

ACCESSION DAY

The Accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India in 1947 was a significant event in the region's history. Kashmir was a princely state in British India ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh. In 1846, it came under British control when Maharaja Gulab Singh of Jammu and Kashmir bought it from the British. It remained distinct from the rest of British India. In 1947, when India gained independence from British rule, the princely states were given the choice to join either India or Pakistan, or remain independent. Pakistan, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, sought to have Kashmir join Pakistan due to its Muslim majority population. In October 1947, tribal militias, backed by Pakistan, attacked Jammu and Kashmir, leading to a crisis in the region.

Facing the tribal invasion and seeking help, Maharaja Hari Singh approached India for assistance. He signed the "Instrument of Accession" on 26 October 1947, which legally integrated Jammu and Kashmir into India. This document was in accordance with the Indian Independence Act of 1947.

After the Instrument of Accession was signed, the Indian government dispatched its troops to defend Jammu and Kashmir from the tribal invasion.

PoJK: The Looming Future in Pakistan

**■ BHARAT NANDA**

**Historical Perspective** Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) and Gilgit Baltistan historically belonged to the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. Soon after the partition of India in 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir signed the Instrument of Accession, thereby acceding to the Indian Union. While the whole of the erstwhile J&K State acceded to India, portions of it came to be illegally occupied by Pakistan and has been under Pakistan's unlawful control ever since the Pakistan Army orchestrated the tribal invasion of the territory on 22 October 1947. The area under illegal occupation of Pakistan comprise two administrative regions - Pakistan Occupied Gilgit Baltistan (PoGB) and Pakistan Occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK).

Ever since, this area has been ruled by Islamabad despite the fact that it is not constitutionally integrated with Pakistan and its people do not have representation in the National Legislature. Having received this bonanza without effort Pakistan set about misusing it as a tool to further its political, economic and strategic objectives; as time passed the covetous Punjabis of Pakistan realised the immense economic potential of the region and let loose massive exploitation to gain control of all assets. Governments and political dispensations in Pakistan changed over time but the policy towards this unfortunate region remained unchanged.

Governance- The PoJK is governed under the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir Interim Constitution Act passed in 1974. Even though PoJK has a President, Prime minister, and a council, the governing structure is totally powerless and dependent on the Pakistani establishment for the smallest issue at hand. Very often PoJK is described as a constitutional enigma. The Karachi Agreement, which governs the rule of Pakistan over Gilgit-Baltistan, was signed between the President of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, the Muslim Conference and a minister without portfolio from Pakistan, Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani. Even though there was no formal merger between PoJK and Gilgit-Baltistan, the fate of the latter was decided by Prime Minister PoJK and Pakistan with no local representative participating in the matter.

Economic Development-Pakistan's strong post-pandemic recovery came to a halt in FY23 with large accumulated economic imbalances that resulted from the delayed withdrawal of accommodative policy, and a series of domestic and external economic shocks. An IMF loan program in which Pakistan entered into in 2019 had gone off track after the Fund found Islamabad's commitment to reform lacking and flow of funds towards corruption leading to a suspension of loan disbursements. Pakistan is in deep economic trouble and staring at bankruptcy but appears to have other priorities as it continues to breed terrorism in its backyard.

Present State of PoJK & GB-Islamabad's immature antics to showcase the impoverished PoJK region as Paradise compels one to do so. This is evident from the fact that despite using strong arms tactics, law enforcement agencies haven't been able to prevent the hapless people of PoJK & GB from protesting against the non-availability of essential commodities, and most importantly, brazen discrimination. PoJK and GB unfortunately, lags in socio-economic development. The infrastructure is less developed, and healthcare and education facilities are not at par with Jammu and Kashmir or Ladakh. High unemployment and poverty rates in the region are indicators of its slower progress.

Education-The schools in PoJK & GB lack basic facilities such as proper classrooms, libraries, and sanitation facilities which directly hampers the quality of education and discourages students from attending school. Both the regions have witnessed high rate of school dropouts, particularly among girls. The majority of educators are not adequately trained and not getting payments leading to substandard education that fails to equip students with the skills required for upliftment of society. Beyond basic education, opportunities for higher education are scarce. This compels many students to migrate to other regions of Pakistan, further exacerbating the brain drain problem.

