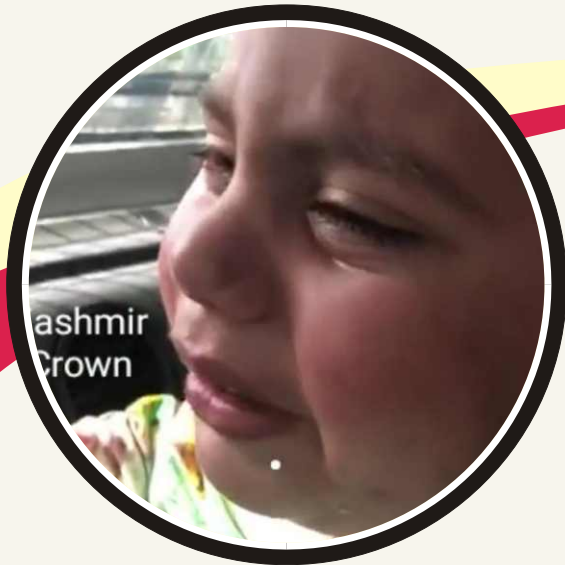
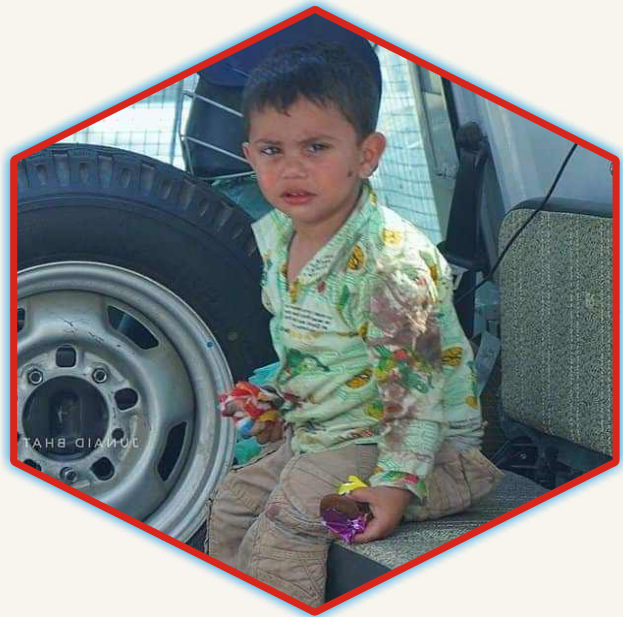


June 2020



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**KASHMIR
TOADY**



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KHALISTAN MOVEMENT GAINING NEW MOMENTUM

Sikhs' demand for a separate state dated back to the partition of India, when Sikhs had tried to convince the British Raj that Sikhs were a separate entity from Hindus and Muslims. In the first and second world wars, Sikhs had participated in large numbers and played a prominent role while fighting on the side of allied forces. Colonel FT Bird Wood OBE in his book titled 'The Sikh Regiment in the Second World War' published in Great Britain by Jarrold and Sons Ltd, Norwich, wrote: "In the last two world wars 83,005 turban wearing Sikh soldiers were killed and 109,045 were wounded. They all died or were wounded while fighting for the freedom of Britain and the world, and during shell fire with no other protection but the turban, the symbol of their faith." Britain remembers the sacrifice made by them during the wars. Anyhow, the Sikhs have been demanding a separate homeland since 1947, but the movement got impetus by the efforts of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale in the 1980s. In 1984, Indian Government launched the most brutal operation against a highly sacred Sikh religious place, the Golden Temple, which resulted in the killing of large a number of Sikhs. Gopal Singh Chawla leader of Khalistan Movement, has announced that "Justice for Sikhs" has stepped up registration process from 4 July for the 'Khalistan Referendum 2020'. Moreover, the Movement has asked Sikh soldiers to resign from Indian Army and join the Khalistan Movement. According to him, from 11000 to 13000 Sikh soldiers have already left Indian Army without any benefits and joined Khalistan Movement. Gopal Singh claimed that Khalistan is the basic right of Sikh nation, and Sikhs will now create Khalistan at any cost. He referred to the promise by Gandhi made with Sikhs in 1947 for Khalistan. There is realization that Indian military leadership always post Sikh regiments on borders in any confrontation and it is either Sikhs or low caste Hindus who lay down their lives for India. Meanwhile, thousands of Sikhs have registered for Referendum 2020, the India Army is in a fix especially at a time when it has faced defeat and humiliation at the

hands of Chinese. The Indian vulnerabilities have been exposed first during the mishandling of Covid-19 and lately by the Chinese capturing Ladakh area as per their claims prior to 1959.



Mohammad Jamil

Many analysts believe that India is a rudderless ship destined to sink, as BJP/RSS fascist policies have not only weakened the Indian Federation but created disconnect between society and institutions. In the first week of June 2020, Sikhs remembered the martyrs of Indian Army's operation 'Blue Star' carried out from June 1 to 8 in 1984. According to official figures, the operation saw 83 military deaths and 439 deaths of civilians and militants. The riots that followed killed over 2,733 Sikhs in Delhi alone, according to the Human Rights Watch data. Addressing the media, Giani Harpreet Singh, the head of Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of the Sikh faith, said that all Sikhs wanted to see a separate Sikh nation "Khalistan," who is known for speaking his mind on controversial issues. He is working on his PhD in the comparative study of teachings of Quran and Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of Sikhs. During the week-long observance of the Operation Blue Star, the members of the Akal Takht raised pro-Khalistan slogans. Some members even tried to force themselves into the Golden Temple to observe the operation's anniversary, but were stopped by the police due to Covid-19 lockdown. Since the decision to launch the operation was taken by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, a hate campaign had been started against her. On 31 October 1984, five months after the operation, she was assassinated by her two Sikh bodyguards in Delhi. The killing of Gandhi led to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, which killed over 3,000 Sikhs and is seen as the "Black Day" among the community. The Sikh-centric political party in India, Shiromani Akali Dal, observed the deaths of the bodyguards who assassinated Gandhi as "martyrdom" on Oct. 31, 2008, and ever since the day is being observed as the martyrs' day. According to a Sikh scholar, those who lost loved

ones and suffered during the genocide of 1984 have never been able to forgive and forget the genocide by Indian government, especially because the Congress men have not been punished. In addition, almost all Sikhs still nurse a deep sense of hurt for the unwarranted attack on Golden Temple in 1984, the killings that happened, and the debasement and destruction of Akali Takht. In addition, they still remember that top Hindu leaders had been passing derogatory remarks against Sikhs and badmouthing them. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, first Indian Prime Minister had reportedly said: "The Sikhs are a lawless people and a menace to the law-abiding Hindus ... The Government should take strict measures against them." Vallabh Bhai Patel, late Indian top politician is on record having said: "I hate the very physique of a Sikh because of the turban and beard". Balram Jhakhar, a

colleague of P.V. Narsimharao, the former Indian Prime Minister had said: "To preserve the unity of India, if we have to eradicate 2-crore (20 million) Sikhs, we will do so." On Saturday, Indian government started granting domicile certificates to thousands of Indian nationals in Muslim-majority Jammu and Kashmir, characterizing it as an attempt to change the demographic structure of the disputed region. Eligible non-locals, along with those who have lived in India-occupied Kashmir for 15 years or studied for seven years and appeared in class 10th or 12th examinations in a local school, can apply for the certificate under the new law. Sikhs, other minorities and northern states are watching such sinister moves of Indian government that are a recipe for disintegrating India.

