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Prime Minister Imran Khan addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

Mr. President,

I congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the 76th session of the General Assembly.

I also wish to express appreciation for the significant achievements of your predecessor, Volkan Bozkir, who guided the Assembly skillfully under the difficult circumstances imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. President,

The world is facing triple challenge of the Covid-19, the accompanying economic crisis, and the threats posed by climate change.

The virus does not discriminate between nations and people. Nor do the catastrophes imposed by uncertain weather patterns.

The common threats faced by us today not only expose the fragility of the international system; they also underscore the oneness of humanity.

By the grace of Almighty Allah, Pakistan has been successful so far in containing the Covid pandemic. Our calibrated strategy of 'smart lockdowns' helped save lives and livelihoods and kept the economy afloat. Over 15 million families survived through our social protection programme of Ehsaas.

Mr. President,

Climate change is one of the primary existential threats that our planet faces today.

Pakistan's contribution to global emissions is negligible. Yet we are among the 10 most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change in the world.

Being fully aware of our global responsibilities, we have embarked upon game-changing environmental programmes: reforestation of Pakistan through our 10 billion tree tsunami; preserving natural habitats; switching to renewable energy; removing pollution from our cities; and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

To address the triple crisis of covid pandemic, economic



downturn, and climate emergency, we need a comprehensive strategy that should include:

One, vaccine equity: everyone, everywhere, must be vaccinated against Covid, and as soon as possible;

Two, adequate financing must be made available to developing countries. This can be ensured through comprehensive debt restructuring; expanded ODA; redistribution of unutilized SDRs, and allotment of a greater proportion of SDRs to developing countries; and finally, provision of climate finance; and Three, we must adopt clear investment strategies which help

alleviate poverty, promote job creation, build sustainable infrastructure, and of course bridge the digital divide.

I propose that the Secretary-General convene an SDG summit in 2025 to review and accelerate implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. President,

Because of the plunder of the developing world by their corrupt ruling elites, the gap between the rich and the poor countries is increasing at an alarming speed.

Through this platform, I have been drawing the world's attention towards the scourge of illicit financial flows from developing countries.

The Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (FACTI) has calculated that a staggering 7 trillion dollars in stolen assets are parked in the financial "haven" destinations.

This organized theft and illegal transfer of assets has profound consequences for the developing nations. It depletes their already meagre resources, accentuates the levels of poverty especially when laundered money puts pressure on the currency and leads to its devaluation. At the current rate, when the FACTI Panel estimates that a trillion dollar every year is taken out of the developing world, there will be mass exodus of economic migrants towards the richer nations.

What the East India Company did to India, the crooked ruling elites are doing to developing world plundering the wealth and transferring to western capitals and offshore tax havens.

And Mr. President, retrieving the stolen assets from the developed countries is impossible for poor nations. The rich countries have no incentives, or compulsion, to return this ill-gotten wealth, and this ill-gotten wealth belongs to the masses of the developing world. I foresee, in the not-too-distant future a time will come when the rich countries will be forced to build walls to keep out economic migrants from these poor countries.

I fear a few "wealthy islands" in the sea of poverty will also turn into a global calamity, like climate change.

The General Assembly must take steps meaningfully to address this deeply disturbing, and morally repugnant, situation. Naming and shaming the 'haven' destinations and developing a comprehensive legal framework to halt and reverse the illicit financial flows are most critical actions to stop this grave economic injustice.

And at a minimum, the recommendations of Secretary General's FACTI panel should be fully implemented.

Mr. President,

Islamophobia is another pernicious phenomenon that we all need to collectively combat.

In the aftermath of 9/11 terrorist attacks, terrorism has been associated with Islam by some quarters. This has increased the tendency of right-wing, xenophobic and violent nationalists, extremists and terrorist groups to target Muslims.

The UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy has recognized these



emerging threats. We hope the Secretary-General's report will focus on these new threats of terrorism posed by Islamophobias and right-wing extremists.

I call on the Secretary-General to convene a global dialogue on countering the rise of Islamophobia. Our parallel efforts, at the same time, should be to promote interfaith harmony, and they should continue.

Mr. President,

The worst and most pervasive form of Islamophobia now rules India. The hate-filled 'Hindutva' ideology, propagated by the fascist RSS-BJP regime, has unleashed a reign of fear and violence against India's 200 million strong Muslim community. Mob lynching by cow vigilantes; frequent pogroms, such as the one in New Delhi last year; discriminatory citizenship laws to purge India of Muslims; and a campaign to destroy mosques across India and obliterate its Muslim heritage and history, are all part of this criminal enterprise.

New Delhi has also embarked on what it ominously calls the "final solution" for the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. It has undertaken:

a series of illegal and unilateral measures in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir since 5th August 2019;



it has unleashed a reign of terror by an occupation force of 900,000;

it has jailed senior Kashmiri leadership;

imposed a clampdown on media and internet;

violently suppressed peaceful protests;

abducted 13,000 young Kashmiris and tortured hundreds of them;

it has extra-judicially killed hundreds of innocent Kashmiris in fake "encounters"; and imposed collective punishments by

destroying entire neighborhoods and villages.

We have unveiled a detailed dossier on gross and systematic violations of human rights by the Indian Security Forces in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

This repression is accompanied by illegal efforts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory, and transform it from a Muslim majority into a Muslim minority.

Indian actions violate the resolutions of the UN Security Council on Jammu and Kashmir. The resolutions clearly prescribe that the “final disposition” of the disputed territory should be decided by its people, through a free and impartial plebiscite held under the UN auspices.

India's actions in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir also violate International Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws, including the 4th Geneva Convention, and amount to “war crimes” and “crimes against humanity.”

It is unfortunate, very unfortunate, that the world's approach to violations of human rights lacks even-handedness, and even is selective. Geopolitical considerations, or corporate interests, commercial interests often compel major powers to overlook the transgressions of their “affiliated” countries.

Such double standards are the most glaring in case of India, where this RSS-BJP regime is being allowed to get away with human rights abuses with complete impunity.

The most recent example of Indian barbarity was the forcible snatching of the mortal remains of the great Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, from his family, denying him a proper Islamic funeral and burial, in accordance with his wishes and Muslim traditions.

Devoid of any legal or moral sanction, this action was even against the basic norms of human decency. I call on this General Assembly to demand that Syed Geelani's mortal remains be allowed to be buried in the

“cemetery of martyrs” with the appropriate Islamic rites.

Mr. President,

Pakistan desires peace with India, as with all its neighbours. But sustainable peace in South Asia is contingent upon resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Last February, we reaffirmed the 2003 ceasefire understanding along the Line of Control. The hope was that it would lead to a rethink of the strategy in New Delhi. Sadly, the BJP government has intensified repression in Kashmir and continues to vitiate the environment by these barbaric acts.

The onus remains on India to create a conducive environment for meaningful and result-oriented engagement with Pakistan. And for that, it must do:

One, reverse its unilateral and illegal measures instituted since 5th August 2019;

Two, stop its oppression and human rights violations against the people of Kashmir; and



Three, halt and reverse the demographic changes in the occupied territory.

It is also essential to prevent another conflict between Pakistan and India. India's military build-up, development of advanced nuclear weapons, and acquisition of destabilising conventional capabilities, can erode mutual deterrence between the two countries.

And now Mr. President, I want to talk about Afghanistan. For the current situation in Afghanistan, for some reason, Pakistan has been blamed for the turn of events, by politicians in the United States and some politicians in Europe.

From this platform, I want them all to know, the country that suffered the most, apart from Afghanistan, was Pakistan, when we joined the US War on Terror after 9/11.

80,000 Pakistanis died. \$150 billion dollars were lost to our economy. There were 3.5 million internally displaced Pakistanis. And why did this happen? In the 1980s, Pakistan was a front-line state in fighting against the occupation of Afghanistan. Pakistan and the United States trained Mujahideen groups to fight for the liberation of Afghanistan. Amongst those Mujahideen groups was Al-Qaeda, various groups from all over the world. There were Mujahideen, Afghan Mujahideen. These were considered heroes.

President Ronald Regan invited them to the White House in 1983. And according to a news item, he compared them to the founding fathers of the United States. They were heroes.

Come 1989, the Soviets leave, and so do the Americans abandoning Afghanistan. Pakistan was left with 5 million Afghan refugees. We were left with sectarian militant groups which were never existed before. But the worse cut of it was, that a year later Pakistan was sanctioned by the US. We felt used.

Fast forward 9/11, Pakistan is needed again by the US, because now the US-led coalition was invading Afghanistan, and it could not happen without Pakistan providing all the logistical support.

What happened after that?

The same Mujahideen that we had trained, that fighting foreign occupation was a sacred duty, a holy war or jihad, turned against us.

We were called collaborators.

They declared jihad on us. Then all along the tribal belt bordering Afghanistan Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal belt where no Pakistan army had been there since our independence, people had strong sympathies with the Afghan Taliban, not because of their religious ideology but because of Pashtun nationalism, which is very strong. Then there are three million Afghan refugees still in Pakistan all Pashtoons, living in the camps. 500,000 in the biggest camp, 100,000 camps. They all had affinity and sympathy with the Afghan Taliban.

