

UTTARAKHAND STATE MOVEMENT: ITS RISE AND (A Historical Study)

***Dr. Shivani Rawat**

The Uttarakhand state movement arise with the poverty, backwardness, tough routine of the hilly areas folks and the ignorance of the people by the government . This was very surprising that the hill area people were not capable of using their natural resources for their own benefit. The demand for the state of Uttarakhand was not instantaneous, in fact it has to pass through a long chain of struggle for its existence. However the geographical complexities had put some obstacles in the expansion of various movements but this do not affected the political and social awakening among the people. During the British period, voice against this exploitation raises from time to time. After the independence though many hardworking and active personalities prove themselves in the field of politics and contributed their leadership in various fields but the development of this hilly area in comparison to the complex geographical, economical and social circumstances of a big state like Uttar Pradesh cannot be properly done.¹

The condition of Uttarakhand was not only specific for its unique cultural & geographical status but it was a story of such a backward hilly area whose problems were not heard in Lucknow, whether it was education, health, agriculture, trade or development of industry, no areas were touched by them. Therefore the intellectual class of this region, who were the one who had struggled their way through these difficulties had demanded for the first time for the establishment of a separate state in 1923². In 1923 AD a letter written to the governor of Joint Province plead that the people of Uttarakhand should be recognized as a separate unit. In 1928 the Nehru committee had recommended that the division of the states should be based upon the choice of the public and on the basis of their geographical, economical & financial concepts.³

A special political conference of the Congress was held on 5-6 May, 1938 in Srinagar Garhwal in which a thought for an separate political arrangement for this hilly area was given and said that the hilly folks should be given the right to flourished their culture. ⁴ In 1948, the Dur Commission had reported about the establishment of a new state that it should pass all the terms and condition like geographical continuity, financial independence, the possibility of development in the future and the concept of similar language⁵.

In 1952 the minister of communist Party P.C. Joshi plead for a separate state establishment to the Indian government. On the basis of this plead, the question for the establishment of a separate state was discussed because according to them on 1931 AD in the Karachi session, Jawahar Lal Nehru had also gave his consent⁶.

P.C.Joshi was the one who took initiative to demand for a separate state⁷. There was a huge public gathering in Ramnagar on 24-25 June 1967. The main convener of this conference was Lakshman Singh Adhikari. In this session a proposal for the establishment of a separate administrative unit was passed and an organization named as “Parvatiya Rajya Parishad” was established. Daya Krishna Pandey was elected as the President and Govind Singh Mehra was elected as a Vice-president of this parishad⁸.

Uttarakhand development seminar was organized on 14-15 October 1967 at New Delhi. In this seminar Manvendra Shah had projected about the ignorance of this state and demand to confer the state as a union territory. He said that while making plans, the hilly and the plain areas should be seen as a single unit⁹. In 1967 when Chandra Bhanu Gupta became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh then he established Parvatiya Parishad and people started believing that the Parvatiya Parishad will lead to the development of the inhabitants of Uttarakhand. However this was also a false hope¹⁰.

*Assistant Professor, History Department, D.S.B.Campus, K.U. Nainital

Through these plead, the demand for the Uttarakhand movement was going at a slow speed. No proper solution to the problem of the demand of a separate state lead to a movement which was direction less. It became the destiny of the people of Uttarakhand that they should follow the policies, planning & administrative arrangement implemented in Lucknow. This lead to the arise of corruption in these development policies which come from Lucknow to Uttarakhand. The plans cannot turn into reality. They were limited to the files only¹¹. Water resource project were initialized in many regions though water supply did not reach their respective destinations. Power transmission system were established and enhanced. However in some cases only electric poles were erected and in other cases only the electric lines were laid but regular bills were imposed on the people. This improper placement had changed this demand into a movement. Now it is very clear that a leadership or an organization should be there who can convey the demand of a separate state to the policy makers at the right time with a right direction¹².

Finally on 24-25 July, there was a conference organized in Mussorie for (Parvatiya Jan Vikas) Hill Public development. Reporter Dwarika Prasad Uniyal was the convener of this conference. People like Indra mani badoni, Nityanand Bhatt, Dr. D.D.Pant, Devendra Sanwal and Veer Singh Thakur had participated in this conference. The people from different political parties attended this conference. The conference ended in one single opinion that until and unless the people of Uttarakhand do not united as a single political organization, the dream of the formation of a separate state cannot be full filled.

