dr. Apurab Somnath Bakhri, who like other Kashmiris picked up gun to push back tribal hordes in 1947. He said that this symbolized the relationship between Kashmiri Pandits and the people of Jammu. He waxed eloquent on contribution of people of Jammu in helping Pandit community in 1990.

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He said that Kashmiri Pandits have come out of their confines to build a national front against jehadic terrorism. Pt Trisal was all praise for Dr. Samant and his organisation for expressing solidarity with displaced Kashmiris. Shri Trisal said that Kashmiris Hindus stood for political reorganisation of J&K State, which included creation of Panun Kashmir in Kashmir valley.

The leader of Solidarity Conference heaped praises on Panun Kashmir and its leader, Dr. Ajay Churangoo for building national front against Muslim fascism and making effective interventions at international fora and Round Table Conference. He observed that the voice of Displaced Pandits was being heard across and Muslim fundamentalists in Kashmir were under pressure. Pt. Trisal exhorted his community not to feel pessimistic. There was no scope for prophets of doom he added. He thundered, "in 1990" Kashmiri Muslims rejected co-existence and threw Pandit minority out through a process of religious-cleansing. Now we reject co-existence (to live with them) and demand Panun Kashmir as dispensation for reversal of genocide. There is no meeting ground between them and us." He warned Pandits not to fall in trap of Muslim communalists in Kashmir who were devising new stratagems.

Referring to sacrifices made by Tika Lal Taploo, Prem Nath Bhat, Sarla Bhat, Satish Tickoo he said their sacrifice would take Kashmiri Pandits to their desired goal. He added that Pandits carried legacy of great glorious history and despite living in pigeonholes, facing snakebites, sunstrokes they never bowed their heads. "Pandits survived all this and are a great force. We have great future," he said.

On incomprehension in the community Pt Trisal declared that time had come for sharpening polarization within the community and decide who was the real leader of the Pandit community 'policy of equivocation and camouflage won't work. We have to decide who is our leader'. Pt. Trisal drew parallel with situation in pre-revolutionary Russia. He quoted Maxim "Who had raised the slogan. Men of Russia! Are you with Tsar or are you fighting Tsar?" Shri Trisal made an impassioned plea to Pandit community, "Are you with us or are you with those how are against us. You have to decide once for all. Let there be political polarisation in the community. We have broken shackles and built a broader national alliance."

Shri Trisal observed that people who have been leading the Pandit community for six decades had no vision. He said Santan Dharam Yuvak Sabha was dissolved and its leader made it a part of National Conference. "They had no vision, that is why we are suffering. Our leader Ajay Churangoo is a visionary," he added.

On peace process, Shri Trisal observed, "**How can there be peace process between Pakistan, an ideological confessional state and India, a democratic Country**". Shri ON Trisal asked Pandit community to read and strengthen **Kashmir Sentinel**, which he said was '**arm of struggle**'. He said this periodical has been countering onslaught of disinformation and 'illuminating us about our past, present and future in proper perspective'.

Mrs. Kulshi Pandita, a young Panun Kashmir activist said that Islamic fundamentalists have rejected ethos of pluralism and co-existence. She mocked at those who raised slogans of 'Independent Kashmir' and asked, "J&K govt. cannot give salary to its employees on its own for one month, How can Kashmir survive without India?" She said that Kashmir had now become problem of the whole nation. Mrs. Pandita asked, "How can Kashmir be called crown of India if Kashmiri Pandits remain out of it". Expressing strong optimism about achieving goal of Panun Kashmir she said this goal was 'our basic human right, a right which will protect our economic and cultural rights'. Mrs. Pandita said that Panun Kashmir was powerful voice of Displaced Kashmiri Hindus.

Mr. Kuldeep Raina, General Secretary Panun Kashmir made a moving presentation. He dealt with two issues-**tactical gestures by the majority community in Kashmir and the role of leadership in Displaced Pandit Community**.

Mr. Raina said that Panun Kashmir during the past 17 years of struggle has introduced new socio-political culture in the Pandit community. He informed that Panun Kashmir activists visited more than 2500 Pandit homes in Jammu to enrol them as delegates for the national convention. Mr Raina said that it has become fashionable to set up stages and proclaim themselves as leaders. He added that except for Panun Kashmir no organisation in the displaced community was engaged in grassroot mobilisation.

General Secretary Panun Kashmir said that those who were in the habit of asking questions should tell the community what positive work they have

done for the community. He said that those who are resorting to slanders against Panun Kashmir are feeling jittery over community's great response to Panun Kashmir.

Mr. Kuldeep Raina said that only vested interests in Pandits are claiming improvement in situation in Kashmir vis-a-vis Kashmiri Hindus, while common Kashmiri Pandit felt that there was no change in Kashmir. He added, "there was total Talibanisation in Kashmir. False embraces won't help".

Elaborating on this, Mr. Raina informed that he recently met one of the main organisers of Thajiwara yatra adding that the organiser was present among the audience in the national convention. The organiser, Mr Raina said, asked him- 'Did I do right or wrong?' The organiser also informed him that he had taken sweets for Muslims from Jammu. The latter told him that instead of sweets they will take Dal prepared in Pandit community feast. The local Muslims also donated Rs 34 thousand, though in past six decades no Muslim had donated for a Pandit shrine. Mr Raina asked Pandits to ponder over why these things are happening all of a sudden and what are compulsions of majority community? He asked Pandits to verify whether this 'transformation' was genuine or a tactical move. Mr Raina said in 1989-90 no Kashmiri Pandit knew that he would be thrown out through a process of religious-cleansing, yet the majority community was fully aware about it. He said, "Pandits were thrown out, their temples demolished, property destroyed and all stakes for return of Pandits were destroyed. Now what was compulsion for the majority community to feign friendliness. We want to share with you the gravity and subtlety of the situation. Is all this tactical? Does the majority community have better communication skills? We have been giving stiff resistance during the past 17 years. You should be on guard that it should not go all waste".

Mr Raina observed that the query posed by Thajiwara yatra organisers had two dimensions-negative i.e. a wrong signal has gone, positive that there was sense of introspection among community members.

Panun Kashmir General Secretary also touched the crucial issue- **Community leadership and its accountability**. He castigated the old leadership for being visionless, having no consistency and no policy. Mr Raina added that this leadership was bankrupt and wanted to mortgage the community to communal forces in Kashmir once again. He referred to a leader, with many

decades involvement in community politics, saying to J&K Chief Minister 'We came out individually and will return individually'. Mr Raina said that the same leader gave seven contradictory statements on 'Jagti' in seven days and opposed upgradation of camp conditions. This leader demanded that Kashmiri Pandits should be taken to Kashmir and those employees who refuse should be thrown out. Mr Raina praised the Chief Minister who told the Pandit leader that situation was not conducive for return of Kashmiri Pandits and there was no harm if Kashmiri Hindus had a quarter in Jagti as well as in Kashmir.

Mr. Raina demanded that community leadership should be made accountable on the policies they project. He said the community needs to identify which leader is competent and has vision about community's survival. Mr Raina asked which leadership other than that of Panun Kashmir has produced vision documents or other papers dealing with survival strategy for the community. He said that Panun Kashmir was the only organisation which has scientifically tackled every issue.

On the issue of unity, Sh. Raina said that Panun Kashmir brought out a document on procedure for achieving unity. He lamented that not a single response was received from the community. He said that it had become an obsession to talk about unity without doing anything for it. Mr. Raina opined that 'patchwork' policy won't work any longer.

Panun Kashmir leader said that it was not important whether his organisation had the mandate of the exiled community. He added that his organisation alone had vision for survival of community. That was important. Underlining the need for nurturing Panun Kashmir leadership which has vision and delivers, he said, while Dr. Ajay Churangoo was contesting dangerous formulations of Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, another community leader was saying 'what bureaucracy says is OK'.

Mr. Kuldeep Raina said that Pandit community did not need leaders who are incompetent and have no comprehension of problems. He added that what 'we could not do in 60 years we have done it in past two years'. Mr. Raina said that today Kashmiri Pandits have come to be recognised' as central factor in Kashmir solution and declared that there will be no solution which does not have stamp of Kashmiri Pandits and Panun Kashmir. Mr Kuldeep Raina asked Kashmiri Pandits to become ambassadors of the community and work for broader na-

tional resurgence with other patriotic forces in the country.

Dr. Shakti Bhan, an eminent Gynecologist and senior leader of Panun Kashmir stressed the need for keeping alive community's ritual, culture, language and idiom in exile. She described 'Kashmiriat' a term which had dangerous connotations and had nothing to do with Kashmiri identity. Dr. Bhan regretted the collapse of the culture of 'joint family' and said Kashmiri children were being deprived of receiving 'Pandit Sanskars' from their grandparents. She wanted these children to be told about what Pandits have lost and stressed the need to tell children about our places of living in Kashmir, rituals etc. Dr. Bhan desired that the Pandit community must keep alive hope of Kashmir in children.

Dr. Bhan said that despite deprivations and misery the Pandit community have displayed strong survival instinct and there was no moral degradation nor crime among members of the displaced community. She praised community's efforts in investing in education and competing well in job market in India and abroad. Dr. Bhan said that Pandit youth have done reasonably well and are better off than what they were two decades back.

The eminent Gynecologist decried 'single or no child' norm adopted by Pandit families and added, "before Muslim fundamentalists finish us we will make community extinct through this policy".

Dr. Shakti Bhan informed that there was no change in situation in Kashmir. She narrated personal anecdotes to attest it. Dr Bhan said that there was societal connivance in our ethnic-cleansing. She said that Pandits cannot go back to Kashmir without dispensation of Panun Kashmir.

Mr. Behari Lal, Secretary Panun Kashmir said that in communal exclusivist culture which developed in Kashmir Pandit presence was seen as an embarrassment. He also referred to societal connivance in religious-cleansing of Kashmiri Pandits'. He praised Pandit community for evolving great sense of survival despite continued onslaught. About ethnic-cleansing he said this onslaught was well-planned, brutal and well-orchestrated. He informed that after creating scare members of Pandit community were killed, tortured, maimed and women dishonoured, property torched/vandalized with clear warning-to either convert or deport. He said that Panun Kashmir demand was first concrete historical response to systematic persecution of Pandits for centuries.

2 VDC members arrested

KS Correspondent

Two Village Defence Committee members, identified as Lacho, son of Faqir Din and his cousin Isho, son of Shakur Din, resident of Banjal, Batwal (Billawar) were arrested on August 10 alongwith their relative, Mohammad Sharief resident of Mandli for hatching a conspiracy to hide their official weapons in a forest area and then shift the blame on Charan Dass and his father, residents of Banjal Badyal with whom they had land dispute.

Extortion racket unearthed

An extortion racket was unearthed with the arrest of a Kashmir University official and a Police Inspector on August 10. The duo, through their agents, would bring in prospective candidates from outside J&K and then extort money. In certain cases the agents would run away despite taking money from the innocent candidates. The duo were identified as Habibullah, an assistant watch and ward official of Kashmir University and Fayaz Ahmed, an Inspector of 11th Battalion JKAP.

Indian Overseas Bank Duped

On August 10, Ghulam Nabi Bhat, a resident of Safakadal, Srinagar was chargesheeted by Crime Branch for duping Indian Overseas Bank of Rs 48 lakh. Bhat had taken Rs 48 lakh loan from IBO on the basis of forged documents. He had purchased 4 kanals of land at Bugroo, Budgam. Subsequently, he tempered with Revenue records and substituted Bemina in place of Bugroo and applied for loan.

Fake currency racket

Nepal police busted a counterfeit Indian currency racket on August 10. A huge quantity of counterfeit currency printed in Bangladesh and Malaysia finds its way into Nepal before being sent to Indian towns. Nepalese officials recently arrested Abdul Wahak, a Pak national and recovered Rs 1.2 crore fake Indian currency from him. In July last the police had arrested 2 Nepalese along with Rs 40 lakh fake Indian currency which they had brought from Malaysia. The police officials said the counterfeit currency was being supplied in the market through money exchange counters, casinos and business houses run by members associated with the network.

In another incident at Mumbai on August 30th city police arrested Suleman Ibrahim Sheikh alias Patel, resident of Dongri (South-Central Mumbai) and a suspected ISI agent. Rs 148,500 in fake Indian currency was recovered from him.

Manipuris being lured by Al Qaeda

With the arrest of Mohammad Sadeeq, a resident of Foibal, Manipur, in Udhampur district, a new dimension reflecting NE youth's involvement in Al-Qaeda has come to the fore.

Reports said Sadeeq had shifted recently alongwith a girl from Kupwara to Dudu Basantgarh area. Sadeeq, who had been given alias of Abu Waqar by LeT operatives had crossed over of Abu Waqar by LeT operatives had crossed over to Bangladesh in 2006 after being lured by local agents. He was given training in subversion at Chittagong by ISI and Bangladesh intelligence agency and recruited into Al Qaeda. He was later pushed into J&K alongwith 10-15 terrorists and put in LeT outfit. From Chittagong the group was brought to Karachi by sea and sent to J&K through Muzaffarabad. Three months back he and his group were sent to Dudu mountains. Sadeeq lost contact with his group and was nabbed by Police. Interrogation of Sadeeq revealed that ISI and its local agents were luring Manipur youth to undergo arms training in Bangladesh.

Terrorist Brutalities

In an incident on August 23, Mohammed Sharief a police cop, posted in Gursai Police Station was kidnapped by 2 local terrorists from Sangiot, where he had gone to visit his relations. Sharief was taken to fields where he was beheaded. He was posted in the commando group and was instrumental in many successful operations against terrorist sin and around Mendhar. A civilian Gh. Mohammad alias Tota, son of Hussain Gujar, resident of Sisarwal, near Doda was killed by terrorists near his house on the night 21/22 August. A shepherd was killed by terrorists at Gabbar Dhok in Budhal area. Two more civilians were kidnapped in the same area, one of them escaped from captivity. On August 17 body of a 26 year old Woman Fahmeeda Bano was recovered from Chenab in Doda district. She had been kidnapped by terrorists from Fakoomad in Kishtwar area few days back. Same day in Baramulla district at Chak-e-Arsalankhan a cop Manzoor Ahmed Mir and his father were killed by terrorists inside their house.

A school teacher Mohammad Yousaf Kallas was kidnapped by terrorists from his house at Nasarpora in Pulwama. His throat slit body was found in a forest area at Dunadoo. A letter from Hizbul Mujahideen outfit was recovered from his pocket.

Blast in Bhaderwah

A blast took place inside Laxmi Narayan Temple at Seri Bazaar in Bhaderwah town on August 28. In a separate incident police foiled a terror plot to attack Budda Amarnath Yatris on August 26. After a tip off security forces in a raid at Gagnan forest in Sabjian in Mandi recovered 6 kg RDX.

Top terrorist eliminated

Hizbul Mujahideen's 'operational commander' for Ramban, Ijaz Ahmed Chopan was shot dead by security forces at Bhimdassa, Gool on August 26. He was active in Gool-Mahore belt for the past 6-7 years and had taken over the charge after the elimination of Billo Gujar. In a separate incident on August 19, a top terrorist of HM outfit, Fayaz alias Zubair was eliminated in an encounter at Marhama-Bijbehara. Active for the past several years, Fayaz was involved in many killings.

Earlier on August 12, security forces achieved a major success by eliminating a top terrorist of HuM, Abu Shaheen Afghani at Krankishivan, Sopore. Active for the 7 years he had planned major strikes, including a car bomb attack. Another notorious terrorist, affiliated to LeT, Rehman Saani alias Hanzulla was gunned down at Hiffkhour in Zainapura, Pulwama. He was wanted in connection with a number of attacks on politicians and highway blasts.

Roshan Din alias Abu Darda, a notorious terrorist operating in Gulabgarh area of Mahore was eliminated in an encounter at Nakka Pathri on September 1. A local of Dharamsal, Gulabgarh, Darda had been active since 2000 and was involved in many terrorist activities.

MLA-Militant nexus in Manipur

12 members of banned Manipur terrorist groups were arrested alongwith arms and extortion money from the official residences of 3 MLAs of the ruling Congress and the home of a former legislator during searches in Imphal on August 17.

ISI supplying separatists with heroin

Ludhiana rural police arrested 2 persons with 6 kg of heroin priced at Rs 6 crore, on August 21. One of the accused Sukhwinder Singh revealed that he had gone to Pakistan as a member of a Jatha in connection with the Gurparb of Guru Nanak Dev in 2005 where he met besides Sikh separatists one Asiq Gurki alias Rana and got arms training there. Rana was supplying heroin and arms to groups active in Punjab. Sukhwinder had also indulged in the sale of fake currency printed by ISI.

8 year old girl raped, killed

The dead body of a 8 year-old girl student, Sabreena Fayaz daughter of Fayaz Ahmed Sheikh resident of Ikhrajpora, Rajbagh (Srinagar) was recovered from a deserted house on August 24. After being raped she seemed to have been brutally killed with smashing of brickbats on her head. Subsequently, in a statement in Assembly, Chief Minister said that with arrest of one Zahoor Ahmed Sheikh, the cousin of the deceased the case had been solved. During interrogation Zahoor confessed to having lured Sabreena to an abandoned house where he subjected her to sexual assault and subsequently committed her murder to destroy evidence.

Centre to act tough on J&K terrorists' return

The Centre has decided not to entertain surrender of J&K terrorists at LoC. Amidst mounting evidence that Pakistan was pushing Pakistani saboteurs in the garb of surrender militants, the Central government decided to act tough. Nearly two dozen Pak/PoK nationals have managed to enter J&K over the past 2 years using this loophole. There were 14 such cases in 2006, 7 in 2005. A number of them are said to have gone underground. Of the 190 cases of surrender in 2006, the army conducted 79 at the LoC and 41 within the border. The remaining 70 terrorists surrendered to other security agencies. Till July 2007, 50 terrorists surrendered to the army at the LoC and nine within the border. The 'surrendered terrorists' mostly belong to Hizbul Mujahideen outfit. Under the new policy 'surrenders' are to be done before J&K Police, which will keep them in JIC for 2 months. Reports reaching here said that Pak was pushing small groups of terrorists to surrender before the Indian army under a plan. Pakistan's gameplan was to use these groups both as reserves as well to provide logistic support to active terrorists.

BJP strongly objects to invitation to Wajahat Habibullah

In a press conference on August 30 at Jammu the State BJP leaders-Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta, Sh. Ashok Khajuria and Dr. Nirmal Singh said that by sending invitation to Wajahat Habibullah to address the 4th meeting of Working Group Number Five on Centre-State relations Dr. Manmohan Singh was playing foul with the nation adding that 'the Congress was distintegrating the secular and democratic polity by creating communal divide in the state'.

