

Weser Backs

JAMMU AND KASHMIR: CHANGING DYNAMICS



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TERROR, PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN KASHMIR (SOME INPUTS FROM THE NEIGHBORING BORDER STATE)

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INTRODUCTION

The people of Jammu and Kashmir in particular and Indian in general are facing the problem of terrorism from last four decades. The international political system has become more active to respond back to the terrorists' violence especially after the blazing of the World Trade Centre. The problem of terrorism and terrorists' violence are now recognized as the global problem. The countries that have been using the terrorists' organization as the part of their foreign policy are now being warned against such activities by the International political set-up. In the changed world order especially after 9/11 the terrorists organization have become the headache for those who were sponsoring and protecting these organizations.¹ Their inhuman acts and indiscriminatory violence are being taken as severe violence of human rights, threat to the peace and political stability by the International political set-up. Expressing its concerns and inability to address the issue of violation of human rights of the children, innocent and defenseless civilian, United Nations Organisation (UNO) voiced its concerns over the safety, security and assistance of the individuals and families who become the victims of the terrorist violence across the world.² Much discussion, conference has been held and resolutions are passed by the UNO and its organizations to curb the violence against the civilians and to assist the victims of terrorists.³ While appreciating the works of UNO and Working Group on supporting and highlighting victims of terrorism, the United Nations Organization Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) encouraged the States to provide appropriate assistance and rehabilitation to victims of terrorism in accordance with relevant national laws from within available resources. It has requested the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the right to life, liberty and security of the person.⁴

It is pertinent to mention that UNO accepted that the violation of human rights of ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socio-economic marginalization and lack of good governance may cause resentment among the sufferers. Simultaneously the use of violence and abuse of ethnicity and religion to justify the terrorism and violence against the members of the dominated social groups by the terrorists, bitterly criticized and prohibited by the UNO.⁵ To condemn the violence and sufferings caused by the terrorists, United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim 21 August as the international Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. It is recommended to all the Member States, organizations of the United Nations system as well as other international organizations, and civil society entities, including non-governmental organizations and individuals that they will observe this International Day in an appropriate manner.⁶ Unfortunately the majority of terrorist attacks and the terrorists violence with the religion and ethnicity in Punjab by the government of Pakistan during 1980's and 1990, proved that the Pakistan wants to ruin one of the richest and developed state of India, which was happen to be a border state.

The logistic support, training and providing of Chinese and Pakistani weapons to the Sikh youth along with the drug peddling to Punjab at large after the Operation Blue -Star has resulted into the killings of the thousands of innocent civilian and a big jolt to the Punjab economy during the period of 1980's and early 1990's. The mayhem created by terrorists' violence was justified on the pretext of religious discrimination against the Sikhs and their right to self determination or establish their ethic nation state (Khalistan). The way forward was to

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force the minority community to leave the state and silent the opponents within the community by the gun power. The opponents within the community were taken as the traitors and obstacle in the way to achieve the goal of self-rule of the community.⁸ The state forces particularly the Punjab Police couldn't respond the terrorists adequately at the earliest stage because it lacked the sophisticated weapons, required training and persons; moreover, the lack of the political will had contributed to the encouragement of terrorism in Punjab. The people across the Punjab were forced to obey the dictates of terrorists and they were forced to be mute spectators against the misdeeds of the terrorists. The people didn't cooperate with the security forces until they found that the security forces and government was capable to tackle the problem of terrorism. The fear-psychos created by the terrorists violence start waning as the state responded both at the security level as well as at the social-economic and political level as it adopted the policy of rehabilitation for the victims of the terrorist violence in Punjab.⁹ Unfortunately it was after the much water passed through the Sutlej when the government decided to tackle the problem seriously. The government enhanced the training, recruitment and security equipment to the Punjab Police along with the providing of the backup support of the Central Armed forces. The government support and appreciation has enhanced the moral-level and confidence of the Punjab Police and finally it becomes the winner.¹⁰