The thoughts expressed in this conference resulted in the form of “ Uttarakhand Kranti Dal”. Dr. Devi Dutt Pant was elected as its President. He announced that the time had come to abolish the political illiteracy from Uttarakhand¹³.

The state movement get a certain direction and condition along with the Uttarakhand Kranto Dal. This party had tried to associate each and everyone in their programme & plans. They assured that they will always struggle for the completion of the expectation of the people of Uttarakhand and they will make a distance with the government power. This is a political organization of the people of Uttarakhand which arise from the womb of the Himalaya, who has the responsibility of conserving the existence of the degrading Himalayas¹⁴. In order to fulfil this objective, Uttarakhand Kranti Dal was proceeding. The party had organized demonstration, protest, rally, adhesion & Road Blockade and thus the movement proceed. Meanwhile in December 1993 the government of Mulayam Singh Yadav with the support of Bahujan Samaj Party was formed and he implemented a reservation of 27% for the backward classes in government services. On 17th June 1994 an arrangement of 27% reservation of the backward class was implemented in order to give admission in the educational institutions, A huge Public gathered on the roads against this reservation policy. On 2 August 1994, 8 people of the Uttarakhand Kranti Dal held a hinges strike in Pauri for the demand of a separate state and against the reservation policy of the then government. The administration arrested these people on 7th August 1994 and this lead to the outburst of the movement in entire Uttarakhand¹⁵. A horrifying incident look place in khatima in 1st September 1994 by the brutality of the police. The Police had started firing the revolutionarists who were demanding for a separate state and doing protest against the reservation policy. Seven people were Killed and many other injured¹⁶. As a reaction of the Khatima incident, the people in Mussorie carry out a procession on 2 September but the Police blow lathi on them and as a result many revolutionarists become martyr. They went beyond the limits of cruelty when the revolutionaries who were going to attend the rally organized by the sanyukt sangharsh Samiti on 2nd October 1994, were opened fire and many women were misbehaved. This incident will be remembered as the black day in the history of the state movement¹⁷. Now the heart of the public filled with anger against the Police and the Administration. The important aspect of this movement was the active participation of women and they were the pivot of the movement, on 3rd June 1995 the governor of Uttar Pradesh expelled the Mulayam Singh Yadav government. After this, Bahujan Samaj Party prominent leader Mayawati with the support of Bhartiya Janta Party became the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. The Cabinet of the then Prime Minister H.D. Devgaura accepted the demand of Uttarakhand state on

13th August 1996¹⁸. The public of the state was waiting for the day which finally comes on 15th August 1996. The Prime Minister of India H.D. Devagaura announced the establishment of Uttarakhand State from the Red fort and certified the decision of the Indian Government. In 1998 a bill related to the state was sent via President in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative assembly. On 11th August, the Lok Sabha passed this bill with a majority, After the consent from the President of India on 28 August 2000, the state of Uttarakhand came to its existence on 9th November 2000¹⁹.

References :

1. Airy, Kashi Singh : Leader, Uttarakhand Kranti dal : Interview
2. Jantwal, Narayan Singh : Leader, Uttarakhand Kranto Dal : Interview
3. Gupta, Indrajeet : The re-establishment of Uttar Pradesh, establishment of Uttarakhand state & Provision for the related matters bill presented by the member of parliament 1993, page-153
4. Central Committee : The plead presented to the prime minister of India by Uttarakhand Kranti Dal : 23rd November 1987
5. Markendaya : Pachas Saal se Palraha Uttarakhand “Sapna” : Nainital Samachar : Page 1-2
6. Foneiya, Kedar Singh : Uttarakhand Rajya Nirman Ka Sanshipt Itihaas : Page 34-36
7. Dhad : Ibid :page -224
8. Bisht, Pratap Singh : Ibid : page 120
9. Dhad : Ibid : page 248
10. Katayat, Govind Singh : Interview
11. Ayina, Uttarakhand Andolan : Goliyon ke ghunj se tharate loktantra ki dastan : Cllection Ajay Gulathi
12. Ibid
13. Dhad : Ibid : page 249
14. Bisht, Pratap Singh : Ibid : page 156
15. Parieksha Vani, Keshari Nandan Tripathi, Page 52
16. Binsar year Book: Dehradun, Page 445
17. Pandey, Prayag : Devbhumi ka ran : page 96
18. Kothiyal, Sanjay (Editer Yugvani) : Interview
19. Nautiyal, Madan Mohan : Article-Jansadharan ke Dhayay Dharnayo ke anuroop ek Jan andolad ke sangharsh ka sanshipt Vivran : Unpublished Special issue – Garhkesari