So, what happened? They too turned against Pakistan. For the first time we had militant Taliban in Pakistan. And they too attacked the Government of Pakistan. When our Army went into the tribal areas first time in our history

whenever an army goes into the civilian areas, there is collateral damage so, there was collateral damage, which multiplied the militants to seek revenge. But not just that. The world must know that in Pakistan there were 480 drone attacks conducted by the US. And we all know that the drone attacks are not that precise. They cause more collateral damage than the militants they are targeting.

So, people whose relatives had been killed sought revenge against Pakistan. Between 2004 and 2014, there were 50 different militant groups attacking the State of Pakistan.

At one point, people, people like us were worried, that will we survive this? There were bombs going all over Pakistan. Our capital was like a fortress.

Had it not been for one of the most disciplined army in the world and one of the best intelligence agencies in the world, I think Pakistan would have gone down.

So, when we hear this at the end. There is a lot of worry in the US about taking care of the interpreters and everyone who helped the US.

What about us?

The only reason we suffered so much was because we became an ally of the US of the Coalition in the war in Afghanistan. There were attacks being conducted from the Afghan soil into Pakistan. At least there should have been a word of appreciation. But rather than appreciation, imagine how we feel when we are blamed for the turn of events in Afghanistan.

After 2006, it became clear to everyone who understood Afghanistan and its history that there would be no military solution in Afghanistan. I went to the US, I spoke to thinktanks, I met the then Senator Biden, Senator John Kerry, Senator Harry Reid I tried to explain to them that there would not be any military solution, and political settlement was the way forward. No one understood then.

And unfortunately, in trying to force a military solution is where the US went wrong. And if today, the world needs to know why the Taliban are back in power, all it has to do is to do a deep analysis of why a 300,000 strong well equipped Afghan army and remember Afghans are one of the bravest nations on earth gave up without a fight.



The moment a deep analysis of this is done, the world would know why the Taliban came back to power and it is not because of Pakistan.

Mr. President,

Now the whole international community should think what is the way ahead. There are two paths that we can take. If we neglect Afghanistan right now, according to the UN half the people of Afghanistan are already vulnerable, and by next year almost 90% of the people in Afghanistan will go below the poverty line. There is a huge humanitarian crisis looming ahead. And this will have serious repercussions not just for the neighbours of Afghanistan but everywhere. A destabilized, chaotic Afghanistan will again become a safe haven for international terrorists the reason why the US came to Afghanistan in the first place.

Therefore, there is only one way to go. We must strengthen and stabilize the current government, for the sake of the people of Afghanistan.

What have the Taliban promised?

They will respect human rights.

They will have an inclusive government.

They will not allow their soil to be used by terrorist.

And they have given amnesty.

If the world community incentivises them, and encourages them to walk this talk, it will be a win-win situation for everyone. Because these are the four conditions that the US-Taliban dialogue in Doha was all about.

If the world can incentivise them to go this direction, then this twenty-year presence of the coalition forces in Afghanistan would not be wasted after all. Because the Afghan soil would not be used by the international terrorists.

I end Mr. President, by urging everyone that this is a critical time for Afghanistan.

You cannot waste time. Help is needed there. Humanitarian assistance has to be given there immediately. The Secretary General of the United Nations has taken bold steps. I urge you to mobilize the international community, and move in this direction.

Resolution of Kashmir will guarantee peace in South Asia

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

Reasons for the conflict over Kashmir are argued among contenders on several points, more often than not to serve globalist interests rather than the fundamental needs or desires of the Kashmiris themselves.

Why, after 74 years, the problem continues to fester is the challenge for those who talk of peace, stability and democratic rights in the region of South Asia.

The most pertinent evidence of that conflict is that India has in recent years had as many as 900,000 military and paramilitary forces stationed on a piece of land no larger than the state of Tennessee (USA).

By comparison, during the height of the Iraq war, in October 2007, U.S. troop strength was only a little over 166,000.

Iraq compares in size to the state of California. Obviously, the number of troops stationed in Kashmir is highly significant. There is no war taking place there. There is no imminent external threat of a foreign invader, with troops amassed at its border. Why so many troops?

India frequently justifies its military presence, first, by asserting that Kashmir is an 'integral part' of India, and, second, that Pakistan, just across the border, is a threat.

Both are nuclear-armed, and cross-border skirmishes occur periodically among a handful of troops stationed along the UN-established Cease-fire Line. However, to whatever extent such a threat exists, such an enormous volume of troops is well beyond whatever need there might be to resist such incursions.

The best way to make sure that there is no such infiltration is to let the United Nations be allowed to monitor the Cease-fire Line.

The truth is that the people of Kashmir themselves have always been hostile to the presence of India's troops on their soil and have resisted to such oppression, and over hundred thousand Kashmiris have died within the past 30 years alone.

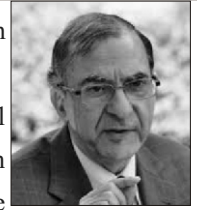
Long standing agreements at the United Nations in place have in fact afforded the Kashmiri people the right to determine their own destiny.

What we have, then, is a case of a large country bullying a small nation into submission in violation of not only their right to sovereignty but international agreements and two dozen UN resolutions giving them the right to determine their own political fate.

The purpose of so many troops stationed in this small country is for no other purpose but blatant oppression. Their presence

makes Kashmir the largest army concentration anywhere in the world.

You would think that the international community would be up in arms over such abuse, particularly in view of the fact that the



Kashmiris have shown an iron determination to resist tens of thousands of killings, and thousands of rapes, disappearances and torture inflicted upon the population at the hands of these foreign occupiers.

In a more idealistic mood President Joe Biden said on February 4, 2021, "We must start with diplomacy rooted in America's most cherished democratic values: defending freedom, championing opportunity, upholding universal rights, respecting the rule of law, and treating every person with dignity."

And again on September 13, 2021, "I've been clear that human rights will be the centre of our foreign policy."

Given such platitudes, while American foreign policy is supposed to be grounded on moral values, democratic ideals and universal principles, it would appear that wherever the crowd of commercial interests get VIP status, such ideals and principles are easily set aside, relegated to the back of the room, where it's standing room only. Money talks: ideals walk. Situation ethics is the name of the play.

It is quite conspicuous that the world powers feel awkward and unequipped to intervene in any international conflict because the country concerned is too powerful and does not listen to morals and ethics when everyone has his wallet on the table.

In addition, India's refusal to accept international mediation or facilitation seems to shut the door on any kind of international dialogue regarding Kashmir. The Kashmiris are shut in, and the outside world out.

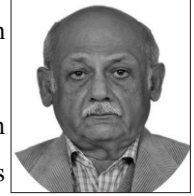
Doesn't the world community recognize such double standards? How is international credibility and trust engendered by such behaviour? So, while the U.S. imposes sanctions on Russia for interfering in stability and peace in a country more than 5,000 miles away which is of no strategic pertinence to American safety or freedoms, it engages in trade with India and says nothing about India's failure to enforce "international norms" where it is apparently inconvenient to do so.

India's transgressions in Kashmir are clearly far more relevant to the issue of international norms, given their history, than anything now occurring in Eastern Europe.

The writer is the Secretary General of World Kashmir Awareness Forum.

Pak foreign policy and India

By Tariq Aqil



India and Pakistan, the two nuclear powers in South Asia, have been very hostile neighbours since 1947 and this hostility continues to grow.

What role does India play in Pakistan's international diplomacy and political strategy? What are the crucial elements of Pakistan's policy towards India? The permanent perceived threat from a much bigger neighbour has justified the national astronomical defence budget and the building of an enormous defence force resulting in the weakening of the democratic institutions, weakening of the civilian government, the repeated interventions of the army and the imposition of martial law four times in our history.

The sense of fear from India was ignited by the belief that India was always against the partition of the subcontinent and will continue to harm and damage Pakistan to achieve its objective of destroying the country and achieving their dream of a united India once again.

The India-Pakistan conflict has led to the arms race and then the nuclearization of the area resulting in a negative reaction of the international community because Asia is the only region in the world where two nuclear neighbours remain locked in an unresolved dispute and this dispute has the potential to impact regional and global security.

Relations between the two countries are based on mutual mistrust and inherent enmity and are undergoing serious deterioration to the point of complete breakdown.

The long simmering Kashmir dispute remains the most crucial and vital factor that has soured relations between the two countries and it is also the key factor in Pakistan's foreign policy towards India.

From the view point of Pakistan Resolution Kashmir conflict is fundamental to improve relations with India and we cannot move forward without first settling the this dispute.

Pakistan's claim is based on the fact about the Muslim majority population of Kashmir dispute and the rule established by the British Govt. before leaving the sub-continent.

Since the very beginning Pakistan has made great efforts to involve the international community in the resolution of this conflict but without any success. Kashmir remains the greatest

geostrategic challenges of the country's foreign policy.

