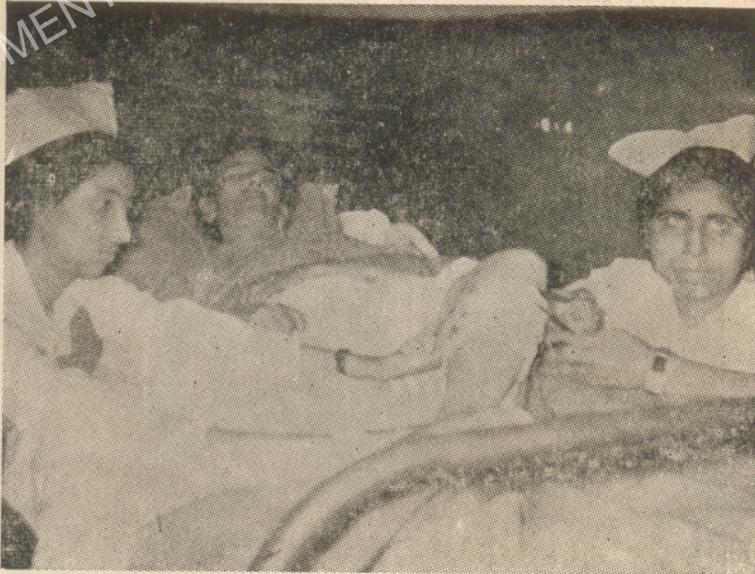


Police harrassing and arresting way farers



An old lady shot at leg on August 15th.



Joint Funeral Procession of Two "Shaheeds" on 27th August  
Later stoned by hooligans near Cremation Ground.



Shops gutted at Karan Nagar Chowk on 27th August.

1st & 2nd Sept. 1967

A stage had been reached by now when the Central Government could not sit silent and the Union Home Minister had to come over to Srinagar. The number of deaths, caused by police lathicharges and murderous assaults of the hooligans stood at four by this date and the fifth victim of both the murderous assault of the hooligans and the police torture Shri Hirday Nath Matoo, referred to above, was nearing his death, which ultimately took place on 3rd Sept. 1967 after Shri Chavan left.

---

---

## Shri Y. B. Chavan's visit to Srinagar and its aftermath

The State Government enmeshed in its own game continued its efforts to dupe the Central Government. Anti-Indian elements continued to fish in these troubled waters, and the bait was provided by the State Government. Mr. Sadiq Chief Minister made another statement in the State Assembly on 31st August which betrayed lack of appreciation of the situation, though at the same time he could not hide that his Government had been criticised by the majority Community and charged with following a soft line. He confirmed that on 24th August, a section of Muslims organised procession & demonstrations in protest.

Mr. Sadiq's statement was full of platitudes and at the same time threatened that no quarter would be shown to the elements (impliedly the Kashmir Pandits) seeking to create an atmosphere of tension. As to the abducted girl, all that he had to say was that the case was already before the Court of law and that it was his duty to allow the law to take its own course in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. It is three months since he made the statement and the court has yet to settle the preliminaries regarding the bereaved mother's complaint — whether she should be heard in the presence of the abductor or not. This dilatory process indicates the intention behind this abduction case.

Political tussle within the ruling party and certain elements of the so-called Congress party continued. The rule of law became a casualty. In such a situation the Union Home Minister, Shri Y. B. Chavan, arrived in Srinagar on 2nd Sept. 1967. The Kashmir Hindu Action Committee expected that his visit would give the central leadership and the Government an understanding of the implications of the unfortunate and tragic Parmeshwari episode in Srinagar. A memorandum was submitted to him by the Committee on the day of his arrival. The events leading to the seduction of the girl and the mishandling of the case coupled with the neglect of the Government were brought to his notice, indicating the immediate demands for an honourable settlement, viz

1. The abducted girl to be restored to her widowed mother.
  2. Judicial probe to be ordered into the conduct of the investigating agency connected with the abduction case and into the police excesses all through and also the suspension of the concerned officers before the probe starts.
- 
-

3. Unconditional release of all detenues connected with this Agitation and withdrawal of any contemplated or already taken action against Government servants.
4. Compensation to the families of the deceased and injured and families affected by loot and arson.
5. Restoration of Law and order to ensure security of minorities.
6. Enquiry into the grievances of the minority by a High Power Tribunal headed by a High Court Judge.

