

MODI'S PLAN OF ACTION IN KASHMIR AND PAKISTAN'S NEW POLITICAL MAP

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Abstract

Pakistan and India, despite having a shared legacy of independence from colonialism, have not been able to coexist as peaceful neighbours. The current political imbroglio as the consequence of Modi's aggressive policies has made the Kashmir issue the most protracted and bloodiest conflict of the world. BJP's actions have practically set the stage for an altered demographic outlook of the Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. While the world is preoccupied with battling the COVID-19 contagion and despite condemnation by the international community and Pakistan, India continues to systematize its oppressive approach in occupied Kashmir. Drawing inspiration from the Israeli model of establishing Jewish settlements in occupied Palestinian territories, India too has now systematically attempted to deprive the people of Kashmir their majority status in their own land. Pakistan, meanwhile, has exhausted its diplomatic efforts to avoid a direct conflict with India and finding a pacific resolution to the Kashmir dispute. In this vein, Pakistan also released its new political map on 04 Aug 2020 that clearly identifies the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir including Azad Kashmir and IoK as "disputed territory" and also states that the final decision will be taken as per the UNSC resolutions. The paper analyses India's plans to demographically distort the territory of occupied Kashmir with the objective to ultimately wipe out its identity and evaluates the new political map released by Pakistan. The paper concludes by outlining steps towards peace between Pakistan and India.

Keywords: India, Pakistan, Kashmir, PM Modi, Revocation of Article 370 and 35A, Reorganization order 2020, Demographic shift, Identity politics

Introduction

The outbreak of COVID-19 is being termed as one of the greatest triggering events of current times that might drastically change the global political, economic, and social outlook. While the world is preoccupied with battling the COVID-19 contagion, the Indian government continues with its unilateral policies in Indian occupied Kashmir. India passed a new domicile law on 01 April 2020 which in effect guarantees a massive demographic transformation in

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Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K). Under the law, anyone who has resided in occupied Kashmir for 15 years or has studied for a specific period is eligible to be called a Kashmiri. In August 2019, the BJP led Indian government had revoked Article 370 and 35A from the Indian Constitution with the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019.¹ Blatantly manifesting the BJP administration's disregard for the Indian constitution, these legislations have practically set the stage for an altered demographic outlook of IIOJ&K. Kashmiris are in danger of being reduced to a minority in their own land. Concomitantly, significant developments have taken place in both Pakistan and India on the anniversary of 05 August that would further deteriorate relations between the nuclear powers in South Asia. Pakistan unveiled a "new political map" of the country that includes Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) as part of the country's territory for the first time.²

Seventy-two years have passed since Pakistan and India attained independence from their British colonial rulers. The two successive states, despite having a shared legacy of independence from colonialism, have not been able to coexist as peaceful neighbours. The major bone of contention that has marred the bilateral relationship between them is the unfinished agenda of the partition, that is the issue of self-determination of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Since 1947, the Kashmiri people have been denied their basic right to life and security, and the right to choose. India is pursuing hard-handed policies against innocent Kashmiris to restrain their legitimate right to self-determination. Article 1 of the United Nations Charter protects the right of self-determination as a fundamental principle of the International Law. The right to self-determination is also the overarching principle of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which India is a signatory. Until now, the UN Security Council has passed 18 resolutions, directly or indirectly related to the Kashmir dispute. None of the resolutions could be implemented because of India's obstinate approach and false promises to the people of Kashmir and to Pakistan's leaders by its Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru.

The Indian Government has used various methods to suppress the struggle of the Kashmiri people since 1948. In the cover of a series of draconian laws and Acts, India has committed brutalities, killings, force detentions, rapes and humiliations with impunity every day. Indian occupied Kashmir remains among the highly militarized regions in the world. India's refusal to seek a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir dispute has left the people of Kashmir deeply anxious and uncertain about their future and the chances of peace bleak between the two South Asian neighbours. The paper attempts to deliberate on stated issues as to how they are affecting the future of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and what will be the short and long-term implications of eventual

demographic changes being introduced by India to obliterate the very identity of the people of Kashmir?