Pakistan's position on Kashmir is also based on the Security Council resolutions which states that the final disposition of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people and this can only be done by holding a plebiscite in Kashmir in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The Security Council resolutions have demanded specifically that India and Pakistan both withdraw their troops from Kashmir and go back to the positions of 14th August 1947 and this condition has not been met by both sides.

United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan or UNCIP established by the UN Security Council in 1948 to mediate this dispute but it was subsequently changed into UNMOGIP or United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan to supervise the ceasefire between the two countries and to investigate the complaints about the violations of the ceasefire.

Another major point of friction between the two countries is the distribution of water. Pakistan is primarily an agricultural country and water plays a critical role in economic development of the country.

Pakistan depends on agriculture for 24% of the national GDP 48% employment and 70% of the country's exports.

Per capita availability of surface water is dwindling from 5650 in 1951 to projected 800 cubic meters in 2025.

Pakistan accuses India of building dams to cause water shortage in Pakistan to damage its economy. This strategy adopted by India has been dubbed as "Water Terrorism" by Pakistan.

Pakistan's foreign policy towards India needs a complete review and change of strategy. The Kashmir dispute will certainly remain unresolved in the foreseeable future.

Neither India nor Pakistan are likely to give up their historically and strategically grounded claims.

Pakistan after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan today faces religious extremism and sectarian violence and targeted attacks against religious minorities.

Pakistan is in serious need of improving relations with India and mending fences to devote more time and resources to its own internal problems particularly controlling the religious extremists and bigots once again raising their ugly head to

destroy the country.

Throughout Pakistan's history all civilian government. Have been weak with little support from the public.

The major player and decision maker in Pakistan foreign policy area has been the army. About time that the elected government and Parliament of the country took total control of this vital area of national policy. The policy of confrontation and hatred based on real or perceived threat has to change.

Kashmir should be placed on the back burner and the two

The north-south divide in India

Masud Ahmad Khan

The oldest racial group in India is Adivasis, or the aboriginals, who live in areas extending from Assam in the North East to Kanyakumari in the South. The Aryans mostly live in North and central India. The Dravidians live in the Southern half of the country. The Hindus are around 84 percent of the total population.

The people in India belong to different races and those who intend on maintaining their original identities make sure that their look and appearance is different from each other. The racial and ethnic division has its roots in different Hindu religious beliefs. The Aryans, according to one belief, came from Central Asia and Iran around 1500 BC. The Dravidians are said to have come from Asia Minor and Eastern Mediterranean.

In India there is an extreme division between the Aryans of North and Dravidians of South. The North states include Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand. The South states include Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and the union territory of Puducherry.

According to media sources, the population of Aryans is 72 percent and Dravidians 28 percent. The Dravidian group of languages is spoken in South India which include Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam and Tamil is spoken by the majority. In India there are 1652 languages spoken, and each is entirely different from the other. Sanskrit belongs to the Indo-Aryan group which is spoken by less than one percent of the Indian population. The Tamil language has no links with Sanskrit. In the South's past, there have been cases of violence and protests over the issue of the Hindi language. Hindi has been excluded as a language of

countries to start a fresh bilateral dialogue aimed at more confidence building measures such as easing of visa restrictions, tourism, trade and exchange of cultural delegations. Two major wars and countless border skirmishes have been fought without any outcome.

It is right time to end this state of no war no peace and move towards better relations on the pattern of the European Union and remove the sword of nuclear holocaust hanging over the region.

The writer is Professor of History, based in Islamabad.

education in Tamil Nadu and is hardly in use as a medium of communication. The Tamil belief is that their Hinduism is superior to that of the North and Tamils are a unique nation.



According to Khushwant Singh, Rig Veda's earlier chapters are purely Aryans and later chapters are influenced by Dravidians and aboriginal beliefs. According to E.V Ramasamy, who was a strong advocate for Tamil nationalism and challenged Hinduism and Delhi's rule over South India, the Dravidian do not believe in a caste system. The caste system is said to be created after the invasion of the Aryans and after their encounter with the Adivasis and Dravidians. The caste is believed to have been established by Aryans based on their concept of white skinned and dark skinned people.

People of the South are anti-Brahmin and are against fundamentalism and Hindutva. According to them, those who advocate for violence are not Hindus. Hindus in the South are considered most tolerant and open as compared to the North. The Tamils have their own form of Hinduism which they proudly held against the Aryans. Hindus in the North consider Hinduism as the only acceptable religion and reject other religions. In the South, Hindus accept other religions and respect their followers. It was Ramasamy of the Justice Party who raised the slogan of 'Tamil Nadu for Tamils'. Later on, all the states in the South became part of the slogan.

Tamils favours the demand of Dravida Nadu, which is the name of an independent state demanded by the Justice Party and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) for the people of the South. The DMK was founded by C. N Annadurai in 1949. Its objective was to create a separate homeland for Tamils, free of Aryan Influence. The first demand for Dravida Nadu was made

in 1963. The founder of DMK Annadurai is famous for his statement, "The reasons for creation of Dravida Nadu continue to hold good." According to an article published in The Hindu, Dravida Nadu is a political idea given by Ramasamy who came up with the slogan in response to when Hindi was made compulsory in school education.

Since 1967, there has been an unbroken tradition of regional party rule in the South. In 1976, Indira Gandhi dismissed the government of Chief Minister Mathuvel Karunanidhi of the DMK through a presidential order when he threatened secession. In 2017 Kerala refused to obey the ban on the sale of cattle for slaughter from Delhi. In 2018, the Telugu Desam party warned the Delhi government that if the South continued to be ignored, they would form a separate country. The South is also protesting against Delhi's continuing injustice towards the people. They have also objected to the distribution of tax revenue amongst states.

The richer South accuses the North for taking everything from it

The Undoing of 'incredible India'

Saad Rasool



More than two years on from Modi's revocation of Article 370 resulting in the illegal annexation of Kashmir and imposition of a draconian curfew across the valley the world seems to have woken up to the reality of BJP's fascist Hindutva regime. At the time of Modi's adventurism in Kashmir, an oblivious global community had bought into the façade of an 'incredible India'. For the preceding two decades, India had been marketed as the very picture of tolerance, democratic values and growing economic power. Especially, when juxtaposed with its immediate neighbours, India seemed like an oasis in the midst of a region gripped with chaos and intolerance.

All that, now seems like a distant memory. Over the past two years, Modi's fascist regime has disenfranchised the Valley, revoked the citizenship of millions of Muslims, lynched people on the streets of Delhi and Gujrat, imposed a 'police State' model in Assam, mismanaged the coronavirus epidemic, alienated the farmers, been kicked out of its strategic relationship with Iran (Chabahar), drummed up war hysteria across its ludicrous media, and lost its territory (along with two dozen soldiers) in a conflict with China. In all, the idea of 'incredible India' is now effectively dead. And, in its place, a new 'intolerant India' has become the

and in return, nothing is being given. In 2018, during Modi's visit to the Southern city of Chennai, citizens waved black flags and banners that read 'Go back Modi'. Chandrababu Naidu, a former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is an extreme critic of Modi's RSS-led government. He has demanded a federation of Southern states to fight BJP/RSS' supremacy. The president of DMK, M.K Stalin, favoured the demand for Dravida Nadu. He said that the Southern states should come together to demand Dravida Nadu. Across India, there is violence, unrest and several insurgencies for independence from India. Muslims in IIOJK have found it impossible to identify themselves as a Hindu Indian. Sikhs are struggling for a separate Khalistan. Maoists are operating in 13 out of 29 states and have an influence over 40 percent of the Indian geographical area. In the North East, a civil war for independence from India is happening. Dalits and Muslims are suffering from an apartheid and living a miserable life. These struggles and separatist tendencies across India may lead to its disintegration.

hallmark of Modi's regime.

Truth be told, India's existential suicide didn't start two years ago. It merely matured to this point, through concerted efforts of Hindutva racism over the course of the past several years.

Let's pause to examine this claim.

At the turn of the century, a tolerant and burgeoning Indian society was poised to become the next big thing in Asia. We watched, enviously from across the border, as India's facade of an inclusive democracy won allies across the world. Just as Pakistan was getting swallowed by the menace of intolerance, extremism, and in-fighting amidst different sections of the society, India was accosting the world to its many opportunities. Kashmir had been all but forgotten. Even the Muslims of mainland India had turned a blind eye to the atrocities in the Valley, choosing instead to participate in the Indian dream. The policy of projecting Pakistan as a haven for terrorism and intolerance was working. And the new America-India strategic partnership was bearing geopolitical fruits.

In walks Modi. Once known as the butcher of Gujrat, Modi had rebranded himself as a mascot for 'incredible India'. But, in reality, it was just that: branding. Simmering under the carefully constructed veneer of democratic ideology, Modi's Hindutva ideology was waiting for an appropriate moment to strike. And then, during his re-election campaign, the moment presented

itself. Under the false flag pretext of Pulwama attack, Modi decided to attack Pakistan in February of 2019. It was just the 'first drop of the ocean' he would say later. Nothing short of 'Akhund Bharat' was the aim. His energised right-wing Hindu base loved the idea, giving him an overwhelming majority in the May 2019 elections.

