

## **Kashmir: The Major Source of Conflict between Pakistan and India**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Kashmir is the most serious dispute between Pakistan and India that originated with the British decision to give independence to British India that later divided into two states i.e. Pakistan and India. Being a Muslim majority princely state, the people wanted to join Pakistan. However the non-Muslim ruler of Kashmir opted India. The people of Kashmir revolted against this decision which set the stage for the first Kashmir war between Pakistan and India. Since then India has maintained its control over Kashmir by use of force and a heavy presence of Indian security forces. India and Pakistan fought another war on Kashmir in 1965. Despite India's coercive policies, Kashmiris continued to resist Indian domination. The current uprising in Kashmir is the latest manifestation of Kashmiri revolt against India. Pakistan and India need to hold talks for a peaceful resolution of Kashmir which is also acceptable to the Kashmiris. They do not want to live under Indian rule and want to decide about the future of Kashmir through plebiscite, as promised in the UN resolutions of 1948-49.

**Key Words:** Kashmir, UN, Pakistan, India

### **Introduction**

According to Indian Independence Act 1947, India was divided into two states known as Pakistan and India. Besides, there were 562 princely states and they were allowed to choose whether they want to join Pakistan or India. Out of all princely states, Kashmir was the most beautiful state that has important strategic location and both of the countries wished to annex. The majority of the population of Kashmir was Muslim and it was predicted that this state will go with Pakistan. But the ruling king of Kashmir was not a Muslim who gave Kashmir to India. This created a streak of mistrust among the masses of Kashmir (Abid, 2016).

The Muslim Kashmiri people revolted and a war started between India and Pakistan known as the war of 1948. Since then, the Kashmir has become the prime issue of confrontation that led to many bilateral clashes even the wars (Haider, 2010). The dispute of Kashmir is known as the bone of confrontation between India and Pakistan. All the bilateral clashes and tussles of Pakistan and India are linked with the Kashmir issue. The nature of the bilateral tussles may take different form whether this is political, economic or trade related problems, all of these have direct or indirect relation with Kashmir issue (Abid, 2016).

The Kashmir issue is the root cause of direct and proxy wars between the two countries. This is the key factor that inspired both of the states to get nuclear weapons. Both Pakistan and India have started an arm race to acquire the weapons of mass destruction. Due to the bilateral rivalries, the regional security and peace of South Asia is at great risk so it is an urgent need of the day to resolve this issue otherwise it will eat up the stability of the region (Ganguly, 1998). Pakistan and India have fought different wars and out of all these wars, the 1947-48 Kashmir war is considered the first war between Pakistan and India. (The Hindu, March 1, 2013). The Muslims of the Kashmir valley were nothing before the Indian giant size, so the other Muslim tribes came forward to help the helpless Kashmiri Muslims. The tribal brave people of NWFP and KPK marched to the territory of Kashmir. These people marched to Kashmir without any kind of help from military of Pakistan because that time the military of Pakistan was not organized due the newly emerged country. With the advancement of these tribal people, the ruler of Kashmir ran to Indian government for military assistance that was accepted at once. The Indian forces allied with the British troops captured 2/3 area of Kashmir and the tribal people were successful to get 1/3 area of Kashmir (Javaid & Sahrai, 2016).

After a war started between India and Pakistan, India feared of defeat and ran to United Nations on January 1, 1949 to stop the war anyway. So the UN played its role to stop this war and it was decided that the issue of Kashmir will be settled according to the wishes of Kashmiri people. But unfortunately, the UNSC resolution was never implemented and it became the reason of other wars (Schofield, 2003). The both of the countries have started an arm race while neglecting the basic needs of the population. The plenty of the population is suffering from poverty and starvation in both Pakistan and India as well. Due to issue of Kashmir, the economic growth has also been neglected as a huge amount of budget is spent in defense. If the military budget is spent for the welfare of the people, it will improve the life standards of the people (Ganguly, 1998). In start, the issue of Kashmir was an ethnic issue as it is the home of different ethnic groups but now it is more religious issue than the ethnic. Both Pakistan and India have attached their major religions i.e. Islam and Hinduism with Kashmir. Pakistan always speaks that the majority of the population of Kashmir is the Muslim so this is the Part of Pakistan. On the other hand, India mostly attaches the issue of Kashmir with displacement of the Hindu Pandits (Habibullah, 2004).