The State BJP President, Mr Ashok Khajuria recalled the highly communal formula proposed by Wajahat Habibullah, who was not even a member of Working Group. Habibullah had proposed division of Jammu province by delinking Muslim-majority districts from it. He had even sought to make J&K an, 'Islamic state', by designing terms like '*Shoora*' and '*Majlis*', Mr Khajuria added. Dr Nirmal Singh said Wajahat Habibullah's formula was part of a conspiracy to facilitate 'Greater Kashmir'. He alleged that through these attempts the Congress leadership was pushing the areas of J&K province towards Pakistan.

Car bomb blast in Srinagar, 12 injured

A car bomb explosion occurred at Airport Road at Hyderpora on September 1 in which 12 persons including 5 BSF jawans were injured. Hizbul Mujahideen, claimed responsibility for it.

'DD Kashir' criticised

Dr. Javaid Rahi, secretary of the Tribal Research and Cultural Foundation has strongly criticised the role of Door Darshan's 'Kashir' Channel, charging it with failure to reach out to the tribals in the region and counter the propaganda on Pakistan National Television. He said, "the channel has failed to counter the massive anti-India propaganda launched by PTV through its powerful transmitters in Gojri, along the border" Dr. Rahi informed that Muzaffarabad station of PTV has also stepped up propaganda in Gojri apparently to influence the Gujjars'. The noted Gujar scholar said that despite repeated requests to start 10 minute Gojri News Bulletin to counter Pak-propaganda the authorities have been sleeping over the matter.

Germany foils Jihadist terror plot

Germany said that it had foiled a plan by Islamist terrorists to carry out massive bomb attacks against American installations and arrested the three men behind it. The arrested people belonged to an Uzbek Jehadi group affiliated to Al Qaeda and were trained in Pak-based camps. Of the 3 accused two were Germans and one Turk. News of arrests came a day after Danish Police arrested 8 Muslim youth on charges of plotting a bomb attack.

Hawala Network in Doda smashed

On Sept 2, Doda police busted a LeT- run Hawala network by arresting 2 terrorists, Rs 3 lakh hawala money was recovered from their possession. The duo were overground workers of LeT. They were taking money for LeT 'commander' Ashiq Hussain in the forest area of Bhaderwah.



Sh. Kuldeep Raina

NATIONAL CONVENTION-2007 General Secretary's Report

Distinguished Guests and commu- nity brethren,

We welcome you to Panun Kashmir National Convention-2007. Much water has flown down the Vitasta and Tawi since our last convention held in February, 2006.

Painstaking work done by our organization has started yielding results.

Panun Kashmir leadership was called to the Round Table Conference, held as part of 'internal dialogue' on J&K. Given the structure and constraints under which RTCs and Working Groups are conducted not much is expected, either in terms of reversal of genocide of Kashmiri Hindus or nationalist consolidation. However, for the first time GOI and its political leadership has recognized the Pandit factor in solution to Kashmir turmoil. This is a defining moment for Displaced Pandit community, which hitherto was being treated as pariah, despite the fact that Pandits bore the brunt of Islamist terrorism as its frontline victims. Kashmiri Pandit representatives called to the RTCs spoke Pandit point of view, without the trappings of apologetic politics. The representatives had an opportunity to present the community point of view before the Indian State and the Muslim leadership of Kashmir. Presentations made by Panun Kashmir leadership, which counterposed alternate visions on reversal of Pandits' genocide, nation-building, strengthening nationalist constituency in J&K had the desired effect. There is growing appreciation of Panun Kashmir vision among the political class, the civil society and the common people. From being a peripheral movement the legitimacy of Panun Kashmir is being slowly recognised. It would sound loud thinking when we say that Panun Kashmir is poised for a far bigger role to catalyse the process of national resurgence at a time when forces of disruption from within and without are trying to weaken Indian Unity. Panun Kashmir is gradually being viewed not only as permanent solution to the perpetual homelessness of Kashmiri Pandits but also as solution to Kashmir imbroglio as such. Our representative to the Working Group on Centre-State relations, Dr Ajay Churungoo has through his thoughtful presentations successfully contested the old concepts which sought to legitimize Muslim precedence and Muslim identity politics, the main reason for growth of communalisation and talibanisation of culture in the Kashmir Valley. He firmly countered Wajahat Habibullah's participation through backdoor and his dangerous formulations on J&K, which were no different from those of Parvez Musharraf and Farooq Kathwari. Our organisation has not marketed its achievements as populism is alien to the culture of Panun Kashmir. We were the first to argue that 'peace process' would yield nothing and would be, in fact, counter productive to national unity. Events have vindicated us.

Saakshatkar:

During the past 1½ years our organisation held Saakshatkar—an exhibition depicting different facets of Pandits' genocide—at New Delhi, Rohini, Mumbai, Pune, Pimpri, Dharashiv and Jalgaon.

The main objective behind holding these Saakshatkar exhibitions was to tell the nation about how Kashmiri Pandits, the aborigines of Kashmir were hounded out from their homeland through a process of religious-cleansing. The country's leadership continues to be in denial mode and is averse to let the nation know the truth due to fear of losing certain vote-banks and perverted vision. Another objective of Saakshatkar was to sensitise nation to the dangers of terrorism and ham-handed approach of national leadership in dealing with it. The success of Saakshtakar has seen two results—One, the

Union Home Minister admitted in Parliament that more than 177 temples of Kashmiri Hindus have been destroyed in Kashmir. Secondly, the J&K Govt. piloted a bill for protection of Temples/Shrines.

Subsequently, to build on the Temple Bill, Panun Kashmir in a short time got in touch with more than 60 temple committees across the Valley, sought their suggestions and submitted a new bill which covered the glaring loopholes of the Govt. sponsored bill. We invite other committees to join our campaign to see that the alternate draft of Temple Bill, which reflects the consensual view of the Pandit Community, is implemented at the earliest.

Panun Kashmir has forcefully articulated the deprivations imposed on Displaced Pandit Community. We brought to the notice of the world the case of Pt. Pyare Lal Tickoo of Shopian. First his beloved son was gunned down by terrorists, then his land at Batapora was taken over by Govt. Subsequently, his orchard was fraudulently grabbed at Balapora. Despite decision in his favour by Revenue Tribunal, the State Govt. refuses to implement its own decision. What better evidence can be cited for continued genocide of Pandits' than this?

Our organisation took up the case of inmates of Muthi Camp-II, whom government continues to deny the right to shift to new quarters. Soon after this, the state government sent Principal Secretary for an on the spot assessment and said new quarters would be allotted by end of September. We hope the government would live upto its commitment. On the issue of Jagti project Panun Kashmir declared that the project was no substitute for permanent rehabilitation of the community. However, it said Panun Kashmir stands for continued upgradation of the living conditions in exile and articulated shortcomings of Jagti Project. It also rejected with contempt the genocidal policy of enforcing deprivations as incentive for return. Panun Kashmir also alerted the community to the machinations of certain elements which seek to create a wedge between the Pandit community and Hindu Samaj at large. The whole Pandit community endorsed our organisation's stand. Panun Kashmir organisation in collaboration with its sister organisation All Kashmiri Pandit Solidarity Conference successfully conducted a campaign to provide solace and help to the victims of family disputes. While standing for the restoration/renovation of community's shrines in Kashmir, Panun Kashmir has cautioned against linking it to the so-called peace process. It has also cautioned the displaced community against self-styled community leaders in Valley which have been demanding renovation of shrines through Muslim Aqaf Trust and have been calling separatists/terrorists to participate in community's religious functions. Panun Kashmir stands by its vision that Kashmiri Pandits would live as a matter of choice and right and not at the mercy of those elements who have been responsible for community's genocide.

Panun Kashmir's another landmark contribution has been successful running of its monthly, Kashmir Sentinel, now in its 14th year of publication. The range and depth of write-ups published regularly in it have received wide acclaim. We brought out special thematic issues on Kashmiri Pandits in Diaspora—Dr. Brij Premi, Poet Arjun Dev Majboor—National Security etc. In future also besides providing quality analysis on contemporary events and genocide of Pandits, Kashmir Sentinel would continue to be in service of its readers by publishing original articles on Kashmir's Culture, History and Folklore.

Panun Kashmir continues to play a path-breaking role in evolving survival strategies for Pandit community. Had leadership of the community during the past two centuries in general and 1947-1990 in particular been alive to the dangers to the community and possessed the longterm survival vision the rigors of genocide would not have been so overwhelming and painful. Saint Simon, the great French philosopher once made a prophetic comment- 'Reforms only prolong the tyranny'.

Panun Kashmir, which emerged as the frontline organisation of Displaced Kashmiri Pandits, was as much a response to the

genocide imposed on them by Islamist separatists as to the apologetic and elitist politics played by a section of the old community leadership. It showed the community how the latter politics, which sought to make community once more subservient to the communal elements in Valley, would keep the Pandit community in a state of perpetual destabilisation. Panun Kashmir decided to call the spade by its proper name and bury apologetic politics for ever. The practitioners of apolgetic politics, feeling redundant with new socio-political awareness in the community, continue to sponsor slander campaigns against Panun Kashmir.

Panun Kashmir has given birth to a new Kashmiri Pandit who wants to live in Kashmir as an Indian nationalist, with fully restored economic, social and political rights. This Pandit rejects the strategies of 'tokenist return' or 'symbolic presence in the Valley'. He wants to reclaim his homeland as a matter of right. Panun Kashmir rejects any dialogue covert or overt with communal, fundamentalist and secessionist elements in Kashmir.

What has been the vision or roadmap of survival strategies bequeathed to us by our old leadership? Panun Kashmir has pioneered a vision to the community on crucial issues—unity, dialogue with Muslim community in Valley, Panun Kashmir as solution to Pandit homelessness and Kashmir impasse, return and rehabilitation, reversal of genocide, secular nation-building in J&K, nationalist revival in Kashmir etc. In every genocide incomprehension and betrayal have thwarted the resistance of the victimised community. Kashmiri Pandits are no exception. We need to be extravigilant about these elements. Panun Kashmir has tried to reach to the community members in Jammu, Delhi and elsewhere by holding corner meetings. During the past 1½ years we have held more than 40 such meetings. Through symposia, press conferences, rallies and demonstrations Panun Kashmir has been trying to keep visibility on Pandits' genocide and help in its reversal. Panun Kashmir activists are emerging as role models for the community. It is the commendable job done by Panun Kashmir that Kashmiri Pandits are emerging as central element in Kashmir solution. There is a Pandit question because there is movement of Panun Kashmir.

Our civil society and the common people have to supplement the role played by the Panun Kashmir leadership. Unless and until the community and its intellectuals play an active role in the movement launched by Panun Kashmir, Panun Kashmir will not come to fruition.

Panun Kashmir is marching forward despite setbacks from time to time. The successes of anti-genocidal movements are not to be evaluated in shorter time frames because of the fluid regional situation and multiplicity of hostile forces arraigned against them. A community which has a futuristic vision and is willing to struggle for it will not get demoralised because of slow results. I will sing with the poet who muses:

**\My voice is the voice of my city,
My voice is the voice of my age.
My voice will influence generations.
What do you think it is,
That you call my voice a clamour?
How can you call my voice
The voice of madness?
How can you think
The coming storm a mere illusion?
I am no prophet,
I only see today with open eyes.
If I am aware of all this,
Why aren't you
I speak the truth,
I am no prophet,
I only see today with open eyes
That is all.**

Thank You

Resolution adopted during National Convention of Panun Kashmir on September 14, 2007 at Jammu

RESOLUTION-1

Developments since the initiation of 'peace process' between India and Pakistan seem to be heading towards a situation where an atmosphere is being built for dilution of Indian sovereignty over Jammu and Kashmir, balkanisation of Jammu along communal lines and thwarting all measures which could lead towards reversal of genocide of Kashmiri Hindus. By according political respectability to Dixon Plan and its variants like Musharraf plan, self rule, Greater Autonomy, Kathwari Plan, porous borders, de-militarisation, 'Joint Management' etc. a very dangerous situation is being built. Some bureaucrats and academicians who have been hobnobbing with American think tanks supporting Kathwari formula have been catapulted into such positions of decision-making where their continued presence poses danger to national interests in Jammu and Kashmir. Using developmental Jargons to float certain models to facilitate Musharraf-Kathwari plan is a calculated sinister step to camouflage their real intentions.

We condemn all such measures which aim at taking J&K State a step away from India, according legitimacy to communal cleavages in Jammu Province and ignoring genocide of Kashmiri Hindus.

We resolve that Panun Kashmir will consistently oppose Dixon Plan and its

variants-Musharraf plan, Kathwari formula, Wajahat Habibullah model, Greater Autonomy and 'Self-Rule'.

That Panun Kashmir will relentlessly pursue the goal of creation of Panun Kashmir to the North and East of River Jhelum where there will be unfettered flow of Indian Constitution with a Union Territory Status.

That Panun Kashmir will not support any peace process or internal dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir which does not address comprehensively the genocide perpetrated against Kashmiri Hindus.

RESOLUTION-2

Panun Kashmir notes with serious concern that measures which could have an ameliorating impact on the plight of displaced Kashmiri Hindus, continue to be thwarted by the communal segments in the state government. Despite loud pronouncements that 1000 new upgraded residential quarters will be allotted to the camp dwellers, the government continues to dither on the issue. The building of satellite township which was inaugurated with much fanfare appears to have come to a dead end. The employment package for Kashmiri Hindu youth, which has been recognised by Prime Minister as well as RTC meets is still a non starter. Similarly there are no plans to rehabilitate/compensate traders, agriculturists-horticulturist section in the displaced community. The property of Kashmiri Hindus is forcibly and fraudulently being grabbed under a plan. The government

connivance is glaring in many instances. Kashmiri Hindu property and Shrines in Kashmir Valley are also being usurped in the name of 'public utility purposes' by none other than the state government itself. This has assumed an alarming trend after the coalition government led by PDP took over in November 2002. Kashmiri Hindus living in Valley have been subjected to total marginalisation.

1. We resolve that the state government should immediately complete all the upgradation works in the camps. The quarters which have been already completed in this connection should be allotted to the inmates of the camps. The Battal Balian camp should be immediately shifted.
2. The state government should immediately announce an employment package of 25,000 for Kashmiri Hindu unemployed youth. This employment package as well as promotion and in-service trainings should be delinked from return.
3. The government should compensate the orchardists, agriculturists, and traders/industrialists among displaced Kashmiri Hindus on Khundroo pattern for the losses they have suffered during past 18 years.
4. The policy of acquiring Pandit property and shrines without the consent of the community should be immediately abandoned. In areas where it has already taken place the government should restore the property to

the community members along with due compensation.

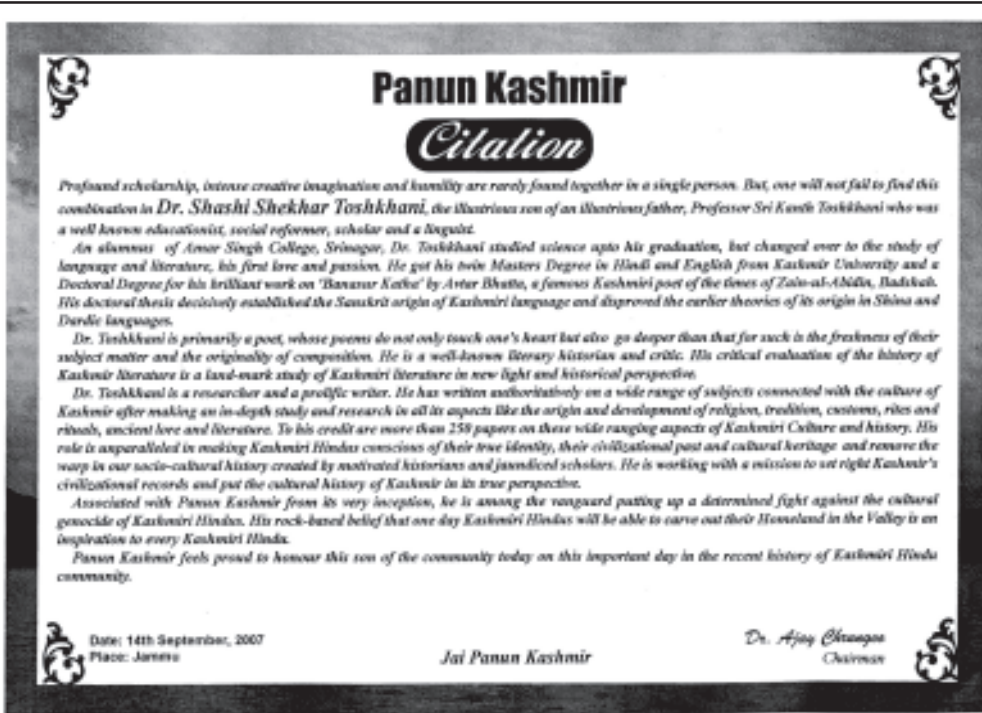
5. A special tribunal be constituted to address the issue of forcible occupation and fraudulent usurpation of Kashmiri Hindu properties and Shrines. This tribunal should be empowered to issue immediate decisions for evacuation and prosecution. All distress sales since 1990 should be declared null and void.
6. Panun Kashmir demands that the alternate draft bill on the protection of Kashmiri Hindu Temples/Shrines etc. as submitted to the government by Panun Kashmir be accepted in totality. This bill which was submitted to the government after consensus of around sixty temple committees from all districts has the widest mandate. We reject the bill proposed by the government as well as some pro-government vested interests as they carry glaring loopholes which will snatch the Kashmiri Hindus' property of temples/shrines/asthapanas.
7. Panun Kashmir demands immediate updating of electoral rolls.
8. Panun Kashmir demands immediate implementation of the decisions regarding enhancement of relief and bifurcation of ration cards. Discrimination against displaced employees through denial of HRA/CCA should be done away with.

EXILE Edward W. Said

Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home, its essential sadness can never be surmounted. And while it is true that literature and history contain heroic, romantic, glorious, even triumphant episode in an exile's life, these are no more than efforts meant to overcome the crippling sorrow of estrangement. The achievements of exile are permanently undermined by the loss of something left behind for ever.

Mahmoud Darwish

But I am the exile.
Seal me with your eyes.
Take me wherever you are-
Take me whatever you are
Restore to me the colour of face
And the warmth of body
The light of heart and eye,
The salt of bread and rhythm,
The taste of earth...the Motherland.
Shield me with your eyes.
Take me as a relic from the mansion of sorrow.
Take me as a verse from my tragedy;
Take me as a toy, a brick from the house
So that our children will remember to return



Text of the
Citation
presented
by Panun
Kashmir to
Dr. S.S.
Toshkhani.

Combating terrorists and secessionists with slogans and wishful thinking

By Sumer Kaul

TO give credit where it is due, no prime minister has been so blissfully imaginative in desiring peace with Pakistan as Dr. Manmohan Singh. At a function in Jammu the other day he said he wanted the Line of Control to become “a line of peace”. Earlier, he wanted Siachin to become “a mountain of peace”.

