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Q.No.2) Why India claims Kashmir for last 75 years and why Pakistan denies India's claim? Write in detail in policy options possessed by Pakistan to counter Indian propaganda?

Kashmir Conflict:

The Kashmir Conflict is a territorial conflict over the Kashmir region between India and Pakistan for the last seventy five years since the inception of India and Pakistan.

Time line of Kashmir conflict:

In united India, that was ^{also} called as Subcontinent; there were total eleven provinces named as:

- Bengal
- Punjab
- UP
- CP
- Madras
- Bombay
- NWFP
- Assam
- Bihar
- Odissa
- Sindh

and five hundred and sixty two were princely states present in united India.

3rd June plan:

The 3rd June 1947 plan was also known as the Mountbatten plan to divide the united India.

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It included various principles. Initially, this plan was to be held in 1948, but as there were many communal wars going on in united India at that time, it was decided to do this partition of India and Pakistan on June 3rd, 1947.

How to divide United India:

As there were total 11 provinces so, Pakistan would receive ^{following} area:

Full province of NWFP and Sindh

Half Area of Bengal and Punjab

India would receive ^{following} area:

Rest of full province would be given to India. As well as half area of Bengal and Punjab

Princely States

Princely states will decide on its own whether they want to join either India or Pakistan. There five hundred and sixty two princely states decide themselves.

Points of Mountbatten's plan

According to point five and six of Mountbatten's plan:

Point 5: "Princely states were given the right to join either India or Pakistan (princely states had no option to remain independent)"

Point 6: "Based on two major factors: geographical contiguity and people's wishes."

These points give a clear idea about princely states and how it happens.

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In Junagar, Deccan, Hyderabad, Kaputla and Manwadar there was Hindu majority and ruler for Muslim. So, according to people's wishes these states join India. But in case of Kashmir, there was muslim majority but ruler was Hindu, so, ultimately that state would be part of Pakistan. But in reality it is not. So problem arises here. Both India and Pakistan are claiming Kashmir. This conflict is going on for last seventy five years and this escalated into three wars between India and Pakistan and several other armed skirmishes.

Why India claims Kashmir for last seventy five years:

India claims Kashmir for last seventy five years because of Instrument of Accession that was signed on 26th October 1947.

Instrument of Accession

The Kashmir ruler Maharaja Hari Singh Dogra on 26th Oct 1947 decided that he will join India without the concern of Kashmiris wish. He signed an agreement known as Instrument of Accession or Agreement of Accession.

Why Pakistan denies India's claim:

Pakistan denies India's claim. Pakistan gave following points to deny this claim. Third June plan.

According to point 5 and 6 of third June plan, which clearly indicates that princely states majority will decide whether they want to join India or Pakistan.

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"In a situation where majority of people living in a princely state are from different religion then the ruler of princely state. The majority will decide the fate of the state not the ruler of the state"

② Reply of Governor General Lord Mount Batten's reply on 27th October, 1947:

"It is my wish that as soon as your problem with Pakistan is resolved the wish of people of Kashmir should be taken to decide whether they want to join India or Pakistan"

③ India's first Prime Minister, Jawahar-lal-Nehru's speech on 2nd November, 1947:

"It has been our policy all along that where there is a dispute of accession of princely state to join either India or Pakistan the wish of people decides the fate of the state and due to this policy we have added a provision in the instrument of accession. I am giving pledge not only to the people of Kashmir but to the world that wish of people of Kashmir will decide the future fate and we will never back out of our pledge"

④ UN Charter Article II:

"According to Article II of UN Charter, UN cannot intervene in the internal matters of any state. By giving seventeen resolution on Kashmir which indicates UN does not agree that Kashmir is an internal matter of India."

⑤ India - Pakistan Question
Pandit Jawahar-lal Nehru took the matter of Kashmir in the security council of the United Nations and registers it as India-Pakistan question which clearly signifies that they themselves agree that it is a dispute between two parties and not an internal matter of India.

All these points indicate that why Pakistan claims India.

Policy Options Possessed by Pakistan to Counter Indian Propaganda

① Pakistan should create specialized Kashmir desk in all Pakistani embassies as well as the foreign affairs division.

Pakistan should create Kashmir desk in the foreign department and all embassies of Pakistan in the world. Young career diplomat confined to Kashmir desk. Its purpose is to create awareness regarding Kashmir in that country's people whatever allows by the law of that particular country.

② Pakistan should appoint an adviser to the PM on Kashmir dispute.

According to the constitution of Pakistan article 93 PM can have five advisers. Advisers help PM at nation level issues as well as International level issues. So there

must be an adviser on Kashmir issue to defend argument on international level.

(3) Pakistan's stance on Kashmir requires international media support hence Pakistan should find avenues of cooperation with international media.

All media channels like CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera English, Fox News and international magazines like The Economist, New York Times, Guardian which has a huge listening and reading population respectively should be focussed upon and better cooperation with these channels shall help Pakistan to prove the case on international media.

(4) Pakistan should focus on its economic development at the earliest.

To have a barter with international community Pakistan requires better economic standing. For instance as India did. India is the fifth largest economy in the world and has the largest consumer market in the world. India has the strongest and still the largest diaspora and has much stronger international lobby with international community. That's why the Kashmir was discussed in UN after revocation of article 370 and 353 in Indian Constitution regarding Kashmir after fifty years. This indicates the India's strongest position in world. So, Pakistan has to develop economy at the earliest.

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⑤ Pakistan should follow four point policy

(a) Counter Indian narrative on all international forums like UN, OIC, SCO.

(b) Push back India through Diplomacy to allied countries like China, Malaysia, Turkey etc.

(c) Expose Indian brutality and anti Pakistani propaganda just like the EuDisInfoLab.

In 2020, Seven hundred and sixty websites were operated in world by India. These websites gave anti Pakistani narrative to international world. They try to hamper the image of Pakistan in international community and world.

(d) Confidence building of Kashmir in the need of hour

There must be confidence building of Kashmiri youth as, India is operating various websites to give anti Pakistani narrative. In Indian ^{movies and dramas,} a Pakistan's image is hampered because they portray most of the terrorist as Pakistani. So Government should do some sort of investments in Azad Kashmir. A positive image will definitely build confidence among Kashmiris regarding this.

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Conclusion:

In the light of above discussion, Pakistan claims Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir to be theirs on the arguments presented above. Moreover, they are having foreign policy or propaganda regarding hampering the image of Pakistan. Pakistan is taking productive steps given in above arguments to counter Indian narrative.