



# MONTHLY THEME

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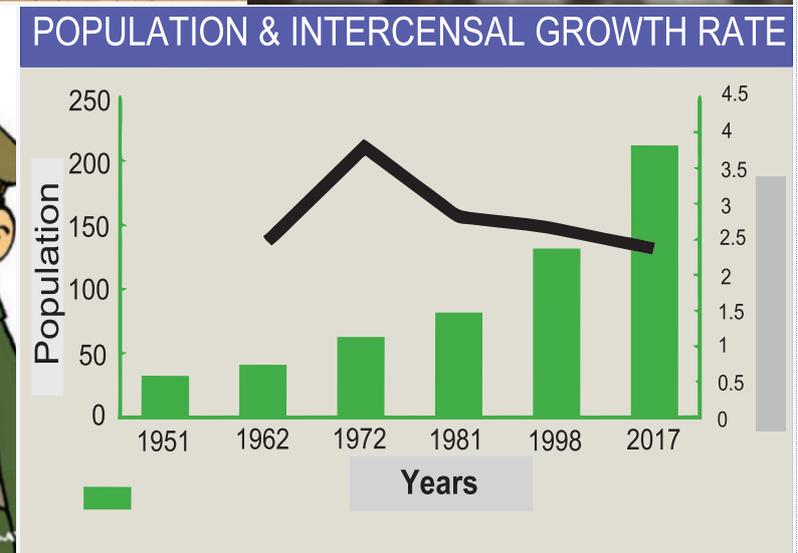
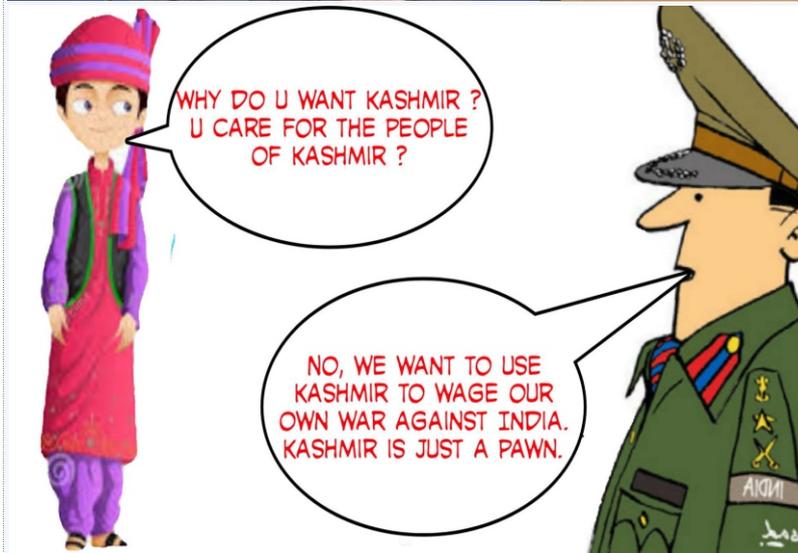
## KASHMIR RIGHTS FORUM CUSTODIANS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KASHMIR

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.