## **Background**

There are multiple relations that show the connection of Kashmir and Pakistan as both have historical linkages. Kashmir shares a direct geographical boundary line with Pakistan. The majority of the population of Kashmir is the Muslim. There is cultural relation between the people of Pakistan and Kashmir. All the natural routes to Kashmir are available in Pakistan. The Kashmiri population wants to be the part of Pakistan and hates the Indians due to their illegal and forceful occupation in Kashmir. But on the other hand, there is not such relationship between the India and Kashmir. The Indian forces are deployed in the Indian occupied Kashmir to crush the wave of independence. The only route linkage between Kashmir and India is through Pathankot, a tehsil of Gurdaspur where the majority of population is the Muslim. This route was also awarded to India after changing the original partition plan. Furthermore, there is not any such relationship between India and Kashmir as it is between Pakistan and Kashmir. The Kashmiri people do not wish to be the part of India. They also do not have such type of social and cultural relationship like Pakistan. The Kashmiri people distrust the Indians and want to be the part of Pakistan.

According to Khan (2015) Kashmir is a case study of self-determination that fulfills all of the requirements that a nation-state possesses.

- Kashmir is a state that has a larger territory than many other nation states of Europe and Africa.
- It possess rich natural resources
- Kashmir is homeland of more than 13.65 million people
- It has a history of self-governance and independence
- It has a distinctive culture, diet and languages

## **Demographics**

Kashmir was one of the largest princely states of Indian that covered almost 84,494 square miles. This state has the larger area than some internationally recognized independent countries i.e. Holland, Albania, Belgium, Denmark and Austria together. But now, this large princely state has been divided into different territorial pieces of land that are under the jurisdiction Pakistan, India and China (Khan, 1970).

The geographical area of Kashmir state was about 222,236 square kilometers including Aksai Chin at the time of partition. The Kashmir is further divided into different segments i.e. Kashmir holds 10%, Jammu 14.4% and the rest of the total land that is about 75.6% falls in the frontier districts. The area of Kashmir state remained constant but the population varied from time to time (Karnad, 2004). Kashmir is divided into three major regions according to its ethnic and religious diversity. This diversity has made Kashmir so complicated. The majority of the Jammu and Kashmir population lives in Kashmir Valley that comprises about 5.4 million. The 98% population of this territory is the Muslims that show the

dominance of religion of Islam. On the other hand, in the Jammu Division, there resides 4.4 million population and 60% of these are the Hindus and 30% the Muslims. The third major component of Kashmir is Ladakh that has approximately 233,000 population in which there also exists Muslim community (Habibullah, 2004). According the census held in 1941, the total population of Kashmir was about 4.02 million. The majority of the population belonged to Islam that was about 77%. After the Muslims, the second largest ethnic group of Kashmir belonged to the Hindus that were almost 20%. After the partition, the land of Kashmir was divided in which India has occupied 45.62%, Pakistan 31.15% and China 19.23%. (Karnad, 2004)

### **Violation of human rights by Indian forces**

The Kashmiri people continued to struggle for their independence since the partition of British India. There have been coming ups and downs in this movement but a renewed struggle started in 1989. India used every possible tactic to suppress this independence movement even with the massive use of force. They have killed thousands of the innocent Kashmiri people that count more than 80,000. India has deployed a huge number of troops in Indian held Kashmir to crush the voice of the innocent and armless Kashmiri people.

There is an international law and agencies for human rights that strongly prohibit the torture on the human beings even during the time of emergency. But the situation of the Kashmir is something different where the innocent people including women and children are being killed and tortured by the Indian forces. The Indian forces are given special powers regarding the area known Indian Held Kashmir (IHK) to do what they think suitable. Since 1990, there have been reported the factual reports regarding the violation of human rights that include killing the innocents, torture, hostage taking and the rape of the females.

