

Enumerate the measures adopted by Pakistan to spotlight on the plight of Kashmiri people in the Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir after 5th August 2019.

Introduction

The issue of Kashmir has been a bone of contention between India and Pakistan since the partition of 1947. It has remained an unending agenda of the United Nations (UN) since 1947 disturbing the peace of South Asia brutally. Although the issue is based on the rights of self-determination of the Kashmiris it has been complicated by India for her vested interests. Oskensibly, the recent illegal step the revocation of Article 370 taken by the Indian government, has wreaked havoc in Kashmir with human rights violations, such as arbitrary detention and torture, media blackout, impeding access to the necessities of life, and blockade of religious freedom. According to Mehbooba Mufti, a former chief minister of Kashmir, "The fifth of August is the blackest day of Indian democracy when its Parliament, like thieves snatched away everything from the people of Jammu and Kashmir." As a consequence, Pakistan has stepped forward and taken drastic measures for the resolution of the issue to give Kashmiris their due rights. However, when Pakistan raised the issue in the international community, only a few

nations appeared on the horizon to support Pakistan's stance. As a matter of fact the ~~the~~ conflict remained unresolved, leaving the Kashmir at the fate of Indians.

Article 35A and 370 of the Indian constitution provided special status and privileges to the state of Kashmir. In August 2019, the Indian parliament passed a resolution according to which these articles were revoked. After that Pakistan has undertaken many diplomatic steps to highlight the Kashmir plight on the international forum still the issue is unresolved and further measures need to be adopted for the rights of Kashmiris.

Revocation of Article 35 A and 370

Article 35A and 370 had allowed many privileges to the state of Kashmir. These articles have guaranteed the state a certain amount of autonomy, its constitution, a separate flag and freedom to make laws related to permanent residency, ownership of property and fundamental rights. PM Narendra Modi and Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were against article 370 from the very beginning. In 2019 they won elections in India on the election manifesto of revoking these articles. Thus after winning elections, BJP immediately fulfilled its pledge. On Aug 5 2019 the Union Government of India revoked Article 370 through a presidential order.

Deadly impacts faced by Kashmiris

In the light of abovementioned facts Indians created deadlock situation for the Kashmiris to suppress their innocent voice for their rights. First the Indians army started human right violation in the region by harassing and detaining the masses. Second the liberty of the press was prohibited. Third, the access to necessities of life was significantly dwindling with each passing day, causing millions to lose their life miserably. Last but not the least, education and children's rights were severely disregarded, keeping the future of millions at stake.

"For the past months, the Jammu and Kashmir has been cut off from the rest of the world even from India. There is a complete lockdown, media gag, and blockade of internet and telephone and all communication system is blocked. There are shortages of food and medicines and people have no access to hospitals."

Riffat Wani (After 3 months curfew in Kashmir)

Steps Taken by Pakistan at Domestic Level for Kashmir plight

Observance of Black Day

Pakistan has undertaken many steps at the domestic level to assure complete harmony and solidarity with the Kashmiri brethren. Pakistan has observed

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Black day on August 5th every year for the last three years. In addition, 27 October is also observed as a Black Day in Pakistan and Kashmir Day is celebrated all over Pakistan on the 5th of February.

Kashmir Solidarity Campaigns

At every public meeting and forum, Pakistani people commemorate the sacrifice of the Kashmiri people. Every educational institution of Pakistan launches Kashmir Solidarity Campaigns every year to show their harmony and support to the people of Kashmir. Pakistan PM Imran Khan addressed Kashmiri people in his speech in the following words.

"I reassure my Kashmiri brothers and sisters that Pakistan will continue to provide all possible support and stand shoulder to shoulder with them till the realization of their legitimate and inalienable right to self-determination"

(Imran Khan)

Role of Pakistani Media in Highlighting Kashmir Issue on International Forum

Pakistan's use of social media, smart diplomatic initiatives and protest gatherings from government and civil society to highlight the Kashmir conflict amid recent events of Indian aggression has launched a successful quest to negate Indian propaganda on the issue. After the misadventure of the Indian

government in revoking the constitutional provisions, social media users from Pakistan especially government officials including the former PM Imran Khan took to Twitter to condemn Indian atrocities and to show immense support to Kashmiris. DG ISPR also updated the world about the military's stance on the disputed territory through an official Twitter account. The solidarity movement with Kashmir was augmented with an effective social media campaign on hashtags such as #KashmirBanegaPakistan, #15AugustBlackDay, #RedForKashmir, #BleedForKashmir and #ModikillingKashmiris and many more. Therefore, to highlight the plight of the Kashmiri people the use of social media has also been employed in Pakistan. This step helped to raise awareness among different international communities about the issue of Kashmir.