Such imagery has exciting possibilities: Vitasta becoming a river of peace, Dal becoming a lake of peace, Srinagar becoming a city of peace, Kashmir becoming a valley of peace – wishes becoming horses and terrorists becoming angels of peace !

Nobody can deny Dr Singh’s pacifist credentials. There is no doubt that he earnestly wishes to see an end to the bloody situation in Kashmir, and thereby to the ugly era of animosity in the subcontinent. Indeed, so do all his countrymen --- except that they don’t see this happening by wishful thinking. A politician is free to fantasise, the country cannot afford to.

The prime minister’s Siachin slogan made a catchy headline. What effect it had on the morale and motivation of our dedicated soldiers up there in that killer terrain is anybody’s guess. That aside, given its intended implication (troop pull-out) and unintended consequences (Pakistani occupation of the strategic heights), it is not surprising that the mountain-of-peace plea has been shot to pieces by those who know and think better.

The line-of-peace vision is, if anything, more fanciful --- and dangerous. Borders cannot be re-drawn, says the prime minister, but they can be --- nay, should be --- made “irrelevant”! What does this Alice in Wonderland-like statement mean? According to Dr. Singh it means “free flow” of people, goods, services, ideas, et al, across the LoC, plus using the

state’s resources for ‘joint good’ of people on both sides.

This is sophistspeak. The 50-year-old border cannot be altered but it can be erased! Let’s get real; even without making the LoC irrelevant and with large stretches barb-wired and dotted with checkpoints, there is constant flow of terrorists and jihadis with all their lethal “goods” and incendiary “ideas”. Should we open the floodgates for them?!

As for the sharing-resources part of the picture, it is difficult to see it as anything other than what it looks like: bowing to Musharraf’s mischievous solution of “joint management” of the state which, amazing to have to point out, is Indian territory in law no less than in fact. When the foxy General first mouthed this “out-of-the-box” proposal, everyone literate enough to read between the lines thought he was out of his mind. Now they wonder: Is Dr.Singh’s “LoP” scenario an indication that the dispensation is slowly veering to the Pakistani’s preposterous proposition? In other words, under the garb of high statesmanship, in addition to abandoning our rightful claim to areas under Pakistan’s illegal occupation, are we moving towards virtually ceding, along with our sovereignty over the state, the state itself?

Is it being unduly alarmist to raise these unthinkable questions? A case of reading too much into what some people may see as nothing more than a peace-loving paysagist PM’s harmless dreamscapes? One seriously hopes so but that does not detract from the creeping concern over what is happening and may be in the offing in Kashmir, the latter particularly in view of our imbecilic belief that the ‘problem’ can be solved by co-opting the very set-up that has created it. This leaves people no choice but to be extremely wary of New Delhi’s peace overtures to Pakistan. Their skepticism and criticism have rarely, if ever, proved wrong.

Take, for instance, the anti-terror “joint mechanism” set up by Singh and Musharraf after a powwow in Havana last year. Can anyone imagine Bush compacting with Osama to fight Al Qaeda? But we agreed to (proposed?) this farcicality -- and did so not only in the face of overwhelming evidence of the military-mullah regime’s direct and active involvement in terrorism but, in what can only be described as inexcusable irony, within days of the Mumbai train blasts whose trail the prime minister had himself said led to Pakistan. To the surprise of no one but government dimwits and toady commentators, the mechanism has proved to be a dud, as some of us had said it would.

But it is not only such pea-brained moves. Far more disturbing is the disarray in our Kashmir policy – if policy is the word for the confusion, contradictions, silly actions and amazing inaction that characterize it. Sample the scene:

Building on the cock-eyed initiative of the previous regime, the Singh government has organised and laid much store by “roundtable” conferencing with the ragtag bunch of secessionists called Hurriyat. What is the rationale of this exercise? If the idea is to win them over, this has not happened, nor is it likely to happen. On the contrary, by so giving them unwarranted recognition and respectability, it has pampered them and strengthened their de-accessionist stand -- and in the process caused perceptible belittlement of the elected state government.

It has also emboldened out-and-out pro-Pakistan elements like Syed Ali Shah Geelani. Witness the sense of impunity with which, at a rally in Srinagar in April, he spewed anti-India venom. Present were sympathizers

and even activists of our neighbourhood terror machine called Lashkar-e-Taiba, thus unnerving and de-stabilising the peaceable nationalist Kashmiris -- and cocking a snook at the mighty Indian state!

One of Geelani’s demands was/is withdrawal of security forces from the terror-beleaguered state. And if you haven’t noticed, guess who is echoing this demand – none other than the ideologically ambiguous chief of the PDP, the man who was chief minister before Ghulam Nabi Azad and the party which remains part of the ruling coalition. He reportedly threatened to quit if troops are not thinned out.

That was enough to send a shiver up the Congress party spine. Instead of referring the matter, if at all, to the security forces and the state government, the prime minister set up a Central committee to go into it and, tellingly, at the same time hinted that a measure of troop withdrawal may be effected “after September”. Fortunately for the hapless Kashmiris, and India, both the defence minister and the army chief have negated the move.

It requires not labouring to understand why. Leaving aside the ludicrous spectacle of different officials and authorities (and sometimes the same person on different days of the week !) making conflicting assessments of the status of terrorism and infiltration in the state, the fact is that there is no change in the basic situation on either count. This is demonstrated by the clockwork regularity of terrorist infiltration and strikes, causing Defence Minister Antony to say, “If we slacken our effort, it will be very bad, in fact very very bad”.

According to the army, there are as many as 52 fully functional terrorist training camps in PoK and Pakistan proper and, raring to reinforce an estimated 200-odd terrorists already in the state, an-

other 200 are waiting (for troop withdrawal?!) to cross over from 23 “launch pads” along the LoC.

“Line of peace”, Mr.Prime Minister? And “mountain of peace”---in the neighbourhood of which a few years ago nearly 600 brave young Indians in uniform laid their lives and three times as many were injured in ousting Pakistani invaders. I doubt anyone in the political towers even remembered that July 18 marked the anniversary of their supreme sacrifice to regain Kargil.

As it happens, this is not the only case of governmental indifference vis-à-vis Kashmir. As with heroes so with victims. Witness the callous amnesia regarding the Pandits . These original and proud inhabitants of the valley, hounded out by violent fundamentalists, remain a forgotten people --- living in precarious and inhuman conditions outside the state. There have been government pledges aplenty to ensure their return but nothing has been done about it either by the state or by the Centre. On the contrary, pucca tenements are being built outside Jammu for those languishing in squalid camps in the city --- as disturbing a sign as there can be of their permanent exile. What an eternal shame that would be!

**(The author is a Veteran Journalist based in New Delhi.)*

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Can present lot of leadership make Indians happy?

By J N Raina

Catch them young. India needs dedicated leadership in various fields of activity; be it political activity or economic activity. Rather 'raise' them young; like plant species in greenhouse nurseries, if it is meant well to generate better quality leadership, befitting this ancient nation; like the ones we had during freedom struggle. We need to search for good youth—Indian Idols—and groom them from ab initio.

The quality of leadership is in dire straits. It has degenerated over the decades. The concern is universal. Obviously, the end result is rampant political corruption, which is eating into the vitals of the government and the society.

It is a good augury that a nation-wide search has begun and a debate on better quality leadership has gained momentum in right earnest. The process is continuing. On-again off-again nature of discussion, revolving around Indian leadership, is sweeping across the country, aimed at revitalizing the Indian society. It is ravishing. Kudos to a leading national news paper for initiating the move.

But the stark question arises as to what are the essentials for making a good leader. After all, what was so amazing in the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, which had inspired millions of people when he launched freedom struggle. He had a knack of attracting people of caliber like Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Sardar Patel, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Rajagopalachari, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Jaiprakash Narayan, Jagjivan Ram and several thousand others. They had gathered around him and dedicated their lives selflessly for the cause of the nation. They were imbued with good character to lead India, under the dynamic and charismatic leadership of Gandhiji, who was devoid of self, so essential for making and shaping a leader of his stature.

The Mahatma liberated this impoverished nation by simple means of non-violence, though he did not completely reject violence. To quote him: "It is better to be violent, if there is violence in our hearts, than to put on the cloak of non-violence to cover impotence".

Gandhiji and others of his ilk were men of character. They had certain principles. Gandhiji did not recommend his son Harilal's name for a scholarship, because

he did not want to be accused of nepotism. His private life was separate from politics. That is not the case history of present lot of politicians. Leaders like Shastri, Patel and Nehru were brought up in a different mould. They always tried to rise above 'dynastic ethos', according to historian Ramachandra Guha. They feared "They would be doing the country great disservice if they promoted their kith and kin." In contrast, nepotism is the order of the day, not just in politics, but in almost every field—from business to films to even sports", admits Guha. The picture obtaining today is abysmal. We have won political freedom, but there are miles to go before we can achieve other sort of freedom in totality.

Lee Iacocca, a former CEO, has delineated leadership qualities. He calls them "Nine Cs of leadership". They are: Curiosity, creative, communicate, character, courage, conviction, charisma, competence and common sense. According to him, a leader must listen to people "outside the Yes, Sir crowd" syndrome. He must read voraciously. Both Gandhiji and

Nehru were voracious readers and writers too. In comparison, the U S President George W Bush reads just headlines, as per his own statement, and see the quality of his leadership. His people are scared of him.

According to Lee, a leader has to be 'creative' and try something different. "Think outside the box", he avers. A leader has to face the reality and tell his people the truth. He must be a man of good character and should have guts to do the right thing. Former U S President Abraham Lincoln has well said: "If you want to test a man's character, give him power".

In the present Indian scenario, how many leaders can pass this test after assuming power? They get fully exposed. Corruption has become the hallmark of their success. Very few leaders are imbued with conviction. Chinese Communist leader Mao Zedong had a great passion to take out the historic Long March in October 1934, when the Communists were about to be wiped out by Chiang Kai-Shek's forces. Mao's Red Army had traveled around 12,500 km in a year, through the harshest terrain. Mao believed in the

policy of action.

Very few Indian leaders have charisma. Barring Sonia Gandhi, hardly any Congress leader is charismatic. Had it been so, the Congress would not have been bereft of 'genuine' leadership, which could galvanize the party. The Congress is at cross roads. But Sonia Gandhi lacks many other Cs like common sense, creativeness and competence. These qualities were well embedded in her mother-in-law Mrs Indira Gandhi. But Nehru did not have broad vision. Had he agreed to conduct a nuclear test prior to January 1, 1967, India's stature would have considerably enhanced. India would have been conferred the status of a nuclear weapon country. The U S administration was willing at that time to help India. Their plan was to contain Communist China.

But Nehru was a paragon of democracy. May be, he had some inherent difficulties. Perhaps because he was running a nascent democracy and did not feel encouraged to take risks. India had been making loud noises and would guffaw at other nuclear

power nations then for universal nuclear disarmament. So it was hesitant to go nuclear.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh lacks charisma, although he has curiosity, creativity and lot of common sense. He is the brain behind economic liberalization. Former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had courage to initiate peace talks with Pakistan, not once but twice. But sometimes he misjudged facts and could not foresee things properly. Charismatic Kashmir leader had guts to side with India, against all odds, when then Maharaja Hari Singh signed the instrument of accession with India. The Sheikh was in jail for over 17 years because he had conviction.

From a random survey conducted by the Times of India, it can be ascertained that people want their leaders to be 'honest' and 'educative'. They are fed up with the present quality of leadership. It is mind-boggling that a section of political class has been creating hurdles in the functioning of investigative agencies probing role of criminals involved in terrorist acts. The national security is of little concern to them. They interfere openly in anti-terror measures. A chief minister of a north east region has been allegedly

Linked to ISI. How shameful it is.

A good leader should not suffer from xenophobia. Caste and dynastic politics should be discarded. It should have no room in a democratic setup. Vote bank politics is equally bad. Because of it we fail to produce good leaders. The electioneering process should be made compulsory for larger involvement of the electorate. There has to be an attitudinal change to serve the nation. Higher wages in private sector has created a gulf among the educated class. Scientists, the backbone of India, are feeling disgusted. Earlier, there used to be contentment. The concept of "santosh" (contentment) has died. Discontentment in the society can lead to chaos. It has in fact started happening. India has survived because of this concept of 'santosho parmodharma'. This is why there are a large number of suicides. It is partly because of growing capitalist class. The gap has widened fast. Only 30 per cent of Indians enjoy the benefits of economic liberalization.

*(The author is a Veteran Journalist, based in Pune)

Arun Fotedar-A Tribute

By M.M. Munshi

A gem and a brilliant scientist of our community Dr. Arun Fotedar passed away due to liver failure at UCSD Medical Centre, Hillcrest California on 9th July 2007. His disease surfaced in less than two months before his death, and doctors were unable to determine its origin. "His death is a tragedy not only for his relatives and friends but to the world because he was positioned to develop a whole new line of cancer drugs", stated Dr. Albert Deisseroth, President and Chief executive of Sydney Kimmel Centre.

Dr. Fotedar was born at Srinagar, Kashmir on 12th May 1953. He studied at C.M.S Biscoe Memorial High School and S.P. College Srinagar before passing his B.Sc. Though he wanted to pursue scientific research as a career but at the insistence of his parents he completed his MBBS degree from Srinagar Medical College in 1977. In 1983 He was awarded Ph.D in immunology by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He later did postgraduate work at the University of Alberta, Edmonton in Canada and taught there before joining the faculty of the La Jolla Institute of Allergy and Immunology in 1991. In 1992 he moved as Professor and Director at Cancer Cell Biology Program, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Centre, San Diego Centre California and assembled an international team of scientists to design the drugs that approached cancer from a new angle. According to Dr. Albert Deisseroth Dr. Fotedar explored cell cycles as a way of interrupting the development of cancer cells before they were allowed to spread, he wanted to block things at that stage. Dr. Deisseroth added that Dr. Fotedar's strategy was an innovative way fighting cancer cell development. "We are zeroing on the bull's eye, as opposed to a broader target and this means more effective drugs with fewer side effects" stated Dr. Fotedar in a seminar in 2005. He was an extremely intelligent and great scientist, one of his colleagues at Sidney Kimmel Cancer centre said. He always wanted to get to the bottom of things. It wasn't enough for him to accomplish one task, he always wanted to look miles ahead and remained at the forefront of the quest of battling and local fund raising for cancer till his death. He was an internationally sought after speaker for symposiums and his work was published in the top peer reviewed scientific journals. His profile and publication can be seen at <http://www.skcc.org/fotedar.html> <http://shcc.org/fotedar-refs.html> and <http://www.biomedcentral.com/search/results.asp?and=db=pm&terms=fotedar A&field=AU>

He also became a member of the American National Institute Health's Tumor Cell Biology Peer Review Group. His friend Bob Margolis described Dr. Fotedar as a very fulfilling person to have deep discussions with on any subject like religion, art, history, physics, astronomy or other subjects.

Dr. Arun Fotedar is survived by his parents Lakshmi and Prof. D.N. Fotedar formerly head of Zoology Deptt and Dean of Science Faculty Kashmir University, his younger brother Avinash Fotedar, Bhabhi Rinu Fotedar and nephew Adhtya and other relations and friends who are inconsolable.

*(The author is Maternal uncle of Dr. Arun Fotedar).



By Shalendra Aima

Kashmiri Pandits have prided themselves for several centuries as being learned, broad-minded and modern in several aspects of life and behaviour. Besides, they have been astute in state-craft and most adjusting. Their adaptability has been an envy of their competitors as well as compatriots.

To these qualities of head and heart, Pandits have also taken pride in the adage of being secular. In fact, it has been one of the Pandit luminaries, Jawahar Lal, who thrust the term not only on Pandits but on the entire Indian nation and state.

The term "SECULAR" was used for the first time about 1846 by George Jacob Holyoake to denote "a form of opinion which concerns itself only with questions, the issues of which can be tested by the experience of this life"

The fundamental principle of Secularism is that, in his whole conduct, man should be guided exclusively by considerations derived from the present life itself. Anything that is above or beyond the present life should be entirely overlooked. Whether God exists or not, whether the soul is immortal or not, are questions which at best cannot be answered, and on which consequently no motives of action can be based. A fortiori all motives derived from the Christian religion are. "Things Secular are as separate from the Church as land from the ocean" (English Secularism, 1).

What ever far one would stretch ones imagination, the word secular ends up connoting rejection of religion and religious considerations. It asserts the freedom from the government imposition of religion upon the people, within a state that is neutral on matters of belief, and gives no state privileges or subsidies to religions. And in another sense, refers to a belief that human activities and decisions, especially political ones, should be based on what it considers to be evidence and fact, not on beliefs that secularists consider superstitious. Secularists hold that public policy should be free from religious influence.

Unfortunately, primary sources in the nature of collection of Holyoake's own writings are not available – at least not easily. But, happily, wholly reliable material is available to show the unmistakable views of Holyoake and Bradlaugh. In 1851, a definite stage in the emergence of explicit secularism was reached by the founding of the

The Secular Agenda & Kashmiri Pandits

Central Secular Society by Holyoake. The Society issued a statement of secularist doctrine proclaiming:

1. science as the true guide of man,
2. morality as secular, not religious, in origin,
3. reason as the only authority,
4. freedom of thought and speech, and
5. that owing to the uncertainties of survival we should direct our efforts to this life only.

George Holyoake was no less an atheist than Charles Bradlaugh. Holyoake had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for making the blasphemous statement that God should be retired. It should be remembered that Holyoake published **'The Trial of Theism'** in 1858. It is also recognised that his coining of the word 'secularism' was an attempt to give atheism some respectability. In March 1870 there was between Holyoake and Bradlaugh a debate on the proposition that "the principles of secularism do not include atheism" Holyoake in support of the proposition canvassed that "... the secularist concerns himself with this world without denying or discussing any other world, either the origin of this, or the existence of that".

Bradlaugh, on the other hand, held "that the logical consequence of secularism is the denial, the absolute denial of Providence". In short, Holyoake said that ignoring God was enough; Bradlaugh insisted that God should be banished. This minor difference between them did not affect their common conviction that secularism demanded complete separation of the Church from the State and the abolition of all privileges granted to religious organisations.

However, in the discourse on secularism in India, Dr. Radhakrishnan's view of secularism is enough to inform ourselves on the subject:

"No group of citizens shall arrogate to itself rights and privileges which it denies to others. No person should suffer any form of disability or discrimination because of his religion but all alike should be free to share to the fullest degree in the common life. This is the basic principle involved in the separation of Church and State. The religious impartiality of the Indian State is not to be confused with secularism or atheism. Secularism as has been defined is in accordance with the ancient religious traditions of India". (emphasis provided).

At best this means that, in the Indian context, in a secular society everyone should be free to practice his or her religion. It means equal respect for all religions and cultures and non-interference of religion in the government affairs. Also, according to the Indian Constitution no discrimination will be made on the basis of caste, creed, gender and class. Similarly all citizens of India irrespective of ones religion, caste or gender have right to vote. According to articles 14 to 21 all will enjoy same rights without any discrimination on any ground.

