Twitter Thread by ■yudhika

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Today I'm just quotating someone's words. Let's see how many of us recognise this man.

Real Hero of Bharat!

At about 2.30 in the afternoon, General Sir Roy Bucher walked into my room and said, "Eh, you, go and pick up your toothbrush. You are going to Srinagar with V P Menon. The flight will take off at about 4 o'clock". I said, "why me, sir?"

We are worried about the military situation. V P Menon is going there to get the accession from the Maharaja. I flew in with V P Menon in a Dakota. Wng Cdr Dewan, was also there. But his job did not have anything to do with assessing the military situation.



He was sent by the Air Force because it was the Air Force which was flying us in.

Since I was in the Directorate of Military Operations, and was responsible for current operations all over India, West Frontier, the Punjab, etc, I knew what the situation in Kashmir was.

I knew that the tribesmen had come in - initially only the tribesmen - supported by the Pakistanis.
Fortunately for us, and for Kashmir, they were busy raiding, raping all along. In Baramulla they killed Colonel Dykes.

Tom and his wife were holidaying in Baramulla when the tribesmen killed them.

The Maharaja's forces were 50% Muslim & 50% Dogra. The Muslim elements had revolted and joined the Pakistani forces. This was the broad military situation.

THE TRIBESMEN WERE BELIEVED TO BE ABOUT 7-9 KMS FROM SRINAGAR. I was sent in to get the precise military situation. The army knew that if we had to send soldiers, we would have to fly them in.

Therefore, a few days before, we had made arrangements for aircraft and for soldiers to be ready.

But we couldn't fly them in until the state of Kashmir had acceded to India.

From the political side, Sardar Patel and V P Menon had been dealing with Mahajan and the Maharaja, and the idea was that V.P Menon would get the accession, I would bring back the military appreciation and report to the government.

The troops were already at the airport, ready to be flown in. Air Chief Marshall Elmhurst was the air chief and he had made arrangements for the aircraft from civil and military sources.

Anyway, we were flown in.

We went to Srinagar. We went to the palace. I have never seen such disorganisation in my life.

The Maharaja was coming out of one room, & going into another saying, "Alright, if India doesn't help, I will go & join my troops and fight (it) out".



I couldn't restrain myself, & said, "That will raise their morale sir".

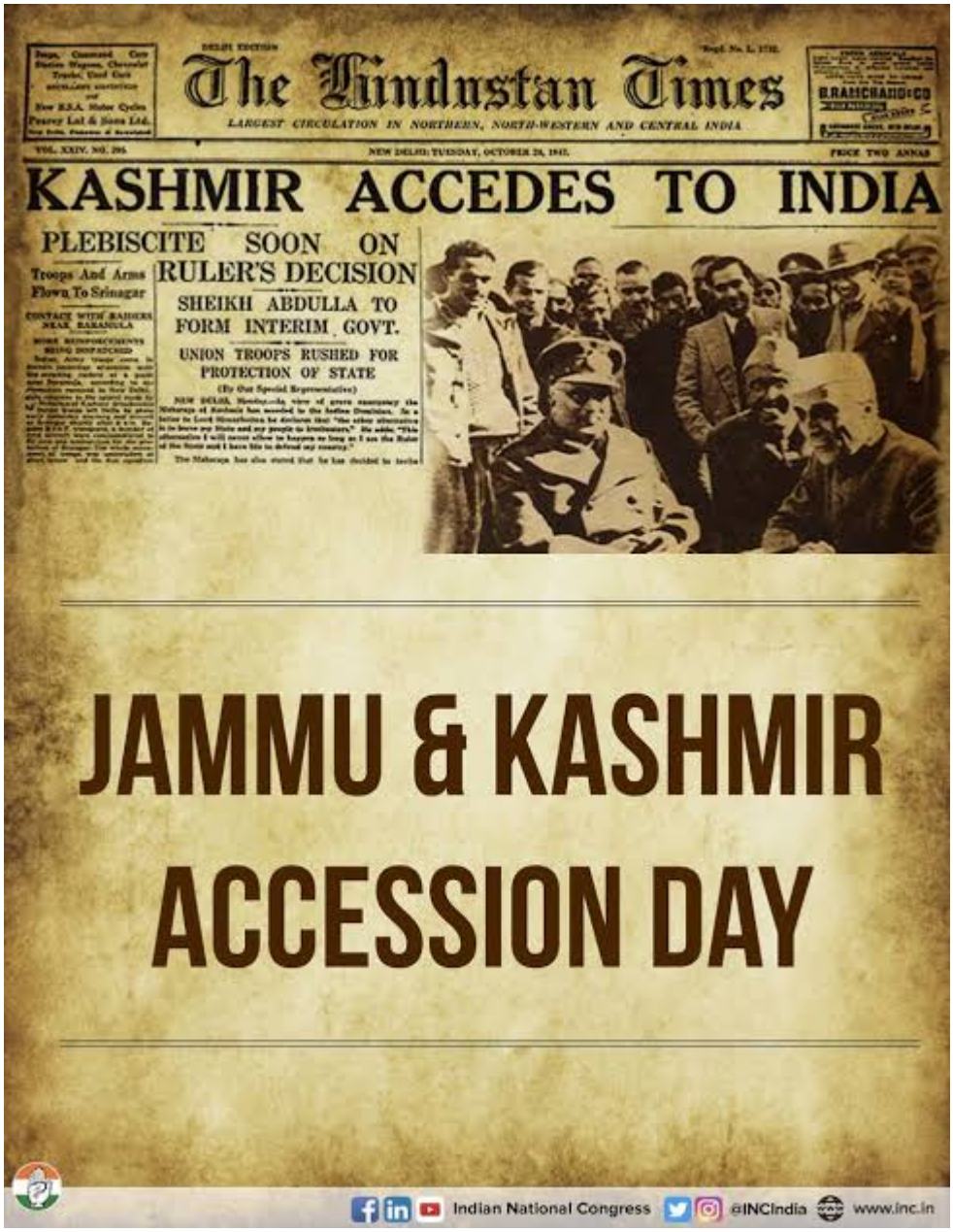
Eventually, I also got the military situation from everybody around us, asking what the hell was happening, & discovered that the tribesmen were about 7-9 km from what was then that horrible little airfield.