Measures Adopted by Pakistan to Highlight Kashmir Issue on International Forum

PM Imran Khan Address at 74th UNGA Session

Pakistan's ^{Prime} PM Imran Khan made a speech in UNGA 74th session on September 27, 2019 and warned of a potential nuclear war over Kashmir between India and Pakistan. He urged the UN to intervene and resolve the conflict in order to avoid the consequences of war for the region and ultimately for the world.

Virtual Address of Pakistani PM at UNGA 2021

In September 2021 Pakistan's PM Imran Khan addressed the 76 UNGA virtually and again highlighted illegal and unilateral measures of India in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said that "Sustainable peace in South Asia is contingent upon resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, by the relevant UNSC resolutions, and the wishes of Kashmiri people".

Briefing at the Platform of UNO

Continuing to highlight the dire situation in Indian held Kashmir, the Foreign Minister of that time Shah Mehmood Qureshi, wrote six letters to the president of UNSC and the UN secretary-general. He conveyed Pakistan's rejection of the "bifurcation" of occupied Kashmir, highlighted the continued violation of human rights by Indian forces, underlines India's belligerent rhetoric and actions and call for the strengthening of UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) in those letters.

"changing the status quo in IOJ&K unilaterally is in complete violation of the SC resolutions, including resolutions 47 (1948), 51 (1948), 80 (1950), 91 (1951), 122 (1957) and 123 (1957).

These Indian actions are, therefore, null and void in terms of international law, and do not in any way, prejudice the right to self-determination of the people of IOJ&K" (Shah Mehmood Qureshi).

Measures Adopted by Pakistan to Spotlight Kashmir Plight at Regional Level Ranking the Kashmir Issue at 48th Council Foreign Ministers of OIC

Pakistan rated up the issue of Kashmir and Palestine in the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC in March 2022 held in Islamabad. Forced Occupation of the Indian Army in Kashmir was one of the main agendas of this conference. Pakistan urged the United Front and other Muslim countries to resolve these issues.

Gaining Diplomatic Support from Other Countries on Kashmir Cause

Pakistan has given much importance to diplomatic relations with other regional countries in the favor of Kashmir rights. As a result countries like China, Turkey and Malaysia have given their support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. These countries have raised the Kashmir case in the UN as well. Due to these efforts by Pakistan, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi acknowledged the Human Rights issues in Kashmir at the UN forum. He said "The Kashmir issue, a dispute left from the past, should be peacefully and properly addressed by the UN Charter, Security Council Resolutions and bilateral agreement."

Critical Analysis

In a critical diagnosis, Pakistan's effort at the international level has borne mixed results. On the positive side, few countries

have supported its stance at the national and international level, including Turkey, China and Malaysia. However, on the negative side, Pakistan's efforts have not been successful at large. Adding fuel to the fire not even most Muslim countries have taken any strict stance. OIC, the mouthpiece of Muslims, failed to take any solid action against India due to the bilateral relations of many of its members with India. Thus it can be said that the actions of Pakistan to highlight the Kashmiri people's plight would only be successful when Pakistan's social, political and economic standing improves globally as the world of today runs on the national interests rather than moral values and emotions.

Conclusion

The revocations of Article 370 and 35A have complicated the issue of Kashmir. Pakistan has taken major steps to condemn the wrong steps of the Indian government in Kashmir. Pakistan has raised questions multiple times in UNO. Pakistan is also trying to get diplomatic support from other countries and regional organizations on this issue. By far these steps have not shown any positive sign for resolving the conflict. Hence, additional measures need to be adopted by the Pakistani government to ensure peace in Kashmir and Subcontinent.