Genesis of Kashmir Dispute

The predominantly Muslim yet multi-religious and multi-cultural region of Kashmir has historically remained under four major rules: Hindu and Buddhist rule, Muslim rule, Sikh rule and the Dogra rule.³ The current political imbroglio that has made the Kashmir issue the most protracted and bloodiest conflict has direct roots in the commencement of the first Anglo-Sikh war in 1845. In conclusion to the war, the British got the possession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Afterward, under the Treaty of Amritsar 1846, Gulab Singh was given the possession of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Baltistan on a discounted sum of 7.5 million rupees by the British, hence establishing the Dogra Rule in Kashmir. It was the unfair policies of Gulab Singh and his successors that first sowed the seed of discontent in the Kashmiri Muslims and they rose to fight for independence.⁴ The latest wave of political consciousness to free Kashmir from autocracy and oppression started in the early 1930s and continues to date. In 1947, when the whole of the subcontinent got to exercise their right of self-determination and attained independence from the British colonial rule, the people of Kashmir remained constricted by India's neo-colonialism.⁵ The end of the British hegemony in India brought about a lapse of paramountcy and the 562 princely states along with India and Pakistan became technically and legally free. The British Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, however stated in his address to the Chamber of Princes on July 25, 1947 that though the states are theoretically free to choose their future, they cannot evade the geographical compulsions as well as the will of their subjects.

Since the only all-weather road that connected Srinagar to the world went from Rawalpindi, Pakistan and all the rivers of Kashmir flow into Pakistan, the demographic factor too, was largely if not decisively in Pakistan's favour.⁶ The Maharaja of Kashmir himself being a Hindu while keeping the fact in mind that the majority populace of Kashmir was Muslims, opted to remain independent and signed a standstill agreement with both India and Pakistan. It is also crucial to mention here that the unfair boundary distribution by the Radcliff Commission in 1947 gave the Muslim-majority tehsils (administrative units) of Gurdaspur District to India under the dictation of Lord Mountbatten which granted India the geographical edge to annex Kashmir. As A. G. Noorani, an Indian constitutional expert says that if it were not for the controversial Radcliffe Award, India would not have had any land access to Kashmir.⁷ A debate also persists in the literature about accession of Kashmir and Pakistan's aggression. Pakistan is accused of enflaming unrest in Kashmir by sending Pakhtoon tribesmen who fought the state government. Nonetheless, it was the anti-Muslim policies and autocratic behaviour of the ruling house that led to the

revolt of the native Muslim cultivators in Poonch (Southwest of Kashmir proper) against the Dogra Rajput landowners. Their plight brought sympathy of their co-religionists in Pakistan, who crossed the border to support them which was followed by a massive movement of thousands of Pathan tribesmen.⁸

India has long built its case on Kashmir that the Maharaja of Kashmir had signed the Instrument of Accession to India on October 26, 1947 making it an integral part of India. Nonetheless, it remains a fact that even the signed Instrument of Accession provided the people of Kashmir the right to self-determination through a free and fair plebiscite. The accession presented to the world as a testimonial to India's military intervention in Kashmir on the invitation of Maharaja was itself conditional and provisional. The Nehru government had clearly stated in 1948 in the White paper on Jammu and Kashmir that once the soil of the State became clear of the invaders (the tribesmen) and normality is restored, the people of Kashmir would decide their future by the recognized democratic method of a plebiscite or referendum. As similar stance was taken by Governor General Mountbatten who accepted the Instrument of Accession on behalf of the State of India. Lord Mountbatten declared that it is the wish of his Government that as soon as law and order restores in Kashmir and its soil gets cleared of the invader, the question of the accession of Kashmir should be settled by a reference to the people.⁹

Modi's Plan of Action in Kashmir

The people of Kashmir have always been the target of belligerent policies of the Indian government that disregard Human Rights with impunity. The element of violence has been the core aspect of Indian state policy towards Kashmir.¹⁰ Elections of 2014 and the advent of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in power have become a catastrophe for the people of Kashmir. Narendra Modi, a nationalist Hindu Prime Minister, bolstered his support among the Indian Hindus who are fascinated by the deaths of the Kashmiris and humiliate them by sharing images of tortured dead bodies as trophies.¹¹

Extra-Ordinary Military Powers

Prime Minister Modi has publicly announced several times that the Indian forces have been given a "free hand" to deal with Kashmiris demanding independence. Therefore, since 2016 particularly, the Indian forces are unhesitatingly killing, injuring, raping and blinding innocent Kashmiri people in a manner that has been recorded by the International Human Rights Watch as violations against the dignity of the Kashmiri people. The BJP government relies on the military force, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to quell the militancy and protests in the valley.¹² Indian forces have been given immunity from any legal action with respect to these laws.

