

Question

Discuss the Kashmir problem in its entirety throwing light on background and prospects of possible solutions to this core issue b/w Pak and India.

Background:

Kashmir is a lush green area in North of sub-continent. It is of great importance for India and Pakistan due to its natural beauty and centre of many rivers of Indus basin. It came under Mughals during Akbar rule in 1526. After the end of Afghan rule in 1756, it came under the rule of Sikhs in 1819. Sikh maharaja Gulab Singh gave it to Maharaja Hari Singh on treaty of Amritsar.

The issue between Pakistan and India started on Kashmir back in partition in 1947, when there were 567 princely states. It was decided by Indian Independence act that muslim majority states will join Pakistan while Hindu majority will join India. All these states have only two choices to join Pakistan or India.

Maharaja wanted to join with India which causes the migration of tribal areas Pushtuns of North west Frontier Province of Pakistan to Kashmir. The

situation became unstable. Therefore Maharaja asked for help from India. Indian army landed in Srinagar which caused the first war between India and Pakistan on Kashmir. The issue was brought to UNSC (United Nations Security Council) by India and a resolution was made to withdraw troops of both countries. The resolution was unsuccessful and later both the countries fought on several occasions, like 1965, 1971 and 1999.

Current Scenario of Kashmir Issue:

The current situation of Kashmir is very unstable. On 5 Oct 2019, Indian government abolished the article 370, which caused disturbance in Pakistan and Kashmir.

Article 370 was brought into constitution of India in 1948 which states that the state will have a separate constitution and a flag. Similarly article 35(a) of Indian constitution states that outside has no right to own property in Kashmir.

Article 35(a) remained same but several several dissolutions occurred in article 370.

Possible solutions for the issue:

→ UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS:

United Nations Security Council has passed several resolutions on the issue but not achieved the desired results.

The UN engaged during 17 years from 1948 to 1965. But after 1965 war UN brought their efforts to next level. Again they fought in 1971, and similar agreement was made.

→ **make LOC as international border:**

The issue can be solved upto some extent by making line of control as international border but Pakistan and Kashmir are not agree to this because Kashmir will be divided permanently.

→ **Musharraf's formula:**

General Musharraf gave its solution to the issue that Army of both countries should leave place to place, there should be self-governance and both countries should have joint supervision on it.

→ **Independent state:**

Another possible solution for Kashmir issue is that it should be made independent, but this is not acceptable to India. The people of Kashmir valley strongly believe in this idea.

→ **Autonomy:**

Indian government as well as some parties of Jammu and Kashmir want to give it autonomy, but not acceptable

Pakistan, valley people and Hurriyat.

Conclusion:

Looking at the historical background of Kashmir, it faced many difficult situations which affected the lives of its people. India and Pakistan should find solutions to the issue on bilateral level. Otherwise it will cause destruction in the region as they both are now nuclear powers. The resolutions of UN are only suggestions, the issue needs a permanent solution to save further destruction in region and save further lives of innocent Kashmiris.