



MONTHLY THEME

KASHMIR RIGHTS FORUM CUSTODIANS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KASHMIR

The Kashmir Rights Forum (KRF) is an informal, secular, apolitical and forward looking interactive platform highlighting human rights violations perpetuated against innocent Kashmiri population by terrorists either directly supported by separatists and their over ground workers or indirectly by sympathizers over last three decades as a result of proxy war initiated by Pakistan on our homeland.

KRF is dexterous, focused forum with overarching mission to mobilize expertise and public opinion to counter the organized attempt to violate human rights of common innocent Kashmiris of all generations by the nexus and tarnishing the image of government and security forces by certain section of media, intelligentsia and conflict entrepreneurs by flaring up allegations of human rights violations on them, thus diverting attention from the real perpetrators of these violations.

We, at KRF encourage response by likeminded or otherwise, people and organizations, on documents, articles & video content produced on multiple social media platforms by us to apprise all citizens of such violations. KRF will endeavor to expose the designs of the perpetrators by studying the past and present and producing the facts for public scrutiny as part of our research and highlight such events in present, earliest on occurrence.

Glimpses of Monthly Theme JULY 2022

AN ANALYSIS OF TERRORISM IN LAST THREE DECADES VIS A VIS POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN KASHMIR



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PREFACE

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has been a continual bone of contention, the object of three wars and a theater of engagement in a fourth war, between the two countries. Since 1989, insurgency has consumed Jammu and Kashmir claiming at least 45,000 lives. The low intensity conflict in valley right from the inception of terrorism had been of crucial role in country's security scenario. After two unsuccessful attempts to grab hold of the territory, Pakistan largely refrained from making any direct attempt at challenging control in the area of J&K. Rather, the focus of Pakistan's efforts, channeled through the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), is on aiding Pakistan-based terror groups who are waging a proxy war against our security forces in the State and it claimed 26226 lives between 1988 and 2000 in an estimated 43956 incidents of terrorist violence. Of these casualties 10310 (40 per cent) were civilians, 3520 (13 per cent) were security forces personnel, and 12396 (47 per cent) terrorists.

Along with the sponsored terrorism into the mainland Kashmir to stampede the instability, being intermixed with the radical narrative many political leaders had stepped in with the objective of safeguarding the interests of the terror heads. Also the inimical intent of Pakistan to fuel up the agitation by manipulating the religious sensitivities added to growing instability. With the objective of luring the population of Kashmir to gun culture, it maintained the supremacy over the minds and perceptions of the innocent Kashmiris, particularly the gullible youth. Though the guidance, timely efforts, youth engagement activities and awareness campaigns cleared the misconceptions of youth in specific and people in general, on the other hand it proved out to be a laboring process which consumed a lot of resources. The pain of the ailing innocent Kashmiris meddled in between life or death - a daily homework of the unknown gunmen, was relentlessly reaching the countrymen, security agencies at the same.



The government restless of Kashmir's terror and global-politico victimization sensed every cut and wound on innocent Kashmiris and decided to put a heavy full stop on the terrorist committed atrocities. Not only this, the separatist committed discrimination with facades of hartals, Bandhs, civil strife, stone-pelting and calls for economic blockades unleashed further torment on innocent Kashmiris that broke the back of state's economy, at the terminal of which Kashmir faced the shortage of jobs, unbearable losses to the businesses, wrapping up of the capital generating units, and above all the hope to survive the financial backlash through any proposed businesses. The unemployed youth were left with no more options than falling into honey traps of easy money which is the root cause of home-grown militancy and falling prey to the drug addiction.