There were discussions throughout the day and late in the night on 2nd Sept. Later, a deputation of the Hindu Action Committee had a second round of talks with Shri Chavan. This was all overboard, but behind the scenes the members of the 'Control Room' of the Government presented in the garb of 'Peace Loving Citizens' another memorandum, dated 2nd Sept. 1967, to Shri Chavan whom greetings were offered for his "stirring revelations and disclosures he was alleged to have made only *two days ago* at New Delhi about the tragic and deplorable incidents of Ranchi." The memorandum as presented to Shri Chavan, was compiled and got printed within these two days, incorporating percentages of different communities in services and admissions especially to the Regional Engineering College, Srinagar. There is no wonder that the "Peace Loving Citizens" could in no time get these figures from the Government records, as the Government agency itself was behind all this. Ironically, the unfortunate seduction of the minor Hindu orphan girl was mentioned as ,

“**T**HE conversion to Islam and the marriage of a Kashmiri Pandit girl with a Muslim is a very trivial matter in our normal life and could not and should not have caused a sizeable conflagration”.

Unwittingly, these self righteous "Peace Loving Citizens" made mention of every thing atrocious that the majority community had been engaged in. In their eagerness to influence the opinion of Shri Y. B. Chavan, they went to the extent of relating in their Memorandum that :

ii--“**T**HE actual truth is that they (Kashmir Pandits) have spared no efforts to wipe out the Muslim population by resorting to violence. It is unfortunate that the State Government have also suppressed many of the

---

glaring activities of Incendiarism, in which the Kashmiri Pandits community has engaged itself during the last two or three weeks or so. Huge stocks of arms and ammunition have been recovered from temples, houses and a large truck loads of armaments have been seized, but neither the Kashmir Radio nor the information department have had to say a word about the disclosures, although there is hardly any person in the State who is not in the know of the matter."

As to how the truck loads of arms and ammunition were disposed of by the State Government has yet to be brought to light by the 'Peace Loving Citizens.'

On the same date i.e. 2nd Sept. 1967, a printed appeal from Khawaja Ali Shah, Chairman, Idara Auqafe-Islamia, Jammu & Kashmir and ex-President Plebiscite Front, also an Ex-Minister of Revenue of Sheikh Abdullah's time, issued to the address of Prime Minister where in seduction case is stated as :

“Recently an event has taken place which from whatever point of view it is looked upon was of common occurrence, but has been exploited in a way which has shaken to its foundation the peace in the country and the confidence of the majority community very deeply and rudely. A Kashmir Pandit girl has married a Muslim after having fulfilled legal formalities. There have been well known inter-communal marriage cases in Kashmir which absolutely caused no tension or excitement. Why the present case was treated as an exception passes our comprehension particularly when it was sub-judice and when judicial findings would have revealed the true position. It appears that the hoo—how in this particular case must have been determined by some ulterior motive which was used as a camouflage.”

While making similar flagrant statements in the appeal, Khawaja Ali Shah made a point for the release of Sheikh Abdullah.

The above extracts from the Memorandum of the 'Peace Loving citizens' and from the appeal of Khawaja Ali Shah would indicate the mentality of the majority community in relation to the minority. Seduction does not get spiritualised by owning it as conversion, but to a Muslim in such a situation, all sense of proportion is lost. If Jews (Israel) go to war with Muslims (Arabians), the Kashmir Muslim will without any compunction burn the Christian Churches in Srinagar, as in 1967, For political purposes even their own holy Relic at Hazrat Bal was

---

---

stolen in 1963. The Muslims know that it was not a non-Muslim, who did it. If people go to this extent, what hope is there for a minority to expect justice at the hands of a Government backed by people of the ignominious "Control Room."

