

# Need to honour unsung civilian martyrs

## Damaged crops due to hailstorm

Whether winters have started arriving early, whether predictions and estimates about the vagaries of weather are in most of the cases turning wrong despite there being latest technology available, whether we need to reshape and change our strategies accordingly, all these issues are quite different from the "mood" of nature which one cannot precisely predict let alone alter it in any way. Conservatively speaking, nature behaving somewhat indignantly almost everywhere in the world is largely a reaction to blind race for fast economic development which in the process must invade and heavily milk the natural resources and cause disequilibrium to natural equations related to eco-system, environment and other cosmic changes. A hailstorm, for example, may be a momentary pleasure to feel and watch and a bit of amusement especially when the size of the hail drop competes with that of a walnut, the fact of the matter, however, is that it devastates crops deadlier than an invasion of locust swarm, can prove deadly to livestock and even can smash car windshields, damage homes and injure people. We witnessed the horrors of a hailstorm preceded and followed by untimely torrential rains a few days back. It caused considerable damage to crops in Jammu region. There was a snowfall in Kashmir valley also even when crops like apple etc had not been fully harvested.

We, at the outset, commend the decision of the UT Government of Jammu and Kashmir in declaring recent heavy rains, hailstorm and snow affecting the crops as a natural calamity and UT specific disaster. Kharif and Rabi crops are damaged to a larger extent, the worst being Basmati paddy crops, vegetables and fruit especially apple crops. Not only that, even floriculture in Jammu region too is affected, the popular marigold flowers much in demand for religious functions, festivals etc too are vastly affected. The worst hit are districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Kishtwar etc in Jammu region and Kulgam, Shopian districts in Kashmir region. However, Government's decision would surely generate hopes in the farmers whose crops have been damaged and expectations that the compensation related formalities would be speedily completed so as to receive the compensation at an early date. Jammu Basmati, a cash crop, a speciality and an item of export from Jammu, the standing crops of which are reported to be damaged up to 75 percent, deserve to be compensated accordingly. The nitty-gritty of the entire gamut of compensation payable to affected farmers having so far not been made known as perhaps the administration may still be in the process of calculating the amount of loss suffered by the farmers, the process however demanding an expeditious approach.

However, it is presumed that most of the farmers might have been beneficiaries under "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojna" and it is expected that the formalities about the claim papers and their processing too shall be expedited so as to compensate them to a larger extent the loss suffered due to the wrath of the nature. There must be constituted an Expert Committee, if one so far has not been constituted, to determine the quantum of compensation per Kanal of crops of different nature damaged, looking to the demand of the farmers in this respect. Farmers may be needing fertilizers, seeds and other input for Rabi crops for which adequate subsidy may be released in their favour so that a bumper Rabi crop may to a larger extent compensate the farmers for the damage to the Kharif crops due to untimely rains and devastating hailstorm.

The UT Government is expected to live up to its promise and commitment to work for the betterment of the farming community so that not only do the ones having suffered get reasonable compensation for the losses but also to ensure that the farm incomes increase. The UT having been declared as "Agricultural Export Zone" for apples and walnuts and more products likely to be included therein shortly does demonstrate the will of the Government towards developing and supporting agriculture but at the moment, those farmers who suffered losses in Jammu and Kashmir regions need to be compensated and helped at an early date.

## Land acquisition for IUST

Whether within the jurisdiction and subsequent land acquisition proceedings in respect of the land for purposes of Islamic University of Science and Technology in Awantipora Pulwama being all within the ambit of law, the Division Bench of the High Court having declared that it was not so, has proved to be as a major setback for the University authorities. Had the acquiring of the land measuring 46 Kanals, 12 Marlas and 6.5 sirsai been done in a transparent manner as it had been alleged that the process of notification was not subjected to wide publicity as provided for under the law hence the same was "bad in law".

It, therefore, means that all the proceedings, issues of compensation as cost of the acquired land and any development connected thereto stand to be invalid and having no sanctity in law. Notifications had to be issued and the compensation paid under the J&K Re-Organization Act which became applicable to the UT since Oct31, 2019. Action taken by the University authorities in the subject matter under the repealed Land Acquisition Act and not under the New Act being in violation of the current Act has rendered the entire land acquisition proceedings illegal and bad in law. It may be recalled that the amount of compensation in lieu of the land acquired has got to be made under the New Act which is current market price hence a great benefit to the land donors (sellers). Basically, the case is an apparent conflict, a clash of the old repealed Act

Ranjit Parihar

The J&K Administrative Council met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, had approved the move to name schools, roads and buildings after "martyrs and eminent persons" as part of the Indian Government's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative aimed at celebrating the country's 75 years of independence.

