



PAKISTAN STUDIES

JAMMU & KASHMIR ISSUES

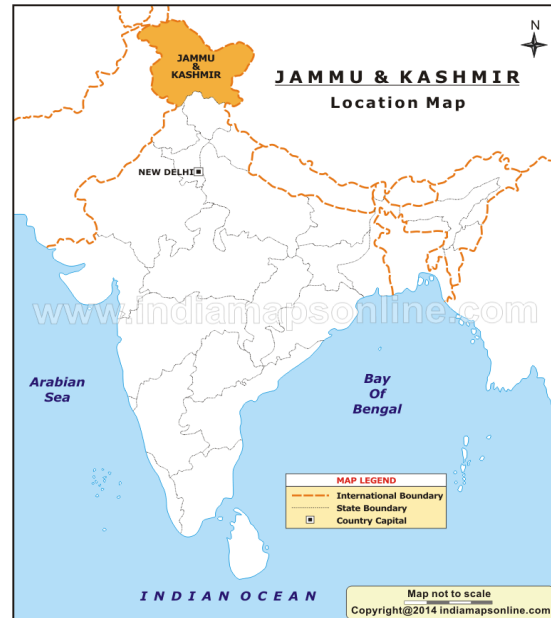
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KASHMIR ISSUE

KASHMIR:-

Kashmir is the northern most geographical region of South Asia. Kashmir is bordered on the west by Pakistan, on the south by India, and on the north and east by China. By the mid-19th century, the term "Kashmir" was only given to the valley between the Great Himalayas and the Pir Panjal mountain range. Today, it denotes a larger area that includes the Indian-administered territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

During ancient and times, Kashmir has been an important centre for the development of a Hindu-Buddhist reconciliation of different beliefs. In the late 14th century. After years of Buddhist and Hindu rule, Kashmir was conquered by Muslims. Now Muslims covered most of the population of Kashmir.



POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE STATE

POLITICAL IMPORTANCE:-

The state of Jammu and Kashmir has attained a unique geo-political status in the Indian sub-continent since the 19th century. It has adjoining boundaries with Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and Tibet that are quite strategically important states and as such it has made this State very important from geographically, politically, economically and military point of view.

Jammu and Kashmir state acceded to the Indian Union in 1947 after the partition. Before the partition in 1947, The English rulers of India took away Gilgit in 1946 from the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir on contract for thirty years so that they could check the advancement of Russia towards India.

GEOGRAPHICAL IMPORTANCE:-

Kashmir is famous for its beauty and natural scenery throughout the world. Its high snow-clad mountains, scenic spots, beautiful valleys, rivers with ice-cold water, attractive lakes and springs and ever-green fields, dense forests and beautiful health resorts, enhance its magnificence and are a source of great attraction for tourists.



It is also widely known for its different kinds of agricultural products, fruit, vegetables, saffron, herbs, and minerals, precious stones handicrafts like woollen carpets, shawls and finest kind of embroidery on clothes. During summer, one can enjoy the beauty of nature, trout fishing, big and small game hunting etc.; during winter climbing mountain peaks and sports like skating and skiing on snow slopes are commonly enjoyed. In addition to the above, Pilgrimage to famous religious shrines of the Hindus and the Muslims make Kashmir a great tourist attraction. About Kashmir Sheikh Sadia great Persian poet is believed to have said, **"If there is any heaven on earth, it is here in Kashmir."**

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF KASHMIR ISSUE

BACKGROUND:-

People of Jammu and Kashmir have been struggling for their right of self-determination from more than six decades. The issue of Kashmir started just after India's independence and the birth of Pakistan in 1947. At that time there were around 560 princely states under British India and Kashmir was one of them. The delay in deciding Kashmir's future by Maharaja Hari Singh - the last king of independent Kashmir - after the British left was the root cause of Kashmir conflict. The tribal invasion caused by raiders from Pakistan made the Maharaja feel insecure and he decided to seek help from India. India's viceroy Mountbatten promised him militarily help and in return Maharaja signed the "Letter of Instrument of Accession to India". Eventually Indian forces intervened and captured the state of Jammu and Kashmir. From that day Kashmir dispute has been the core issue between both Pakistan and India, which also had kept the security of entire South Asia at stake because of their extensive nuclear capability.