V P Menon was in the meantime discussing with Mahajan and the Maharaja. Eventually the Maharaja signed the accession papers and we flew back in the Dakota late at night.

On arriving at Delhi, the first thing I did was to go and report to Sir Roy Bucher.

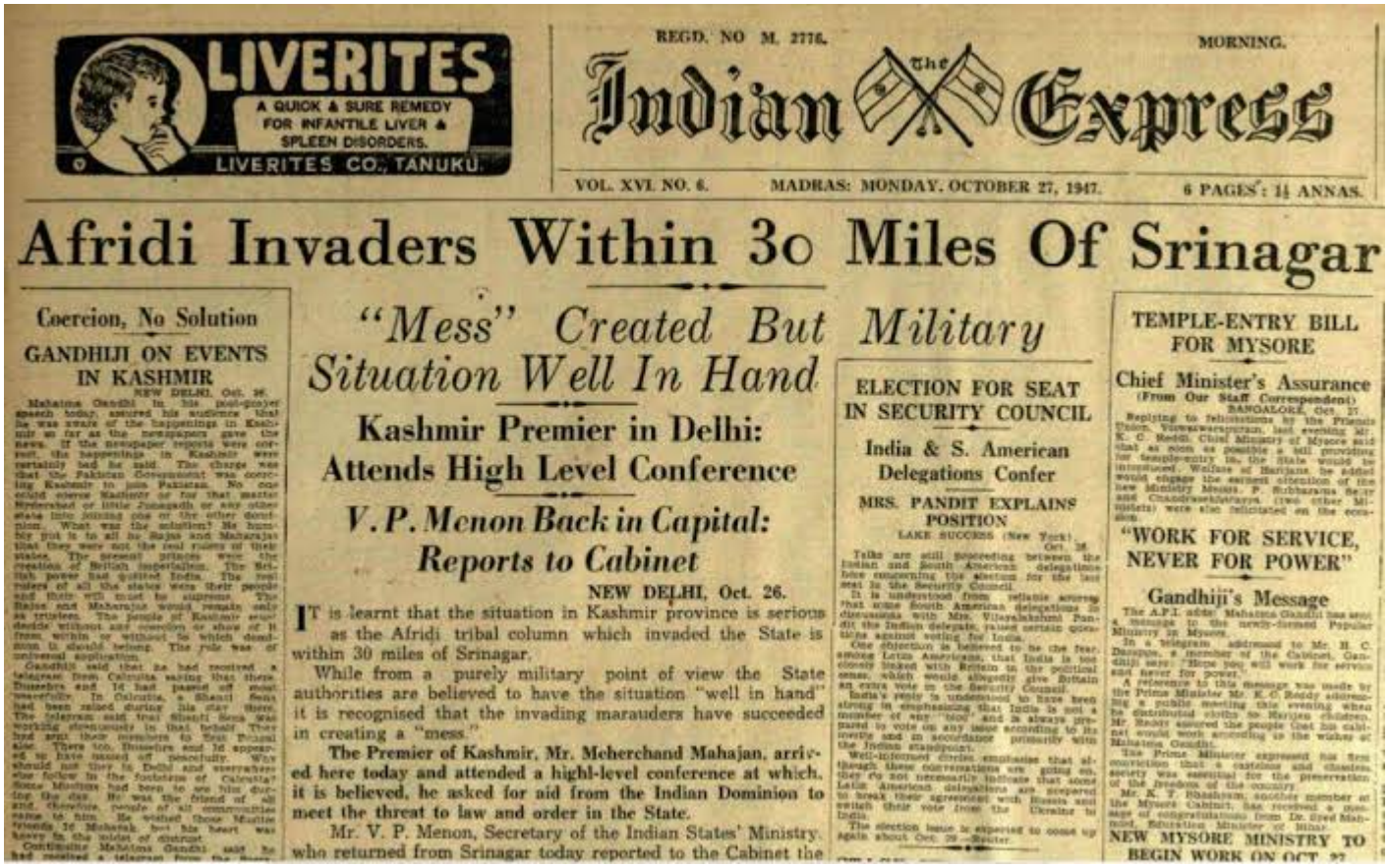
He said, "Eh, you, go and shave and clean up. There is a cabinet meeting at 9 o'clock. I will pick you up and take you there." So I went home, shaved, dressed, etc. and Roy Bucher picked me up, and we went to the cabinet meeting.

