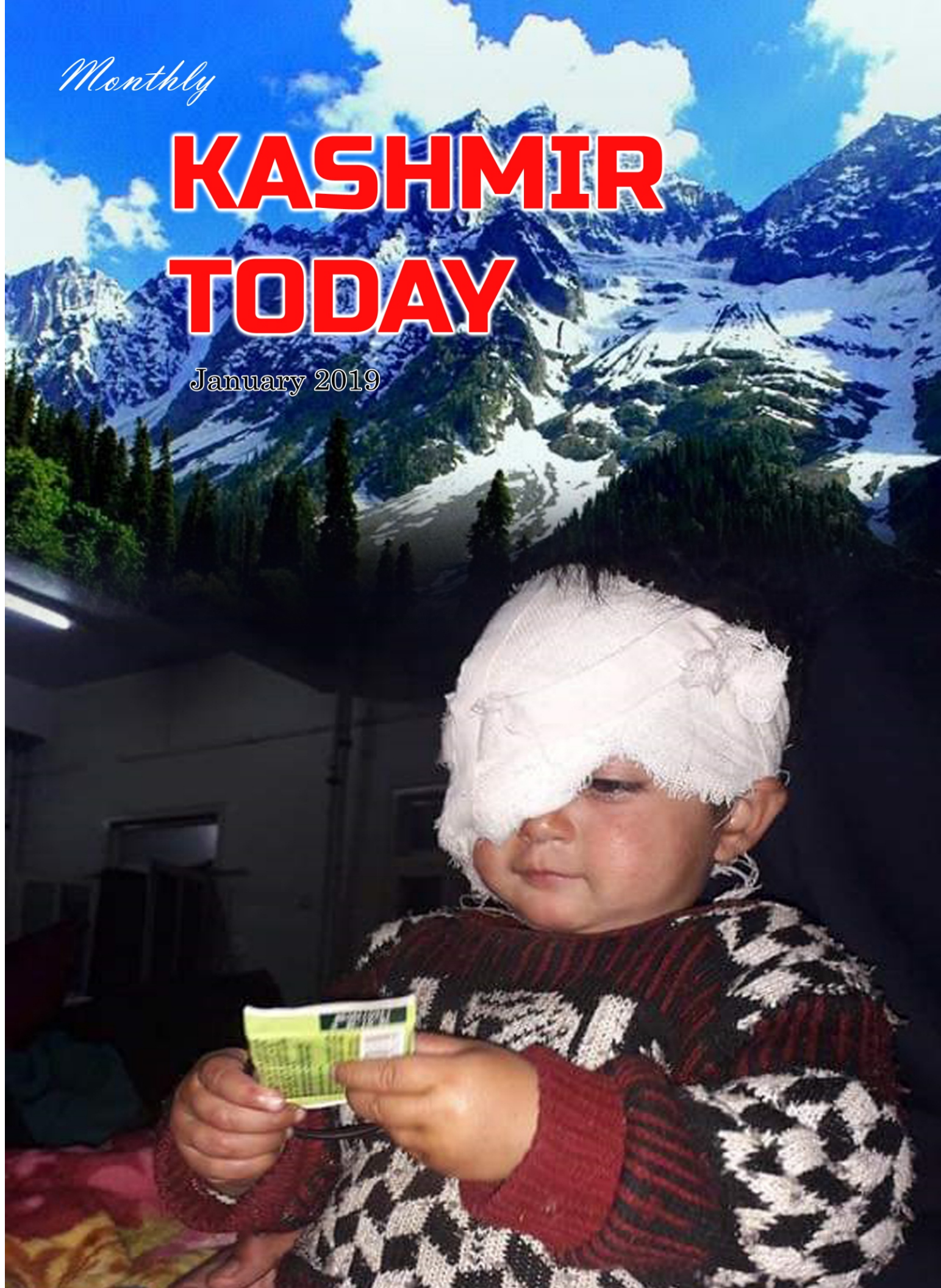


Monthly

KASHMIR TODAY

January 2019




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Having received from the Governments of India and Pakistan in communications dated 23 December and 25 December 1948, respectively their acceptance of the following principles which are supplementary to the Commission's Resolution of 13 August 1948:

1. The question of the accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan will be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial *plebiscite*;
2. A *plebiscite* will be held when it shall be found by the Commission that the cease-fire and truce arrangements set forth in Parts I and II of the Commission's resolution of 13 August 1948 have been carried out and arrangements for the *plebiscite* have been completed;
3.
 - (a) The Secretary-General of the United Nations will, in agreement with the Commission, nominate a *Plebiscite* Administrator who shall be a personality of high international standing and commanding general confidence. He will be formally appointed to office by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - (c) The *Plebiscite* Administrator shall derive from the State of Jammu and Kashmir the powers he considers necessary for organizing and conducting the *plebiscite* and for ensuring the freedom and impartiality of the *plebiscite*.
 - (c) The *Plebiscite* Administrator shall have authority to appoint such staff or assistants and observers as he may require.
4.
 - (a) After implementation of Parts I and II of the Commission's resolution of 13 August 1948, and when the Commission is satisfied that peaceful conditions have been restored in the State, the Commission and the *Plebiscite* Administrator will determine, in consultation with the Government of India, the final disposal of India and State armed forces, such disposal to be with due regard to the security of the State and the freedom of the *plebiscite*.
 - (b) As regards the territory referred to in A 2 of Part II of the resolution of 13 August, final disposal of the armed forces in that territory will be determined by the Commission and the *Plebiscite* Administrator in consultation with the local authorities.
5. All civil and military authorities within the State and the principal political elements of the State will be required to co-operate with the *Plebiscite* Administrator in the preparation for and the holding of the *plebiscite*.

6. (a) All citizens of the State who have left it on account of the disturbances will be invited and be free to return and to exercise all their rights as such citizens. For the purpose of facilitating repatriation there shall be appointed two Commissions, one composed of nominees of India and the other of nominees of Pakistan.
- The Commission shall operate under the direction of the *Plebiscite* Administrator. The Governments of India and Pakistan and all authorities within the State of Jammu and Kashmir will collaborate with the *Plebiscite* Administrator in putting this provision into effect.
- (b) All persons (other than citizens of the State) who on or since 15 August 1947, have entered it for other than lawful purpose, shall be required to leave the State.
7. All authorities within the State of Jammu and Kashmir will undertake to ensure in collaboration with the *Plebiscite* Administrator, that:
- (a) There is no threat, coercion or intimidation, bribery or other undue influence on the voters in the *plebiscite*;
- (b) No restrictions are placed on legitimate political activity throughout the State. All subjects of the State, regardless of creed, caste or party, shall be safe and free in expressing their views and in voting on the question of accession of the State to India or Pakistan. There shall be freedom of the press, speech and assembly and freedom of travel in the State, including freedom of lawful entry and exit;
- (c) All political prisoners are released;
- (d) Minorities in all parts of the State are accorded adequate protections; and
- (e) There is no victimization.
8. The *Plebiscite* Administrator may refer to the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan problems on which he may require assistance, and the Commission may in its discretion call upon the *Plebiscite* Administrator to carry out on its behalf any of the responsibilities with which it has been entrusted;
9. At the conclusion of the *plebiscite*, the *Plebiscite* Administrator shall report the result thereof to the Commission and to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. The Commission shall then certify to the Security Council whether the *plebiscite* has or has not been free and impartial;
10. Upon the signature of the truce agreement the details of the foregoing proposals will be elaborated in consultations envisaged in Part III of the Commission's resolution of 13 August 1948. The *Plebiscite* Administrator will be fully associated in these consultations;

Commends the Governments of India and Pakistan for their prompt action in ordering a cease-fire to take effect from one minute before midnight of 1 January 1949, pursuant to the agreement arrived at as provided for by the Commission's resolution of 13 August 1948; and

Resolves to return in immediate future to the sub-continent to discharge the responsibilities imposed upon it by the resolution of 13 August 1948 and by the foregoing principles.

DOES INDIA WANT PEACE WITH PAKISTAN?

Imran Jan

Other than the ultra-right nationalistic tendencies and parties sweeping across many continents, there is another, perhaps somewhat unnoticed, wave sweeping across nations around the world; one of ending wars and animosities and achieving peace. Donald Trump incessantly made the case for peace with Russia even before becoming the President of the United States. Russia has never been a country talked about favourably by any American president even after the end of the Cold War. Trump also repeatedly announced that on his watch, America's longest war would come to an end. To that end, US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad was in Islamabad just weeks ago to seek Pakistan's assistance in negotiating an end to the war in Afghanistan.

After insulting Pakistan on Fox News claiming that "they don't do a damn thing for us" and then doubling down in subsequent tweets, Trump sent a letter to Imran Khan seeking help in getting out of the Afghanistan quagmire. The letter seemed to have been written by more experienced hands at the White House. Nevertheless, it shows Trump's commitment to ending the war. A fact often unnoticed and unmentioned, may be due to Trump's hyperbolic personality and his melodramatic tweets, is that Trump despite his lunacy driven and hatred laden rhetoric has not started a war, at least not yet. That is a vivid departure from American presidential tradition, if you will.

Imran Khan similarly, before being elected and even now as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, has repeatedly called for achieving peace with India, Pakistan's arch-enemy. While the nationalist tide has swept across India as well, no urge for peace has come to greet it. Prime Minister Imran Khan, one could argue, has acted unprecedentedly by making peace overtures to India, which has come up with laughable excuses. Indian

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said, "terror and talks cannot go together."

When a seller isn't very interested in selling his or her product, he or she demands some ridiculous price to either discourage the buyer or sell it for, who knows, the ridiculous price. So, the excuse of "terror and talks cannot go together", Miss Sushma Swaraj say it to the Americans who swapped Bowe Bergdahl with the Taliban and or the when they facilitated the opening up of a Taliban office in Doha, or when the Americans and Soviets swapped with each other the spies Rudolph Abel Ivanovich and Francis Gary Powers at the height of the Cold War. In all these instances and many not mentioned here, the hostilities were ongoing while these difficult exchanges were made. All that is needed is a will, which is absent not just in New Delhi but in India at large.

Persistence peace overtures by Imran Khan prompted Indian army chief Bipin Rawat to demand that Pakistan become a secular state if it wants peace with India. That is the most mind boggling demand. Let me ascertain that Jinnah had envisioned a secular state in Pakistan. Nevertheless, even superpower states do not ask other countries to go secular as a precondition for achieving peace, let alone a hungry, naked, extremist, and rape-and-caste-infested nation like India. The United States doesn't ask Saudi Arabia to become secular for there to be peace between the two countries. Israel, India's ally, is neither a secular state nor did India demand it to be.