- a. **Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA):** First practiced in 1990 in Kashmir, it allows Indian forces to arrest any individual with arrest warrant, demolish their properties without any prior notice, and shoot any individual on suspicious bases and above all impunity from laws and court procedures.¹³
- b. **Disturbed Area Act (DAA):** This act was meant to restore the public order in the disturbed areas. According to this law any magistrate or police officer has invulnerability to use force even to the level that can cause death of the individual who is involve in disturbance in public order.¹⁴
- c. **Public Safety Act (PSA):** The Public Safety Act grants police complete authority to arrest any individual for 7 days and then present to court and if the court releases the suspect, the police can re-arrest the suspect and the process continue for years. Thousands of Kashmiris have been detained under these Draconian laws.¹⁵

Resettlement of Kashmiri Pundits

Historically, before the partition, during the Dogra rule, both Muslims and Kashmiri Pundits used to live together peacefully. There was no such religious divide between the two. As soon as the territory became the playground for the Indian government, they forcefully moved the Kashmiri Pundits from the Kashmir valley and settled them mainly in Jammu, so that they could easily use force against the Muslims in the Kashmir valley. The Pundits were used as a political tool at that time and are still being used by the Indian government to delay the plebiscite. Currently the government of India is building separate colonies for resettlement of Pundits in the valley. This would widen the sectarian schism between the Pundits and the Muslims of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The resettlement of Pundits in the valley would lead to an increase in the population of Hindus as their children, who are seeking India's identity rather than that of Kashmir, will be forced to adopt the Kashmiri domicile. It is important to understand the reason why Modi is interested in resettling the Pundits. One reason is that he wants to make sure that the BJP comes to power in occupied Jammu and Kashmir in the next state elections.¹⁶ The increase in Hindu population in occupied Kashmir would ensure the victory of the Hindu party in the elections. Moreover, the resettlement of Pundits will revive religious and sectarian tension in the occupied state. It could be one of the tactics of the government of India to keep the state disturbed enough as an excuse to refuse any possibility of a plebiscite.

The fact that India has re-annexed occupied Kashmir and divided it into two union territories amply shows that India has no intention to return to the negotiation table with Pakistan for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute. India thinks it has craftily solved the Kashmir issue, which it never considered a

dispute and always refused to discuss it with Pakistan in the past. India has brazenly flouted its own international commitments with no regard whatsoever for the rights and sentiments of the people of Kashmir whose future it has utterly distorted.

Colonies for Retired Indian Soldiers in IIOJ&K

The Indian government is following the Israeli strategy to suppress the voices of the Kashmiri people by violating the international law. Shimon Peres, the then Foreign Minister of Israel, during his visit to India in 1993, advised the Indian government to “not be afraid or hesitate to populate Kashmir with people from all over India. Only a demographic change in Kashmir can help India to claim it”.¹⁷ The Indian government is planning to settle retired Indian soldiers in “Sainik colonies”; one such colony is already operational in Jammu. Thousands of Indian soldiers and their families will settle down in occupied Kashmir thus adding to the percentage of Hindu families with Kashmiri domicile. This will eventually turn Kashmiris into a minority in their own land.

Kashmiriat

India is in the process of destroying the identity of the Kashmiri people through biased policies, laws and regulations. The soldier’s colonies, the plan to settle back the Hindu Pundits and now the new domicile laws are all links of the same chain whereby India is stripping the people of Kashmir of their “Kashmiriat”. The Kashmiri identity, Kashmiriat, is a support system for the people and has remained for centuries, even under the Dogra and the Sikh Maharaja rules. India which professes to be a secular state has now converted the issue of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into a religious and sectarian issue. Peace has remained an elusive dream thus far for the people of Kashmir.

