



## How terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir is challenging Indian sense of democracy

<sup>1</sup>Shikha Chaudhary, <sup>2</sup>Dr. Pratibha Tyagi

<sup>1</sup> Ph.D. Scholar, Department of English, Chaudhary Charan Singh University Campus, Uttar Pradesh, India

<sup>2</sup> Professor, Department of English, Chaudhary Charan Singh University Campus, Uttar Pradesh, India

### Abstract

Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has become one of the most challenging problems for Indian democracy. Its manifestation can be seen in the endless curfew in the valley, myriad protests by the locals, the brain-washing of local youth and their increasing inclination towards stone – pelting or defying the government. Article 370 has given special status to J & K implying it is not bound by the same rules as that of other state.

This paper focuses on describing and analysing the challenges posed by Terrorism in J & K and their aftermath and effect on Indian democracy. Some of the challenges include loss of lives/increasing death-rate, unrest and violence, effect on educational institute, alienation and political unrest.

**Keywords:** terrorism, Indian democracy, Jammu and Kashmir

### Introduction

The problem in Jammu & Kashmir poses an interlinked internal – external challenge to India national security. The issue has three major aspects in terms of its impact on bilateral relations with Pakistan. There are the territorial, the political and finally socio – economic aspects that need attention to evolve a national police. Every aspect of national policy has to be viewed from the perspective of the internal – external dynamic presented by the Jammu & Kashmir issue.

The macro level issues relating to handling of Kashmir are well known; they present a dual challenge to Indian security. For instance, intelligence has to focus upon cross-border terrorism and internal insurgency. Both are separated but interlinked.

The three issues that need consideration in terms of policy inputs and long-term imperatives before India are Territorial political socio-economic.

The status of the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, including territories in Pakistani and Chinese possession, need attention. In a sense, Kashmir is a trilateral issue not a bilateral one. China holds the Shaskgam valley ceded to it by Pakistan in the sixties. China also holds Aksai Chin and the Deosai plains which India claims. This reality has to be factored into any discussion on territory. Current Indian thought bifurcates the Pakistani from the Chinese problem and treats the line of Actual Control with China separately. Diplomatically, this makes sense but not geo-strategically.

The other question is that India has been pushing hard to get everybody to accept the “reality” of the line of control between India and Pakistan. The US has apparently accepted this formulation for its own reasons. If this reality is to be transformed into fact, India and Pakistan will have to ponder what happens to Siachen. i.e. the territory beyond Pt. NJ 9842, where there is no LOC but only what India calls the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL)

The revival of the state both socially and economically can happen only when violence ends. People will return this applies to Kashmiris who have left the state and tourists, only when the atmosphere is calm. Too much should not be expected from those who left Kashmir in the early phases of the insurgency and have settled elsewhere. It is those who are living in refugee camps that the government must focus.

The effect of terrorism can be seen in every aspect of Kashmiri civilians. They have to pay a heavy cost in every phase of life. Here we will see that how this terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir is challenging Indian sense of democracy.

The terrorist violence caused extensive damage to private public property with large numbers of people, particularly minority Hindu, “Kashmiri Pandit”, being forced to migrate from the Valley. Even foreign tourists have not been spared. Terrorists posed a serious threat to Aviation Security as they resorted to hijacking to achieve their demands.

The killing of seven Hindu Pilgrims in Southern Kashmir enrooted from the Holy cave of Amarnath was a bloody incident in J&K. Unidentified terrorist reportedly opened fire on a police vehicle at around 8:00 pm on July 10, 2017. When police retaliated the terrorist fired indiscriminately and a bus full of pilgrims returning from Amarnath was caught in the crossfire. Others said there was no crossfire and the pilgrims were targets, but later reports say that the bus was attacked twice in three minutes. The Kashmir Police blamed the Lashkar-e-Taiba, a terror group for the attack alleging it was masterminded by Pakistani Terrorist Abu Ismail.

An army officer, identified as Lieutenant Ummer Fayaz Parry who hailed from Kulgam, had gone to attend the wedding of a relative in Shopian district of Jammu & Kashmir, was kidnapped from his house and murdered by terrorists on 10 May 2017. His bullet – riddled body was found in Harman chawk in the heart of Shopian district.

The unrest and violence is misleading the actual path of

Kashmiri's on. The time which must be devoted to their development is wasted in these fatal incidents and sometimes these painful memories never came out from their minds and affect them lifelong. Kashmiris by this not only physically but their mental state also suffer, psychologically, emotionally financially and above all this, their serious loss of dignity and respect touches them deeply.

The 2016-17 unrest in Kashmir, also known as the Burhan aftermath refers to a series of violent protests in the Kashmir valley of the Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir. It started with the killing of Bushan Wani, a Kashmir poster-boy. Commander of the Kashmir-based Islamic militant organization Hizbul Mujahideen by Indian security forces on 8 July 2016. After his killing anti-Indian protests started in all 10 districts of the Kashmir Valley. Protesters defied curfew with attacks on security forces and public properties.

Curfew was imposed in all 10 districts of the valley on 15 July and mobile services were suspended by the govt. Kashmir valley remained under 53 days of consecutive curfew which was lifted from all areas on 31 August. Jammu & Kashmir Police and Indian para-military forces used pellet guns, tear gas shies, rubber bullet as well as assault rifles, resulting in the death of more than 90 civilians, with over 15000 civilians injured as the result of pellet guns, many people also got blind. Two security personnel also died while over 4000 personnel were injured in the riots.