The decision to mark a respect and acknowledge the exceptional contributions of these martyrs towards the security and development of the Union Territory and renaming Government infrastructures after the martyrs is whereas being widely welcomed on the other hand there is great discontentment and anger among patriotic people of erstwhile Doda district and other parts of state for not honoring hundreds of those unsung Civilian heroes, who attained martyrdom during thirty years of long turmoil in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir while combating terrorism by sacrificing their lives.

During 30 years long turmoil in the state of Jammu and Kashmir when Pak based inhuman Jehadis cleared the valley of original inhabitant national forces (Kashmiri Pandits), they eyed erstwhile Doda District which include Kishtwar and Ramban districts because they knew people here are fiercely nationalist and if they are uprooted there will be no resistance at other places.

Different terrorist organizations who were operating in the area under a anti national conspiracy hatched by Pakistan resulted in selective killings of minority community and executed dozens of

massacres of those who were associated with pro Indian organizations or who were raising voice against anti national elements, which ultimately resulted in migration of minority and nationalist forces from far flung hilly area of erstwhile Doda. All these anti-national activities, sabotage and subversion, were taking place in broad daylight. More than this they indulged in massacre of the people, they deemed a, challenge.

To rectify this situation and weld the common people into an invisible force and stop mass exodus during nineties there came nationalist leaders which included Government employee, educationists, businessmen, Advocates and politicians and Social workers and many others on the scene who with their example of unmatched valour along local national forces started openly opposing anti national forces.

To give terrorists a befitting reply, these nationalist forces launched "Doda Bachao Andolan" in nineties demanding setting up of village defence committee, formation of SOG and handing over Doda to army. As a result of which SOG and VDC's were formed in militancy infested district. National forces without taking care of their lives helped security forces and openly resisted against nefarious design of terrorist time to time. Due to this policy, migration of minority community stopped from here and militancy got crushed. If the people here had not given their martyrdom for nation situation in rest of state would have been different.

Here is a brief history of valour of unsung civilian

heroes who while combating terrorism during 30 years long turmoil like regular forces in erstwhile Doda district attained martyrdom for the integrity and solidarity of nation. On 19 Dec 1992 social worker and Advocate Santosh Thakur was martyred by terrorist in Doda town. On 10th May 1993, Satish Bhandari Ji, State Secretary of Hindu Raksha Samiti was martyred by terrorists in Kishtwar.

After few months later, ter-

kumar sen a contractor on Dool Road in mine blast.

Beside these selective killings during three decade long militancy militants, three years back terrorist martyred Anil and his brother Ajit Parihar who was State BJP state Secretary on 1st November 2018 and after few month another selective killing was executed by terrorists of Chander Kant Sharma who was a social worker and Health Department Employee. They were martyred because

the Sarthal Link Road in Kishtwar. On 17 April 1998 in Prankote and Dakikote terrorist massacred 26 minority community people. On 19 June 1998, in Chapnari terrorist massacred 25 people of minority community. On 3 August 2001, terrorist massacred 17 villagers of minority community in village Ladder near Kishtwar.

On 30 April 2006 terrorist again hatched a plan and massacred 35 members of minority community in two separate

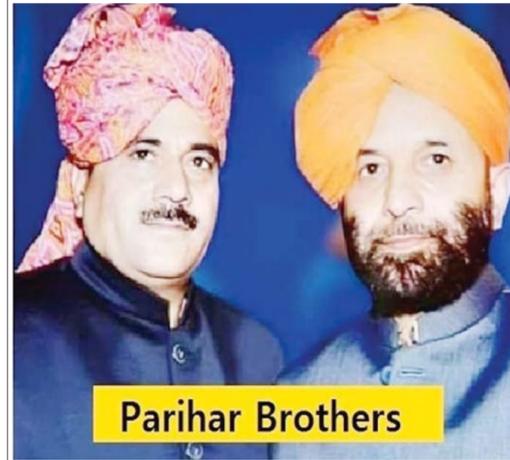
But it is quite amazing that all these martyrdoms and massacres were forgotten by politicians and Government too who never did anything to recognize these martyrdom.

