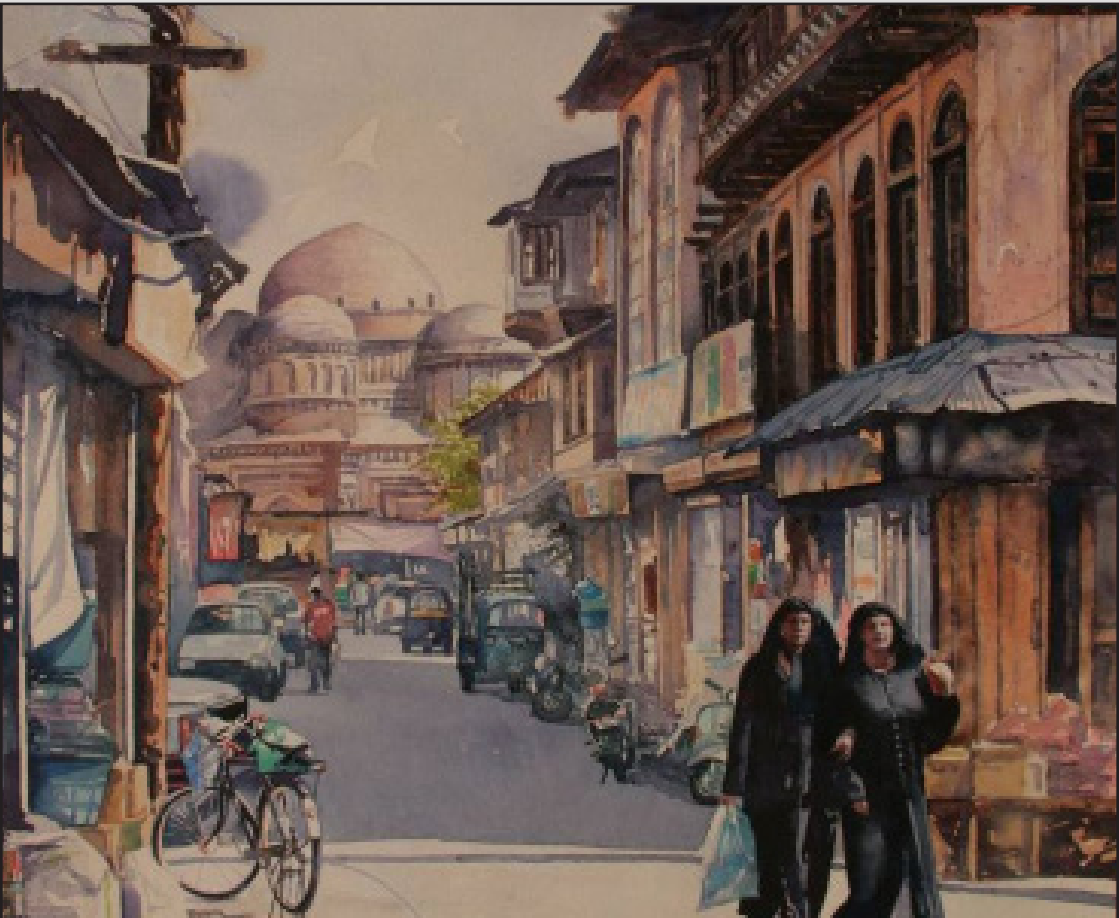




Institute of Dialogue of  
Diplomatic Studies  
(IDDDs)

# Monthly report

August, 2025



# August, 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 	3	4 	5 	6 	7 Colt SAA 
8 	9 	10 	11 	12 	13 Youme e Shudayee Kashmir Degree College- Sharada	14 
15 	16 	17	18 	19 	20	21 
22	23	24 Kashmir Gazette UN news Edition	25 	26	27	28
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3 Aug → Status Quo to Status Quo Ante (Article, English)

4 Aug → Kashmir & Namibia ICJ Ruling (Research Paper)

4 Aug → Cry of Justice: Beyond LoC (Poem)

5 Aug → Nostalgia (Poem)

5 Aug → Kashmir: Walls of Silence (Poem)

5 Aug → Youm-e-Ishtehal Kashmir (IRS Think Tank, Round Table)

5 Aug → 5 Years of Struggle in Post-370 (Policy Dialogue,

Conference)

5 Aug → Kashmir: Unspoken Sufferings (Seminar, Media Dialogue)

7 Aug → Kashmir: Legal Lecture (TV Talk)

8 Aug → Kashmir: De Facto to De Jure (Policy Workshop, Round Table)

9 Aug → UNSC Adopts Resolution (Kashmir Magazine)

10 Aug → Kashmir: Power of Pain (Poem)

11 Aug → Kashmir: Walls of

Silence (Poem)

12 Aug → Kashmir: The Threat to Identity (Webinar, Embassy Session in Washington)

14 Aug → Independence Day (Kashmir Gazette, Special Edition)

15 Aug → Day of Shame – Indian "Independence" (Seminar)

16 Aug → Press Coverage (Media Conference)

16 Aug → One Year of Modi (Policy Dialogue, Round Table)

16 Aug → Summary of the Books

(Case Against Banning, Book Compilation)