Indian Barbarianism in Kashmir

The scrapping of articles 370 and 35A by India on 05 August 2019 was not only the most radical political move in seventy years’ history of the Kashmir conflict but also came at an unprecedented humanitarian cost to the people of Kashmir. After the abrogation of the articles, the Kashmir dispute has been further complicated. India tempered with the articles on the argument that it had hindered integration of the state to India. However, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was never to integrate with India without a due process of a plebiscite. India’s action was met with extreme disappointment, unhappiness, and resentment not only in occupied Kashmir, but also in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and within Pakistan. The revocation of Article 370 and 35 (A) has been rendered illegal and unconstitutional even by legal experts in India itself.¹⁸

The new domicile law introduced by the Modi government in Illegally Indian occupied Kashmir exhibits Indian motives of changing the demographic

structure of IIOJ&K. The J&K Reorganization Order was enforced with an immediate effect on 01 April 2020, under the mandate provided by Section 96 of the J&K Reorganization Act, 2019. The 2019 Act provided citizenship to the local people whereas the new law grants domicile to a wide range of Indians (under Clause 3A).¹⁹ It disempowers the state legislature of occupied J&K from ascertaining 'permanent residents' and their right to employment, as was provided under Article 35-A of the Indian Constitution. As indicated by the notice, any individual who has lived in J&K for a long time or has studied in the state for a long time and showed up either in Class 10 or Class 12 evaluation, will be qualified for residence approvals. Furthermore, clause 5A allowed the right of employment into gazetted and non-gazetted class IV jobs to J&K domiciles.²⁰

Pakistan's New Political Map

Pakistan has released a fresh official map of the country on 04 August, a day before the completion of a year of India's unilateral decision to revoke occupied Kashmir's semi-autonomous status. The Prime Minister Imran Khan announced the new "official map" after being approved by the federal cabinet. The map clearly identifies the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir including Azad Kashmir and IoK as the "disputed territory" and also states that the final decision will be taken as per the UNSC resolutions. The newly released map also reinforces Pakistan's claim on Junagadh and Manavadar. The map clearly rejects the illegal steps taken by India on 05 August last year.²¹

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi explained the changes made in the new map which includes Gilgit-Baltistan as well as Azad Jammu and Kashmir:

- The map reflects the will and aspirations of the people of Pakistan.
- It delineates over the depiction of the erstwhile FATA as a part of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.
- Pakistan has made clear, time and again, that it rejected India's tactics.
- The resolution to the Kashmir dispute, as printed on the newly released map, shall only stem from the United Nations Security Council Resolution of 1948.²²

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi reaffirmed Siachin as Pakistan's territory and denounced Indian claims to have captured several acres of land that constitute Pakistan's exclusive economic zone. He re-asserted Pakistan's stand for pursuing political rather than military means for the resolution of Kashmir dispute.²³

India's Construction of "Ram Mandir"

On the Indian side, on 05 August, Prime Minister Modi placed a foundation stone for a Hindu temple in Ayodhya on the site of the historic Babri

Masjid. Hindu mobs had demolished the Masjid in 1992, claiming it was built on the ruins of a temple for Lord Ram. Hindus and Muslims of India claimed ownership over the site for decades. In 2019, the Indian Supreme Court ruling decided to give the site to Hindus to construct a Ram Mandir, ending a decades-long legal battle. The dispute, which goes back more than a century, has been one of India's most controversial court cases. The Supreme Court gave Muslims an alternative plot of land in the city to construct a mosque. The timing for initiation of construction of the temple depicts lack of India's willingness to recognize its maltreatment and blatant discrimination against its Muslim minority. It is also symbolic of India's antagonistic attitude against Pakistan as it chose the first anniversary of re-annexation of occupied Kashmir to hold the ceremony with much pomp for the Ram Mandir which reflects India's indifference for the religious sentiments of the Muslims in its own country.²⁴

Figure - 1



Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1572590>.

Demographic Shift in Kashmir

From the past seven decades, the people of Kashmir have been valiantly struggling for their freedom from the Indian oppression. The pellets and bullets once used for hunting animals have now become the fate of the helpless Kashmiris. India is involved in a brutal movement against innocent Kashmiris to restrain their legitimate right to self-determination. Article 1 of the United Nations Charter protects the right to self-determination as a fundamental principle of International Law. The right to self-determination is also an overarching principle of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which India is a signatory. Until now, the UN Security Council has passed 18 resolutions, directly or indirectly related to the Kashmir dispute.²⁵ The Indian Government has used draconian laws in the Indian occupied Kashmir to suppress the struggle of those who have been facing brutalities, killings, force detentions, rapes and humiliations every day. The International community and human rights institutions have failed to persuade India not to commit human rights violations against the people of Kashmir. India is manipulating the demography of occupied Kashmir to tilt any future referendum in its favour by creating conditions that would reduce the majority of the people of Kashmir into a minority or just at the margins so as to invalidate their collective voice. As per the census, the population of Muslims in occupied Kashmir has been changing since 1951.²⁶ India has been chipping away at the legitimate rights of the Kashmiri people through illegal and unconstitutional measures including killing and torturing Muslim population, leasing land to non-state subjects, abrogating Kashmir's special status and now changing the Kashmir's demographic character by settling non-Kashmiris in occupied Kashmir under the new domicile law and Reorganisation Order 2020. The strategy of the Indian government to change the demography has impacted the current socio-cultural environment within the occupied Kashmir. The resettlement of Pundits families would result in severe religious tensions. The multi-ethnic society of Kashmir is thus being turned into a mono-ethnic, religious and extremist society. In short, the BJP government is trying to Indianize Jammu and Kashmir.