Government neither provides any special package nor even built memorial in their memory to acknowledge the sacrifice of those who attained martyrdom.

On 01 Nov 2021, we are having Parihar brothers 3rd Martyrdom day.

Both the brothers Anil and Ajit Parihar attained martyrdom for nation three years back. Anil Parihar who was BJP State Secretary was gunned down because he was working for strengthening nationalism and democratic values in erstwhile Doda district.

On the third martyrdom of Parihar brothers, majority of people living in erstwhile Doda district are demanding that the martyrdom of those who sacrificed their lives for motherland during 30 years long turmoil should not go unattended and to honor their sacrifice like martyrs of security forces public infrastructure like school, colleges, roads, sports stadium, Health institutions and power projects in erstwhile Doda should be named after these civilian martyrs Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav an initiative aimed at celebrating the country's 75 years of independence will be incomplete until and unless we honor our martyrs. To honour these martyrs, beside naming Government infrastructure in their name a state level civil martyr memorial on the lines of Jallianwala Bagh be built in the memory of these martyrs and innocent people killed during the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism era in district and other parts of State.



Parihar Brothers

Like security forces and Army, these nationalist forces launched "Doda Bachao Andolan" in nineties demanding setting up of village defence committee, formation of SOG and handing over Doda to army.

rorists again martyred another social worker Parveen Gupta on 26 Dec 1993 in the heart of city who was the only son of his father and mother. On the directions of Pakistan, terrorist struck in Bhaderwah and killed political leader Ruchir Kumar Koul on 7th June 1994. After this incident terrorist killed Pawan Sen on 21 June 1995 and then a Government Health department employee Chaman Lal Shan on May 9 1998 and also martyred Pawan

they were nationalist and were supporting democratic process and working for strengthening nationalism. There is a long list of other martyrs who sacrificed their life for motherland. Beside these selective killings, militants executed several massacre. The killings started on 14 August 1993 when militants sprayed bullets with their automatic weapons on 14 members of a minority community after dragging them out of a passenger bus on

attacks. In the first attack twenty two unarmed members of minority community mostly shepherds or their families, were lined up and gunned down by terrorists in Thawa village in Kulhand area of Doda district. The second attack in the neighbouring Lalon Galla village in Basantgarh area of Udhampur district, in which 35 Hindu shepherds kidnapped by suspected terrorists were shot dead on the same day.

# Black days are in fashion

Harsha Kakar

Within the subcontinent India and Pakistan marking Black days against each other has begun gaining steam in recent years.

India marks 22nd October, the day Pak raiders crossed the Neelum River and attacked Kashmir as Black day. Pakistan marks India's independence day and Kashmir accession day, 27th Oct, as Black days. In India, 27th Oct is Infantry day, marking the day Indian troops (1 SIKH) landed in Kashmir and pushed Pakistan raiders back. Pakistan utilizes both these days to project its support to Kashmir and highlight its disputed status. In 2019, Pakistan announced both, 14th and 15th August as Black days, as Article 370 had just been repealed, taking Pakistan by surprise.

While India's actions on its nominated Black day, 22nd Oct, are localised and social media dominated, Pakistan attempts to make a grand show of their earmarked Black days hoping to draw Kashmir into global attention. It also involves other anti-India groups including those demanding Khalistan into its paid organized protests.

Pakistan did receive support in the valley on these occasions as long as the Hurriyat held sway, dwindling with passage of time. Indian security forces were compelled to be on their toes to prevent raising of Pak flags and other mischief. An analysis of Pak announced Black day of 15th Aug of 2016 and 2021 would indicate the difference in outlook to Pakistan's calls for protests in the valley.

An excerpt from an article in The Hindustan

Times of 15 Aug 2016, the year Burhan Wani was gunned down, sums up the scenario. It stated, 'The Valley is draped in a blanket of security. Thousands of soldiers are the only ones out on the streets, trying to keep tentative peace. Nervous men in uniform stand with guns cocked, in wait, perhaps, of defiant pelters who might dart out of their homes. But movement, too, is restricted. Rolls of concertina wire have been laid out to block squares, alleys and bylanes. The sight of a civilian on the streets is enough to unnerve the security forces.' Despite all security forces attempts, Pakistan flags were raised in multiple places as a mark of defiance. In those days, violence in the valley, to support trapped Pak terrorists was a daily affair.