More importantly, is India itself a secular state? There are endless stories of abuse and discrimination against Muslims, Sikhs, and low caste Hindus. There was a New York Times story titled 'Tell Everyone We Scalped You!' How Caste Still Rules in India. In late October, a 14 year old Dalit girl was beheaded by an upper-caste man. Dalit men aren't allowed to ride horses. In March, one Dalit man broke with the tradition and rode one, causing higher caste men to kill him. Avatthi Ramaiah, a Sociology professor in Mumbai said, "You may talk about India being a world power, a global power, sending satellites into space but the outside world

has an image of India they don't know. As long as Hinduism is strong, caste will be strong, and as long as there is caste, there will be lower caste."

The sophisticated propaganda machine has always had us think that it is the Pakistan army generals that do not want peace with India for their nefarious causes. Nothing can be further from the truth. And the current rude rejection by India of the peace overtures from Pakistan is a continuation of India's decades old belligerent mindset.

Imran Khan's belief that India is rejecting his peace offer because of the upcoming elections in India is wishful thinking. The fact that Indian leadership needs anti-Pakistan credentials for winning the election speaks volumes about how futile these peace overtures would prove to be even after the election. Imran Khan himself said that the BJP has an "anti-

Muslim, anti-Pakistan approach." I want to warn here that the problem is not merely with the BJP but rather more with the constituency of BJP, which happens to be the majority of the Indian population. It is not just the BJP, it is this anti-Pakistan mindset that wouldn't just disappear even if a different party is voted to power.

People question how Trump won the election despite his racist and anti-immigrant hostile talk. He didn't win despite his ugly rhetoric but actually because of it. This is about the constituency not the individual leader or a party. A change of government would merely mean the majority of the Indians putting their trust in another party and another leader to achieve no different goals. The Indian media consistently drills an anti-Pakistan propaganda into the minds of the Indian people. They wouldn't wake up the morning after the election with deep love for Pakistan. Imran Khan should smell the coffee.

THE NEW BREED OF KASHMIR

Skipping for the time being the mention and detail of the doleful Pulwama where the Indian army, who has rampantly embarked upon a relentless shooting spree, has indiscriminately killed scores of guiltless Kashmiris, let us confabulate about a relatively calm region which has, in 1990's, been a bastion of pro-India militants like Muhammad Yousaf alias Kuka Parray.

Bandipora's district Hajin, a beautiful mountainous terrain of Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK), was deemed famous for offering a fusion of knowledge, literature and water. Water because it is located on the banks of Wular, the second largest fresh water lake in Asia. But now it is known because of two names Mudassar Ahmad Parray and Saqib Bilal. Both are on more, now. They were killed in an 18-hour gunfight in Srinagar's Mujkund area on the 10th of this December.

Both were pals and would play football at Eidgah in Hajin. The residents used to rejoice while watching them playing. On 31st of August, they left their home to play but never came back.

Young people keep falling down in this beautiful dale of Kashmir every other day. The fact as to why this duo is important should unman those ensconced comfortably within robust walls at New Delhi. Mudassar Ahmad Parray, just 14, is the youngest ever in the history of turbulent Kashmir who joined the ranks of Kashmiri fighters to avenge upon the Indian army's brutalities which the youth routinely behold around.

The fellows around him say that two events might have instigated him to develop inclination for the gun. In 2016, he spent a week in police custody for having pelted stones on Indian forces. Second incident was the killing of 19-years-old Abid Hamid Mir in an encounter in Sopore's Amargar, 25km away from Hajin. Mir was a close relative of Mudassar.

Saqib Bilal is the second character who gave a tough fight to the Indian forces and was subsequently killed along with Mudassar. He is important as he played a cameo role in Vishal Bhardwaj's film Haider, a Bollywood movie based on Kashmir. Bearing propensity for acting, he also went to Kerala three years ago and won a theatre competition



Muhammad Tahir Iqbal

there. India, after all, will have to contemplate the gravity of the issue when children as young as 4 years engage in stone-pelting and the citizens as tender of an age as 14 are forced to pick up guns and ammunition so as to fight the Indian forces, knowing clearly what end they may meet in the time to come. The feelings of animosity in hearts run so deep that parents are not disgruntled even a tad over the killings of their sons.

"Thanks to Almighty Allah that my son succeeded in the goal he had set to achieve. I pray that his martyrdom is accepted," said Rasheed Parray, the father of Mudassar Ahmad Parray.

And then Saqib Bilal's uncle Asim Ijaz says: "They fought like lions. This is not mourning, this is a joyous moment." When Harindra Baweja, a known Indian journalist, went to hold an interview with the father of Burhan Wani, Muzaffar Wani, who had lost his two young sons at the hands of Indian forces, the father looked proud and contented as he elated the martyrdom of Burhan. The proud father told Miss Baweja that not only his son, but he and others also wanted 'freedom' from the Indian occupation of Kashmir. The situation was not as volatile as it has turned now under the anti-Muslim, war-mongering regime of Mr. Modi. Siddiq Wahid, a Kashmiri historian who earned his Ph.D from Harvard says, "Nobody wants to be part of India now. Every Kashmiri is resisting today, in different ways."

Similar views are shared by the journalists sketching objective portrait of the valley. Jeffery Gettleman writing in The New York Times reports so, "Walk through Kashmiri villages, where little apples are ripening on the trees and the air tastes clean and crisp, and ask people what they want. The most common response is independence. Some say they want to join Pakistan. None say anything good about India, at least not in public." Now the point is that the barbarous and remorseless modes adopted by the Indian army are not yielding wholesome results, they would keep exacerbating the already turbulent environment if the

modus operandi remains constant. Global media and also the United Nations have evermore been voicing solicitude as to the swelling human rights violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir. Of late, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres remarks, "I remain concerned by the situation in Jammu and Kashmir."

The first-ever UN report on rights violations in Kashmir released some time ago focuses mainly on Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK), and accuses Indian troops of being responsible for unlawful killings. India cannot make a gateway from the charge-sheet of committing heinous human rights violation by simply throwing blame on Pakistan as has always been the practice. Independent analysts are now confirming that the recent wave of resistance is indigenous. "The new breed of homegrown militants are distinctly different from the hardened, well-trained militants of the nineties who all crossed the border into Pakistan for training...they are also asked to arrange their own weapons and finances", writes Toufiq Rashid in Hindustan Times. This is what is also implicitly confessed to by sources in Indian security forces as well. The question usually stonewalled in India its media and politicians is why a theatre artist, or a football lover, or a PhD scholar, or an engineering student takes up arms defying the fear of horrible outcome. An honest analysis may lead to some findings. Heaping bodies over bodies of the Kashmiri youth will never lead to any substantial route. With every passing day, the gloom over the valley is becoming thicker and darker. Coercions, suppressions and mass-murders cannot go on end. India cannot crush the indomitable spirits of the Kashmiri mothers and sisters who decorate the bodies of their brothers by applying henna before sending them to their eternal abode. The issue has to settle somewhere. Whatever the solution has to be, the deciding factors in the long or short run will be the denizens of Kashmir. That's what the UNSC resolutions say that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations.

PEACE HOSTAGE TO INDIAN INTRANSIGENCE



Malik Ashraf

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi speaking in the Senate rightly observed that peaceful neighbourhood was imperative for improving its socio-economic situation adding that it was also equally essential for India as well. Nobody in his right mind can take an issue with what he said. The unfortunate reality is that the regional peace was hostage to Indian intransigence in resolving her disputes with Pakistan including the core issue of Kashmir and its desire to establish her hegemony in the region. The continued Indian hostility towards Pakistan and refusal to engage in a dialogue with the latter in spite of several reconciliatory overtures by the Pakistani leadership is adding to instability in the region and scuttling the chances of economic resurgence that both the countries badly require.

The permeating situation in Kashmir where the innocent people are being killed ruthlessly is also adding to the already heightened tension between the two nuclear neighbours. Pakistan being a party to the Kashmir dispute cannot remain oblivious to the barbarity perpetrated against the people of Kashmir who are fighting for their legitimate right of self-determination. Pakistan has justifiably reacted harshly against the latest killings in Pulwama which can be easily equated with the Jalyanwala Bagh tragedy. Reportedly the Prime Minister has also spoken to the UN Secretary General urging him to take notice of the Indian atrocities and emphasized the need for resolution of the Kashmir dispute according to the will of the people by letting them to exercise their right of self-determination. Pakistan is also contemplating to raise the issue at the Security Council and to sensitise the world community about the gravity of the unfolding tragedy in IoK which under the circumstance is the appropriate course to adopt.

Pakistan has been persistently pursuing a policy of non-aggression against her neighbours, particularly India and has invariably tried to resolve the contentious

issues between the two countries through peaceful means. As against this, India all along had other ideas. Its bellicose posturing towards Pakistan and the adoption of Pakistan specific 'cold start' doctrine amply prove her aggressive designs steeped in her innate desire to establish her tutelage in the region. It was conveniently forgetting that Pakistan which was also a nuclear power and could not be browbeaten with such aggressive antics. The Foreign Minister was absolutely right in terming the 'cold start' doctrine as a futile initiative part of India contending that any accidental collision could prove suicidal. Wars have their own dynamics and momentum. One can start them but cannot control their momentum and scope.

It was India in fact which forced Pakistan to go nuclear. When India exploded a small nuclear device in 1974 on the basis of the US sponsored and supported nuclear programme, it heightened security concerns in Pakistan which perforce had to start its own nuclear programme to thwart the ensuing dangers to its security. While India had aggressive designs with regard to its nuclear programme, Pakistan's response was India-specific and defensive in nature. However despite acquiring the capability of producing nuclear weapons it did not explode the nuclear device until India did it second time in 1998. This declaration of acquisition of nuclear capability, as is evident, was again prompted by the Indian indiscretion to announce its nuclear credentials.

India has continued to enhance its capability of conventional warfare and has been spending staggering amounts of money on acquisition of weapons from different sources that led to a big gap between the capabilities of the two countries in the conventional domain. Inebriated by this development, India adopted a belligerent posture towards Pakistan and consequently coined the concept of Pakistan-specific 'Cold Start' which stipulates hitting specific targets within Pakistan instead of starting full-scale war. These provocative and threatening actions by India could not have gone un-

Responded by Pakistan. The befitting response was the initiation of a missile programme designed to produce short-range missiles which could carry small nuclear war-heads and hit all targets within India. This option again has been forced on Pakistan by the aggressive Indian designs. Pakistan rightly feels that it would stop India from entertaining aggressive designs against Pakistan and have the temptation to commit any indiscretion. It is yet another deterrent to forestall the possibility of even a limited war between the two countries. India, therefore, should have no illusions about Pakistan not giving a matching response to any of her aggressive acts. Pakistan is fully capable of defending itself. However its civilian and military leadership accords top priority to peaceful co-existence and starting a new chapter of bonhomie with India. India should not take that desire as weakness.