The new domicile law will create a Palestine like situation in the South Asian region. This is not acceptable to the people of Kashmir or to Pakistan and should not be acceptable to the UN and the International community. The world is, however, turning more and more inwards as has been evident during the Coronavirus pandemic when each country fended for itself even within regional groupings considered to be more cohesive.

Since 1947, all Indian governments have failed under the illusion that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. They have somehow imprinted this illusion in the minds of the Hindu population living in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, but the Muslims of Kashmir do not consider themselves as Indians.

Their struggle to gain self-determination and accede to Pakistan has gone through many phases during the past 7 decades; they have remained determined in their quest for freedom and have suffered grievous wounds at the hands of the ruthless Indian forces but have vowed to never give up till their dream for freedom becomes a reality. The suppression of their rights by India has turned the valley into a warzone. The impact of this change would not only hinder the plebiscite process but it would also be a threat to their identity, Kashmiriat.

In the last one year there has been a war of narrative between Pakistan and India. The Indian action in occupied Kashmir last year had shocked the people of Kashmir and Pakistan. This is for the first time that Pakistan has labelled the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir as disputed territory. Pakistan's political map extends the border of the State of Jammu and Kashmir up to the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh as international border. This makes the Line of Control not just a military demarcation line but also a quasi-political dividing line. Pakistan has also clearly separated AJK from Gilgit - Baltistan. These changes bring the map closer to the political ground reality. The old map showed the ground situation as it existed in 1947, with a modification to reflect the Pakistan-China border agreement of 1963. The new map reflects the position as it is at present. Pakistan had so far refrained from showing the LoC in its political map in order not to compromise its stand under the UNSC resolutions. By making an appropriate reference to these resolutions, Pakistan has safeguarded that position. Various analysts speculate that the new map delegitimizes Pakistan's claim and undermines the right of self-determination which is to be exercised by the Kashmiris themselves. There is confusion as to whether the new map is a diplomatic/political gimmick or manifestation of a well-thought out strategy.

The alternate view says that the government of Pakistan has taken a right step. Hassan Aslam Shah, an International law expert has described this as a master cartographic stroke by Pakistan. The new political map also shows the disputed border between China and India in Ladakh as "Frontier Undefined" thus making evident that China is effectively also party to the Kashmir dispute. Moreover, Pakistan's map is in conformity with the UN Security Council resolutions while India has been in complete defiance of the UNSC resolutions.²⁷ In view of the indifference shown by the international community to the plight of the people of Indian occupied Kashmir, a strong response was needed by Pakistan as a legitimate stakeholder in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute. PM Imran Khan, while launching the new political map reiterated that the Kashmir issue could be resolved only through implementation of the UNSC resolutions.²⁸ Adopting the new map was a necessary and an overdue step. The updated map depicts ground realities while preserving Pakistan's legal position embedded in UNSC resolutions.²⁹ The portrayal of the disputed territory in the

new map reinforces its disputed status. It can be seen as an emphatic political statement by Pakistan.

To keep the emphasis on the resolution of the Kashmir dispute and dissuade India from pursuing its designs in occupied Kashmir, Pakistan would have to plan and mount a renewed campaign at the international level. By not engaging in any dialogues with Pakistan, Prime Minister Modi has adopted a visibly hostile and aggressive posture towards Kashmir and Pakistan. The Indian leadership statements about rethinking India's no first use of nuclear weapons policy and iterating claims on Azad Kashmir and the Chinese controlled Aksai Chin are a direct threat to regional peace and security. Tensions are running high on the de-facto border i.e. Line of Control (LoC), with an escalation in small firearm exchanges from both sides. The situation is visibly reverting to early 1950s as the status quo that has prevailed over the years due to strenuous efforts of international community and bilateral negotiations is on the brink of a breakdown.