It is pertinent to mention that as the people saw the ray of hope for peace and prosperity they not only cooperated with the security forces and provided the vital information to the security forces but they joined the hand together with the security forces to get rid from the menace of terrorism. It was near about after one and half decade that the fun loving people of Punjab were one again allowed celebrating their socio-religious festival without any fear and restrictions. After the long period of fear and terror the road side hotels and marriages witnessed the large gathering in the mid of night without any fear. It was the strong political will and the sacrifices of the security forces that returned the normal life to the people of Punjab. The strong response of the state forces to terrorists and the fencing of border by erecting the wire wall by the Indian government along the Pakistan border had made the infiltration of terrorists from Pakistan to Punjab impossible. Then the intelligence agencies of Pakistan especially the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) put its focus on Kashmir as the hilly terrain of the state of Jammu and Kashmir provided ample opportunities for the infiltration with the backup support from the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The problem of Kashmir begins with the Pakistan supported invasion of tribal's in the Province of Kashmir on 22 October, 1947. The history of massacre and the rape at mass begins with the tribal invasion in Kashmir and became the routine feature in the designed politics of Kashmir. Thousands of civilians have been killed by the terrorists and state forces are also facing the allegations of the violation of the human rights from a long time. It is to mention that despite of the signing of the instrument of accession by the King of Kashmir with India and even after the direction of the Security Council of United Nations Organization to the Pakistan government for the withdrawing of tribesmen and Pakistani nationals who have entered the state for the purpose of fighting.¹¹ The Pakistan government is not only denying obeying the Security Council orders, but openly supporting the terrorists' organizations which are the violation of human rights of the common citizens in India. The problem of Kashmir is linked with the pre-partition politics of Muslim League as it thought that it would have a great share of land from the Indian Territory for the Islamic State of Pakistan but it went wrong. After the partition the leadership of Pakistan had realized that they are forced to settle for a smaller country than they demanded in frustration they adopted the policy invasion, fundamentalism and pan Islam to add more territories to the Pakistan. Even before the partition the Muslim league designed a policy for the balkanization of India. As the Congress and League interpretation of the states' rights was at odds with each other's and their leadership expressed sharp disagreement at a meeting chaired by the Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, on 13 June, 1947.¹² Nehru averred that the states had to join either of the dominions; Mohammed Ali Jinnah claimed that they could also opt to stay independent. Indeed by this time Travancore and Hyderabad had already announced their decision to remain independent and sovereign entities. Congress leaders feared that if this happens than it will result into the balkanization of India. They passed a stern resolution emphasizing that the lapse of paramountcy did not mean independence for the states, and that the people as opposed to the princes should decide the question of accession and to remain independent.¹³ Jinnah reasoning is not difficult to fathom. Given a Pakistan with a partitioned Bengal and Punjab, Jinnah was left with what he had earlier contemptuously described as "a

maimed, mutilated and moth-eaten Pakistan".¹⁴ Not surprisingly, he sought to redress the balance by enticing some states, such as Jodhpur and Sikhs to join Pakistan and by encouraging others such as Hyderabad, Junagarh to hold out for independence. In a deeper sense the manoeuvres over the states were continuation of the long and bitter rivalry between the leadership of the Congress and the League, a very rivalry has casted a baleful shadow on the relationship between India and Pakistan.

Jinnah had an eye on the Indian provinces either they have the Muslim rulers or inhabited by the majority of Muslim population. He was ready to go on any extent to increase the territory of Pakistan and think that by hook and crook he could have some from India. After knowing that militarily his country is far weak to India and he near future he can't be at parity with India militarily as well as economically in near future also.¹⁵ Jinnah was inventing new ways to balkanize India through the diplomatic channels and encouraged the rulers of the Provinces to claims their Independence and have a more favourable accession with Pakistan.¹⁶ He also made the promises of military help to Junagadh and Hyderabad if India uses the force; however ruler of the both states much after realized that Pakistan is even not able to protect them against the economic and military blockade imposed by India.¹⁷ Jinnah planned to launch a covert war against India and preparation for the same was started immediately after the partition. The state of Jammu and Kashmir was most fit to fulfill Jinnah's purpose. At the time of decolonization, the Muslim Conference favoured accession to Pakistan. However, the popularity of National Conference and Seikh Abdullah far outstripped that of the Muslim Conference, particularly in the valley of Kashmir. Be that as it may Pakistan's leaders were confident that Kashmir had no choice but to join them.¹⁸ The tentative division of Punjab outlined on the 3 June Plan left Kashmir with no contiguity to India. It was only after the Boundary Award placed parts of Gurdaspur district within India that Kashmir acquired a tenuous road link to India.¹⁹