Justice P.B. Gajendragadkar, who, as the Chief Justice of India, had inaugurated the seminar on Secularism organised by the Indian Law Institute in New Delhi, delivered Kashinath Trimbak Telang Endowment Lectures in February 1970 on 'Secularism and the Constitution of India. On the subject he stated as follows:

"The word 'secular', like the word 'religious', is amongst the richest of all words in its range of meaning. It is full of subtle shades which involve internal contradictions, and of these contradictions the conventional dictionary meaning can scarcely give a correct view.

The Constitution of India, till the 42nd Amendment in 1976, did not contain the word 'secular' except incidentally in Article

25(2)(b). Prof. K.T. Shah was the only member who made a valiant effort to get a provision regarding the secular character of India included in the Constitution. The following amendment, moved as Amendment No.366, was defeated on 3rd December 1948.

"The State in India being secular shall have no concern with any religion, creed or profession of faith; and shall observe an attitude of absolute neutrality in all matters relating to the religion of any class of its citizens or other persons in the Union."

To be sure, neither this amendment nor the speech which Prof. Shah made in support of the amendment would have brought about a situation of "a wall of separation between the State and the Church". But it would have put a brake upon the State functionaries freely using the State finance and the machinery for pilgrimages and other religious activities. Prof. Shah's amendment would have also prevented the State media, especially radio and television, from broadcasting bhajans, prayers, religious discourses etc.

An early challenge to the theory and practice of secularism in India was provided by the episode involving the reconstruction of Somnath Temple in Gujarat. As is well known to students of Indian history, Somnath temple was destroyed in AD 1025 by Mohmed Gazni and the Shivalinga was broken into pieces. Since then the Hindu sentiment had been strongly agitated and reconstruction of the temple and the installation of a new consecrated lingam had been strongly desired by believing Hindus.

After India attained independence in 1947, moves were initiated towards the reconstruction of the temple. K.M. Munshi, in his 'Pilgrimage to Freedom' recalls that Sardar Patel, as Deputy Prime Minister, pledged the Government of India to the reconstruction of the historical temple

and that the Cabinet, presided over by Jawaharlal Nehru, decided to reconstruct the temple at Government cost. But Gandhiji advised Sardar Patel not to have the temple constructed and suggested that sufficient money should be collected from the people for this purpose. This advice was accepted and a committee for overseeing the project was appointed under the chairmanship of K.M. Munshi. The decision of the Government, therefore, became irrelevant.

What followed is important. The Constitution of India came into force in January 1950 and in December of the same year Sardar Patel passed away. Munshi invited President Rajendra Prasad to perform the ceremony of the installation of the deity and requested him to accept the invitation only if he was sure of fulfilling the promise. This was because Munshi suspected that Jawaharlal Nehru might jeopardize the President's commitment. However, the President Prasad stood by his commitment and performed the installation function on 11th May 1951.

It seems Jawaharlal Nehru did not take well the association of Munshi with the work of the restoration of Somnath temple. For, Munshi says :

At the end of a Cabinet meeting Jawahar called me and said 'I don't like your trying to restore Somanath. It is Hindu revivalism.'

This Cabinet meeting was of 23rd April 1951 because in a letter which Munshi wrote on 24th April 1951, he recalls "Yesterday you referred to 'Hindu revivalism'...". This letter sets out the history of the restoration work with which, as the letter sets out, the States Ministry was closely associated.

This episode gives rise to some important questions. Was the Government of India justified in resolving to undertake the restoration work of a temple (though as a result of Gandhi's suggestion the money was not provided by the Government)?

If such a decision was taken in a Cabinet meeting over which the Prime Minister presided, was he justified in protesting to the President about the latter's participation in the function and in chiding Munshi for associating with a work of Hindu revivalism? It is true that the Prime Minister's protest and rebuke occurred after the 'secular Constitution' came into force but no Government could have disassociated with the implementation of a decision taken by it.

(Contd. on Page 15)

THE LOST RIVER SARASVATI

By M.M.Munshi

Ambitame, Devitame, Naditame Sarasvati O best of mothers, O best of Goddesses, O best of rivers. Sarasvati do not kick us away, do not let us go away from you to distant lands was eulogised in the Rig Veda. The impetuous Sarasvati is rich for magnificent cows, excellent horses, good chariots, beautiful garments and abundance of gold. Such was the prominence in which Sarasvati river was held during the vedic times even greater than that of Ganga (Ganges and Sindu (Indus) and other rivers. The mythology and history of Sarasvati is very interesting. The withdrawal of waters of Yamuna sometimes between Vedic times and epic of Mahabarta and (ii) Satadru (Satluj) sometimes during the eleventh century dried up Sarasvati which was once a mighty river flowing from Himalayas to Rann of Kutch quite independent of the Indus and Ganges river systems was reduced to a legend. Today it is still believed by many that Sarasvati follows an underground course and joins Ganges along with Yamuna at Triveni. The quest for the lost river began about a hundred years back when a British engineer C.F Oldham while riding across the broad dry bed of a small stream called Ghaggar visualised that a 3 km wide river bed could not have been made by a puny seasonal stream like Ghaggar but must

have been the course of a bigger river in the past.

In the area between Indus and Ganges river systems or to be precise between the present courses of Yamuna and Satluj couple of seasonal dry channels flowing in westerly and south-westerly directions along very broad dry river beds namely Ghaggar and Sirsa met at Rasula near Patiala and further downstream near Bathnair near Bikaner in Rajasthan are joined by another dry seasonal channel called Chitrang which can be traced upstream eastwards up to Yamuna is most likely the old abandoned course of Yamuna

Upstream of Bhatnair and downstream of Karnal the Ghaggar is joined by another buried channel (dry river course) known at present as Wah, Sirhind or Wahind which can be traced upstream as far as Ropar where Satluj emerges from the from the hills after traversing the Himalayas. This was the original course of the Satluj before it changed its course to join the Bipasa (Beas) of the Indus system. A few more dried up channels north of Sirhind Channel called nahiwals have also been traced up to Ropar. In Bikaner and further downstream for a length of about 150 km the course of the channel is known as Sotur or Hakra where it has attained a width of about 5 to 8 km. At places the course of the river is still called Sarasvati by the locals. Further downstream the river course can be easily traced around Mirgarh, Dilawar in Bhawalpur and eastern Sind

in Pakistan, southern Rajasthan into Rann of Kutch through Gujarat quite distinct from the abandoned eastern channels of Indus delta.

Along the course of this buried channel 175 of pre and early historic archeological sites have been excavated and confirmed by archeologists while only 85 of similar sites have been located along Indus in Pakistan. These sites have revealed dwelling sites, potsheds and other Mohonjodaro and Harrapan

HISTORY

types of objects /artifacts. Recent excavations at Dholsaria and other places have revealed figures of ocean going vessels providing clues to the navigability of the dried up river. It has been universally accepted that earliest settlements in the Indian subcontinent and elsewhere the major river valleys and not along dry river beds/abandoned river courses or uplands. How pre or early historic settlements especially with riverine culture could have come up on the sides of buried channels, unless major rivers flowing along in the past. On the basis of these findings some experts have argued that the Indus valley civilization should be renamed as Sarasvati Civilisation

Historical evidences also suggest Bhawalpur in Pakistan, and Bikaner in Rajasthan continued to be well watered at the time of Alexander's invasion in 3rd century BC and even as late in 9th century AD. The Rann of Kutch

was a fairly deep inland sea and ships and dhows of Arabs moved along the then existing river to Sind. Todd in his book "*Annals of Rajasthan*" has stated that Hakra in Bikaner became dry in 11th Century AD. Historical sources of Greeks and Arabs indicate that Satluj was not a Punjab river till 11th century after which it abandoned its course and joined the Beas. Below its present confluence with Satluj it is still called Beas though Satluj is larger of the two rivers.

The existence of a 1600 km. long dry river bed/buried channel / paleo channel varying in width from 3 to 12 km extending from Sirmoor Hills in Himachal Pradesh to Rann of Kutch has been confirmed by the study of both black and white and coloured satellite imageries by experts including Bimal Ghosh, Amal Kar, and scientists of Central Arid Zone Research Institute, P.S. Thakkar of ISRO and others that Paleo Channels extending from the present tri-junction of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana through Patiala, Karnal, Bhawalpur, Bikaner, south Rajasthan. Sind to Rann of Kutch in Gujarat is the dried course of once mighty Sarasvati River quite distinct from the Indus river system.

Sarasvati River deprived of its water by diversion of Yamuna to Ganges System sometime between Vedic age and epic of Mahabarta and Satluj to Indus System much later due to neo-tectonic moments along the axis of Aravali range was reduced to a dry river bed of several km in width. Having lost its snow fed

sources the mighty Sarasvati river disappeared and only legend remained in the folklore. The inhabitants from its banks migrated to far off places like Kashmir, western Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and even as far south as Kerala along the west coast some of whom still call themselves as Saraswat Brahmins or simply Saraswatas. In mythology the prominence of Sarasvati was taken over by Ganga

A Kashmiri Pandit writer in one of his articles "**Kashmiriyat: An Evolving concept**" published in July 2004 issue of Koshur Samachar has surmised that River Sarasvati was fed mainly by the outflow of water from the southeastern corner of Satisar (Pleistocene lake covering the entire valley). Due to development of a cleft on Baramula side Satisar was practically drained of its waters deprived Sarasvati of its feeder which ultimately resulted in drying up of the mighty river. The said concept is not feasible as waters of Satisar could not have flowed underneath across four major rivers namely, *Chandar Bhaga* (Chenab), *Irvati* (Rawi), *Bipasa* (Beas) and *Satadru* (Satluj) before meeting Sarasvati. Secondly the desiccation of Satisar and drying of Sarasvati were not simultaneous events but as already indicated separated by a period about 10 to 12 millennia.

*(The author is a Geologist of repute, based in Jammu).

The Secular Agenda & Kashmiri Pandits

(From Page 14)

These questions have been rendered irrelevant by the conduct of the later Prime Ministers (not excluding Jawaharlal's daughter) and the Presidents traveling at State expense to religious places and for religious functions.

M.N. Roy had already commented on this phenomenon in his article in 'The Radical Humanist' of 14th May 1950 as follows:

"What is necessary is not facile profession of secularism, but a movement for the popularisation of cultural values. The process of secularisation, assuming that it is desired by the Government, cannot be promoted by legislation or executive

orders. But men at the helm of affairs could help, if they did not willingly swim with the contrary current, as they do as a rule. The President of the Republic, Governors and Ministers of the States and the lesser are frequently taking leading parts in public religious ceremonies. This demonstrative religiosity is entirely different from religion as a part of one's private life."

A very comprehensive study of the Constitution of India and also of the social and cultural conditions in India with a view to determining whether 'India is a secular State' has been made by Prof. D.E. Smith in India as a Secular State. It has been rightly regarded as a pioneering study

on the subject. Contrary to popular understanding, Prof. Smith does not assert that India is a secular State. To the question

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whether India is a secular State, his answer is a qualified 'Yes'. The reason why he does not answer in the negative is that he poses the question, in this author's opinion, wrongly, as: What is the meaning of the term 'secular State' in the Indian context? There were several features of the Constitution which were strongly suggestive of secularism. The prevalent cultural indicators were supportive of secu-

larism.

On page 40 of his book, he formulated his famous table enumerating five characteristics of the three religions - Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam - which indicated whether they were favourable to the secular State. Of five factors, four were positive in the case of Hinduism and Buddhism while four were negative in the case of Islam - which meant that the possibility of an Islamic society becoming secular is practically nil.

India is a country where religion is very central to the life of people. India's age-old philosophy as expounded in Hindu scriptures called Upanishada is sarva dharma samabhava, which

means equal respect for all religions. The Upanishadas further go to assert "Ekam sada, viprah bahudha vadanti", meaning, therefore, that the TRUTH is one, and that wise men define it differently.

Sociologist Ashis Nandy ('A Billion Gandhis,' Outlook, June 21) too finds it absurd that an inappropriate European import is being forced on India. Says Nandy, "To go to an Indian village to teach tolerance through secularism is a form of obscene arrogance to which I do not want to be a party," acknowledging that tolerance is an inherent part of the Indian character, something the professional 'secularists' find hard to accept.

Dr. Prem Nath Kachroo-A Scientist of Repute

By Upender Ambardar

Dr. Prem Nath Kachroo, the legendary Professor and a foremost researcher was a renowned Botanist of National and international fame. His name evokes respect and reverence, he was a teacher with a difference. Besides being a hard task-master guide, a considerate friend and a perfect human being; he was a stunning combination of all the positive and good qualities of life all rolled in one.

As an illustrious scientist, Dr. Kachroo had luminosity of contributions in the field of Biosystematics, Cytogenetics, Ecology, Morphology and research studies related to the geographical distribution of plants belonging to the north-west and eastern Himalayan regions. Being a staunch 'devotee' of science, he in fact 'breathed and lived' science. Undeniably, Prof. PN Kachroo represented the zenith of excellence in the world of science.

Shockingly, it was with stunning disbelief that the news of his unexpected and sad demise on 14th of August 2007 at New Delhi was received by his innumerable scientist colleagues, students and friends. Dr. Kachroo was a familiar name on account of his landmark research contributions. They are of immense value in the understanding of biodiversity richness, assessment of evolutionary development relationships and adoption of conservative management measures. He had also earned name and fame for his trail-blazing attainments regarding the understanding of morphological and evolutionary tendencies in the Indian Bryophytes (mosses and Liverworts). Bryophytes are a class of lower non-vascular plants, the collection and analytical classification of which is a painstaking and strenuous exercise.

This kind of energetic and efforts requiring research demands an appreciable amount of insightful knowledge, endurance and expertise, which amazingly Dr. Kachroo possessed in great amounts.

Having a modest and humble origin, Kachroo was born on 16th of October, 1924 in a middle class Kashmiri Pandit family at Alikadal, the down town area of Srinagar city. His father late Sh. Anand Ram Kachroo endowed with a religious and spiritual disposition had a knowledgeable grip on English besides the classical languages of Urdu, Sanskrit and Persian. His inspirational guidance had a telling effect in shaping young Kachroo's early

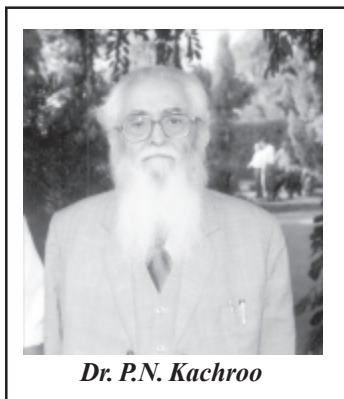
life.

The premature death of his father Sh. Anand Ram in the year 1942, when Kachroo was only a teenager of eighteen years deprived him of the much needed direction and protection. Hamstrung with this irreparable loss, it was left to the shattering care of his mother Smt. Daya Devi Kachroo to bring-up, educate and successfully guide her young children through all the storms and tempests of life. After completing his early education upto Intermediate examination at Srinagar, young Kachroo went all the way to Lahore to study further.

He enrolled himself in the DAV College, Lahore, where he studied Botany and Zoology apart from other subjects. Due to his passion for learning and love for the Botany subject, Kachroo went with whole hog efforts and hard labour. His hard work bore fruits and he qualified B.Sc. Hons with flying colours in the year 1946, securing first position from the then Punjab University, Lahore. In the same year, Kachroo tied the nuptial knot with Ms. Prem Lata Khoda of Mallapora, Habbakadal Srinagar. Smt. Prem Lata proved to be a constant companion to him in all the roughs and toughs of life. The unflinching interest for Botany made Kachroo to go in for specialised studies. He joined Formen Christian College, for M.Sc. Hons in the year 1947, where he chose cytomorphology as his specialised field. His extensive and high quality research at the M.Sc. level under the able guidance of Prof Prem Nath Mehra was recognised as a pioneering work. He worked in the chromosome morphology in *Lilium* and *Fritillaria* species of the Himalayan ranges. It earned him first position in the M.Sc. examination in 1948.

Later on, he joined as senior Research scholar under the guidance of Prof. P.N. Mehra, who by then had come to occupy the coveted position of the Head of the University Department of Botany, which was then housed in Khalsa College Amritsar. The topic of his Ph.D research was chromosome morphology and sporting germination in the Indian Hepaticae, with special reference to *Reboulia* species.

He was awarded the Ph.D degree in the year 1955. His work was widely appreciated and acclaimed as a remarkable research contribution. It later on formed the basis of Prof. Mehra's address at the International Botanical Congress held at Moscow (Russia). Soon after, Dr. Kachroo left Amritsar in 1950 to join the honoured and exalted profession



Dr. P.N. Kachroo

of a teacher in the post-graduate department of Botany at the University of Gauhati, Assam. At Gauhati, the nearness of the surrounding foliage, particularly that of Bryophytic and Pteridophytic flora made Dr Kachroo to undertake the massive research in this specific field.

His splendid research accomplishments mostly individually and a few jointly with Prof. B.K. Nayar in the field of Taxonomy, floristics, morphology and phytogeography of the ferns of Assam occupies a place of pride in the research world.

They were hailed as exceptional works in terms of valuable original insights. Notwithstanding it, his interest and fascination for Bryology did not wane. His subsequent immaculately researched studies in Bryology particularly his works on Hepaticae are even now regarded as most comprehensive. His almost insatiable hunger for scientific research made Dr. Kachroo to leave his job at Gauhati University in 1955. He then joined Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) as a Botanist with headquarters at Burdwan, West Bengal. Here his research work was mainly centered on the ecology of the mainland water bodies of DVC specific areas. He concentrated his work on the study of aquatic vegetation in relation to the breeding of *Anopheles* mosquito larvae in the area extending from Kolkatta to Hazaribagh. It also involved in the adoption of measures for checking the growth of water weeds at the DVC site.

In 1956, Dr. Kachroo left for America to avail the Smith Mundit Fullbright Fellowship to study the phytogeography of Alaska at the University of Michigan. However, due to certain developments, his work shifted to Taxonomic aspect of the family *Lejuneaceae* (Hepaticae), which he undertook jointly with the fellow researcher Rindolf. M. Schuster. His tireless research study paid-off handsomely as Dr. Kachroo succeeded in detecting several new genera and groups. He returned back to India in 1959 to join as

Editor of the Research publications in the prestigious Indian Council of Agriculture Research, New Delhi. During his stay here, he authored valuable books on scientific editing and fern gardening besides publishing census of Indian Hepaticae.

However, the lure of his homeland Kashmir proved irresistible and he returned to his native land. He joined as Professor and head, department of Botany, J&K University, Srinagar in 1967. During his impacting service of 23 years at the Kashmir University, the department of Botany hummed with academic and research-oriented activities.