Steps towards Peace

Interstate conflicts in South Asia have their own dynamism. The absence of mediators to end Pakistan-India issues seriously impedes any conflict resolution process. At present there is complete breakdown of communication between the two countries. This has the potential to lead to active hostilities on one pretext or another. India is looking to mount a false flag operation at any time. It is, therefore, extremely important to open channels of communication to avoid getting sucked into a hostile situation.

United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) has somehow been successful in maintaining negative peace between Pakistan and India, but this does not end the work of the Mission. The UNMOGIP should help put an end to the killings of civilians at the LOC as well as in the valley. The mission can achieve this by encouraging both Pakistan and India to engage in dialogues and capacity building programs. Moreover, by persuading both countries to hold maximum peace building activities in IIOJ&K while providing humanitarian assistance to the people inside the occupied territory can help change the nature of the dispute to a considerably malleable form.

It is imperative to understand that Kashmir issue deserves a fresh and comprehensive perspective in the context of changing domestic and global realities. It will require synergized employment of all the elements of national power and proactive involvement of all relevant stakeholders and institutions on diplomatic, political and legal front. India has shut the door for dialogue with Pakistan. To expect that the Sino-India conflict may create an opportunity for the desired resolution of Kashmir is a distant possibility. While the situation continues to simmer, Pakistan should continue to raise the issue of the Kashmir

dispute at the international level as much as possible hoping that one day the Modi government will fall giving way to a more reasonable dispensation in India which is sensitive to Kashmiri aspirations and sacrifices.

In addition, Pakistan should mount a well thought out campaign at the regional and international level to highlight the worsening humanitarian crisis in IIOJ&K and urge international humanitarian organizations to help Kashmiris being victimized by the Indian occupational forces. The case of IIOJ&K must be taken to both the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity being committed by India.

India has long accused Pakistan of providing arms and military training to the alleged insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir. India should allow journalists and international organizations into occupied Jammu and Kashmir, so they can assess the actual situation for themselves. The issue of sexual harassment and half widows in occupied Kashmir reveals the real picture of fascists Modi government. These are serious international crimes which violate the Geneva Convention of 1949 regarding non-combatants and civilians. Kashmiri women and young girls have repeatedly expressed fears about sexual harassment, as the border security and Indian army soldiers raid homes at night time, take the men to nearby fields or parks and harass the females at homes, as has been reported by JKCCS (Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society)³⁰. Absolute authority to the security forces and lack of accountability for the committed abuses has further worsened the situation. India has used all the means to suppress the Kashmiri movement and to shatter the spirit of Kashmiri people.

In parallel to persistent efforts at national and international level, Pakistan must also continue to strengthen the morale of the people of IIOJ&K by meaningful engagement with the world community on bringing an end to the human suffering of the people of Kashmir. UN agencies should be encouraged for involvement in the resolution of the crisis of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan should work with its friends to get a UNSC emergency session held on Kashmir. The defiance and revolt by the People of Kashmir can, however, provide Pakistan with a reason to opt for a military option. Of course, this option carries grave risks, even existential danger to Pakistan, but it cannot be ruled out in the face of India's unwillingness and obstinacy against negotiations, or third-party mediation and the deafening international silence.

Conclusion

India has always denied the legitimate basic rights of Kashmiri people and neglected the just and legitimate demand for self-determination. India does not permit the International humanitarian organizations to visit occupied Jammu and Kashmir to investigate the human rights violations in IIOJ&K. The Kashmir dispute has been regarded as a nuclear flash point between Pakistan and India,

and with the RSS driven Hindutva policy, it is important to realize that any miscalculation and false propaganda can lead to a catastrophe. It is clear that the Kashmir dispute cannot be resolved through military means given the danger of a nuclear overhang. Peaceful means are the only way for a lasting resolution of the Kashmir dispute. It is also clear that India will not enter into dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir. Rather India thinks it has successfully resolved the Kashmir issue by dividing the territory into three parts. For India, the people of Kashmir have little value. It is the territory and its strategic location that holds importance for India, regardless of which political party is in power.

The United Nations, whose basic purpose is to ensure and maintain global peace, will have to take active interest once again in the peaceful resolution of the long festering dispute. Pakistan will have to work twice as hard to get the attention of the International community to the importance of a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute and to stop India from taking unilateral and illegal steps to merge occupied Kashmir into India which is utterly in violation of the International law.

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