International law sets a standard for the all states which includes that “The individuals should not arbitrarily deprive of their life; the incidents of homicide must be deterred, prevented and punished”. These are the basic rights that are included in almost all of the constitutions of the world. These rights are protected by the deceleration known as “Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948”. There are also many other basic rights included in this declaration like everyone has liberty and security and the states are bound to ensure these rights. Despite, the existences of international organizations about the human rights and international law, the Indian forces are violating these human rights in Indian occupied Kashmir (Human Rights Charter, 2014).

The international human rights law strongly condemns the arbitrary deprivation of life whatever the circumstances are. Article six of international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) strongly prohibits the violation of the basic right to life. Furthermore the article 4 & 7 of ICCPR prohibit the any type of torture even in the cases of state emergency. But the Indian forces have forgotten all the international rules and regulations regarding the human rights in

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IHK. They continue to kill the innocent people in Indian held Kashmir. They are torturing even the children through pellet guns. There are a plenty of the cases reported in which the children and females have lost their eye sight. So, it is the duty of the international organizations to stop the brutality of the Indian forces in Kashmir (Aiyar, 2015). It raises a question for the regional and international organizations of human rights that why they are not playing their significant role to stop the criminalities of the Indian forces in IHK. The helpless Kashmiris are being tortured and raped by the cruel Indian personals. They are helpless and weaponless before the armed Indian forces. According the to the above provisions regarding human rights, India too is bound to follow the international law but she is continuing to violate these laws. Indian forces are killing Kashmiri people, molesting the women and torturing the thousands of the Kashmiris just on the basis of suspicions (Dobhal, 2011).

Every nation maintains the human rights as these are the basic rights that must be provided. The municipal laws are made according to international law so that there may not be cruelty against the human beings. But unfortunately, in Indian held Kashmir, the situation is contemporary to the legal provisions of international law. The security forces of India have been given authority to use every possible tactic to control the people of Kashmir and in doing so they are violating the international provisions about human rights. They are killing the innocent people day by day as the killings count about 90680 during the period of 1989-2006. And in the same time, 105173 shops are destroyed and 9649 children became orphans (Majid & Hussain, 2016). There are national, regional and international organizations that strive to maintain peace, law and order across the world. In the disputed areas, these organizations become more active to report the indents of human rights' violation and to use the possible way to stop them. Kashmir is also a disputed territory where the violation of the human rights by the Indian forces is staking the law and order situation. The situation of basic rights is so pathetic despite the reporting of human violation by international organizations (Aggarwal, 1999). The Muslim youth is playing a different role than ever in Indian held Kashmir. They are more curious than any other segment of society and they are full with the passion of independence. The new wave of the youth in Kashmir is attracting more attention of international community (Bose, 2005).

### **Pakistani and Indian perspectives on Kashmir**

While discussing the burning issue of Kashmir and its relation with Pakistan and India, it is important to quote the quotation of Richard Nixon who said;

“Nuclear powers have never fought each other, but the clash between Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India over the disputed Kashmir territory could erupt into world's first war between nuclear powers” (Nixon, 1992) .

In the light of the above quotation, it can be pointed out that there are a fewer chances of nuclear war among those who have nuclear weapons but the international community is doubtful about India and Pakistan. These both countries have different ideologies especially the Hindu-Muslim that fades all other possible impacts. So accordingly, India and Pakistan have different perspectives about their belongingness to Kashmir and do not want to lose it anyway.

### **Indian perspective**

India shows herself as secular state in which all the religious communities other than the Hindus have equal social standing. She considers Kashmir as an integral part of her like the other states because it strengthens its secular face. India views that Kashmir is a part of her and she cannot lose Kashmir because of her secularism (Ganguly, 2007). India considers Kashmir as her integral part and the militants are backed by the Pakistani government that perform disruptive activities in this state. With the emergence of two distinctive states i.e. Pakistan and India, the majority of the population turned against Pakistan and wished to ally with India. This is the motive behind the relationship between India and Kashmir. According to Indian point of view, Kashmir is the part of India and Pakistan is holding its part coercively (Basrur, 2008).