Employment-At least 700,000 young people in PoJK are reportedly unemployed. This is nearly half of the population that still resides in the occupied territory. Another 2 million lives across the world as economic or political refugees. Lakhs of ethnic educated people in PoJK & GB are jobless and yet the people are not getting adequate government employment; there is not a single local Judge in the entire province. In case they look for a government job, they have to pledge to eschew all political activity that may be inimical to the interests of the State of Pakistan. In plain words livelihood is available to them only in exchange for their freedom of expression and their right to protest. On the other hand, Pakistani government officials posted to the area draw double salary. The few local government employees do not get salaries for months on end.

Protests-The frustration and disillusionment among the youth in Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have led to a series of protests and demonstrations in recent years. The protesters demand better educational facilities, access to quality higher education, and the creation of new job opportunities in the region. The issues fuelling these protests affect not only the general populace but also government employees, including law enforcement agencies and police below grade 17 or those lacking special privileges. A further escalation could lead to a scenario akin to the 1979 Iranian Revolution, where bureaucracy and employees turned against the Shah. Similarly, such incidents occurred in the Arab region in 2011, resulting in the Arab Spring, when the masses started protesting against regional regimes.

Way Ahead-Today, almost every single protest taking place in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir and in Gilgit Baltistan echoes the call for reunification of PoJK and PoGB with mother India. They see a vibrant Indian economy based on the finest principles of democracy that are protected by a constitution of consent. Jammu & Kashmir and its development graphis a testimony. The only way forward for the PoJK & GB is to merge with India and look for a better future.

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PRELUDE AND AFTERMATH OF 27th Oct. 1947 FOR J&K

**■ JAGJEET SINGH SUDAN**

Subsequent to the passing of the Indian Independence Act, 1947 on 18th July, 1947, the rulers of the 565 princely Indian States under the British Rule were free to acceded to either of the two dominions . Maharaja Hari Singh of J&K forwarded Standstill Treaty agreement to both would be PM of India Pt. J.L. Nehru and to be Gov. Gen of Pakistan M.A. Jinnah. Jinnah accepted it and Pt. Nehru wanted to discuss more. But Pakistan taking advantage of this , conspired and raised a Tribal Force to attack J&K and capture it. Further to pressurise Maharaja , Pakistan blocked the supply route to the valley of Mansera-Muzaffrabad- Srinagar .

It was on 22nd Oct. 1947 when the first bullet was fired by Tribal Raiders on the State from Lohar Galian Pass on Muzaffrabad route, being one of the entry point to the State. Instead of attacking from it's direct link from Murrey-Kohala route, Pakistan attacked from Lohar Gallian route to show it as Tribal Raid. As a first natural reaction to this attacked all the saner sections of the local populace unitedly with all the force and resources at their command, resisted the Tribal Raiders to save their land, honour and lives of their women and children. The raiders had to fight out the resistance . They started killing innocent civilians and then arson and looting . This halted and delayed their fast pace to capture Srinagar which was hardly a few hours run from Muzaffarabad. Thousands of men women and children killed , women and young girls abducted, many of them were burnt alive , women and young girls jumped in the Jhelum river to save their honour. It is said that the river waters turned red with the blood of the martyrs.

As a consequence the State of Jammu and Kashmir acceded with the Indian dominion on 26" October 1947, but what happened during all this intervening period is a sad part of history of J&K and our freedom struggle.

The day of 22nd Oct. 1947 , a Black Day in history , is being observed as Shardhanjali Diwas by DP's of 1947 from PoJK every year. This year all the organisations of DP's of 1947 from PoJK and Chhamb of 1965,71 joined hands under one platform CONFEDERATION of ALL DP's OR 1947,'65,'71 observed "Shardhanjli Samaroh" to pay respectful homage to the martyrs of 1947, '65 ,'71 .

**FIGHTING THE RAIDERS**

As per history, about 200 soldiers of Maharaja's Army under the command of

Brig. Rajinder Singh fought the Raiders along the Srinagar-Uri-Muzaffarabad route and ultimately gave supreme sacrifices fighting the raiders. After the Instrument of Accession was signed by Maharaja Hari Singh acceding the state with Union of India, the Indian Army landed in Srinagar airport on 27th Oct 1947. The raiders were just a few miles away from the airport when the Indian Army landed in Srinagar on 27th Oct.

The planners of Tribal Raid had set their eyes to capture the Srinagar Airport, make the Maharaja along with all the leaders captive and put a siege on the valley by the evening of 22nd October 1947 itself. But for the supreme sacrifice of the soldiers of Maharaja and the people from Muzaffarabad, the State would have gone into the hands of the raiders for all times to come.