India needs to abandon its war-like approach and adopt a realistic view of the prevailing ground realities. Her repression in IoK cannot subdue the freedom struggle which is gaining momentum with every passing day in response to the inhuman acts of the Indian security forces and killing of Kashmiris on a daily basis. History is a witness to the fact that freedom movements cannot be suppressed with the barrel of the gun. It should therefore learn from the history and try to resolve the Kashmir conundrum in conformity with the UN resolutions. That is the only way this region can be saved from a perennial instability and threats to peace and security fraught with disastrous consequences for the countries of the region including India herself. The UN and the world community also have to come out of slumber and pursue India to stop the pogrom in IoK and fulfil her obligations as per the UN resolutions. There is no other way of establishing peace in the region.

PULWAMA MASSACRE IN IOK

Enough is enough; the Indian Army killed eleven Kashmiris in Southern Pulwama district of Indian-occupied Kashmir (IoK) on December 15, 2018. Among those killed three were branded by Indian Army as militants, one as soldier and seven protestors. The protestors were protesting against the fake encounter, Indian Army demonstrated to kill three Kashmiri youth. For the past two years, Indian Army is systematically killing Kashmiri youth through a planned strategy. This strategy was conceived following the takeover of the Kashmiri struggle by the youth. These youths were mobilized by the social media campaign of Burhan Wani in 2016. Following his martyrdom in July 2016, Kashmir youth took the centre stage of the Kashmir Movement and have given unprecedented sacrifices. The Youth of Indian-occupied Kashmir are determined to get their right of self-determination at all costs. On the other hand, the brutal Indian Army and its paramilitary forces have decided to kill Kashmiri youth through fake encounters, as an excuse. After outlining its brutal

strategy of killing Kashmiri youth in mid February 2017, General Bipon Rawat, the Indian Army Chief gave a free-hand to Indian Army to kill at will, even to those kids who just raise pro-freedom slogan and pelting stones on Armoured Personnel Carriers. On May 10, 2018 General Bipon Rawat again warned the youth of IoK, "freedom was not possible" therefore surrender in front of occupation forces.

The General further said, "I know that the youth are angry. But attacking security forces, throwing stones at us isn't the way." What an imprudent statement from an Army Chief, his military is killing the people at will and in return they are not allowed to even resist and throw stones, the only weapon they have. The world needs to note that the maximum weapons Kashmiri youths are fighting with are stones, which Indian Army Chief certified, personally. How they can be militants, fighting the world's 3rd largest Army. They indeed, only protest and raise slogans or pelt-stones, the maximum. These acts do not categorise them in the category of



Dr. Muhammad Khan

militants. How can stone-palters incite Indian Army for brutal acts, which General Rawat said, “They are inciting security forces to become more aggressive”. It is nonsense indeed from a General, who is totally unaware of ground realities. About the youth movement, Bipon Rawat says; “Until June 2016, everything was fine. What is that incited people so much because of that one encounter? Everything was

underwent surgery at the Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital and lost her eyesight. On that day, Indian Army killed six Kashmiri youth in a fake encounter and injured over sixty civilians. As per Medical Superintendent of Shopian District Hospital, Zahoor Ahmad, “36 persons came to the hospital with bullet and pellet injuries” on the day, Hiba got pellet gun injury in her eyes. These daily killings have no meaning for India and its brutal armed forces. General Rawat was very



categorical in this regard once he said, “The numbers of militants who are killed in gun-battles with the Army don’t matter to me because I know this cycle will continue. I only want to stress that all this is futile; nothing is going to be achieved by them. You can’t fight the Army.” This is a reality that killing

turned upside down in a few days’ time. The entire South Kashmir was out in the streets, throwing stones at us, attacking our posts.” This is the defeated mentality of a General, who admits that there are only 200 to 250 militants in IoK and has deployed over 700,000 security forces to counter them. The more Indian Army and its paramilitary forces will kill the Kashmiris, the more they will react and resist the Indian forces. In many cases, Indian Army humiliates and rapes the women folk in the garb of search and cordon operations in the occupied territory. These acts are resisted by male folk, who are killed subsequently. The 18-month-old baby, Hiba Nisar was neither the militant nor her mother and father militants. She is the youngest child suffer pellet injuries in Shopian district of IoK on November 26, 2018. She was hit by a pellet in the right eye and as per doctors; “She had suffered cornea perforation due to the pellet injury.” Hiba

of Kashmiris means nothing for the Indian Army and Indian Government. They are not Indian nationals, thus have to suffer this fate. The question arises that no one at global level takes a note of Kashmiris killing. Is Kashmiri blood so cheap to be shed on the streets in Indian occupied Kashmir? Like 18-month-old Hiba Nisar, thousands of Kashmiri youths have been blinded, paralysed and killed in Indian-occupied Kashmir since last two years. As per Indian Army Chief, this process (killing of Kashmiris) will continue, that means it is an organized act of genocide by Indian Army. United Nations Organisation should take note of this genocide of Kashmiri youths. Pakistan must highlight these brutalities in IoK at international forums through its diplomatic corps. The Kashmiri Diaspora must mobilize the international civil society and academic circles to highlight the Indian barbaric acts in Indian occupied Kashmir.

The writer is Professor of Politics and International Relations at International Islamic University, Islamabad.

STATE TERRORISM CONTINUES IN IOK

Kashmir which is our jugular vein is in continuous state of haemorrhage. Unfortunately, BJP government in India in assistance with RSS has fostered its agenda of loK's complete integration into India. Though legal experts of India and loK High Court have clarified the permanent status of Article 370 of Indian Constitution, BJP's agenda of division is still on the table. In this regard, BJP is in hot pursuit of Mission 44+ in IOK and its Army in occupied Kashmir has made the life of Kashmiris more terrible and awful. A new uprising was launched



by the youth of loK after the killing of Burhan Wani, a 22 year old commander of Hizbul Mujahideen who was killed during a gun battle with Indian forces. A widespread protest against his brutal killing has blown up all Kashmir. Kashmiris are demanding their right of self-determination and Kashmiri youth particularly seem more active and passionate in achieving freedom from Indian forces. The spirit of Kashmiri youth by wrapping up the dead body of Burhan Wani in Pakistani flag shows how obsessed they are to become integral part of Pakistan. History shows that how fearful this passionate Kashmiri youth makes Indian scared of their zeal and passion for Pakistan. Finding no way out to suppress their voices for freedom, Indian Army just uses violence and torture to keep them numb. Not only Kashmiri youth but innocent children, men, women and old aged people have suffered brutality at the Indian armed forces hands. Oppression and tyranny on

Kashmiris include widespread killings, rapes, shoot at sights, slaughtering and killing Kashmiri youth in detention centres while keeping them in custody and make them bear inhumane torture. Recently, a



Reema Shaukat

new wave of ferocity by Indian army has staged again in Kashmir. Indian army during the past few months has caused havoc in the life of Kashmiris. Indian troops in their fresh acts of state terrorism martyred eleven Kashmiri youths in Pulwama district. Three youth were martyred by the troops during a cordon and search operation in Kharpora Sirnoo area of the district. While the killing of the three youth triggered massive demonstrations in the area. Indian troops fired bullets, pellets and teargas shells to disperse the protesters, killing eight more youth and injuring over 250 others. Intense clashes were witnessed between the demonstrators and Indian forces' personnel. The occupation authorities snapped mobile internet services in Srinagar, Badgam, Pulwama, Islamabad, Shopian and Kulgam districts to prevent people from sharing information about the prevailing situation of the territory. To deter Kashmir freedom movement, every time Indian Army comes up with new coercion but still they are unable to break the will and determination of Kashmiris. The uprising which is very resilient and sanguine after death of Burhan Wani since 2016, has become nightmare for Indian army in Kashmir. So time and again, brutal acts come forward either by use of pellet guns on innocents without discrimination of gender and age or direct attack on people using chemical weapons or other arsenal. Despite, a lot of criticism, Indian forces use pellets on Kashmiris. Pellet guns shoot over 500 small lead balls, and thus severely injure multiple protesters at once. Pellet guns, introduced in 2010 by Indian Army to control protests in Indian Occupied Kashmir, have been regularly used by law enforcement agencies in the valley, leaving victims partial and, sometimes, completely blind. Usually used for hunting animals, pellet guns fire a cluster of small, round-shaped pellets, which resemble iron balls,

velocity. A pellet gun cartridge can contain up to 500 such pellets. When the cartridge explodes, the pellets disperse in all directions. While pellets are less lethal than bullets, they can cause serious injuries, and even loss of sight, if they hit the eye. Year 2016 was worst for Kashmiris because of use of pellets on them but this year 2018 has so far taken 600 plus lives in IoK.

The Kashmir Movement is not time bound but it comprises decades old struggle for freedom. This struggle has paid huge price in terms of human lives. Nearly 70,000 people have been killed in the uprising and the ensuing Indian military crackdown. According to Amnesty International, since 1989, there have been deaths of 98,274 innocent Kashmiris, 94,180 custodial killings, 117,345 arrests and 106,030 destructions of houses. Indian brutal security forces have orphaned

over 107, 520 children, widowed 22,796 women and gang raped 10,135 women and this number is increasing day by day. It is unfortunate that Kashmiri freedom voices go unheard on international forums. Though Pakistan has always supported Kashmir cause and will continue to do so through all diplomatic channels. But it raises a big question for claimers of biggest democracy in the world India, that where their democratic ethics are placed in case of Kashmir. Use of force or militant acts is never going to bring the desired results for India in Kashmir rather it is strengthening the resolve and firm belief of Kashmiris to be part of Pakistan soon. As it was well said by Joel Salatin, "When faith in our freedom gives way to fear of our freedom, silencing the minority view becomes the operative protocol".

The writer works for Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, a think-tank based in Islamabad.

KASHMIR "SAVE YOUR YOUTH" AN ADVICE BY YASSER ARAFAT

In early 1990s former High Commissioner in London Syed Wajid Shams ul Hassan, invited me and Dr. Ayub Thakur to meet Yasser Arafat Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization in London. It was an exclusive and a private meeting. Towards the end I asked Yasser Arafat, "Chairman, when we leave this room, what advice do you have for us to give to our people"?

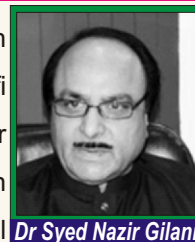
Yasser Arafat was swift and said, "My advice to you is make all efforts to save your youth" I interjected and sought to dilate upon his statement. He added, "I have just come from Delhi." He did not add any more and we left the room, disturbed and distraught.

It was a caution from a man who had wrestled with death all his life and never given up. Before the death of Burhan Wani on 8 July 2016 in Kokernag, we had perfected a quote that Indian forces have killed a generation in Indian occupied Kashmir. But the killing of Burhan Wani on 8 July 2016 in Kokernag and target killing of 9 people in Kulgam and Anantnag (Islamabad) on 21 October 2018, 11 civilians on 15 December 2018 in Sirnoo village of Pulwama and the killing 6 Kashmiri

youth Salih Mohammad Akhoun, Rasikh Mir, Rauf Mir, Umar Ramzan, Nadeem Sofi and Faisal Javid Khanday on 22 December 2018 by Indian forces in Tral Indian occupied Kashmir, has changed the moral of Kashmiri story. Yasser Arafat's caution was not without a reason.

