

KASHMIR: A BUFFER STATE

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ABSTRACT:

Kashmir, a 135 by 32 km stretch of land that became the first victim of all major foreign civilizational hostilities and violence directed towards India or Bharat. The brutal mountainous border of Bharati civilization and the most frequently severed limb of Bharat. Be it the persecution they faced during Aurangzeb's authoritative and religiously oppressive regime against which the Kashmiri pundits sought the help of the Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, to protect whom he and many Sikhs and Hindus consequently laid down their lives, or be it the very recent exodus and genocide of the Kashmiri Pundits from the place Aurangzeb couldn't evict them from. This makes for a perfect case that proves we, as Bharatis are guilty of forgetting what our ancestors laid down their lives for, and not realizing the underlying currents of civilizational erosion targeted at the Bharati civilization that has begun in Kashmir. A place where it became common place to see Islamist Terrorists yelling "Kashmir Zindabad! The pundits have three options, Convert, Run and leave their women or Die and get raped and pillaged", purposely over-looking the fact that the Kashmir they rightfully were calling their own derived its name from the revered Rishi Kashyap Ji himself, nothing to do with "Nizaam-e-mustafaa" they sought to establish. Kashmir became an instrument of buffered hostilities of our neighboring countries and is still being used in that regard coupled with rapid radicalization, encouragement of contemptuous acts against the national spirit and institutions of nationalistic individuals, key institution being the Armed forces and through manipulation and exploitation of religious, financial and educational backwardness leading (and having previously led 3 generations of) drug addicted and disturbed youth into a Utopian dream chase not discouraged by their equally radicalized senior members of the family who had been the previous generation engrossed in this madness. This paper seeks to inform and seek answers to basic and advanced queries regarding the 7 letter word, Kashmir.

Keywords : Exodus, Kashmiri Pundits, buffer, Bharat, Kashmir, Radicalization, etc.

INTRODUCTION TO KASHMIR: FROM SONS OF KASHYAP TO A CALL FOR "NIZAAM-E-MUSTAFA" AND AN ENSUING NIGHTMARE:

If we go by the historic literature, Kashmiri Pundits are the aborigines of Kashmir, the native pagans who survived centuries of oppression just to keep the flags of Indian civilization fluttering in the valley, going back as far back as the 14th century.

"Kashmir, the land of Kashmiri Pundits, which was called as 'Amsterdam of the East' was so ruthlessly looted, plundered and ravaged by greedy, bloodthirsty savages who not only claimed the land of Kashmir but killed the children of its soil, brutally raped women and daughters before slaughtering them as well. Those slaughtered were the Kashmiri Pundits. Some managed to escape and sought refuge; they are alive but living a life of misery. Having lost palatial bungalows & estates, flourishing trades, professions & businesses in the Kashmir exodus, these people are forced to live in relief camps

as refugees for the last 27 years.”¹ The so-called Human Rights observed pin-drop silence on the genocide of the Pundits, so did the Parliament and the Supreme court of India and they very well still continue to do so to quite an extent with the exception of the Parliament.

The Supreme Court of India stated the following while rejecting the second petition requesting a re-investigation into the killings and rapes, loot of the Kashmiri Pundits from 1990-2000s.

*“We decline to entertain this petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, for the simple reason that the instances referred to in the present petition pertain to the year 1989-90, and more than 27 years have passed by since then. No fruitful purpose would emerge, as evidence is unlikely to be available at this late juncture.”*²

The denial to even look through and tend to the wounds of the Pundits after so many years of being absolutely destroyed is the gravest form of injustice that could’ve been meted out to the victims.

ROOT AND THE TWO FLYTRAPS:

Kashmir is home to two major problems both of which have their roots in a long pending problem that is ever-developing in gravity since the first civilizational conflict took place in the valley. A thorough understanding of the underlying deep-water issue, parent to the ones we directly observe on the surface perceived by us is crucial to get to the bottom of these problems and to understand their roots where we shall find their solutions too. We are already too late, we’ve been skimming the surface to keep the water clear but have not addressed the oil exuding from deep and ever-widening wounds inside the Dal Lake, this exuding liquid may blow-up at any given time and the Fire might still be on the surface, the source would be deep within and insulated.