The Statement Government in the Department of Information issued on 3rd September, 1967, the following joint communique :

**O**N the termination of the visit of the Union Home Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Y. B. Chavan to Srinagar, the following agreed statement was issued :

**T**HE representative of the Hindu Action Committee called on the Union Home Minister in Srinagar on Sept. 2 and 3 1967, and placed before him various matters relating to the movement which they had launched recently. The Union Home Minister appealed to them that an endeavour should be made to create an atmosphere of peace and order for a cool and dispassionate understanding and examination of all the issues. For this purpose, he earnestly advised them to withdraw the agitation.

**I**T may be recalled that the present agitation began on a complaint about the alleged abduction of a minor girl, Kumari Parmeshwari Handoo. The Union Home Minister advised the Action Committee that as this question was now the subject matter of an inquiry before a Court of law everyone would do well to allow due processes of law to take their normal course.

**A**llegations have been made about the excesses committed by the Police in dealing with the agitation, and it was desired that the Union Home Minister should choose the manner and method in which such allegations are properly examined. The State Government have already reiterated that in a democracy it is the right of every citizen to ventilate grievances, and it is always the obligation of the Government to ensure redressal wherever indicated. In fact the Chief Minister has held out this assurance more than once in his statements both in and outside the State Legislature.

**T**HE Action Committee also expressed their concern about the various disabilities and difficulties which their community had been facing in matters of economic development, employment and education opportunities. The

---

---

Chief Minister had already announced his decision to constitute a committee which would examine all these and related matters. Soon after a Memorandum on this subject is made available to the Chief Minister by the Action Committee, the State Government would set up such a committee as would command universal confidence.

“**T**HE Action Committee has agreed, in response to the appeal made by the Union Home Minister, to suspend their agitation, with a view to creating an atmosphere of peace and tranquility, the Chief Minister has indicated that the State Government would make the consequential responsive gesture of releasing all the persons arrested and detained in connection with the agitation, as also order the withdrawal of any punitive action which may have been taken or was in the process of being taken in regard to persons connected with this movement.

“**T**HE Union Home Minister and the Chief Minister wish to take this opportunity of appealing to the people of Jammu & Kashmir State to preserve harmony and peace amongst various communities, a tradition which has been our proudest and most valued possession. They would like to reiterate the desire of the Government of India and that of the State Government to ensure that all sections and classes of people equally enjoy the rights and privileges enshrined in our democratic constitution.

“**I**N this context, it is our sacred duty to assure the minority communities in our country to full security and a sense of equal participation in the life of the nation.”

The Union Home Minister held a Press Conference in Srinagar and immediately after met a delegation of the United Muslim Front and had discussions with them. As to what this United Muslim Front was is already discussed in the previous pages. This was the “Control Room” in a new posture.

According to the discussions and the statement of the Union Home Minister and the State Chief Minister, Union Home Minister was to come to Srinagar again on or about 13th Sept., i.e. 10 days after his departure on 3rd Sept. During this period the abducted girl was to be separated from the abductor, kept in the custody of her natural guardian, the mother or a third party and the court would take its own course for deciding the issue. This was

---

not to happen as the members of the 'Control Room' started working up the majority community to defeat the very agreement arrived at by the Central Government and the State Government with the Hindu Action Committee. Shri Chavan did not come to Srinagar again and took cover behind the Chinese faracas at Nathula. What happened after this is discussed in the chapters that follow.

It was thought the Government was actually interested now in fair play. On the following day the Hindu Action Committee publicly requested persons affected in a mammoth gathering to send in particulars of the police excesses, beating incidents, loot, arson, incendiarism & loss of personal belongings, & every other injury and injustice suffered by them or their friends, relatives, acquaintances etc. to the Action Committee. The time, the place, the name(s) of the person(s) involved were required to be given to ensure the maximum recovery.

Soon after, the Action Committee... asked the people to submit... way concern the Government... 'Control Room' working... K. K. Radia's Government... between the Hindu Action Committee... the State Chief Minister on the... was a response, all sorts of... action was taken to separate... process took its course, not was the salary of the employees of the Government...