Kashmir issue has been a major bone of conflict from the day of independence, resulted in three wars.

Indian and Pakistani forces fought their first war over Kashmir in **1947-48**. India referred the dispute to the United Nations on 1 January. In a resolution dated August 13, 1948, the UN

asked Pakistan to remove its troops, after which India was also to withdraw the bulk of its forces. Once this happened, a "free and fair" referendum was to be held to allow the Kashmiri people to decide their future.

India, having taken the issue to the UN, was confident of winning a plebiscite, since the most influential Kashmiri mass leader, Sheikh Abdullah, was firmly on its side. An emergency government was formed on October 30, 1948 with Sheikh Abdullah as the Prime Minister.

Pakistan ignored the UN order and continued fighting, holding on to the portion of Kashmir under its control. On January 1, 1949, a ceasefire was agreed, with 65 per cent of the territory under Indian control and the remainder with Pakistan.

The ceasefire was intended to be temporary. In 1957, Kashmir was formally incorporated into the Indian Union. It was granted a special status under Article 370 of India's constitution, which ensures, among other things, that non-Kashmiri Indians cannot buy property there.

Fighting broke out again in **1965**, but a ceasefire was established in September. Indian Prime Minister, Lal Bhadur Shastri, and Pakistani President, M Ayyub Khan, signed the Tashkent agreement on January 1, 1966.

They resolved to try to end the dispute, but the death of Mr Shastri and the rise of Gen Yahya Khan in Pakistan resulted in stand-off.

The failure of diplomacy to resolve the Kashmir issue attracted international and regional attention to it. After the wars of 1948, 1962 and 1965, determined efforts were made to resolve this issue. In 1948, the United Nations became deeply involved but India didn't show flexibility. After the India-China border War of 1962, there were intense but fruitless American and British efforts to bridge a gap between India and Pakistan. The end of 1965 war saw Soviet Union as a regional peacemaker. The Soviets did manage to promote a peace treaty at Tashkent, but this could not establish peace in the region and soon Indian involvement in East Pakistan to another war in 1971, resulting in the formation of the independent nation of Bangladesh (formerly known as East Pakistan).

Kashmir's strategic importance lies in the fact that its borders meet with China and Afghanistan and also is close to Russia. Almost all the rivers which flow through Pakistan, originate from Kashmir, that's why both the countries ignore stepping back claiming of this territory.

WATER DISPUTE:-

Another reason for the dispute over Kashmir is water. Kashmir is the source of many rivers and tributaries in the **Indus River** basin. This basin is divided between Pakistan, which has about 60 percent of the catchment area, India with about 20 percent, Afghanistan with 5 percent and around 15 percent in China (Tibet autonomous region). The river tributaries are the **Jhelum** and **Chenab**, which primarily flow into Pakistan, while other branches the **Ravi**, **Beas**, and the **Sutlej** irrigate northern India.

The Indus is a river system that sustains communities in India and Pakistan. Both have extensively dammed the Indus River for irrigation of their crops and hydro-electricity

systems. In arbitrating the conflict in 1947, **Sir Cyril Radcliffe**, decided to demarcate the territories as he was unable to give to one or the other the control over the river as it was a main economic resource for both areas. The Line of Control (LoC) was recognised as an international border establishing that India would have control over the upper riparian and Pakistan over the lower riparian of the Indus and its tributaries. Despite appearing to be separate issues, the Kashmir dispute and the dispute over the water control are in reality related and the fight over the water remains one of the main problems in establishing good relations between the two countries.

