



Fazilka Voices

Fall, December, 2006

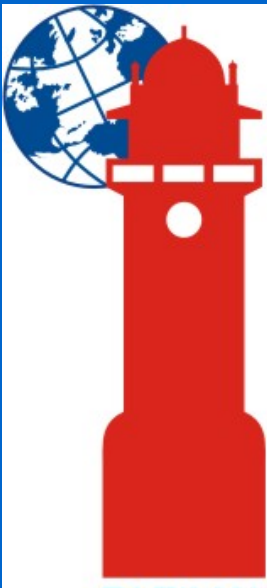
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<http://www.lovefazilka.esmartweb.com/>

In This Issue

- Fazilka Tehsil From Advanced Region To Backward Region Of The Punjab, Why?
- In the News : GWAF



Chief Editor

Dr. Bhupinder Singh
Professor (R), IIT
Roorkee
bhup_inder@yahoo.com

About Graduates Welfare Association, Fazilka

We are a team consisting of professionals (lawyers, engineers, doctors, business men) and all those who have achieved success because of the special personality traits inherent to the sons and daughters of Fazilka region who support GWAF activities. Our objectives are to further consciousness about Education, Employment and Ecology.

THEME - I: WHAT ARE OUR SUFFERINGS?



1. Fazilka Tehsil From Advanced Region To Backward Region Of The Punjab, Why?

The town established by East India Company officers in 1844 was the most advanced regions up to 1947 as a commercial trading centre for European markets. But is now languishing at the hands of inconsiderate policies of Central and provincial governments. It is right now among the backward regions of India.

The agricultural produce does sustain the economy in 2006, yet for how long it will be possible, only God knows? With the potable water already being purchased, the irrigation water is dwindling at a fast rate with ground water level going down up to 20 meters. The quality of irrigation water from the ground is so poor that some venturesome farmers have built diggies (These were common in Abohar and other regions of the Thar desert and have been discarded only recently) to store canal/rain water. The agriculture is becoming loaded with heavy financial inputs, which may become an activity of perennial losses to the farmers.

Can the natural resources of Fazilka sustain though this period of political mal-interest?

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Continued from Page -1: What are our sufferings?

No and Yes

We do not have a single political stalwart of the cadre of Late Lala Sunam Rai MA who may guide us to cruise through by his political skills.

While most of the smart people are migrating to other parts of India, yet there is hope for people if they know the parameters responsible for the neglect by the political hierarchy. Let us list the hurdles that have been created by government agencies

1. Our border outlined by Mr. Radcliff in 1847 was pulled nearer the town by transfer of our fertile land (V. Jhangar, Nakike spur Bandd etc) to the Pakistan. Where is the sovereignty of Bharat i.e. India in doing such a damage to our region in 1947.
2. Our river Sutlej has become a drain from Husseiniwala to Suleimaniki as our political windbags sold it to neighboring state without bothering about the international Riparian laws for rivers. The great Rhine River of Europe takes off from Switzerland and reaches the Northern Seas passing through 4 strong countries. Those who temper the natural traits of a stream suffer in the long run. Now Chinese are on the move and there is worry on the heads of Himachal people due to the aggressive planning of the kingdom across the Himalayas. We have to be kind to the nature's systems. What we at the place have done to suffer where the river crosses the artificially created Radcliff line for our sub continent
3. Our Badha Lake, which enamored Mr. Pat Vans Agnew to install the office of surveillance in the form of a Bungalow, is dried up due to mismanagement of our river. A horseshoe lake is rarely depleted of water due to recharge from the parent river. The river water from molten snow recharged the lake and the ground water strata. And in 2006 most of the citizens are depending upon bottled water or RO technologies due to this man made disaster. Only a wise ruler will bring water from Bhakra canal system to rejuvenate this ancient Badha Lake. The similar horseshoe lakes around the great river Ganges are still healthy with water recharge from similar horseshoe lakes. At the same time due to incompetent water management of river Jamuna, its water quality id\ s damaged beyond repair even though the government may pump all its budget allocation for its correction. Our Badha Lake can be rejuvenated with water from some escape system of Bhakra canals.
4. The Radcliff may be erased like a pencil draft with an eraser, yet the damage done to the ecology of the river can never be recovered. Look at what our great prince Taxila Naresh told Alexander of Macedonia when he cam on our borders across Hindukush on the banks of river Jhelum. Taxila Naresh when face to face with Alexander said
 "To what purpose should we make war upon one another, if the design of your coming into these parts be not to rob us of our water or necessary food, which are the only things that wise men are indispensably obliged to fight for? As for the other riches and possessions, as they are accounted in the eye of the world, if I am