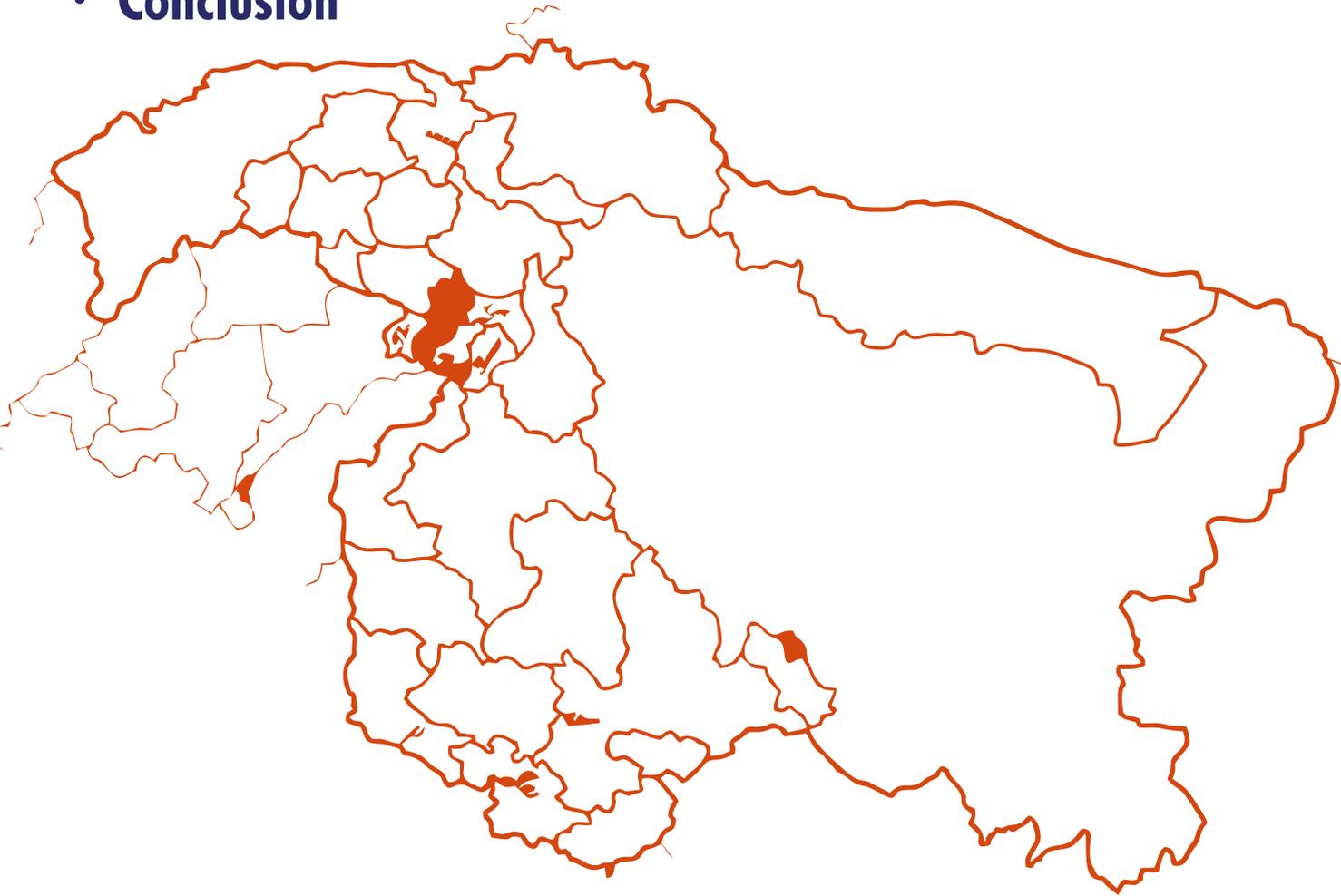
We, at KRF encourage response by likeminded or otherwise, people and organizations, on documents, articles & video content produced on multiple social media platforms by us to apprise all citizens of such violations. KRF will endeavor to expose the designs of the perpetrators by studying the past and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

## KASHMIR – A POLITICAL PAWN IN GLOBAL POLITICS OF PAKISTAN



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# KASHMIR - A PAWN IN GLOBAL POLITICS OF PAKISTAN



## PREFACE

Innocent Kashmiris, their aspirations, future and contemporary conditions have always been subjected to hostage by the Pakistan and its mercenaries through a well planned proxy war. The Kashmiris were exploited in a lot of ways right from 1947 to this date. Waging three full fledged wars against our mainland by Pakistan is one strong instance of Pakistan's craze for its geo-political interests to grasp valley. They never let Kashmir to enjoy its beauty or its affiliated economy which could have been mind boggling in Asia given the picturesque and its mesmerizing topography. The first and the foremost priority of Pakistan was to shatter the backbone of Kashmiri Economy. The terrorism has brought down the economic independence of the valley. From time to time, they sponsored soft secessionism through their affiliates trained for instigating youth while exploiting the religion for the same purpose. Unfortunately, there are and were least chances of staying away from the great game play from these organizers of willful violence, a large chunk of Kashmiri youth fell to the sweetish yet poisonous speeches and sermons of the radicals. While this has been the problem for Kashmiri population, Pakistan has exploited, lured and diversion of timely perception to meet their end of emotional bankruptcy. They cried hoarse for gaining a capital to run their state and arm the gullible youth of valley. Not all fell to their emotional propaganda, so they were attacked, maimed, tortured and killed mercilessly. In the way, Kashmir witnessed an intellectual crisis in 2008, 2010, and 2016. Since Pakistan had given a freehand to radicalists who spread hatred against the peace lovers, killed liberals, seculars and in addition to this disseminated communalism of religion and intolerance.