The Pakistani leaders realized that the award was a great blow to them. Given Kashmir Strategic importance they understandably feared that, if the state went to India, Pakistan security could be jeopardized. Pakistan's leadership was facing with two options: entice Kashmir to accede to them; or use force to upend the Maharaja and occupy Kashmir. Both tracks were set forth by the end of August 1947. On 22 October, 1947 nearly about 5000 tribesmen seized Muzaffrabad, then Donel, Uri; and the raiders surged towards Srinagar. Two days later a beleaguered Maharaja formally offered to accede to India and requested Delhi for military assistance.²⁰ The retaliation by the Indian forces proved the supremacy of Indian state as it cornered the Pakistan Military and Tribal invaders. A formal cease-fire was declared at 23:59 on the night of 31 December 1948 and became effective on the night of 1 January 1949. The result of the war was inconclusive. However, most neutral assessments agree that India was the victor of the war as it was able to successfully defend about two-thirds of the Kashmir including Kashmir Valley, Jammu and Ladakh. The fronts solidified gradually along what came to be known as the Line of Control.²¹

It is pertinent to mention that it was bitterly realized by the Pakistan after the loosing of 1971-72 war with India that a direct confrontation with is dangerous and it will exhaust it military and economic power. The partition of Pakistan and declaration of Independence of Eastern state of Pakistan as an Independent State of Bangladesh was taken as scar by the political and military elite of Pakistan which was given by the India. The humiliation and territorial loss which occurred to Pakistan during the war has deeply impacted the socio-psychological environment of Pakistan, although the political and military set-up of the Pakistan had realized that it can't match the might of India militarily as well as economically but it didn't surrendered for the peace. Pakistan took the full advantage of the cold war politics and negotiated peace with India through the USA and Soviet Union intervention.²² Committed to the policy of non aggression and peaceful co-existence India accepted the cease-fire on the border of Jammu and Kashmir despite of its strategic and military superiority from Pakistan. It is unfortunate to mention that despite of its military and diplomatic failures against India Pakistan is not only illegally occupying the territory of an Indian Province but aggressively trying to captured the more places with the military strategic importance. After the 28 year of humiliating defeat and signing of Shimla Agreement with India, Pakistani Military again infiltrated into the Kargil which resulted into the direct confrontation and limited war between the Indian and Pakistani Army.²³

Terrorism and violence in Kashmir has surged in the beginning of 1990, when the terrorism was losing its ground in Punjab another border state in India. The state of Punjab has witnessed a turmoil and restless from late 1970's to the mid of 1990's. Thousands of innocent citizens have been killed by the terrorists on the name religion and the demand of separate sovereign Sikh nation. It is pertinent to mention that the absolute majority among the killed by the terrorist in Punjab belongs to the Sikh community. Although there are much dissimilarity between the region of Kashmir and Punjab regarding their demography, culture, religion, geographical and historical factors, however, the modes operandi of the terrorists groups and the objectives of the Pakistan in the both states are more or less same. Both the states witnessed the exodus after the partition of the country and share their geographical boundaries with Pakistan. The Jinnah and the Muslim League had tried its best to convince the Muslim and Sikh leadership of these regions to be part of the Pakistan as an autonomous state before the independence. Moreover, the violence and terrorism in both the state is by and large the product of Pakistan doctrine of "thousand year's war" with the "bleeding India through a thousand cuts" by using covert and low-intensity warfare with militancy and infiltration. This doctrine was first attempted during the Punjab insurgency and then in Kashmir.²⁴ The involvement of Pakistan in the Kashmir is much higher than the Punjab and it is blackmailing the Muslims citizens of India and Muslims of the other parts of the world on the Muslim brotherhood.

The strong reaction of the Indian government to terrorism in Kashmir seems to be a great headache of the political and military leadership of the Pakistan. It always run from pillar to post to mobilize the public opinion and international political pressure on India to stop strong action against the terrorists on the pretext of the violation of the human rights of the Muslims in Kashmir. Especially after the abrogation of the Article 370 by the Parliament, the Pakistani Military and Political leadership become more active to propagate human rights violation against India in west and to mobilize the Muslim countries against India by connecting the Kashmir issue with the Muslim identity. Even the minor internal issue likes the deploying more armed forces in Kashmir are raised on the International forums Pakistan Prime Minister.²⁵ It is pertinent to mention that the curbing of the terrorists' violence by the state forces and the establishment of the peace in Punjab has not only ended the hysteria of Khalistan Movement among the Sikhs but it also exposed the misdeeds of its supporters. It is very painful to mention that the Sikhs who have been forced to silence for long time due to the fear psychos created by the terrorist violence had openly came out in support of security forces against the terrorist, when they saw the ray of hope to end the long prevailing violence.²⁶