18 Aug → Kashmir: The Right of Property (Article)

18 Aug → Kashmir: Blasting of Indian Homes (Seminar, Youth Awareness)

25 Aug → US Ties and Field Marshal Gen. Asim Munir (Newspaper)

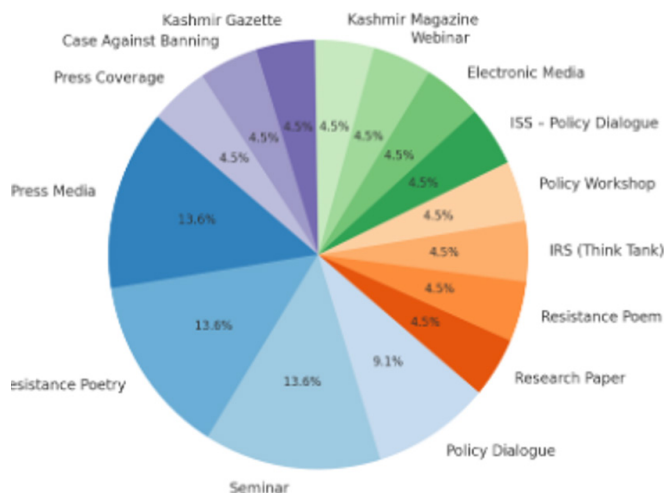
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4	Aug 4	Policy Workshop	Conference	Human Rights	“Policy for Peace”	14
5	Aug 5	Electronic Media	TV Talk	Kashmir Solidarity	“Broadcasting Truth”	17
6	Aug 6	Webinar	Online Session	Youth Engagement	“Future of Freedom”	20
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9	Aug 9	Resistance Poetry	Poem	Cultural Identity	“Verses of the Valley”	29
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21	Aug 21	Press Media	Press Media	Kashmir: The Right of Property	Kashmir: The Right of Property	61
22	Aug 22	Seminar	Youth Awareness	Youth Awareness	Kashmir: Blasting of Indian Homes	61
23	Aug 23	Press Media	Newspaper	US Ties and Field Marshal Gen. Asim Munir		66



**IDDDs Activities Chart - 2025**



## ARTICLE

### Kashmir: Status Quo, Anti-Status Quo & Status Quo Ante By Dr. Waleed Rasool



5th August 2019 marked a watershed moment in the contemporary political and resistance history of Kashmir. The unilateral actions by India shattered the pre-existing paradigm, shifting the trajectory of the region from a contested occupation to outright annexation, and now toward an alarming phase of settler colonization is in play. The post-2019 landscape must be understood through three lenses: the

status quo, the anti-status quo, and the status quo ante—each representing a distinct ideological and strategic position. The status quo is staunchly defended by India, rooted in its military occupation and concocted through manufactured legal instruments. For India, maintaining the current grip over Jammu & Kashmir is not merely a territorial concern but the cornerstone of its Ultra nationalist Mod-

itva narrative. Through its 15th, 14th, and 13th Corps deployed in the region, India maintains a suppressive military hold that ensures this status quo is preserved at all costs. On the other side of the spectrum lies the anti-status quo camp—represented not only by the people of Kashmir, but also by Pakistan, and UN resolutions. These actors reject India's unilateral actions and advocate for the Kashmiri people's internationally recognized right to self-determination. The UN resolutions on Kashmir are not mere diplomatic relics; they are the legal foundation that differentiate Kashmir from all other disputes in the region. They affirm that the conflict must be resolved—not managed—through the will of the people, not the barrel of the gun. India's focus, however, has always been conflict management, not resolution. It seeks to contain, divert, and dilute the resistance through calculated political, military, and demographic maneuvers. The 5th August move aimed to consolidate India's grip by altering its legal, political, and demographic status. The status quo ante, the original position prior to the Indian occupation and its constitutional manipulations, is what the people of Kashmir have lost is not alternative to right to self determination. It reflects the

desire to return to a state of justice, dignity, and international legality—restoring the terms under which Kashmir was brought before the UN in 1948, when Nehru himself committed to a plebiscite before the world.

From 27 October 1947 to 5 August 2019, India maintained a tactical status quo through internal guarantees like Article 370 and 35-A—not out of benevolence, but as a buffer to manage Kashmiri resistance. After revoking these provisions, India transitioned the conflict from occupation to annexation, and now from annexation to settler-colonialism. This is not just political strategy—it is demographic engineering. The current phase reflects a textbook case of settler colonialism, wherein India aims to change the identity, culture, and population composition of Kashmir. This is not simply an internal matter; it is a violation of international law and a direct threat to the survival of an entire people. Kashmiri Muslims, once recognized by New Delhi as political subjects (albeit selectively), have now been reduced to objects under domination. India's strategy is multi-pronged: It eliminates dissent through mass arrests, torture, and incarceration in far-flung Indian prisons. It manufactures political alternatives through par-