The writer is a senior journalist based in Lahore.

KASHMIR DISPUTE NEEDS SERIOUS REVIEW

SINCE the speech of Prime Minister Imran Khan at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) there have been no serious political and diplomatic efforts which could have constrained India for the restoration of pre-August-2019 status of the India-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). There have been rhetoric and verbal statements from Foreign Office, the vast diplomatic corps and politicians from all political parties. These verbal statements and rhetoric were never substantiated by the practical actions needed to persuade the resolution of Kashmir dispute in line with United Nations resolutions. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) closed door meetings on 16 August 2019 and 15 January 2020 could not even pass a resolution condemning the Indian clampdown of the state through indefinite curfew and siege and the massive human rights violations. Indeed, these closed door meetings of UNSC held on the demand of China could not convince its permanent members to take any meaningful step forward for restoration of the state's special status until resolution of this long-standing dispute is reached. In the absence of any statement, condemnation and a resolution from these two closed

door meetings of the UNSC, India was further encouraged to impose Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act in IOJK on 31 October 2019. The centuries old statehood of the state was relegated to union territories (union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and union territory of Ladakh). Except highlighting the issue by some; human rights organizations, a circle of international media, the Kashmir Diaspora and the Pakistani Diaspora, there have been global quietness over the dispute. This international quietness and absence of substantive Government actions to counter Indian unilateral act of changing the status of IOJK further encouraged India to change the centuries old domicile laws of the state in April 2020. On the basis of these new domicile laws, Indian authorities have granted Kashmiri citizenship to thousands of Indian citizens in violation of State's Constitution. This all is being done to change the demography of the state. The Kashmiri citizenship being granted to non-Kashmiris, including Indian government officials, under the Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure),



Dr. Muhammad Khan

2020, is illegal and a great violation of UN resolutions. Article 49 (6) of the 4th Geneva Convention prohibits the transfer by an occupying power of its own civilian population in the area it occupies or colonizes. The Article stipulates that the “Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies”. By any definition, Indian occupied parts of Jammu and Kashmir became an 'occupied territory' on the day; Indian Army invaded it on 27 October 1947. As an occupying state, India has no authority to transfer its own population into the occupied parts of the state, forcibly or otherwise. Besides, India is a signatory state of the Geneva Convention-1949, therefore bound to observe and follow the Convention in its essence. Shifting its own population in occupied parts of Jammu and Kashmir clearly aims at making the demographic changes by India. The people of IOJK consider Indian military deployment as the real problem. The Washington Post in its op-ed (March 4, 2020) has published a survey of the Kashmiri youth, carried out in the India-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The survey report reveals that 91% youth of the India-occupied Kashmir (IOK) demands that all Indian security forces must leave their state immediately. They feel that Indian security forces in IOJK are the real problem. These security forces are perpetrating massive human rights violations in IOJK. The New York Times, in its 17 January 2020 Op-ed has unveiled the Indian planning for establishing concentration camps for the Muslims of India-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, whose only fault is that they are demanding their right of self-determination. Entitled as, “Indian General Talks of De-radicalization Camps for Kashmiris”, Jeffrey Gettleman and Kai Schultz have quoted new Indian Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat who advised Indian Government to establish concentration camps and shift Kashmiri youths there

for re-education.

These concentration camps have been named as, 'De-radicalization Centres'. The US and global media has been highlighting the horrors of concentration camps established elsewhere, terrorizing the inmates' including forced conversion of their religion. This time again credit goes to 'The New York Times' for unveiling the Indian agenda of putting the Kashmiris into concentration camps which also include conversion of their belief. Since 05 August 2019, India has taken extreme steps in IOJK which include; relegating its statehood, changing its domicile laws, issuing Kashmiri citizenship to Indian nationals, torturing the youth in torture centres, killing Kashmiri youth through fake encounters, torching the houses, establishing concentration camps for Kashmiri youths and above making demographic changes in entire state. This all was done, since the United Nations and international players were found wanting in playing their roles and there was no worthwhile diplomatic and political efforts were undertaken by Government of Imran Khan. Let's take Kashmir dispute very seriously and stop India from the illegal steps, it has taken since August 2019. Pakistan needs to take practical steps to safeguard the lives and properties of the people of IOJK. They are struggling for their right of self-determination. Let's not soften up from the traditional stance of Pakistan on the Kashmir dispute. In 1947, the people of Jammu and Kashmiri started their freedom struggle to join Pakistan and the people of IOJK are struggling to complete that mission. The people of IOJK especially the youth are looking towards Islamabad for a practical support away from mere rhetoric and verbal statements. The government must formulate a clear Kashmir policy and pursue resolution of the dispute at all level with a clear vision.

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

CHINESE DAGGER AT INDIA'S HEART

The Sino-Indian border is divided into three sectors. The western sector is Askai Chin, the central sector is where China shares a border with Indian states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and eastern sector is from Sikkim to Arunachal Pradesh. Let us have a look at Chinese border issues with Sikkim. India deposed the king of Sikkim in 1975 and manipulated the country's parliament into a referendum to make Sikkim a state of India. China did not recognise the forceful occupation of Sikkim by India. Sikkim is important because of its strategic location as it shares a border with Nepal, Bhutan and 204 kilometres with Chinese Tibet. Historically, Sikkim is seat of Tibetan Buddhism Rumtek monastery, one of the most important leaders in Tibetan Buddhism. People with faith in Tibetan Buddhism also live in Sikkim. Nathu La (14200 feet) is an important pass which connects Sikkim with Chinese Tibet thereby providing a short route to Indian pilgrims to sacred Mount Kailash Manasarovar. China holds the northern shoulder of the pass while the Indian army holds the southern shoulder. From Nathu La, the capital of Tibet Lhasa is at a distance of 425 kilometres. India has an airport at Pakyong in Sikkim located closer to strategic Chumbi Valley (China), Siliguri Corridor and Bhutan. Serious clashes took place here in 1967 which resulted in heavy Indian casualties. It remained peaceful after 1967 clashes and flared up in 2017 when India obstructed construction of a road within Chinese boundaries.