It's really pity that even after signing the Instrument Of Accession by the then ruler on 26th Oct. 1947 and Indian Army blunting the enemy attack effectively pushing them back beyond Uri in Kashmir, the city of Mirpur was finally captured by Pak on 24th Nov without any resistance except by locals , nearly one month later. The process of genocide as was done in Muzafraabad was again repeated there killing thousands . Those who survived were later evacuated by Red Cross to safer places in J&K and other parts of India .

The small town of Budhal, Rajouri distt , was attacked on 19th Nov '47 and all the more than 2500 non-muslim habitants were killed mercilessly . Only three children could miraculously escaped this genocide. Similarly in the valley about 5000 Sikh men, women and children including a few Christian missionaries and some humanitarian Muslims were killed mercilessly by the kabailee raiders.

In the process 41,119 families of Hindus and Sikhs from Mazaffrabad, Poonch and Mirpur distt got dislodged and took shelter in this part of the state. Their houses were burnt, property looted and 45000-70,000 men, women and children were killed mercilessly in the genocide.

**POPULATION OF SOULS OF DPs**

As per govt records 31619 families had been registered as displaced in 1947 of which 5300 families were sheltered outside the state and rest were sheltered in the state under rural and urban categories . In addition to this at the time of giving ex-gratia of Rs.3500/- , sanctioned in 1960 , applications of 9500 families were rejected for some reasons which were later over ruled in Aug 2000

by a govt order.

Though all the records of the families registered within and out side the state is lying with the PRO , Jammu, no survey has been done to count the present number of families and the total populace of DP's families today . As per estimates presently more than 4 lakh families of 16-17 lakh souls of DP's are living in UT J&K- in more than 100 camps/basties then created in 1950 for temporary shelter alla couple of thousands were sheltered on the then abandoned Sialkot-Jammu Railway Line and outside the state in -Punjab,Haryana, H.P., Rajasthan, MP, U.P., Ultra Khand etc..

**RELIEF EXTENDED BY GOVTS. TILL DATE**

1). The State Govt. in 1954 formulated Rules for allotment of land to the DP's of 1947, wherein the state govt. reduced the scale of 8- acres Abi or 12 acres Khushki set by Joint Rehabilitation Board to 4-acres Abi or 6-acres Khuski per family subject to a minimum of 2-3 acres per family considering the number of family members.

2) The govt. had also extended financial assistance to DP's as recoverable loan of Rs. 500-1000/- .

3) Some of the DP families who opted for ural living , a house plot of 5-7 marlas or One/ two room quarter was allotted to 3600 families on the outskirts of Jammu City, Noushera, and Udhampur etc..

4) Later on in 1960 the cost of Agriculture land/Housing Plots/Quarters was deducted from the ex-gratia grant of Rs. 3500/- . Even the Financial Assistant of Rs. 500-1000/- given to each family was also deducted along with interest out of this ex-gratia grant.

As such many of the DP's who had been allotted Housing Plots/Quarters did not get any money out of this grant even some DP's had to pay from their pocket against the cost of residential quarters allotted to them.

5) Initially a monthly survival allowance of Rs 4-8 per month per member of a family subject to a maximum of Rs. 50/- was given to each family. But later on it was stopped in 1951 for reason best known to Govt.

6) The height of injustice is that :

a) In 1957 govt sold out developed plots of 12- marlas, 1 & 2-kanal in Gandhi Nagar colony @ Rs. 500/- , 1500/- and 2000/- respectively against this Rs 1500/- was deducted for 5-7 Marla plots to DP's .

b). In spite of deducting cost of land @ Rs. 2500/- from all rural settlers irrespective of the scale of land allotted, more than half of allottees were not allotted land in full scale. Many of the DP's who were allotted land could not get possession till date and no

action has been taken so far.

Thereafter many organisations of DP's kept on struggling to pursue with the govt of the times to get justice and final R&R of all DP's .

All the central as well as state govts. have inflicted great injustice to these people by treating them as DP's with a false pretext that they will be sent back to their homes as soon as the areas occupied illegally by Pakistan is retrieved back and kept them rotting under sub-human conditions in more than 100 refugee camps since 1947 all along the IB and LOC .