RECENT ISSUE OF KASHMIR

2016 KASHMIR UNREST:-

The 2016 unrest in Kashmir, refers to a series of violent protests in the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley in the Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir. It started with the killing of Burhan Wani, a militant commander of the Kashmir-based Hizbul Mujahideen, by Indian security forces on 8 July 2016. After his killing, anti-Indian protests started in all 10 districts of the Kashmir Valley. Protesters resisted curfew with attacks on security forces and public properties.

Curfew was imposed in all 10 districts of the valley on 15 July and mobile services were suspended by the government. Kashmir valley remained under 53 days of consecutive curfew which was lifted from all areas on 31 August, however was re-imposed in some areas the next day. Jammu and Kashmir Police and Indian paramilitary forces used pellet guns, tear gas shells, rubber bullets, as well as assault rifles, resulting in the deaths of more than 85 civilians, with over 13,000 civilians injured. Two security personnel also died, while over 4,000 personnel were injured in the unrests.

OPERATION AGAINST WANI:-

On 8 July 2016, Burhan Wani was killed in a planned operation by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Following a tip-off that Wani was planning to come down for Eid celebrations. According to police officials, after an exchange of fire, the house in which the militants were living was bombed, killing all three militants. However, eyewitnesses have stated that the three militants were shot down while trying to escape.

According to a police official, there were misgivings within the security establishment against killing Wani owing to his popularity, but they were not noticed by the authorities. Wani left home to become a militant at age 15 after an incident with the police that humiliated him. The Kashmiri youth angered by the "never-ending militarisation" of the Valley were drawn to him and his constant presence on social media made him a household name.

Journalist Fahad Shah stated that, with Wani's killing, the situation in Kashmir entered a period of "amplified instability". At Wani's funeral, according to video footage taken using drones by the Indian Army, an estimated 12,000–15,000 people came to mourn him, some of them from remote parts of the valley. Protesters had been demonstrating against his killing and continuous incidents of stone-pelting have been reported since the news of his death.

WITH INDIA PAKISTAN CONNECTION

A large part of the India-Pakistan rivalry centres on competing claims over the Kashmir region. This relatively small piece of land in the Himalayas has been disputed since 1947, the year the modern state of Pakistan was created. Pakistan claims the land because its majority Muslim like itself; India claims the land because Kashmir's Maharajah once pledged loyalty to India (albeit under duress). India doesn't want to give the region up for fear of setting a dangerous precedent for India's other regions that are agitating for independence. While both countries claim all of Kashmir, each of them controls only part of it. Two of the three wars fought by India and Pakistan have been over Kashmir (1947 and 1965). It's bad when a collective population of 1.5 billion goes to war repeatedly over a sliver of land; it would be worse today, since both sides now have nuclear weapons. More than 47,000 people have been killed in Kashmir flare-ups to date—and there are human rights groups who argue the real figure is twice that amount.

Disintegration of the British Raj:

After the disintegration of the British Raj in 1947, two new sovereign countries were framed—the Dominion of India and the Dominion of Pakistan. The consequent parcel of the previous British India uprooted up to 12.5 million individuals, with assessments of death toll shifting from a few hundred thousand to 1 million. India developed as a mainstream country with a greater population of Hindus and vast Muslim minority, while Pakistan rose as an Islamic Republic with overwhelming Muslim population; despite the fact that its constitution ensures opportunity of religion to individuals of all beliefs.