In 2021, all schools across the Union Territory celebrated Independence day. Lal Chowk was lit up in national colours. Independence Day celebrations were held in every district, with flag hoisting being done by elected DDC representatives or government officials. Vehicle rallies with Indian flags visibly displayed took place in parts of the state. There were no incidents of violence, forced hartals or the flying of Pakistan flags as hurried.

The breaking of the pro-Pak Hurriyat, blocking of hawala funds as also conduct of DDC elections did change the atmosphere. Though, as is customary across the country, there was extra vigils maintained by enhanced deployment of security forces, to prevent an untoward incident by terrorists, thereby marring the celebrations. There is no doubt that there has been a change in mindset of the populace.

This year, 14th August, Pakistan's independ-

ence day, which traditionally is day of concern in the valley, was just another day. However, Pak newspapers carried fake reports, released by their army information department, stating that Kashmiris celebrated Pak independence day with enthusiasm. The Nation, a media outlet in Pakistan stated, 'flag hoisting ceremonies in Srinagar and other areas were also conducted to express love for Pakistan. Moreover pro-Pakistani and anti-India slogans were also chanted.' Another media outlet, The News, stated that this year (2021) the valley observed 10 days of Hartal from 05 to 15 Aug based on a call given by the All Party Hurriyat Conference. These were attempts to hide reality from its populace. Pakistan is aware that it is losing support in the valley.

Pakistan has always hyped its marked Black days by releasing statements from all its political leaders as also attempting to organize marches and protests both within and outside. In Islamabad there is a ritual protest outside the Indian High Commission. Its preferred locations abroad are London and Washington, outside the Indian embassy/consulate, as it can draw support from pro-Khalistan elements. This year, both Indian Independence Day and Accession of J and K day, were Pak only events, with the valley maintaining normalcy and muted protests abroad.

The highlight of the event this year was the Pakistan foreign office releasing songs praising Kashmir's support to Kashmir in conjunction with its army's publicity department. Struck down by financial woes, the Pak government allocated only USD 1000 to its embassies to highlight fake Indi-

an atrocities in Kashmir as also sponsor anti-India protests.

Indian marking 22nd Oct as Black day is intended to remind Kashmiris of atrocities committed by Pakistan in the region since the launch of Operation Gulmarg in 1947. Almost the entire population of Kashmir was born post the horrible incidents of 1947, hence the need to remind them. While India marks Black day to highlight 1947, the messaging also includes Pakistan's actions in Operation Gibraltar in 1965 and continued support to terrorism. This year, posters were displayed across Kashmir highlighting Pakistan's atrocities.

There were also protests in Dacca on 22nd Oct this year, in support to the Indian call, as Bangladesh had similarly suffered at the hands of Pak forces in 1971 under Operation Searchlight. Surprisingly, this was not covered extensively in Indian media. As in earlier years, protests against Pakistan this year too were held globally led by its own suppressed communities. The Sindhi's, Baloch and Pashtun population, mainly abroad, observe Pak independence day as Black day.

Black days have become the norm on both sides to convey their governments message to the masses. In India, it is not a major event. In Pakistan it involves all sections of society including its polity, despite having achieved nothing over the years. However, stopping these events or lowering its levels by any Pakistan government would invite criticism from the opposition. These are therefore likely to continue, without any worthwhile achievement. Globally, these days are irrelevant.

(The author is Major General (Retd))

# Accession Day: History and Facts

Inderjeet Sambyal

The history of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)'s accession to India is a classic case of this myth-making. A lot of haze surrounds the historic accession of the princely state that took place on October 26, 1947. That allows for leaders in Kashmir to repeat the myth of "conditional accession". The final chapter in India's Independence saga was the challenge of the accession of the 565 princely states into one of the two dominions by August 15, 1947. A single document called the "Instrument of Accession" was to be the basis for the accession. It was the same accession document that the Maharaja of Kashmir signed too.