FAZILKANS....

F : Fast

A: Adorable

Z: Zealistic

I : Intelligent

L : Lovable

K : Keen

A : Admirable

N : Nice

S: Smart

Proud to be Fazilkans



better provided of them better than you, I am ready to let you share with me; but if fortune has been more liberal to you than me, I have no objection to be obliged to you."

Alexander was so pleased with his wise talk he embraced our Taxila Naresh and gifted him 1000 talents.

What is the possibility of such officers in Fazilka, do we have officers of Osborne's caliber in our Bharat?

5. With all the skills and parleys, the golden track of Ludhiana to Karachi never became operative. The Gas pipeline from Central Asia to India has been planned but the region where it crosses to Pakistan, the region has become sensitive. It seems that this urge to manage ENERGY from fossil fuels will never become a reality. At the same time the golden track from Ludhiana to Karachi can be retrofitted in a month by laying rail track between Fazilka in India to Amruka in Pakistan. Only diplomacy of super qualities can do this.

The town was been prosperous as it was located at the bank of the greatest river of the Punjab. The dust-laden winds from Thar Desert were not able to damage its growth and prosperity, which depended on trading of stuff available from hinter land of Thar Desert and fertile plains of Punjab. A look at the scribbles of May 25, 1838, on the diary of Captain W. G. Osborne, Military Secretary to the Governor General who was on his way to meet the Maharaja at Adina Nagar is instructive in this regard.

"The soil appears to be rich and prolific, as far as it is possible to judge from the small quantity of ground under cultivation, and with a more enlightened government, there can be little doubt of the Punjab becoming one of the richest provinces of India". Prophetic, these words! And he also prophesied the fate of the Punjab, which was still under rule of Ranjit Singh right in May 1838:

"It is a melancholy thing to contemplate the future probable state of this beautiful country. On the death of Ranjit Singh which in the common course of nature must take place in a very few years (Incidentally Ranjit Singh expired in July 18,1839) the whole country between the Indus and Sutlej must become a scene of protracted fratricidal war, only to be terminated by the interference of a third and stronger power, with an army sufficiently strong to bid defiance to all hope of resistance, and that army must be the British Army, and that power the British Government, there can be little doubt"

6. There is no high quality primary school which may cater to the needs of residents, as such most of the children getting educated in metros etc never come back to Fazilka. They are lost to the town as well as the parents who yearn for their visits back home.
7. In these days of vigorous effort for railway growth, the Fazilka-Abohar rail track is still to come, which may open up this region to South India and ports where the agricultural produce can be sold without interference of Delhi Commission agents. But then the people of this town seem to be sleeping without any worry for implications in future.
8. From the town of the learned Fazilka has become town of the Shopkeepers. Mini Malls are coming up in huge number. But where are

the shoppers. Such a system dwindles on its own weight. Postgraduate degree holders are selling 'Marunda', a desperate bid to make money for sustenance. The custom of attaching a box of sweets with the marriage invitation card enables the sweets shops to have a heyday otherwise their seemingly high prosperity would dwindle.

