

Full Length Research

Jammu and Kashmir: An Open Tragic Story of Sufferings Due to Political and Armed Conflicts

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The present paper, reported the geography and political situation of state pre-independence and post-independence. We have also focused on the relationship of India and Pakistan where J&K stands a dispute that can trigger nuclear war between the two dominions in the region. We have also reported the armed conflict and mass killings of human in the J&K particularly from 1989 armed conflict. Also in priority we reported the impact of political instability and armed conflicts on common Kashmiri particularly on youth and Kashmiri Pandits which are an integral part of Kashmir society and have also impact on the economy of Kashmir particularly on the tourism sector.

Key words: Jammu & Kashmir, War, Accession, Impact, Conflicts.

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INTRODUCTION

The state of J&K comprises the territories of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and Gilgit. The state of J&K consists of many low lying valleys like, Tawi valley, Chenab valley, Poonch valley, Sind valley and Lidder valley but the main valley is the valley of Kashmir. It shares its borders with China in the east, Pakistan in the West, Afghanistan and Russia in the North and plains of Punjab and Himachal in the south and south-east. The state of J&K stretches between 32°.17' N to 36°.58' North latitude and East-west 73°.26' to 80°.30' longitude. From North to South, it extends 640 kms in length and from East to West over 480 kms in breadth. The total area of the state of J&K was 2, 22, 236 Sq Kms. After partition (India and Pakistan) major geographical changes took place in the state. About 82,931 sq. kms under the occupation of Pakistan and about 64000 sq. kms under the occupation

China in Ladakh known as Aksai Chin.¹

J&K PRE- INDEPENDENCE

Sir Henry Lawrence on behalf of Lord Harding made an agreement "Treaty of Amritsar" also known as "Sale deed of Kashmir" with Raja Gulab Singh on 16 Mar, 1846 A.D through which British Empire sold Kashmir to Gulab Singh for Rs 75 lakhs. The Dogra ruler, Maharaja Gulab Singh was also suppose to annually present a horse, twelve perfect shawl goats of approved breed (six male and six female) and three pairs of Kashmiri shawls to the British government. This way Gulab Singh became the ruler of J&K. He laid the foundation of the modern state of J&K. The state was ruled by the Dogra Maharajas until 1947, when internal political and armed resistance and

war between the new postcolonial nation-states of India and Pakistan ended monarchical rule. After Gulab Singh's death, his kingdom passed on to his successors and was ultimately ruled by Maharajah Hari Singh until 1949. These rulers were known to be tyrannical and oppressive. In 1931, there was even a revolt and general unrest amongst the majority Muslim population².

J&K POST-INDEPENDENCE

Withdrawal of the British, following the creation of two dominions, India and Pakistan. The partition created unnatural and undemarcated boundaries between India and Pakistan which led to numerous controversies and armed clashes. Before partition of India, there were about 600 princely states. Lord Mount Batten, the last Viceroy of British India advised the rulers of these states to accede to either India or Pakistan. He said that, "normally geographical situation and communal interest and so forth will be factors to be considered." Out of 600 states, 557 states acceded to either of the two dominions on these principles. The rulers of Junagarh and Hyderabad wished to accede to Pakistan; they were rejected by India on the grounds that they were contravening the partition plan because the majority of the populations in these princely states were Hindus³. Junagarh lies in the south-west of Kathiawar bounded by Indian states on all sides except for south and south-west, where lies the Arabian Sea. Pakistan has no common boundary with it. Its railway posts and telegraphs formed an integral part of Indian system. India, therefore, was interested in its succession. Pakistan also was interested in it because its ruler was Muslim. The government of Pakistan granted a loan of Rs. 8 crore to its ruler and ultimately obtained the Nawab's accession. The government of India protested against this accession and finally sends its troops to Junagarh⁴⁻⁵. Hyderabad was another princely state in Indian subcontinent. It was surrounded by the Central Asia (now called Madhya Pradesh) in the north, Bombay in the west and Madras in the east and south. It was premier Indian state. Hyderabad different from Junagarh in two respects: (a) at no time it acceded to Pakistan and (b) it had not even a remote access to Pakistan and was surrounded on all sides by Indian Territory. Finally both princely states were acceded to India⁶.

