

Discuss Modi government's policy towards Kashmir. Suggest solution to Kashmir issue in the current scenario.

1. Preamble

Kashmir issue is not new one, it has roots back in Mughal era. Since then, the people of Kashmir are fighting for their freedom. The Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif says

“Kashmiris are fighting for their natural right of freedom and their movement cannot be suppressed by atrocities. It is not a political issue but the issue of humanity and human rights”

Kashmir is administered by India and Pakistan. India controls 55 percent and Pakistan administers 45 percent of Kashmir under separate government.

The current policy of Modi regime is suppressing the dissent and further tightening its grip on power and territory. It is long-awaited issue in the UN resolutions

which must be solved on the earliest according to will of the people.

2.

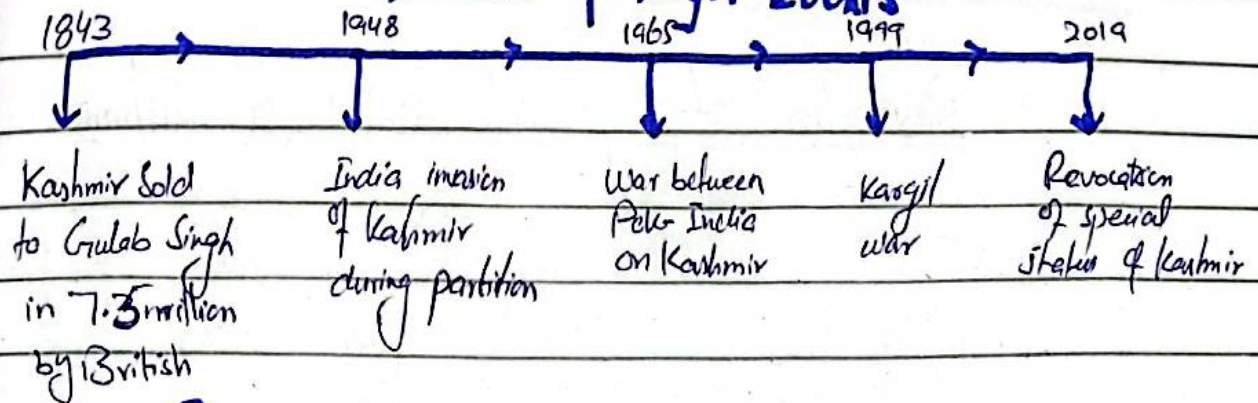
Overview of Kashmir Issue:-

During the partition of sub-continent, Kashmir was a Muslim majority state, which want to acced Pakistan. However, the Indian government invaded Kashmir by Army and occupied the whole territory. There have been four major wars between India and Pakistan on Kashmir issue.

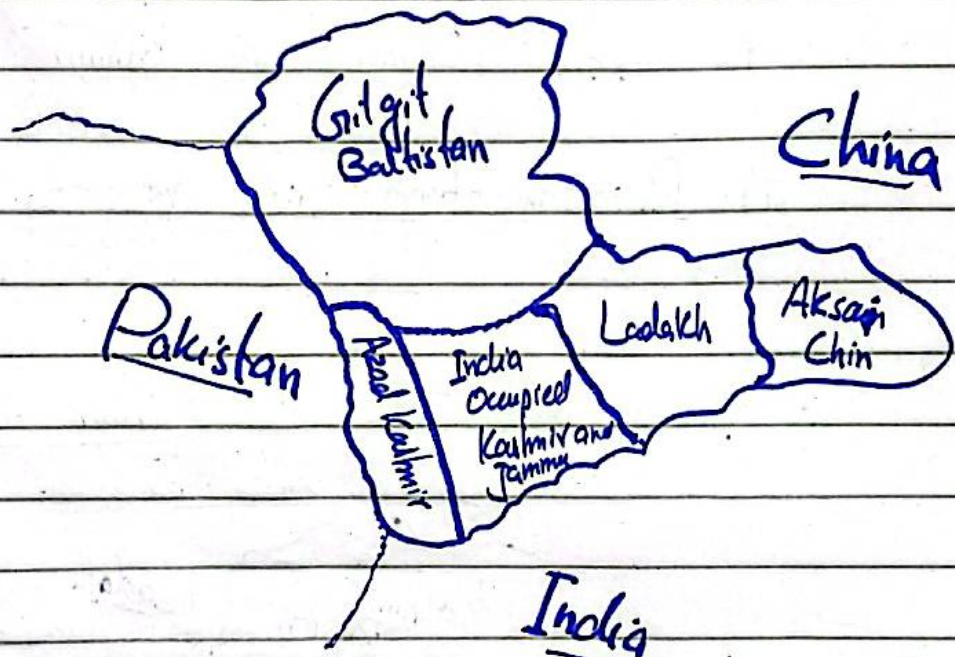
(i) Post-2019 status of Kashmir

In August, 2019, the Modi government passed a controversial amendment and revoked the special status of Kashmir by removing article 370 from Indian Constitution. Moreover, they amended article 35A, allowing Indian to buy land in Kashmir and settle here. This act was highly criticized by international community as it was demographic transition of the region by replacing majority by minority.

