PREFACE

Harmonious relationship between the Centre and the states will always be a key to the unity and integrity of this great country. In 1947 when India became independent and was subsequently divided into two dominions, all the princely Indian States joined either of the two dominions. But the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir State could not decide the issue of accession for more than two months after the British withdrawal from the sub-continent. However, in October, 1947, tribal invasion of the state, sponsored by Pakistan forced Maharaja Hari Singh to accede to the Dominion of India. With this state of Jammu and Kashmir became a part of Indian Union. Thereafter the future relationship between the state and the Union of India had to be based on the Instrument of Accession.

The aim of present study is to trace the origin, nature and development of relations between the state of Jammu and Kashmir and Indian Union. However, collecting information for this study was fraught with many difficulties. With the difficulties one has to face at every step, one cannot claim to have done justice to the subject. One of the serious difficulties is to find the state records which are not available due to one or the other reason. Thus the scope of the research is severely circumscribed by the non-availability of leading documents which lie hidden in the most recesses of the State Archives as well as National Archives owing to their sensitive nature. However, the work is primarily based on government records, publications of government of India and state government, debates of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and the state legislature, manuscripts, reports, journals, newspapers, few theses, books both primary and secondary.

The Thesis is divided into six chapters. For the better understanding of the development of relations one has to go back into the history. So the First chapter starts with a brief review of the relations between the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir and the British Indian Government. It deals with the history of the events which led to the accession of the state to India. The growth of popular movement and democratic institutions in the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir had its impact on the development of relations between the state and Indian Union. The struggle launched by the Indian National Congress to free the country, its policy towards the states and the struggle carried on by All India States’ People’s Conference drew the people of Jammu and Kashmir closer into the orbit of the nationalist movement. The All India States’ People’s Conference which integrated most of the state level organisations also broadened its base and coordinated its activities with the National Conference.

The Second chapter deals with the transfer of power from the ruler of the state to the representatives of the people and the formation of the interim government under Sheikh Abdullah. An Attempt has been made to analyse the situation created by the war with Pakistan and the role of the United Nations Security Council. An attempt has also been made to study the implementation of the provisions of Indian
constitution by various Presidential Orders Issued by the President of India from time to time.

The Third chapter deals with the role of Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad in the integration of the state with Indian Union. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad secured the approval of the Constituent Assembly of the state, to implement the Delhi Agreement. Accordingly in May, 1954, the provisions of the Constitution of India, as envisaged by the Delhi Agreement were made applicable to the state of Jammu and Kashmir and the state was brought within the Constitutional frame work of India. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad also got the task to Constitution making complete and the same was implemented on 26th January, 1957. Thus Jammu and Kashmir was and is the only state in Indian federal set up to have a Constitution, an Official Language and a Flag of its own. After this the Jammu and Kashmir state was set up on the road to progress and prosperity by the active and energetic measures adopted by the Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad’s government with the monetary help of central government. An attempt has been also made to examine the provisions of Indian Constitution applicable to the state and their impact on the growth of the centre-state relations.

In Chapter IV an attempt has been made to study the steps taken by both the state government and the central government to carry on the process of integration. For example change in the nomenclature of Sadar-i-Riyasat to Governor, Prime Minister to Chief Minister and also electing directly, the representatives of the state to the Parliament of India, which brought the state of Jammu and Kashmir at par with the other states of India.

The Fifth chapter deals with the federal division of powers between the state and the Indian union. A comparative study of the provisions of the Constitution of India, in respect of the other Indian states and the state of Jammu and Kashmir has been discussed in detail. After the financial integration of the state with Indian union, the Finance Commission and Planning Commission recommended very liberal grants and loans for the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Sixth chapter deals with Indira-Sheikh Accord or the Kashmir Accord that was signed between emissaries of Sheikh Abdullah and Indira Gandhi. Since the Indo-Pak War of 1971 had brought a change in Sheikh Abdullah’s attitude towards India. Government of India also wanted to normalise the ties with the state leadership. So an agreement in the form of Indira-Sheikh Accord was arrived at, which said (I) Accession to India is final and irrevocable and (II) Centre-state relations had to be governed under Article 370 of the Constitution of India. After this Accord Sheikh Abdullah was made the Chief Minister of the state and that ended the uncertainty about the future of the state for the time being.

Before I conclude it becomes my duty to acknowledge the support and help rendered to me from different quarters without which the present work would not have been able to see the light of present day.
I owe my heartfelt salutation to the Almighty God who blessed me with physical and mental strength to complete this task. Afterwards, I express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to my esteemed and highly revered supervisor Dr. Sharda Sharma, Associate Professor, P.G. Department of History, University of Jammu, Jammu, for her meritorious guidance, affectionate disposition, valuable suggestions, perspicacious thoughts, constructive criticism and constant encouragement at every step of the present study.

My special thanks are also due to Prof. Shailender Singh Jamwal, Head, P.G. Department of History, University of Jammu, Jammu, for his valuable suggestions.

I owe my sincere thanks and gratitude to the entire faculty members (Prof. Jigar Mohammad, Prof. Nirmal Singh, Prof. Suman Jamwal, Dr. Shyam Narayan Lal, and Dr. Madhulika Singh) of the Department of History, University of Jammu, Jammu, for their valuable suggestions and constructive criticism.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the staff members of various libraries visited during the course of present work- National Archives of India, New Delhi; Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi; State Archives, Jammu and Kashmir; Amar Mahal Library, Jammu; Ranbir Library, Jammu; The Library of the Legislative Assembly at Jammu and Srinagar; Iqbal Library, University of Kashmir, Kashmir; Dhanwantri Library, University of Jammu, Jammu and Library, Department of History, University of Jammu, Jammu.

I also extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire non-teaching staff, Department of History, University of Jammu, Jammu, for the help and cooperation rendered as and when required.

I am extremely grateful to my parents Shri Prithvi Raj Manhas and Smt. Chaya Manhas for their moral support, constant blessing and inspiration at every step of the present work. I also wish to thank my parents-in-law Shri Om Prakash Kotwal and Smt. Santosh Kotwal for their cooperation and support. I am highly indebted to Ravinder Manhas and Sunder Manhas (Brothers); Poonam (sister) and my friend Surbi for the help and moral support rendered to me as and when required.

I am at loss of words to express my sincere thanks to my husband Sanjay Kotwal for his encouragement, valuable comments, suggestions and unstinting support in this endeavor. My special thanks are due to my daughter, Kashvi Kotwal, who during the entire period of my research work acted so sensibly and cooperatively that I seldom felt exhausted.

Thanks are also due to Mr Rakesh Kumar for the typing and compilation work.

Annu Balla