"War as a general economy no longer necessarily implies that those who have weapons oppose each other. It is more likely to imply a conflict between those who have weapons and those who have none." (Mbembe 2001, 50).⁷

Under the Indian independence act 1947, the state of J&K also advised to join with either of the two dominion

states or to remain independent. The Maharaja of J&K totally refused to join either of two states⁸. The Maharaja, however, preferred to on the throne so as to remain independent⁹. The Kashmir problem is considered to be the most serious problem conditioning the relations between India and Pakistan. Since 1947, they fought three wars over Kashmir in 1948, 1965, and 1999 (Kargil war) along with the time to time border tensions and clashes, military confrontations and blaming each other for assistance to non-state violent actors¹⁰. Accordingly the Pakistan government attempted to effect the accession of the state to that dominion at first by persuasion and negotiation with the Maharaja directly. This was followed by coercion by means of forcing an economic blockade. Finally on 22 Oct 1947, thousands of Pakistani invaders invasion consisting initially of tribesmen from the north western frontier province was mounted against the state from the border town of Muzafarabad adjoining the present Hazara district of West Pakistan. This was a full-scale invasion. On Oct 25, 1947 the invading force captured Baramulla and it was only a matter of a few hours before the storm and was knocking at the gates of Srinagar (the summer capital of the state). The attack was sudden and unexpected. The invaders gave themselves up freely loot, burn houses and plunder all along rout and leave the towns were pouring the capital. So, there was only one hope left for the state of Jammu & Kashmir and that was to look forward for help to Indian National Congress and nationalist government of India, which had all along supported the Kashmir peoples struggle for freedom¹¹. The Maharaja Hari Singh initially fought back appealed for assistance to the Governor General Lord Mount Batten, who agreed on the condition that the ruler accedes to India. Maharaja Hari Singh signed the instrument of accession on 26th October, 1947 in return military aid and assistance, which was accepted by the Lord Mount Batten the next day. Once the instrument of accession was signed, Indian soldiers entered in Kashmir with orders to evict the raiders¹²⁻¹³. Indian forces pushed Pakistani raiders back but in 1949, when a cease fire was drawn, Kashmir was divided into a Pakistani controlled part and an Indian controlled part. This de-facto partition continues to this date with the dividing line being known as the Line of Control¹⁴. In 1965 a second Indo-Pak war began that represented Pakistan's attempt to take control over the entire Kashmir. This five months war ended in 1965 with a UN mandated cease fire and peace agreement. An agreement was signed on January 1st, 1966 by the then PM of India namely Lal Bahadur Shastari and Pakistan President M. Ayoub Khan known as Tashkent Agreement. A 3rd Indo-Pak conflict occurred in 1971 that changed the regional makeup of modern-day South Asia as a new country namely Bangladesh came into existence. The war ended with the 1972 Shimla Agreement with specific relation to Jammu and Kashmir

and the agreement established the 1948 cease fire lines as an official Line of Control. The 1971 Bangladesh war was not fought over Kashmir but it had its impact felt over Kashmir. By the late 1980s an active, separatist movement began to develop, a number of groups formed and hence the movement became significantly strong. In light of socio-political dynamics of Afghan-Soviet war, the movement soon militarized and developed a hardened wing that threatened the stability of the region. In 1989 pro-independence and pro-Pakistan guerrillas struck the Indian occupied Kashmir valley which engaged Indian Army. Meanwhile Indian and Pakistani troops regularly exchanged fire at the border. The nuclear tests were performed by both the countries to prove its dominance in the region. The Kargil war took place between India and Pakistan between May and June 1999 along the LOC which resulted loss of many lives and intense tension in both sides. The conflict ended after the pressure was imposed on Pakistan and the withdrawal of the troops was announced by the Pak PM Nawaz Sharif after a meeting with US President in Washington on July 4, 1999¹⁵⁻¹⁶. But the state again erupted into civil unrest after the state government decided to transfer 100 acres of forest land to Shri Amaranth Shrine Board in 2008. The significant political fallout was the fall of the Congress party-led state government after its coalition partner, the People Democratic Party (PDP), pulled out opposing the land transfer. The Board also later gave up the claim on the forest land after the state government promised to provide all facilities to pilgrims going to the shrine. The civil unrest, marked by clashes between civilian protestors and security forces, broke out again in 2010 and lasted over three months (Jun to Sep) killing over 150 people, mostly civilians¹⁷.

OBJECTIVES

- To gain the attention of conscious people towards the dispute of J&K state.
- To highlight the suffering of common Kashmiri.
- To highlight the threat of nuclear war in the region on the issue of J&K.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the present paper, data has been collected from secondary sources especially books, journals, web links and research papers etc.

IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON J&K SINCE 1989

Every year, there are countless reported cases of torture, rape, deaths in custody, extrajudicial executions, and

disappearances. Indiscriminate violence has marked the area since 1989 and property worth hundreds of thousands was raised to the ground or else destroyed. It led to social disorder, disorganization, educational backwardness, physical and mental health deterioration, mass psychological depression, mass humiliation and extreme helplessness and the degenerated cultural aggression. J&K have claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people, and also wounded and displaced several thousands more. In many families, fathers of the persons killed were the main bread earners of the families. Every human being in J&K is worried about their lives. Large number of persons (including civilians, security forces and militants) were killed in J&K and is shown in table No.1¹⁸. Table 1

IMPACT ON KASHMIRI PANDITS

In the prevalent form of modern armed conflict, every section of the population is affected. Insecurity due to armed conflict in the 1990s, under these bad circumstances Kashmiri Pandits started migration and left their native Kashmir valley. Now these Pandits have settled in various parts of the country. Those who were government employees prior to migration were adjusted in their respective departments, in Jammu, Delhi and other parts of country. Politicians and other leaders have spoken of their return, but none could guarantee their safety. It must be noted, however, that there were Pandit families who did not migrate in the 1990s, and some of the migrants later returned to the valley¹⁹⁻²⁰.

IMPACT ON YOUTH

Youth are badly affected by violence and threats to their security in J&K conflict. Lack of jobs and opportunities has created frustration, making unemployed youth prime candidates for recruitment by militant organizations with funds and arms at their disposal. They have also experienced more poverty and lack of education due to ongoing violent conflict. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security. However, direct and indirect violence has threatened the lives of many Kashmiri youth and their security²¹.

IMPACT ON TOURISM

Conflict not only leads to deaths, destruction of property, displacements etc. but also leave a tremendous negative impact on the state. In Jammu and Kashmir tourism has been identified as an industry with potential of development next to agriculture and horticulture. Tourism was considered to be an economic backbone of the state

Table 1. Persons killed in Jammu and Kashmir since 1990-2011. A year-wise analysis

Year	Military incidents	Civilians killed	SFs killed	Militants killed
1990	3905	862	123	183
1991	3122	594	185	614
1992	4971	859	177	873
1993	4457	1023	216	1328
1994	4484	1012	236	1651
1995	4479	1161	297	1338
1996	4424	1333	376	1149
1997	3437	1030	355	1175
1998	2940	967	339	1045
1999	3073	937	555	1082
2000	3091	942	638	1520
2001	4536	1098	613	2020
2002	4038	1050	539	1707
2003	3401	836	384	1494
2004	2565	733	330	976
2005	1990	556	244	917
2006	1667	410	182	591
2007	1092	170	122	472
2008	708	91	79	369
2009	499	78	64	239
2010	488	47	69	232
2011	340	31	33	100
Total	63707	15820	6156	21075

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs Govt. of India.

of J&K because the industrial development is very limited due to hilly areas. Tourism helps in developing or transforming backward and ruler areas in prosperous areas. But now-a-days when we see towards J&K, is deeply affected by various circumstances created out of the unsettled environment. J&K became a risky place for tourists. The conflict has put a negative sign on the state, no tourist whether local, national, international is not ready to visit the state as they think that there is high risk involved in visiting it²².

CONCLUSION

The J&K conflict continues to be unresolved after more than six decades, fuelling the conventional and nuclear arms race between India and Pakistan. The state problem is considered to be the most serious problem conditioning the relations between two dominions and it is being considered to be one of the danger-spots of the present day world. The continuing conflict in the J&K state is fundamentally not a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan. The issues of Kashmir conflict remain as challenging as ever. In conclusion, the state of Jammu and Kashmir has really suffered a huge loss due to the armed conflict from the last 26 years and this thing must be made clear that the conflict is not going to help

the state anyway. So a better mutual solution should come out so that the state of Jammu and Kashmir can flourish in near future.

SUGGESION:

Conflicts are a threat to the peace and security of all nations around the world and thus are source of human suffering. These need to be avoided and the societies have to look for ways to overcome the situation through peace and create peaceful societies where people would work together to resolve conflicts, develop morally, treat each other with justice, satisfy basic needs and respect each other. In essence, they would live in harmony and united.

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