DOCUMENTED BY VINOD RAZDAN (PANCHKULA)

---

---

## BEHIND SHRI CHAVAN'S BACK

At the Srinagar Air-port just before taking off for Delhi, Shri Chavan said that the Action Committee has decided to suspend the agitation and that a statement to the effect would be issued in the course of the day. The Joint Communique as reproduced in the last chapter was issued both by the State Government and the Hindu Action Committee. Shri Chavan said he was returning "fully satisfied" and he expressed the hope that the agreement would be "followed up in the right spirit." On reaching Delhi in a triumphant mood he gave a detailed report to his Cabinet colleagues the very afternoon.

It was thought the Government was actually interested now in fair play. On the following day the Hindu Action Committee publicly requested persons, affected in a mammoth gathering to send full particulars of the police excesses, pelting incidents, loot, arson, incendiarism & loss of personal belongings, beatings & every other injury and injustice suffered by them or by their friends, relatives, acquaintances etc. to the Action Committee. The date, the time, the place, the name(s) of the person(s) involved were required to be given to ensure the maximum accuracy.

Soon after, the Action Committee considering that the crisis was over asked the people to address themselves to social reforms which did not in any way concern the Government or any of its members. The members of the "Control Room" working behind the scenes willed otherwise and pressurised Kh. Sadiq's Government to desist from implementing the agreement arrived at between the Hindu Action Committee on one side and the Union Home Minister and the State Chief Minister on the other. A tussle started and there was a suspense, all sorts of whispering rumours were circulated. Neither any action was taken to separate the abducted girl from the abductor till the legal process took its course, nor was the salary of the employees of the Government for the two days of leave released as agreed to, nor were the suspended Officers easily permitted to rejoin the duty. Instead show-cause notices were served on many an employee, suspensions ordered and transfers effected especially amongst lady employees resulting in great harrassment. Men at the top spoke with two

---

---



Victims of Lathi charges in Rattan Rani Hospital  
Brutally hit at heads.



Lady victims struggling between life & death



Mercilessly beaten at Shitalnath on 25th August



Ladies in mourning at Shivala.

voices; while publicly they talked of communal harmony and constituted Peace Committees, secretly they started working up communal feelings in the Majority Community. While releasing the arrested persons, a section of them was retained for which a Minister of the Government had afterwards to intervene. At the same time the tussle within the Pradesh Congress Committee over the agreement with the Action Committee went to such an extent that the General Secretary offered to resign. There was talk of the Cabinet reshuffle too.

News-papers of the Majority Community started issuing statements, repeating exactly what the so-called "Peace Loving Citizens" and the "Idara Auqaf-i-Islamia" had stated in their Memorandum and the Appeal submitted respectively on 2nd September 1967 to Shri Chavan. Statements of political nature were alleged to have been issued by the abducted girl. The "Roshni", a weekly paper in its 7th September issue, wrote that Parveen Akhtar (Parmashwari Handoo's alleged Muslim name) had sent a statement to it for publication which concisely reads :-



ON my conversion to Islam, if Islam and Muslims have had no benefit, at least I have become extremely happy in entering this fold. All Muslims should realise that the events that took place in Kashmir after my conversion were only to put Muslims to sword. The agitation was only an excuse to finish up with the Muslims and was a conspiracy. Communal bodies like the Jansangh and its leader like Madhok and other communal leaders had a very disgraceful hand in it. The Govt. of India should protect the Majority community here, etc. etc."

What a Mockery :-

Similar statements were issued from other quarters also. The Muslim students of the Youth League Anantnag, issued misleading statement after meeting Mirza Mohd. Afzal Beg for three hours. At the same time similar statements issued alleging that the majority community had been assaulted and injured in Hindu localities. Posters were found every-where setting a time limit for the minority community to vacate or else face annihilation. It was also alleged that some driver was stabbed. Allegations were made against the Central Reserve Police and other simliar establishments.

---

---

During this period the Court case against the abductor was taken up for hearing on 6th September at the Cantonment Board. The A.D.M. in his decision stated that he had no doubt to accept that as far as the abduction case under 366 RPC was concerned, the abductor and his Advocate had no locus-standi, but as far as the tracing of the abducted girl under section 552-RPC was considered, the A.D.M. was not prepared to withdraw the notice that had been issued to the abductor. Thus in a round-about way he let the abductor have the benefit of intervening in the court proceedings against the procedure. The widowed mother soon after went in appeal against this order to the District and Sessions Court and the date was fixed for 12th September 1967. In this Court as well the suit has met similar fate after over many prolonged and dilatory processes and is now to go up to the High Court for this preliminary point. The abducted girl is still with the abductor and the A.D.M. has yet to issue process on the original case under section 366 R.P.C.