The cabinet meeting was presided by Mountbatten. There was Jawaharlal Nehru, there was Sardar Patel, there was Sardar Baldev Singh. There were other ministers whom I did not know and did not want to know, because I had nothing to do with them.



At the morning meeting V P Menon handed over the accession. Mountbatten turned around and said, "come on Manekji, what is the military situation?"

I gave him the military situation, and told him THAT UNLESS WE FLEW IN TROOPS IMMEDIATELY, WE WOULD HAVE LOST SRINAGAR.



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The Indian Express
VOL. XVI NO. 6. MADRAS: MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1947. 6 PAGES: 1½ ANNAS.

Afridi Invaders Within 30 Miles Of Srinagar

Coercion, No Solution

GANDHIJI ON EVENTS IN KASHMIR

NEW DELHI, Oct. 26.

Mahatma Gandhi in his post-prayer speech today, assured his audience that he was aware of the happenings in Kashmir so far as the newspapers gave the news. If the newspaper reports were correct, the happenings in Kashmir were certainly bad he said. The charge was that the Pakistan Government was coercing Kashmir to join Pakistan. No one could coerce Kashmir or for that matter Hyderabad or little Junagadh or any other state into joining one or the other dominion. What was the solution? He humbly put it to all he Rajas and Maharajas that they were not the real rulers of their states. The present princes were the creation of British imperialism. The British power had quitted India. The real rulers of all the states were their people and there will must be supreme. The Rajas and Maharajas would remain only as trustees. The people of Kashmir must decide without any coercion or show of it from within or without by which dominion it should belong. The rule was of universal application.

Gandhiji said that he had received a telegram from Calcutta saying that there. Disorders and it had passed off most peacefully. In Calcutta, a Shanti Sena had been raised during his stay there. The telegram said that Shanti Sena was working strenuously in that behalf. They had sent their members to East Bengal also. There too, Disorders and it appeared to have ceased off peacefully. Why should not they in Delhi and everywhere else follow in the footsteps of Calcutta? Some Muslims had been to see him during the day. He was the friend of all and therefore, people of all communities came to him. He wished those Muslim friends of Mahatab, but his heart was heavy in the midst of distrust.

Continuing Mahatma Gandhi said he had received a telegram from the Nizam

"Mess" Created But Situation Well In Hand

Kashmir Premier in Delhi: Attends High Level Conference

V. P. Menon Back in Capital: Reports to Cabinet

NEW DELHI, Oct. 26.

IT is learnt that the situation in Kashmir province is serious as the Afridi tribal column which invaded the State is within 30 miles of Srinagar.

While from a purely military point of view the State authorities are believed to have the situation "well in hand" it is recognised that the invading marauders have succeeded in creating a "mess."

The Premier of Kashmir, Mr. Meherchand Mahajan, arrived here today and attended a highl-level conference at which, it is believed, he asked for aid from the Indian Dominion to meet the threat to law and order in the State.

Mr. V. P. Menon, Secretary of the Indian States' Ministry, who returned from Srinagar today reported to the Cabinet the

Military

ELECTION FOR SEAT IN SECURITY COUNCIL

India & S. American Delegations Confer

MRS. PANDIT EXPLAINS POSITION

LAKE SUCCESS (New York), Oct. 26

Talks are still proceeding between the Indian and South American delegations here concerning the election for the last seat in the Security Council.

