

*A Look Through the Mist***Need has hence arisen for early local settlements**

Geo -Administrative order of Maharaja's J&K may suggest some road map
by

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In the nineteenth century Maharaja Gulab Singh of Jammu & Kashmir extended the Geographical boundaries of India to the other side of Himalayas .Maharaja's forces even routed the Tibetan army. Raja Gulab Singh's General Jorabar Singh had followed the route through Kishtwar in 1930s since at that time Kashmir valley was not governed by Gulab Singh. Militancy that had hit Kashmir Valley in late eighties of 20th Century nearly engulfed the whole of J&K. Material loss the people of J&K have suffered is surely too dwarf before the social and communal divides that have started appearing on the agenda of some leadership of the day. Media has quoted some leaders of even ruling political parties suggesting of even discussing alternatives like self rule for J&K. The quotes made in the media have not been denied by such leaders. Some have dared to suggest even joint control. Such acts could be seen even as attempts to negate the October 1947 access of J&K with Dominion of India. Need has hence arisen for early settlements and cooling down of the tempers of those who have never talked against Indian nationality but have surely complained of a local region based neglect.

Inter regional divides too are emerging J&K and there is utmost need to remedy the local doubts and grievances. Otherwise such issues may cause more disturbing stresses and strains than even what the militancy had caused..

Corruption, mal-administration, regional discrimination, neglect and communal distrust appear to have started agitating the wills against Indian Government even of those subjects of J&K who never reared any anti India ideas. Question of regional councils has extended to the demand for reorganization of J&K State into two States and one union Territory of the Indian Dominion. How fair and administratively practical is the demand of those who are asking for reorganization of J&K will also have to be seen in reference to the erstwhile States of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

A fair and *honest trial could be done by looking at the structure of Civil Administration given to J&K by Maharaja Hari Singh.*

The State of J&K as was ruled and administered by Maharaja Hari Singh was larger than the princely state of Hyderabad . J&K was two thirds of the size of Bombay Presidency and was larger than the States of Mysore, Bikaner , Gwalior and Baroda put together. The territories of the Maharaja of J&K included valleys formed by the Chenab and Jhelum rivers and the middle reaches of the Indus.

Civil Administration

For the purposes of civil administration, the state was divided into three parts ;

1. **Province of Jammu** 2. **Province of Kashmir** 3. **District of Ladakh.**

The head of revenue administration in each province was a Governor.. Ladakh district was under a Wazir Wazarat.

Kashmir Province : The Geographical Division of J&K comprising of the Jhelum valley (consisting of the valleys that drained into the Jhelum and Krishan Ganga rivers) and the lateral valleys of the Sind as well as that of Liddar together form the famous Kashmir valley. **Kashmir Valley along with the hilly track of Muzaffarabad included in Kashmir Province. It is the Kashmir Region of today.**

Province	District	Tehsil	Niabat
1.Kashmi	1.Anantnag	1.Anantnag. 2.Kulgam 3.Awantipura. 4. <u>Srinagar</u>	- -
	2.Baramulla	1. Baramulla 2.Sripratapsinghpur 3.Uttarmachhipura	- -
	3.Muzaffarabad	1.Muzaffarabad. 2.U 3Karnah	1.Gurez. 2.Sopo

Jammu Province: A). It extended over the Semi- mountainous and Sub-mountane tract consisting of the plains contiguous to the Punjab and broken *Kandi* country skirting the Himalayan ranges. The rivers Ravi, Chenab, and Jhelum and several perennial streams flowing through. The hills in Bhaderwah, Doda, and Kishtwar formed part of this Division. Jagirs of Poonch & Chenani too were with this Province. **This Division comprised the whole area covered by the ranges of low hills to the south of Pir Panjal Mountains which divide the two provinces of Jammu and Kashmir.**

Province	District	Tehsil	Niabat
2. Jammu	1. Jammu	1.Jammu . 2 Samba 3.Akhnoor 4.Ranbirsingh Pura	- -
	2.Mirpur	1. Mirpur . 2. Bhimber	1. Noushera
	3. Udhampur	1. Udhampur. 2. Rambhadr 3 Ramnagar 4.Bhadarwah 5.Kishtwar	- -
	4.. Reasi	1. Reasi. 2.Rajouri	1.Gulabgarh
	5. Kathua	1. Kathua. 2.Jasmerga 3.Basoli	-
3 Jagirs*	*Jurisdiction	1.Poonch Jagir	2.Chenani Jagir

District of Ladakh: The Tibetan and Semi Tibetan tract, that consisted on middle reaches of the Indus formed this Division (Ladakh DISTRICT OF Maharajas Administration).

The river Indus having it's source in Mansarovar lake in Tibet traversed the whole of this Division (district) running from south east up to the bend around the Nanga Parbat, where it assumes a south westerly course. **Except in Gilgit, the ranges in this Division Vary from 17000 feet to 22000 feet.** . Crop area in Ladakh was very small. Mountains in the North stretch up to Pamirs. Mount Godwin Astin, 28265 feet above MSL was the second highest known peak in world. Bhotia and Shina spoken in Ladakh and Gilgit remained confined to Ladakh .

Province	District	Tehsil	Niabat
Ladakh had direct Administration Under a Wazir Wazarat	1. Ladakh	1. Ladakh 2. Kargil 3. Skardu	- - -

Astore was under a Revenue Assistant and ## Ladakh had nearly Direct Administration under a Wazir Wazarat. In 1935 when Soviet Russia nearly over ran Eastern Turkistan , the British executed an agreement with Maharaja Hari Singh and took Gilgit on lease under which the administration and defence of Gilgit became the subject of the British. An irregular corps , the Gilgit Scouts was raised for the purpose. In 1947 Gilgit was administratively/ technically transferred back to Maharaja.

Frontier illaqs of Skardu , Ladakh and Kargil was 63554 square miles (approximately 1,65000 square kilometers). The population was very sparse.

In Jammu Province of erstwhile Princely State of Maharaja Hari Singh the Muslim formed the 77 % of total population of the State but the Jammu Province still extended over larger part of the domain as compared to Kashmir Province without any communal overtones and considerations. Where as a just and rational segmentation of the civil administration for the welfare of the masses had been the prime consideration with Maharaja.

Since the common man has very less information and is innocent, some have succeeded in even terming the demand for separate State of Jammu as a Hindu dominated area demand which is surely a wrong propaganda. All well meaning subjects of J&K must save the social matrix of J&K from further damage.

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