The education sector has been badly hit in Kashmir Valley during causing irreversible loss "to students the Economic Survey Report has said." Due to the closure of schools, the academic session got badly hit to the extent that it caused irreversible loss of study and tuitions to the students.

It is said 31 schools buildings were gutted 17 fully and 14 partially during the 5 month long unrest following the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Bushan Wani in an encounter

The exposure to violence and armed conflict reduces the quantity of education attained by children of conflict areas.

Main contributors to the lessening of attainment of quantity of education include destruction of infrastructure fear of sending children to schools, incorporation of youth into armed groups, negative economic shocks to household and forced displacement the report said.

In the academic session 2016-17, 84, 811 students are enrolled in all govt. degree colleges in Kashmir as against the strength of 72000 in 2015-16. The loss of studies of 130 days and more is irreparable and will have to be compensated through conduct of evening classes and additional classes on holidays to make the students have the knowledge in ordinary to enable them to complete with students economically at the country level it said.

J&K is a fractured state estranged from the rest of the nation constitutionally Article 370 elevates the state in the scheme of Indian federalism consequently instilling a sense of exclusivity in its populace. Despite the huge financial support from center the state machinery has failed to find stable ground. The govt. is slow indecisive and ambivalent and is typical of a functional anarchy.

A pampered state govt. has led to abysmally low levels of education employment and economic activity in the region. This has resulted in the indoctrination of youth along political

and religious lines. These mislead youth funded and supported by cross border miscreants indulge in anti-Indian sloganeering and stone pelting, causing challenges to internal security in the region.

Anti- govt. protests have escalated again in Indian – administered Kashmir following violent clashes earlier in April. On April, 9 an election was held for parliamentary seats, but voter turnout was only 7%. Demonstrators who had gathered around polling places clashed with riot. Police and were met with a violent response, leaving at least eight dead. Since then, a new cycle of protests and violent crackdowns – followed by responses to those crackdowns has begun, leaving dozens dead and more injured. In Kashmir the Indian government has been battling arm rebels in a low – level conflict for decades, while working against separatists, anti – India demonstrations, an increasingly radicalizing population and more. Recent clashes with students in the streets of Srinagar resulted in brutal acts carried out by the Indian security forces being caught on video and spread via social media. The govt. responded by blocking 16 social media sites in the region, including Facebook and Twitter.

The region has a thriving drug smuggling system controlled from across the border and resultant drugs are free available in the Kashmir valley. Drugs are the latest tool of terrorists and their masters in Pakistan to control the population of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the Kashmir valley. New age terrorist, both local and foreigners, are mostly drug addicts. Young boys are first channeled into addiction and then forced on to the both of terrorism. Money earned from the narcotics trade, extending from the poppy fields of Afghanistan to the valley, is invariably used to fund Terror activities on January 17, 117 kilograms of brown sugar was recovered from the Trade Facilitation Centre at Salambad. Earlier on August 13, 2013, 10 Kilogram of cocaine was recovered by the army at Sheri followed by another recovery of one kilogram of brown sugar on September, 18, 2013 at Tangdhor. These are just a few examples.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Azaadi uprising in the Kashmir Valley, leading to the ethnic cleansing of around 400000 Kashmiri Pandits. For some this day heralded the rejection of Indian rule by protesting Kashmiris, followed by the bloody suppression of Kashmiri human rights by Indian forces (portrayed in the film 'Haider'). Official figures say only 219 Pandits were killed in valley. But the threat of violence was so great, and the chances of curbing it so remote, that lakhs of Pandits fled. Most are now rotting in refugee camps in Jammu. Today, Jammu is a Hindu – Majority area. But in 1947, it had a Muslim majority. The communal riots of 1947 fell most heavily on Jammu's Muslims; lakhs fled into what became Pakistan – occupied Kashmir. That turned Jammu's Muslim majority into a Hindu majority.

It is also confirmed that most of the educational institutions across the state lack toilet facilities for the school children and staff. Around 21381 out of 29047 schools lacked electricity facilities. The survey conducted during 2014-15, has also revealed that 2667 schools in the valley had no water facilities while as 39 are functioning without building and 38 have even no proper classrooms available. Given the lack of toilet facilities in the educational institutions, the state's school education department is trying to overcome the paucity under

Swachh Vadyalaya programme by constructing 13000 new toilets in school of all the three regions of the state.

Due to these continuous terrorists attack, India's image has become grey on global platform. If we talk about Mazffernagar riots except Kashmir's riots, here we find that how State govt. failed to stop that riot. People were murdered on both sides. Terrorism is not only done by terrorists but in our nation, our own people like Baba Ram Rahim belongs to Dera Sechha Soda, too is a terrorist. How much public properties were burnt govt. vehicles caught fire by his followers and above all how can a spiritual leader have a mispath for human beings by deceiving their lives. This thing is candem greatly. The biggest problem is that when our own people cause harm to our nation for some money.

Democracy is the government for the people, by the people and to the people but terrorism breaks this state of rule. On democracy, everyone enjoys his human rights but by interrupting through terrorism people crib feel happy because in every minute they are filled with fear. These terrorist attacks destroy daily life of people.

Provide incentives to return rebuild house and villages ravaged by decades of insurgence. Take up road building on a large scale. Improve communications. And get people to participate. One India is clear about the internal – external dynamic and seeks a solution of these lines, evolving a national consensus on Jammu & Kashmir may become easier.

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