Concurrently, hooligans in the Majority Community started creating trouble for the members of the minority Community. Hindu houses were stoned during the nights in different mohallas e. g. Rainawari, Alikadal, Safakadal, Fateh Kadal, Karan Nagar, Bohri Kadal etc. People had to keep awake for fear of their houses being set on fire. It was through the vigilance of a woman that the house of one Jia Lal near Narainjoo temple at Ali Kadal could be saved from being put on fire in a locality which would have engulfed more than a hundred houses of Hindus. Atrocities, even on dumb animals were perpetrated to injure the feelings of Hindus. The cow of one Shri Dina Nath, of Sathoo Barbarshah who with others used to be left for grazing in the S. P. College premises for the nights, returned home one morning with a bleeding mouth and on inspection it was found that her tongue had been cut. The medical report says :—

“he anterior portion of the tongue about 4 inches from the apex linguae completely cut and the cut piece missing. Profuse salivation with blood tinge from the mouth present. From the above observation I am of the opinion that the tanguue has been cut by some sharp weapon.”

---

In this interval Dr. Karan Singh, who had heard about the incidents in Kashmir during his foreign tour came to Srinagar on 7th September, 1967 on a two-day visit. He took stock of the conditions prevailing here and later in his Radio broadcast assured that the minorities would be protected at any cost. Hindu Action Committee finding that the Government was backing out of its agreement and that purpose creating a tense situation, a delegation left for New Delhi to apprise the Central Government and other leaders of the actual situation. The Chief Minister taking his hint from it, followed them soon to Delhi and spoke in his own way and duped the Central Government again. He avoided to face the press at Delhi for obvious reasons. Later, on his return to Srinagar he addressed the newly formed Citizens Amity Council on 19th September, 1967 and told the members that their first duty was to persuade those Hindus who had left their homes in Muslim areas to return to their homes. The State Congress Chief, Syed Mir Qasim, also addressed the Council in a similar strain and denied his complicity in fomenting communal trouble. A spokesman of the Government also referred to the allegation made that an amount of Rs. 1.33 lacs had been drawn from the Treasury and distributed among anti-social elements in organising the riots.

Conditions in Srinagar continued to deteriorate. The conspiracy of the leaders of the Pradesh Congress Committee had by now got exposed and the conditions had reached to such an extent that some members were reported to be preparing a Memorandum against the Congress Chief for being presented to Shri Kamraj, the Congress President in this connection. As to what happened to this Memorandum behind the scenes afterwards did not come to light. It was, however, understood that the Congress High Command warned the Pradesh Congress Committee to purge the congress organisation of all individuals who spread communal virus. These very communal elements however appeared in a different garb as members of the "Peace Committee" formed to bring about communal harmony in the valley. A Few Hindus had also been included in the Peace Committee but one of them, who pointed out in one of the meetings the glaring communal tendencies was arrested to silence him.

Law and order situation in the city deteriorated fast. It became extremely difficult for women of the minority community and school and college going

---

---

---

girls to pass safely through the streets. These ugly situations having come to public notice made the "Control Room" uneasy and a new plot was hatched. The Principal, Miss Mahmooda Ahmed, of the Government Women's College, had a signature campaign started on 19th September, 1967 in the College by pressurising the students to sign a declaration to the effect that all girl students were safe both inside and outside the College premises. The reputation of Sadiq Government became so low that it now needed the certificates of good behaviour even from the minor girls of the P.U.C. classes.