His uplifting watchful gaze and inspiration presence gave a new resonance to the Botany department. The successful completion of record number of thirty four Ph.D and more than fifteen M.Phils is a knowing confirmation of his able guidance and scientific genius. The department of Botany achieved phenomenal increase in the Botanical research in the J&K State with emphasis centered on floristics, cytogenetics, ecology, morphology and phytogeography of the flora of the state. Dr. Kachroo also undertook practical and objective measures to ensure advancement and growth of the studies connected with plant physiology, plant morphology and plant taxonomy. It proved a milestone in the furtherance of the research connected with the dispersal, distribution and diversity of the flora extending right from the alpine region to Kashmir Valley and plains of Jammu division. His subsequent interest developed for ethnobotanical properties of the wild flora later on stimulated the studies related to various sociocultural aspects of Kashmiris.

His vast knowledge, extensive experience and meaningful guidance combined with the assistance of his highly devoted and sincere research workers made the phytogeographic documentation of several regional floras possible. These studies gave on organised shape to the concept of approximating affinities between Kashmir and Central Asian floras. Apart from it, it also provided insightful knowledge not only about the origin of Kashmir flora but also about the connecting distributional lines of various taxa. The revealing research work undertaken under the guidance of Dr. Kachroo on the disturbing ecological trends of the Dal Lake, Srinagar marked another spectacular contribution of the department of Botany, Kashmir University. Though originally a cytologist and

evolutionary Botany, Prof. Kachroo utilised a multidimensional strategy for comprehending the principles of the biodiversity of the J&K State. His research studies on the cytological peculiarities in ferns, *Irises* *Potentillas* and alpine flora are regarded as Prof. Kachroo's distinguished contribution. Also, the Botanical garden of Kashmir University with its serenity, quietness and pastoral ambience, nurtured during his headship is a speaking example of his practical guidance.

Despite his retirement from active service on 31/10/1984, Prof. Kachroo continued to work in the Botany department in his capacity as Director of Centre for Plant Taxonomy, which he established and nurtured.

Besides being Head, department of Botany and Pharmacy, Kashmir University, he also served as Dean, Faculty of Science, Associate Director (Kashmiri language), National Science Talent Search scheme and Project officer, Survey of medicinal plants unit. In addition, Prof. Kachroo was also Emeritus Fellow, UGC and Emeritus Scientist, Department of Environment and Forests Govt. of India. He also served as officiating Vice-chancellor of Kashmir University during the years 1978-79, 1981-82 and 1983-84. He also functioned as founder Project officer, Survey of medicinal plants, Unani medicines, Member syndicate Jammu University, Member Advisory Board of RRL, Jammu and Member of the Selection Committees of Indian Agriculture Scientist Recruitment Board.

The immensely rich compendium of about a dozen Books, more than two hundred research publications, eighteen monographs and eleven major research projects are regarded as remarkable legacies left behind by Dr. P. Kachroo.

The outpouring of the welled-up emotions and feelings on the sad demise of Prof. Kachroo on August 11, 2007 at New Delhi was intense and spontaneous, cutting across caste, creed and regional lines. In a condolence meeting held by the Department of Botany and Heads of Science Departments of Kashmir University on 14/8/2007, rich tributes were paid to the departed soul. The Vice-Chancellor of Kashmir University Prof. Abdul Wahid and other faculty members remembered Dr. Kachroo as "an ideal teacher, wonderful researcher and a perfect human being".

Recalling his 23 years of dedicated service to Kashmir

(Contd. on Page 21)

DR. P.N. KACHROO-A PHOTO-ESSAY



Dr. P.N. Kachroo at a valedictory function of Summer Science Institute, Kashmir University. Also seen in the picture are Dr. Bimal Misri, Dr. Chani Singh & Dr. R.N. Gohil.



Dr. P.N. Kachroo at farewell function (Sept 1972) organised in honour of Dr. A.K. Koul at Kashmir University. Also scene in the picture are Dr. A.M. Shah, Prof. G.L. Dhar, Dr. B. Koul, Dr. A.K. Koul, Dr. B.L. Saproo and Dr. Bimal Misri.



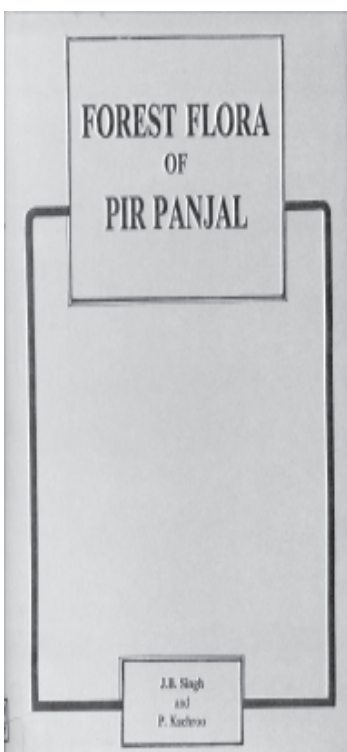
1990: Dr. Shashi Kant with Prof. P.N. Kachroo at Kashmir University.



Prof. P.N. Kachroo being honoured at Jammu University by Vice Chancellor Dr. Amitab Mattoo. Also seen in the picture is Prof. Rama Murthy, President, Indian Society of Life Sciences.



Dr. P.N. Kachroo alongwith Dr. Wakhloo, Dr. Anand, Dr. Shashi Kant, Dr. S.S. Bir, Dr. Yash Paul and Dr. R.N. Gohil



Exile was a big jolt for me

By Arjun Dev Majboor

Exile was a big jolt to me as a writer. I had premonitions about it and had penned the poem *'Neagrai'* sometime before my community's displacement. *'Neagrai'* is related to possible displacement, *'Neagrai'* personifies a Kashmiri Pandit in the poem. In this I have tried to portray how Kashmiri Pandit was getting destabilised in Kashmir and what was in store for him. Originally, this poem was written in Kashmiri and has been translated now into Hindi and English. There is another pre-migration poem *'Samay' (Time)*, which indicates how situation was turning hostile to Kashmiri Pandits. The poem was later on translated into Hindi by Prof. C.L. Sapru. This poem was written in a specific context. Communalization was fast gripping the mind of Kashmiris. *'Nai Duniya'* was publishing vitriolic material to deepen the communal schism.

As a politically aware writer I would often talk to the members of my community about the fast changing situation, where nobody was resisting the retrograde forces. **Even secular elements amongst the majority community were getting communalized, though some of them couldn't comprehend the deeper forces at work.** Gradually, I came to know about elements raising donations and sending Kashmiri Youth across for training in subversion. In December 1989 as the government was found wanting in providing protection to the Pandit minority I was suggested to leave Zainapora Kashmir, for the time being by late Moti Lal Saqi as conditions were not good.

In November 1989 I had an occasion to meet Muslim biradari of my village in Zainapora. Snowfall had already taken place. The occasion was the condolence function of a villager, belonging to the majority community. The villagers asked about my assessment of the situation. I replied, "Hard times are coming for all of us. If you feel by forcing Kashmiri Pandits out from Kashmir you will get Pakistan you tell us frankly so that we can go elsewhere". The Villagers said that they were not for Pakistan. However, I could not restrain from warning them "If the gun comes in the peaceful state, it will not leave anybody untouched. It will torment you as well as us". Some boys from Zainapora too went across to Pakistan. I have no further details about the impact of militancy in Zainapora.

My family already had a house at Udhampur. It was December 1989. There was extreme

fear and insecurity among Kashmiri Pandits. Anantnag and Bijbehara reeled under curfew. I contacted a taxi driver from Bijbehara. He was known to me and gave me an assurance that he would come to Zainapora after four days. Meanwhile, I packed some of my books and few clothes. When I asked my family members to prepare for going to Jammu they thought I was joking. No migration had taken place from Zainapora as yet.

The taxi driver dropped in one evening and gave one hour to get ready. He had to visit a Pandit family in another village in similar connection. My daughter Kiran had given birth to a baby recently. We were keen to take her out because of unreliable medical facilities. She had journeyed from Fatehpur to Zainapora, partly on foot and partly by Tonga, for many days motorized transport had virtually come to halt. The driver had fixed Rs 600 as fare for three of us-myself, my wife and daughter. The driver had to pick up another passenger-a non Pandit from Bijbehara.

It was at 9 PM we left Zainapora. As the Taxi prepared to leave I looked towards my house, the compound and then starry sky with sorrow. I had a feeling that this was going to be my last glimpse of my home and Zainapora, the village where many generations of mine had lived in freedom without any fear.

At 1:30 AM we reached Ramban. The Army Officer, guarding the bridge asked the driver to halt. A thorough search of the vehicle was conducted. I was asked where were we heading for. I replied "Udhampur". With no further questions we were asked to go. The taxi broke down at Batote. A car mechanic was called for correcting the fault. It was at 4 0' Clock in the morning we touched Udhampur.

1st Visit:

Twelve years later I got an opportunity to revisit the land which was my own, belonged to me and treasured my ethos, my culture, my civilisation but had been snatched from me. It was 2001. The occasion was a Culture Meet. 14 Kashmiri Pandit writers had to receive awards for their work. Some came from Delhi- Makhan Lal Bekas, Pran Nath Jalali, Pran Kishore; while others came from Jammu. The award-giving ceremony took place in Tagore Hall. Pran

Kishore released my book **Tehqiq**. There were other programmes as well-cultural programmes, Mushaira etc. I strongly pleaded for acceptance of Devnagri as alternate script for Kashmiri and argued that it was necessary for those who could not learn Nastaliq. Only few of the writers resident in

over a mushaira organised by Radio Kashmir at Srinagar. Director AIR Mr. Zia was extremely cordial and lavish in his hospitality, attending to arrangements even in minutest details.

This time we had opportunity to visit the interior of the city-Maharaja Bazar, Batmaloo, Karan Nagar and Habbakadal. Tea shops were not in good order, little attention was paid to cleanliness. We were astonished to see that beef was being sold openly at Batmaloo. This was a departure from early times. Batmaloo looked more of a big market than a bus stand. Shops and markets had come up everywhere, at many places there was encroachment even on the main roads.

'Hogads' (Dried fish) and 'Nadrus' (Lotus stalks) brought me to Habbakadal. Visiting old Habbakadal bridge was deeply nostalgic for me. My thoughts went back to the years before our displacement when I used to spend hours conversing with my friends and relations at the historic bridge. In those lovely times the area reflected much life. The Vitasta waters with reflection of lights on it

from the houses on the two banks used to present a majestic, charming sight. All this had come to an end. I could hardly spot a Pandit-male or female here in a place which used to be the hub of Kashmiri Pandit community. There was no life now. Only few people were seen moving on the bridge quietly. Houses looked deserted, burnt and in ruins. The famous painter Late Bansi Parimu used to live here at Safriyar. His house had been demolished to make way for a new Habbakadal bridge.

We also went to Nai Sarak area. People lacked usual joviality and conversed little with strangers and others. People did recognise us as Pandits.

Exile Poems:

Padasmayik, (Footprints of Time), written in Kavya style, was published by me in 1992. Violence and killings pained me, cultural loss haunted me. In this long poem two characters- **Sangur** (male) and **Sangarmal** (female) interact. Through them I relate Kashmir's history-from early times to the times of displacement. The first chapter starts with portrayal of beginning of displacement and the situation in the immediate aftermath. I have drawn a scene where shops are closed and the

shopkeepers have left Kashmir, with black moon having risen over Kashmir. The poem is divided into nine Sargas and runs into 64 pages.

Tyol (Pangs)

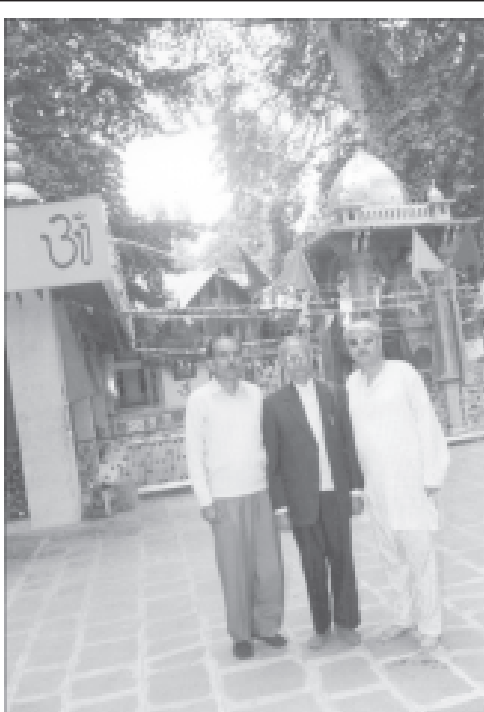
This came out in 1995, and bears deep imprint of Kalidas on me. His style, use of similes and vocabulary have impressed me a great deal. I had also privilege to do Kashmiri rendering of his **'Meghdoot'** in **'Obre Schech'**. In place of cloud I substitute **Swan** as messenger. Speaking metaphorically the Swan (Raj Hans) is invested with powers to sift truth from falsehood. I ask the Swan to go to Kashmir to help me know what was going on there. And I promise to raise decorative arches for him when he would come back. The Swan is provided topo-graphic details to visit different places in time and history. The bird is asked to get message from megaliths- (**Shahmar Pal**) e.g. Gufkral to help Kashmiris come out of the mess. I request the Swan to visit my house in Zainapora. Finally, the Swan reaches a deserted village, buried under snow. A recently-born baby had been abandoned by some one there. The baby expresses desire to talk to Swan. The latter enquires the baby about the identity of his parents and the circumstances of abandonment. The Swan asks the baby, 'who are such merciless parents which have abandoned you in this state? Who will cradle and sing lullby songs to you? Who will bring you up? I am pained to see you in this state'. The baby states, "I too am fed with the situation in this land. Take me somewhere where the abominable snowman will rear me up and eagles will bring sweet fruit for me".

The poem exudes charm and reflects nostalgia about the place and the old ethos. The poem that runs into 36 pages, has 8 line stanzas in verses (Total 96 verses)

Impact of Exile:

Kashmir is in my blood. In my writings I have raised questions- why we were forced into exile? why fundamentalists are slaughtering people? Why people are being killed without any justification?

I strongly miss beauty and nature of Kashmir. The delinking of our rituals and culture from its natural soil also pains me. As writers we have lost the atmosphere for writing. We have to write in a milieu where Kashmir is missing. There is no readership/sale for our books. The Jammu press has been quite positive. Over twenty articles have been published on me.



Poet Arjun Dev Majboor at Tulmulla in 2001. Also seen in the picture are Sh. Prem Nath Shad and Sh. Brij Nath Betab.

Kashmir talked about our displacement.

Kashmir had changed beyond imagination. I and my writer colleagues had gone in a taxi. We saw people in thousands coming out of mosques. Religiosity was on increase. Ladies looked pale due to stress. While passing through Anantnag along the highway i.e. new shopping complexes and massive buildings had come up, leaving little free space in between. Architecture too had undergone change. We saw many new brick-kilns in paddy land along Vessu-Khanabal stretch that had come up to meet the increased demand.

We were housed at Tourist Reception Centre and visited Tulmulla and Vicharnag. Rehman Rahi, the well-known writer welcomed us at his house in Vicharnag. He narrated some stories about militancy. Then he took us to the famous historic temple in the locality. The guards allowed us in. The Pandit mohalla looked devastated. Not a single Pandit house was intact, the damaged houses presented an ugly look. Vicharnag, which used to be a major centre for Kashmiri Pandits now looked like a locality smitten by ghosts.

11nd visit:

A year later I had to preside

Pt. Jia Lal Kaul was an outstanding teacher

Jia Lal Koul Nazir was born at Zainakadal in 1897. His father Pt. Rishi Kaul was a petty land-owner in Sebdan, a village close to Srinagar. The Jagir was too small to take care of the family consisting of seven members. The mantle of supplementing meagre family income fell on Jia Lal Koul, who was the eldest among four sons and a daughter. He had sharp intellect, and excellent communicating skills. He became popular among students and would get many offers to coach his juniors as well as peers. Income generated from tuitions helped Jia Lal to take care of his education as well as that of his siblings.

Jia Lal was a precocious student, brilliant at studies, a well-disciplined student and good at extra-curricular activities. He had strong instincts to master languages and loved to read literature even when he was in his teens. Writing prose and composing poetry was a passion with him. His name de plume was 'Nazir'.

His personality and amiable nature endeared him to teachers in school as well as in College.

After passing his graduation from S.P. College, Srinagar in 1916 Jia Lal went to NWFP to serve as a senior teacher in a private school at Hotimardan. Impressed by his teaching and administrative capabilities Jia Lal was deputed by the school management to Lahore to take degree in B.T. from Punjab University. He served Hotimardan school for 4-5 years and had also a stint as its Headmaster. Family compulsions forced Jia Lal to bid adieu to a satisfying and well-paid job. At Srinagar he was appointed as TGT by the State Education Department. Soon his commitment to teaching profession and reputation as a conscientious teacher spread far and wide. This brought him to the notice of his superiors-Headmaster, Inspector and Director. He would be assigned higher responsibilities and roles in the department than his rank would otherwise warrant.

In late 1920s Jia Lal was posted to Kishtwar as Head Master of local Government Middle School. He introduced in his school the novel concept of Basic Educationist as propounded by Dr. Zakir

Hussain, then an eminent education and later President of India. Under this scheme he made arrangements to teach the famous weaving craft of the place-Kishtwar wollen blankets to senior outgoing students. At the same time the local artisans were taught how to read and write, providing trade-skills to the educated and literary gains to the otherwise illiterate artisans. This drew the ire of the short-sighted higher-ups in the department. The Director served him a stern warning, claiming that 'teaching hours' were wasted.

Renowned Educationist KG Saidain was appointed Director of Education by J&K Government in 1937. He implemented the Basic Education Scheme in the state. To this end a Teachers Training school was set up in Srinagar. For running this novel educational institute special staff was required. Hundreds of senior trained teachers, Headmasters and Inspectors were called for interview. Jia Lal Koul Nazir too had been called. When the Chairman of Selection Board, the Director of Education asked him to submit testimonials to justify his claim for the post. The members of the Board were a little amused when Pt. Jia Lal produced warning issued by the then Director of Education for introduction of Dr. Zakir Hussain's scheme. On perusal of the warning Mr. KG Saidain was taken aback and subjected him to a volley of questions to test his competence. Jia Lal Nazir was chosen for the post of Supervisor of Teaching-cum-Superintendent Jia Lal's good work at this Institute contributed a lot to the development of education in the state. In the Institute Jia Lal Kaul Nazir enjoyed extraordinary relationship with his pupils, teachers, fellow-teachers and superiors. He attained superannuation in 1954.

