



JAMMU KASHMIR POLITICS: A HISTORICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This research focuses on the creation of Jammu and Kashmir as a princely state controlled by Dogras and its admission to India. It also explains why Sheikh Abdullah started the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, how it split apart, and how the secular All Jammu and Kashmir National Conference came to be. All provisions of the Indian Constitution, including Article 370's unique status for Jammu and Kashmir, are now applicable to the state as a result of the Governor's withdrawal of the Sadar-i-Riyasat in 2019.

Keywords: Jammu Kashmir, Politics, History, Indian Constitution, Election.

INTRODUCTION

Jammu and Kashmir is a sociopolitical composite formed by merging three autonomous zones or countries in 1846. Jammu became the state's centre. Jammu and Kashmir is India's northernmost territory. Kashmir is sometimes called "Asia's Switzerland." Geography and topography are considered. Kashmir sits in the heart of Asia, with the Indian subcontinent to the south-west, Afghanistan to the north-west, the Soviet Union to the north, and China and Tibet to the north-east and east (Ahmad, 2017). So massive and high are the mountain-ranges that ring Kashmir that it is not actually accessible from any of these countries save those in the south and west, and in the depths of winter the major approach is from northern Punjab, now Pakistan.

On October 26, 1947, Jammu and Kashmir's Maharaja Hari Singh formally became King. He did so by signing an Instrument of Accession. It was through this treaty that Maharaja Hari Singh officially joined India. To save his people from the tribal invaders in the Northwest Frontiers, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession (Choudhary, 2019). They made their way to the state's summer capital (Srinagar). Because the Maharaja's army was unable against the invaders, the Indian government stepped in to assist. The Indian



government wouldn't back him without his signing the Instrument of Accession, since doing so would be a breach of international law.

Since 1947, India, Pakistan, and China have all claimed sovereignty over a portion of Kashmir known as Jammu and Kashmir. In 1954, India recognized Jammu and Kashmir as a distinct state under Article 370, granting it the right to its own constitution, flag, and internal government (Mattu, 2002).

Citizenship, property ownership, and fundamental rights are all treated differently for people in Jammu and Kashmir because of this article and Article 35A. Property or land in Jammu and Kashmir was off-limits to Indians from other states.

In 2014, the PDP-BJP partnership rehabilitated West Pakistani refugees and built colonies for Kashmiri Pundits. This administration made several steps to rehabilitate Kashmiri Pundits, and some went home (Swami, 2006).

The political instability in the Valley after Burhaan Wani's encounter on 8 July 2018 in a military conflict killed 96 persons and injured over 15000 civilians and 4000 security personnel. Kashmir's 53-day curfew ended on August 31, 2016. Burhaan Muzaffar Wani led Hizbul Mujahidin in Kashmir. His social media presence helped establish a more youth-oriented picture of Kashmiri militancy, attracting more foot-soldiers. In 2018, the BJP terminated its coalition with PDP in Jammu and Kashmir and proclaimed Governor's Rule.

The Indian government issued a constitutional order on 5 August 2019 that nullified the 1954 decree and made all of the provisions of the Indian Constitution applicable to Jammu and Kashmir, per the choices of a 2/3 majority in both houses of India's parliament. On 6 August 2019, after motions were adopted by both houses of parliament, he issued a supplementary decree rendering Article 370 ineffective save for clause 1. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, which split the state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, was also passed by Parliament. The change took place on October 31, 2019. (Baba, 2007).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

According to Clifford Woody, research involves identifying and redefining issues, creating hypotheses or recommended solutions, and gathering, organizing, and analyzing data. It's



necessary to evaluate the state's political changes, fluctuations, and sociopolitical, economic dynamics. Every research has to gather and analyze data in various ways.

Adopting social, economic, and political research approaches may provide needed knowledge. This research used primary and secondary sources to gather data, information, and literature.

They used a variety of primary and secondary resources for their descriptive, analytical, and historical investigations, such as surveys, interviews, focus groups, public records, books, magazines, journals, libraries, and newspapers.

RESULTS

The democratic forces' fight against the separatist politics did not end with their victory in the Assembly election of 2014. This problem came to light when the valley was gripped by serious instability in 2016. Democratic politics have been challenged by separatists, and the coalition government collapsed in June 2018.

Electoral Outcome:

- The 2014 Assembly election was fiercely fought and provided a split mandate. With four main political parties claiming political control and multi-concerned fights in several seats, no party crossed the halfway threshold. The PDP won 28 seats, the highest of any party. The BJP was successful in 25 seats. With 23% going to the BJP, 22.7 to the PDP, 20.8% to the NC, and 18% to the INC, the vote share reflected the splintered mandate.
- The 2014 Assembly election changed the power dynamics of the state's political parties. The NC lost its supremacy in 2002 and 2014. NC's state and regional performance 1996-2014. In 2002 and 2008, it had the most state and Kashmir seats and had the most votes at both levels.
- Its vote share was 23% in 1996 and 14% in 2014. For the party that has dominated state and Kashmir politics, the 2014 Assembly election meant decreasing space and tough competition. After forming the government at the end of 2008, the party struggled. It tried to attract important leaders from these locations. In 2014, the party gained ground in Jammu's Hindu-majority districts.



- This party's dominance made it a state-level power challenger. At the state level, this party won 23% of the vote and won as many seats as the PDP.
- 1996-2014 BJP performance in SC-reserved seats. The party that controlled three reserved seats in 2008 currently has all seven. Its vote share rose from 31.75 to 55.67%. As usual, its vote percentage in reserved seats was greater than in the area and the 21 Hindu belt constituencies. BJP's vote share in reserved seats was 55.67%, compared to 50.23% in this belt.
- Each region's main party was different. PDP won 25/46 seats in Kashmir, while BJP won 25/37 in Jammu. Congress won three of four seats in Ladakh. No party effectively represented all three areas.

PDP-BJP Coalition Government:

- During the 2014 Assembly election, two parties emerged as major contenders, although they had diametrically opposed beliefs. The BJP disagreed with this assessment and instead blamed Pakistan and the separatists for starting the "proxy war." Despite the PDP's calls for "demilitarization" and the repeal of AFSPA, as well as its criticism of the state for human rights breaches, the BJP saw these initiatives as harmful to national interests. BJP believed that PDP's proposed methods of dispute resolution, notably the concept of "self-rule," were an affront to state sovereignty, and hence rejected them.
- 2016 agitation revealed party divides. Both parties have different approaches to stone-throwing and crowd violence. While the BJP favoured harsh methods against protesters, the PDP favoured a more compassionate approach.
- In 2018, the murder and rape of an 8-year-old girl in the Kathua district sparked a disagreement between the PDP and the BJP. The horrific event pushed the administration in opposite directions and rattled the BJP.

Political Scenario 2017 Aftermath:

- By 2017, the situation had changed. Srinagar's by-election was conducted amid rising terrorist attacks and stone-pelting unrest. This election featured over 200 violent demonstrations, including assaults on polling places that killed 8 people.



- Turnout was 7.13 percent, the lowest in 30 years. The violence also cancelled the bye-election in Anantnag, leaving the seat vacant since April 2017. Many saw 2017's by-election as a separatist win.

CONCLUSION

This research looks at the major events beginning with the election fraud in 1987 and continuing through the migration of Kashmiri Pundits in 1989, as well as the steps made by the state administration to rehabilitate them back into the Valley. The current research also takes into account the historical context, from the 1990s up to the beginning of the Kashmir protests in 2008-2010 and the coalition politics of 2014. This research will provide, at long last, a window into the situation of Jammu and Kashmir's politics after the 2016 uprising and the ongoing political troubles in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

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