This electoral victory gave the Hindutva goons a mandate to take even bolder steps for entrenchment of their ideology of hate. Next came the long-promised goal of revoking Kashmir's autonomous status, in August of 2019. And with it, the wheels started to come off Modi's Hindutva wagon. India's right-wing fascist ideology was at display for the entire world to see. Even within India, the saner voices started to question Modi publicly. Muslims, Christians, even lesser caste Hindus, started to view their own State as enemy of the people.

But the fascist Modi did not stop here.

Next came the even more controversial Citizenship Amendment Act law that revokes the citizenship of Muslim immigrants of India. As millions of people gathered on the streets to protest this move, across India, Modi doubled-down on his bet. He allowed his right-wing party goons to terrorise and torture Muslims. People, across the world, started to recognise that Kashmir was not a one-off thing. Modi was racist, anti-Muslim, and anti-minorities. The resulting clashes across India, especially in and around Delhi, displaced hundreds of thousands of minority individuals (mostly Muslims) from their homes, which had been burnt to the ground by Hindutva goons. Overnight, these minorities became the largest group of internally displaced people in Asia. India's sham secularism stood exposed in all its shame.

Modi had not yet recovered from this, when coronavirus arrived on the shores of India. And suddenly, India's soft underbelly in terms of poverty, displacement, unemployment and a weak social security structure was visible for everyone to see. And making matters worse, a large chunk of India's population (some 500 million minority people) saw Modi's government as their enemy.

Amidst this chaos, Modi's government made its next big mistake: shutting down India with a mere 4-hour notice. What followed was a mass exodus of the working class. Millions of families, left without food or shelter, who decided to walk (literally) hundreds of miles across the span of India. Videos from this exodus show a cesspool, in which coronavirus would spread like wildfire. The world watched aghast, in horror, as Modi ensured that coronavirus is transmitted throughout the poor segments of India's society.

Facing the inevitable spread of coronavirus across India, Modi's racist regime turned to the tactics it knows best: blaming the

Muslims for their problem. Singling out one gathering of Muslims in Delhi, the Tablighi Jamaat, where several participants tested positive for coronavirus, Modi's Hindutva government decided to turn the epidemic into a purely communal issue. Phrases such as 'Corona Jihad' and 'Tablighi Jamaat Virus', were used by Modi's ministers. The abominable right-wing Indian media was all too happy to jump on this bandwagon. And overnight, in India, coronavirus became another weapon at the hands of Modi's fascist regime, to turn peaceful Indians against one another.

India was still reeling from the (ongoing) effects of coronavirus, when Modi attempted to direct people's attention by reverting to his 'go to' strategy of drumming up conflict with Pakistan. To this end, his government started to claim that they plan to take over all of Kashmir, through force, 'including Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Askai Chin'. And that, in this way, they will cut CPEC from its 'jugular'. This was a step too far. It not only threatened Pakistan, but also China's interest in the region. And China was willing to defend it with military muscle. Consequently, prompted by Modi's expansionist agenda, China decided to place its troops in Galwan Valley and the Pangong Lake area (from where India had plans to approach Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan). The resulting conflict cost India more than 2 dozen soldiers, along with substantial territory. As the conflict flared, China also used its 'soft power' to turn other Indian neighbours against Modi (including Nepal and Bhutan), while ousting India from the strategic Chabahar-Zahedan project. And none of the global powers that Modi had relied upon for support, have come to India's aid.

Making matters worse still, Modi's fascist regime introduced a draconian law that brought India's farmers to the streets. Against an obstinate and fascist government, which refuses to pay any heed to their cries. These poor farmers have been beaten through police force, run over (literally!) by state officials, and degraded across the media waves. But no one from Modi's government has had the humility to listen to them, and address their legitimate concerns.

As such, over the course of the past two years, Modi and his fascist colleagues have brought India to its knees. In just two years, Modi's India is now seen as a fascist state, which persecutes its minorities, has mismanaged coronavirus, and has started a regional conflict that it cannot win. When Modi was elected to power for the second term, everyone had expected that he would implement right-wing policies; however, no one had expected that he would bring India to the edge of intolerant fascism, and then jump off the cliff.

Whenever the dispassionate history of this period of India is eventually written, it will remember Modi as the man who single-handedly unravelled the dream of 'incredible India'.

Humanitarian dimension of Kashmir dispute

Dr Muhammad Khan

The primary nature of Kashmir dispute is political, hence calls for a political solution based on the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

This is clearly mentioned in the two principal resolutions of UNCIP, passed unanimously by United Nations on August 13, 1948 and January 5, 1949.

These resolutions have laid-down the basic criteria and modus operandi for the conduct of plebiscite in the State for the ultimate grant of right of self-determination to people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The right of self-determination has the key position in the UN Charter; indeed, it paved the way for decolonization of Asian and African nations.

The essence of right of self-determination is that; every nation and a community has the right to freely decide its future as per the wishes of its masses without any discrimination, restriction and bondage.

If this right is applicable to entire international community, Kashmiris cannot and should not be made as an exception and subjugated through foreign occupation indefinitely.

India recognized and accepted the right of self-determination to Kashmiris as per abovementioned UNCIP resolutions yet denied its implementation for over seven decades.

The persistent denial of political solution of Kashmir dispute created frustration and unrest among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The frustration of Kashmiris was result of years of Indian occupation, discrimination of Kashmiris in their own state, maltreatment of Kashmiris masses and denial of internal autonomy to State, agreed through Article 370 and 35A of Indian Constitution.

Resultantly the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) revolted against the unlawful Indian rule and its unremitting exploitative policies in 1990.

Through popular slogan of 'Azadi' right of self-determination was the only demand of Kashmiri masses of IIOJK right from the beginning of this indigenous Kashmiri movement.

Through a brutal response to this UN mandated legal demand of Kashmiris of IIOJK, India made massive deployment of Army and paramilitary forces in entire IIOJK and started persecution of Kashmiris through various inhuman strategies.

Mass arrests, torture in detention centres, custodial killings and indiscriminate firings over the peaceful Kashmiri demonstrations became the order of the day in IIOJK right from the start of 1990.

As per estimates collected through various neutral sources, Indian brutal security forces have killed over 100,000 Kashmiris in IIOJK from 1990 to 2021.

Kashmiri leadership of APHC in IIOJK is frequently being

targeted and killed either through direct attack or else while being in custody and house arrest under Indian security forces.

Syed Ali Shah Gillani, the founding father of Kashmiris resistant movement died a few days ago while being under house arrest for over

five years. His body was forcefully taken away by Indian Army for burial against the wishes of his family.

Earlier another senior Kashmiri leader Mr Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai, who dared to challenge Indian rule in IIOJK was killed by Indian security forces while being in their custody; a custodial killing.

Besides, there have been frequent incidents of rapes, molestation and humiliation including killings of Kashmiri women in IIOJK. As per records maintained by names, dates and places of occurrences, over 12000 Kashmiri women have been subjected to rapes and molestation which also include gang-rapes and killings of women after rapes.

Indian State provided a blanket coverage to all these inhuman Indian acts through various inhuman laws like; Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA), Public Safety Act (PSA), Geospatial Information Regulation Act and National Investigation Agency (NIA).

These discriminatory laws provided Indian Army and its paramilitary special provisions for arrest, illegal detention, torture and killings of Kashmiris with impunity.

Such laws and maltreatment of Kashmiris through use of brutal force are internationally challengeable violations of international law, humanitarian declarations, covenants and dozens of international pacts.

While India continued massive human rights violations in IIOJK through the deployment of its over 900,000 security forces, it ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir State illegally and unilaterally on August 5, 2019 by abrogating Article 370 and 35A of its constitution.

Besides, it also ended the statehood of the state by creating two union territories (Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh) under Indian Union.

In order to further its agenda of consolidation of its hold over the state, New Delhi introduced new Domicile Laws for Jammu and Kashmir in April 2020 (adaptation of State laws order-2020).

Under these laws, India has issued millions of domicile certificates to non-Kashmiri Hindus from various parts of India which is a grave violation of Fourth Geneva Convention.

Article 49(6) of Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits occupying power(s) to transfer its own population into the occupied territory. Indeed, this is yet another aspect, covered under the blatant human rights violation.

The unremitting account of massive human rights violations of Indian security forces in IIOJK over the last three decades has added humanitarian dimension to the prevailing political nature of Kashmir dispute.



The humanitarian dimension of the dispute needs immediate attention of international community and main organs of United Nations Organization. As a way forward to address the humanitarian dimension of Kashmir United Nations, major powers and international community must constrain India to end its massive human rights violation in IIOJK forthwith which should also include stoppage of the demographic changes.