Nazir Sahib, the popular name by which he was called could write fluently, be it Urdu or English. His services were often solicited for drafting rules, regulations, courses, model lessons, texts, dissertations, minutes, memoranda, reports etc. He would often serve as a member or secretary of various committees/commissiond constituted from time to time in his career.

His reports bore the stamp of excellence and were marked for accuracy, brevity and eloquence. Pt. Jia Lal also authored Text-Books on History and Social Studies for schools. Well-known acquaintances and strangers alike often thronged his Ali Kadal residence, even at odd times, to seek his guidance in personal and professional matters. He never disappointed any.

Pt. Jia Lal Nazir was a man of great integrity. He politely declined the offer of then Minister of Education, Sadiq Sahib to

serve as in Advisor to the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Nawakadal after retirement. However, he accepted the assignment, a teaching one, at a private Teachers Training College in Srinagar. He continued to take class for one hour daily in the afternoon here till his demise in June 1970. He is survived by three sons and two daughters.

Pt. Jia Lal abhorred ritualism and laid more stress on good conduct in life. To those who did not know him as a teacher he is

remembered for his erudite weekly broadcast over Radio Kashmir 'Hamara Miras' in Urdu. This endeavour which reflected sound scholarship was started by him in 1948. He delved into varied dimensions of culture of Kashmir-scenic splendour, people, arts and crafts, cuisine, culture, music, history, spiritualism, religions traditions. This series which ran into more than hundred talks received wide acclaim from literary circles in the state and outside.

(Sentinel Research Bureau)

Premonition Poems by Arjan Dev Majboor

Time

Forgotten memories
and
the heart-rending serpent
tore my heart.

She plaited her hair,
lit a lamp
and
spoke a riddle.
There was lightning
and
the flames went up.

Worry burst out mysteriously.

The sun plays
a new game
in the blue sea.
It appeared
and
shone in the reflection of the
shade.

Two infants
gripped the root of a tree.

The whirlpool of worries
flowed,
the cosmos stopped its journey
some stars
faded on the edge of the sky

The moon
forgot
its beams.
In this age of topsy-turvydom
a leaf
hangs
on the top of a tree.

Should I wait
or
jump upon the earth?

The sky dreads
Men live
In the ant hills.

There are no walls
but
the doors are closed.

All have forgotten
the tomorrow.

Time is frightened
on
the frightful banks
of the river.

Neagrai

Speak,
Where will you go now?
What solution lies
in your hands?
You will be known
by your face
They will burn you.
What place are you from ?

You came out of
the tremulous oceans
and
rivers.
The peaks of worries face you
The roads
are
covered with dust.
Where will you go now?

The lotus
entrapped you.
The colour of the spring
flew.

The rays of the sun
suck the barren land.
there is none
to protect
the dancing dew.
Cupid too is all ash.
Who are you writing to ?

There is a curse
on
settlements.
The gardens of life
sob.

Spending one day
is
Crossing a mountain.
Don't sing
fearlessly
in the city.
You will be sold
for a coin.
Don't go towards a ghat.
The Vitasta
is all blood
and

poison.
The dead bodies of
women
are without shrouds.
In the past
they

longed for children
from the river
When
the lamps flowed with
the water.
We had dreams.
The wishes
remain
unfilled.

Rest a while
when you
Climb the mountain
and
Watch
The daggers dance
under the chinar trees.

Listen,
the colourful valley
burnt
because of the bombs.

Where do you have to go?
Where is the way?
There is a tempest
in the valley
of the seers.

Heemal has risen
from a deep sleep.
Nobody showed
love to her.

Show strength
and
walk through the forests and
the throns.

Experience
pain and agony
and
Then breathe.

The hawks
are
flying over the mountains.

They will drink your blood.

You cannot escape the net.

*(Translated from the original
Kashmiri by Prof. Arvind
Gigoo)

Juhi and Manik Kuchroo enthral Americans

By Special Correspondent
An Arangetram show was performed by Manik Razdan Kuchroo, age 14, and his sister Juhi Razdan Kuchroo, age 16, on September 9, 2007, at Regis College Fine Arts Center, Weston, MA, USA. The program started with a welcome address by their father, Dr. Vijay Kuchroo. He told the audience how Juhi loved to dance from the time she was 2 years old and wanted to learn dance from Guru Neena Gulati. Manik, as a baby, had watched his sister practice and perform. After listening to the stories of Lord Krishna from his grandparents, he was fascinated by the supreme God Krishna. He used to stand in a Krishna pose behind his sister when she practiced dance. One day, Manik asked his mother to send him to a school where he would become “Krishna”. His mother, Kiran, then decided to send him

to Guru Neena Gulati at the Triveni School of Dance. At the Arangetram, Manik’s desire was fulfilled as he danced as Lord Krishna in a dance piece “Ras Shabdam”.
The welcome address was followed by description of Arangetram by Guru Neena ji and a prayer to Lord Nataraj. The Guru, Ms. Neena Gulati then blessed Juhi and Manik and gave them the ‘ghungroos’ that were worn while performing. The performance started with a dance “Bhoomi Mangalam” which was invocation to Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles. The music for this dance is The audience, including Kashmiris, thronged to the stage at the end of the program to congratulate Juhi and Manik. composed by Pt. Ravi Shankar. The invocatory dance was followed by 7 other dances in three styles of dancing; Bharatnatyam (from

Tamilnadu), Kuchipudi (from Andhra Pradesh) and Odissi (from Orissa).
The audience, which included many Americans and Indians / Kashmiris, particularly liked Neena ji’s explanations of the dances and stories about the dances demonstrated by Juhi and Manik. This made them understand what each dance was about and they could relate to the dances.
The highlights of the program were an Odissi dance, “Pallavi”, performed by Juhi which was loved by the audience, as well as the last dance piece in the program, “Tarangam”, where Juhi and Manik danced on the rims of brass “thaalees”. The audience gave a standing ovation to the dancers at the end of the program. This was the first time in the history of Triveni School (since 1971) that a brother and sister had performed an Arangetram

together and the Guru as well as the audience were delighted with the facial expressions and the synchronization of the movements of the dances by Juhi and Manik.
The vote of thanks was given by Kiran, the mother, at which time Juhi and Manik also gave “Guru Dakshina” to their Guru. Juhi and Manik then thanked their Guru, the musicians, the audience, all the relatives who had traveled from many places to bless them, and their parents. The audience, including Kashmiris, thronged to the stage at the end of the program to congratulate Juhi and Manik. They showered praises on the children for their grand performance as well as their humility. It was a great achievement for Juhi and Manik who trained for 12 and 9 years respectively to keep their Indian culture and tradition alive.

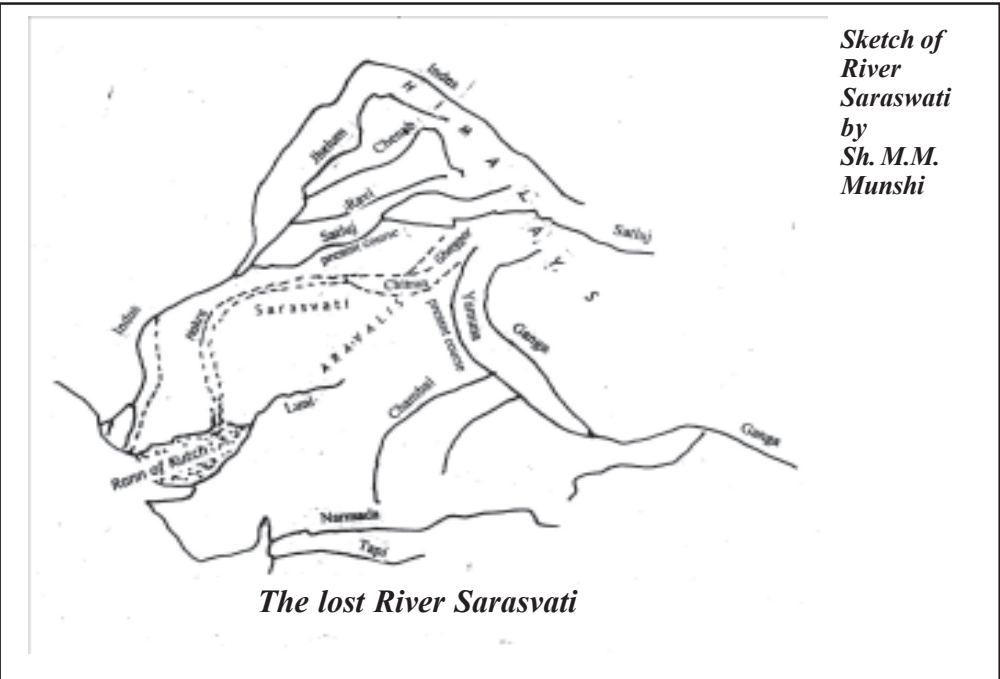
THE GURU – Neena Gulati

Neena Gulati, a master of Panthanallur style of Bharatnatyam, has received high critical acclaim over the years for her professional performances in India and the United States. Neena ji has performed not only at the United Nations General Assembly and at the Asia House, but also at numerous Universities and other educational Institutions. She founded the Triveni School of Dance in Brookline, MA in 1971 and teaches Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi and Odissi styles of dances to students of all ages and nationalities. She is an excellent example of the Guru-Shishya or the teacher-student tradition of teaching that has preserved the purity of Indian classical dances since the time of the Vedas. Neena ji is a dedicated, devoted and loving teacher who treats all her students with tremendous love and respect inspiring them with her passion and commitment to dance.

THE SHISHYAS: Juhi and Manik Kuchroo
Juhi began her Bharatnatyam training at the age of 4 1/2 years, under the expert and nurturing guidance of Guru Neena Gulati. With time, Juhi added Kuchipudi and Odissi dance styles to her repertoire. Juhi has performed at the Museum of Fine Arts, MIT and various schools around the Boston area.
Juhi, currently a senior at The Winsor School, Boston, has a strong sense for community. She volunteers at the refugee camp schools in Jammu, India, and has been responsible for making one of the refugee high schools, a sister school of The Winsor School. Juhi reads and speaks Hindi fluently, and teaches young students Hindi at the Newton Bal Vihar, for which she received a community service award from the Vishwa Hindu

Parishad of America.
Manik began his dance training with Guru Neena Gulati at age 6. He has received training in the Bharatnatyam and Kuchipudi styles of dances.
Manik is a freshman at the Buckingham, Brown and Nichols (BB&N) School, Cambridge. A keen artist, Manik has had many of his paintings displayed at the Newton city hall and the Museum of Fine Arts on many occasions. The BB&N School selected one of his paintings as the cover of the official school greeting cards. He loves cricket and is the youngest member of the Gymkhana Cricket Club team in the Massachusetts Cricket League. Like his sister, he is also fluent in Hindi, loves community service and works with his sister at the refugee camp schools in Jammu, India.
Both, Juhi and Manik, learn Indian and Western classical music and are members of the New England Conservatory Youth Chorale and Camerata chorus groups.

Juhi and Manik with their Guru Neena Gulati.



Sketch of River Saraswati by Sh. M.M. Munshi

The next issue of Kashmir Sentinel will appear in Nov., 2007.
-The Editor

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Uruguay backs J&K separatists

By Sandhya Jain

By the twitching of my thumbs, fresh mischief is brewing over our northern frontier. The signs are ominous: There is renewed violence in Jammu & Kashmir, including an attack on Amarnath pilgrims. There is Ms Pamela Mountbatten's titillating leak that her father used Edwina Mountbatten to manipulate Jawaharlal Nehru and subvert Indian national interest in the border State. There is US pressure on Ms Benazir Bhutto to cut a deal with President Pervez Musharraf, and Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama's threat of direct action against terrorists in Pakistan.

Hizbul Mujahideen has asked non-Kashmiri (read non-Muslim) workers to quit the Valley, triggering an exodus. Around this time, Uruguay hosted a Kashmir Conference (July 31) to discuss resolution of the India-Pakistan dispute. Organised by Washington-based Ghulam Nabi Fai of the Kashmiri American Council, the conference proceedings leave little doubt it was backed by the US State Department.

According to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, Mr Fai funds Hizbul Mujahideen, which has close links with the Jamaat-e-Islami in the Kashmir Valley and Pakistan. Hizbul was close to Afghan Mujahideen groups like Hizb-e-Islami (which received arms training against the Soviets) and has cordial links with Pakistan's ISI and United Jihad Council. Mr Fai is reputedly friendly with the Hurriyat's Yasin Malik.

The meet was largely ignored by the international media and India, but Pakistan's national television and Islamic websites reported it extensively. Seventeen Uruguan senior Army officers attended; 11 were in uniform and, significantly, had served in Jammu & Kashmir as part of the infamous United Nations Military Observers Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). India remembers UNMOGIP for trying to alter the boundary-markers in favour of Pakistan, a fact which embarrassed Nehru and made him give up ideas for a plebiscite in the State.

Gen Ricardo Galarza of Uruguay, former Chief of UNMOGIP, made the astounding claim that Maharaja Hari Singh's Instrument of Accession (to India) was accepted by Lord Mountbatten subject to the reference of the people! He reiterated Uruguay's support for the 'right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir' (whatever that means). This is a gross intrusion in our internal affairs and New Delhi should take it up with the

Uruguan authorities.

In India, few Kashmiri refugees have even heard of Mr Jatinder Bakshi of the Committee of the Return of Kashmiri Pandits. Yet this worthy pontificated that a lasting solution was possible only through peaceful dialogue between India, Pakistan and the People of Jammu & Kashmir (read separatists). Indians are more familiar with Dr Angana Chatterji, darling of the separatists; she demanded demilitarisation (naturally) to improve the 'human rights situation'.

The conference adopted a pompously-worded Montevideo Declaration, beginning with a demand to recognise the inalienable right to self-determination of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. It bears emphasising, therefore, that the Instrument of Accession is final and non-negotiable; foreigners have no locus

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standi to speak of self-determination for Indian citizens.

The declaration calls for a "new beginning and manifested sensible approach to resolve the Kashmir dispute through a peaceful negotiated settlement" keeping in view the sensitivities and wishes of the Kashmiri people. This is probably a certificate to the participants and organisers as the only competent persons to handle the issue. New Delhi should unequivocally inform Uruguay that Kashmiris have expressed their political mandate through free elections, which even international busy-bodies have acknowledged as fair. The Montevideo Conference appears to have a distinct bias towards the Hurriyat.

Irritatingly, the declaration calls for making Kashmiris an integral part of the 'peace process' of which they are primary stakeholders, in order to facilitate a "permanent, durable and honourable settlement of the Kashmir dispute". Kashmiri migrants, however, question the repetitive use of the word 'dispute', and point out that elected representatives of Kashmiris are already sitting in the State Assembly and Indian Parliament. Even more brazenly, the declaration states that the "ceasefire line as an option is totally unacceptable". The Indian view is that Pakistan must vacate Occupied Kashmir so that we can regain control of our 1947 border.

The Uruguay Conference favours an "intensive and compre-

hensive dialogue between different opinions and regions of the State on both sides of dividing line", so as to "improve the level of trust and confidence... to develop consensus in conflict resolution". It calls upon the Governments of India and Pakistan to provide travel documents to such participants. This vacuous opinion has been repeated ad nauseum in so many forums that it reflects the intellectual bankruptcy of the participants.

Surely, it is pertinent that while New Delhi is going all out to ensure travel documents to Pakistani nationals wishing to visit Jammu & Kashmir, not a single Kashmiri Hindu has received documents to visit the sacred Sharada Peeth in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, despite thousands of applications for permission. Even more telling is the fact that Pakistani nationals who entered India on tourist visas to watch cricket matches (for example, at Mohali, Punjab) or visit Sufi shrines, have simply melted into the night. It is certainly risky, therefore, for India to mindlessly keep an open door policy for infiltrators.

The conference has demanded an end to "all types of human rights violations". These West-funded jholawallahs should tell us why they don't speak about human rights violations against Hindus of Jammu & Kashmir, especially the genocide and ethnic cleansing intended to further a pan-Islamic agenda. India must make it clear that in internal or external discourse, we will not allow talk of Gujarat riots without acknowledging Godhra, or discussion of Jammu & Kashmir without admitting who began the selective killings and why.

The final mention about the return of all displaced persons, including Kashmiri Pandits, is polite piffle. The declaration favours Kashmir-specific confidence-building measures, demilitarisation to promote peace and reconciliation, and release of prisoners. Yet, demilitarisation can only augment the terrorists' ability to strike at will, and unsavoury characters like Yasin Malik and Bitta Karate have already been released.

Probably Uruguay and its American mentor want a Pakistani walkover in Jammu & Kashmir to placate Muslim rage over what is happening to the community in the Gulf and the Western world. Pakistan itself was a compensation for the creation of Israel, just as Israel was compensation to the Jews for European racism and religious bigotry. We are walking the same terrain again.

*(Source Daily Pioneer)

Dr. Prem Nath Kachroo-A Scientist of Repute

(From Page 16)

University, they paid sincere homage in the following words. "His zeal and zest for knowledge made him to occupy yhr highest academic pedestal in Kashmir University. His multi-disciplinary approach made him an all round Botanist of national and international fame." "His contribution to the development of Botany Department and corporate life of Kashmir University are the beacon lights for us to follow," remarked Prof. AK Munshi Head of the Deptt. of Botany, Kashmir University. On a similar sorrowful note, Prof. Azar Azar A. acknowledged Prof. Kachroo, as "an accomplished Botanist, who kept burning the lamp of scholarship kindled by him".

Dr. Shashikant, former Head of Botany Deptt. Jammu University, who was also one of the first research scholars of Dr. Kachroo in 1967 at Srinagar paid sincere homage in the following words. "Apart from being a foremost Botanist of India, Dr. Kachroo was a writer par excellence besides being a noble human being, who knew no boundaries." Speaking in the same vein, Dr. Shashikant continued", Dr. Kachroo's association with the stalwarts in

Botany both at the national and international levels was well recognised".

Dr. R.N. Gohil, former Head of the Botany Department, Jammu University and a former colleague at Srinagar spoke with reverence, "Dr. Kachroo was a practical person, a doer, who always remained on the toes for research".

"He was a renowned scientist, was everwilling to explore the inaccessible and isolated areas for the study of area specific flora," fondly remembered Dr. Gohil.

Dr. V.K. Anand, Dean Life Sciences Jammu University remarked, "my association with Dr. Kachroo dates back to 1971, when I joined Kashmir University as a M.Sc. student. A man of few words, he had all the affirming qualities of head and heart".

"Prof. Kachroo led a life full of activity and research. Neither the advancing age nor time would stale his passion for research", voiced Dr. A.K. Wakhloo, Head Department of Botany Jammu University.