ties like NC, PDP, and AIP, which do not challenge the status quo. It weaponizes statehood and local governance as distractions from the broader issue of right to self-determination. These pro-India parties are now struggling for the restoration of statehood, a demand that once had meaning in a semi-autonomous framework but has now become cosmetic in the face of settler colonization. Even Omar Abdullah, a loyalist of the Indian union, has launched a campaign to restore what Delhi once granted—underscoring the depth of betrayal even felt by those within India's political sphere in Kashmir. The freedom movement, contrary to propaganda, has not been replaced—it has been sidelined, deferred, and suppressed. The slogans exist; the desire still burns; but the space for articulation has been squeezed in IloJ&K. It is now essential for the movement to innovate—to adopt new tools of resistance such as, Media activism, Resistance poetry, Resistance literature, poetry, digital activism, and international advocacy through diaspora. These are not soft methods—they are potent forms of struggle that preserve identity, build solidarity, and challenge false narratives. The youth are the final and only enduring constituency.

The elders must pass on their experiential wisdom, equipping the younger generation to navigate the harsh terrain of modern occupation. Resistance must evolve into a life cycle—one that is organic, strategic, and rooted in truth. Pakistan, as a state actor, has become a direct target of India's regional ambition and the buffeting reply had created a balance and also the hope for Kashmiris facing direct Indian kinetic wrath. It is no longer merely managing a conflict through non-state support; now, Pakistan's own stability and strategic balancing against India are central to the future of Kashmir. A strong, sustainable Pakistan is the only viable guarantor of hope for Kashmiris in a world where power, not principle, shapes policy is purely the realistic frame work in anarchic world order. In post 5th August 2019 Kashmir is no longer simply occupied—it is annexed and is in the throes of demographic extinction. The post-5th August era is not merely about repression—it is about erasure. The silence of the world and the complacency of many only accelerate this process. But the Kashmiri resistance, though wounded, but alive. It waits—for direction, for Humanitarian assistance, and for a global awakening to its cause. Let the re-

cord show: Kashmiris did not give up. They are pushed into silence and it is our moral obligation who reside away from ruthless illegal occupation to represent those who are unrepresented in every and any forum which matters to bring the pain in open where it can be seen and dealt with. But silence is never the same as they will accept the status quo with interpretation but the status quo will only shake when the right to self-determination is given the chance to determine the will of the Kashmiris.

*Dr. Waleed Rasool PhD (IR) Assistant Professor, Director institute of Dialogue, Devolvment & Diplomatic waleed.rasool@gmail.com*

The Kashmir dispute is lingering from 77 years and 9 months, yet India took only 21 hours in 1947 to fly four Dakotas with the first Sikh Regiment into Srinagar, and just 7 hours on 5 August 2019 to revoke Article 370 and annex the land. As Gandhi said, "It is difficult to speak the truth to the powerful." India, once colonised, now wields that same ruthless swiftness against Kashmir—injustice needs only hours, while justice is left to bleed through decades

## Lingering Kashmir Dispute:

An enquiry through Bilateralism & ICJ Ruling in Namibia

The Kashmir dispute has been under debate for 77 years and 9 months—from 27 October 1947, 9 AM, till today. After 101 years and 7 months of Dogra Hindu minority rule, Kashmiri tyranny did not end; it was simply transferred to the Indian majority rule—more muscular than the Dogra regime.

India decided the fate of Kashmir in less than 9 hours. When Maharaja Hari Singh left for Jammu at 2 PM on 26 October 1947, the first Indian military unit—the 1st Sikh Battalion, led by Lt. Col. Dewan Ranjit Rai—landed at Srinagar airport, becoming the first Indian force to occupy the territory. British historian Alastair Lamb has analysed this sequence, offering sound arguments that question India's official narrative.


On 5 August 2019, the abrogation of Kashmir's special status followed the same swift, pre-planned pattern. At 9 AM, the Indian Home Minister chaired a special cabinet meeting. By 11 AM, the President issued Order C.O. 272, revoking Article 370. At 12 PM, the Rajya Sabha passed the Reorganisation Bill. By 1 PM, the President signed the ordinance—Kashmir was stripped of its special status, divided, and downgraded, all within seven hours

Summary of the 26th and 27 th October 1947		
Event	Date & Time	Notes
Left Srinagar	Evening of 26 October 1947	There was no tunnel so Srinagar Jammu distance was 306 KMs and it was cart road to cross the Banihal Pass when Mahrja was moving with the entre Carwan.
Crossed Banihal Top	Late night 26th / early 27th	On horseback/mule, as no tunnel or paved road existed
Reached Jam-mu	Morning/ afternoon 27 October	Settled at Hari Niwas Palace
Signed Acces-sion	Late 27 Octo-ber 1947	Received by V.P. Menon; accepted by India on same 27 October

### **From: 27 October 1947 to End Date: 5 August 2019.**

It was 71 years, 9 months, and 10 days and this journey to cross the Indian Act, Independence Act, IoA , UNSC resolutions, Bilateral treaties and the guarantees under the 370 was ended in just 6 hours. To revoke the special status, and pass the state reorganization Bill so to divide the state and snatch the statehood of the centuries through Parliament and Raja Sabha in 7 hours.