Timeline of Major Events



3. Geo-Strategic Significance of Kashmir



Kashmir is 15 percent administered by Pakistan and 55 percent occupied by India. It connects Gilgit Baltistan from north-west, China from north, Pakistan from south, and India from east. It is highly significant because of natural resources and tourism. Moreover, it is a hot spot between three major countries of Asia. It provides a corridor to Pakistan to Central Asia.

4. The Policy of Modi towards Kashmir:-

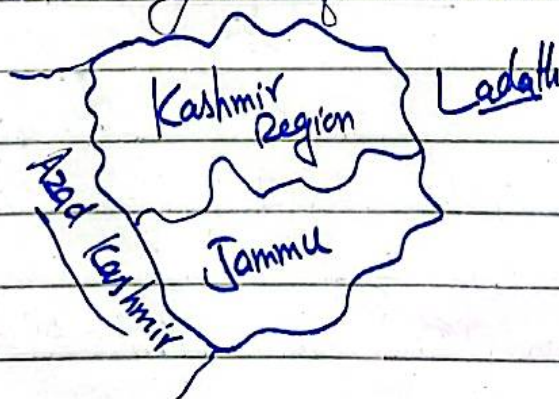
(i) Revocation of special status of Kashmir:

In 2019, the government of India amended its constitution and revoked the article 370 which gave special status to Kashmir and designated it a disputed territory. The title of article 370 was

‘Temporary Provision for the Status of Jammu and Kashmir’

(ii) Reorganization of region:

Modi government reorganized the region under Reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir Act to separate both regions from each other.



(iii) Communication and Media Restraints

All media

and communication network halted in the region in order to suppress the voice of the people. International Union of Journalists says

“ Suspending the freedom of speech of the people of Kashmir is tantamount to suspension of fundamental human rights ”

iv) Mass arrest and detention of activists:-

Modi government initiated mass arrest and detention of activist on the account of security concerns under the Public Safety Act which reads,

“ Any security personnel can detain any person under the suspicions of deteriorating public safety for undefined time ”

v) Security and Counter-terrorism Operations:-

The counter-terrorism operations under the cover of security issues are integral part of

Modi's policy towards Kashmir. The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act allow security agencies to carry out counter-terrorism operation in occupied territory. Burhan Wani was assassinated under this accusations.

vi) Issues of Political Representation:

Modi government deny, denies political representation to the people of Kashmir as it is evident that the general elections in Kashmir held in 2024 after the hiatus of 10 years since 2014.

vii) Violation of Human Rights:

Human rights violations are at its zenith in occupied territory. People are facing severe curfew and lockdown since 2019. They are denied basic rights of education, healthcare, and free movement.

“The people of Kashmir are living in severe humanitarian situation where their human rights are completely suspended”

- Amnesty International

viii) Disrupted Economic and Educational Activities:

Since the revocation of Article 370 and 35A, the people of Kashmir are confined in their houses and cannot actively engage in trade and educational activities.

5. Solution to Kashmir Issue in Current Scenario ::

a) Political dialogue and engagement between all stakeholders:

It is dire need to engage the representative of Kashmir in broader dialogues in order to solve their concerns amicably. Moreover, international community must play a leading role.

b) Restoration of previous status of Kashmir:

It is necessary

to restore the previous status of Kashmir in order to provide people their right to self-determination. Financial Times writes

"Before restoring Kashmir into neutral territory, and disputed region, it is hard to bring stakeholders on dialogue table"

iii) Ensuring free and impartial Plebiscite.

The Kashmir issue is designated in the UN resolution as a disputed territory. The Resolution 47 of UN reads

"India should appoint free and neutral arbiter who has power ranging to both countries for negotiation and then conduct free plebiscite in the disputed territory."

iv) Pakistan-India normalization:

Normalization between Pakistan and India is necessary to

hold multiple ^{rounds of} dialogue between both countries on Kashmir issue. The Foreign minister of Saudi Arabia says

"It is hard to bring both countries on the talks of Kashmir until normalization in current issues"

v) Halt counter-terrorism Operation in territory:

It is imperative to halt all counter-terrorism and militarized operation in Kashmir in order to protect the lives of innocent Kashmiris. The Guardian rights

"Counter-terrorism operations are only meant to suppress the voices of people of Kashmir, which is challenging in today's technological era."

6.

Conclusion:

Kashmir issue is a bone of contentions between India and Pakistan. The policy of Modi towards Kashmir is highly controversial in this scenario. The people of Kashmir are fighting for their right of self-determination. It is necessary for global community and rights protection organization to intervene in the issue to ensure sustainable life to Kashmiris. Late Syed Ali Gillani said

“No weapon or coercion can bar Kashmiri to fight for their cause.
Our ultimate goal is to ensure that will of Kashmiris prevail”