Corollary to this, India must restore the statehood and special

IIOJ&K, Islamophobia & Afghanistan

Muhammad Zahid Rifat

Civil and military leadership as well as people of Pakistan have all along been supporting just, unarmed and indigenous struggle of Kashmiris for securing their fundamental right of self-determination in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions which India persistently continues to deny for more than seven decades.

Pakistan has been extending all possible political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiris in this regard by raising at all international forums and gatherings calling for its earliest solution of the lingering unresolved dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

IIOJ&K continues to be the main bone of contention between the two neighbouring nuclear powers and the Kashmiris are being suppressed and oppressed at gunpoint by 900000 strong occupying Indian security force.

Islamophobia is another pernicious phenomenon which has emerged and threatens the Islamic world in the recent years increasingly.

In the aftermath of 9/11 terrorist attacks, terrorism has somehow been associated with Islam by some quarters and this trend is growing quite alarmingly increasing the tendency of right-wing, xenophobic and violent nationalists, extremists and terrorist groups to target Muslims.

Rapid developments taking place in neighbouring Afghanistan during the last couple of months has made it another important issue of concern for Pakistani leadership which has all along been acting as a facilitator for bringing the US and Taliban at the negotiation table, finally succeeding in bringing them face to face in Doha in February this year paving the way for peaceful settlement of the issue.

Taliban were there in Kabul after 20 years, have formed the interim government and trying to form an inclusive government.

These were the main topics along with a couple of others when

status of IIOJK as it was prior to August 5, 2019. In third phase, India should demilitarise from the population centres of IIOJK, leaving its military only along the ceasefire.

Addressing the humanitarian dimension of Kashmir dispute will be a major break-through and great confidence building measure for the subsequent political resolution of the dispute.

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Prime Minister Imran Khan addressed the UN General Assembly virtually the other day.

The Prime Minister said that UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy has duly recognized these emerging threats and called for convening a global dialogue by the world body on countering the rise of Islamophobia and as a parallel effort at the same time interfaith harmony should be promoted in a continuous manner.

He pointedly stated that the worst and most pervasive form of Islamophobia now rules India, the hate-filled Hindutva ideology, propagated by the fascist RSS-BJP regime under leadership of Narendra Modi has unleashed a reign of fear and violence against India's 200 million strong Muslim community.

The Prime Minister pointedly stated that New Delhi has undertaken a series of illegal and unilateral measures in occupied Jammu and Kashmir since 5 August 2019 unleashed a reign of terror by an occupation force of 900000 has jailed senior leadership of Kashmiris, imposed a clampdown on media and internet; violently suppressed peaceful protests, abducted pretty large number of 13000 young Kashmiris and tortured hundreds of them, has extra-judicially killed hundreds of innocent Kashmiris in fake encounters and; imposed collective punishments by destroying entire neighbourhoods and villages.

He also made a mention of detailed dossier which has recently been unveiled by Pakistan Government on gross and systematic violations of human rights by the Indian security forces in occupied territory and said that this repression was accompanied by illegal efforts to change the demographic structure of the IIOJ&K transforming it in a planned manner from a Muslim majority into a Muslim minority.

The UNGA was told in emphatic words that Indian actions violated the resolutions of the UN Security Council on Jammu and Kashmir which clearly stated that the final disposition of the disputed territory should be decided by its people through a free and impartial plebiscite to be held under the UN auspices.

Quite obviously, the India's actions in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir territory also violated the international human rights

and humanitarian laws including the 4th Geneva Convention which amounted to committing war crimes and crimes against humanity.

PM Imran Khan further stated in plain words “It is unfortunate, very unfortunate, that the world's approach to violations of human rights lacks even-handedness, and even is selective.

Geopolitical considerations, or corporate interests, commercial interests often compel major powers to overlook the transgressions of their affiliated countries.”

The apathy of the international community towards gross human rights violations in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir could not be condemned in more stronger and plain words than these.

Reiterating the desire for peace with India, the Prime Minister pointedly stated that sustainable peace in South Asia was only contingent upon resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and for creating a conducive environment for and result-oriented engagement with Pakistan, India must reverse its unilateral and illegal measures instituted since 5 August 2019, stop its oppression and human rights violations against the people of Kashmir and halt and reverse the demographic changes in the occupied territory.

Dilating on the situation in Afghanistan, PM Imran Khan strongly rebutted the blame being levelled on Pakistan by some politicians in US as well in Europe and pointedly stated that the

country that suffered the most, apart from Afghanistan, was Pakistan when it joined the US War on Terror after 9/11, as a front line state.

Pakistan has all along been stressing on peaceful settlement in Afghanistan through negotiations as there would be no military solution but over the years none has bothered to understand it.

The Prime Minister said it was a critical time in Afghanistan and quite emphatically called on the international community “we must strengthen and stabilize the current government, for the sake of the people of Afghanistan”.

The Prime Minister in his virtual address also emphatically called for providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan immediately without wasting time as help is needed there and concluding by saying “There is a huge humanitarian crisis looming ahead, this will have serious repercussions not just for the neighbours of Afghanistan but everywhere as a destabilized, chaotic Afghanistan will again become a safe haven for international terrorists the reasons why the US came there in the first place”. A wake up call to the international community through these words

. But will the international community listen and act soon before it is too late and disaster strikes not only Afghanistan but also the region?

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24 OCTOBER 1947 THE BIRTH OF T AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR

The state of Jammu and Kashmir having an area of 84,471 square miles lies in the North East of Pakistan and North West of India. Russia, China and Afghanistan also shares its border towards the North. Area wise, the State of Jammu and Kashmir was the

largest state in the sub-continent of Indo-Pak among the 562 princely states of the Sub-continent at the time of its division , and still claims the same status. Its area is almost equal to the total area of Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Austria and Albania, all put together, although it is slightly smaller than Great Britain.

The Muslims of Azad Jammu and Kashmir started a liberation against India in 1947. As a result of this war, the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir was established on 24th October,



1947, in the liberated area which is about 5,000 square miles out of total area of 84,471 square miles. An area of 28,000 square miles was also liberated by Gilgit Scouts and now it forms Northern Areas (Gilgit-Baltistan) which is being administered by the Federal Government of Pakistan.

The Government established on 24th October 1947, was working like a war council. The Rules of Business were framed in order to run the administration of Azad Jammu and Kashmir under which the executive as well as the legislative authority vested in the President. The courts and Laws code was enacted in 1948 for running the judicial administration and some laws of former Jammu and Kashmir State were allowed to continue in operation. Thereafter, in 1952, the Rules of Business were revised. The system of administration as well as the legislation was provided in these Rules of Business. Another revision of the Rules of business took place in 1957.

In the system, which prevailed from 1947 to 1960, the person holding the confidence of the Working Committee of Muslim conference was nominated as the president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. For sometimes in the earlier years, the office of Supreme Head also existed who approved the legislation for Azad Jammu and Kashmir, but this office was abolished in 1952 and, thereafter, only the President was the Executive Head, who was assisted by some ministers.

In 1960, the Presidential Election System through the "votes of basic democrats" was introduced in Azad Jammu and Kashmir with another body known as 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir State Council' which was also elected by the basic democrats. This Council consisted of 12 members elected by the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, whereas 12 members were elected by the refugees of Jammu and Kashmir State settled in Pakistan. In 1964, this system was also replaced and Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government Act, 1964, was enacted, whereby the provision for the State Council was amended to the extent that 8 State counselors were to be elected by the basic democrats of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In 1965, the provision was made for appointment of two members to be nominated by the President from amongst the refugees settled in Pakistan.

The Chairman of the Council was to be nominated by the Chief Advisor under the Act, 1964 from amongst the Members. The Chairman had to act as the President for Azad Jammu and Kashmir

ex-officio. In 1968, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government Act, 1968, came in to force and 8 members were elected, while 4 members were to be nominated by the Chief Advisor from amongst the refugees settled in Pakistan. The Chairman of the Council was elected by the counselors, who was also ex-officio President. In 1969, a caretaker government was inducted into office.

The major constitutional changes came in 1970 when the system of adult franchise was adopted and a democratic setup was introduced in Azad Jammu and Kashmir through Azad Jammu and Kashmir Act, 1970. For the first time, the Legislative Assembly as well as President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir were also elected on the basis of adult franchise by the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and the refugees of Jammu and Kashmir settled in Pakistan. The Assembly consisted of 24 elected members and one co-opted lady member.

The presidential system of government worked for about 4 years when, in 1974, the parliamentary system was introduced in AJ&K under the AJ&K Interim Constitution Act, 1974, which has undergone about 11 amendments so far. Earlier in 1974, the Assembly consisted of 40 members, elected on the basis of adult franchise and two co-opted lady members, whereas the Assembly now consists of 41 elected Members and 8 co-opted members of which 5 are ladies, one member from Ullema-e-Din or Mushaikh, while one is from amongst Jammu & Kashmir technocrats and other professionals, whereas one is from amongst Jammu and Kashmir nationals (state subjects) residing abroad. Since 1975, the Prime Minister has been elected by the members of legislative Assembly.