The secular face claims that Kashmir is also the part of India. The Hindu dominant India, considers Kashmir as important as the other territories of India. But despite showing the secular face, India has the Hindu dominance in which the people are categorized into different categories and castes. She has Hindu identity in which the upper castes' Hindus are considered superior to the others (Malik, 2002). If the Hindus themselves are categorized into different classes, what the status of other religions will be there? The lower caste Hindus and followers of other religions are considered inferior to the upper caste Hindus.

It is a reality that India has a variety of multidimensionality according to the segments. She has more than one billion population that is divided into various types. These different segments speak multiple languages. There are mainly six religions in India, about 6400 castes and its sub categories, 52 the main tribes and so on (Behar, 2007). The majority of the population of India is either bilingual or trilingual that counts almost 65% of the whole population. This population is further categorized in distinctive groups. Hinduism and Islam are two major religions of India and both of them have special identity in this country. This is the Indian point of view to consider Kashmir as its integral part (Das, 2006). India is a democratic country and according to democracy all of the segments of society are equal. None is inferior or superior to one another. This is another Indian point of view that strengthens that Kashmir is also the part of India. They consider that without the annexation of Kashmir to India, the partition is incomplete (Basrur, 2008). There is another point of the Indians to consider Kashmir as their part because the first prime minister of India, Nehru also belonged to Kashmir.

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Kashmir is Nehru's ancestral homeland who used his influence to align the Kashmiris with India. This also shows the significance of Kashmir for India (Malik, 2002).

Kashmir has very important strategic location for India to tackle the aggression of neighbors at these hills. This is basically a hilly area that provides an opportunity for India to halt the Pakistani or Chinese military aggression at this point. This is another reason that India is not ready to lose Kashmir. Kashmir is a state rich of the production of timber and the head waters of three major rivers of Indus basin that is also another reason that India is stuck to her point of view about Kashmir (Malik, 2002).

India cannot ignore the strategic location of Kashmir as it provides a way for India to connect her with Central Asian States. It also has importance for the purpose of defense against Pakistan and China. The losing of the Kashmir means to lose of defense against her rival (Kalis & Dar, 2013). India has employed a rigid policy about the issue of Kashmir and is unwilling to lose it. She is using every possible and even coercive measure to remain Kashmir under her control. The deployment of the innumerable forces in Kashmir shows her motives to be connected with Kashmir (Hashmi & Sajid, 2017). According to the Indian point of view, Kashmir is an integral part of India just like the backbone of human body. As a human being is nothing without backbone, similarly Kashmir has importance for India. India put the issue of Kashmir at United Nations' forum but now she herself is violating the resolution. She is not cooperating with Pakistan for the bilateral talks about the solution of Kashmir (Gondal, 1999).

### **Pakistani perspective**

Pakistan and India both want to annex Kashmir as India has her stance over it and on the other side Pakistan also presents solid reasons to make Kashmir her part. The first and the most important Pakistani point is that Kashmir has majority of the Muslim population. According to Pakistani point view, the Indian occupancy over Kashmir is illegal and coercive as it is the violation of the two nation theory that became the cause of partition. Pakistan too considers that the partition is incomplete till Kashmir becomes the part of Pakistan (Ganguly, 2007). Secondly, Pakistan holds another solid point that United Nations Security Council provided a reasonable solution of Kashmir issue. India always violated the provisions of UNSC as she is not ready to conduct plebiscite in Kashmir that allows the Kashmiris to determine their option by their own either they want to join Pakistan or India. So, here is the matter of self determination of the people of Kashmir and human rights that India continued to violate (Cheema, 2015).