The modes operandi of the terrorist in the both states is same and their first attempt was to silent the opponent by the using the violence and killing the innocent members of the minority community.²⁷ Thousands of Hindus have been forced to leaves Punjab then and now Kashmir due to the terrorists' violence.²⁸ Then their second attempt is to dominate the communities by killing the political opponents within the community. The third attempt of the terrorist is to target the families of the members of the armed forces and the local police, including the killings of the soldiers on the leave and the persons working in the government service.²⁹ To occupy the prominence in the local set-up the terrorists oppose every democratic organisations of the community and in the absence of the elected members of the Village Panchayats they acts as arbitrators on the local issues. They oppose the elections from Panchayat level to the Parliament and if someone dares to participate in the democratic set-up they try at their level best to make them silent by using the violence against them. The next target is the educational institutions and to bow down the voices of the teachers in the schools, colleges, and even the Universities are not left untouched from the senseless violence, perpetuate with an object to silent the voice of dissent.³⁰ The killing of Village *Sarpaches* (elected head of the village) by the terrorists in Punjab then and now in Kashmir can also be taken as the terrorist attempt to rule over the community through gun.³¹

The rapes by Islamic militants have been reported since the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947. On 22 October 1947, Pashtun militants invaded Baramulla in a Pakistan army truck, and raped women including European nuns.³² In March 1990, the wife of a BSF inspector was kidnapped, tortured and gang-raped for many days. Then her body with broken limbs was abandoned on a road.³³ On 14 April, 1990 a Kashmiri (Pandit) nurse from the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar was gang-raped and then beaten to death by terrorists. Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) took responsibility for the crime, accused the victim for informing the police

about the presence of militants in the hospital.³⁴ In January 1991, a woman was forcibly asked to "marry" a militant. Her brother was killed when the family refused, and the girl was taken away.³⁵ On 30 March 1992, armed militants demanded food and shelter from the family of the retired truck driver in Nai Sadak, Kralkhud. The family complied, but the militants killed the owner and raped his daughter and wife. Then both the women were also shot dead.³⁶ In 2005, a 14-year-old Gujjar girl was abducted from Lurkoti village by the Lashkar-e-Taiba militants, and forced to marry one of them. She was gang-raped by her "husband" and his militant friends. In December 2005, 15-year-old of Bajoni (Doda district) was forced to marry a Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militant, after her family was threatened with death.³⁷

In 1992 case of rape and murder by militants become a serious issue and it provoked street protests condemning the militants for the crimes. The incident involved the family of a truck driver named Sohanlal, who lived in Nai Sadak, Kralkhud. At about 8:30 p.m. on March 30, 1992, armed militants entered Sohanlal's home, according to his son, the men demanded food and shelter. The family complied. After about two hours, Sohanlal and his wife, Bimla, heard their daughter, Archana, crying for help from a room on the ground floor of the house. When they reached the room, the militants shot Sohanlal, killing him instantly. The bodies of the two women were discovered in the street outside the house. According to the autopsy report, both women had been raped before being shot. According to one report, 5,000 women staged a protest march to condemn the rapes and murders. The Kashmir, once known for its mesmerizing beauty, peace and tolerance in the world, has been seen as a bloody conflict zone, since 1989. Over the years, a numbers of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) were taken by the Central and State government, but all the initiatives failed to bring long-term peace in the region.³⁸ The government initiatives to have a dialogue with the separatists and peaceful solution of the problems have been derailed by the violence of ultras many times. The experiences of holding talks with the ultras and the separatists by the three Prime Ministers of India had also not yielded any positive results.³⁹

The voices of protest and resentment against the gruesome violence of terrorists have been not only completely silenced by the terrorists in the Kashmir valley, but the youth and women are also forced to petal stones on the Indian security forces during their search operations.⁴⁰ The dictates of the terrorist can force the people to shut their shops business and the schools across the valley and even the dress code for the women is to be decided by the terrorists, the non-complied will be punished.⁴¹ The large numbers of people are forced to join the funerals of militants and they are also obliged to shut their business for many days to mourn the killing of these militants.⁴² The environment of fear-psychos created by the terrorists and their supporters created a misconception among the common people that the terrorists are ruling the state against the well equipped Indian security forces.⁴³ The economy of the state is ruined as the business of tourism is impacted by the violence and fear psychos created by the indiscriminate violence of terrorists. The wood industry and the ecology of the state have suffered a lot and area under the forest cover has been decreased to a large extent. The natural resources are getting empty and not attempt for the revival of these precious sources is being made due to the lack of responsible and democratic governance.⁴⁴ The central government has decided to deal with the terrorism and secure the future of the people of Jammu and Kashmir by adopting the policy of "nip the evil in bud" and increased the strength of security forces in Kashmir after the Pulwama attack. The security forces are given the emergency powers to deal with the terrorists in the inside and outside of the territory of the state.⁴⁵