MENACE OF TERRORISM IN COMPARISON TO POLITICAL INSTABILITY

The domain of political instability is open ended from all sides to receive the reasons that ultimately lead to the failure or disruption in overall prosperity and development of a region. One main factor behind political instability in valley had been terrorism right from 1990 till this date, it costed more than one lakh innocent lives of Kashmiris, let alone the decline in happiness index. Innocent Kashmiris suffered a lot in run for their value for living peacefully, which pleased the terrorists and their handlers whosoever. An irregular warfare was made to use in valley that consists of small war like situation with an aim to psychologically destroy the region. As the results which were not being coming through direct war were attempted to be achieved by the low intensity war. Politics was mainly targeted that included the attacks and soft targeting of the political leaders rather the sane voices. Propaganda and various malicious campaigns to brainwash the people of valley and to create a trust deficit towards their mainland was skillfully executed since 90's. Infiltration and transportation of terrorists to create an environment of fear topped the catastrophes that had badly hit the region. Another hit to the political stability was manipulation of locals to gather the intelligence that gave the edge to the terrorists for planning the attacks on security forces. The problems of unemployment gave an edge to terrorists to carry forward their agenda of causing the sufferings to innocent Kashmiris though the period of 90's the, 2000 and till date. The sensitive information about military installation, louder voices who could have represented their people more efficiently was condoned through the locals. Gullible Kashmiris have now understood the phenomenon, however the damage had been done. The main tactic of the terror handlers was the mass mobilization of the crowd, to defame the security forces and to internationalize the internal matter of the country. Some 300 groups of terrorists were formulated since the 90's to 2000, out of which only few are alive and others have met their fate, but the talk of contention remains that what impact would they have laid on the spine of Kashmir.

Kashmiris have suffered through three decades of long proxy war of Pakistan, to which they now respond stringently for safeguard of their future. The political class that survived the problem of terrorism tried to count into state's growth and development however if discrete but sporadic terror incidents never left the space for any peaceful political discourse that could have shaped the valley well and appropriate in terms of safety and management of resources. The same instability back forced by the menace of terrorism lays foundation for politically unstable environment which in turn become the source for extreme distress and dismay of the region. In the section laid further we will try to understand, as to why the region left behind in prospectus of regional development and instability on larger behalf.

INCEPTION OF TERRORISM IN SQUARE WITH POLITICAL INSTABILITY

Terrorism in Kashmir could never be fully defined if only gun culture is put on debate, it encompasses the dubious cartel of the separatist nexus which provided it the indoctrination and survived the culture in with their hate speeches in addition to their involvement in transport of the gullible youth for arms training. Terrorism erupt somewhere between 1989, its emergence in J&K, began with two explosions in 1988 in Srinagar, coinciding with the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Preceded by a long phase of political turmoil in the State, which began after the death of Sheikh Abdullah, the then Chief Minister, in 1982. Political quarrel between the National Conference (NC, the dominant political outfit in the State) and the Congress government at the Centre, saw the dismissal of two State governments. Farooq Abdullah's government was dismissed in 1984, and the successor Ghulam Mohammad Shah government in 1986. Interestingly political reach out fructified in the same year, when the then Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi formed an Accord with Farooq Abdullah under which the Congress and the NC formed an alliance to contest the State Assembly elections held in 1987.



Once again Farooq Abdullah was sworn in as Chief Minister of the State, in result of the huge won by the alliance. However, the Congress-NC alliance received opposition in the next election of 1987 elections by a coalition of Islamic parties, the United Muslim Front, where allegations of rigging in elections gained valley wide credibility and this fueled up the domestic unrest in valley. In the meanwhile, Pakistan all time ready to cause utmost sufferings to innocent Kashmiris, lay down to channelize this civilian displeasure into an armed insurgency against the mainland. As earlier Pakistan had successfully aided and abetted the Jihad against the Soviet presence in Afghanistan by arming and training the Afghan mujahiddeen. Launch pads, camps were now set up on the same model for dissatisfied elements who were agreeable to take up arms against the country. Pakistan's ISI at first used the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) in this effort that had an indigenous outlook. Formed in 1965, it was originally a Pakistan-based militant outfit formulated to face up to security forces. This organisation was employed to transport militant youth of the State, train them and send them back to execute the plans of their handlers.

In late 1989, Dr Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of the then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, was kidnapped in return of which release of some militants was demanded. The government prioritized safeguarding of women from the terrorists and the release of terrorists was ordered. This event gave bulk of confidence to the militants and an massive impetus to the their movement. Amidst this Union government in 1989, re-appointed Jagmohan (a retired bureaucrat and former governor of the State in the first half of the eighties) as governor of the valley. Several public protests were witnessed during this period that ultimately led to police firing, claiming several lives. These incidents amplified the anti-state vehemence within sections of the population and ended in encouragement of armed insurgency and the overall political instability.