It is reported that the students' Union Resolution passed in the College on 19th September was to the effect that the girls were all safe within the college premises. The text of the resolution was changed to "both inside and outside the college" and it was passed on to be signed by the girls. A few girls of the 1st year signed it and somehow a student discovered the text. The other girls refused to oblige them and they were harassed. The result was that Hindu girls of the College came to Shitalnath and reported the incident to the Action Committee who in turn informed the Police and the Home Secretary. A Magistrate and a Police Officer came to Shitalnath to investigate the matter. Later no action was taken about the matter. The Youths, already agitated over the State Government backing out of the agreement with the Hindu Action Committee got excited. In protest some Hindu students started Dharna outside the Women's College, next morning. Again, the mis-handling of the situation by the Government agency led to ugly developments that evening. It is strange that on 24th August, 1967 when naked drivers acted obscenely no action was taken against them. Contrary to this the same authorities lost their brains only at the sight of 50 boys to the extent that three Ministers were present on the scene in no time. A section of Muslim boys encouraged by a few Muslim Professors of the S. P. College created a scene for a clash with these Hindu boys just close to the Police Station. They were joined by other Muslim students from the Medical and Amar Singh College and they attacked the Hindu boys on "Dharma" in presence of Law and Order authorities on spot. They chased the Hindu boys and started stoning them and any vehicle that came their way. Hooliganism continued under the directions of the "Control Room". On the return from Delhi of Kh. Sadiq, a deputation of the Hindu Action Commi-

---

---

---

tee met him in pursuance of his advice in Delhi on 1st October in connection with the implementation of the agreement and restoration of "Parmeshari" who (C.M.) desired the deputation to meet him again on 3rd October. But on 3rd October, 1967 the machination of the very people behind the scenes expressed itself in a rumour that a few leaves of the holy Quran had been found in a latrine. This pre-planned rumour took little time to spread and muslim students both boys & girls of the S. P. College, A. S. College and other institution collected at the Lal Chowk and near about places. As day advanced their violence grew to an extent that there was a clash between the students and the Police. A convoy of Army vehicles that passed by was badly pelted with stones and their wind screens broken. The police on duty were stoned & attacked and they in defence had to resort to firing. There were two deaths. When the news went round there was hartal throughout the city and extreme tension developed.

The result was again a misfortune for the members of minority community who were subjected to assault at many cross corners. In many cases their personal effects like cycles, wathes, pens etc. were taken away. Dozens of Hindus were injured and condition of many of them was serious. Girls returning home from the College were molested and their garments were torn. The military and civil vehicles, the Government hotels and other places were stoned. This was a strange commentary on the loud assertions of the Government agency about law & order situation prevailing in the city. Irony of the situation was that curfew was again imposed on the areas inhabited by the Hindu community.

On 4th October processions of Muslims were allowed to move from Kahankah side into the Hindu locality of Bana mohalla, Habbakadal area under curfew as the members of the majority community were left at large to move as they pleased. They carried a Coffin, which when seized by Police was found empty, filled only with a little grass. The processionists then took to their heels and on return they pelted stones on Hindus and their houses and Hindu areas of Bana mohalla, Maharaj Gunj, Syed Ali Akbar etc. became scences of loot and arson. In Bana - mohalla Hindu houses and shops

---

were looted and property worth thousands was taken away. The same time a ghastly scene was enacted. One Autar Krishan Khushu was stabbed to death near Khankah-Fatehkadal by the fleeing mob and after stabbing, he was thrown into the river. His body was got out from the river by the Police and taken to the Hospital. Besides this, there were six more cases of stabbing on this day.

On the following day, several houses were pelted in Wazapora and a few shops looted at Shamaswari, Mahraj Gunj, Zaina Kadal, Syed Ali Akbar etc. in Srinagar. Traffic from one locality to another became difficult for the minority community. Colleges and Schools closed again, and the closure was announced by the Government day to day till this extended to about a fortnight.

The circumstances thus created made it difficult for the Action Committee to pursue the question of implementation of the agreement and the Government remained silent. It will be seen that whenever there arose any occasion for consideration of the issues involved the agencies behind the scene manoeuvred to tarpedo the same.



On 4th October processions of Muslims were allowed to move from Khankah side into the Hindu locality of Bans mohalla, Habbaikadal area under curfew as the members of the majority community were left at large to move as they pleased. They carried a Coffin, which when seized by Police was found empty, filled only with a little grass. The processionists then took to their heels and on return they pelted stones on Hindus and their houses and Hindu areas of Bans mohalla, Mahraj Gunj, Syed Ali Akbar etc. In Bans - mohalla Hindu houses and shops became scenes of loot and arson.