The constitutional or legal illusion of the Article 370 under which separatists and the anti-national forces thought that the case of Kashmir is different from the other states of Indian union and centre can't intervene in the internal matters of the state has been also kaput by the revocation of the article 370. The Central government took very active steps to derail all the plans of the separatists forces by divided the J&K into 2 Union Territories. The government move on the Kashmir issue not only showed that India will no longer tolerate the terrorism and anti-national forces within or outside its territory but it also proved that the Central Government is committed for the fast growth and development of the region which is suffering due to the Article 370 and terrorism from long time.⁴⁶ The long pending demand of the Buddhist region of the State for autonomy from Article 370 and the development of the region have been fulfilled by the division of J&K into 2 Union Territories. The Buddhist majority region of the old J&K has welcomed the decision of the Central government as it has provided them the new platform of development and empowerment which was hurdled by the Article 370.⁴⁷ Moreover, the state which was struggling with the financial crisis has now become the direct

responsibility of the Central government and the conditions of government employee is improving as they can now get the benefits of 7 Pay Commission instead of 5 to which they were getting before getting the status of Union territories. The increased financial assistance to the state will improve the chances of development and redistribution which will accelerate growth of the state.⁴⁸

The government move to tackle with separatism and the long prevailing violence in Kashmir has been bitterly criticized by the separatists under the guise of human rights. Although the political parties in the opposition couldn't garner any strength to take the political benefit from the government inside the Parliament. However, the political calculation and the compulsions of the voting politics forced them to oppose the government in the name of secularism, democracy and constitutionalism.⁴⁹ The deployment of more forces and non-tolerance of the terrorism, preventive detention of the some state-level political leaders by the security forces and the stopping of the internet and mobile services in the state has been taken as a serious violation of the human rights by some international human rights organization as well as by the political opposition, even before accessing the situation.⁵⁰ Unfortunately the positive out-comes like the fulfilment of the long pending demands of the people of two important regions of Jammu and Ladakh has been ignored by the political opposition. More importantly the declining of the incidents of terrorism with the short-span of 4 months despite of the increased efforts by the Pakistan Army to infiltrate the terrorists into the Indian territories shows the positive results of the government initiative.⁵¹ Now the providing 2G mobile service along restoration of the land phone services in the Kashmir proves that the government move is to restore the law and order along with the securing of right life and basic freedoms of the citizens.

CONCLUSION

The government move to tackle the long prevailing violence of the terrorists in the Kashmir is aimed to restore the rule of law and normalcy in the state. The stopping of the internet and mobile services can be taken as the emergency measures which have been taken by the government to avoid the misuse of communication sources by the terrorist outfits during any volatile situation. It shouldn't be taken as the violation of human rights and right to freedom of expression in a state where the right to life is under threat due the indiscriminate violence. The example of the curbing of terrorists and establishing of peace by the security-forces in Punjab is just at the door-steps of the J&K. It is pertinent to mention that even the mainstream political party like Akali Dal leaders refused the invitation from the Union government to attend all party meeting to discuss a solution to the Punjab Problem in 1991.⁵² The fear and strength of the terrorists can be measure that on a little call to boycott the Parliament and State Legislature election in January 1992 was taken by the political parties of the state very seriously and they didn't participated in the election which left the ground open for the Congress Party. The participation in the elections by the Candidates and voters was like taking of the risk to get killed by the Terrorists. However, after some incidents of the violence government made it ensured that it will hold the elections without bothering the outcome. On 8 February 1992 the then Defence Minister announced that soldiers were doing rounds of 12,000 villages to ensure that the terrorists did not interfere against the people right to franchise. With the majority of Akali behind the bars, the polling took place on 19 February, 1992.