Not long after their freedom, India and Pakistan set up peace-making relations however the vicious segment and various regional cases would eclipse their relationship. Since their Independence, the two nations have battled three noteworthy wars, one undeclared war and have been included in various furnished clashes and military standoffs. The Kashmir struggle is the fundamental focus purpose of these contentions except for the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971 and Bangladesh Liberation War, which brought about the severance of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

There have been various endeavours to enhance the relationship—prominently, the Shimla summit, the Agra summit and the Lahore summit. Since the mid 1980s, relations between the two countries soured especially after the Sachin strife, the increase of Kashmir rebellion in 1989, Indian and Pakistani atomic tests in 1998 and the 1999 Kargil war. Certain certainty building measures —, for example, the 2003 truce understanding and the Delhi–Lahore Bus benefit – were effective in de-heightening pressures. Be that as it may, these endeavours have been blocked by intermittent fear based oppressor assaults. The 2001 Indian Parliament assault nearly conveyed the two countries to the verge of an atomic war. The 2007 Samjhauta Express bombings, which slaughtered 68 regular citizens (the greater part of whom were Pakistani), was additionally a pivotal point in relations. Also, the 2008 Mumbai assaults completed by Pakistani activists brought about a serious blow to the progressing India-Pakistan peace talks. Respective discourses again slowed down after the 2016 Pathankot assault.

Indian Point of View:

India sees Kashmir sub-strife as a regional issue. She guarantees that Jammu and Kashmir is her vital part and Pakistan is meddling in the issues of the state by supporting the Mujahideen. The sub-struggle over Kashmir put into question. When it developed, to a great extent pitched and frequently proclaimed conviction that India's character could retain and in addition oblige different sorts of social gatherings. Kashmir was noteworthy for highlighting this mental self-view particularly in light of the fact that its lion's share populace was Muslim, and the battle to clutch it against Pakistan's cases gave India's initial political life a solid perspective (Basrur, 2008).

The Muslim greater part status of Kashmir was noteworthy for India because of its significance with regards to Indian secularism. Indian Union did not include whatever other greater part Muslim state. Along these lines Kashmir gave belief system of Indian secularism. Kashmir likewise gave India defend as opposed to the requests for India to abandon her du state (Mformally proclaimed philosophy of secularism and turn into a Hinalik, 2002).

The second component of this outside introduction of Musarat Javed Cheema Pakistan – India Conflict 47 India's character was the dread, however after some time these nerves have been dispersed through consistent hard battle and activities of Indian initiative that the loss of Kashmir would set a point of reference for different locales in Indian Union to break separated (Basrur, 2008). It is an acknowledged reality that Indian culture is to a great extent portioned. India's populace is over a billion and it is partitioned into different sorts of multitudinous dialects and vernaculars, 6 noteworthy religions, somewhere in the range of 6400 positions and sub-stations, and 52 noteworthy tribes (Behar, 2004). Sixty-five percent of groups are either bilingual or trilingual. Characters go past apparently isolate Hindu or Muslim religious sorts. There are more than 1000 groups affected by the religious pioneers in double religious frameworks (Das, 2006). In this circumstance making a brought together character of India is troublesome, additionally on the grounds that the between gathering viciousness happens frequently. In India, state working through the majority rule government has frequently been damaged by standard and genuine mutilations as brutality for the sake of religion, position, and tribe and also monetary misuse and financial or political disregard (Basrur, 2008). This has constrained India to have a solid hold and in addition fabricated a solid occupation over Kashmir.

Another criticalness of Kashmir for India lies in the way that it was the tribal country of Nehru, the principal Indian Prime Minister and one of the establishing fathers of India. He utilized his impact to guarantee India's dedication to holding Kashmir (Malik, 2002). Progressive Indian governments and different Indian authors set forward another typical explanation behind Indian assurance to possess Jammu and Kashmir is that its withdrawal may set an unsafe case for different conditions of Indian Union who are disappointed with India (Malik, 2002).

The hugeness of Kashmir for India:

The down to earth purpose behind the importance of Kashmir for India can be partitioned into security and financial needs of India. Post 1947, Kashmir's vital criticalness expanded because of the production of the adversary Pakistan. Both India and Pakistan were included in dangers with each different and in addition with different nations of the territory. The area of Kashmir was with the end goal that whichever nation would control it would have been in solid vital military position to assault other. Indian threatening vibe with China expanded this wonder the more. Monetarily, as a state rich in the generation of timber with the headwaters of three noteworthy waterways of Indus Basin Kashmir could be extremely useful to India regardless of the way that in 1947 the monetary connections of Kashmir with the territories which later turned into the parts of Pakistan were far more noteworthy than with the ranges which turned into the piece of India after parcel (Malik, 2002).