World may not be interested in human rights situation in Kashmir, but there has always been a limit to such neglect. World turned its face away from Serb atrocities perpetrated on Bosnian Muslims, until NATO and US decided to intervene militarily. Serb military Generals involved in Muslim genocide landed in International Criminal Court in Hague and paid with imprisonment and life for their sins. There are people of good conscience out there to listen and help us.

Atrocities against and targeted killings of Muslims in the Kashmir Valley by Indian forces have graduated into war crimes. First and foremost argument to seek world attention has to be to explain the status of Indian soldier in the majority Muslim Valley. It is not an overwhelming force but is a supplement and sub-ordinate force. It is sub-ordinate to



Dr Syed Nazir Gilani

State administration and has been temporarily admitted in a part of the State to carry out four duties. Therefore, if the State Government does not take action or terminate their presence in the Valley, it becomes an accomplice and a partner in these killings. State Government cannot endure any part in this criminal liability.

National Conference carries a higher burden of responsibility and blame because it has acted as a Character Witness for these Indian forces at the UN Security Council on 5 February 1948. Common man and woman need to be educated to challenge National Conference leadership for failing to look after the guarantee given by Sheikh Abdullah at the UN. In addition to this UN Security Council Resolution of 21 April 1948 has defined the behaviour, number and location of these Indian forces during their stay in Kashmir.

When I was studying at the University of Kashmir in 1973/74, Indian soldier would require an 'out pass' and a 'companion' to appear in the City of Srinagar. Local shop keepers before making any transaction with an Indian soldier would ask for whether they had an 'out pass' to be in the City. Circumstances have altered to the point that an Indian soldier can wade into any household's privacy, torture, rape, kill and carry away a male youth. Is there no stopping? Yes, there is and we need to invoke the jurisprudence of Indian soldier's presence in Kashmir.

People in Pakistan, Azad Kashmir and the diaspora remain distraught on the images of torture, scenes of death and mass protests coming out from the Valley. It is an Indian Hindu soldier who is pitched against a Muslim Kashmiri. It is not an army which has a military code of conduct but a radical Hindu army, out to kill a Muslim. It could disturb the good community relations between Kashmiri diaspora and Indians living in any part of the world.

Prime Minister of Pakistan has spoken to the Secretary General of UN about the situation in

Kashmir. Foreign Minister has taken up the matter with OIC. Action at this senior level is highly commendable. However, it is not enough and would not dissuade India. We need to target the 193 capitals in the world and knock at the door of NGOs, institutions, Synagogues, Churches, Gurdawara, Temples, Mosques and at any door that has a merit.

Government of Pakistan, Government of Azad Kashmir and OIC in accordance with its Casablanca Summit Resolution of December 1994 on Kashmir, need to facilitate Kashmiris through their missions abroad to highlight the new wave of targeted killings by Indian forces. It is high time that credible NGOs working on Kashmir are supported by the intra-disciplinary mechanism on Kashmir to advocate the case. Parachuting new groups or individuals would be counterproductive at this point. Many NGOs have earned a credibility over the years and are well placed to flag the misery of the people of Kashmir.

There is an urgent need for course correction. We need to re-connect with all those countries which have served on UNCIP, visited the theatre of conflict, investigated the matter and filed reports at the UN Security Council. We need to connect with countries that have taken part in discussion on Kashmir at the UN Security Council and have finalised a mechanism for a UN supervised vote in Kashmir. We need a full overhauling of the manner in which we declare moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of Kashmir. There is an urgent need to revisit the advice given by Yasser Arafat Chairman PLO. Indian atrocities and presence in Kashmir have no merit.

(Dr Syed Nazir Gilani is President of London-based NGO JKCHR, which is in special consultative status with the United Nations. He specializes in Peace Keeping, Humanitarian Operations, and Election Monitoring Missions. Dr Gilani specializes in the Jurisprudence of UN Resolutions and Kashmir case. He was elected at the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, to represent the Unrepresented Peoples and Nations of the World.)

THE KASHMIR CHALLENGE: MULTILATERALISM IS THE ONLY WAY FORWARD

Muhammad Abdul Qadeer

Pakistan's nascent government is hoping for the resumption of bilateral talks with India. However, the government feels that this is not possible before the Indian parliamentary elections in April or May 2019, as electoral rhetoric in India demands an anti-Pakistan approach rather than pursuing dialogue with Pakistan.

The political realities suggest that any progress towards reconciliation is unlikely even after the Indian parliamentary elections are held, next year. Pakistan wants a dialogue with India particularly on the Kashmir issue and India is unwilling to talk about Kashmir.

In November 2018, after Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated the construction of the Kartarpur corridor a long held demand of the Sikh community there were increased hopes of a possible thaw between the two rivals. However, these expectations were dashed after the Indian leadership refused to resume dialogue with Pakistan. Indian media's propaganda coverage of Kartarpur initiative added fuel to the fire.

The negative response and bellicose tone by Indian leaders is not something new and should not be construed as part of election rhetoric. For more than two decades, India has spurned peace overtures with Pakistan under the guise of terrorism allegations. Therefore, looking at the previous bilateral discussions between the two countries which have remained unsuccessful at best, even if India resumes dialogue with Pakistan, it will not be willing to talk about Kashmir. The situation has become even more complicated due to India's refusal to accept any third-party mediation in resolving issues with Pakistan. India maintains that it will only talk to Pakistan in lieu of bilateral framework and cites 1972 Simla Agreement for this purpose. As the Simla agreement states that the two countries should "settle their differences by peaceful means

through bilateral negotiations".

Meanwhile, Pakistan wants the United Nations to play its role in resolving the Kashmir dispute because direct negotiations have yielded no result. Following the recent acts of violence by the Indian troops in which scores of civilians were killed in Indian Occupied Kashmir, Prime Minister Imran Khan telephoned UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and demanded UN intervention in Kashmir. Khan reminded Guterres that the Kashmir dispute is "not a bilateral issue between Pakistan and India but an internationally recognised dispute."

India has used the Simla agreement as pretext for resolving all differences including Kashmir bilaterally. However, there is now growing realisation in Pakistan that India is using the Simla agreement for only neglecting the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir.

From a legal perspective, the Simla Agreement has lost its relevance and the future of this agreement has become questionable due to India's unilateral declaration that Kashmir is its "integral" and "non-negotiable" part. India frequently emphasises on a particular clause of the agreement which urges both countries to settle their differences through direct negotiations. However, it has ignored other clauses in the same agreement which calls for "a final settlement of the Kashmir dispute" and stresses that until "the final settlement of any of the problems between the two countries... neither side shall unilaterally alter the situation." This means neither India nor Pakistan could unilaterally declare that Kashmir is its "integral part" and any such declaration is a "breach" of the treaty. Article 60 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties states that if a country commits "material breach" of a bilateral treaty, such as India has done in case of the Simla agreement, the other country is "entitled to terminate the treaty." A "material breach" of a treaty happens when there is a violation of a provision which is crucial for the

accomplishment of the purpose of a treaty.

Therefore, if Pakistan wants to move forward in seeking third party mediation on Kashmir, the first step would be to consider its withdrawal from the Simla agreement by invoking Article 60 of the Vienna Convention because India has breached the agreement. There is no point of staying in the agreement when India is using it for the purpose of exploiting it, and for avoiding legal constraints placed on it by the international law. If Pakistan considers such an option at any stage, it will not remain legally obliged to hold "direct negotiations" on Kashmir. However, the option of withdrawing from the Simla agreement should not be misunderstood as the suspension of communication between the two countries.

Bilateralism has produced no result and therefore, the role of mediation has become increasingly important in the Kashmir dispute. Pakistan would have to actively seek UN involvement in this regard. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has also laid great emphasis on "multilateralism" for resolving conflicts. Therefore,

Pakistan should not lose any opportunity in seeking the Secretary Generals' cooperation in this matter. In September 2017, Guterres also created the UN High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation consisting of global leaders and renowned experts. Pakistan should engage the Advisory Board because such steps will help Pakistan in internationalising the Kashmir cause.

Pakistan should ensure that it is using its geo-strategic position to its maximum advantage for building global pressure on India to resolve the Kashmir issue. The tilt of Western powers including the United States will remain in India's favour because of their vested interests. However, Pakistan will remain a key player in international politics given its important role in the region particularly in Afghanistan where America's longest war is still ongoing. Pakistan will also remain close to China due to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which will provide Beijing with access to the Arabian Sea.

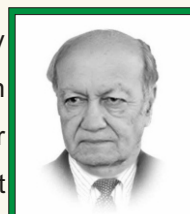
The resolution of Kashmir dispute is necessary for South Asian peace and Pakistan can expect progress only after steering the issue towards the right direction.

AMERICA'S SYRIA AND AFGHAN POLICY

The writer is a retired lieutenant general of the Pakistan Army and a former federal secretary. He has also served as chairman of the Pakistan Ordnance Factories Board.

President Trump's decisions to withdraw troops from Syria and reduce the forces in Afghanistan by 50 per cent to a mere 7,000 personnel are important pronouncements. The future of the remaining forces in Afghanistan is equally uncertain. Apparently, President Trump has made these judgments against the advice of his top cabinet members and triggered the resignation of Secretary of Defence General Mattis. What is the rationale behind these and their likely impact? It is well known that President Trump, as a matter of broad policy, has always been opposed to US military involvement in these conflict-ridden regions, be it the

Middle East or Afghanistan. This policy framework was a part of his election manifesto. It was on advice and under pressure from the Pentagon that President Trump conceded to retain troops in these



Talat Masood

countries. In Syria after Kurds and other forces opposing Assad's regime were on the retreat, Trump saw no meaningful purpose behind retaining US forces. Withdrawal from Syria and the subsequent resignation of General Mattis would be unsettling for Nato allies where he is held in high esteem. From their perspective, the withdrawal of US forces is considered as empowering inimical forces and damaging Nato. In fact, General Mattis was unequivocal that President Trump's policy posed a danger to world order. There are fears that it would not be a surprise if Trump decides to pull out of Nato or take policy decisions further weakening it,

Thereby compelling its members especially Germany and France to raise their own forces and reduce reliance on the United States. It is believed one of the motivations of President Trump for pulling back troops is to deploy them to guard the Mexican border. In addition, the prolonged stalemate in Afghanistan and the failure to influence events in Syria have frustrated Trump. The United States government will also be withdrawing advisers from Syria that were engaged in supporting reconstruction efforts and essential services. President Trump has been claiming that US forces having routed the Islamic State (IS), their presence and that of the support system in Syria becomes pointless. Although reality is that the IS has been weakened but not routed. The president, however, believes the withdrawal of forces would result in reducing the defence budget that could be used effectively for improving the lives of the Americans. This is a major departure from the previous American policy to remain a dominant player in Syria that is a critical part of the Middle East and centre of big power and regional rivalry. Apart from being more pragmatic, Trump like former president Obama realised that no tangible benefit would accrue by retaining troops in Syria, and is prepared to concede influence in the region to Russia, Turkey and Iran.