The transformation of Punjab was swift and dramatic. A noted journalist Kanwar Sandhu, writing for India Today, described the situation, exactly one year after Beant Singh had taken over: "Punjab descent into terror and chaos was gradual. Its recovery has been defeated by the militant gun power. Not much was expected from Beant Singh government which somewhat lacked legitimacy. But the state as well as Beant Singh managed to thwart the problem of doom. The killings fields are back to being the granaries of the country. The migrants are returning, claiming their factories. Folk songs are back on the feisty Punjabis' lips. The state highways are roaring with vehicular traffic and petrol pumps and *dhabas* (roadside café) are open to business till late in the nights. The guns are there but they belong to the police. The militants press handouts and threatening calls to newspaper offices have ceased... Now, for the first time in a decade Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts (near the border with Pakistan) have not reported any terrorists' strikes in the past three months.⁵³ Similarly the government decision to revoke Article 370 and deployment of more security-forces in the state of J&K can be taken as the government efforts to deal with the terrorism for the establishment law and order in the state, which is very necessary for the protection of the basic human rights and freedom of the common citizens. The

immediate reaction to the government decision by the political parties in opposition may result into the demoralizing of the security-forces which are fighting against the all-odds to earn the peace in the state.

The question of the violation of human rights by the security forces can only be addressed after the establishment of peace, because until and unless the law and order is not secured in the state, the civil society groups can't move freely and impartially. The Punjab experience on the allegation of the violation of human rights by the security forces can be taken to ensure the people that the state forces are ruled by the state code of conduct and they can be held for their conduct even during the volatile situation like once in Punjab and now in Kashmir. It is pertinent to mention that the writ petitions of the Human Rights Groups on the violation of human rights by the security-forces during the terrorism in Punjab are entertained by the Punjab and Haryana High-Court, the Supreme -Court and also by the National Human Rights Commission. The cases of the violation of human rights by the state forces are duly entertained by the National Human Rights Commission as well as by the Courts and the family members of the victims were given the compensation by the government even in the minor cases like if it is found on the part of state forces to protect the persons in their custody due to the negligence.⁵⁴

The most shocking was that the numbers of the victims of the indiscriminate violence of the terrorists including children, women and family members who were left to fend them against the all-odds of life during the volatile situation. These families were broken economically as well as socially as they not only lost the bread winners of their family but they also lost the support of community in the of the fear-psychos environment as the relative and community left them alone due to the fear of terrorist violence for helping the victims. In the bleak hours state not only performed its duty to protect them from the terrorist but also ensured a dignified life for them, the parents, widows and children of the victims of the terrorists were provided with the social well-fare measure like pension and reservation in the government services etc.⁵⁵ There is no doubt that the human rights are the basics of life but the law and order is also basic of human rights, so for a fair and impartial investigations regarding the allegation of the violation of human rights by the security forces are possible only after and establishment of law and order in the state. The security forces are working hard to establish law and order and they also bide by the code of conduct of the state.

It is pertinent to mention that if the maintaining of the law and order is the duty of the state then to protect and promote the human rights of the every citizen is also legal, constitutional and moral duty of the government. Although the much damage is done to the peace and prosperity by the non-state actors in the state of Jammu and Kashmir but state needs to be extra-careful while dealing with these non- state actors. There is no doubt that whosoever are perpetrators of violence and infringement of the human rights must be punished by the state but strictly in accordance with law and human rights standards. The use of politics of fear for narrow electoral and short-term political gains serves to undermine the legitimacy and willingness of the state agencies to follow the cannons of human rights and work within the criminal justice system as mandated by the legal-constitutional order.

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Kashmir has been and continues to remain the main cause of hostility between India and Pakistan. That's why many have termed it as a 'nuclear flashpoint'. It is surrounded by a number of foreign countries such as China in its east and Pakistan in its west. The southern part is bordered by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Such a geostrategic location makes the Kashmir valley very important from strategic perspective for both the states. Having fought three wars over the Kashmir issue, there is still no hope of resolving it in the near future. The perceptions of both the states have totally different about Kashmir issue. From the Pakistan perspective, Kashmir issue is more of an ideological rather than a territorial dispute, whereas India perceives Kashmir as a symbol of federalism and composite nationalism. This book deals with various aspects of Kashmir issues i.e. accession to India in 1947 to present time. This period has been chosen because it signifies the culmination of certain trends in the relationship between the two nations after the withdrawn of article 370 by the Parliament of India. This book provides the theoretical understanding of India-Pakistan relations in general and Kashmir issue in particular. It analyses not only India's interests and policy options towards Kashmir but also evaluates the real nature of India-Pakistan bilateral relations regarding Kashmir. It has discussed not only the Kashmir issues in wider perspective, but also provides their likely solutions of this problem. Hence this book presents an overview of contemporary nature of India-Pakistan relations in perspective of Kashmir issue. Thus, this gemstone work may be beneficial for students, teachers, policy makers, diplomats, as well as, common readers engaged in understandings the current discourse on India-Pakistan relations in perspective of Kashmir dispute in this changed international milieu.



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