At present, one-third of Doklam Plateau is under Chinese control, and complete control of plateau means Chinese occupying high ground which will facilitate rolling down on Bhutan in no time and will also facilitate China's move down south to Siliguri Corridor. The most important valley in the region is Chinese Chumbi Valley, a narrow valley projecting towards the tri-junction point of Sikkim, Bhutan and China pointed like a dagger towards the tri-junction point. The distance from tri-junction to Siliguri Corridor is 50 kilometres. The Chinese development of

infrastructure in the valley towards the south will have serious consequences for India. India involved itself to the issue because of its apparent threat to Indian national security. For India,



Chumbi valley is like a dagger which may cut and seal the Siliguri Corridor from north eastern states. A brigade size force is stationed at Ha valley of Bhutan by India to monitor and counter any Chinese movement in the valley. Down south the most important and strategically important is Siliguri Corridor (Chicken's Neck) which connects eight north eastern Indian states and over five crore people. In the 18th century, Siliguri Corridor was first under the suzerainty of Sikkim and then Nepal and later came under British control. At present, Siliguri Corridor is part of district Darjeeling of west Bengal famous for three 'Ts', tea, timber and tourism. The corridor is 200 kilometres long and at its narrowest it is just 17 kilometres wide, which connects main land with north eastern states and five countries that have links and influence in the region. Earlier, the region was also known as "seven sister states" before the inclusion of Sikkim in the region. The region comprises Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. The people of north east India had been branded "outcastes" in the Hindu caste system. It is the most volatile and insurgency affected region after Indian Occupied Kashmir and the demand of all states is independence from India. There are over 120 militant groups operating in the region and there is large scale violence. If China occupies Siliguri Corridor, it will cut off all logistics support to the north east and will boost and encourage the separatist movements in the region towards declaring independence. Already fragile north eastern states can be cut by Chinese army as India did to former East Pakistan.

The Siliguri Corridor is a gateway to Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and north east India. Nepal lies 10

kilometres from Bogdonga, Bhutan 40 kilometres to the north east and China is 180 kilometres at Nathu la and Bangladesh joins at Phulburi. Through the Siliguri Corridor runs a roads and railway network to the north east and troops deployed in the north east are entirely dependent on the corridor for logistic supplies. During 1962, China tried to approach Siliguri Corridor from Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh) after its capture and also showed its presence across Sikkim as well. During the 1962 war, the Indian army shifted its troops deployed against Pakistan (Punjab border) to the defence of the corridor. The corridor is heavily defended, besides Indian army, the corridor is defended and patrolled by the Assam Rifles, the Border Security Force and the West Bengal Police. The corridor has two major air bases at Bagdogra and Hashimara. In case if the corridor is occupied by China, then alternative connectivity to the north east is

only possible through Bangladesh and Myanmar. For that, India has to enter into a pact with Bangladesh to use their territory through rail and road as alternative link. This is unlikely and not possible as a sovereign country will never allow use of its territory against a friendly country. At the same time, India has shown its concern over growing influence of China over Bangladesh and Myanmar who have joined Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects. Myanmar is already linked with China through Yunnan province of China. The BJP-RSS led government is pursuing a policy where there is no room for friendly and warm relations with neighbouring countries. Indian hegemonic designs are cause of serious concerns to all of its neighbours. In any future confrontation, the “chicken’s neck” will be a target beyond any doubt and this vulnerability will be exploited to cut the north east India from the mainland.

KASHMIR: REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS CONFERENCE

DECLARATION

Two-days International Kashmir Webinar was organized by Faculty of Letters, Department of Urdu, Istanbul University on June 29-30, 2020.

The participants unanimously adopted the following declaration at the end of the conference:

1. That there must be an early, just and durable resolution to the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions.
2. The United Nations Security Council had clearly enunciated that on the basis of the agreement concluded between India and Pakistan, “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.”
3. The participants welcome the statement of Mr. Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General that the position of the United Nations is to settle the Kashmir dispute according to the United Nations Charter and available Security Council resolutions.
4. They also welcome the reiteration of President Recep

Tayyip Erdoğan that “Turkey is in favor of resolving the Kashmir issue by taking into consideration the expectations of our Kashmiri brothers, through dialogue based on UN resolutions. Turkey will continue to stand by justice, peace and dialogue in the resolution of the Kashmir issue and Turkey will continue to raise its voice against the oppression.”

5. They further welcome the report of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights that India “fully respects the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir as protected under international law.”

6. They condemn the Indian government's recent attempts at changing the demographic status by introducing the tendentious and politically motivated 'Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules 2020.' Its aim is to alter the demographic character of the Muslim-majority territory at a time when the world's attention is focused on the worst public health and economic crises of our times because of Covid 19.

7. The participants condemn the serious crimes against

humanity committed by the Indian military and paramilitary forces in Jammu & Kashmir. These crimes include genocide, massacres, extrajudicial killings, reprisal killings, arbitrary detention, torture, use of rape as a weapon of war, burning of houses, etc.

8. The participants condemned the efforts to muzzle the press and further expressed need to restore the right to assemble and freedom of expression.

9. They demand that the Thematic Rapporteurs on Torture and Extrajudicial Killings and the Chairmen of the Working Group on Disappearances and Arbitrary Detention be allowed to visit Jammu & Kashmir to ascertain and report on gross and consistent violations of human rights there.

10. They demand the repeal of draconian laws, like, the Indian Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSAPA), Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), Public Safety Act (PSA), etc.

11. They demand the release of all political prisoners languishing in jails, interrogation centers and detained under emergency laws.

12. They call on the United Nations Secretary General to appoint a special envoy on Kashmir and initiate a process of mediation to pave the way for the holding of a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir as laid down by the UN Security Council resolutions.

13. They also call on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to renew to the Government of India its offer of sending its fact-finding and good offices missions to Jammu and Kashmir.

List of speakers in the International Kashmir Webinar:

Professor (Dr.) Halil Toker, Chief Organizer & Head, Department of Urdu, Istanbul University

Professor (Dr.) Mahmut Ak, Rector, Istanbul University

Professor (Dr.) Hayati Develi, Dean, Faculty of Letters

Hon. Ali Sahin, Member of Parliament, Turkish Grand Assembly

Hon. Sardar Masood Khan, President, Azad Jammu & Kashmir

Hon. Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister of Information &

Broadcasting, Pakistan

Hon. Lord Nazir Ahmed, Member, British House of Lords, U.K.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General, World Kashmir Awareness Forum

Mr. Zafar Ahmed, Chairman, Kashmir Campaign Global, U.K.