Reaction from allies and hawks was as expected. In view of Benjamin Netanyahu's close relationship with President Trump and the way he has leaned towards Israel, the prime minister has been diplomatic in his comments. Although he considers that the US withdrawal would lead to further chaos in the region and facilitate the IS to make a comeback. French President Emmanuel Macron has been far more vocal in his criticism. It is likely Syria and Turkey would be aiming at gaining control of areas vacated by the Kurds. Currently Russia and Iran are cooperating in stabilising Syria but their interests in future may not necessarily converge. Pakistan is not directly affected by events in Syria or the Middle East but its adverse implications are always present. A few group of Pakistanis, at one time, were misled by the IS to join their forces fighting in Syria. That

phase hopefully is over. At the diplomatic level, Pakistan has to maintain a delicate balance in its policy towards Syria and stay away from Arab-Iran or Arab-Turkish rivalry. However, the evolving Washington policy on Afghanistan has direct consequences for Pakistan.

The United States has sent an unequivocal message that it is serious about lowering its presence in Afghanistan. Announcing the reduction of American forces in Afghanistan while talks with the Taliban are at a crucial stage would encourage them to take a tougher stand during negotiations.

Expectations of the United States that the Pakistan military would facilitate the talks by exerting maximum pressure on the Taliban leadership are high. The rather conciliatory approach towards Pakistan is part of this wider strategy. Pakistan used its clout with the Taliban leadership to engage with Khalilzad, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan. The release of Mullah Baradar, one of the founding Taliban members, was a part of the same policy. How far Pakistan would be able to influence in bringing a settlement is yet to be seen.

Pakistan does not favour a hasty withdrawal of the United States as that would lead to chaos and intensify Afghanistan's civil war. This would have repercussions for Pakistan. But there are strong indications that President Trump's patience with Afghanistan has been running out and he may work out some agreement with the Taliban in the early part of next year. Although one would wish the best for Afghanistan but in case of the United States leaving without a satisfactory solution it could invite anarchy and chaos. Fencing of the border on our side is to be completed by end of next year and that would partially help in managing the border. More important would be to step up peace efforts in close cooperation with China to bring pressure on the Taliban to agree to a political settlement. Iran too has a major role to play. Russia's increasing interest in Afghanistan's future stability is understandable. It is in the vital interest of Pakistan that Afghanistan moves towards peace and retains its democratic structure. The Taliban may have proved to be resilient fighters but their capture of power would have serious consequences for the region. The coming months require Pakistan to play its role in the most sagacious manner in Afghanistan's reconciliation efforts steering above short-term narrow interests.

News Section

'Kashmiris must be allowed to decide their future': PM condemns Indian violence against civilians

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday sharply condemned the killings of innocent civilians at the hands of Indian security forces in occupied Kashmir's Pulwama area.

"We will raise [the] issue of India's human rights violations in IOK & demand UNSC [UN Security Council] fulfil its J&K plebiscite commitment," the premier said in a tweet. "Kashmiris must be allowed to decide their future," Khan said, stressing that the Kashmir conflict could only be resolved through

dialogue and "not violence & killings". The prime minister's



statement came a day after at least seven civilians were killed and over three dozen injured when Indian forces fired at protesters in occupied Kashmir. Residents had accused troops of directly spraying gunfire into the crowds.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IOK ORGANIZED AT IIUI : IIUI PRESIDENT PROPOSES KASHMIR CHAIR AT VARSITY SPEAKERS DENOUNCES INDIAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN OCCUPIED

Kashmir The speakers of a national conference on "Human Rights Violations in IOK" endorsed International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) President's proposal for establishing a Kashmir Chair at university.



They denounced the large-scale human rights abuses being unleashed by Indian occupation forces in the area on a daily basis. Speakers also noted that media and academia must play meaningful role in awareness of the Kashmir cause and dissemination of the atrocities continued by the Indian Occupied Forces. Speakers paid rich tributes to the brave people of Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK) who have resisted occupation for over 70 years and fighting against the subjugation fearlessly. The event was organized by Department of

Politics and International Relations of IIUI and Policy and Research Forum AJK jointly at Faisal Masjid campus of the university. President Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Sardar Muhammad Masood Khan said that bloodshed campaign launched by IoF was a violation of Geneva convention and humanitarian laws. He said Occupied forces were intentionally shooting the unarmed protesters. "Kashmir is mourning today, Pulwama martyrs' carnage has saddened our hearts" he said while condemning the fake encounter by IoF few days back in pulwama. He said that

India was practicing genocide of unarmed Kashmiris and world had seen brutal use of force and pallet guns on innocent Kashmiris. AJK President called upon youth to utilize relevant sources to let the world know about brutal acts of Indian government across the heaven like soil. He called for formation of an international human rights commission to investigate forced disappearances, genocide and implemented draconian laws. He also thanked Pakistan Foreign Minister for holding a press conference against the unjustified activities of IoF. Sardar Masood Khan also hailed



IIUI saying that it was a prestigious seat of learning, while he also endorsed proposal of IIUI President to establish a Kashmir chair at university. Ali Muhammad Khan minister for Parliamentary Affairs said that Kashmir is close to hearts of Pakistanis and love for this jugular vein will remain increasing by every passing day. The minister said that Muslims are in the line of fire across the world and reason is apathy towards

metaphor of grief, atrocities and pain due to violation of human rights by Indian Occupied forces. He suggested that an academic day on Kashmir cause be announced to hold programs and activities for raising awareness of Kashmir cause among youth. He also proposed that a chair on Kashmir should be launched at IIUI which was endorsed by all the participants. He added that Kashmir cause is a tale of sacrifices and determination to freedom. He said that



teaching of Prophet (PBUH). "Brand leading attitude is missing among Muslims, which must be promoted in youth" he said. He added that strength of Pakistan is a road to Kashmir's freedom. "Let's make this country ideal, stable and a strengthened state, he maintained. He stressed that Kashmir discourse should be top priority of academia. "it must be a compulsory part of curricula at all educational levels" he said. Addressing the youth he said: If you want to win the world, excel in knowledge. Khalid Lodhi, former defense Minister addressing the seminar urged the media to play vital role in Kashmir movement. He added that media is the most active tool to let the world know about actual deteriorated circumstances at IoK. He stressed upon

Muslims and Islam are peace lovers but the religion has also taught us to fight for our rights. Talking about KSA cooperation, Dr. Al-Draiweesh said that Saudi Arabia has always offered cooperation for the solution of Kashmir dispute. He said that KSA nation always pray for end of grueling journey of Kashmiris' hardships. Dr Samina Malik, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences at IIUI Dean Faculty of Social Sciences condemned human rights violations and said that unarmed people were facing the worst force of human history. She said that recent killing of innocent Kashmiri teacher Mana'an Wani's had shocked the academic fraternity across the globe and it also exposed Indian ill thinking towards Kashmir. Dr. Muhammad Khan, a Professor of IR at IIUI and chairman PRF called upon media,



the institutions and researchers to keep updating the figures of IoF suppression and inequalities and all the world must be conveyed these miseries through Pakistani ambassadors. President IIUI Dr. Ahmed Yousif Al-Drawieesh said that Kashmir has become a

academia and youth to play role for Kashmir cause. He vowed to keep voicing concerns against Indian occupation and injustice in Kashmir. The conference was also attended by senior IIUI academicians, DGs, researchers, faculty and a large number of students.

Kashmiris observe right to self-determination day

Mirpur: The President, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan has said India must realise that



the Kashmiri people cannot be deprived of their inalienable right to self-determination and freedom through military might. Masood was addressing a conference commemorating the right to Self Determination Day hosted by Jamaat Islami Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. He said "the right to self-determination is mother of all the rights and is one of the basic principles of human rights and dignity. No power on earth can snatch the will of Kashmiri people for their legitimate and undeniable right to self-determination," he said. Referring to the brutalities of the Indian military forces in the occupied Kashmir, the AJK President urged the international community to intervene and help ease the sufferings of Kashmiri people who are peacefully demanding their UN-mandated rights. "The appalling and inhumane situation in Kashmir, caused by the Indian Occupation army, has deteriorated to unheard levels of depravity," said Khan. The AJK president said people of Indian-held Kashmir are experiencing the most testing time in their history as the Indian occupation forces are engaged in committing atrocities against them. Despite the appalling tyrannies, suppression and the human rights abuses against them their spirit for liberation has not died down, he added. Terming the United Nations as a guarantor and one of the parties to the Kashmir

conflict, President Masood Khan said the UN resolutions have not been implemented because of the Indian intransigence. It is the responsibility of the United Nations to explore other options available under its Charter, he said. Masood highly appreciated the consistent unswerving struggle of the Jamaat Islami and other political parties in both parts of Kashmir and urged the politically active youth to equip themselves with the tools of mass media especially in the social media to project Kashmiri people's struggle for their right to self-determination in an effective manner.

The conference was also addressed by Amir Jamaat Islami Azad Kashmir, Dr. Khalid Mahmood, former Amir Jamaat Islami Azad Kashmir, Sardar Ejaz Afzal Khan, Amir Jamaat Islami, Gilgit Baltistan, Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, President Islamic Circle of South Africa, Dr. Haroon-ur-Rashid, Raja Fazal Tabbasum and others. Meanwhile, the People of Jammu and Kashmir living at both sides of the Line of Control and the rest of the world observed the Right to Self Determination Day with the renewed pledge to continue their ongoing indigenous struggle with full vigor till the achievement of their legitimate right through implementation of the U.N resolutions.

The Kashmiris observe this day every year to invite the attention of the world especially to remind the UN to immediately move for implementation of January 5, 1949 UN resolutions on Kashmir to ensure the early grant of the internationally-acknowledged right to self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. In Azad Jammu Kashmir the public rallies, besides special meetings and seminars at all district headquarters besides the Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Rawalakot and other places were the hallmark of the day. They highlighted the importance of early grant of the right to self-determination to Jammu Kashmir people. In Mirpur, a special protest meeting, participated by all segments of the civil society was held under the auspices of the local civil society's forum.

The rallies warned that the people of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir will respond to every aggressive posture of India against Pakistan or AJK shoulder to shoulder with the valiant armed forces of Pakistan for the

defense of the motherland. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir will not hesitate from giving any sacrifice for the defense of the sovereignty and the ideological and geographical frontiers of Pakistan including AJK in case of any aggression from across the frontiers, they



warned.

The meetings strongly condemned the repeated violations of the Line of Control and the Working Boundary by India. They called upon the UN and the international community to take urgent notice of the aggressive designs of India in the region which they warned, may turned into a conventional war.

Our correspondent adds from Islamabad: Meanwhile, All Parties Hurriyat Conference office-bearers and other Kashmiri activists held a peaceful demonstration in front of the UN MOGIP. Speakers called on the world body to play its due role in ensuring the Kashmiris' right to self-determination. The event was held to mark the

UN self-determination day.