## AN INSIGHT INTO PAST PRACTICES TO IMPART EDUCATION IN J&K

These above mentioned reasons made Pakistan a state that received extreme criticism, with words like, "a supplier of terror ideology throughout the world" and its economy had also received huge dips. Hence it lost all its sheen and thus forced to attract the world with a plan to gain sympathy of the world in name of Kashmir. It thus started to be vocal on Kashmir issue and then started to spread false propaganda at international level. However, the propaganda was countered by the sane voices of Kashmir who still are doing a commendable job by exposing their whole engineering and campaigning. Since the Pakistan is a drained economy, due to the crises that it met since its formation, it hounds to reach people through the conception of sympathy. As it is a Muslim majority region, it cries for the people of same religion who are in reality happy away from their reach. Kashmir also borders Afghanistan, which is located at the crossroads connecting South and Central Asia, while Central Asia is itself a geographical bridge between Europe and other parts of Asia. This is also a main reason for the Pakistan to maintain their supremacy through different nefarious channels.



## GEO-POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF PAKISTAN

Pakistan is situated in South Asia. The Arabian Sea is to the south and Pakistan's coastline measures 1,046 kilometers. Pak shares 2,912 km border with India to the east. It also shares a 909-kilometer border with Iran to the west of the nation, while China shares a border with it to the northeast. The country is geographically located along some of the most contentious regional borders, including those with India and Afghanistan along the Durand Line and with Kashmir, over which there are shared disputes and frequent instances of escalating military confrontations. The Khyber Pass and Bolan Pass, which have historically been used as migratory routes between Central Eurasia and South Asia, are two of its western borders.

Pakistan's primary geographic challenge arises from its borders, which do not correspond to natural geographic boundaries. The modern borders of Pakistan were created in 1947, when the nation was carved out of the Muslim-majority northwest and northeast portions of India. The countries have fought three wars since independence, and each claims the territory of Kashmir and Bangladesh, then known as "East Pakistan", gained independence from Pakistan in 1971, believed to have been helped by India was almost 2024 Kms away from the mainland. This reinforced the notion within Pakistan that India was an existential threat. Pakistan has long sought to gain influence in Afghanistan, both to secure strategic depth and to prevent Kabul from falling into New Delhi's orbit.



**THE INDUS RIVER BEGINS IN THE TIBETAN PLATEAU AND CUTS THROUGH THE COUNTRY'S EASTERN HALF. THE RIVER NOURISHES THE FERTILE PLAINS OF THE PUNJAB, THE COUNTRY'S POPULOUS CORE REGION AND ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC HEARTLAND.**

## PAKISTAN'S CHALLENGES AND ITS GEO-POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Pakistan is located in South Asia and is bordered by Iran, Afghanistan, China and India. To the north are the Himalaya's, which branch off into the Hindu Kush range. To the southwest is the vast Balochistan Plateau, which is arid and sparsely populated. In the south, is the Thar Desert and a 650-mile coast along the Arabian sea. The Indus River begins in the Tibetan Plateau and cuts through the country's eastern half. The river nourishes the fertile plains of the Punjab, the country's populous core region and its political and economic heartland.

On the west, the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan—called the Durand Line—has remained contentious since it was created by the British in 1893. Kabul claims that Afghanistan's true boundary runs deep into Pakistan to absorb the Pashtun tribal belt divided between both countries. The mountainous terrain has made the region difficult to govern, ensuring that the border remains porous.