Mr. Javid Siddiq, Resident Editor, Nawa-e-Waqat, Islamabad

Mr. Salman Khan, Founding Chairman, South African Kashmir Action Group

Dr. Imtiaz Khan, Professor at George Washington University Medical Center

Ms. Merve Sebnem Oruc, Daily Sabah, Turkey

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Mir, President, World Kashmir Awareness Forum

Mr. Riza Yasar, ON4 Television, Turkey

Hon. Bilal Khan Pasha, Consulate General of Pakistan, Istanbul

Dr. Farooq Adil, Journalist & Writer, Islamabad

Dr. Mubeen Shah, Former Chairman Kashmir Chamber of Commerce, Srinagar

Dr. Khalid Rehman, Executive President, Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad

Dr. Waleed Rasool, Professor, International Islamic University, Islamabad

Mr. Muhammad Tahir Tabassum, President, INSPAD, Islamabad

Mr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad, Chief Editor, Kashmir Today, Muzaffarabad

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Professor (Dr.) Muhammet Savas Kafkasyali, Institute of Strategic Thinking, Turkey

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Mr. Emre Tuna, Bolgesel Kalkinma Uzmani, Turkey

Mr. Ismail Bendiderya, Arastirmaci Yazar, Turkey

Professor (Dr.) Zekai Kardas, Istanbul University

Dr. Ashraf Jamal, Istanbul University

Mr. Ahmet Tekin, emcee of the Conference, Istanbul

KASHMIR MUSLIMS FEAR DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT AS THOUSANDS GET RESIDENCY

Up to 25,000 people granted domicile certificates raising fears of the beginning of demographic change in Kashmir.



A civilian raises his hands as he moves past Indian soldiers in Srinagar [Danish Ismail/Reuters]

Up to 25,000 people have been granted domicile certificates in Indian-administered Kashmir since May 18, raising fears of the beginning of demographic changes in the Muslim-majority Himalayan region.

The certificate, a sort of citizenship right, entitles a person to residency and government jobs in the region, which till last year was reserved only for the local population.

Last year on August 5, when India revoked the semi-autonomous status of the region, it also scrapped the local special citizenship law, guaranteed under Article 35 (A) of the Indian constitution. The move has drawn

Parallel with the occupied West Bank.

On Friday, Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden said, "India should take all necessary steps to restore the rights of all the people of Kashmir."

"Restrictions on dissent, such as peaceful protests or shutting or slowing down the internet weakens democracy," says a policy paper posted on his website 'Kashmir becoming another Palestine'

"The decision to provide non-Kashmiri residents with a domicile certificate is certainly the beginning of the end. This is the beginning of Kashmir becoming another Palestine," Badar-ul-Islam Sheikh, a 29-year-old resident of the main city of Srinagar, told Al Jazeera.

"It is sad. It is horrible. I fear that time will come that we will not even feel safe in our homes," he said. "We have been silenced."

According to a census conducted by India in 2011, out of 12.5 million total population, Muslims comprise 68.31 percent and Hindus 28.43 percent in Kashmir.

Article 35 (A) had barred outsiders, including Indian



Indian army soldiers return from the site of a gunfight in Srinagar [EPA]

nationals from other states, from settling and claiming government jobs to maintain the demographic balance in the region, which has seen decades of armed rebellion against the Indian rule.

On Friday, a picture of the domicile certificate issued to Navin Kumar Choudhary, a bureaucrat originally from the Indian state of Bihar, went viral on social media.

In April this year, amid the coronavirus lockdown, the government notified domicile laws making an unspecified number of outsiders eligible for residency and jobs.

According to the new law, any person who has lived in the region for 15 years, or has studied in the region for seven years and passed his class 10 or class 12 examination is eligible for domicile certificate.

Also, children of Indian government employees who have served in the state for 10 years are eligible to settle and claim local residency rights. The law applies even if the children have never lived in Kashmir.

Out of 66, top bureaucrats serving in the region, 38 are outsiders belonging to other Indian states. Many other outsiders serve in various central government institutions like banks, post offices telecommunication facilities, security institutions, and universities.



Kashmiri shopkeepers at a market in Srinagar

'Disastrous' for the region

Khurram Parvez, a human rights activist based in Srinagar, said the move was "disastrous" for the whole region.

"It appears government is in some kind of hurry. Within weeks so many people applied," he told Al Jazeera.

Kashmiri politicians across the divide have said the

revocation of special citizenship rights was aimed at reversing the Muslim majority character of the region, which is now directly ruled from New Delhi.

The local legislature, which was directly elected by the people, was suspended in the wake of the scrapping of Article 370 last year.

"All our misgivings about the new domicile rules in J&K are coming to the fore," tweeted Omar Abdullah, the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, which was earlier a state and now a federally administered region.

Omar was jailed following the removal of the region's autonomy in August last year along with most prominent Kashmiri leaders who opposed the stripping of the region's special status by the Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He was released almost eight months later, in March.

"We in @JKNC_ [Jammu and Kashmir National Conference] opposed the changes because we could see the nefarious design behind the changes. The people of J&K on both sides of the Pir Panjal mountains will be the sufferers of these domicile rules," he tweeted on Friday.

But the Indian government says the move to change the status of Kashmir was done to integrate the Muslim-majority region with the rest of the country in order to bring development.

Pakistan's ministry of foreign affairs said in a statement that India's latest step was a vindication of the country's "consistent stance that the major intention behind the Indian Government's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 was to change the demographic structure of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and turn Kashmiris into a minority in their own land".

"This has long been part of the RSS-BJP's 'Hindutva' agenda," the statement added.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency on the condition of anonymity, a government official said, since May 18, when the rules were notified, 33,000 people had applied for the domicile certificates. Out of them, 25,000 people have been granted residency rights, he said.



An aerial view of Jammu [Mukesh Gupta/Reuters]

Most certificates issued in Jammu region

As many as 32,000 applications were filed in 10 districts of the Hindu majority Jammu region in the south. The highest number of 8,500 certificates has been issued in the Doda district, which has a delicate demographic balance, with Muslims comprising 53.81 percent and Hindus 45.76 percent.

Up to 6,213 domicile certificates have been issued in Rajouri district, which has 62.71 percent Muslim population. Authorities have distributed 6,123 residency certificates in Poonch, a border district comprising 90.44 percent Muslim population.

In the Kashmir region, which is about 96.4 percent Muslim population, 435 certificates have been issued so far, out of the total 720 applications.

As of now, it is not clear how many outsiders, like Choudhary, have been issued domicile certificates. The 25,000 new citizens also include Hindu refugees, who had settled in the region at the time of partition of the sub-continent in 1947. They had migrated from territories, now part of Pakistan. But due to Kashmir's residency laws and special status they were not granted local residency rights.

Parvez, the human rights activist, said the local government, which takes orders from New Delhi, has threatened to penalise officials Rs 50,000 (\$660) if a

domicile certificate is not issued within stipulated 14 days, adding that it would be difficult to verify the claims of applicants within such a short period.

"If you compare it with northeastern state of Assam, [where the ruling Bharatiya Janata party] BJP [government] wants every application to be scrutinised by officers," Parvez told Al Jazeera, referring to the state where nearly two million people were left out of a 2019 citizenship list.

"[In Assam] people also had the right to object to anyone's application. But here neither officers nor anyone else has a right to object to domicile right," he said.