GAME PLAY OF PAKISTAN BEHIND ARMED INSURGENCY

JKLF remained as the significant organization between 1988 and 1989 and was actively involved in the innocent killings and other forms of the atrocities. Here on the ISI upon not typing any more with the JKLF on notes of ideological difference facilitated the formation and backing of various other militant groups the number, consequently the number of these outfits had reached three figures by 1992. Prominent groups included the Hizb-ul Mujahideen JKLF remained as the significant organization between 1988 and 1989 and was

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Given the feeding of radical literature and venomous speeches from the ideological terrorists plus with the full finance of Pakistani material aid and the indoctrinated cadre that was drawn largely from the madarssas of Pakistan and Afghanistan, pro-Pakistan militant groups grew very effective during the early nineties. From the year 1994 increasing evidence of foreign militants participating and dominating the insurgency in J&K can be traced up on the analysis of the whole decade. Meanwhile, lack of Pakistani support, the JKLF fell down into an unsuccessful militant organisation focusing on other means to proliferate its narrative. Insurgency was first predominant in the Srinagar Valley, particularly when militants were largely Kashmiri youth. It is believed that two major developments motivated a change in strategy, whereby the ISI-controlled militancy gradually shifted from the Valley to the Jammu region. First, the resumption of a democratic government led by Farooq Abdullah took office in 1996. The restoration of democratic governance in the State helped in reducing dissatisfaction within the people of the State and consequently popular support for the insurgency in the Valley. Second, increasing availability of foreign militants, indoctrinated in Islamic orthodoxy, facilitated a strategy of targeting minority groups for massacres. The minority groups in the State are largely concentrated in Jammu. These indoctrinated militants, fighting their version of Jihad, had no qualms about indulging in massacres of civilians of minority groups, particularly Hindus. The broad aim was ethnic cleansing of the State. Several such massacres have been perpetrated with Sikhs being a new target as witnessed in Chatsinghpura, Anantnag district where 35 Sikhs were massacred on March 20, 2000 and later at Mehjoor Nagar in Srinagar where six Sikhs were killed on February 3, 2001.

DUBIOUS CARTEL OF SEPARATISTS IN POLITICAL INSTABILITY OF KASHMIR

The self-made sages of Kashmiriyat - Separatists (Hurriyat leaders) are the first that come to mind when Kashmir's political scenario is on debate. Responsible for the whole bloodshed in the valley since the inception of the terrorism into valley, these double-standard tonga's of Pakistan's filthy plans jeopardized the development, prosperity, economic upliftment, confiscated the pace of growth, put the innocent Kashmiris into debt of terrorism and handed them the metal weapons, why? Feeding the plan of their master and legitimize themselves in an entirely unnecessary environment where their

roles were not meant. Any potent leadership in the world hankers for prosperity of their people, put forward demands for the development of their regions, demand high economic prospectus, however in the case of Hurriyat, bloodshed was given preference without having any second thought about the gullible people of valley. Religious sermons were used to carry forward their agendas of luring further the youth into radicalism and wrap their hatred with the verses of the holy Quran. These separatists were exposed on various times for their dubious businesses for keeping the valley on toes. The Hurriyat leaders have been found involved in money laundering and instigating youths for stone pelting after receiving funds from Pakistan. Many a times Hurriyat leaders were found indulged in funding for instability of the valley, even during the chief ministership of Farooq Abdullah. One can conclude that separatist group is Pakistan's proxy in valley, giving the roles to the terror organizations to kill, maim, intimidate people and heighten the atrocities to the level where a reaction would come up to recount them in that fashioned phenomenon. In the past their liaisons were spread in the governments whereby they offered jobs to their followers in order to extend their web inside the establishment. Through the unlawful literature – pamphlets, books, letters, receipts, the deadly ideology was taken forward to form the spine of their organization even stronger. The group should be referred to be network rather than calling it an organization only, the organizational behavior is found but the nexus is more fittingly a web in its originality - the first and the foremost enemies of the development in valley.