Kashmir is home to a “Death-triangle” of problems and at the centre of this triangle is the Valley that has engulfed 6 lakh homes, lives and many more thereon through state sponsored terrorism, State being not one but one and a half, with proxies sitting in the Indian government too actively colluding with the Pakistani deep-state. The roots of the problem lies in civilizational history of confrontations with other civilizations and repeated attempts at devastation of the Bharati Civilization. The conflict was fanned by the neighbours and big-names of the valley for personal and political gains. They never wanted to and still do not want to realize any of the claims they ever made as conflict in the valley is what keeps the money rolling.

‘THE ROOT’:

A constant, unacknowledged, civilizational battle surgically crafted into a political struggle by the “NGO – cottage industry” and “intellectuals”. This Civilizational conflict is a countinuing struggle since the 14th century, from either under Sikander Butshikan (Butshikan standing for “Destroyer of

¹ Sheetal Bidaye, “Kashmir, The Land of Pundits”, Vagabondetravel. available at :

<http://www.vagabondetravel.com/uncategorized/kashmiri-pundits-the-original-sons-of-kashmir/> (last visited 30-05-2020)

² Varad Sharma, “Losing hope: Who will give Kashmiri Pandits justice now that the Supreme Court has turned them away?”, The Scroll, November 2nd 2017. available at : <https://scroll.in/article/856145/losing-hope-who-will-give-kashmiri-pandits-justice-now-that-the-supreme-court-has-turned-them-away> (last visited on 30-5-2020)

Idols”), Ali Shah or Shamsuddin Iraqi who carried out terrible genocides and mass rapes, destroyed the Idols and temples of spiritual and cultural learning and intellectual life like the Sun Temple at Martand and countless other shrines.

All this created immense pressure on the Hindu community post forced mass-conversions due to persecution and public humiliations hurled at them, not once but seven times caused exoduses since Abrahamic theocratic states got installed and established in Kashmir, with 1990 being the final blow when Kashmir was violently deprived of any significant hindu presence and influence. And thus, the alienation and distancing from the Indian civilization and disowning the hindu roots and ancestry began at a very rapid frequency.

FLYTRAP ‘A’:

The territorial dispute between India and Pakistan with it’s seeds in the two-nation theory architected by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. The same line towed by the Kashmiri separatist leaders is not what it seems at the surface, they really do believe not in Independence but in merging Kashmir with Pakistan, very clear from their pro-Pakistan stand but never are they heard demanding for the Kashmir occupied by Pakistan, quite violently if it may be added to add to the gravity of the statement. What Pakistan and it’s terrorists inflict on the locals is in no way polite to say the least and to refrain oneself from going into the discussion of atrocities. This segment talks about the ideological interests and local monetary and power-related interests which have triggered Kashmir into becoming an “Issue”, **ON ONE SIDE** of the border.

“ Being installed in power through the separate electorate system, some Muslim leaders now began to think turning the beneficial separate electorate system into a separate nationalist thought called two-nation theory asserting that the Muslims of India formed a separate nation altogether historically, culturally, intellectually, and socially. This idea was first articulated by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817-1898) who first started the movement for Muslim self-awakening and identity.

Sir Syed Ahmed discouraged the Indian Muslim community to join the band wagon of the Congress nationalist movement. He articulated that the Indian Muslims themselves formed a nation and in their own interest should not ally themselves with the Congress-led movements for self-rule. His idea found good reception from the colonial rulers, who needed allies to manage the growing Indian nationalist movement launched by the Congress.”³

This metaphorical “Flytrap” has had long-lasting repercussions on the ground of ideological, religious, civilizational and geographical conflict with Kashmir amidst all this turmoil has produced a pseudo-identity and movement which envisages itself as a political movement against “The State” and is marketed as a political movement when in reality, the roots go deeper than the adrenaline and drug fuelled rage witnessed on the roads mostly post the ‘*Salat-al-Juma*’ or the Friday prayers.