"The government has already warned those who oppose will have to go to the jail." Parvez said people were not in support of the law but cannot oppose "under the pressure of gun and state violence".

"It will only complicate conflict and make things ugly," he said.

Kashmir is held by India and Pakistan in parts and claimed by both in full. A small sliver of Kashmir, called Aksai Chin, is also held by China.

Currently, India and China are engaged in a deadly border standoff since the beginning of May. On June 15, 20 Indian soldiers were killed in border fights, creating the worst tensions between Beijing and New Delhi in nearly 50 years.

Since they were partitioned in 1947, New Delhi and Islamabad have fought three wars - in 1947, 1965, and 1971. Two of them have been over Kashmir.

Kashmiri rebel groups have been fighting for independence or unification with neighbouring Pakistan.

They enjoy broad-based popularity in the Kashmir valley. According to several human rights organisations, thousands of people have been killed since 1989, when India sent tens of thousands of troops to the region to quell the armed rebellion.

99% HABEAS CORPUS FILED IN J&K HC SINCE AUGUST 2019 PENDING

The representation was submitted by the bar association, which has as many as 1,500 members, on June 25 apprising the apex court of various problems they are facing in the union territory since the abrogation of Article 370 last year on August 5.

Anees Zargar

Srinagar: A majority of over 600 habeas corpus petitions filed before the J&K High Court at Srinagar since August 6 last year remain pending at the court, the J&K High Court Bar Association (HCBA) said.

In a representation submitted by HCBA to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India, the lawyer's body has mentioned that till date not even "1 per cent of the Habeas Corpus petitions have been decided by the J&K High Court," expressing their dismay over the issue.

The representation was submitted by the bar association, which has as many as 1,500 members, on June 25 apprising the apex court of various problems they are facing in the union territory since the abrogation of Article 370 last year on August 5.

"The first problem which the lawyers who conduct these cases is that no direction has been given by Hon'ble The Chief Justice, asking the Registrar Judicial to list these HCPs before every Judge irrespective of their daily roster, so that the petitions are decided within 14 days as per the Rules formulated by the Hon'ble High Court with regard to the HCPs," the bar association wrote in the letter. The bar association, in the letter, added that the lawyer's fraternity, particularly in District Srinagar, has faced hardships since March this year as the region was put under lockdown in the wake of Covid-19.

"The members of the bar association, Srinagar under these prevailing circumstances, have faced a lot of problems vis-à-vis their profession, livelihood and other collateral matters, which the Association had tried to project before Hon'ble The Chief Justice of Common High Court of Union Territory of J&K but failed to evoke any response," the association added.

The bar association, which claims to have filed over 30,000 HCPs since 1990, said that "no concrete steps were taken by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Union Territory of J&K, for resolving problems" even after they met the Chief Justice. Nearly 13,000 persons from Kashmir Valley were arrested following which hundreds were booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and are lodged in various jails of India, the body pointed out, while mentioning that the HCBA president Mian Abdul Qayoom, who is amongst the persons detained in August last year, continues to be lodged at the Tihar Central Jail.

The lawyer's association also expressed their concern in the wake of limited internet access in the region which remains disrupted since August last year.

"Because of restrictions of operation of 4G in J&K, it is very difficult to argue the matters through virtual mode, though an option is given to the counsel to appear before the Court. The lawyers whose cases are listed are allowed to enter the court premises but their clerks and juniors are not allowed disabling the lawyers to assist the courts properly," the body said.

Seeking an appointment with Chief Justice of the apex court, the association has urged to pass orders in light of the grievances faced by the lawyer's fraternity in Kashmir.

News Section

Imran Khan says he approached UN secretary general against granting of Kashmir domicile certificates to Indians

Islamabad: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that the



granting of domicile certificates to thousands of Indian nationals in the Jammu and Kashmir region has imperiled "peace and security" in South Asia.

"First, India's attempt at illegal annexation of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK), and now its attempts to alter IOK's demographic structure including by issuance of domicile certificates to 25,000 Indian nationals are all illegal, in violation of UNSC resolutions, and international law, including [the] 4th Geneva Convention," Imran Khan said in a series of tweets.

He was referring to New Delhi's scrapping of the disputed region's decades-long special status in August last year, and the controversial Kashmir citizenship law.

As many as 25,000 people have been granted domicile certificates in the territory since May. Eligible non-locals, along with those who have lived in Indian occupied Kashmir for 15 years, or studied for seven years and appeared in class 10th or 12th examinations in a local school, can apply for the certificate under the new law.

"I have approached UN Secretary General and am reaching out to other world leaders. India must be stopped from this unacceptable path that further usurps the legal, and internationally guaranteed rights of the Kashmiri people, and seriously imperils peace and security in South Asia," the premier added.

Stop Killings, Torture, Sexual Violence and Land Grab In IOJK: AJK President Masood Khan

Azad Jammu Kashmir President Sardar Masood Khan has urged British Parliamentarians and the British civil society to have a dialogue with 10 Downing Street, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Dominic Raab and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) over the deteriorating situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

Mirpur: Azad Jammu Kashmir President Sardar Masood Khan has urged British Parliamentarians and the British



civil society to have a dialogue with 10 Downing Street, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Dominic Raab and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) over the deteriorating situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said that that the UK government should avoid diplomatic escapism and not term the Kashmir dispute as a bilateral issue. The President made these remarks while addressing a webinar titled "Twin Lockdown in Kashmir and Global Response", organized by Tehreek-e-Kashmir-UK on Saturday, AJK President office told media on Saturday. The event was attended by academics and leading Members of Parliament belonging to the Conservative, Labour, SNP and Lib-Dem.

Sardar Masood said that concrete steps should be taken to help stop the egregious human rights violations,

killings, torture, rape and incarcerations taking place under the twin lockdown imposed in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Labour MP Liam Byrne said that the UK has to drop the pretence that this disputed issue must be resolved bilaterally. There should be impartial third-party mediation for the resolution of the issue in accordance with the UN SC resolutions on Kashmir. He added that there is a risk of war if the situation escalates amongst the two neighbours. He also condemned the growing sectarian polarization in India and termed it as a degradation of the secular character of India.

MP Nadia Whittome (Labour) demanded the withdrawal of troops and an end to human rights violations in IOJK. She also said that Articles 35-A and 370 should be immediately restored. MP Stella Creasy from the Labour Party vowed to raise the issue of Kashmir with parliamentarians from all parties.