Pakistan's Point of View:

The impression of Pakistan and India about the constituents of the sub-strife are out and out various. Pakistan considers it as an unfinished motivation of the division of India in 1947. Pakistan views it as an issue of giving the privilege of self-assurance to the Kashmir is, a guideline additionally acknowledged by the UN Security Council Resolution. South Asian Studies 30 (1) 48 Original significance of Kashmir for Pakistan lies in the two-country hypothesis whereupon All India Muslim League based its interest for a different Muslim country. The hypothesis says that the Hindus and Muslims are two separate countries who can't live respectively and that the Muslims of the subcontinent can't lead their lives in full understanding with their convictions under Hindu control. Indian control over Kashmir was hazardous on the grounds that it was the sole Muslim lion's share area that was not given to Pakistan.

Interestingly, the Hindu lion's share condition of Junagadh, whose Muslim ruler wanted to join Pakistan, was consolidated by India in 1948 at the season of freedom. It turned into a valuable issue for Pakistani standards to increase political support since it raises 'profound interests and feelings' that touch the heart of Pakistani character. For the lion's share of Pakistanis, Kashmir is so integral to their national character that without it, segment of India and freedom of Pakistan still remains 'in a general sense fragmented' (Basrus, 2008). Kashmir was huge for Pakistan for all intents and purposes in the key and financial fields. The key significance of Kashmir was the same as to India said above.

The Pakistan likewise expressed that the increase of Kashmir to India depended on extortion and viciousness and thusly, couldn't be perceived (Ali, 1973).

STEPS TO ILLUMINATE THE ISSUE

Several viable solutions were presented to the respondents and their response was sought. These proposed solutions and the respondent's responses are discussed below:

1. Kashmir as an independent country :-

Out of all the respondents, 61.2% of the respondents believed that the best solution for Kashmir confusion is independence. The reason as to why most of the Kashmiris believe in this option is because Kashmiris were promised by the government of India the right of self-determination through a plebiscite by virtue of which they can choose between acceding to India, Pakistan or independence. A total of 19.8% respondents said that Kashmir cannot survive economically if it will be free from the Indian control. Only 2.6% said that the idea of free Kashmir is not possible due to lack of consensus among separatists. However 16.4% respondent felt that this is a peaceful option. Independence is perhaps the most difficult solution for Kashmir. One reason is that Kashmir is located in between two developing countries namely India and Pakistan. Even now vast segments of population in these two countries are illiterate and poverty-stricken and even a thought of giving independence to Kashmir threatens to make these countries instable. Hindu extremism in India and Muslim extremism in Pakistan is another serious challenge facing both these countries. So it would be difficult for Indians and Pakistanis to believe that Kashmir deserves the right to be an independent country. The mere mention of separation of Kashmir sends both the Indians and Pakistanis into a panic and the chances of unrests and bloodshed are more from both the sides in case Kashmir emerges as a free nation.

However the emotions of the people are not the only obstacle in the resolution of the Kashmir conflict. Kashmir's strategic position is a major problem for its resolution. The geographical location of Kashmir, that of being like a buffer between India and Pakistan makes things even more difficult. Many efforts have been made in the past to build peace between India and Pakistan. But every time it gets stocked at the Kashmir issue. The two countries have fought three wars in past and two out of the three were over Kashmir. The solution to the Kashmir conflict becomes difficult on two bases: first is its strategic position, which is so unique that neither India nor Pakistan wants to give their part of Kashmir. An independent Kashmir on the other hand would also face many threats from both these countries. Kashmir will remain in the middle of two enemy countries. If Kashmir gets independence that means they have to start everything from the scratch. For a newly independent country the priority should be development and economic management rather than security and army. However it will become difficult for Kashmir to keep track of the notorious intentions of India and Pakistan. India and Pakistan are already scourged with extremism.