The protestors carried banners, which read: January 05, Right of Self-Determination Day and Struggle till self-determination to continue.

Meanwhile, an exhibit of rare pictures went on display here

on Saturday, showcasing the genesis, preceding events and to mark the 70th anniversary of the UN resolution on Kashmir plebiscite.

Exactly on this day, i.e. January 5, 1949, the UN Commission for India and Pakistan passed a resolution stipulating UN-supervised referendum, or plebiscite in the resolution's language, so citizens of the State of Jammu & Kashmir could decide to join either Pakistan or India. This requirement is pending mainly because of India's invasion and annexation of Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahmed Quraishi, Executive Director of YFK said that Kashmiris and the world are coming closer to resolving Kashmir conflict.

Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas was personality of multiple dimensions, Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan

Islamabad (PID, AJK) AJ&K Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan said that people of Kashmir have rendered immortal sacrifices in the Love of Pakistan and this story continues still. While addressing a seminar under the auspices of Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Cell at Jammu and Kashmir House on Wednesday, the Prime Minister said Kashmir Issue was not a bilateral dispute, Kashmiris were core party of this dispute. "In the third phase of freedom movement, 95 thousand Kashmiris have rendered sacrificed for the right to self-determination. Kashmiris

have written a immortal story of sacrifices. Chaoudhary Ghulam Abbas was a true lover of Pakistan, his teaching was full of respect, and honesty," he said. Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan revealed that Indian Prime Minister Moodi was behind the armed operation in occupied Kashmir. He further said that Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas was personality of multiple dimensions. His honesty and patriotism was unique. These were the qualities, why Quaid-e-Azam declared him, his successive. "We need Leader of his same qualities, in occupied Kashmir a very painful situation. He said that educated youth in occupied Kashmir has stood up against the oppression of India. He asked the foreign office of Pakistan to sommon the India Ambassador of India and ledge protest on Palwama massacre. Farooq



Haider said a joint meeting of AJK political and Huriyat Leadership will be called to evolve the joint strategy. Speaker AJK Assembly Shah Ghulam Qadir, Secretary General Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Raja Muhammad Yasin of Muslim Conference, Minister for Food Syed Shaukat Ali Shah,

Minister for Rehabilitation Raja Muhammad Saddique Khan, member Kashmir Council Abdul Khaliq Wassi, Naseema Wani MLA, Raffique Dar of JKLF, Mansoor Qadir Dar Secretary Liberation Cell and others speakers also addressed the seminar.

Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan visited the mausoleum of Raeesul Ahrar late Ch. Ghulam Abbas

Rawalpindi (Pid,Ajk): Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan visited the mausoleum of Raeesul Ahrar late Ch. Ghulam Abbas on Monday. He was given briefing on embellishment of Quaid-e-Millat's Mzaar by Director General Central Designing Iftikhar Kiani. The Mzaar of the late leader would be reconstructed and decorated as per directives of the Prime Minister, added Kiani. The Premier was further told that apart from redesigning of the mausoleum, construction of offices, mosque, grave of Begum Sahiba, gate, lawn and a conference hall have been given final shape while special importance has been given to Kashmiri art and designing in the construction. Giving instructions of some changes in design of the Mzaar the Prime Minister said wood should be used for main

gate and some designing work. He also gave instruction regarding the size of the library and enquired about the details of program of Mzaar from Secretary Kashmir Liberation Cell and DG Information. Mr. Haider advised them to ensure all necessary arrangements to observe the anniversary of Ch. Ghulam Abbas in a befitting manner.

Secretary Services Ch. Liaquat Hussain, Secretary PPH Idris Abbasi, Secretary KLC Mansoor Qadir Dar, Secretary to PM Ijaz Ahmed Khan, DG Information Raja Azhar Iqbal and others were present on the occasion.



No instance of atrocities, tyrannies and humiliation of humanity in any part of the world that Indian forces had been committing in the India-held Kashmir, Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan

Muzaffarabad (PID,AJK) The AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan said that there was no instance of atrocities, tyrannies and humiliation of humanity in any part of the world that Indian forces had been committing

in the India-held Kashmir. He was addressing at Manikpayan refugee camp near Muzaffarabad on Friday to express solidarity with Kashmiri children who had been victim of Indian forces firing. Thousands of youth and children had been continuously martyred by the brute occupation forces in the held valley, he added. He said BJP government was particularly hostile against youth and targeting Kashmiri children with pellet guns to frighten the people of Kashmir to abandon their freedom movement but brave Kashmiris are



determined to continue it until the goal was achieved. Indian forces were involved in war crime and crossing all limits of brutalities and state terrorism in IHK, he remarked. Children of refugee camp had made themselves up like victims of pellet guns which brought the Prime Minister into tears.

On this occasion Mr. Haider told the refugees that their sustenance allowance was increased from within the budget of the State. He assured them that his government would do all to provide them basic amenities of life for which budget had already been earmarked.

The Prime Minister announced water supply scheme for refugees, bridge from Srinagar road to refugee camp, cleanliness of camp and metalling of streets of the camp. He also inaugurated several development schemes in the camp which have been completed with

the cooperation of local government. He said he realizes the tough situation being faced by refugees. He also lauded the courage of people living close to LoC who were combating Indian forces shelling along with the armed forces from across the border. Mr. Haider also kicked off tree plantation drive by planting a sapling of Chinara attributing it to the children who were subjected to Indian forces aggression.

Later a rally was held which was led by the Prime Minister to express solidarity with the Kashmiri children. Speaking to the participants of the rally PM repeated that India had crossed all limits of tyrannies against the children. He revealed that he would again visit Europe next month to apprise the international community on latest situation obtaining in Occupied Kashmir. He said he was also expecting meeting with foreign minister to discuss the situation of Kashmir and to formulate a strategy on it after a detailed discussion.

Pakistan asks OIC to take up Kashmir issue

Islamabad: Urging the world community to "intervene" and stop ongoing bloodshed in India-held Kashmir, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has asked the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to immediately convene an inter-ministerial meeting of its Contact Group on Kashmir, saying Pakistan is ready to host the event. Speaking at a press conference on Sunday, Mr Qureshi said he had contacted the OIC secretary general to apprise him about the latest situation in occupied Kashmir and Pakistan's desire for convening of the meeting of the member states in Islamabad. Mr Qureshi said he had told the OIC secretary general that the proposed meeting could also be held in Jeddah, if the participants had any difficulty in travelling to Islamabad. According to the minister, the OIC secretary general responded positively and asked him to submit a formal request. Imran condemns killing

of Kashmiri people, Qureshi seeks international



community's intervention

Condemning the killing of 14 Kashmiris by Indian forces in Pulwama on Saturday, he said, "It appears Indian forces are on killing spree. The forces are not resorting to aerial firing to quell protests and disperse crowds. The yesterday's events show that their aim is to kill."

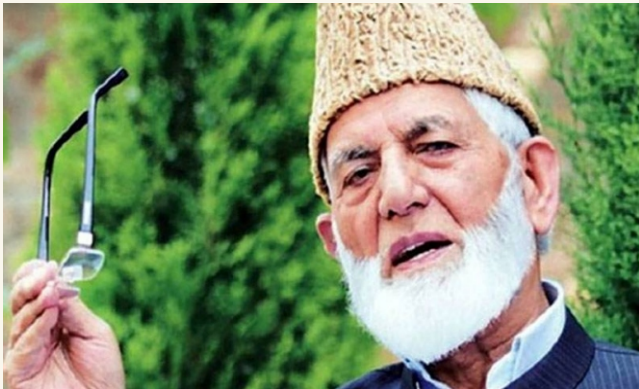
Prime Minister Imran Khan through his official account on Twitter also condemned the killings of innocent civilians at the hands of Indian forces in the Pulwama area. "(I) strongly condemn killing of innocent Kashmiri civilians in Pulwama

loK by Indian security forces. Only dialogue and not violence and killings will resolve this conflict. We will raise issue of India's human rights violations in loK and demand the UNSC fulfill its J&K plebiscite commitment," Mr Khan tweeted. "Kashmiris must be allowed to decide their future," he said.

Mr Qureshi said he was also sending letters to the secretaries general of the United Nations and the UN Human Rights Commission drawing their attention to recent surge in the acts of barbarism and brutalities by Indian forces against innocent and unarmed Kashmiri people. He called upon the international community and human rights organisations to take notice of the ongoing killing spree by the occupation forces in held Kashmir.

Syed Ali Gilani condemns Pulwama massacre

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, the Chairman of All



Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Syed Ali Gilani, has condemned the Pulwama massacre in which 11 Kashmiris were killed and more than 100 injured by the pellets and bullets at the hands of Indian forces. Syed Ali Gilani in a statement issued in Srinagar said India claims to have the brave and disciplined army of the world, but in reality they are so cowards and timed that they shower bullets and pellets to the unarmed people especially kids. They try test their muscles and arsenal on the peaceful protestors who are just demanding their basic and fundamental right, right to self-determination promised by their own leaders, he added. He questioned the so-called champions of the

"Humanity and Democracy" that is this your humanity to use deadly weaponry against peaceful people? Everywhere there are protests, even violent but neither in the world nor in India itself they are showered bullets and pellets, but we being Muslims fighting for our rights here, every tool of state terrorism, bullets, pellets, arrests, killings, rapes and harassments all are legalized and justified in garb of security, he added

He said that even the brutalities have a limit, beasts too get exhausted but Indian atrocities, their unjust behaviour and the iron fist seems to have no end. "We have read in history about the heinous crimes of "Changez and Halako", but the repression and oppression we are subjected to have surpassed them as well, he said.

Kashmir struggle cannot be muzzled by oppression: Mirwaiz

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, the Chairman of Hurriyat forum, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has said that every civilian killing by Indian forces leads to increased anger among people against New Delhi, which has been mishandling Kashmir situation for the past several decades by ignoring the ground realities in the territory. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in a statement issued in Srinagar said that the freedom struggle could not be muzzled by military might and oppression. He said this anger will not lessen and rather result in stiff resistance to oppression. "Those in Delhi who blame the resistance leadership for their own mishandling of the situation should accept that with each civilian killing by forces, the resentment and anger against Indian government naturally grows and will not lessen," he added. Mirwaiz's statement came a day after Indian Home Minister



Rajnath Singh said that resistance leaders in Kashmir were instigating the people against New Delhi. He said Kashmir is witnessing an all time increase in human rights abuses in the form of killing as the policy makers in New Delhi seek a military solution to the seven-decade-old festering dispute by giving a free hand to the forces.