MP James Daly, Chairman Conservative Friends of Kashmir, Vice-Chair of All-Party Parliamentary Group in Kashmir committed to standing for the inalienable right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

MP Jim McMahon (Labour) said that despite the fact that almost one year has come to pass since the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had released its second report on Kashmir on July 8, 2019, no progress has taken place and instead the situation has deteriorated even more. The AJK President in his address said that the situation in IOJK is fast deteriorating and there is a humanitarian and human rights crisis. Referring to the recent Sopore shooting incident where the 65-year-old Bashir Ahmed Khan was martyred by CRPF personnel and images of his 3-year-old grandson wailing atop his bloody lifeless body as a harrowing reminder of the atrocities taking place in IOJK. The President said that a twin lockdown, firstly in the shape of a siege imposed in August last year and now, adding to it, a Covid-19 pandemic lockdown has made the lives of Kashmiris a living hell.

"In April this year, they [India] went a step further and

introduced the New Domicile Rules. Under these rules, India has done away with the Kashmiris' exclusive right to livelihood, acquisition of property, employment and educational scholarships. The President likened India's actions taken to reoccupy the territory and further bifurcating as an act of imperialism and settler colonialism.

Transformation of the demography, he maintained, accounts for grave human rights violations under the Geneva Convention, ICC statute and UN Security Council resolutions. He added that in a matter of days, 25,000 Hindus from all over India have been given domiciles of IOJK; and in the same manner, in which Muslim Indians have become second class citizens, Kashmiris have to run from pillar to post just to prove that they are State subjects. "If we don't stop this now, IOJK won't be a recognizable entity like it is today. 2 million Hindus will be brought in over the coming years. Help us stop this land grab" he said.

Speaking on the religious divide and discrimination against Muslims all over India and IOJK that has been witnessed under the BJP-RSS regime, the President said that these actions are akin to the steps taken by Hitler's Nazi party in the last century.

The AJK President said that currently, the whole territory of IOJK is under an occupational lockdown. Hundreds of Kashmiris have been killed in the past 11 months and thousands of young Kashmiris are in jails. The head of the Jammu and Kashmir police has acknowledged that 22 "militants have been killed in the past two months. "India is carrying out genocide, ethnic cleansing and committing war crimes in IOJK", he said. President Masood Khan said that the resolution of Kashmir dispute is essential for regional peace. The recent standoff between China and India posed a very real risk of a nuclear war between the 3 nuclear nations Pakistan, India and China. "That would be nothing less than a nuclear Armageddon", he said. The President said that a few months back the international media along with leading parliamentarians

had spoken up in support of Kashmiri but now the world's attention has been diverted due to Covid-19. He added that even though we still have a groundswell of support from parliamentarians from all over the world; governments around the globe are still woefully silent due to their strategic and economic interests with India. Masood Khan said that anodyne statements made by the UN Secretary General do not impact India. India continues its rampage in IOJK and it is imperative for the UNSC to take cognizance of the situation in Kashmir as it is an active item on their Calendar. The AJK President urged his audience to initiate debates on Kashmir in the British Parliament. He said that as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, UK should also raise the issue on the floor of the Council. He cautioned the participants that India, now a non-permanent member of the UN SC, might avail this opportunity to take one of three damaging steps: firstly, to delete the agenda of Kashmir from the UN SC calendar; secondly, stop any debates on Kashmir; or thirdly, cut fundings or undermine the mandate of the UN Military Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

"Appeasement of this fascist BJP-RSS Hindu-supremacist regime in India is not an option. Last century, we witnessed the consequences when the Nazi Party was appeased. We cannot let this happen again", maintained the President. He asserted that a Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement should be initiated against India and any further trade agreements be made conditional to the halt of human rights violations taking place in IOJK. "Assess all possible arms sale to India from the UK. Stop it, as these weapons are not being used for self-defence but instead they are being used to kill and maim armless Kashmiris", he said. President Masood informed that Pakistan and the people of Kashmir are ready for dialogue with India but unfortunately, the latter has no intention to engage in meaningful talks on the resolution of the Kashmir issue. He said that we welcome impartial third party mediation by leading capitals, statesmen or the United Nations.

India, he said, keeps scuttling talks on the pretext of terrorism and cross-border infiltration sponsored by Pakistan. "There is no terrorism in IOJK and the freedom movement is purely indigenous. There are no cross-border infiltrations from Pakistan or AJK", established the AJK President. Masood Khan said that we must connect with the Indian civil society. Many enlightened Indians oppose this fascist Hindu-extremist policy of Modi, he said. He also proposed the establishment of a Kashmir Humanitarian Fund and urged British charities to approach the Indian government asking for permission to enter IOJK. "Even this very benign request will be rejected by India but don't take their 'no' for an answer", he said. The President thanked the chair of the session, Mr. Fahim Kiani, for organizing this seminal conference. He also expressed his gratitude to Ms. Uzma Rasool, moderator of the session, who had tabled a Kashmir resolution at the Labour Party Convention. The event was attended by Chairman Conservative Friends of Kashmir & Vice Chair APPG on Kashmir James Daly MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport Jim McMahon OBE MP, Liam Byrne MP, Former Member of European Parliament Phil Bennion, Brenden O'Hara MP, Nadia Whittome MP, Alex Norris MP, Christian Wakeford MP, Stella Creasy MP, Rachel Maskell MP, Danish Writer Jane Teller, Senior Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader and Chairman Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement Altaf Ahmed Bhat and Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations Altaf Hussain Wani. Ends

Kashmiri expatriates playing excellent role in highlighting Kashmiri dispute in its true perspective at international fora. Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan.

Muzaffarabad (PID-AJK): The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan on Wednesday said that Kashmiri expatriates playing excellent role in highlighting Kashmiri dispute in its true perspective at international fora. Addressing the session of AJK Legislative Assembly



here, the Prime Minister said that after 5th August Indian unilateral and unlawful act of abrogation of the disputed territory, expatriates represented the sentiments of Kashmiris in best manners. He stressed the need for collective efforts to achieve the mission of right to self determination. Raja Farooq Haider said that the our government has appointed honorary coordinators in Europe, UK, Middle East, North America and other countries to resolve the problems of overseas Kashmiris. He expressed grave concern over the Pakistani flights ban by the European Union and UK and added that it had been done by the mistake of a federal minister.

Referring to the unanimous approval of the budget for the next fiscal year, the Prime Minister said that the state legislature has set a great example for the provincial and national assemblies.

He expressed profound gratitude to opposition and treasury benches who unanimously passed the budget for FY 2020-21. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan laid the foundation stone of Kashmir History Museum here on Wednesday. The project would be completed at a cost of Rs. 23.958 million and aimed to preserve the cultural heritage of the state. Addressing the occasion, the Prime Minister said that India wants to deprive Kashmiris of their identity. "It is high time for us to preserve and promote it", he added.-END

77% IOK children couldn't access basic services during lockdown: report

New Delhi, : A New Delhi based Indian non-governmental organization working on children's rights has said that seventy-seven percent children

below five years of age could not have access to basic services like immunization during the ongoing lockdown in occupied Kashmir.