## Timeline of the Revocation of Article 370 – August 5, 2019

TIME	EVENT
4:00–6:00 AM	Total Communication Blockade imposed; Internet, phones, cable shut down. Additional 78,000 troops deployed, building on the 35,000 sent earlier. Valley turned into a military fortress.
6:00–7:00 AM	Mass arrests: All mainstream pro-India Kashmiri leaders (e.g., Omar, Mehbooba) detained. Resistance leaders had already been jailed in Tihar. Amarnath Yatra abruptly ended; tourists ordered to vacate.
7:00–9:00 AM	Curfew-like restrictions imposed. Schools, colleges, shops, and offices shut. Military takes over public roads, bunkers reinforced. No movement allowed.
9:00–10:00 AM	Emergency Cabinet meeting chaired by Amit Shah to <a href="#">finalise</a> strategy and documentation.
10:00–11:00 AM	Amit Shah enters Rajya Sabha. Suspense built until he read the Presidential Order C.O. 272, altering Article 367 to redefine ‘Constituent Assembly’ as ‘Legislative Assembly’ (which didn’t exist).
11:00–12:00 PM	 Presidential Order C.O. 273 formally revokes Article 370. Rajya Sabha votes in <a href="#">favour</a> of J&K <a href="#">Reorganisation</a> Bill (bifurcating the state).
12:00–1:00 PM	President Ram Nath Kovind signs the bill, making it official. Article 370 revoked <i>de jure</i> .
1:00–2:00 PM	Strategic pause in Parliament activity; allowed for managed media narrative and messaging.
2:00–4:00 PM	Amit Shah tables the Reorganization Bill in Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament.
4:00–7:00 PM	Lok Sabha passes the bill with majority support. The constitutional coup is now <i>legally complete</i> .
8:00 PM →	Valley completely locked down. All forms of dissent throttled. Full media blackout. World kept in dark.

### Legal Subversion Tactics

1. Bypassing Article 370(3): Legally, Article 370 could only be abrogated with the consent of the J&K Constituent Assembly, which ceased to exist in 1957.
2. Manipulating Article 367 of Indian constitution: Redefined “State Government” to mean the Governor, allowing bypass of actual Kashmiri representatives.
3. Presidential Order C.O. 272: A back-door way to kill Article 370 without constitutional amendment.

#### UNSC Resolutions:

(77 years, 3 months, and 13 days have passed)  
 From April 21, 1948 to August 3, 2025:  
 12 UNSC subsequent resolutions were passed in mean time

#### Bilateral Treaty:

53 years, 1 month, and 1 day have passed

From July 2, 1972 to August 3, 2025:

#### Key Events in Tandem: Constitutional & Institutional Dismantling of J&K

1951  
 Constituent Assembly of J&K formed (through elections)  
 Purpose: To draft the Constitution of J&K.

1957  
 Constituent Assembly dissolved after adopting J&K Constitution (26 Jan 1957).  
 India used its resolutions (esp. from this Assembly) to claim finality on accession, However, UN Resolution 122 rejecting it.

1965  
 Title “Prime Minister of J&K” replaced by “Chief Minister”  
 “Sadr-e-Riyasat” (President of J&K) re-

placed by Governor (appointed by New Delhi)

Done via the 6th Amendment to J&K Constitution

Post-1957 to 2018

Legislative Assembly continues under Article 370, but Delhi gradually erodes autonomy through Presidential Orders. 2018

Legislative Assembly dissolved by Indian-appointed Governor.

Governor's Rule imposed, followed by President's Rule (Dec 2018)

5 August 2019

India revokes Article 370 and divides the state into two Union Territories (J&K and Ladakh).

Consent for abrogation fraudulently taken from the Governor, not an elected assembly.

### **UNSC stance :**

"The disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir, as recognized by the United Nations, cannot be unilaterally altered by India. Neither the actions of the Constituent Assembly nor those of the Legislative Assembly have the legal competence to determine the final disposition of the territory. Moreover, electoral processes conducted under occupation do not substitute the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

UN Security Council Resolution 122 (Dated: 24 January 1957)

Clause 1 – Reaffirmation of Past Resolutions

"Reaffirms the affirmation in its resolutions 91 (1951) and 96 (1951) and the provisions of all previous resolutions of the Council relating to the dispute over the State of Jammu and Kashmir."

- Resolution 122 re-endorses earlier resolutions (38, 39, 47, 51, 80, 91, 96, and 98).

- These resolutions collectively recognize Kashmir as a disputed territory, and uphold the right to self-determination through a UN-supervised plebiscite.

Clause 2 – On the Constituent Assembly's Limited Authority

"Declares that the convening of a Constituent Assembly as recommended by the General Council of the 'All Jammu and Kashmir National Conference' and any action that assembly may have taken or might take to determine the future shape and affiliation of the entire State or any part thereof would not constitute a disposition of the State in accordance with the above principles."