Dr. Bimal Misri Principal Scientist and Head, Regional Research Centre, Indian Grassland and Folder Research Institute. CSK Himachal Pradesh KV Campus), Palampur, paid his heart-

felt tribute in the capacity of a former student, "A glorious era of Kashmir Botany has come to an end with the demise of Dr. Kachroo. Besides being a teacher, he was a keen researcher, excellent editor, simple man, strict vegetarian and a man of fine things of life. "Continuing his sincere tributes, Dr. Misri summed-up, "Dr. Kachroo never restricted himself to a particular subject of Botany. His innumerable reserach papers on Bryophytes, Pteridophytes, Grasses, Forest and Aqautic ecosystems, Cytogenetics, Plant Anatomy and Taxonomy firmly

CONTINUATION

establish. Dr. Kachroo as a genius and master of Botany, who was wedded to research."

A visibly shocked Dr. B.L Saproo, a student of yore and subsequently Dr. Kachroo's Colleague at Srinagar also expressed his glowing tributes in the following words, "Prof. Kachroo was a Botanist par excellence, he believed in simple living and high thinking, love for all, hate for none, a true conservationist, who used even blank portions of letters for jotting research notes".

Speaking about the full flowering of Prof. Kachroo's genius, Dr Ashwani Wangnoo, Professor Deptt. of Limnology, Barkat Ullah University Bhopal also expressed his sincere tributes,

"Prof. Kachroo was a Professor of national fame, even his advanced age and failing health did not lessen his urge for scientific pursuits. Inspite of his failing health, he came to Bhopal at my behest far Ph.D viva only last year i.e. 2007." Dr. Kachroo was a co-guide of Dr. Shibani K. Dhar, Senior Scientist and Dy. Director Central Silk Board Jammu. "Dr. Kachroo was a perfect Scientific Icon, an all-round achiever, who lived to strive, search and find," remarked fondly Dr. S.K. Dhar.

Dr. Virjee Koul, Lecturer at GGM Science College Jammu summed up his tributes in the following words, "Despite being a scientist of international fame, Prof. Kachroo led a simple life and was accessible to everyone. Till his last breath, he contributed relentlessly in the field of Botany, a subject he loved."

A student of yesteryears and presently a lecturer at GGM Science College (evening) Jammu, Dr. Ranjana Koul recalled, "Prof. Kachroo was a metaphor for all that is good. Inspite of being a reputed scientist, he remained a student and a scholar, who was always absorbed and immersed in research". Dr. R.K. Ogra, senior scientist, Himalayan Bioresources Institute, Palampur, Dr. Ravinder Raina, Senior Scientist, Dr Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni Solan. Dr. Kirti Koul, Head of Botany Deptt.

Jivaji University Gwalior and Dr. Upender Dhar, Director, GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Ecology and Dev., Almora the former students of Prof. Kachroo were also shocked at his sad demise.

My respectful memories of Professor Kachroo date back to my student days, when he used to teach us Economic Botany. These fond recollections which stir emotional and sincere memories are now a part of my memory treasure.

Dr. Kachroo's lone son Sh. Perry Kachroo married to Mrs. Renuka and having two sons is settled in USA. The eldest daughter of Prof. Kachroo, Mrs. Priyadashani is married to Dr. MJ Zarabi, who is a Managing Director of Software Computers, India, Mohali Chandigarh. She is blessed with two daughters, Manat Zarabi Dr. Mansha Zarabi. Another son of Prof. Kachroo namely Pimmy Kachroo had at sudden and premature death decades pack when he was a student of Agriculture Engineering at Ludhiana. His demise shocked Prof. Kachroo, who carried the burden of the painful trauma throughout his life. Unquestionably, Dr. P.N. Kachroo, the renowned Botanist was truly an icon of not only of the J&K. State but also the entire nation. He was a multy layered personality, who as a scientist lived his life to the full and for whom life was entirely a scientific sojourn.

Chronology of Events
June 1st-July 31, 2007

June 1: In a day of stepped up violence terrorists launched suicide and grenade attacks killing four jawans and injuring 44 others, two terrorists were also killed. A Pakistani national was repatriated while two Bangladeshis were arrested from RS Pura sector.

June 2: Security forces busted a terrorist hideout in Gandoh, Doda. The infiltration has shown an upward trend as 200 terrorists are believed to have infiltrated from January to May 07 as against 160 in the same period in previous year. A youth from Mendhar, after his infiltration, said that about 25 youth from Rajouri-Poonch were being held hostage by Pak Army fearing their surrender on return.

June 3: A Pakistani Al Badar terrorist alongwith his associate was killed in an encounter at Wuyan, Pulwama. Security forces recovered huge cache of arms and ammunition, including 100 kg of explosives, in a search operation in Kaubagh near Ganderbal. An Army jawan was killed and 23 others injured in IED blasts triggered by terrorists. An OGW of HM was arrested in Kupwara. An Army jawan was shot dead by his senior in Poonch district. The state government has reportedly agreed to treat PRC as travel document, facilitate visit of terrorists and consider PoK students for admission in Universities. Denying that India has militarized Kashmir, Union Foreign Minister Mr Mukerjee said that troops are there to restore normalcy.

June 4: Two HM terrorists were killed in an encounter in Bandipore. Eight civilians were injured in a grenade attack in Srinagar city. A civilian was killed and two others injured in an explosion at Drug in Bafliaz, Surankote. Four infiltrating terrorists were killed in an encounter at Kanga Gali in Manjakote sector; an Army jawan was also killed in yet other similar encounter. Two HM terrorists were gunned down in Gandoh, Doda. Taking advantage of cease-fire, Pak Rangers made incursions on LoC and constructed concrete bunkers close to IB. Amidst Fatwa against Army Sadhbhawana for construct-ing/renovating Mosques and Shrines etc, GoC 15 Corps Lt. Gen AS Sekhon said that Army won't hurt sentiments of people. Pakistan attempts to involve J&K People as 'Third Party' were rebuffed as SAARC MPs opined that no country should harbour terrorists.

June 5: As 10 terrorists of HuM, including five 'Commanders', surrendered before Chief Min-ister Ghulam Nabi Azad in Doda, Police claimed that the outfit has been wiped out in Doda. A terrorist hideout was busted in Thannamandi. A Congress leader Abdul Majid Banday and a CRPF jawan were injured as terrorists launched an attack on the Congress leader's residence at Shopian. A HM terrorist was killed at Chudipora, Shopian. A boy was killed as he fiddled with an explosive device at Dachan, Bandipore. As Mirwaiz Umer Farooq warned escalation of violence if concrete steps were not taken for resolution of Kashmir issue, Pakistan President Parvez Musharraf said that political resolution and not the confrontation was an option to solve the Kashmir issue. Seven policemen, including a SP, were charged with murder of Abdul Rehman Paddar.

June 6: Two terrorists were reportedly trapped in an encounter at Tumlahal in Pulwama. A LeT recruit surrendered before Army in Thathri while an OGW of HM was arrested in Doda. Army Chief Gen. JJ Singh claimed that elements in PaK Army were backing terrorists for sneaking into the country.

June 7: Tumlahal encounter ended with death of both the terrorists. Police claimed to have arrested 15 "out sourced" terrorists and busted two Hizb modules in the North Kashmir. Army busted two terrorists hideouts and recovered war-like stores. Terrorists kid-napped and later killed a civilian Omar Farooq in Doda. Terrorists kidnapped three others in Mahore. One of the kidnapped persons escaped and reached home while two others remained untraced. Pathribal case was deferred. 57 cross sides at Kaman Post.

June 8: For the first time in two decade long terrorist movement in J&K, Al-Qaeda con-demned Hurriyat and United Jihad Council and declared war against India, describing 'Kashmir as gateway to Jihad against India'. A Father-son Gujjar duo was kidnapped and subsequently killed in Kellar, Pulwama. A Narcotics and arms haul was recovered in Kathua.

June 9: A terrorist was killed in Kupwara while body of a kidnapped SPO was recovered from Loktipora, Bijbehara. Two CRPF personnel and two civilians were injured in an en-counter with terrorists on railway track in Awantipora-Bijbehara belt. A CRPF jawan was injured in Srinagar. Large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered during a search operation in Khanetar forests in Poonch.

June 10: Police arrested six LeT terrorists involved in throwing grenades in Bhaderwah and other parts of Doda district.

June 11: Terrorists launched an attack at Moila, Gool and killed a cop, a surrendered militant's brother and a woman. Two top HM terrorists surrendered in Doda. Terrorists killed a police cop and a civilian and injured a woman. Troops foiled an infiltration bid in North Kashmir. Four OGWs of terrorists were arrested across Kashmir Valley. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed described troop reduction as inevitable.

June 12: Three terrorists and three soldiers were killed in a fierce encounter in Lolab Valley of Kupwara. Two more infiltrating terrorists were killed near LoC in Gulmarg sector. Body of a civilian was recovered outside his village Sarkalipora, Kupwara. Police arrested three persons and recoverd a hand grenade from the residence of one of the arrested persons in Handwara. Six OGWs of terrorists were arrested from twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri. Security was beefed up around Taj Mahal amidst terrorist threat from LeT, a LeT hospital was torched by a mob in PoK.

June 13: A LeT terrorist was arrested in New Delhi while hunt was on to arrest his associate. Union Home Secretary and Chief Minister J&K reviewed security situation in the Valley and underlined need to probe alleged Al-Qaeda CD.

June 14: Police claimed to have arrested two terrorists of LeT who were planning to attack CM Ghulam Nabi Azad and Union Tourism Minister Ambika Soni during their visit to under construction Institute of Hotel Management in Srinagar. In other militancy related incidents, two militants and a former militant were killed across Kashmir Valley. Union Home Secretary claimed that situation has improved in the state but the challenge still existed. Javed Mir joined JKLF Ammanullah faction. 10 Bangladeshis were nabbed in Kanachak sector.

June 15: Two Pakistani fidayeens were killed in an encounter at Nowgam on the outskirts of capital city. Two soldiers were killed and nine others injured as terrorists ambushed a

convoy in Sopore. Two terrorists surrendered in Doda while the three rifles of PSOs were missing from the residence of former NC MLA Qazi Jalal-ud-Din at Hadyal, Kishtwar. A civilian was killed in a landmine blast while cutting grass near LoC in Poonch. Union Home Ministry favoured linking of Srinagar and Muzaffarabad.

June 16: Two college students tuned out to be terrorists as they were arrested from Channi Himmat, outskirts of Jammu, alongwith consignment of explosives and hawala money. Arms were recovered in Surankote. Terrorists attacked a ROP with a hand grenade, injuring eight persons, including three CRPF personnel. A private college in Sopore was attacked for alleged blasphemy. A CRPF jawan committed suicide at Humhama, Srinagar.

June 17: Four soldiers were injured as terrorists ambushed an Army vehicle in Palhallan, Pattan; a terrorist was also wounded in retaliatory fire. Terrorists shot at and injured son of a SHO in Kulgam. Terrorists escaped from an encounter in Sumbur, Ramban leaving behind arms and ammunition. Northern Command Chief Lt. Gen HS Panag said that there was no Al-Qaeda presence in J&K and added that there was no reason for pull out of troops. Home Ministry sought report from BSF an Pak bunkers.

June 18: A LeT 'Commander' was among three terrorists killed in Kashmir valley. Terrorists wounded a soldier in an attack in Rajwar, Handwara. A SPO and his two cousins were arrested in Poonch for links with terrorists. Three Bangladeshis were held on IB in Akhnoor sector. Two Pak terrorists revealed that 100 *fidayeens* were being rained in 3 PoK camps.

June 19: A HM terrorist from Doda surrendered while SPO was shot at and injured by terrorists at Gandali in Reasi. Two liquid IEDs were recovered and later defused in Bijbehara. A new terrorist recruit was arrested in Pulwama. Terrorists lobbed a hand grenade towards house of an HM terrorist at Palhalan, Pattan but failed to cause any damage. A cop and a teacher were among five arrested in connection with fake currency racket, the currency was being printed at a Govt. Press in Bangladesh.

June 20: A HuM terrorist and his host were killed while two securitymen and two members of the host's family got injured in a fierce encounter in Bandipore. Two grenades were recovered from a house in Ahamsharief, Bandipore and an IED was recovered in Sopore. A surrendered terrorist was injured as detonator exploded in a cigarette he was smoking at a police station in Gandoh. Pakistan ruled out authentication of troops position in Siachen.

June 21: In case of missing of three rifles from the residence of former MLA, it was established that the MLA's kin was involved in stealing weapons for Hizbul Mujahideen. Terrorists triggered an IED blast on Baramulla-Handwara road. Troops recovered huge cache of arms in Machail sector and arrested a LeT terrorist in Pulwama. 68 crossed sides at Kaman Post.

June 2: Large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from Reasi and Rajouri. Valley protested against granting of knighthood to Salman Rushdee. Two terrorists and a civilian were killed while a huge cache of arms was recovered in Kashmir Valley. A SP escaped bid on life as terrorists lobbed a grenade towards his vehicle, which failed to hit the target and exploded on the roadside. Separatists were invited to attend a confer-ence in US being organised by Association of Humanitarian Lawyers and the Kashmir American Council.

June 23: The body of a HM terrorist killed by his associates was recovered from forests in Shopian. A HM terrorist was arrested from Pattan. An IED was recovered in Sopore while huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered in Kupwara. Terrorists kidnapped and later killed a civilian at Kud Dhar, Doda. A Pak woman was arrested in Mendhar sector. Ms Mehbooba Mufti's alleged meet with Corps Commander raised many eyebrows in rivals who described PDP's 'de-militarisation' as election stunt.

June 24: Eight infiltrating terrorists and a soldier were killed in two encounters in Baramulla and Kupwara districts. Ten SoG Cops were injured in an IED blast on Srinagar-Sumbal road. A cop died under mysterious circumstances in Kulgam area. A civilian was kidnapped and killed by terrorists in Gool. An Army Court Martial sentenced a soldier to life imprisonment for killing his three seniors in J&K on October 21, 2006. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed described Art 370 as model of 'self rule'.

June 25: Two civilians were killed and 14 others injured as terrorists lobbed a grenade at crowded Old Bus Stand, Doda. Terrorists kidnapped a Police Cop in Tral. Defence Minister Antony described rising infiltration attempts as cause of concern.

June 26: A terrorist and two soldiers were killed in an encounter at Gamroo, Bandipore. Two more terrorists were killed at Sheh Lal on Handwara-Magam Road. The terrorists beheaded the kidnapped cop in Tral while security forces arrested five subversives in the Valley. Security forces recovered RDX and grenades from Makwal, Jammu. Arms were recovered from Doda district also. Mr Antony ruled out repeal of AFSPA.

June 27: Troops gunned down a top HM 'Commander' and injured his body guard in a fierce encounter in Budhal, Rajouri. A SPO committed suicide at Chatru, Kishtwar. While an Army jawan committed suicide at Bari Brahmana.

June 28: Three *fidayeens* were killed in Kupwara. Three infiltrating terrorists and a jawan were killed in an encounter in Uri Sector. One soldier was killed and 16 others injured in an ambush on Handwara-Langet Road. Terrorists beheaded a civilian at Nowkoot, Banihal. Police busted a terrorist hide-out at Dhar Chak, Gandoh and recovered arms and ammunition. A teacher was held in Mahore for sheltering terrorists.

June 29: Security forces killed two terrorists of LeT in Handwara. Troops busted a terrorist hide-out in Banihal. A soldier ended his life at Nilgrath, Ganderbal.

June 30: Two foreign terrorists were killed in Kalaroos, Kupwara. Body of a civilian was recov-ered from Pingligom, Pulwama. Five kgs-RDX was recovered from the main-gate of Degree College, Anantnag on Amarnath Yatra route. Five cops were injured as three cops were reportedly trapped in an encounter at Kulhand, Doda. Union Home Minis-ter Shivraj Patil described J&K situation better but remained non-committal on troop-reduction.

July 1: All the three holed up terrorists were killed at Kulhand, Doda while a cop was killed and

(Contd. on Page 23)

Chronology of Events

(Contd. on Page 22)

- five others injured in the encounter. Six civilians were injured a grenade attack in Baramulla. A summary court Martial sentenced a soldier to death for killing his commander in Rajouri in 2006.
- July 2: Police today detected and defused two IEDs at Bonbazar, Shopian and Rajpora, Pulwama. A terrorist surrendered before security forces in Uri sector after his return from PoK. Srinagar hosted artists from Pakistan at a 'Sufi festival' organised at SKICC. 71 crossed LoC at Chakkan-da-Bagh.
- July 3: An army major was injured and a jawan killed in an ambush in Darhal, Rajouri police said that more cell phones were being used by terrorists to trigger IED blasts. India and Pakistan set up three sub-committees to counter terrorism and drug trafficking.The Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad sought intervention of External Affairs Ministry to facilitate a PoK cultural troop's visit to Srinagar.
- July 4: A top HM terrorist was killed in an encounter at Mandoora, Tral. An Army Porter was killed in a mine blast in Karnah, Kupwara. A CRPF jawan was injured in Baramulla. Two people were arrested as involvement of two lady SPOs and five terrorists surfaced in Arms for Liquor trade being run across LoC in Poonch. Arms and ammunition were recovered from Gandoh, Doda. Defence Secretary visited J&K to assess situation for 'relocation and reconfiguration of troops'.
- July 5: Security forces foiled an infiltration bid, killing four terrorists in an encounter near LoC at Tilpathri Gogaldara. Five more terrorists were killed and a HM terrorist arrested across Kashmir Valley. An Army jawan was killed and five others injured in different operation. Two students were killed in an explosion in North Kashmir. An army jawan committed suicide after killing a civilian and injuring two others in Kangan. A hide-out was busted in Doda and huge cache of arms and ammunition recovered. A Delhi Court convicted a HM ultra and a SIMI activist for waging war against the country. 78 crossed sides at Kaman Post.
- July 6: Security forces killed five terrorists in different operations across Kashmir Valley, an Army jawan was also injured in one of the operations. Doda police busted a Hawala network by arresting three terrorists of LeT and recovering Rs 1.97 lakh besides huge cache of explosives.
- July 7: Two HM terrorists were killed in an encounter at Kulgam. Police claimed to have busted two modules of LeT and TuM by arresting eight of their cadres in Tral who were planning grenade attacks in Srinagar. A Pakistani terrorist of LeT was killed while two of his body guards escaped during an encounter in Bafliaz, Poonch. Security forces foiled an attempt to attack Budha Amarnath Yatra by recovering explosives in Poonch district. Bhuki and weapons were recovered in an operation in Miran Sahib, Jammu.
- July 8: Army recovered arms and ammunition during a search operation in Surankote. An Army jawan and a SPO died as a boulder hit them in Shallian, Surankote. Terrorists chopped off left hand of a villager Mohd. Afzal Sheikh at Berigam, Qazigund. A terrorist was arrested at Sopore and arms and ammunition was recovered near LoC at Gogaldara, Kupwara. A recently surrendered terrorist, who has returned from PoK, said that terrorists were being trained to launch attacks on helicopters.
- July 9: NC President Omar Farooq survived a bid on his life, five policemen and 15 civilians were injured as terrorists launched a grenade attack at his rally in Handwara. 30 civilians and about 20 policemen received injuries in clashes between police and demonstrators, who were protesting against death of a demonstrator in Srinagar. Two HM terrorists were among four sentenced by a Delhi Court for possessing arms and waging war against the country in 2001.
- July 10: Two terrorists were killed in an encounter at Padarpora, Kulgam; security forces also recovered arms and ammunition in two search operations in Kashmir valley. A CRPF jawan was injured in an accidental firing in Shopian. SHRC held Major Rehman guilty of raping mother-daughter duo at Badra Payeen, Handwara in 2004.
- July 11: HM PPR 'commander' was gunned down and his body guard arrested in an encounter in Budhal, Rajouri.
- July 12: Terrorists lobbed a hand grenade towards the house of a SPO at Upper Dhandal, Doda. State High Court dismissed jail warden's petition in the rape case of a PoK woman in Poonch jail. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed asked for diplomatic initiatives to solve Kashmir issue.
- July 13: Three terrorists were killed, two arrested while another survived in Kashmir Valley. 16 people were injured in a grenade attack at Hajan. As mainstream and separatist politicians made a bee line to Mazare-Shaudha to pay tributes to 1931 martyr, Pandits observed it as a Black Day.
- July 14: Two infiltrators were killed in an encounter near LoC in Keran Sector. Police detected new modus operandi in narcotics smuggling from Pakistan in which three RS Pura smugglers were operating from Pakistan.
- July 15: Security forces killed two terrorists, including a Pakistani, apprehended four terrorists and recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition in different operations in Kashmir valley Terrorists injured two SPOs as they attacked Sopore police station with rifle grenades. 23 Bangladeshis were arrested from IB in RS Pura sector. Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of a township at Jagti, Nagrota for Kashmiri Pandits. Prime Minister promised rehabilitation of KPs in Valley and advocated joint use of land and water resources across the LoC. The state government opposed any demilitarization till the violence fell to pre-1990 position.
- July 16: Terrorists killed a BJP activist Dev Raj and his daughter, and injured his sister-in-law (Bhabi) in an attack at their house at Dallas in Prem Nagar, Doda. Doda Police arrested three OGWs, including two government employees, working for LeT. Police foiled an attempt of terrorists to target security forces convoy as they detected an IED in Khrew, Pulwama. Security forces raided a terrorist hide-out in Bandipore and recovered arms and ammunition, including seven AK-47 rifles. 143 crossed LoC at Chakkan-Da-Bagh crossing point. Ahead of visit to J&K, Defence Minister AK Antony met Union Home Minister and discussed infiltration and repair of fencing with him. Dukhtaran-e-Milat leader Asiya Indrabi asked Kashmir women to carry knives with them for 'safety' and called for boycott of all Sadhbhavna programmes.
- July 17: Four newly infiltrating foreign terrorists were killed in an encounter near LoC in Uri