These 76 years of continuous suffering in the refugee camps and struggle outside to survive fighting abject poverty , deprived their children of proper education, their youth of proper living & job opportunities & hopes of a secure future and pushed them into a degenerated way of life. Three generations of these DP's have perished suffering on financial, tradition & cultural, political and educational accounts .

In Oct. 2014 state cabinet recommended a relief package and sent it to GOI for sanction. Same year the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs also recommended a relief and final settlement package vide it's report no. 183 and placed before both the houses of parliament on 22nd Dec 2014. Both the proposals are eating dust and no action has been taken on any of the recommendations till date.

Though in the above mentioned packages one recommendation was to give a cash relief of Rs.25 lakh & Rs 30 lakhs per family registered in 1947, an amount of Rs 2000 crores was kept for DP's from PoJK & Chhamb in the Hon'ble PM's Development Package for J&K state announced by PM Modi ji in Nov 2015. This came to about Rs 5.5 lakhs per family as per count of 1947, '65, '71 as final relief but when distributed among descendant family units existing today it came to a meagure 11 / 22/ 33- thousands rupees per family. This is a cruel and discriminatory joke on the DP's who had been waiting for justice for more than seven decades.

Thus these DP's of 1947 are waiting for justice and final settlement for the last 76 years in the same camps/basties where they were sheltered after their displacement . "Justice delayed is justice denied" . This long delay raises questions on the biggest democracy of the world and it becomes imperative for the govt for the justified final settlement of these DP's.

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Importance of Accession Day

**■ MOOL RAJ**

The 26th October is important in the sense that Maharaja Hari Singh signed off the instrument of accession on this day in which Jammu and Kashmir joined the dominion of India

The 26th, October 1947 is the accession day and it is the day on which Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir Hari Singh signed the instrument of accession and joined the secular and democratic India .We are celebrating the accession day on October26,2023 and are celebrating it with fanfare.The UT and its people are celebrating 76th accession day this year .Thus this day has a special importance in the post independent history of not only Jammu and Kashmir but of the India as well. So this day should be celebrated with gaiety and fervor. But it is very disturbing that 26th October is not celebrated in the manner it deserves to be celebrated .However the LG administration had rightly issued order to all government offices and educational institutions to celebrate the accession day in a befitting manner .The 26th October has now been declared a public holiday by the government and therefore this day needs to be celebrated to commemorate the accession of J&K with the Indian union. In fact accession day in India's Jammu and Kashmir commemorates the day when the area joined the Dominion of India. The 26th October is important in the sense that Maharaja Hari Singh signed off the instrument of accession on this day in which Jammu and Kashmir joined the dominion of India. This was part of the series of events in 1947 by which rule the British Raj was converted into two independent Dominions of India and Pakistan, latter having territories separated by whole of the northern India.

As a Hindu ruler of a state with both Hindu and Muslim population, the Maharaja's decision was crucial. The

festivities of the day include holding rallies, lighting firecrackers, singing India's national anthem and raising the flag of India. Thus accession day carries great importance as it was on this day in 1947 that the then Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir signed the Instrument of Accession to become part and parcel of the greatest and largest democracy of the world. This day marks the anniversary of Maharaja's signing the Instrument of Accession with the government of India. The signing of this document cemented Jammu and Kashmir as member of the Dominion of India. The people of India as well as of J&K especially children need to be taught about the historical developments which led to the signing of the Instrument of Accession and the importance of this day in independent India.

The festivities of the day include holding rallies, bursting of fire crackers, singing of India's national anthem and raising of national flag and in some areas the festivities are as big as those of the Hindu festival of Diwali. Accession day is a public holiday in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The accession day became an official public holiday for first time in Jammu and Kashmir in 2020.While this day is celebrated and commemorated for acceding of Jammu and Kashmir with India and is celebrated by all nationalistic people but the separatists observe it as a black day. The Accession Day of Jammu and Kashmir with the union of India is celebrated every year on 26th October across the UT. Special functions are observed to mark the day.

The day became an official public holiday in J&K for the first time in 2020 after the abrogation of article 370 and 350A August 5th 2019.The Instrument of Accession is a legal document executed by Maharaja Hari Singh, ruler of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir on October 26, 1947. By executing this document under the provisions of Indian

Independence Act, of 1947,Maharaja Hari Singh agreed to accede to Dominion of India. It is pertinent to mention that Maharaja Hari Singh, sought the help of the Indian armed forces after an invasion from the army and tribesmen of Pakistan. The Indian government extended its help on condition of accession of the state to the dominion of India .Accession day is the new holiday that residents of Jammu and Kashmir will celebrate .