## PAKISTANI NARRATIVE AND ITS DEPENDENCE ON KASHMIR

Pakistan is unlikely to show any change in its twisted narrative on Kashmir. It has set the narrative way back in 1947 and still continues to rake it as an international issue meddling in the internal affairs of our country. Kashmir holds an extremely valuable position for Pakistan. Its relationship with China is significantly dependent on Kashmir. China itself has many core interests in Kashmir which can be maintained by having a hand in glove relationship with the Pakistan. It uses Pakistan for raking the issue and thereby safeguarding its own national security, given the advancement in aeronautical and defence sector of our country. The geopolitical location of Kashmir between three nuclear powers enhances its price for both Pakistan and China at the same time. The interests in its natural resources and minerals, potential landscape and river system follows the position that it holds in the subcontinent.



Kashmir is also key to critical rivers that irrigate Pakistan's field provided the fact that agriculture supported its economy by 57% at the time of independence and still manages to sustain its backbone with 20% of GDP and accounts for 37.4% of employed labor force in 2021 and is the largest source of foreign exchange earnings.[1] Pakistan is food exporter to the different countries yielding money from it. Pakistan exports rice, cotton, fish, fruits (especially Oranges and Mangoes), and vegetables and imports vegetable oil, wheat, pulses and consumer foods.[2] The Indus River is mainly necessary for agriculture in Pakistan, especially for the lower Indus valley region, where rainfall is uncommon. So the nation that controls the region effectively can cut off the water supply to the other.

To manage these fears and ensure a fair distribution of water from this river, the Indus water treaty came into existence on 19th of Sep 1960. However this treaty is in force, Pakistan still fears that in the potential conflict, India could cut off the supply, though in past wars India didn't choke off the population of Pakistan by cutting its water. Additionally, the glaciers provide immense amount of freshwater to the region which increases the value of the region by manifolds.

Rivers and water bodies in Kashmir also have a high potential to generate hydroelectricity which is cheaper in comparison to the steam turbines using fossil fuels, nuclear, biomass, geothermal, and solar thermal energy. At present Pakistan lags far behind in meeting the needs of the country in energy sector. According to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority's (NEPRA) 2021 yearly report, Pakistan's total installed power generation capacity is 39772 MW, of which 63% of energy comes from thermal (fossil fuels), 25% from hydro, and 5.4% from renewable (wind, solar and biomass) and 6.5% from nuclear that becomes expensive for it and rake up the load shedding issues giving hard blows on the industrial sector of the country. The industry produces costlier products which later remain unsold and industry falls behind, again stabbing the economy of the country. Now in order to overcome all these troubles, it dreams to control the Kashmir in order to win over the dents in its back.



**PAKISTAN STILL FEARS THAT IN THE POTENTIAL CONFLICT, INDIA COULD CUT OFF THE SUPPLY, THOUGH IN PAST WARS INDIA DIDN'T CHOKE OFF THE POPULATION OF PAKISTAN BY CUTTING ITS WATER.**



**DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES, PAKISTAN ATTEMPTED TO ELEVATE ITS PEOPLE FROM POVERTY, HOWEVER THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICES LAG AND ECONOMY CONTINUES TO REMAIN STAGNANT.**

### ECONOMY OF PAKISTAN

Pakistan has frequently undergone macroeconomic crises giving an impetus of growth paradigm dependent on personal and governmental consumption. There has been a very little contribution from productivity-enhancing investment sector and exports. During the past two decades, Pakistan attempted to elevate its people from poverty, however the human development indices lag and economy continues to remain stagnant. During the period of 2001 and 2008, a surge in migration and related remittances resulted in the expansion of off-farm economic options, and over 47 million Pakistanis were able to flee poverty. GDP growth per person is slowing down, averaging only about 2.1 percent yearly growth from the year 2000 to 2018.