This clause nullifies any claim by India that the J&K Constituent Assembly could:

- Decide Kashmir's final political status
- Ratify accession to India
- Replace the need for plebiscite under international supervision

Precedence: International law: International Court of Justice (ICJ) Precedents  
ICJ Ruling 1971: In the Namibia Advisory Opinion held that:

"Unilateral actions by an occupying power in a territory under dispute or occupation are illegal and cannot alter the international status of the territory."





### Beyond the LoC: A Cry for Jus

My heart still bleeds where my cradle  
lay,  
But the LoC stands—a wound that shall  
Tell me, O world, is freedom yours a  
Have you not heard our blood cry from  
stone?

The occupier asks us who we are—how  
India rules the land, not hearts, in

### Nostalgia

Where once I quenched my thirst with cupped hands,  
From springs that flowed like a mother's lullaby—  
So clear, so pure, the water kissed my lips,  
As if the mountains themselves wished me life.  
Pebbles beneath the streams—oh, how they gleamed,  
Not mere stones, but childhood's treasure trove.  
Each grain of sand a sparkling dream,  
Each ripple in the water, a verse of love.  
I bowed, not in ritual, but reverence,  
Drinking directly from earth's own veins.  
The spring didn't ask my name or creed—  
It knew I belonged. It knew I was free.  
Ah, Kashmir! Every iota a generous host,  
Where even silence had stories to tell.  
Where thirst met not just water,  
But memory, warmth, and sacred spell.  
But now...  
Each corner is bruised,  
Every inch bears the weight of boots that do not  
belong.  
They ask me my identity,  
As if the land that birthed me could ever forget my  
name.  
They know the truth—  
That they are rulers only by the weight of metal and  
fear.  
Their fingers stay trembling on triggers,  
For they govern the soil, not the souls.  
Still, I remember—  
The cold spring mornings, the dancing pebbles,

4

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**T**he unilateral actions taken by the Modi-led regime on 5th August 2019 marked a watershed moment in the history of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. These political moves capsuled in legal measures altered the region's geography, politics, legal status, economy, society, and religion—shifting the status quo multidimensionality in Indian belly. Despite India's sweeping moves, these actions have no locus standi under international law and are in direct violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions and bilateral treaties. The revocation of Articles 370 and 35A despite was systematically hollowed since decades, not only dismantled the special autonomous status granted to Jammu & Kashmir but also eroded the constitutional safeguards of Kashmiri identity within the Indian Union. These were not isolated administrative steps, but a strategic design to announce India's unchallenged will over the region—including downgrading the state's status, dividing it territorially, and re-

ducing it to a Union Territory governed directly from New Delhi. Through backdoor legislative maneuvers, India bypassed bilateral treaties and ignored international commitments, sending a strong message of regional hegemony. Kashmir just once an occupation has now been upgraded to annexation, with settler-colonial policies actively underway. The governance rights of indigenous Kashmiris have been snatched—from clerks to commissioners, civil offices are now occupied largely by non-locals. The multidimensional assault on Kashmiris post-5th August includes:

- 1) Over 3,000 political prisoners shifted to far-flung jails across India.
- 2) Complete silencing of Kashmiri media, through restrictions on press declarations and gag orders on journalists.
- 3) Eviction of international media and watchdogs from the region.
- 4) Targeted confiscation of 1300 properties belonging to political activists.
- 5) Banning of human rights organizations and civil

society groups.

6) Administrative intimidation, including policies to terminate government employees whose relatives are politically active.

7) Banning the Islamic literature

8) Keeping the Jammia Masjid locked from years

9) Imposing the ban on Eid days, Jummat ul wida and Ashoora

Cultural, religious, and linguistic erasure is ongoing:

1) The Kashmiri language and Urdu the official language of Kashmir is under attack.

2) Religious interference has become routine.

3) Youth are being systematically targeted through the deliberate spread of drugs and liquor.

4) Massive influx of Indian tourists under unregulated “tourism campaigns” has turned Kashmir into a dustbin of over-capacity, with no environmental infrastructure to accommodate the pressure.

5) The Amaranth Yatra, once a one-week event, now lasts for months, posing ecological and cultural threats to the valley. India has created such a state of

havoc that the very survival of Kashmiris is under existential threat. The identity of Kashmir is on the brink of extinction. Those who resist or question the occupation are under constant pressure—their lands, businesses, and jobs being pinpointed for retaliation. Prisoners, once symbols of resistance, have become financial and psychological burdens on their families—many of whom cannot afford to travel to Delhi to seek legal redress. Even the pro-India political class, which once contested elections and provided India with a façade of democratic legitimacy, has now been sidelined, reduced to irrelevance. Governance is now run directly by a Lieutenant Governor controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi—erasing any semblance of local self-rule. In modern history, Kashmir has never witnessed such a suffocating and inhumane condition. The Modi regime’s aim is clear: to annex the land and subjugate the people, rendering the indigenous population powerless, voiceless, and at the mercy of Delhi. In light of this grave situation, the responsibility and entire onus lies on those beyond India’s clutch—

the diaspora, the global Kashmiri community, human rights defenders, and media persons who still have the freedom to speak. They must take ownership of this cause, amplify the pain of the caged, and keep Kashmir on the

international radar through consistent advocacy, media engagement, and diplomatic pressure. The legal violation of Indian occupational authorities is as under;