9. The DRM at Ferozepur is the least bothered about the traveling facilities of our people. Probably only on his suggestions authorities at Baroda House withdrew the only train from Fazilka to Delhi. The sovereign states always look after the welfare of its people who do not beg but generate wealth. Now this Garib Rath is not sustainable from profits point of view, yet the Tail Minister knows that to win the votes of his region that is the only ball he can smite. What about ministers from Punjab, less said the better. I wish we had one son of the Fazilka placed in Baroda House New Delhi (rail HQ) or pulling strings with the Delhi politicians to get minor comforts for his people.
10. They have allotted DMU's for borders regions of India. Strangely they have no toilet facility. If the history of rail is watched, the British rail Managers allocated toilet facilities in 1870s for children and older citizens traveling in railways of the British Raj. Our rulers don't understand the need of human body and elder citizen traveling in this train created by silly manager of our railways. (The ministers have nothing to do with it)
11. Our Municipality was installed in 1867 (Punjab Govt. Notification No. 1034 dated August 7, 1867, The Municipal Act was extended to the town in 1873) probably it was among the very first MCs. Now in 2006 we are at the tail. Of progressive committees
12. Our philanthropist Late Sh. Munshi Ram Aggarwal installed the first college styled as M. R. Degree College Fazilka in 1940 in this region of Malwa. A huge gift of land and buildings was made for this institution. But. It has no progressed or grown to provide better facilities even after 66 years. The interest of government can be watched that for similar institute's facilities such as LCD projectors and Internet Library are available in schools even. There is no auditorium worth the name in this campus. Who will care get these modern educational tools for this?
13. The employment opportunities in our so-called sovereign state are for those who follow the syndromes profiled by corruption and political mannerism for getting jobs. We know the youngsters of Fazilka are intellectually much advanced and are doing the best in foreign countries and in India. The present youngsters are our precious treasure of diamonds. To polish these diamonds GWAF is active.

2. In the News

- **Fazilka at Technical University of Vienna, Austria Website**

It gives me immense pleasure to inform all our work on Pedestrianisation to make city safe, through installing first Art, Cultural, and Food street in the Fazilka has been acknowledged by the Institute of Transport Planning and Traffic Engineering, Technical University of Vienna, Austria. They have put our work on their University Website. Please have a look at <http://www.ivv.tuwien.ac.at/>. GWAFA thanks all the citizen of Fazilka for their unconditional support and encouragement to achieve this.

- **Fazilka on Wikipedia and Answers.com**

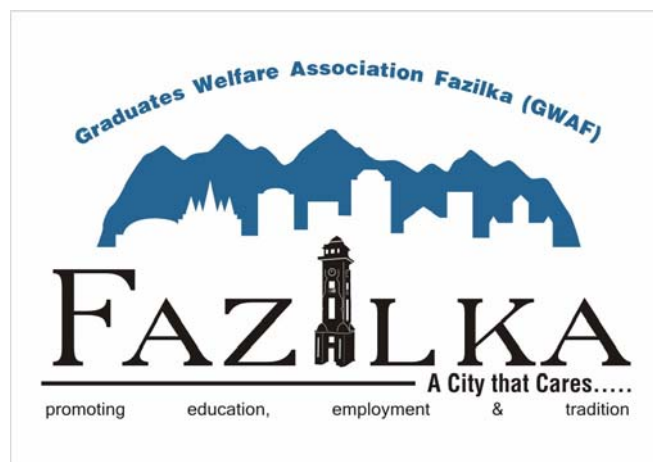
Famous American Online Encyclopedia Website Wikipedia.com and Answers.com has given have published complete historical, demographical, geographical and transportation details about our Hometown Fazilka on the web portal. Have a look at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fazilka>

<http://www.answers.com/Fazilka>

- **Fazilka on Census of India-2001**

As of 2001 Census of India, Fazilka had a population of 67,424. Males constitute 52% of the population and females 48%. Fazilka has an average literacy rate of 68%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 72%, and female literacy is 62%. In Fazilka, 13% of the population is under 6 years of age



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