

Qno.1: Kashmir is the core issue. Critically examine the historical, legal and diplomatic dimensions of Kashmir conflict and evaluate Pak policy on issue. Date: _____

1. Introduction.

Kashmir has been a major issue between Pakistan and India. Pakistan believe in granting ^{the right of} the self-determination to the people of Kashmir while India claiming that Kashmir is an integral part of India and accusing Pakistan of occupying Indian territory. The dispute include historical events of different wars, UN involvement and partition. In legal dimension UN resolution, right of self-determination, Shimla agreement and domestic measures has been taken. Diplomacy involve third party intervention, internationalization and geopolitics. Pakistan foreign policy has strengths and weaknesses on Kashmir issue.

2. Historical dimensions

In historical dimension is divided into different phases.

2.1. Princely State and partition of Sub-continent

Kashmir was princely state at the time of partition, ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh. This was Muslim majority area while ruler was non-Muslim. Maharaja wanted to remain independent which led to a conflict with Kashmiri Muslims and tribesmen from Pakistan. The ruler of princely states signed an instrument of Accession on October 25, 1947 and Indian army arrived in Kashmir on October 27, 1947.

2.2 First war between Pakistan and India

Pakistan rejected the accession as illegitimate which

leads to war between both countries. Tribal forces from Pakistan entered Kashmir to support the Muslim majority. The fighting continued until January 1949.

2.3: United Nation involvement and ceasefire

India took the Kashmir matter to the United Nation on January 1, 1948. India complained to UN Security Council that Pakistan is interfering in Kashmir. The UN passed resolutions calling for a fair vote (Plebiscite) to decide whether Kashmir should join India or Pakistan. Pakistan accepted but India rejected those proposals.

2.4: Different wars and territorial changes

The 1965 war, the 1971 war (which led

to creation of Bangladesh) led to Shimla agreement converted the ceasefire line into line of control. This dispute moved from active UN mediation to bilateral framework. Kargil war 1999 results in heavy casualties and ended with Pakistan withdrawing its forces under international pressure.

2.5 Continuing conflict

The escalation between India and Pakistan are continuing due to Kashmir dispute. The Pulwama incident 2019 and Balakot airstrikes escalated tension and highlight the unresolved issue of Kashmir. Recent Pakistan India conflict regarding Pahalgam attack in Kashmir further escalated the tension between two states.

3: Legal dimensions

Legally the Kashmir dispute is framed around

different pillars

3.1: Instrument of Accession vs Plebiscite demand

India treats the Maharaja Instrument of Accession as valid and legal act. Pakistan argue that this decision undermine the Kashmiris rights. Pakistan points to UN resolutions calling plebiscite that ~~this~~ Kashmiri people decide whether they want to join India or Pakistan.

3.2: Bilateral Shimla Agreement 1972

Shimla agreement was signed between India and Pakistan in 1972 following the 1971 war that led to creation of Bangladesh. This agreement settle bilaterally between Endra Gandhi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, converting ceasefire into line of control.

3.3: Recent legal Changes (Article 370 Abrogation)

India unilateral revocation of Jammu & Kashmir special constitutional status on 5 August 2019 ^{under Article 370} and reorganisation into union territories fundamentally changed domestic legal status in Indian administered Kashmir.

4: Diplomatic dimensions

Diplomatically the conflict has oscillated between UN mediation and bilateral agreement.

4.1: Third parties role

In 1948-49 the UN played a direct role but 1972 Shimla agreement, its role has been reduced. Great powers (US, China, Russia) have influenced the dispute through diplomacy but these power complicate the diplomacy instead of settlement.

4.2: Internationalism vs bilateralism

Early involvement of UN has internationalized the dispute. 1972 agreement pushed the dispute to bilateralism. This tug of war shaped global diplomatic posture.

4.3. Track diplomacy and confidence building measures

Over the years, India and Pakistan have experimented with various confidence building measures such as trade agreement, cease fire negotiation. But these countries remain fragile disrupted by violence, political pressure and insurgent attacks.

5. Pakistan Foreign Policy on the Issue

Pakistan has stanced Kashmiri right of self-determination and UN resolution

Pakistan's foreign ministry still require international attention.

Strengths.

5.1: International Advocacy

Pakistan has consistently raised the Kashmir issue at international platforms such as United Nation (UN), Organization of Islamic cooperation keeping global attention on unresolved dispute.

5.2: Support for Kashmiri Social and political rights

Pakistan has actively supported Kashmiri political voices, provided aid to refugees maintaining moral and political connection.

Weaknesses

5.1: Inconsistent Strategy

Pakistan's strategy between internationalisation and bilateralism has reduced clarity and influence of

of diplomatic efforts.

5. 2. Association with militancy

Pakistan's support to militant proxies has damaged internal stability, invited sanctions and global pressure.

6. Critical Analysis

Diplomatic strategy suffered from inconsistency and complicated matters. Pakistan's long term strategy relied on internationalism and right of self-determination. But over-reliance on armed forces and proxies undermine the concern and allowed India to frame the problem as terrorism.

7. Conclusion

Kashmir remain the core issue between both countries. Pakistan's policy has been in keeping international attention but militancy and inconsistency have constrained long term success.