**WEBINAR**

# YOUM-E-ISTEHSAL KASHMIR



**YASIR REHMAN**  
HOST

**ORGANIZER**  
**KASHMIR**  
**MEDIA**  
**SERVICE**

**DATE & TIME**  
**MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AUG**  
**2100 HRS**



**Altaf Wani**  
SPEAKER



**Dr Zakir Abbasi**  
SPEAKER



**Raja Najabat**  
SPEAKER



**Adv Sidra Sadozai**  
SPEAKER



**Yasmin Dar**  
SPEAKER



**Tayyaba Khurshid**  
SPEAKER




**Dr Waleed Rasool**  
SPEAKER



**Atiq-ur-Rasool**  
SPEAKER






**Zubair Hussain**  
SPEAKER



Institute of Regional Studies cordially invites you to  
**Seminar**  
 on  
**Unheard Voices of IIOJK: Five Years of Struggle after 370**

---

**Friday, 1st August 2025**  
**Time: 10:30 AM**  
**Venue: Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad**

 [irs.org.pk](http://irs.org.pk)  +92 51 9203567  Ataturk Avenue, F-5/2, Islamabad



**INSTITUTE OF REGIONAL STUDIES**  
Unheard Voices of IIOJK: Five Years of Struggle after 370  
**Programme**  
**1 August, 2025**

<b>1030 – 1045 hrs</b>	<b>Arrival of guests</b>
<b>1045 – 1055 hrs</b>	Documentary on IIOJK
<b>1055 – 1105 hrs</b>	Opening Remarks by Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS
<b>1105 – 1115 hrs</b>	Remarks by Federal Minister/ Chairman Kashmir Committee Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon sahib
<b>1115 – 1215 hrs</b>	Interactive session chaired by Chairman Kashmir Committee and moderated by Ambassador Jauhar Saleem
<b>1215 – 1220 hrs</b>	Concluding Remarks





DATED: 4<sup>TH</sup>  
AUGUST -VENUE -  
IPS  
Premium Quality Good

EST. 2012

Prof. Dr. Waheed Raza

**EXCLUSIVE POLICY  
ANALYSIS**

**KASHMIR -POST 5TH  
AUGUST DEFECTO TO  
DE JURE THROUGH  
LEGAL ENGINEERING-  
A LEGAL ANALYSIS**

INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES -  
ISLAMABAABD









Format: Interactive Session

Venue: IPS-Islamabad

4 August

Title: Kashmir Post 5th August: Unheard Voices, Unspoken Sufferings & media Blackout

Venue: ETB Restaurant Near Marriott Hotel

Target Audience: journalists

## *CONCEPT NOTE*

Post-August 5, 2019 – Unspoken Sufferings, Unheard Voices & Media Blackout: The Way Forward

Dear Delegates,

Following the events of August 5, 2019, India has systematically silenced all independent voices within Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). In the face of this repression, the responsibility of truth-telling now rests with journalists, writers, media organizations, and human rights defenders outside the conflict zone—particularly in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Pakistan.

In IIOJK, journalism is not merely a profession—it is an act of resistance. In a region where truth itself is treated as subversive, exposing India's covert and systemic oppression is now considered a greater offense than armed resistance. Since 2019, at least 13 journalists have been killed, 9 remain imprisoned, and numerous media outlets have been forcibly shut down.

Accreditation has been withdrawn, and those still operating face constant surveillance and harassment.

India's actions represent a blatant violation of Article 19 of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Even India's own legal instruments—such as Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, the Press Council Act (1978), the Right to Information Act (2005), and the Working Journalists Act (1955)—formally guarantee press freedom but remain unapplied in the context of Kashmir, exposing the stark contradiction between constitutional promises and colonial realities.

Where India enforces silence, our response must be strategic, evidence-based storytelling, digital resilience, and international advocacy. Silence in the face of injustice is complicity. It is now imperative that the voices of resistance be amplified through independent journalism across borders. Journalists must rise to this challenge—not as neutral observers—but as witnesses to occupation, committed to exposing truth without fear or favor


**Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad**  
**India Study Centre (ISC)**


**Seminar**  
**AUGUST 5, 2019**  
**ANOTHER TURNING POINT IN THE**  
**JAMMU AND KASHMIR DISPUTE**

 **Tuesday, August 5, 2025**
 **1045 hrs**
 **ISSI Library**

  
**Ambassador Abdul Majeed**  
Chairman, BOC

  
**Ambassador Asim**  
Additional Secretary (South Pacific),  
MOFA

  
**Ambassador Masood Khan**  
Former Ambassador, Nepal, Bhutan,  
and Myanmar

  
**Ambassador Saikat Mukherjee**  
DG ISCI

  
**Dr. Khuram Abbas**  
Director, ISC

**Speakers**

  
**Dr. Sheikh Waheed Razaqi**  
Assistant Professor, Riphah  
International University

  
**Dr. Raja Gabeer Ahmed**  
Associate Professor, Iqbal  
University

  
**Mr. Atif Hussain Wani**  
Chairman, ICJIR

  
**Ms. Nafisa Atif Kayani**  
Human Rights Activist &  
Political Analyst

  
**Mr. Muhammad Farid Razaqi**  
Senior Lecturer & Former  
Coordinator, Riphah, Iqbal

  
**Banafsha Nafis Saleem**  
Lawyer, Islamabad High Court

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## 7th August

Format: recording

**Title: the legal Cue and Indian Democracy**

Host: Farzna Yaqub-ex minister & Daughter of Ex President of AJ&K

Dated: 5th August

Venue: ETB Restaurant, F-6, Islamabad

Title: 5th August – Unheard Voices, Unspoken Sufferings & Media Blackout

Target ~Audience: Journalists~

Format: Media Moot – Round Table Discussion

Net Outcome: Joint Declaration by Journalists

Participants:

1. Azaz Syed Geo Reporte/Anchor Person
2. Dr. Sajjad Bukhari, Analyst
3. Matiullah Jan, Anchor
4. Irfan Sadozai (President, KJF), Dawn
5. Shahid Muntazir (GS, KJF), 365 TV
6. Abid Abbasi – Kashmir Times
7. Kashif Mir, State View
8. Khalid Gardezi, State Views
9. Mudasser Chaudhry, The Destination
10. Raja Khalil, APP
11. Sardar Hameed – Country News
12. Safdar Gardezi, PTV
13. Raja Kafeel, Jammu Kashmir
14. Shahzad Khan, Digital Dubai
15. Adeel Bashir, Roze News
16. Adnan Abbasi, Kashmir Express
17. Nissar Kiani, Neel Fari
18. Naqash Abbasi, Nidaie Kashmir
19. Javed Iqbal Chaudhry, Parliament Times
20. Raja Tahir Usman, Rassian Channel
21. Faizi Sahib, PTv analyst
22. Asim Rizwan – Controller, PTV
23. Khawaja Mateen, GTV
24. Raees Chaudhry, GTV
25. Zeeshan Gardezi, News One
26. Hanif Waqar– Controler Such News,
27. Abrar Astori, Such News
28. Dr. Sajjad Bukhari, Analyst
29. Raja Rukhsar, News One
30. Zahid Munir, Jammu Kashmir



31. Abdul Qadeer, Anchor PTV
32. Muhammad Aslam , A Tiv
33. Danish Irshad
34. Raja Ibrar
35. Bashir Usmani, Kashmir Post
36. M. Aslam, Senior Reporter APP
37. Hasnain Gardezi, News Editor APP
38. M. Ashraf Wani,
39. Naeem-ul-Asad, PTV
40. Shabbir Dar, Geo
41. Asif Mehmood, KMS
42. Bilal Ahmed, PTV
43. Javed Ahmed, PTV
44. Hilal Ahmed, APP
45. Zahoor Ahmed Sofi, Radio apakistan
46. Abdul Aziz, KMS
47. Talib H. Bhat, Sadai Hurriyat
48. Arshad H. Mir, Sadai Chinari
49. Rais Mir, INI
50. Umer Bhat, Dwan News
51. Sabit Ali -A Tv

### **Recommendations < Declaration and Way forward :**

1. To Deconstruct Indian Media Narratives:  
To critically examine and expose the agenda-setting, framing, and priming strategies of the Indian media, particularly in the post-May 2025 context, where its credibility has been severely questioned due to biased and fabricated reporting on Kashmir.
2. To Uphold the Role of Free Media in National Unity:  
To emphasize the essential role of independent journalism in fostering national cohesion, especially in times of political manipulation and disinformation warfare.
3. To Act as Frontline Respondents Amid Media Blackout:  
In the wake of the ongoing media blackout in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the journalists in free zones must serve as the frontline voices for the voiceless, reporting verified facts and countering suppression with responsibility and courage.
4. To Promote the Kashmir Cause in Light of UN Resolutions:  
To project the Kashmir issue as an unresolved international dispute, and amplify the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, as recognized under relevant UN resolutions and international legal frameworks.
5. To Enhance Capacity for International Outreach:  
To build capacity among local journalists and media institutions to effectively engage with international media, ensuring that the genuine voice of Kashmiris reaches global forums, parliaments, and civil society.
6. To Forge Alliances with Media Organizations:

To collaborate with independent media outlets, press clubs, and journalist unions to create shared platforms where limited media spaces can be utilized to highlight suppressed narratives from Kashmir.

7. To Establish a Media Watch Cell on Kashmir:

Propose the establishment of a dedicated media watch cell or working group that monitors media coverage of Kashmir, debunks disinformation, and publishes counter-narratives and factual reports on human rights violations.

8. To Organize Regular Press Briefings and Human Stories:

Journalists must conduct periodic press briefings, publish first-hand accounts, and feature stories of victims from IJoJK to sustain global attention on the issue.