It is understood from reliable sources that some South American delegations in discussions with Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit the Indian delegate, raised certain questions against voting for India.

One objection is believed to be the fear among Latin Americans, that India is too closely linked with Britain in the political sense, which would allegedly give Britain an extra vote in the Security Council.

India's reply is understood to have been strong in emphasising that India is not a member of any "bloc" and is always prepared to vote on any issue according to its merits and in accordance primarily with the Indian standpoint.

Well-informed circles emphasise that although these conversations are going on, they do not necessarily indicate that some Latin American delegations are prepared to break their agreement with Russia and switch their vote from the Ukraine to India.

The election issue is expected to come up again about Oct. 29.—Reuter.

TEMPLE-ENTRY BILL FOR MYSORE

Chief Minister's Assurance

(From Our Staff Correspondent)

BANGALORE, Oct. 27

Replying to felicitations by the Pradesh Union, Visweswaraiyah, last evening Mr. K. C. Reddi, Chief Ministry of Mysore said that as soon as possible a bill providing for temple-entry in the State would be introduced. Welfare of Harijans, he added would engage the earnest attention of the new Ministry. Messrs. P. Subbarama Setty and Chandrasekhariaya, (two other Ministers) were also felicitated on the occasion.

"WORK FOR SERVICE, NEVER FOR POWER"

Gandhiji's Message

The A.P.I. adds: Mahatma Gandhi has sent a message to the newly-formed Popular Ministry in Mysore.

In a telegram addressed to Mr. H. C. Dasappa, a member of the Cabinet, Gandhiji says: "Hope you will work for service and never for power."

A reference to this message was made by the Prime Minister Mr. K. C. Reddy addressing a public meeting this evening when he distributed cloths to Harijan children. Mr. Reddy assured the people that his cabinet would work according to the wishes of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Prime Minister expressed his firm conviction that a cautious and chastened society was essential for the preservation of the freedom of the country.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam, another member of the Mysore Cabinet, has received a message of congratulations from Dr. Syed Mahmud, Education Minister of Bihar.

NEW MYSORE MINISTRY TO BEGIN WORK ON OCT. 27

Going by road would take days, and once the tribesmen got to the airport and Srinagar, we couldn't fly troops in. Everything was ready at the airport.

AS USUAL NEHRU TALKED ABOUT THE United Nations, Russia, Africa, God almighty, everybody, until Sardar Patel lost his temper.

He said, "Jawaharlal, do you want Kashmir, or do you want to give it away'. Nehru said, "Of course, I want Kashmir". Then Patel said "Please give your orders".

AND BEFORE NEHRU COULD SAY ANYTHING SARDAR PATEL TURNED TO ME AND SAID, "YOU HAVE GOT YOUR ORDERS".



INDIAN TROOPS ROLLING BACK KASHMIR REBELS

'Save Kashmir From Invader'

LEADER'S CALL

"Coercion" Move Denounced

NEW DELHI, Oct. 27.

Kashmir is in dire peril, and e first duty of every Kash-iri is to defend his mother-nd against the intruder, de-ires Sheikh Abdullah, the ashmir leader, who left for inaga. today, in a statement. The "invasion" of Kashmir is ant to coerce and compel the ople of Kashmir to act in a par-ular way, namely, to accede to kistan. Sheikh Abdullah says. ery Kashmiri resents this com-sion on his will.

The Kashmir National Confer-e has stood for responsible ernment in the State under the is of His Highness the Maha-a." the statement points out. e have fought for our freedom, suffered for it, and we had ed that in the new order we ld achieve our objective. It was

Delhi Rushes Military Aid By Air

STATE'S ACCESSION TO UNION ACCEPTED

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, October 27.

KASHMIR has acceded to the Indian Dominion, and the Government of India have rushed troops to Srinagar to help the Kashmir Government restore peace and order in the State.

The sky was thick with Dakotas over Palam aerodrome in New Delhi this morning, and by the afternoon Indian troops were already in action in Kashmir State territory, beating back the raiders.

Indian troops were despatched in response to urgent appeals for military assistance from both the Maharaja and Sheikh Abdulla, the leader of the influential people's organisation in the State.

Reports of the military situation around Srinagar received today are reassuring. Indian troops and the State forces, as-

I walked out, and we started flying in troops at about 11 o'clock or 12 o'clock. I think it was the Sikh regiment under Ranjit Rai that was the first lot to be flown in. And then we continued flying troops in. Then all the fighting took place.

This excerpt is taken from Kashmir 1947, Rival versions of History, by Prem Shankar Jha.

And the person I quoted was none other than Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, India's greatest military commander.