The original importance of the Kashmir lies in the roots of two nation theory that was the motive behind the Pakistan movement in order to get a separate homeland. The Hindus and the Muslims are two different nations that have distinctive social and cultural patterns. So, Kashmir being the Muslim majority area must be the part of Pakistan and the Indian control over Kashmir is forceful

that is also the violation of international law (Basrus, 2008). It was also decided at the time of partition that the majority of the population of the states will decide that to which country they want to relate. The people of Kashmir wished to be the part of Pakistan but the maharaja of Kashmir was not Muslim who joined with India while turning against the wishes of people. But on the other hand, the ruler of Junagadh was a Muslim and wished to join Pakistan but could not because the majority of the population was the Hindus. Hence, this is another point that Kashmir should be the part of Pakistan (Basrus, 2008).

Kashmir is also important for Pakistan to defend herself from Indian military aggression. The strategic location of Kashmir has great importance as India perceives it against Pakistan. Liaquat Ali Khan (The first Prime Minister of Pakistan) made it clear in an interview in 1951 "The very position of Kashmir is such that without it Pakistan cannot defend itself against an unscrupulous government that might come in India" (Malik, 2002). The origination of Pakistani rivers from Kashmir is another important factor that inter connects both of these territories. Pakistan does not want to lose it because in that case India will have complete control of the rivers of Pakistan. The majority of the Pakistani population is connected with agricultural field that is watered through these rivers. So, if Pakistan loses these rivers means to lose agricultural land that will turn millions of population into starvation (Kalis & Dar, 2013).

According to India, Pakistan backs the militants that perform terrorist activities in Kashmir. Pakistan always rejected this Indian stance that she supported the terrorist activities. These are all propagandas made by India against Pakistan. Rather all these freedom movements are the result of the mistake made by Maharaja at the time of partition that did not follow the popular will that time (Lamb, 2002). Pakistan maintained a standstill agreement between Pakistan and the state of Kashmir at the time of Partition. According to this agreement, the responsibility of defense, foreign affairs and communication system was under Pakistan. It was also stated later that the accession of Kashmir to India in nothing than based on violence and fraud (Ali, 1973).

The Pakistani and Kashmiri people and politicians almost have the same point of views about Kashmir as both of them are the Muslims and have same social, cultural and religious characteristics. According to Pakistan, Kashmir is Pakistan's territory and India is holding under her control wrongly and forcefully. The two nation theory further strengthens Pakistani stance over Kashmir. The people of Kashmir also want to ally with Pakistan whose voice has been dumped by Indian forces (Hashmi & Sajid, 2017). In the light of the above commentary, it is understood that Pakistan has reasonable proof about her relationship with Kashmir. Pakistan has natural land routes that connect both Kashmir and Pakistan. The people of Pakistan and Kashmir enjoy almost the same social and cultural rituals due to their same religion Islam. But on the other hand, India does not have such strong social and cultural characteristics that show their weak relationship with Kashmir.



## **International efforts**

The matter of Kashmir was brought at UN forum by India in 1949. This remained a burning issue in the initial years of independence as both of the states i.e. Pakistan and India have wedged with Kashmir. It had been a key point in the determination of foreign policies of both countries. Still, it has a unique position in the foreign affairs of Pakistan and India. The United Nations Security Council decided to resolve this issue through the plebiscite but India who brought this issue to UN is not willing to hold plebiscite in Kashmir. India fears to lose Kashmir through popular will as majority of the population is the Muslim and wants to get rid of the cruelties of Indian forces (Hussain, 2000). The Kashmir issue got the international attention soon after the dispute was raised in 1947. It became a concern for the international organizations as well who strived for the solution of this confrontation. The bilateral controversy remained at its peak for a quarter of century from 1947 to almost 1970s when both Pakistan and India agreed to resolve it peacefully at Simla in 1972.

The western powers strongly favored the Pakistani stance over Kashmir in 1957 at Security Council and agreed to reopen the case of Kashmir. The two major powers i.e. United States and Britain hesitated to do the same. All the major powers including US and UK can play the key role to resolve the issue of Kashmir. But the sincere efforts are not made to find out a possible solution or to carry out the demands of UNSC resolution through plebiscite (Buch, 2003). Later, the outbreak of Sino-Indian war 1962 also helped Pakistan over the issue of Kashmir. It helped Pakistan to bring this issue at international forum after a long time. During this Sino-Indian war, US started to supply weapons to India that opposed by Pakistan as it might be used against Pakistan. During this time, again the bilateral dispute of Pakistan and India was put forward before the international actors to resolve it (Rizvi, 1994).