³ “Two-Nation Theory”, Banglapedia. available at : http://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=Two-Nation_Theory (last visited on 07-06-2020)

The fire was fuelled more so because of convenient compliance of the Indian leadership till now which had found convenience in fighting the scum on the surface and being hailed as heroes instead of taking the pains to go deeper to the roots of the problem which required time, dedication and absolute commitment, but which did not yield a shimmery political glory. The constant theatrics of contempt and promises of stringent measures and behind the curtain “we shall scratch each others’ backs” led to successful political campaigns in both domains of particular interest and served them well through manipulated outrage over government schemes. Gradually it transformed into an unwritten rule that everyone abided by and no one dared challenge the other’s de-facto sovereignty but colluded in compromising the National Security as well as the interests of the law abiding people of Kashmir.

The fundamental thing we need to understand is that no matter how hard we try, a sieve cannot separate water and oil but somehow our public stood moot and awaited results while our leadership tried to perform this ‘magic trick’ behind the curtains. This was done through the creation of and then the unnecessary and unwarranted continuance of the now rendered inoperational Article 370. It’s debatable that the article itself was not made for the evils it gave birth to later but certainly the unquestioned continuance of the same even after it was termed as a “Temporary Provision”⁴.

The case of quietly making amendment in the Constitution of India without the democratic will of the Parliament of India and member representatives was certainly a chapter if not more, atleast on the same page with the amendments made during the Emergency. Article 35A was clear case of fraud on the Constitution of India and the Indian populace, but surprisingly the Constitutionalist and Awarded/celebrated experts of the constitution never mentioned about this article anywhere in their books or lectures, even after this fraud came to the fore in the public domain through a PIL⁵. Article 35A is a provision incorporated in the Constitution giving the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature a carte blanche to decide who all are ‘permanent residents’ of the State and confer on them special rights and privileges in public sector jobs, acquisition of property in the State, scholarships and other public aid and welfare. The provision mandates that no act of the legislature coming under it can be challenged for violating the Constitution or any other law of the land. An article of the constitution that went beyond most emphasized and crucial fundamentals of the Basic Structure Doctrine while simultaneously escaping necessary scrutiny for so long. The Silence is appalling to say the least.

“Silence in the face of injustice is complicity with the oppressor.”

– **Ginetta Sagan**

FLYTRAP ‘B’ :

The other aspect that comes into play is the geo-political and geo-strategic situation that prevailed before, during and that, that has prevailed post our independence. The British left us, a Nation once the

⁴ Kelly Buchanan, “*FALQs: Article 370 and the Removal of Jammu and Kashmir’s Special Status*”, Library of Congress, October 3rd 2019. available at : https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/sc-to-hear-challenges-against-article-35a-all-you-need-to-know-about-it-119022500465_1.html (last visited on 07-06-2020)

⁵ *Ibid.*

hub of all major trade and business in the world to a land of mass-famines, looted, plundered, divided under three State-Identities and several social identities of caste, region and religion.

Kashmir is one small part of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir and the deliberate attempts at derailing the democratic process by favoring Kashmiri constituencies, through manipulation of delimitation process and later continuing the same faulty delimitation to remain and keep their chosen ones in power and helped maintain Kashmir (Dominated by Muslim population) as the power-centre that controlled the under-represented population of Ladakh and Jammu and was basically a cottage-industry being held at different times by one or the other players of the three households 'gospelled' as the repository of all that is Kashmiri and all that is Kashmiriyat, by our beloved leaders busy climbing the ladders of power. Then there were and still are, backdoor organizations that bargained and struck deals on the behalf of those in power for the allegiance and implementation of specific intentions and missions **on both sides of the border.**

All Parties **Hurriyat** Conference (APHC), or Tehreek e **Hurriyat** is one such organization and an alliance of 26 political, social and religious organizations formed on 9 March 1993, as a united political front to raise the cause of Kashmiri separatism in the Kashmir conflict. It's absolutely true that they raised issues of separatism but not because they sought their resolution but because they could use them as effective instruments to hold the Indian Government to ransom and settled post fulfillment of their political and monetary objectives.