He is the Chief Executive of the State, whereas the President is the constitutional head under the Interim Constitution Act 1974. Besides Executive and the Legislature, we now have an independent Judiciary as well. The Supreme Court, High Court and sub-ordinate courts are present, in addition to many other Courts, established under various laws. The pattern of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is almost the same which is prevailing in Pakistan with the exception that in Azad Jammu and Kashmir there exists a Council with Prime Minister of Pakistan as the Chairman, 6 elected members, 3 ex-officio Members including President AJK (Vice-Chairman of the Council), Prime Minister of AJK or his nominee, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, and 5 Members to be nominated by the Prime Minister of Pakistan from amongst the Federal Ministers and Members of the Parliament. The Council has been assigned a specified field of activities and it has also further assigned some of the functions to the Central Government in Pakistan. Such as, the Defence, Security, Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Currency and Coins which are the responsibilities of the Government of Pakistan.



27th October is Black Day in History of Kashmir

27th of October is being remembered as the “Black Day” in Pakistan and India-held Kashmir as a protest against the occupation of the Kashmir, when India had forcibly taken over the land on October 27, 1947.

Kashmir is a source of long standing dispute between Pakistan and India, which originated when the people of Jammu and Kashmir state were denied the right of self-determination in 1947.

When India and Pakistan became independent on August 1947, it was generally assumed that Kashmir, as a contiguous state with a predominantly Muslim population, would accede to Pakistan. Its ruler, the Maharaja, however, on 27 October 1947 acceded to India through an improper and illegal Instrument of Accession although he has lost support of people who have established an independent state (Azad Jammu & Kashmir). On the same day, India airlifted its forces to Srinagar and occupied the valley.

It is for this reason that Kashmiris and freedom loving people all around the world celebrate 27th October as **Black Day**.

The unresolved issue of Kashmir is a challenge to world conscience an emergency session of UN Security Council to condemn 154 rape cases in Democratic Republic of Congo but the rape of over 10,000 women in Indian Occupied Kashmir by Indian Security Forces goes un-noticed.

Background

Jammu Kashmir dispute dates back to the partition of the British Indian Empire, in August 1947, into two independent states, Pakistan and India.

At that time there were also around 565 princely states, large and small, which were under British suzerainty but were not directly

ruled by the British Government. Most of these states joined either India or Pakistan taking into account their contiguity to one or the other country and the wishes of their people.

In Jammu and Kashmir state, the ruler was a Hindu, while the population was overwhelmingly Muslim and wanted to join Pakistan. India consistently pressurized the Hindu Ruler to accede to India.

Apprehending that the Hindu ruler was likely to succumb to Indian pressure, the people of Jammu and Kashmir rose against him, forcing him to flee from Srinagar, the capital of the State. They formed their own government on 24th October, 1947. On 27th of October, 1947, the Government of India alleged that the ruler had acceded to India on the basis of a fraudulent instrument of accession, sent its forces into the State and occupied a large part of Jammu and Kashmir.

But Indian leaders, including Jawahar lal Nehru, the Prime Minister and Lord Mountbatten, the then Governor General of India, solemnly declared that the final status of Jammu and Kashmir would be decided by the people of the State. This declaration was reiterated by India at the UN Security Council when the dispute was referred to that august body, under chapter 6 of the U.N Charter relating to peaceful settlement of disputes.

UN Resolution

The Security Council resolutions provides for holding of a fair and impartial plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir under UN auspices to enable the Kashmiri people to exercise their right of self-determination and join either Pakistan or India. The UN also deployed the United Nations Military Observer Group (UNMOGIP) to monitor the cease-fire line between the Liberated or Azad Kashmir area and the Indian Held Kashmir (IHK). These resolutions were accepted by India and Pakistan

and constitute an agreed legal basis for settlement of the dispute.

India's illegal occupation of Kashmir

India, however, thwarted all attempts by the United Nations to organize a plebiscite in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Eventually, India openly resiled from its commitments and declared that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India.

The Indian armed intervention in the State of Jammu and Kashmir was illegal and took place against the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Despite the decision of the UN Security Council for the holding of a plebiscite to allow the people of Jammu and Kashmir to determine their own future, India's own pledges to that effect, and reiteration of their commitment of resolving the Kashmir issue in the Simla Agreement of 1972 signed between Pakistan and India after the 1971 war, India continues to remain in illegal occupation of a large part of Jammu and Kashmir, refuses to allow the Kashmiris to decide their own future and continues its brutal suppression in the territory.

Moreover, India went on to violate other aspects of the Simla agreement, specifically the undertaking that neither side shall change the ground situation, by occupying the Chhorbat La, Siachen & Qamar sectors, an area over 2500 sq. kilometres between 1972 to 1988.

Indian Brutalities

India sought to suppress their movement with massive use of force, killing hundreds of innocent men, women and children. This led some of the Kashmiri youth to take up arms in self defence. So far, more than 100,000 Kashmiri people have been killed in a reign of terror and repression unleashed by over 700,000 Indian troops. Many more languish in Indian jails where they are subjected to torture and custodial deaths.

There have been numerous cases of gang rapes of Kashmiri women by the Indian forces and the deliberate burning down of entire localities and villages.

These brutalities have been documented by International and even Indian Human Rights Organizations.

Extra judicial killings, involuntary disappearances, arbitrary detentions, rapes and torture continue to be reported on a large scale. The Kashmiri leaders have been repeatedly harassed and physically intimidated. They have also been denied travel permission to prevent them from exposing Indian human rights abuses in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The massive suppression by India is clearly designed to silence the people of Jammu and Kashmir through sheer brutality

bordering on genocide and ethnic cleansing.

All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference

India refuses to acknowledge that the people of Indian Held Kashmir (IHK) have become totally alienated and there is complete rejection of Indian occupation. Several Kashmiri political parties have formed the all Pakistan Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference (APHC) to continue the political struggle for self-determination. The APHC, therefore, constitutes the true representative of the Kashmiri people.

Instead of accepting the existing reality, India has sought to blame Pakistan for allegedly promoting the Kashmiri uprising. The fact is that this movement is completely indigenous and enjoys mass support. The Indian allegations against Pakistan are a ploy to mislead the International Community and to create a smokescreen behind which they can continue repression in IHK. After more than four decades of a peaceful struggle against Indian repression, manipulation and exploitation, the Kashmiri people, convinced that India would never honour its commitments, and inspired by similar movements for freedom in other parts of the world, rose against the Indian occupation towards the later part of 1989. Their struggle was, and remains, largely peaceful.

Pakistan's Perspective

A peaceful, negotiated settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions remains on top of Pakistan's foreign policy agenda. UN Security Council resolutions that call for a plebiscite under UN auspices. It is in keeping with the solemn pledge made to the Kashmiri people by Pakistan, India and the international community. In order to find an early and just solution to the decades old Jammu and Kashmir dispute, Pakistan has welcomed offers of good offices and third-party mediation. It has encouraged the international community to play an active role and facilitate the peaceful settlement of disputes between Pakistan and India. Pakistan will continue to extend full political, diplomatic and moral support to the legitimate Kashmiri struggle for their right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions. In the context of the bilateral dialogue, it calls on India to translate its commitments into reality. At the same time, it will encourage the international community to support and supplement our efforts to establish lasting peace and stability in South Asia on the basis of equitable resolution of all disputes between the two countries, in particular the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

SARDAR SKINDAR HAYAT KHAN

Early Life:

Sardar Skindar Hayat was born in Domaal Rajput tribe in Karela Majhan village of Mendhar tehsil of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir in June 1934. This area became part of AJK after the liberation movement of 1947 and is known as Nakyal tehsil. His father Sardar Fateh Mohammad Karelvi had quit the service of the Poonch police to play an active political role in the Muslim Conference and was also elected as a member of the Jammu and Kashmir Praja Sabha (People's Assembly) from the Mendhar tehsil of Poonch in 1935.

Political Career:

He earned his LLB degree from Punjab University and took active part in politics from the platform of Muslim Conference (MC). His first electoral venture was his election as local council member under the basic democracy system in the early 1960s.

In 1970, he was elected to the legislative assembly under the presidential form of government and served in the cabinet of President Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan as senior minister, holding the portfolio of revenue department.

In 1974, the presidential form of government in AJK was replaced by the parliamentary form of government. But the MC boycotted the 1975 polls "anticipating rigging by the Peoples Party" and joined hands with the opposition parties of Pakistan that had then formed Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) against the government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Mr Hayat was deputy secretary general of PNA and after the arrest of all of its leadership remained its acting secretary general for quite some time.

In the meantime, Mr Hayat had been chosen as president of the MC that after gaining majority in the 1985 polls got him elected as leader of the house (prime minister) while Sardar Qayyum became president of the state.

Mr Hayat ran the government as a strict administrator from 1985 to 1990. In 1990, MC lost to Pakistan Peoples Party and he held the office of the leader of the opposition. The PPP government lasted only nine or so months due to the premature dissolution of the assembly by the then premier Mumtaz Hussain Rathore. Next general elections, 1991. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan became Prime Minister and Sardar Skindar Hayat was elected as the president.