JKLF holds protest demonstrations

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, leaders and activists of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), today, held a peaceful protest demonstration in Lal Chowk, Srinagar, against ongoing carnage of the Kashmiris, the prolonged and repeated detention of JKLF Chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik and others,



Pulwama massacre and other oppressive measures by Indian forces. Other such protests were held at many places in Europe. Party leaders, Sheikh Abdul Rashid, Mir Muhammad Zaman, Muhammad Sideeq Shah, Javed Ahmad Butt, Professor Javed, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, Ghulam Muhammad Dar, Ali Muhammad Acxhen and others participated in the protest. Meanwhile, JKLF, United Kingdom and Europe Zone, organized a protest programme against unabated Indian aggression and spree of killings in Kashmir especially in Pulwama and arrest of JKLF Chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik and others on concocted charges. The protest was held outside Indian High Commissions in London. The JKLF leaders and members of Kashmiri Diaspora participated in these protest rallies. The protest rally in London was attended by many Kashmiris including the head of JKLF Diplomatic Bureau, Professor Zafar Khan, Sabir Gul,

Tehseen Gilani and others. The JKLF leaders addressed the participants of the protest and condemned the oppressive tactics used by Indian forces against the people of Kashmir. Meanwhile JKLF units in London, Brussels and other parts of Europe held protest demonstrations outside Indian embassies and high commissions, against ongoing Indian aggression in Kashmir valley especially the recent carnage at Pulwama. A memorandum addressed to OIC, EU and AU blocks, the Arab League, the UN Secretary General and the US was also distributed to media present on the occasion. The memorandum has already been delivered to the concerned. The memorandum issued from Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front International Secretariat in London has urged the international community to take a serious note of the deteriorating situation in Kashmir.

Indian police arrest Mirwaiz, Yasin Malik during march in Srinagar

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, Indian police arrested the Chairman of Hurriyat forum, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and the Chief of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Muhammad Yasin Malik after they tried to lead a march towards Indian army headquarters in Badami Bagh, Srinagar, today. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was arrested after he defied his house arrest and tried to march towards Badami Bagh army base in Srinagar as a mark of protest against the civilian killings by Indian troops in Pulwama on Saturday. As Mirwaiz came out of his Nigeen residence and tried to march along with dozens of his supporters towards the Badami Bagh base, a police contingent deployed near his residence thwarted the march and detained the Mirwaiz and his supporters. Muhammad Yasin Malik, who had gone underground to evade arrest, was also detained when he took out the march from Gaw Kadal area of Srinagar along with his supporters. As he reached Budshah Bridge, police swung into action and arrested him along with many of his supporters.

Hurriyat leaders enquire about Hiba's health in hospital

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, a delegation of Hurriyat leaders led by Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference

Chairman, Shabbir Ahmed Dar, and the Chairman of Young Men's League, Imtiaz Ahmad Reshi, today, visited SMHS Hospital in Srinagar and enquired about the health of 18-month-old pellet victim, Hiba Jan. The Hurriyat leaders expressed sympathy and solidarity with the parents of the victim child and prayed for her speedy recovery.

Indian troops martyr eleven Kashmiri youth in Pulwama

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops in their fresh acts of state terrorism martyred eleven Kashmiri youth in Pulwama district, today. Three youth were martyred by the troops during a cordon and search operation in Kharpora Sirnoo area of the district. The killing of the three youth triggered massive demonstrations in the area. Indian troops fired bullets, pellets and teargas shells to disperse the protesters, killing eight more youth and injuring over 250 others. Intense clashes were witnessed between the demonstrators and Indian forces' personnel. Earlier, one Indian soldier was killed and another injured in an attack in the area. The occupation authorities snapped mobile internet services in Srinagar, Badgam, Pulwama, Islamabad, Shopian and Kulgam districts to prevent people from sharing information about the prevailing situation of the territory. The authorities also suspended rail services in the occupied territory. People including students held forceful demonstrations in Srinagar, Sopore and other areas against the killings. They chanted high-pitched pro-freedom and anti-India slogans. Indian police and troops used brute force on protesters. The students of Kashmir University held funeral prayers in absentia for the martyred youth. Meanwhile, a three-day shutdown commenced in the occupied territory on the call of the Joint Resistance Leadership comprising Syed Ali Gilani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik to register protest against the killings in Pulwama. The JRL has also called a march towards Badami Bagh cantonment in Srinagar on Monday to register protest against the

killings. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in a tweet asked India to stop genocide in the territory. Hurriyat leaders and organizations strongly denouncing the Pulwama carnage appealed to the international community to take cognizance of Indian brutalities on the people of the occupied territory.

Indian troops martyr six youth in Tral

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred six Kashmiri youth in Pulwama district, today. The youth were killed by the troops during a cordon and search operation jointly launched by Indian army, paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force and Special Operation Group in Arampora area of the district. The martyrs were identified as Salih Mohammad Akhoun, Rasikh Mir, Rauf Mir, Umar Ramzan, Nadeem Sofi and Faisal Javid Khanday. The killings led to forceful anti-India protests in Tral and adjoining areas of the district. Youth in groups assembled at various places and took out marches against the killings. Indian troops used brute force on the protesters triggering clashes. The authorities suspended mobile internet and train services immediately after the killings in the district.

India fires at civilians across LoC

MIRPUR (AJK) - A housewife was martyred and nine other civilians including four women were grievously injured in unprovoked Indian shelling across the Line of Control on the last day of 2018.

Keeping with its ugly tradition of violating the ceasefire agreement and unprovoked aggression, the Indian army targeted populous areas of Neelum district of Azad Jammu Kashmir on Monday. Five of those injured were in serious condition, officials said. A handout issued on Monday quoted Neelum Deputy Commissioner as saying that even schools and government offices were not spared in the callous Indian attack in Shah Kot Sector of Neelum Valley. The official report said, "As a result of the Indian firing a local lady identified as Asiyaa wife of Haroon embraced martyrdom on the spot and five other local inhabitants sustained serious injuries. "The seriously injured were identified as 6-year-old student Misbha Jamil d/o Muhammad Jamil of village Bagna, Ms Saddaf Zia d/o Zia ur Rehman, Kalsoom Bibi d/o

Shafqat r/o Athmuqam district, Ms Zermeen d/o Shakeel and Anser Bibi w/o Zaffar Mir r/o Ambore Muzaffarabad, Amir, Zulqarnain, Sajaad and Rafaqat.” The handout said that some of the official and civil buildings were partially damaged in the Indian shelling. The injured were rushed to the local hospital where four of them were discharged after initial treatment. It said that AJK President Sardar Masood Khan and Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan have strongly condemned the unprovoked Indian firing on the civil population and the public and private buildings in Neelam valley. In their separate statements they said that India could not scare the people living along the LoC through such cowardly acts. “Targeting civil population without any provocation is cowardice act on the part of Indian army and is a highly condemnable act,” President Masood said.

He condoled with the affected families and prayed for early recovery of those wounded in the firing.

AJK president said that Indian forces deliberately target civilian population, their property, livestock and crops to cause damage and create panic knowing that Pak Army cannot respond in a similar manner by targeting civil population on the other side of the LoC. “Pak forces don't target civil population on other side of the LoC as they consider them their own citizens, brothers and sisters,” Masood Khan said and called upon the international community to take cognisance of the violation of 2003 ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan. He said India should be held responsible for a wanton loss of human lives and also appealed to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres to take notice of the Indian aggression. AJK President on Monday also addressed at a Kashmir Conference organised by School of Politics and International Relations of Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad.

In his speech, he said that Kashmir dispute is not a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and same can't be resolved without the consent of Kashmiri

people. He said that there are three parties of the dispute, that are, India, Pakistan and people of Jammu and Kashmir and the dispute cannot be settled without consultation of Kashmiris. The conference was also addressed by Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof Dr Muhammad Ali and other speakers. President Masood said that we will have to reach out to the international community to get the issue resolved in line with UNSC resolutions and in accordance with the aspiration of Kashmiri people. He termed Indian accusation of terrorism in Kashmir as propaganda against the legitimate struggle of Kashmir people and said that Kashmiri people are most unarmed people on the planet who are fighting 700,000 armed-to-teeth Indian army with stone and sticks.

26% of world's largest paramilitary CRPF strength present in IOK

New Delhi, December 26 (KMS): Twenty six per cent of the total strength of the Indian paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has been deployed in occupied Kashmir to suppress the Kashmiris' ongoing freedom struggle, an official report revealed. The report presented by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs in the Lok Sabha, the upper house of Indian Parliament, says, 61 out of 235 battalions the world's largest paramilitary force are deployed in Kashmir.

Apart from massive concentration of the CRPF, other Indian paramilitary forces such as Border Security Force, Indo Tibetan Border Police, Sashastra Seema Bal and Central Industrial Security Force have significant presence in occupied Kashmir, the report mentioned.

During the 2010 and 2016 massive uprisings, thousands of additional paramilitary personnel were rushed to the territory to suppress the street protests. Post 2009, the paramilitary forces are seeking deployment charges from the cash-starved J&K for their services.

Nine killed as Kashmir reels from its deadliest year since 2009

Teenager among those dead as India-administered Himalayan region suffers its worst bloodshed in about 10 years.

Shahida Begum holds her 18-month-old daughter allegedly hit by pellets in her right eye [Muzamil Bhat/Al Jazeera]

Srinagar, India-administered Kashmir - At least nine people have been killed in violence in India-administered Kashmir, capping off one of this year's deadliest weeks in the disputed region already suffering its worst bloodshed in a decade.

At least six rebels were killed in an early morning gun battle with security forces on Sunday in Kapran village of Shopian district in southern Kashmir. The fighting later sparked clashes in the volatile district between locals and police, during which a 15-year-old civilian was killed by security forces, according to residents. A senior police official told Al Jazeera that an army officer, who was wounded in the encounter with rebels, later succumbed to his wounds. In a separate incident, a foreign rebel was killed in fighting in Awantipora district, taking the total death toll to nine. "The six killed rebels were wanted in various cases and belonged to a combined group of Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba. They included three rebel commanders," the official said, adding that two more Indian soldiers suffered wounds.

Late night operation Authorities said the operation was launched after receiving information on Saturday night about the presence of rebels in the house of a farmer in Kapran village. "Multiple cordons were laid. The five rebels were locals and one was a foreigner," the police official said.

People at the funeral of Mohd Waseem Wagay, a suspected rebel, at Amshipora village in south Kashmir's Shopian district [Danish Ismail/Reuters]

Residents said a local teenager, Numan Ashraf, was shot dead by the forces in the clashes. Several others were wounded. "Twenty people suffered pellet-gun injuries, four of them in their eyes. Four suffered bullet wounds. Even an 18-month-old girl was hit with pellets in her eye and face, but is in a stable condition," a doctor in Shopian, who requested anonymity, told Al

Jazeera.

As tension grew, authorities suspended internet services in the district to stop the protests from spreading further, officials said. Meanwhile, separatist groups in Kashmir, who demand an independent state or merger with Pakistan, have called for a shutdown and protests on Monday against the latest killings. Residents in south Kashmir often come out in the hundreds during an operation by the security forces, helping the rebels to escape. Still, 16 rebels have been killed in three such operations since Tuesday. Though wary of "routine gunfights", residents in south Kashmir continue to back the armed rebels.