After the Sino-Indian war, the Pakistani point of view about Kashmir was strengthened due to close relations with China. This was a time for Pakistan to modify her foreign policy that was pro-US in the early years of its inception (Khan, Mehmood & Alam, 2018). After 1972, a short streak of peace returned in Kashmir that lasted for a few years. These were not fully peaceful years in Kashmir but the intensity of bilateral confrontation decreased during this period. Later, in 1989, the issue of Kashmir rose again as a burning issue that international stakeholders were again mobilized because this time both of the countries possessed the nuclear capability that might be fatal for the whole region of South Asia. India had tested her nuclear weapons in 1974 but Pakistan did not yet formally test. Hence, it was a need of international action about the Kashmir issue so US and other major powers made efforts to normalize the situation (Schaffer, 2008).

The early international action was focused on the on the efforts of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) that was based on the five members. The commission worked for the solution of Kashmir issue that later

presented a report and offered a possible solution. The UNCIP eventually presented a resolution that called for ceasefire and withdrawal of the forces from both sides i.e. India and Pakistan and a plebiscite to be held in the supervision of international community that would decide the destiny of the Kashmiris by themselves either they want to choose Pakistan or India. The UNCIP presented a comprehensive solution of the Kashmir issue but it was never implemented as India does not want to hold plebiscite in Kashmir. She fears that Kashmiri people will vote for Pakistan that shows illegal and unjustified occupancy of India over Kashmir. After this commission's resolution, high level UN meetings and missions in Kashmir remained unproductive. And at the current scenario, UN too takes this issue for granted because India, who presented this issue at this forum, is not willing to follow the directions of its commission that is especially set up for the Kashmir (Schaffer, 2008).

The history shows that the international community faced repeated frustration over issue of Kashmir and the major motive behind this frustration and failure is India who never followed the proposals of international actors. The hegemonic role of India is before the international organizations and powers that must force India to abide by the resolution of UN so that this issue may be resolved in suitable way. It will erase the regional as well as the international tension as this issue has put the security of South Asia at high risk. The international community has much importance regarding the solution of Kashmir problem as it can force India to adopt the internationally accepted way. The most logical and realistic option is to hold plebiscite in Kashmir that will resolve this issue through the popular will of the people of Kashmir. The global powers should adopt the same role as it was adopted during the solution of East Timor so that the regional peace can be maintained in South Asia (Fayaz, 2016).

India has a giant size in South Asia that has over one billion population which provides an opportunity to the global powers for investment. It is considered an important international market where they can get maximum economic benefits. Perhaps this is the major reason behind the quietness of the global community over Kashmir issue. But the global powers must think that there is an international law that every country has to follow. The international law clearly explains that the human rights cannot be violated but the Indian forces have made a routine of violation in Indian held Kashmir. The international community must think about the innocent and armless people that also include the children and the women of Kashmir that are being raped and butchered by the Indian forces. If this mercilessness is not stopped, it will give birth to more violent movement than the Indian forces.

### **Possible solutions**

The solution of the Kashmir issue is vital for the peace and stability of South Asia. This region is the most densely populated area of the globe whose lives are at the stake as both Pakistan and India possess nuclear capability. It is an important

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concern of the governments of Pakistan and India to find out a possible solution of Kashmir. The solution of this bilateral confrontation will help both of the countries to make progress and to bring out the population from poverty and starvation. Pakistan, India and Kashmir are three major players of the Kashmir issue but mainly Pakistan and India have to play a significant role in the determination of a suitable way. Besides these three major actors, the role of international community especially of the big powers is also important. These big powers can force India to conduct a plebiscite in Kashmir that will be the best solution of this issue. Apart from the solution through plebiscite, there are following different solutions proposed by different thinkers.