Pakistan's economy is as the economic indicators below would highlight :-

1. It's foreign debt amounts to \$ 126.9 billion. The domestic debt totals \$ 248.7 billion. The total amounts to a figure which is \$ 50 billion higher than Pakistan's GDP.
2. Debt servicing amounts to 50% and military expenditure accounts for 29.1% of the budget.
3. Economic growth has been on a decline from 6.8% per year in Ayub's regime to 6.5% in Zia's tenure and 4.4% in Bhutto's time. It is much lower in 1999 – 2000 to 5.4 % in 2020.
4. Agriculture, which has been the mainstay of Pakistan's economy, especially cotton and other cash crops, has declined from an annual growth of 5.1% in Ayub's time and 5.4% in Zia's time to only 2.7% in Bhutto's time.
5. Pakistan owes more than 73.1% of its GDP to foreign financial institutions.
6. GDP growth of about 2.7% in 1992 – 93 has dropped to 1.3% in 1996 – 97 to -1.33%

7. The worst indicator is that Pakistani expatriate deposits in Pakistan totaled \$ 11.2 billion. Successive governments in Pakistan have spent this money leaving no resources to pay the depositors.

### EXPLOITATION OF KASHMIR CAUSE BY PAKISTAN

Pumping up of the Kashmir issue is daily activity of Pakistan's civil and military establishments. No conference attended by them goes off without marking the Kashmir in it. There are multiple reasons for the activity being carried out from decades. Glancing the history of Pakistan, it always faced economic difficulties due to several reasons – a basically agrarian economy, lack of industrial infrastructure and the sizeable diversion of financial resources to the maintenance of a military machine disproportionate to its legitimate defence requirements. In the last 53 years of its existence, Pakistan launched four armed conflicts against our mainland India – 1947 – 48, 1965, 1971 and 1999 in Kargil. Pakistan has also sustained through its ISI separatist movements all over India, which requires sizeable resources.



The Pakistani economy in terms of exports potential and foreign exchange earnings lost out heavily when East Pakistan seceded to become Bangladesh. Pakistan is therefore, a state with limited economic means; negligible economic growth, no industrial infrastructure and yet eyeing to attain strategic symmetry with its powerful neighbor India. Till lately, Pakistan was the recipient of economic and military aid from USA and other advanced industrialized countries. With the end of the Cold War, the down grading of Pakistan's front line status and its increasing shift towards Islamic fundamentalism, these financial resources trickled off and exposed the hollowness of its economy. When the planned strategy of the country failed, it sought to take benefit from the Kashmir cause to attempt at gaining the sympathy of the world especially the Islamic bloc, so much so that engulfed huge capital from the gulf states. They constantly exploited the name Kashmir for decades through their well established network that worked by the religious motivation.

Currently Pakistan has been caught by fate accompli to sustain its global politics on the Kashmir issue in first preference and then the other issues pertaining its foreign policy management. From the same cause it envisages to take out the moral authority and raise its volume to defend the Kashmiris that they massacred and maimed since 1990s. One can conclude that Pakistan's global politics has revolved around Kashmir issue and continues to remain in same symmetry in the current decade as well.

**ONE CAN CONCLUDE THAT PAKISTAN'S GLOBAL POLITICS HAS REVOLVED AROUND KASHMIR ISSUE AND CONTINUES TO REMAIN IN SAME SYMMETRY IN THE CURRENT DECADE AS WELL.**

#### PAKISTAN - A BENEFICIARY OF KASHMIR ISSUE

In the first attempt at resolving the Kashmir issue, Pakistan sought to grab Kashmir at cost of waging a full-fledged war which is evident from the fact that Pakistan Army backed Tribal Invasion into Kashmir. In 1947-48, the war hero for Pakistan back then planned to overthrow the civilian in resentment to the ceasefire of 1948, popularly known as Lahore Conspiracy case. Most of the Pakistani defence analysts idealize the Kashmir dominion to India as a conspiracy of the British. They are of the belief that Kashmir was willfully turned into the hinterland back then so that Pakistan upon economic and related disintegration could aspire to reverse themselves into the Indian mainland. In other view, Pakistan never stepped back from using force in Kashmir. To keep the pot of violence boiling, it supported the terror groups since 90's. However it pushed themselves back into the den of bilateralism whenever instability rose in their

country. Unfortunately, the civilian government was never given the potential to resolve any issue. The Art 58 2 (b) incorporated in the constitution of 1973 gave arbitrary powers to the president for the removal of democratically elected government in case of corruption charges. This section crippled the power of the Prime Minister and trickled the power to Army General and the President. The civilian government head though having a full majority became the executor of the policies rather than the formulator. In context of this, never could any government reach any conclusion with the neighboring country. Backing the soft violence, to take benefit from the issue on the international forum was made first preference by the successive military regimes of Pakistan.