2. Indian-administered Kashmir joining Pakistan-administered Kashmir and the whole of it belonging to Pakistan :-

30.2% of the total respondents said that situation will become better than the current situation if Indian-administered Kashmir joins Pakistan-administered Kashmir and the whole of it belongs to Pakistan while 50.9 % believed that this is "not a feasible option". A total of

13.8% respondents believed that situation will become worse if this solution is implemented. 4.3% said that this option will not satisfy the whole of Kashmir.

Majority of Kashmiris are Muslims and Pakistan is an Islamic country so one can say that this is the best solution for Kashmir. However this solution has its own serious limitations. Majority of Kashmiris prefer to be an independent country rather than joining a country that is already under the threat of extremism. Kashmiri people are by and large peace-loving and secular-minded people. There has not been a single riot between Hindus and Muslim in the recent history of Kashmir. Except from one major incident (1989) in which many Hindus pandits fled from Valley, claiming that they got threatened by Pakistan-sponsored militants. However another religious minority in Kashmiris, the Sikhs are staying in Kashmir from decades like Muslims amid full harmony and brotherhood. Kashmiris will not prefer to join Pakistan because they have faced a huge humanitarian loss under Indian rule. Almost 80,000 people have been killed till date and 10,000 have disappeared in Indian-administered Kashmir. Having been subjected to all this by a relatively secular country, they perhaps expect no positive treatment from the Pakistani side. This solution is not feasible because it would be one sided. Kashmir conflict involves three parties: India, Pakistan and Kashmir. This solution can only satisfy one party, Pakistan. Hence this option sounds unrealistic.

3. Pakistan-administered Kashmir joining Indian-administered Kashmir and whole of it belonging to India:-

This solution is also one sided and will only satisfy only one party to the conflict. Apart from this it would be difficult to join Azad Kashmir with the Indian Territory. Geographically it is not impossible and a total of 54.3% respondents are not sure about this solution. However it would be difficult from the religious point of view. A total 19.8% believe it is economically a prosperous solution. And 21.6% believe that it is a feasible solution since India is a secular country. Whereas 4.3% respondents think that this option will be unacceptable to many parties. This solution seems to be unrealistic for the following reasons:

1. Azad Kashmir has a Muslim majority and it would be difficult to convince a Muslim majority Azad Kashmir to join a Hindu majority country like India.
2. There are almost no reports of human right violation by the Pakistani Army in Azad Kashmir. However the same cannot be said about the Indian-administered Kashmir where human rights violation at the hand of army and other security forces are quite frequent. The people of Azad Kashmir thus will never prefer to join India.
3. Another concern would be that of language. People in Azad Kashmir speak a different language than Kashmiris on the Indian side.
4. Last but not the least, this solution can also ignite the emotional sentiments of extremists in Swat valley (Pakistan) and Afghanis because they will never tolerate that a Muslim state is joining a Hindu majority.

4. Jammu and Ladakh given to India, Kashmir becoming an independent country and Azad Kashmir remaining as it is:-

The totals of 29.3 % of respondents believe it is a considerable option. However, keeping in view the road connection and trade link between Jammu and Kashmir and climate of Ladakh, 7.8 % share the idea that this option will create economic hindrances. While the totals of 11.2 % respondents are unsure or believe it's better to give Jammu to India and rest Kashmir kept united. However the majority of respondents, 43.1 % are not ready for trifurcation of Kashmir. Analysis based on the present situation suggests that this option is very much feasible. This solution would perhaps satisfy all parts of Kashmir. Especially in the Indian-administered Kashmir, the majority of people who are struggling for their freedom are from the Kashmir Valley. People in Jammu are Hindus who share the same religion as majority Indians. And they will not have any problem remaining as a part of India. Same is somewhat the case with Ladakh. However this solution also has some limitation. First of all India will never want be happy to lose a territory like Kashmir Valley which has huge strategic as well as touristic value. Kashmir has a very unique strategic value as its border connects with Pakistan. An independent Valley will always remain under the threat of extremists from Jammu and with the back-up of a bigger entity like India, the worry compounds further.