The policy makers of India and Pakistan have vital role in the solution of the Kashmir problem but the people of the Kashmir have the ultimate position for the solution of this issue. They too want to resolve this issue as they are mainly being hit by the atrocities. The choice of plebiscite is no more important as now the situation has changed. The priority of the Kashmiris demands freedom not a plebiscite (Habibullah, 2004). Habibullah is an Indian and has served the key positions about Kashmir is India so he will favor India in this regard. Perhaps has forgotten the importance of UNSC resolution. Perhaps he has neglected that the people of Kashmir too want plebiscite that is the best solution of Kashmir according to the popular will. The prominent freedom leader of the people of Kashmir Yasin Malik stated in the program of “Aap Ki Adalat” that we want a plebiscite in which we will decide to which country we want to join. He further elaborated that we may vote for an independent country. So, the plebiscite is the best solution of Kashmir issue and its importance cannot be neglected.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan (Imran Khan) is an energetic person who wants to eradicate the hurdles between the people of India and Pakistan. The Kartarpur opening is the reflection of his peaceful mission that he opened for the Sikh community of India to perform their religious rituals in Pakistan. He told that he has two-three options for the solution of Kashmir issue. He did not make public these options and said it will be discussed with India when she agrees to hold bilateral talks. He said that he met with Atal Bihari Vajpayee (former Prime Minister of India) who told that they were about to solve this issue during Musharraf rule. This again shows that the chances are available to resolve the issue of Kashmir (Ahmad, 2018). This again points out that Pakistan wants to find out a possible solution of Kashmir but the Indian Government is not willing to cooperate with Pakistan. India should mold her hegemonic attitude and hold negotiations with Pakistan so that this issue of Kashmir may be resolved peacefully. War is not a solution of any problem rather it gives birth to many other unending problems.

The only possible solution of Kashmir is according to the majority population of the respective areas. There are three major areas of Kashmir i.e. Kashmir Valley, Jammu and Ladakh. The Kashmir Valley constitutes 95% of the Muslims, Jammu has more than 60% of the Hindus and Ladakh consists of 55% of the Buddhists. So, these areas can be given to Pakistan and India according to the

population i.e. the Kashmir Valley to Pakistan and Jammu and Ladakh to India. So, this solution is based on the system of give and take and both of the countries should compromise about the solution of the Kashmir (Dar, 2017). The Musharraf's four point's formula is also another solution of the Kashmir issue. This solution again requires the bilateral cooperation of Pakistan and India. This formula was presented in the early years of 21<sup>st</sup> century in which both Pakistani and Indian governments made sincere efforts to resolve this issue. But now neither Musharraf is in power nor is Vajpayee alive, so the efforts of this solution went in vain. But the current governments can get advantage from this proposal (Khan, 2008). The above commentary shows that possible solutions of Kashmir problem are available but it requires the attention of both countries especially India. India holds discouraging attitude regarding the solution of Kashmir issue. She is known as the largest democracy of the world but the unresolved issue of Kashmir presents her doubtful role about democratic values. It is an urgent need of the day to resolve the issue of Kashmir through peaceful means.

### **Current scenario**

The perspective of Pakistan is concise and clear that the Kashmir problem must be resolved through peaceful means. In this regard, the negotiation is the only option. But on the other hand, India always has been putting hurdles in the peaceful process of talks because she does not want to resolve this escalation. India continued to blame every terrorist activity either in India or Indian held Kashmir on Pakistan without any solid proofs. This further lingered the process of talks between Pakistan and India. The current Prime Minister of Pakistan, wished to get rid of this bilateral tension and times and again invited the Indian Government to start negotiations but India as usual responded negatively. Imran Khan said that in his meeting with PM Modi in 2015, they agreed to alleviate the roaring ratio of poverty of the region and their major focus will be on poverty alleviation and they will not allow any terrorist activity in the region. However, this effort went in vain long before the Pulwama. Imran Khan noted that Indian forces have increased her cruelties on the Kashmiris after the Pulwama attack that is setting aside the peace process again (Khan & Siddiqui, 2019).