- sector. Two more terrorists were killed in two separate gun battles in Kupwara and Baramulla district. Family members of a HM terrorist escaped unhurt as gunmen launched rifle grenade attacks at his residence in Pattan area. 16 people including a yatri, were injured as terrorists launched a grenade attack at Amarnath Yatra Base Camp at Baltal, Sonamarg. Two army jawans were killed and eight others injured as terrorists ambushed a convoy in Surankote; the terrorists managed their escape. Security forces arrested a terrorist of Udampur from Poonch district. An IED was defused in Navapachi, Doda. Border police seized seven ignition grenades from the AIK nullah in Arnia sector.
- July 19: A terrorist was killed in Handwara; a boy was also injured in the cross-firing. A HM terrorist was arrested in Bandipore. Exhibiting bravery a family at Banghal, Devsar captured a gunman and handed him over to police while his three associates managed their escape. The gunmen had barged into their house and injured a family member. A CRPF jawan committed suicide at Sumbal Camp in Kashmir while an Army jawan died mysteriously at Kaluchak, Jammu, 88 crossed LoC on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus.
- July 20: A terrorist was killed and three terrorists and two OGWs arrested in Kashmir valley while eight people were injured in grenade attacks at Hari Singh High Street and Boulevard Road in Capital City. Police claimed that Top LeT terrorist, Abu Ummar, who was recently killed in Doda, was plotting to target yatra and engineer blasts in New Delhi.
- July 21: In yet another attack on Amarnath pilgrims, 10 people were injured in a grenade attack at a community kitchen at Pahalgam. Terrorists killed a civilian and snatched weapons from a police personnel in Jammu region. A police cop was arrested after reports said that his house was being used by terrorists for coordinating activities in Doda; his brother is reported to be a hard-core terrorist of LeT. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed disclosed that he had received a letter from the Prime Minister and expected positive action on troop reduction. Handwara protested against rape and murder of a teenaged school girl.
- July 22: A terrorist was killed while his associate escaped in an encounter at Sangan, Banihal. Terrorists kidnapped and subsequently slit the throat of a surrendered terrorist at Aman Trigam, Banihal. A terrorist was arrested in same area while terrorists snatched rifle of a VDC member in Rajouri.
- July 23: Two terrorists, including a HM Commander, were killed in an encounter in Tral, Pulwama. Terrorists killed a soldier and injured another in an encounter at Marhama, Bijbehara, 84-mm mortar was reportedly recovered behind the CRPF guarded house of NC leader at Handwara while counterfeit currency was recovered from a house at Ashajipora, Anantnag. Terrorists killed a re-cycled terrorist and a civilian in Doda and Kishtwar districts. Terrorists looted Rs 1.56 lakh cash from a civilian in Rajouri. Police claimed to have solved sensational rape cum murder case of Handwara and arrested four people-two Kashmiri and two non-Kashmiris for the heinous crime.
- July 24: A SPO was killed and another was injured in a gunbattle at Rafiabad, Baramulla in which two terrorists were reportedly holed up. A soldier killed a Major after heated exchange with him in Gurez sector. Police arrested an extortionist from Khansahab and body of an 80 year old civilian was recovered in Tral, Pulwama. Troops recovered large quantity of arms and ammunition in Badrewal. Grenades and IEDs have emerged as the deadliest weapon that claimed about 10,000 lives in J&K. Mehbooba Mufti advocated that militants should be encouraged to join peace process.
- July 25: Two holed up terrorists at Rafiabad were gunned down by the troops, A civilian was killed in the close vicinity. Terrorists killed a shepherd Chaman Lal at Nighar Dhok in Marmat, Doda.
- July 26: In a suicide attack, suicide bombers attacked a CRPF camp at defunct BARC in Srinagar. Both the fidiayees were killed while eight jawans were injured. LeT claimed responsibility for the attack. Four civilians were injured in an IED blast at Khanpora on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road. Troops gunned down a terrorist at Arin, Bandipore while another was holed up. Terrorists kidnapped and subsequently killed a civilian in Ramban. An Army jawan attempted suicide at Kanga Gali, Mendhar. A Lt. Colonel died mysteriously in Nowshera sector in Rajouri.
- July 27: Five terrorists-three belonging to HM and two to JeM-were killed in different encounters in Khrew, Pulwama and Bandipore. Security forces recovered huge cache of arms and ammunition in Kupwara and busted a Hizbul Mujahideen module responsible for IED blast by arresting an IED expert and his four associates in Anantnag. An Army jawan committed suicide in Uri Sector. HM joined other terrorists and separatist organisations to ask non-state subjects to leave the Valley.
- July 28: Seven infiltrators were arrested in Karnah sector. Security forces averted a tragedy by timely detecting and defusing an IED in Sopore and arrested an LeT terrorist in the same area. Arms and ammunition were recovered from Arnas, Reasi. As Mufti Mohammad Sayeed demanded revoking of AFSPA and withdrawal of troops, Defence Minister left the decision to the committee. He claimed that peace has been established in Kashmir but there would be no slackness in security apparatus.
- July 29: Six people were killed and 20 others were injured as a blast occurred in a tourist bus outside Shalimar Garden in Srinagar. A HM terrorist was killed in Pampore. A soldier was killed in an encounter in a forest area in Kandi, in Kupwara terrorists injured a woman in Handwara. Terrorists kidnapped three civilians in Gool, Ramban, they were released after severe torture. A terrorist hideout was destroyed in Thanna Mandi.
- July 30: An Army jawan was killed as terrorists attacked a patrol party at Deola, Doda, Army retaliated but terrorists managed to escape. Terrorists kidnapped and subsequently killed a teacher in Ramban. Body of a civilian was recovered from Inshan-Afti, Kishtwar. Two terrorists were arrested in Bhaderwah. 175 crossed LoC at Chakkan-da-Bagh.
- July 31: An Army Colonel and a jawan were killed as Army engaged a group of infiltrators in an encounter near LoC in Uri sector. Security forces recovered an IED weighing 15 kg at Angara in Kishtwar district. An Army jawan was found dead inside a coach at Railway Station at Jammu. A Jammu Court acquitted dreaded terrorist Bitta Karate in an 18 year old case.

AN UNSUNG GENIUS - ARUN KAUL

By J. L. MANWATI

In early sixties a young Kashmiri walks into the T.O.I. Dharmyug's office at D. N. Road Bombay, with a Hindi poem in hand and introduces himself to the Editorial Staff as 'Arun Pradeep Kaul'. Dr. Dharmvir Bharti is impressed with the thought - content and the metrical versification of the poem and 'Arun Pradeep Kaul' is instantly columnised as a young talented Hindi versifier.

In the years that followed, the morning aurora (Arun) lends its sporadic radiant emission to the little lamp (Pradeep) who later becomes a trail - blazer as Newscast, Filmmaker, T.V. Producer and Scriptwriter.

At that point of time nobody could visualize that this youngman would one day storm the citadels of filmdom, where newcomers were usually cold-shouldered.

It didn't take long time for the contemporary serious filmmakers like Mrinal Sen, Umesh Kalbag, Shankar Bhattacharya to notice the sharp acumen and the flair for writing of 'Arun Pradeep Kaul', who associated him as co-scriptwriter in their ongoing Productions. At that point of time, the new entrant in the world of filmdom felt that his middle name 'Pradeep' had lighted his path and he chose to drop it and thus the youngman landed himself on the firmament of Indian Cinema now only as 'Arun Kaul'.

The analytic temperament and deep incisive thinking made Arun Kaul (now affectionately called Arunji) restive, as he felt, 'heroes running around the trees chasing heroines in Hindi Films made of mockery of Indian cinematic intelligentsia, of which, he believed, there was no dearth. He, therefore, founded the 'Film Forum' and 'Forum for Better New Cinema Movement' in India.

Soon rational thinkers, upcoming writers with innovative approach and literatures joined the movement, which made run-of-the-mill cinema veterans skeptical about the activities of this new breed.

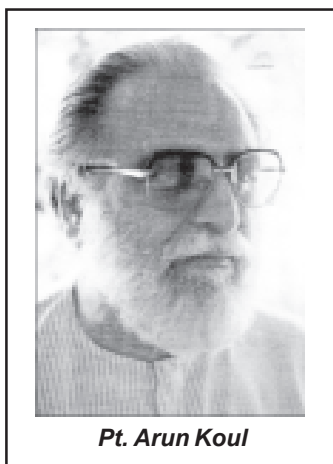
The 'Forum for Better Cinema' started importing award-winning films and documentaries from Poland, Germany, Prague and exhibited these in metropolises of India. The intellectual class appreciated, now available, better cinema and the movement of Art Cinema or

Parallel Cinema caught on. Arunji automatically became the focal point of this new awakening.

Naturally, the various Govt. Agencies dealing with films / cinema and other cinematic institution of the country felt honoured to have Arun Kaul on their Boards as either a Member or as an Office Bearer. Between 1962 - 1980 Arunji was simultaneously connected with 18 contemporary National or International film institutions like; he was Member of the prestigious 'Film Censor Board' - 3 times from 1968, Jury Member for National Awards (Documentaries and Short Films) and Jury Member for National Award Feature Films, Founder Secretary of the Society of Indian Film Director's Association. During this period he also represented the country as the leader of various Delegation to Karlovy Vary, Venice, Locarno, Annonay, Fukuoka and Mannheim Festivals. He was the Consultant General on Indian Participation in Venice Festival in 1972.

When Television came to India, it opened new vistas for all the small and big cinematically connected persons. It was natural corollary that Arunji was much sought after by Doordarshan and National Film Development Corporation for production of some of their key projects, which required special and sensitive handling. Doordarshan commissioned Arunji to co-produce 'Turning Point' in 1991 which ran for record number of 5 years and was dubbed and telecast in 10 regional languages.

Being a Kashmiri, Arunji was thought to be 'right choice' for producing weekly Magazine '**Kashmir File**' in the tumultuous militancy period in Kashmir, which dealt with rich cultural heritage of Kashmir and also subtly hinted upon the dwindling ethos of 'Kashmiriyat'. Being Kashmiri Pandit, proud of his Brahminical blood running in his veins Arunji now prefixed 'Pandit' epithet to his name and supporting a big vermilion Tika on his forehead, he went for location shooting of the 'Kashmir File' assignment, now, as 'Pandit Arun Kaul', much to the consternation of both his friends and foes. After 85 episodes the programme, which was even appreciated by bulk of Kashmiri Muslim for its unbiased treatment, was terminated at the interference of the power that be, because the weight of



Pt. Arun Kaul

satirical pun was too much to bear for them.

Besides, '50 Years of Indian Independence', (4 Parts) commissioned by Doordarshan and many such other prestigious projects, the 8 documentaries produced by 'Arunji' on 'Museum and Museology' can not go without a mention here; because the subject of art in any form was close to his heart. Arunji brought out aesthetic beauty and rich cultural heritage enshrined in the museums of 'Bharat Bhavan - Bhopal', 'National Museum - New Delhi', 'Mani Bhavan - Bombay', 'Prince of Wales Museum - Bombay' and 'Bhau Daji Lad Museum - Bombay'.

Producing musical documentaries (sans spoken words) on '**Jalainwala Bagh**' and '**Qalam Likhti Nahin Ithihas**' for Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity, Govt. of India undertaking, manifested yet another aspect of Arunji's multifaceted personality. That his knowledge of *naad* (music) could rival his penchant for scriptwriting.

His chivalrous and gallant nature came to fore when he had to deal with the lives of 5 most venerated ladies in the field of art and literature, or who had done the country proud by their social service, viz. Dr. Usha Mehta, Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, Mrs. Ela Bhatt, Mrs Gul Bardhan and Ms. Lailu Writer through the medium of documentaries under the title of 'Nari Narayani'.

Besides, Govt. electronic media channels, Arunji produced dozens of video documentaries for other channels as well, out of which the documentary on '**Kashmir - a Perspective**', was exhibited at the 'Inaugural Global Meet on Kashmir' at London and Geneva, which changed globally the perception on Kashmir imbroglio.

A voracious reader, one

would find Arunji immersed in books, when not engaged in filmmaking. This childhood habit to devour the literary classics, helped him to understand the undercurrents, deep nuance, tone and feeling of the story-content. Knowing this trait of Arunji, when Gulzar Sahab thought of making a serial on Ghalib, he could think of none else other than Arunji to script it. Having seen the irrepressible writer in Arunji, which, to an extent, Gulzar Sahab felt proximate to his own self; he invited him to co-script his three films **Ijazat**, **Lekin** and **Zavar**, which were critically appreciated by the film world.

Or when Door Darshan thought of making 17 - episode serial on Premchand's '**Karmbhoomi**' the Kendra was sure that 'Karmbhoomi' could be dealt with excellence by Arun Kaul, who himself as a '**Karmyogi**' - a firm believer in 'Work is worship'.

Man who was never interested in the material gains, Arunji was principled, courteous, humble and embodiment of gentleness. But one thing which, perhaps, was a barrier in his material prosperity was, what one may call, his being 'supercilious'. Of course, not amounting to arrogance. At best, it could be termed as his non-compromising attitude.

While doing serial '**Nupur**' of Hema Malini, Arunji's younger brother, needed his physical attendance at Hyderabad for some eye treatment, which would mean being away for couple of months. Arunji apprised Hemaji about his domestic compulsion. Hemaji, in a casual manner, said 'Arunji write the seven remaining episodes in a day or so then attend to your brother'. The non compromising Arunji said 'Hemaji, I am no electric gadget that you put in socket and script would be printed out. I write with my soul, sorry I quit'. The Noopur had to end suddenly with 13 episode.

Looking back at his illustrious career of 40 years in the film world, it is beyond comprehension that one could have scripted and produced nearly 50 documentaries many of which earned him National and International Awards; produced three path-breaking movies, (**Ek Adhuri Kahani** directed by Mrinal Sen), **Bhuvan Shome** (Directed by Mrinal Sen) and **Andhi Gali** directed by Buddadeb Das Gupta;

co-scripted '**Dharma Keshtra**', with Umesh Kalbag, which won him 'Best Original Script Award' of NFDC; '**Diksha**' a Hindi film based on Kannada Short Story by Dr. U. R. Annanta Murty; **Mirgya** - Hindi film with Mrinal Sen; **Ashwamedhar Ghora** with Shankar Bhattacharya, **Sampark**; **Kal Chankra**; **Khazanna** - 6 part serial by Yash Chopra - one would say GENIUS INDEED!

Diksha (initiation) produced as well as directed by Pandit Arun Kaul was adjudged as the 'Best Hindi Film' and won Rajjat (Silver) Medal in the National category in 1991. It was selected by the Directorate of 'Film Festival's National Jury' for inclusion in the 'Panorama of Indian Cinema, Bangalore' in 1992. It also won 'Film Fare Critics Award' as the 'Best Directed Film' and in the same year it also got 'Yugshree Award' as the 'Best Directed Film' for Television.

The film apart from being in the portal of Indian entries to various International Festivals in 1992, it won two major awards: Le Prix du Public and La Prix du Counsel General de L'Ardecche in 'Annonay International Festival', France in 1993.

Arunji's pursuit to gather knowledge on all the forms of art led him to interact with that time famous '**Little Ballet Group**' an IPTA Branch, which used to hold world wide shows of Indian Classical dances; where he met a coy, dove-eyed and cute performing artist - Sharmishta in 1963, who ultimately became his life-partner. Sharmishta bore him two sons - Vilash & Indraneel, who are also connected with films and are doing quite well in their respective fields. Though Arunji was a doting husband and an affectionate father, yet the family had a grudge - 'that he was wedded to the films rather than to his family'.

"Arun Pradeep Kaul" descended upon this earth from the celestial milkyway as a beacon on 12th August, 1933 and left for his heavenly abode as 'Pandit Arun Kaul' on 21st July 2007 after enlightening the film world with a brilliance of a Genius (though unsung). When the history of Indian Cinema would be written some day Pandit Arun Kaul's name would be recorded as the harbinger and a pioneer of healthy and serious cinema in India.

**The writer is based in Mumbai.*