"The Constitution of India was specifically amended in 2002 not to have delimitation of constituencies till the first census after 2026.(When delimitation was done according to the population, the states which achieved population control found their number of seats reduce while the states reporting higher populations were benefited by more constituencies. Therefore only after 2026, changing the number of seats in the parliament can be considered)"⁶

After 3 decades of Pakistan created insurgency, the Kashmir region (Muslim dominated) has become worst affected and the last stand of Pakistani terrorism. If one observes, even if not at close quarters, one can easily make-out that the Political dispensations and governments, The Pakistani Army and all such institutions of Political and International standing share their origin and reason of existence in common being Kashmir. From elections to official state-policy, all point towards annihilation of the Indian State through usurping Kashmir and using it as a buffer state till it merges into Pakistan. From Ghazwa-e-Hind to changing the official motto of their to a Jihadist slogan.

*" The motto of the Pakistan Army as changed by **Ziaul Haq** is now, **imaan, taqwa, jihad fi sabilillah** (faith, piety, holy war in the path of Allah). It is interesting to compare this incredibly*

⁶*"Delimitation of Kashmir"*, ManifestIAS. available at : <https://www.manifestias.com/2019/08/22/delimitation-of-kashmir/> (last visited on 09-06-2020)

*intense motto with the original unassuming, almost placid, national motto **ittehad, yaqeen aur tanzeem** (unity, faith and discipline). ”⁷*

Zia-ul-Haq had major role in fuelling the fire in Kashmir as explained below,

“Zia-ul-Haq, the Pakistani dictator, is credited with radicalising Pakistan and its army. He is the author of the strategy of ‘bleeding India through a thousand cuts’ and was the mastermind behind the ‘Operation Topaz’ that was put into action by Pakistan in 1989 with the intention to destabilise India. Kashmir was chosen as the battle ground and designated as the centre of gravity; ISI was designated as the agency to supervise the operation. It all began with fuelling an insurgency followed by a proxy war.”⁸

Just as a nail that has pierced into a tyre wouldn't spare the tyre unless taken out, no matter how nice you are to the nail or the tyre, it shall prevent locomotion at all costs, similar is the case with Pakistan.

Some of the other interests of Pakistan are as mentioned under:-

I. Pakistan depends on the Indus river (& tributaries) for sustenance. But this river comes from Tibet and then India i.e., J&K. Were this river re-directed or reduced, Pakistan might to go to war for it because it's the sole source of power and water for a major part of Pakistan.

II. Pakistan also lives in the shadow of a larger and stronger India. Pakistan's instability and jungle rule creates encouragement of terrorism as leverage for talks and spreading influence. Nationalism and doing God's holy war upon the infidels seems like a national dream for the rogue state and a good aspect for the political dispensation and Army with respect to public approval, though it's going into a tailspin very fast with economic and human rights violations in the State of Pakistan accelerating the breakdown of the state.

III. Pakistan has fought three wars for such reasons and one small war (Kargil). India defeated Pakistan in all wars. This changed the strategy of Pakistan and they started the route of terrorism and insurgency in the late 80s and early 90s. Pakistan employs Islam as an excuse for relating to J&K and hopes to recruit local Kashmiris in a war-to-come for the final annihilation after the the thousand cuts have bled India into a coma. As it is, Pakistan would never want to fight another State, especially India on its own soil as it is just 1,006 km (625 mi) SE-NE in its width. This is one of the reasons why Pakistan keeps changing its capital so frequently in anticipation of wars or retaliation from Rawalpindi to Karachi to Islamabad.