Over the years, the foremost tool of the Separatists – Hartals, Bandhs have created a severe dent in the development of the Kashmiri society. These foes of Kashmir - separatists had been willfully oblivious to the impact of these shutdowns and these Hartals eventually have turn out to be the closure of shops, businesses, educational institutions and stonepelting in the by-lanes of certain neighborhoods which keep whole cities hostage by sheer hooliganism, threats and violent reprisals. Over the course of time, Kashmiris flown into foolishness have punished none but themselves by following this utterly flawed concept of Hartal and boycotting their own economic activities and work, especially because of the fact that Jammu & Kashmir is a total consumer State. The handy work had been soundly shouldered by the filthy terrorist-cum-separatist factions, eventually handicapping the whole political process which occupies the cornering role in development and prosperity of the region. Killings of alternate leadership do also fall under the agenda of the separatists to sweep the roads for their inimical agendas to be sold out.



The political instability in Jammu and Kashmir has shattered the economic sector of the valley with continuous hits on its spine through the dubious nature of separatists, Jammu and Kashmir is a mountainous area, census 2011 has brought out that it contains population of 1.25 Crore. Around 20% of its total geographical area falls under forest cover and its density is 124 people per sq km. Its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), at constant prices 2011-12, for the year 2015-16 was 87,451 Crore, and the per capita income (NSDP 2015-16) was 72,958. The composition of GSDP (2015-16) is as under:

Primary Sector	(Agriculture)	- 15.89% of the GSDP
Secondary Sector	(Industries)	- 27.11% of the GSDP
Tertiary Sector	(Services)	- 57 % of the GSDP

Jammu & Kashmir received 10% of all Central Government grants given to States over the 2000-2016 period, despite having only one percent of India's population. In contrast, Uttar Pradesh makes up about 13% of the country's population but received only 8.2% of Central grants in 2000-16. Central grants accounted for 54% of Jammu & Kashmir's total revenue and 44% of its expenditure in Financial Year 2016. The economy of the region had been in shambles since the chaos was introduced by terrorism and separatism at the same time, both terrorism and separatism work hand in hand to push back the political stability to the region. One fails to understand, how can a faction of people devastate a large chunk of people in name of religion and still call themselves sacred to anything. Sending their kiths and kins abroad for education and leaving the careers and future of crores of people into darkness. Kashmiris should ask this question to them and introspect for the answer, selling futile narrative and putting the lives of people on stake.



In long run this political instability brought about corruption, which got full support from the separatist wing to weaken the system of governance in Kashmir. Consequently, apart from government officials, landed elites, corporate and political leaders, and organized criminal gangs also used corruption to purchase access to resources. Politicians used corruption to barricade themselves in power. Patrons distributed the "crumbs" of corruption to maintain their client groups. Corruption is to the weak state what the blood supply is to a malignant tumor. Cutting it off proved to be a long, contested process. In background of terrorism, political instability went much farer to destroy the valley of Jammu and Kashmir.

EFFECTS OF GUN CULTURE ON POLITICS

Gun culture rather terrorism confiscated the stability of the valley in all its forms leaving it to the mercy of extreme violence committed by terrorists, and in responses to terrorist provocation, introduce mayhem and suffering into the lives of millions and trapped them under the shadow of war. The war like situation seized the political space of the valley in race to stand their proxies, somewhere killings were executed – those who would not subscribe their ideology and at places polling stations were set on fire, candidates killed or families threatened. Terrorism constricted the space in which a peace process could have moved forward to achieve the fruits. Terrorists attack against politicians or activists engaging in any peace process make it too risky for a critical mass of Kashmiris to come together and push the process forward. They never agreed to the will of people to choose their potent candidates who could have been saner to reach the political stability, thereby limping the political outreach. The impressions of the gun culture also left the Kashmir division in over all regional poverty. At the same time, the overreaching responses by the defence forces erode the trust and goodwill needed to bring forth cooperation from peace-seeking Kashmiris and other Muslims, however it was need of the time and later bore the fruits. Continued terrorist attacks raise suspicions within candidates to contest the elections given the tacit, if not overt, support to the terrorists, in the end putting the halt in the peaceful political process drove psychologically worst effects on innocent Kashmiris and to the political environment of the region. The discrete political process created a political crisis for a longer time, in turn giving hard blows on the happiness of people, economy of the region and the educational efficiency of the Kashmiris. The good political milestone would rather have an inclusive growth and full participation a prime time for prosperity of the world's beautiful