The NGO Child Rights and You, commonly abbreviated as CRY in a statement in New Delhi citing a study said, "Rapid Online Perception Study about the Effects of COVID-19 on Children' was conducted during the first and second phases of the lockdown based on responses of parents and primary caregivers in Jammu and Kashmir." It said a total of 387 respondents from Jammu and Kashmir participated in the study. "Seventy-seven percent children of age 0-5 years were not able to access basic healthcare services such as immunisation during lockdown in Jammu and Kashmir," Child Rights and You (CRY) said. It said as immunisation programmes witnessed a major setback during the lockdown across India. "Worryingly, the figure was considerably high in Jammu and Kashmir with 77.14 percent children below five years unable to get immunisation services," it added. According to the study, in Jammu and Kashmir, nearly 35 percent of the respondents said their children did not receive medical help during the lockdown, resulting in difficulties to cope with their children's illnesses and health hazards. The study also talks about more systemic arrangements and logistical preparedness to ensure that children with no or compromised digital reach are not deprived from their Right to Education.

Istanbul conference urges special UN envoy on Kashmir

Ankara / Islamabad: A conference in Turkey called upon the secretary-general of the UN to appoint a special envoy to resolve the dispute surrounding Kashmir and for it to start mediation efforts on holding a UN-sanctioned plebiscite in the region. In a 13-point joint declaration issued at the end of a virtual two-day international conference on Kashmir hosted by Istanbul University, the participants demanded an "early, just and durable resolution" in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. Welcoming recent remarks by Turkey's

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that Ankara is “in favor of resolving the Kashmir issue by taking into consideration the expectations of our Kashmiri brothers, through dialogue based on UN resolutions,” participants in the conference condemned alleged demographic changes by India in the disputed region after a new residency law. Fears have risen in Indian occupied Kashmir after India began to grant citizenship to thousands of Indian nationals in disputed Jammu and Kashmir after implementing the “tendentious and politically” motivated Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules. The participants in the conference called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to renew its offer to India of sending its fact-finding and good offices missions to Jammu and Kashmir. The conference participants decried what they called “serious crimes against humanity committed by the Indian military and paramilitary forces in Jammu & Kashmir” and sought the release of political prisoners by India. “These crimes include genocide, massacres, extrajudicial killings, reprisal killings, arbitrary detention, torture, use of rape as a weapon of war, burning of houses,” they added. Speaking at the conference, Pakistani Consul General in Istanbul Bilal Khan Pasha said that for economic prosperity and development in South Asia, the “resolution of Kashmir is a must.” Urging India to halt its “blatant human rights violations in Kashmir,” Pasha demanded that New Delhi “provide unhindered access to the OIC, IPHRC, UN, human rights organizations and international media to report on the ground situation in the occupied territory.”

Indian troops martyr 54 Kashmiris in June

Srinagar : In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops in their continued acts of state terrorism martyred fifty four (54) Kashmiris including two (2) young boys during the last month of June. According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, these killings rendered two (2) woman widowed and five (5) children orphaned. During the period, at least twenty

nine (29) persons were injured due to the use of brute force including firing of bullets, pellets and teargas shells by Indian troops and police personnel on mourners and peaceful protesters in the territory. Indian police and paramilitary personnel arrested eighty two (82) people including an aged woman and molested and disgraced three (3) women during five hundred sixty seven (567) cordon and search operations in different areas of the territory. The troops and police personnel also destroyed or damaged twenty five (25) residential houses and structures and also looted several houses in the month. Meanwhile, Indian troops martyred 148 Kashmiris during violent cordon and search operations in last six months in occupied Kashmir.

'Changing Kashmir demography threatens peace in S.Asia'

Muslim identity of Jammu & Kashmir under serious threat: Report

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, with the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian constitution that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir as well protection of citizenship rights to its people, the RSS inspired fascist BJP government in India has started distributing domiciles of the disputed territory among outsiders, lavishly. According to a report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, the distribution of domicile certificates of Jammu and Kashmir among Indian citizens is aimed at changing the Muslims majority status of Jammu and Kashmir into a minority.

The report suggests the centuries-old Muslim identity of the occupied Kashmir is under a constant threat as the followers of Hindutva, a Hindu supremacy ideology, want to convert Kashmir into a Hindu state. The abrogation of Article 370 and the introduction of new domicile law is a direct attack on Kashmir's demography, it added. The report cited the findings of international human rights organizations and said that New Delhi was planning a large-scale massacre in the occupied territory to eliminate its predominant Muslim character. The KMS

report said that the Indian government had already changed Muslim-names of cities and places in the territory.

The report further says that the elimination of Kashmiri youth through massacres during the so-called cordon and search operations and the ongoing double lockdown in the occupied territory are also meant to serve the same sinful purpose of the Modi government. At the same time, the report argues, India wants to affect a future plebiscite in the UN-designated disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

6000 Indian Army personnel get IOK domicile certificates

New Delhi, A majority of the retired Indian Army soldiers and officers belonging to Gorkha and Valmiki community have been issued domicile certificates of occupied Jammu and Kashmir by the Modi-led fascist regime in India. In the past one week, over 6,600 applicants from the Gorkha community have received the document which allows them to buy property, acquire land and apply for jobs in the territory.

Vijay Kumar Sharma, additional deputy commissioner (Revenue) Jammu said, "More than 5,900 certificates have already been issued," as reported by the Indian media. "There are nearly 2500 soldiers from the Gorkha community who have served in the Indian armed forces in my tehsil and around 3,500 from their family have also applied to get the domicile. Among these, many also belong to the Valmikin community," said Dr. Rohit Sharma, who serves as a tehsildar of Bahu in Jammu. "On an average, 200 applications are received each day, and so far 33,000 applications have been received," he further added. Applicants can apply through both the ways- Online and offline to get the certificates issued. To get the certificates through offline mode, applicants are instructed to visit the local Tehsildar's office otherwise, those who wish to apply online can visit the state government website. The Modi regime is planning to grant domicile certificates to, at least, one lakh Gorkhas, originally from Nepal, in Jammu and Kashmir. The Valmiki

community hails from Punjab.