"They might call them terrorists, but they are our children fighting injustice. That thousands of people come out and face bullets to save these fighters should act as an eye opener for India," 45-year-old Gulshan Nazir told Al Jazeera. "This injustice and oppression does not differentiate between a civilian and a rebel. They did not even spare a child, who was hit with pellets. Was she pelting stones as well," she asked.

Bloodiest year since 2009

India-administered Kashmir has witnessed a spike in violence since the killing of a popular rebel commander in 2016. Kashmir-based rights group Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) said 528 people have been killed this year in armed conflicts in the disputed Himalayan territory, including 145 civilians. The report on Saturday added that at least 234 rebels and 142 Indian security personnel have also been killed so far this year. JKCCS coordinator Khurram Parvez said it was the "bloodiest year since 2009" and blamed it on the "political weakness" of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), India's main ruling party. "Federal elections are set to take place in India in a few months and the BJP government is selling the body bags of Kashmiris to gain votes," he told Al Jazeera.

"They want to show their might to cover up for their failures in the government."

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA NEWS

OIC asks Delhi to allow fact-finding mission to IOK

Jeddah: The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has condemned the Pulwama killings and asked Delhi to allow sending of a fact-finding mission to the valley. Taking to micro-blogging site Twitter OIC wrote: "OIC General Secretariat expressed strong condemnation of the killing of innocent Kashmiris by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir where direct shooting at demonstrators in Pulwama district claimed the lives of a number of innocent citizens." The OIC in a statement urged the Indian government to put an end to the human rights abuses. "The excessive and arbitrary use of force by Indian forces against innocent civilians, peacefully protesting for their legitimate rights, is deplorable and a blatant violation of their human rights including the right to life, right to freedom of expression, right to peaceful protests and assembly and other fundamental human rights," the statement added. objectively and independently report on the human rights situation," it said.

Malaysian NGO says UN actionless to stop HR abuses in IOK

Kuala Lumpur: The Malaysian Consultation Council of Islamic Organization (MAPIM), a conglomerate of 200 organizations, has condemned the recent massacre perpetrated by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. A spokesman of MAPIM in a statement said, the conglomerate regrets the silence of the world community over the atrocities in Kashmir by Indian forces. The spokesman said that report of the detention of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik, by Indian forces to curtail the rightful movement for right to self-determination in occupied Kashmir is unacceptable, and Malik is a legitimate leader of the Kashmiris' freedom struggle. "It is most regretful that the UN has stood actionless to stop the human rights violations in Kashmir," the spokesman of the conglomerate said. "We believe the atrocities inflicted on the Kashmiris by the forces will not be able to break the spirit of the Kashmiris for their struggle for self-determination," he added. The

spokesman also said that keeping Yasin Malik in jail and not providing him with basic treatment for his deteriorating health was a criminal act as per the international law. The spokesman said on record, they have received reports till November 2018, and forces have killed "48 people, besides arresting 169 and torturing 196". "We have been informed that in the past three decades, the Indian forces have killed 95,234 people since January 1989 in which the custodial killing mounted to 7120," the statement added.

The statement said that MAPIM calls upon the OIC Secretary General to voice the group's concern and to send a strong message to India against its decades of brutal acts against the people of Kashmir.

World HR Day moot promises to place Kashmir high on EU agenda

Brussels: The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir in the European Parliament (APGK-EP) hosted a conference on "Kashmir Human Rights, Conflict Resolution".

The organisers included MEP Julie Ward and MEP Klaus Buchner in association with International Human Rights Association of American Minorities(IHRAAM), International Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), South Asian Centre for Peace and Human Rights (SACPHR) and Kashmir Youth Assembly, UK Europe.

The event was held in connection with the celebration of International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2018. The conference opened with the screening of a film titled "Bruised Paradise" highlighting gross human rights abuses taking place in occupied Kashmir where people are seeking their inalienable right to self-determination as promised by the international community through the United Nations resolutions. Mr Frank Schawalba-Hoth, former MEP and founder of German Greens, who chaired and moderated the conference, impressed upon the collective declaration to resolve any international dispute including Kashmir in compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as a convenient and useful tool which provides hope, respect and courage to common good, collective peace and international security.

Hindutva ideology threatens india's multicultural history

Washington: The US State Department' annual report 2018 on religious freedom has noted that religious freedom conditions continued a downward trend in India and that the country's history as a multicultural and multi-religious society remained threatened by Hindutva forces.

The report was released by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom in Washington. It said various nationalist groups in India have adopted the ideology of Hindutva, or "Hindu-ness," which has three pillars common nation, race, and culture and forms the basis of an exclusionary national narrative focused exclusively on the rights of Hindus.

Following are some excerpts on condition of religious freedom in India:

"During the year, Hindu-nationalist groups sought to 'Saffronize' India through violence, intimidation, and harassment against non-Hindus and Hindu Dalits. Both public and private actors pursued this effort. Approximately one-third of state governments enforced anti-conversion and/or anti-cow slaughter laws against non-Hindus, and mobs engaged in violence against Muslims or Dalits whose families have been engaged in the dairy, leather, or beef trades for generations, and against Christians for proselytizing."

"Members of the BJP have affiliations with Hindu extremist groups, and many have used discriminatory language about religious minorities. For example, in early 2018, just after the reporting period, BJP parliamentarian Vinay Katiyar stated that "Muslims have been given their share (of land). They should go to Bangladesh or Pakistan." The influence of these groups is evident across a range of areas. For example, the RSS and other Hindutva extremist groups have expanded the scope and size of the religious schools which teach their intolerant ideology in their Vidya Bharti system to nearly four million students, and have tried to distribute their own books in the public

schools. Their youth wings have used intimidation and violence in colleges to silence their secular or non-Hindu classmates and shut down events that challenge their viewpoints. Hindutva extremist groups rioted and burned down cinemas in response to allegations that the 2017 movie Padmaavat depicted a Hindu queen having a romantic daydream about a Muslim king. The director of the film rejected these accusations, saying no such scene was in the film. The public response, inflamed by Hindutva groups, caused some state legislatures and courts to temporarily ban the film's showings. Hindutva-nationalists also have attempted to erase or downplay the influence of non-Hindus in Indian history. For example, the central government omitted the Taj Mahal, which was built by a Muslim ruler, from its "cultural site" list in 2017."

"Cow protection" lynch mobs killed at least 10 victims in 2017. Forced conversions of non-Hindus to Hinduism through "homecoming" ceremonies (ghar wapsi) were reported, and rules on the registration of foreign-funded nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) were used discriminatorily against religious minority groups. The worsening conditions for religious freedom largely impacted 10 states (Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan); the 19 remaining states remained relatively open and free for religious minorities. At the federal level, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made statements decrying mob violence, but members of his own political party have affiliations with Hindu extremist groups and many have used discriminatory language about religious minorities. Despite Indian government statistics indicating that communal violence has increased sharply over the past two years, the Modi Administration has not addressed the problem. His administration also has done little to provide justice for victims of large-scale past incidents of communal violence, often caused by inflammatory speeches delivered by leaders of Modi's party."

Conditions for religious minorities have deteriorated over the last decade due to a multifaceted campaign by Hindu-

Nationalist groups like Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Sangh Parivar, and Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) to alienate non-Hindus or lower-caste Hindus.

The victims of this campaign include Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains, as well as Dalit Hindus, who belong to the lowest rung in the Hindu caste system. These groups face challenges ranging from acts of violence or intimidation, to the loss of political power, to increasing feelings of disenfranchisement and “otherness.” In 2017, the Indian government's criminal data collection agency, the National Crime Records Bureau, reported that communal violence increased significantly during 2016. Further, just after the reporting period, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Hansraj Ahir reported to parliament that 111 people were murdered and 2,384 injured in 822 communal clashes during 2017 (as compared to 86 people killed and 2,321 injured in 703 incidents the previous year). However, religious minorities are not only concerned with security; they also faced diminishing representation in the legislature despite a growth in their population numbers. For example, in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Muslims constituted 19 percent of the population but their representation in the legislative assembly dropped to 6 percent in 2017, which is likely a consequence of discrimination faced by Muslims. In addition, out of 1,400 members of Prime Minister Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) serving as ministers of state assemblies across the nation, only four were Muslim. Conditions for religious minorities have deteriorated over the last decade due to a multifaceted campaign by Hindu-nationalist groups.

The report urged the US government to:

“Integrate concern for religious freedom into bilateral discussions with India, including the framework of future Strategic Dialogues, at both the federal and state levels. Press the Indian government to allow USCIRF to visit the country and to invite the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to

visit India. Apply the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, Executive Order 13818, or other relevant targeted tools, to deny U.S. visas to and block the U.S. assets of specific officials and agencies identified as responsible for violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief. Increase the US Embassy's attention to issues of religious freedom and related human rights, including through visits to areas where religiously motivated violence has occurred and meetings with religious communities, local governmental leaders, and police.”

AI calls for thorough, fair probe into Pulwama massacre

New Delhi: The world human rights watchdog Amnesty International has demanded a thorough and independent investigation into the massacre of civilians by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir's Pulwama district on Saturday.

Asmita Basu, the Programmes Director of Amnesty India in a statement in New Delhi said, “Authorities must conduct a full and independent investigation into the incident, and those responsible must be prosecuted in a civilian court of law.”

“The intentional use of firearms should be done only when strictly unavoidable in order to protect life, and law enforcement officials should distinguish between persons engaging in violence and peaceful demonstrators,” Basu added. As many as 11 Kashmiris were martyred by Indian troops during a cordon and search operation and in direct firing on protesters in Sirnoo area of Pulwama district on Saturday. Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission of occupied Kashmir has directed the authorities to file a 'factual' report into the killing of civilians in Pulwama district.

Acting on a complaint filed by rights activist and Chairman of International Forum for Justice and Human Rights, Muhammad Ahsan Untoo into the killings, the commission issued an order which stated: “...notice along with copy of complaint to commissioner secretary Home Department, DGP JK, DC Pulwama and SSP Pulwama for submitting the factual detailed report in the matter by or before the next date of hearing”. The petitioner urged the commission to constitute an independent team for investigation into the massacre.



Islamabad: Prime Minster AJ&K Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan and other speakers are addressing to a Seminar on International Human rights day



Muzaffarabad: Prime Minster AJ&K Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan presiding over the meeting about construction of Mzaar Raeesul Ahrar Ch. Ghulam Abbas Khan



Briefing to delegation of Junior Foreign Diplomats of foreign services Academy by Secretary Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Cell Mansoor Qadir Dar



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IOK

(From Jan 1989 till Dec 31, 2018)

Total Killings *	95,265
Custodial Killings	7,120
Civilian arrested	145,504
Structures Arsoned/Destroyed	109,201
Women Widowed	22,896
Children Orphaned	107,754
Women gang-raped / Molested	11,111