**BACKING THE SOFT VIOLENCE, TO TAKE BENEFIT FROM THE ISSUE ON THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM WAS MADE FIRST PREFERENCE BY THE SUCCESSIVE MILITARY REGIMES OF PAKISTAN.**

The militancy supported by Pakistan led to increased violence in Kashmir. Bilateralism became increasingly irrelevant as a policy for Pakistan since low intensity conflict brought about the required policy dividends. The significance of Simla Agreement as a reference point to bilateral ties became a dead issue. Pakistan saw a role for it in the internal situation of Kashmir. Since the situation was volatile, the objective of the Pakistan army became to engage in low intensity conflict without evoking a general war in Kashmir.

<sup>[3]</sup> While the army executed the Kashmir policy, the civilian government's foreign policy agenda kept in tandem with the military approach. The increasing political rhetorics emanating from Pakistan derailed the bilateral relations. Propaganda on human rights violation and publicizing the internal dissatisfaction in the valley as an expression of the Kashmiris' desire to merge with Pakistan, gave many Pakistanis a conviction that low intensity conflict would bring political capital at the negotiating table. Moreover, the religious parties who were marginalized in the 1988 election and were sidelined after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan found a new lease of life. The Kashmir issue gave a new meaning to their political existence. Thus they again became an appendage of the establishment in executing the Kashmir policy of Pakistan. During this decade the army and the Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) executed Kashmir policy

whereas the civilian government was allowed to keep the façade of diplomacy alive, thus, giving the required diplomatic cushioning to the military-led foreign policy. The breaking down of bilateral talks with India in 1994 can be attributed to overt support to the terrorists and extension of Pakistan's decision to raise the Kashmir issue at the Geneva Human Rights Convention. During this intervening period, till the resumption of bilateral dialogue in 1997, Nawaz Sharif imposed a Kashmir tax and established a Kashmir fund and Benazir gave a call for thousand years of war with India to wrest Kashmir. The civilian government was no doubt used as an instrument in charting the army's Kashmir policy.

### PAKISTAN'S CURRENT KASHMIR POLICY

For Pakistan its Kashmir policy is still controlled by the army, the same was also signaled by the recent Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif who was reluctant to hold any talks with India since last two years, given the move of Modi-led government in 2019. Military factor continues to dominate the policy formulation of Pakistan, probably since its creation as a separate state. Their hegemony in the civil matters resulting in meddling of uniform in even running of the democratically elected governments. The issues remaining unresolved trace their origin to this gamble that has something to the face and black sheep behind the mask of democracy. Pakistan views Kashmir as an integral part of its territory, owing to the strategic location and the valley's Islamic identity. The territory has been a dispute between India and Pakistan, with bilateral talks at times but, often, a militaristic approach to resolving the issue. Pakistan's Kashmir strategy has been retaliatory in the past ten years, largely in response to Indian activities on the subcontinent. This trait was evident during the violent demonstrations that took place after Kashmiri militant commander Burhan Wani in 2016. After Wani was killed, the unrest became more violent, resulting in 90 civilian deaths and more than 2,300 injured. Then-Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, expressing support for the militant commander, referred to Burhan Wani as a "martyr" and declared that Pakistan will commemorate July 19 as "Black Day" in order to show support for the people of Kashmir.

Pakistan's Kashmir policy has consistently alternated between a militaristic strategy on the one hand and bilateral dialogue on the other. The Kashmir problem received little attention when Khan resumed the office. The matter only gained attention after Kashmir's special status was removed. Speaking to the UN General Assembly, Khan criticized India for its action and threatened Kashmir with a "Blood Bath". Khan had dramatically altered both his stance on

Kashmir and his relationship with India. Khan, who had previously supported for bilateral negotiations to resolve the matter, later called for international action in Kashmir. They use the ready approaches as per their convenience and miserably fail them when their ends meet. This has been their schedule from last three decades to over shadow the terrorism in the valley.

### REFERENCES

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