region. An extremely attractive piece of land best known with the name of "Switzerland of Asia" should have been a special zone for the generation of economy for the whole country. With its lush green meadows and stunning mountains, the region would have gathered dollars, so much so that it tops the per capita income in comparison to the other states. However the reality is otherwise, political instability brought about extreme suffering to the valley. Tourism in Jammu & Kashmir which provides livelihood to a large section of population. In the Kashmir Valley tourism season which starts from April and lasts up to September/October each year. During a period of the last 9 years, this sector has seen a considerable decline. In the year 2016 the number of tourists who visited the Kashmir Valley stood at 623,923 including 220,490 Amarnath Yatris. The Economic Survey tabled in the Legislative Assembly proposed that during 2016, only 403,443 tourists, including foreign as well as domestic, visited the Kashmir Valley as a tourist destination. The unrest in 2016 caused a dip in tourist arrivals by over 55% and registered closure of all the activities due to prolonged Hartals resulting in loss of business to hoteliers, restaurant owners, house boats owners, the handicrafts industry, and transporters.



CONSEQUENCES OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY

Political process is central to the development and prosperity of the region anywhere in the world, the umbrella of democracy marks the growth and advancement. The way the tools of the strikes/Hartals were employed is no longer less than terrorism, eventually triggered by the gunless-terrorists more dangerous than the terrorists wielding the metal weapons. Whenever the attacks on leaders seemed harder to execute, the tool of Hartal was effectively used to disrupt the political process. It's then that history bears witness to the fact that whenever any dispute occurs, and wherever a disturbed political exercise, complemented by violence is found, it's the common man who has to pay the cost of conflict. The absence of sustainable peace, and presence of subsequent shutdowns,

Conclusion

The State of Jammu & Kashmir continues to face disruption because of Terrorism, growing radicalization and Hartals. Cross-border terrorism has been rampant in the Kashmir Valley since 1989, leading to a massive socio-economic downswing. Human resource, which is one of the biggest assets of any society, has also suffered enormously. Terrorism has been the main reason for the displacement of several non-Muslim communities like Kashmiri Pandits, Sikhs, Buddhists and other minorities and because of a growing radicalized society, many Kashmiri Muslims have also started migrating to mainland India and other parts of the world for better job prospects and peaceful environment, depriving the State of its valuable human resource. 8 The violence has affected all important sources of livelihood of local populace such as agriculture, horticulture, tourism and handicraft industry, with many traders having to shift their trading centers from the Valley of Kashmir to other parts of the country and others forced to look for alternative sources of income to survive the economic crisis. Freedom of expression is a basic human right, however freedom of expression does not only entail free speech but also constitutes freedom of choosing and practicing a religion of one's own choice,

exercising one's free political, economic and educational rights, free access to information and freedom from being subjected to coercion, intimidation, threats and violent reprisals. Hartals in the Kashmir Valley, while invoking freedom of expression and the right to protest, more than often are anything but peaceful. Stone-pelting, threats, damage to public property and coercion are used in order to compel people to adhere to these Hartals. This has had grave consequences for the economic, social and psychological well-being of the State and its people. These Hartals have put the lives of people under unnecessary strain and are not observed voluntarily by the common people. In such a situation, it is for the people of Jammu & Kashmir to exercise their right of expression, which by definition also constitutes the right, not to observe Hartals, without fear to one's life, property or threats of social isolation. Economic development is an important stimulus to peace and there is no reason, why basic fundamental human rights like education, healthcare, employment and the pursuit of happiness should be kept hostage to any political- or violent radical ideology in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