The Premier of Pakistan said while talking to India that you want to stick in the past and to blame Pakistan over terrorism instead to resolve the issue of Kashmir. He made it clear while talking to India that start a dialogue and move. He continued to speak, this is NAYA Pakistan with new approach and new mindset, we desire stability and will not let this land use for any terrorist activity (Dawn, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2019). While condemning the brutal new cycle of violence and violation of the human rights in Indian held Kashmir by the Indian forces, Pakistan urged that it is time for the solution of Kashmir issue. The governments on both sides must take some measures to resolve the issue of Kashmir because this is the main problem between Pakistan and India (Mahmood, 2018).

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The Pakistani Foreign Minister said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan is ready to speak with the Indian Prime Minister. He has offered India to start negotiations that will find out a peaceful solution of Kashmir. He further talked about to free the Indian pilot that was released by Pakistan as a peaceful gesture. Now it is Indian turn to think positively about to minimize the tensions (Aljazeera, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019).

Currently, Pakistan and India are not enjoying good political relations as these relations have been frozen since last three years. In the first two years, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi invited his Pakistani counterpart for the inauguration ceremony and resumed the bilateral talks. He later met with Nawaz Sharif in Lahore and promised to work against terrorism in the region. But in response, Pakistan inspired the separatists in Kashmir against India and backed the terrorist activities. Later the incident of Pathankot happened in which six soldiers were killed and India blamed Pakistani intelligence for this incident. The new government of Pakistan invited for negotiations under which the meeting of foreign ministers was planned at UN General Assembly but cancelled. Recently, the Pulwama attack once again halted the political relations of Pakistan and India. India once again blamed Pakistan for this terrorist activity (Jaishankar, 2019). "We will give a befitting reply; our neighbor will not be allowed to de-stabilize us" the Prime Minister of India responded just after the Pulwama attack on Indian held Kashmir. This was the response of Modi due the pressure of the social media. The Prime Minister further added that we shall adopt every possible measure to isolate Pakistan at regional and international level. Kashmir is the Muslim majority and both Pakistan and India relate it as their part. Last time in 2016, 20 soldiers were killed in Uri attack and that time too India blamed Pakistan for the attack (The National 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2019).

The above commentary shows that currently the political relations between Pakistan and India are at the lowest point. It has become the habit of India to blame Pakistan in every terrorist activity. Whether this Uri attack, Pathankot attack or Pulwama attack, India declared that Pakistan is behind all these inhuman activities that is not true. Pakistan wants to maintain good diplomatic relations with her neighbor India as the Premier of Pakistan time and again invited his Indian counterpart to start the process of negotiation to resolve the issue of Kashmir. But on the other side, the Prime Minister of India always responded negatively while neglecting the offer of Pakistan. India blamed Pakistan recently for Pulwama attack but Imran Khan offered India to give solid proof for investigation. But on the other side, Pakistan too faces so many terrorist attacks but contrary to India, Pakistan never blamed India although she has caught an India RAW agent red handed from Baluchistan making conspiracies against Pakistan. In short, the solution of Kashmir is vital that is only possible through table talks and it can be resolved on the theory of give and take and both of them will have to compromise. India will have to mold her attitude and come to cooperate with Pakistan.

## **Conclusion**

The political history of Kashmir since 1947 shows that the Kashmiris have resisted Indian efforts to integrate Kashmir into Indian federation. The Kashmiris have faced the wrath of Indian security forces but they did not change their mind on the future of Kashmir. This problem has negatively affected the relations between India and Pakistan. For this purpose, Pakistan and India should hold a regular dialogue for evolving methods to implement the UN resolutions in Kashmir. The failure of India and Pakistan to resolve their bilateral disputes, especially the issue of Kashmir has hindered the functioning of regional organization SAARC as well. There is need to seek a peaceful political solution of the Kashmir problem. The Indian Government should see to it that her security forces do not violate human rights in administered Kashmir.

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