192 martyred, 1326 injured by Indian troops during 11-month siege

Srinagar : In occupied Kashmir, unrelenting military siege and crippling lockdown imposed by the fascist Modi government of India on August 5, last year, have completed 11 months, today. A report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, said, the life of Kashmiris has been made a miserable by the Indian authorities since New Delhi illegally abrogated Article 370 of its constitution on August 5, 2019, to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. The move, it added, was aimed at snatching away the identity of the Kashmiris through changing the Muslim-majority status of the occupied territory into a minority. The report revealed that Indian troops had martyred 192 Kashmiris including 4 women during the period. It said that at least 1326 people were critically injured due to the use of brute force including firing of bullets, pellets and teargas shells by Indian military, paramilitary and police personnel on peaceful demonstrators and mourners in the territory. The report said that these killings rendered 9 women widowed and 22 children orphaned. "The troops damaged over 935 houses and structures and molested or disgraced 77 women during cordon and search operations across the occupied territory in the period. While the entire occupied Kashmir has been turned into an open-air prison, thousands of Hurriyat leaders, political and human rights activists, religious heads, journalists, businessmen, lawyers and civil society members including Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Masarrat Aalam Butt, Syeda Aasiya Andrabi, Nahida Nasreen, Fahmida Sofi, Mian Abdul Qayoom, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Mohammad Aiyaz Akbar, Altaf Ahmad Shah, Peer Saifullah, Mehrajudin Kalwal, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Dr Abdul Hameed Fayaz, Maulana Mushtaq Veeri, Abdul Samad Inqilabi, Abdul Ahad Parra, Muhammad Yosuf Mir, Muhammad Rafiq Gania, Feroz Ahmad Khan, Dr Qasim Fakhtoo, Muhammad Ahsan Untoo, Zahoor Watali, Syed Shahid

Yousuf Shah, Syed Shakeel Yousuf Shah, Maulana Sarjan Barkati, Bashir Ahmad Querishi, Hayat Ahmad and Asif Sultan, who were arrested after or before 5 August 2019, continue to remain in Tihar and other jails of India and occupied Kashmir. While senior Hurriyet leaders Syed Ali Gilani and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq continue to remain under house detention in Srinagar. In violation of the international guidelines, the continued ban on high-speed internet has deprived Kashmiris of useful local and world information regarding education, business, and coronavirus, the report said. India had suspended the internet 4G services in occupied Kashmir on August 05, 2019. The report said, Indian troops are committing grave human rights violations in the occupied territory to suppress the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for securing their inalienable right to self-determination. Indian military siege has created a sense of fear and terror among the inhabitants of the territory, it said. The report said that the crippling military siege coupled with coronavirus lockdown had multiplied the sufferings of the Kashmiris as Indian troops had intensified their brutalities. The double lockdown has destroyed the economy of occupied Kashmir to the tune of billions of rupees.

The report pointed out that India is carrying out genocide of the Kashmiri youth particularly, after August 05, last year, and destruction of houses and harassment of residents is the new norm in occupied Kashmir. "Modi regime is engaged in changing the Muslim majority status of occupied Kashmir. For this purpose, it has granted domicile certificates to thousands of Indians," it added. The report deplored that press freedom is under a constant threat in occupied Kashmir where journalists are detained and harassed. It said that in modern age, internet had become an inseparable part of life but the Kashmiris had been living without this basic facility that too during the coronavirus pandemic when it was needed the most to get health guidelines. "Cruel military lockdown

has pushed occupied Kashmir into the stone age. Communications blockade has made the Kashmiris' lives miserable," it added. The report, however, maintained that the worst siege of the last 11 months had failed to subdue the freedom sentiment of the Kashmiri people and they are determined to keep fighting for their rights, including the right to self-determination. It said that New Delhi must realize the fact that it would not be able to silence the Kashmiris and must listen to voices seeking lifting of siege in occupied Kashmir.

The report urged the world community to take cognizance of India's brutal actions in the occupied territory and force it to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Kashmiris' aspirations and the relevant UN resolutions.

High-speed mobile internet suspension in IOK enters 12th month

Srinagar, July 05 (KMS): In occupied Kashmir, suspension of high-speed mobile internet has entered 12th month, yet the subscribers in the valley are compelled to pay for the services they aren't able to use.

The largest service provider of 4G mobile internet in the Kashmir Valley is Reliance Jio, which, as per limited estimates, has earned over Rs 553 crore from the Kashmiris since August 2019. Since the abrogation of Kashmir's special status, over 30 lakh subscriber base that the Jio has in the occupied territory have paid around Rs 553 crore in bills and recharges without actually getting full services. Since August 2019 when 4G was suspended in the territory, the subscribers have thus paid a staggering Rs 5537400000 (553.74 crore) till June 30, 2020. The amount was paid without the users actually getting the prime service high speed internet they initially subscribed for. The authorities have repeatedly extended the ban on 4G mobile internet since stopping the service in occupied Kashmir on August 5, last year.

UN Chief gets tough against Sopore killing, ban on protests

United Nations: The Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres while expressing grief over the killing of a grandfather before his three-year-old grandson in Sopore area of occupied Kashmir, has said that those responsible for the killing of the civilian must be brought to account.

Stephane Dujarric, the Spokesperson for the UN Secretary General, during a weekly press briefing in New York when asked about the gruesome incident, said, "We will look into it. Obviously people who were responsible need to be brought to account. But let me look further into it."

Stephane Dujarric was responding to the killing of a 65-year old Bashir Ahmed Khan during a cordon and search operation by Indian troops in Model town area of Sopore, yesterday. The incident took a dramatic turn after a picture went viral on social media showing the 3-year old grandson of the slain man crying while sitting on the body of his dead grandfather.

To ward off criticism by the international media, when Indian police tried to twist the matter, the family members of Bashir Ahmad Khan immediately intervened to reject the police claim. They said the troops shot the 65-year-old man to death after dislodging him from his car.

In reply to a question about the Indian restrictions on protests against the killings in occupied Kashmir, Dujarric said, "As anywhere, we encourage people to be,

authorities to allow people to demonstrate freely and that they can express their rights to demonstrate."

Killing of IOK man before 3 years old grandson denounced

Islamabad: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter held a meeting in Islamabad with Muhammad Farooq Rehmani in chair. The meeting discussed the latest situation in occupied Kashmir. The participants of the meeting strongly condemned the nefarious tactics being used by India to suppress the freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir. They also took notice of the stepped-up state terrorism of India in the occupied territory and condemned the Indian troops for dragging a 65-year-old man, Bashir Ahmad Khan, from his car and shooting him to death before his three-year-old grandson in Sopore, occupied Kashmir. They said that the child was placed on the body of the martyr to terrorise the masses. The meeting also condemned the issuance of illegal domicile certificates of Kashmir to Indian citizens. Special prayers were offered for the martyred son of JKPL leader, Nazir Ahmad Khan and other Kashmiri martyrs. Those who attended the meeting included Shaikh Abdul Mateen, Shameem Shawl, Abdul Majeed Malik, Haji Muhammad Sultan Butt, Nazir Ahmad Karnai, Ishtiaq Hameed, Abdul Majeed Mir, Imtiaz Iqbal Wani, Advocate Pervez Ahmad Shah, Zahid Ashraf, Dawood Khan Yousufzai, Syed Mushtaq, Nisar Mirza, Raja Khadim Hussain, Engineer Mushtaq Mehmood and Mian Muzaffar.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IOK

(From Jan 1989 till June 30, 2020)

Total Killings *	95,623
Custodial Killings	7,141
Civilian arrested	160,523
Structures Arsoned/Destroyed	110,334
Women Widowed	22,916
Children Orphaned	107,793
Women gang-raped / Molested	11,207