5. Greater autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir:-

Majority of the respondents, a good 42.2 % believe that this could be a good step towards Kashmir solution, 11.2 % think this will help in creating positive attitude towards India while 39.7 % are not ready for any solution than self-determination and believe that nothing cannot replace the demand for self-determination.

As mentioned above it would be difficult to leave the Kashmir Valley as an independent state. The other option would be leaving Azad Kashmir as it is. The cases of protests in favour of independence against the Indian government are conspicuously visible in the Indian-administered Kashmir. Similarly violations of human rights are prominent in the Indian-administered Kashmir. It is difficult to conclude whether people of Azad Kashmir want independence from Pakistan or not. Perhaps there is almost no written material which suggests that the people in Azad Kashmir are suppressed. In the case of Indian-administered Kashmir, the news of human right violation is much prominent. Further recently the curbs on religious freedom have also been reported; like people are not allowed to attend Friday prayers regularly in the main mosque of Kashmir, The Jamia Mosque. Presence of huge army is making people less confident and instils fear among the common people. Greater autonomy to the region seems to be the much-demanded solution for Kashmir. Looking at the present situation and analysing other possibilities, this is the best solution one offer conclude for the present situation. Reducing the presence of army can bring positive changes in the perception of Kashmiris towards the Indian administration. Also people will be freer to go out for daily jobs and children can grow in a fear-free atmosphere. This can further encourage Kashmiri people to build positive rapport with India. Autonomy can give Kashmir stable economic growth and free governance.

CONCLUSION:-

As the Kashmir Conflict is a great burden for India, Pakistan and the people of Jammu Kashmir and the whole of South Asia, it is very important to find a resolution for the conflict. One way to explore a solution to the problem is to consider self-determination for those live in Kashmir

The demand for Kashmir's independence is high among the people of Kashmir. However the full independence for Jammu Kashmir does not seem to be possible due to likely opposition from India and maybe even by Pakistan. And another option of joining Pakistan is not only unacceptable to the majority in Jammu Kashmir but it is somewhat of an abhorrence to India. The option to give more autonomy to Jammu Kashmir within India seems to be a feasible idea to India and to those who wish to remain under Indian administration. But that option will be unacceptable to Pakistan, those who want to join Pakistan and those who wish for full independence. The last option is that of maintaining the present situation, which means Jammu Kashmir remains under Indian control, contested by Pakistan and the rebels, the area continues to face constant security problem, the Indian security forces continue to stay in J&K in huge numbers and accusation of them violating the human rights of the Kashmiris continue.

Kashmir conflict is no doubt an intractable conflict making all parties to search for a formula to resolve the conflict peacefully. What could be the political framework that will accommodate the Kashmiris aspiration for self-determination, the interests of India and Pakistan is the real challenge for those who seek peace in the region. The above discussion shows that people of Kashmir are not happy with the Indian administration. This is evident given the frequency of protests in the valley. On the other hand, instead of co-opting the dissident and separatist voices in the valley, the human rights violations seem to have only accentuated the demand of separation. Considering the ground geo-political realities in the Indian sub-continent, the most workable solution to the Kashmir dispute seems to be minimizing the security forces in Kashmir and granting basic human rights to the Kashmiris, relieving them from daily frisking, and focus should be on creating more employment and education opportunity for Kashmiris. While this may not be the ultimate solution to this issue, it may well prepare some ground for a better solution and meanwhile relieve the people of the region from their day-to-day chaos.