Towards the fag end of his five-year term, Mr Hayat resigned from the presidency and was re-elected as president from the same MC-dominated assembly. The PPP that came to power in 1996 removed him through a vote of no-confidence. All Jammu



& Kashmir Muslim Conference saw a split into Qayyum (Q) and Sikandar (S) factions. However, the factions united ahead of the 2001 polls to pave the way for its victory. Muslim Conference came to power, and he was elected as prime minister for the second time.

He initially retired from active politics in July 2006.[4] However, he later played a major role in introducing Pakistan Muslim League (N) in AJK for which he was given the position of Senior

Vice President of PML-(N) in 2011.[6]

He quit PML-(N) in February 2021 and re-joined the Muslim Conference as Supreme head of the party.[7]

Death and condolence

This veteran Kashmiri leader who ruled Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) twice as prime minister and once as president, popularly known as Salar-e Jamurriat, breathed his last in his hometown Kotli on Saturday 9th October 2021. He was 87. His funeral prayers were attended by the thousands of people from various walks of life.

AJK Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi had declared a three-day mourning in the state apart from cancelling all political activities, including a ruling PTI's parliamentary party meeting scheduled to be held on Monday in Kashmir House, Islamabad.

Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed his condolences over the demise of Sardar Skindar Hayat and said, "Saddened to learn of the passing of Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan, former President of AJK as well as former PM of AJK. His contribution to the Kashmir cause [and] service to the Kashmiri people were invaluable. My prayers [and] condolences go to his family," he had said.

Separately, National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry, Minister for Kashmir affairs Ali Amin Gandapur, parliamentary Kashmir committee chairman Shehryar Afridi and several other leaders in Pakistan and AJK had also used different social media platforms to express their grief over the passing of Mr Hayat.

At the funerals in Kotli's 'Air Ground', a police contingent presented a salute to his coffin, before a number of leaders spoke about the late leader's political life and his commitment and contribution to the development of the liberated territory.

"Today we have lost a great personality on this side of the divide," said AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood.

He recalled that his father Chaudhry Noor Hussain and Mr Hayat's father Sardar Fateh Mohammad Karelvi were among those Muslim Conference leaders who had attended the July 19, 1947 meeting in Srinagar where "accession [of Kashmir] to

Pakistan” resolution was adopted.

“He spent his whole life in the service of the people of Azad Kashmir, which we will never forget,” he said.

PM Niazi said the late leader was a development-oriented politician who used his ability to ameliorate the lives of people. He announced the naming of Kotli's sports stadium and proposed Kashmir Highway along Jhelum River after Mr Hayat.

Prominent among others who spoke on the occasion were Shah Ghulam Qadir from the PML-N, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore from

the PPP, former premier Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, Mirza Shafique Jaral and Malick Nawaz from the Muslim Conference.

Later, the coffin was taken to Nakyal where a second funeral prayer was held. It was attended and addressed among others by former AJK premier and PML-N president Raja Farooq Haider, former president and PPP leader Sardar Yaqoob Khan and PPP legislator from Nakyal Javed Iqbal Badhanvi.

Afterwards, he was laid to rest in the family's ancestral graveyard in the town.

NEWS SECTION

Imran Khan: India drawing inspiration from Israel in Kashmir

Pakistani prime minister tells MEE threat of conflict over



disputed territory is the world's most dangerous 'nuclear flashpoint' India enjoys the same kind of impunity within the international community over its attempts to change the demographic balance of Kashmir that Israel has in the occupied Palestinian territories, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has told Middle East Eye. He accused his counterpart Narendra Modi, the Indian prime minister, of copying Israel's playbook by allowing settlers to acquire land in the disputed territory, which has been claimed - and fought over - by both Pakistan and India since 1947. Khan called Indian-administered Kashmir an open prison. He accused India of breaching the Geneva Convention by changing the Indian constitution to end Kashmiri autonomy.

In August 2019, Modi sent tens of thousands of additional troops into the Muslim-majority state, imposed a curfew and announced the abolition of Article 370 of the Indian constitution - which guaranteed autonomy to Kashmir for more than 70 years. Many Kashmiris fear the ultimate intention of the Modi government is to fundamentally change the demographic of the region by allowing people from outside the state to buy land. Khan told Middle East Eye that India had not been challenged more forcefully on the international stage because its western allies

saw it as a bulwark against China. But he said India had also benefited from a deepening strategic and military relationship with Israel, forged by Modi's visit to the country in July 2017, and by then-Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's return visit to India the following year - after decades of diplomatic estrangement. The relationship has included the joint development by Israel Aerospace Industries and Indian contractors of the Barak-8 aerial defence system for use by both countries' militaries, which was described by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh last month as a “game-changer”. Khan said India had also drawn on Israel's illegal and brutal occupation of the Palestinian territories and the impunity the country has enjoyed as a consequence of its alliance with the US, in its own quashing of opposition and criticism of its actions in Kashmir. “[Israel has] built such a strong security apparatus and [they] just crush anything. They send people who kill and assassinate and they have total immunity,” he said.

“Whatever the UN general assembly says, they have complete confidence in the veto the US has in the Security Council. So they get away with anything. And I feel that India feels [it has immunity] because they are being used... as a bulwark against China.”

World's 'nuclear flash point'

A ceasefire has generally held along the Line of Control in Kashmir since an agreement in February this year, but tensions remain high and there have been reports of exchanges of gunfire in recent weeks.

The two countries have fought three wars since independence in 1947. The last major flare-up in 2019 was defused after Pakistan handed back an Indian pilot whose plane had been downed in Pakistani airspace.

The incident started when a Pakistan-based militant group attacked Indian soldiers in Indian-administered Kashmir, killing

more than 40 paramilitary troops in a car bombing.

Asked by MEE how volatile the current situation was, Khan replied: "If you look at the flashpoints, probably the nuclear flashpoint right now in the world is Pakistan-India because nowhere else is there a situation where there are two nuclear-armed countries who have had three wars before they were nuclear-armed."

He added: "We have not had a war since then because of the deterrent."

Still, he admitted that dealing with the flare-up in 2019 in the early months of his premiership had been a nervous and dangerous time: "Once two nuclear-armed countries get into the situation like we did, it can go anywhere."

AJK president welcomes OIC support for Kashmiris

New York: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan



Mehmoood Chaudhry on Saturday lauded the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's "continued, unequivocal support" for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people when he met OIC Permanent Observer to the UN Agshin Mehdiyev in New York.

According to a press release, the president noted that the recent adoption of the Joint Communique at the ministerial level meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir on the sidelines of the 76th session of the UNGA is yet another manifestation of the 57-member organization of longstanding support to the Kashmir cause.

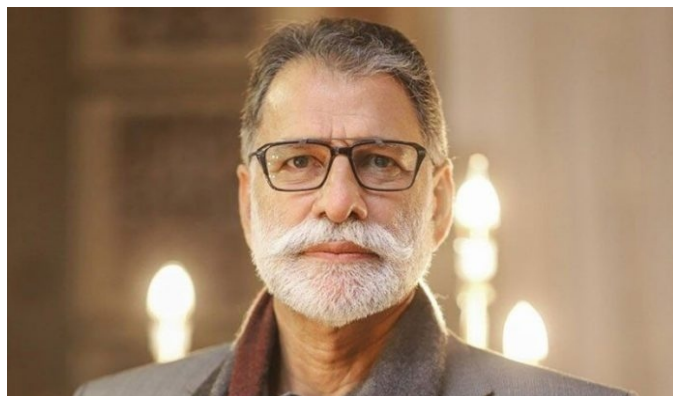
Chaudhry said he had come to New York to apprise the international community about the continued atrocities and gross human right violations committed by over 900,000 Indian troops deployed in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He said the situation in the occupied territory has

deteriorated since the illegal Indian decision of August 5, 2019 which eliminated the statehood status of the occupied territory. Since then, he said, India has imprisoned the entire Kashmiri leadership, illegally detained thousands of Kashmiri youths including women and children, summarily executed young boys, put down protests violently and burnt down entire neighbourhoods and villages.

He said India is carrying out a systematic and carefully crafted settler colonial project in IIOJK, highlighting that the Indian government has already issued over 4.2 million fake domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris with the aim to change the demography of the occupied territory.

Qayyum Lauds Pakistan Govt's Diplomatic Move Mobilizing World Opinion In Support Of Kashmiris Struggle To RSD

MIRPUR AJK) Kashmir Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi on Wednesday commended the diplomatic efforts of the Prime



Minister Imran Khan for highlighting the Kashmir issue at international level.

The Prime Minister made these remarks during his meeting with the Foreign Minister Shah Mehmoood Qureshi in the Federal metropolis.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi congratulated Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi on assuming the office of Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir.

The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir congratulated the Foreign Minister on his successful visit to the United States and appreciated his struggle for effectively projecting the plight of the Kashmiri people who have been struggling for the achievement of their legitimate right to self-determination.