---

---

## Communalists-cum-Communists activities.

The law and order situation in Srinagar and some areas of the Valley continued deteriorating while the spokesmen of the Government continued to harp on their theme that allegations regarding the situation in Srinagar having worsened after the Hindu agitation was suspended, were completely untrue. In support of their statements to the effect that the situation in Srinagar was perfectly normal, they announced that the Schools and Colleges were functioning with full attendance and that there had been no attempt at molestation or arson any where. To substantiate their statement further they mentioned that hundreds of tourists were pouring into Srinagar and to the Kashmir Valley every day.

The actual situation, however, was that communal tension had also been worked up at Sopore, Baramulla, Anantnagh, Tral, Kulgam etc. -places at a radius of 30 miles and more from Srinagar. Even the State Transport Undertaking in glaring connivance with the Private Transporters had failed to maintain the traffic on the roads either in the city or outside. In Srinagar pelting of stones on Hindu house continued unabated at nights and during the day assaults at Hindu passers-by were a common occurrence in predominantly Muslim areas. The police Personnel, if present, simply acted as spectators. Anti-National elements were vociferous with anti-indian slogans. The slogans of the two sections Hindu & Muslims - of the students had a polarisation. "Bharat Mata ki jai", "Hindu Muslim Unity Zindabad" were the slogans of August, 1967 Hindu Satayagraha, while "Pakistan Zindabad", Ayub Khan Zindabad", "Hindu Muslim Unity Murdabad" were the slogans of the so-called Mujahids of the "Black week of October". The Pakistani agents cried aloud "Indian dogs go back".

Even the impetus behind the two commotions the Kashmiri Hindu Satayagraha of August and the 'Control Room' sponsored Muslim agitation of September and October have been diametrically opposite. In one case it was centripetal and in the other centrifugal. In the case of Hindu Satayagraha, a minor orphan girl, the only bread winner of a Hindu Widow, was abducted by her Muslim co-employee, abetted and assisted in the initial stages by the Muslim Manager of the Co-operative Bazar, and later by State Police, and this touched

---

---

---

---

off the Hindu Satayagraha at a stage when the Government failed to do its duty. In the other case the agitation was inspired from within by the unscrupulous elements of the 'Control Room' that exploited the religious sentiments of the unsophisticated Muslim masses. In September a mosque burnt at Baramulla and it was expeditiously announced over the Srinagar Radio, unlike the burning of the temple at Chinigund (Verinag) in August and the temple and the Dharamshalla in Kulgam in October. A Muslim young men's mob paraded Naisarak a Hindu locality in Srinagar, shouting that 'Masjid-i-Shariff' will be avenged. The Government investigated this incident and found out the mischief behind this. As already stated before in the first week of October a coffin was carried by a big procession, allegedly containing a corpse of a Muslim murdered by Hindus. When the coffin was intercepted by Police at Habakadal, it was found, to the surprise of all, to contain a broom under a covering of hay. At this confrontation the processionists lost face and set to looting and burning whatever they could lay their hands on in the Hindu locality, as they had got frustrated.

The Government on its side, to maintain the farce of its public statements about the normalcy of law and order situation in Srinagar and in the Valley allowed Inter-University matches to be played at Srinagar Stadium. Turning of the tide against the J & K University in the Foot-ball match with Punjab University touched off a row. Hooligans of the majority community tried to create disorder. They pelted stones and stabbed a constable there. This resulted in police firing and in the death of a person. The incident added fuel to the Smouldering Communal hatred. As to why the Kashmiri Pandits should have been the target of revenge for this unfortunate event as well, is the mirror of our destiny as a minority in the Kashmir Valley.

By this date communal frenzy had taken hold of more hooligans of the majority community to such an extent that they did not hesitate to ransack and loot visitors, buses on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, at Rampore, Bijbehara and Sangam. The tourists were man-handled and injured, after their buses had been held up and pelted with stones. Even the women passengers were not spared. The luggage of some tourists was looted and they could save their lives with great difficulty. On reaching

---

---