Earlier the Jammu and Kashmir administration replaced former CM Shiekh Abdullah's anniversary and Martyrs day from its list of public holidays for 2020 and included Accession Day which will be celebrated every year on 26,October.The government should not have cancelled the holiday of the anniversary of Baba -e-Koum -Sher -e - Kashmir Shiekh Mohammad Abdullah because he was the towering political personality and his role is commendable for the upliftment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir .Though it is so good to have cancelled the holiday on account of the so called martyrs day of 13th July but the government should not have tinkered with the holiday of the anniversary of Shiekh Abdullah .It is a bad politics and politics of vengeance. The accession day is observed on 26,October every year .This day marks anniversary of Maharaja Hari Sing signing the Instrument of Accession with government of India.

The people in Jammu and Kashmir whose national sentiments favor India celebrate the day by lighting fireworks ,singing the Indian national anthem and hoisting the national flag .Those in Jammu and Kashmir who have more separatist aspirations observe the day as a black day mourning kashmiri 's independence.

The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was torn apart when British India was partitioned to form modern nations of India and Pakistan .

When Pakistani forces launched a guerrilla attack on Kashmir in 1947 ,Hari Singh ,the reigning monarch of Kashmir at the time ,turned to Mountbatten and India .He was asked to sign the Instrument of Accession -a document declaring the princely state as part of the Dominion of India. After the first Indo-Pak was drew to an end the United Nations was called for mediation .The UN's suggestion to hold a referendum to discern the aspirations of Kashmiri people was refused by India. Jammu and Kashmir thus became a part of India. The state was accorded special status by article 370 of the Indian constitution .The article though was repealed in 2019 and the state of Jammu and Kashmir bifurcated into two union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh .As already stated accession day was made a public holiday. Accession day highlights the modern history of Jammu and Kashmir .

It shows how Jammu and Kashmir became a part of India. .Through accession, we learn about the political aspirations of the people and how these impact the functioning of a state .Accession is an opportunity to understand special statehood .Jammu and Kashmir has a long history and it is in the fitness of things to use the accession day to educate the people especially the future generation about the importance of this historically significant day. The children who are the future leaders and rulers should be made aware about the importance of the accession day and so it becomes our responsibility to make children aware about the significance of this day for the country .In brief the accession cements and creates the relationship of Jammu and Kashmir with India and it is through signing of the Instrument of Accession by the Maharaja Hari Singh that J&K became a part and parcel of India and hence the importance of this day cannot be exaggerated.

ABORTION OF PETRODOLLAR

**■ VEEIR BOHRA**

In the year 1973, USA president Richard Nixon and Saudi prince Fand Ibn Abdel Aziz signed a deal wherein Saudi Arabia, the leading member state of the OPEC, had to trade in dollars to any country who bought crude oil from them and in exchange they received military protection from USA in the form of weapons and arms. It was coined the term as ‘Petrodollar’ which basically is



the revenue generated from crude oil from the trade between countries. This was going very well for 50 years and most of the countries were using dollars as their medium of exchange for oil until March 8, 2023, when US with European Union and other western countries put sanctions on Russia due to war waged against Ukraine on 24th February 2022. They banned trade, which largely hit Russia's economy and reached a point where it hit rock bottom. After the Russia-Ukraine started to unravel, Russia and India signed a deal, also known as ‘Rupee Ruble’ wherein they contracted to trade in their specific currencies

of crude oil. Moreover, US and Europe becoming less dependent on West Asian oil imports and India and China becoming the main markets for GCC hydrocarbons made Petrodollar less reliable due to the ongoing issues with US and Saudi Arabia.

India was determined to make its move to show its financial dominance as it has the potential to break the norm and as Shri Narendra Modi stated “Time has come when our strength and financial markets and institutions strive to become the backbone of international trade”.

Furthermore, Russia also signed the

deal with China, European Union and mostly with Saudi Arabia to lessen their dependence on US dollars for oil payments.

This will have a huge impact on the inflation hit US economy as it will lose major chunks of its revenues in the oil trade because Asia is the centre of global oil trade and will depreciate its currency due to a fall in the demand for dollars. This would lead to higher price levels for imported countries leading to higher inflation and worse economic situation. But can petrodollar be abolished after being responsible for 99% of oil trades or US might find a way to sustain this.