⁷ Saroop Ijaz, “The war within”, The Express Tribune, June 28th 2011. available at : <https://tribune.com.pk/story/198057/the-war-within/> (last visited on 09-06-2020)

⁸ Brig Anil Gupta, “Kashmir Unrest: Pakistani ‘Deep State’ has its hands Dirty”, Indian Defence Review, August 8th 2016. available at : <http://www.indiandefencereview.com/spotlights/kashmir-unrest-pakistani-deep-state-has-its-hands-dirty/> (last visited on 09-06-2020)

IV. Pakistan has a few million Hindus and Christians living in deplorable conditions to say the , but the fake connection to J&K requires playing up Islam and calling itself as the “Riyasat-e-Medina”⁹ and Leader of the Ummah.

Without Pakistani involvement, the Kashmir region would become secular and peaceful. But due to low cost of propping up militancy, and inherent jungle rule in Pakistan, it will keep the issue boiling till the end of Pakistan’s existence. The unsuccessful attempts at converting Kashmir into a shoulder to shoot its cannons on and use it as a buffer state and failure of the Indian leadership over the year to prevent this in a comprehensive way has led to a point that has given Kashmir a pseudo-identity, a calloused outer covering that is now suffocating the true spirit and culture of Kashmir along with Jammu and Ladakh.

The Pakistanis have employed every method, indoctrination, setting-up of radicalization and terror training camps in India itself in mosques and places of religious gathering which were not acted upon by the Indian leadership which shielded the clear actions of National Treachery for minority appeasement and vote-bank politics, under the ‘Garb-e-Religious Freedom’ and ‘Garb-e-Secularism’ which they very well retorted contradicting their own action in various newspaper editorials terming Terror to be an act that could never be associated with any religion, though in particular repetitions of treacherous misconduct by a particular community or communities, they termed the actions as misconceived and innocent acts in exercise of religious freedom.

Pakistan would never want India to get a clear and direct access to Afghanistan (neither would China) that’s possible through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

CONCLUSION:

“The state and the central governments are making repeated attempts of addressing the symptoms of the Pandit problem, but not its real causes. They try to circumvent the core issues and address the less-urgent or peripheral issues like return and rehabilitation without a proper political resettlement. Unless there is a geopolitical restructuring of the state that provides territory, political authority and conditions of organised civil society to the Pandits, their return in a dark and uncertain situation may not be possible.”¹⁰

- Ashok Pandit

The state and the central governments had been making repeated attempts of addressing the symptoms of the Pandit problem, but not its real causes. This symptomatic approach instead of a systematic root-based problem redressal had brought Kashmir to the brink of becoming ‘Buffer State’ between India and Pakistan and a model for further disintegration of India. The previous establishments tried to circumvent the core issues and address the less-urgent or peripheral issues like return and rehabilitation

⁹Pakistan Today team, “Turning Pakistan into Riyasat-e-Madina, Pakistan Today, April 26th 2019. available at : <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/04/26/turning-pakistan-into-riyasat-e-madina/> (last visited on 09-06-2020)

¹⁰ Ashok Pandit, “The only solution”. available at : <https://www.rediff.com/news/2001/jul/12pandit.htm> (last visited on 09-06-2020 at 20:28)

but without a proper political resettlement and sense and preparation for security of the Kashmiri Pandits. Unless there is a geopolitical restructuring of the state that provides territory, political authority and conditions of organised civil society to the Pandits, their return in a dark and uncertain situation may not be possible. The current political dispensation seems to be working in a new direction of correcting historical wrongs which is a step in the positive direction yet, much remains to be seen and done though much has also been done and accomplished and it is yielding positive results now.

In words of Lord Krishna, ‘You Have the right to work, but never to the fruit of work’, our last option is to work in one direction, together as a Nation and to then wait and see where the chips fall.