The National Conference (NC), led by Sheikh Abdullah, held a special session in October 1948 to support the accession. It didn't talk about any conditions. Supporting accession, it only said: "This convention has given serious thought to the question of accession... After mature consideration it is definitely of the opinion that Kashmir cannot find its proper place in Pakistan, which today has become the main citadel of reaction and decaying feudalism". Three people - Louis Mountbatten, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and VP

Menon - played a critical role in the political integration of India. The British government's political department was replaced with the "states department" in May 1947 to facilitate the process. Patel was made the minister and Menon the administrative head. Although all three leaders played crucial roles in the integration of states, Patel was rightfully credited with the epithet of iron man, on the lines of the German iron chancellor, Otto von Bismarck. Bismarck, a Prussian general, was responsible for the integration of German-speaking kingdoms into a united Germany in 1871. Bismarck was alone in his campaign, but the kingdoms he was uniting were smaller and largely city-states. Patel was assisted in the task by Mountbatten and Menon, but he faced a much tougher challenge as he had to deal with many big princely states with armies, assemblies and treasuries. Mountbatten, entrusted by the Cabinet with the responsibility of accession, convened a meeting of the princes on July 25, 1947, and managed to secure the accession papers signed by almost all of them before August 15, 1947. The three princely states that refused to accede - Hyderabad, Junagadh and Kashmir - became Patel's responsibility. It is the

final accession of these three, which Patel secured through various methods, that won him the title Bismarck of India. Compared to the accession of Hyderabad and Junagadh, where Patel had to use force or the threat of it, Kashmir's case was more complicated. Jawaharlal Nehru's fondness for Sheikh Abdullah, on the one hand, and Maharaja Hari Singh's ambition to remain independent, on the other, made Patel's task difficult. It was October 27, 1947, when Lord Mountbatten, then Governor-General of India approved and signed the Instrument of Accession of J&K. The Instrument of Accession was signed by the Maharaja in Karan Palace in Jammu on October 26, 1947 which was brought by then Union secretary from Delhi. Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession on October 26, 1947 which was taken back to Delhi for acceptance by the Governor-General of India, who approved and signed it in the early hours of October 27, 1947. Jammu and Kashmir acceded to the Union of India on October 27. Acknowledging the historic significance of October 26, for the first time in last over seven decades, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has announced a public holidaying

year 2020 to celebrate the momentous occasion. On this day in 1947, Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh had signed the Instrument of Accession before acceding with the dominion of India. This had emerged as a major demand across Jammu region with a cross-section of people seeking the occasion to be declared as an official holiday. The Instrument of Accession is a legal document executed by Maharaja Hari Singh, ruler of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, on 26 October 1947. By executing this document under the provisions of the Indian Independence Act 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh agreed to accede dominion of India. Accession Day is a public holiday in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, commemorating 26 October 1947, when Maharaja Hari Singh signed off the Instrument of Accession, in which Jammu and Kashmir joined the Dominion of India. It became an official public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time. The accession made by Maharaja under the India Independence Act, 1947, was final and irrevocable.

"It was a sovereign act as prescribed under the India Independence Act, which did not have any provision of "conditional", "temporary" or "inter-

im" Accession."

Here are the series of events that led to the state of Jammu and Kashmir being a part of India.

**Post-Indian independence**  
Kashmir was plagued with repeated invasions by the Pathan tribesmen after Indian independence in August 1947. Hence, Maharaja Hari Singh wrote to Lord Mountbatten seeking military help.

**Mountbatten's advice**  
Mountbatten replied saying, "it is my government's wish that as soon as law and order have been restored in Jammu and Kashmir and her soil cleared of the invader, the question of the State's accession should be settled by a reference to the people". This remark is said to have sowed the seed of the Kashmir dispute.

**Attempt to a plebiscite**  
Following Mountbatten's advice, the Indian government attempted a plebiscite, or referendum, for the Kashmiri people to decide if they wanted to stay a part of India, Pakistan, or remain an independent state.

**The everlasting debate**  
The plebiscite could not take place as the Pakistani government and a part of Kashmiri residents questioned the legality of India's accession to Kashmir,

which up till now remains a point of debate.

**Instrument of Accession**  
Following this, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession at Karan Palace in Jammu on October 26, which India's last Governor-General Lord Mountbatten accepted on October 27.

**Agreement with Pakistan**  
Hari Singh had earlier signed a 'standstill' agreement with Pakistan for uninterrupted trade and communication in Kashmir.

**Pakistan's charges**  
The Pakistani government contested the accession stating that it was fraudulent and that Singh was forced to sign the agreement with India.

**The debatable Accession Day**

The exact date of Accession has also been debated on. While Indian historian Prem Shankar Jha said that the accession document was signed on October 25, British researcher Andrew Whitehead pointed out that it happened a day later.

**Final nail in the wall**  
Early in the morning on October 27, the Indian Army's first Sikh battalion was air-dropped in Srinagar where they resisted the Pathan invasion and officially completed Kashmir's accession to India.

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