The Prime Minister said it was due to the successful foreign policy of the government of Pakistan the long standing Kashmir issue has been effectively highlighted at international level. The

Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir thanked the Foreign Minister for his efforts in exposing Indian forces atrocities on Kashmiri people in occupied Kashmir.

He apprised him of the future course of action and development strategy being launched by the government of Azad Kashmir for the socio economic development of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that we are committed to continue the political, diplomatic and moral support of the Kashmiris people in attaining their fundamental right to self-determination. He said the Pakistan government is standby with Kashmiri people in their struggle for the right to self-determination.

He said Pakistan has presented documentary evidence about the Indian forces' repressions on Kashmiri people and in this regard the dossier has been presented to the world. Parliamentary Secretary Finance Makhdoomzada Zain Qureshi and Central Deputy Secretary Information Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Tauseef Abbasi were also present on the occasion.

Hurriyat forum expresses concern over crackdowns, arrests in IIOJK

Srinagar (KMS): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and



Kashmir, the Hurriyat forum, headed by its incarcerated Chairman, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, has expressed grave concern over the crackdowns and indiscriminate arrests across the valley by Indian police and other forces. The Hurriyat forum in a statement issued in Srinagar said that according to media reports more than 900 people had been arrested and detained which had naturally created an atmosphere of fear and panic among the people. It said, instead of releasing hundreds of Kashmiris, languishing for years in jails of India and the territory, more arrests are carried out which only leads to further deterioration of

the situation and makes the matters worse. Asserting that bullying, coercion, beatings and arrests are not the solution, forum said the authorities rather should take comprehensive and concrete steps to resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of Kashmiri people so that the lasting peace and security could be established in the region.

At United Nations, President Erdogan urges Kashmir settlement under UN resolutions

UNITED NATIONS, Sep 22 (APP): Turkish President Recep



Tayyip Erdogan called for resolving the decades-old Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan on the basis of United Nations resolutions when he addressed the 76th session of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday. "We maintain our stance in favour of solving the ongoing problem in Kashmir for 74 years, through dialogue between the parties and within the framework of relevant United Nations resolutions," he said in the course of a wide-ranging speech to the 193-member Assembly. Over 100 world leaders are participating the debate in person, with attendance in the Assembly's iconic hall scaled down as a precaution against the coronavirus pandemic. Prime Minister Imran Khan will address the 193-member Assembly on Sept. 24 through a video-link. President Erdogan has consistently raised the Kashmir dispute at the annual sessions of the UN General Assembly. At the 75th session, the Turkish leader said, "The Kashmir conflict, which is also key to the stability and peace in South Asia, is still a burning issue. Steps taken following the abolition of the special status of Jammu & Kashmir further complicated the problem."

His espousal of the Kashmir cause has evoked strong protests from India, which claims that Jammu and Kashmir is its "internal matter" Meanwhile, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General of Washington-based World Kashmir Awareness Forum,

an advocacy group, welcomed President Erdogan's reference to the Kashmir issue, saying his words have given the Kashmiri people encouragement.

President Erdogan's message, he said, is aimed at promotion of a dialogue among all parties to the dispute. "This is the only means of achieving a genuine and lasting peace in this volatile conflict," Fai said, adding that Kashmiri people have suffered too long. "They demand and they deserve peace," he added.

IIOJK people left at mercy of one million Indian troops: APMC

Srinagar (KMS): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed concern over the abnormal situation prevailing in the territory where the people have been left at the mercy of one million Indian forces. The APMC Vice Chairman, Ghulam Ahmad Gulzar in a statement issued in Srinagar deplored that despite the draconian laws in place, the Indian fascist regime had laced the military forces with the police powers to arrest, interrogate and lodge FIR against any person they like, which is a violation of international law. Referring to the recent statements by the Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah regarding the repetition of so-called surgical strikes against Pakistan, he termed it ridiculous and highly irresponsible. He added that both India and Pakistan could not imagine about a nuclear collusion in the present world order where peace and prosperity could not remain hostage to hostility and enmity as propounded by India, except resolution of Kashmir dispute remaining in doldrums. The APMC Vice Chairman said that the ruling fascist BJP of India had crafted certain political stunts to hoodwink the electorate to remain in power among which, creating a war-like situation with Pakistan, escalation of civil killings in IIOJK and spreading communal frenzy throughout India. He asserted that since Kashmir dispute is internationally recognised so it should be resolved in accordance with the will of the Kashmiri people who have given unprecedented sacrifices for the Kashmir cause. Ghulam Ahmad Gulzar said that the use of suppressive and oppressive measures adopted by India had absolutely failed to deter the freedom-loving people of Kashmir so it was wastage of time and energy for India to delay the just solution of Kashmir dispute according to the United Nations resolutions as agreed by India. The UN Secretary General, António Guterres should stop

genocide, arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial killings, desecration of the chastity of women and vandalising of residential homes in IIOJK at the hands of Indian forces and help resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Kashmiris aspirations, he maintained. He also described the termination of the veteran Hurriyat leader, Syed Ali Gilani's grandson, Anees-ul-Islam services by the Modi regime as political vendetta. Anees was working as a Research Officer at International Convention Centre in Srinagar.

World urged to play role in early resolution of Kashmir dispute

Islamabad (KMS): British educationist, peace ambassador and founder of 'Let Kashmir Decide' campaign, Ms Claire Bidwell, has said that the world must look for early and permanent solution of the Kashmir dispute. Ms Claire Bidwell was speaking as chief guest in a reception organised by think tank, Institute of Peace and Development (INSPAD) and News Agency, Kashmir News Network (KNN), at National Press Club in Islamabad. The INSPAD President, Dr Muhammad Tahir Tabassum, Chief editor of KNN Javed Akram Malik, prominent religious scholar, Dr Umar Riaz Abbasi, Chairperson of Lift Islamabad, Dr Asma Malik, Col (Retd) Mohabat Ali and Muhammad Talha Zubair, youth coordinator, also spoke on the occasion. Ms Claire Bidwell said Kashmir is a humanitarian issue and people must explore and support her campaign "Let Kashmir Decide" from Sunday (17 October). She appreciated INSPAD and KNN event and said, "We are with your objectives." Dr Muhammad Tahir Tabassum said settlement of the Kashmir and Palestine disputes is the pathway of global peace and harmony and the world must understand the effects of these issues. Dr Umar Riaz Abbasi said Kashmir is a humanitarian issue and Islam never believes in violence as it is a religion of peace. Muhammad Talha Zubair, INSPAD youth coordinator, emphasized that the Kashmiris are free people and they are under military siege and as per the UN resolutions, self-determination is their legal right. INSPAD gave Icon of Peace and KNN presented Peace Defender awards to Ms Claire Bidwell and appreciated her tremendous and effective efforts for people of Kashmir.

Shutdown in Srinagar over killing of youth by Indian troops

Srinagar (KMS): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, a shutdown is being observed in several parts of

Srinagar city, today, over the killing of youth by Indian troops in fake encounters in Srinagar and Pulwama areas. Despite strict restrictions and huge deployment of Indian forces' personnel in Srinagar, people staged protests against the killing of the youth including Shahid Ahmad and Tanzeel Ahmad, both residents of the city. Shops and business establishments are closed while traffic is off the roads in downtown and other areas of the Srinagar city. People visiting the houses of the martyrs have demanded of the occupation authorities to hand over the dead bodies of the martyred youth to their families so that they can be accorded proper burial.

Two detained journalists in Anantnag shifted to jail

Two journalists in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, who have been detained by the Jammu and Kashmir police in the last week for "questioning", have been shifted to district jail today. As per the family members, Salman Shah, 30, editor of an online weekly magazine *Kashmir First* and 21-year-old Suhail Dar, a freelance journalist, both the residents of Anantnag district, were produced in front of a magistrate on Thursday. The police had asked for eight days remand of the duo. But the magistrate has given only two days remand, following which both were shifted to



Anantnag district jail in the afternoon, sources said. On 8 October, at around 4pm, Dar had received a call from the police asking him to report to the Saddar Police station, Anantnag. Dar is a resident of Batengoo area of Anantnag, who has been working as a freelance journalist with local publications has been detained for over a week. Salman Shah, was picked from his home in Sheerpora area of Anantnag district on Tuesday by a team of police forces.

Earlier on Wednesday, speaking to *The Kashmir Walla*, Majid Nadeem, head of Sherbagh Police Post in Anantnag, said that Shah was detained for "questioning". "He is being questioned at the moment and as far as I know he will be released in the evening," he had said.



Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Khawaja Farooq Ahmed Chairman Functions Committee presiding over the meeting of committee

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IOK

(From Jan 1989 till Sep 30, 2021)

Total Killings *	95,875
Custodial Killings	7,195
Arrested	162,262
Arson (Houses, Shops, etc.)	110,433
Women widowed	22,934
Children orphaned	107,842
Women gang-raped / Molested	11,246
*Including killings in fake encounters, extra-judicial operations and custody	