9. To Leverage Digital Media as an Alternative Space:

Encourage the utilization of social media platforms, podcasts, and YouTube journalism to bypass traditional censorship and reach wider audiences, especially youth and international stakeholders.

10. To Demand Global Media Access to IJoJK:

The moot should collectively call upon international media organizations and press freedom bodies (like RSE, CPJ, IFJ) to pressure India into lifting media restrictions and allowing independent journalists access to IJoJK









Embassy of Pakistan  
Washington DC

A Webinar on  
Politico-Demographic Engineering:

# A Threat to Kashmiri Identity

Hosted by the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, D.C.

Commemoration of Youm-e-Istehsal

Tuesday | August 5, 2025 | 12:00 PM (EST)

Virtual Webinar

## Speakers



H.E. Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh  
Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States



Ambassador Munir Akram  
Former Permanent Representative of  
Pakistan to the United Nations



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



Mushahid Hussain Sayed  
Former Federal Minister for  
Information and Broadcasting



Victoria Schofield  
British Historian and Author



## Muzaffarabad &amp; Srinagar

**Pearl of Wisdom**  
 "And if they incline to peace, then incline to it [also] and rely upon Allah. Indeed, it is He who is the Hearing, the Knowing."  
 — (Surah Al-Anfal 8:61)



### Intact Bodies Found After Landslide in IOJK Graveyard Stir Spiritual Reflection

A headlatch in Mandan, French district (Indian Country) (James & Kothari), revealed the intact bodies of a male and female deadwood spout. The remains of Nicholas (dead 14 years ago) and his wife Emma (dead 10 years ago) were found well-preserved with dead wood intact.



### Rising Suspicion Over Gujjar Killings: Families Reject Drowning Claims, Demand Independent

PTV Chairman Dilawar Hkhatu Zardari condemned India's repudiation of the Indus Waters Treaty. He warned the move could escalate into a major conflict, even suggesting a potential nuclear threat.

2025 | GazetteKashmir@gmail.com

FRIDAY, 25 JULY 2025

PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN

The United Nations Security Council on Tuesday unanimously adopted a Pakistan-sponsored resolution that called for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar opened the UNSC session as he was presiding over the UNSC Open Debate on "Promoting International Peace and Security through Multilateralism and the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes".

This is the first of the two signature events of Pakistan in its capacity as president of the UNSC for July.

The UNSC unanimously adopted the Pakistan-sponsored resolution urging all nations to utilise effectively mechanisms for peaceful settlement of disputes, such as negotiation, mediation, arbitration, judicial settlement or other peaceful means.

The Foreign Office (FO) said the adoption of the resolution on "Strengthening Mechanisms for Peaceful Settlement of Disputes" was a noteworthy development since it was an "important contribution to the promotion of international peace and security through the use of preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention measures and dispute resolution by peaceful means".

It added that the resolution sought to strengthen mechanisms for peaceful settlement of disputes, as envisaged in Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter and urged member states to utilize peaceful means for settling disputes.

<sup>11</sup>The resolution called upon the mem-

ber states to take necessary measures for the effective implementation of Security Council resolutions for peaceful settlement of disputes.

\*Member states and the United Nations have been encouraged to explore ways and means to prevent disputes from escalating, including but not limited to timely diplomatic

#### Vatican gets memorandum

According to Kashmir Media Service, the memorandum was submitted by United Christian Forum and handed over to Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, foreign minister of the Vatican, during his week-long visit to India. It urged Vatican's foreign minister to raise the increase in attacks against the community during his talks with New Delhi.

tic efforts, mediation, confidence-building and facilitation of dialogue at the international, regional and subregional levels. The resolution calls for enhancing efforts by all regional and subregional organisations for peaceful settlement of disputes and to strengthen cooperation between these organisations and the United Nations."

The visit comes months after the United Christian Forum released a report on January 10, which said that the number of attacks against Christians had increased from 127 in 2014 to 814 in 2024.

In its memorandum submitted to Gallagher, the civil society group referred to the report on the rise in "incidents of violence and hostility towards Christians", adding that the primary reason for these attacks has been false allegations of fraudulent conversions.

Unger, Profess and Chemist were

The FO said that as an active UNSC member, Pakistan sought to contribute to the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, including through peaceful settlement of disputes.

The adoption of Pakistan-sponsored resolution would serve as an important instrument to achieve these goals for non-

### Christians in India

"A large number of Catholic priests and nuns faced arrests, attacks, and legal actions in northern India," the memorandum added.

251 million-year fossil site under threat in Kashmir  
Modi regime bulldozes ancient history in name of industrialization

ce and security at the regional and global level.”

Earlier, the FO said the signature event reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering belief in multilateralism and the UN Charter principle of peaceful settlement of disputes.

It said FM Dar would also hold bilateral meetings with the Saudi minister of economy and planning, UK minister for Africa, the United Nations, Commonwealth and Multilateral, as well as Thailand's foreign minister on the sidelines.

He would also give an interview to a foreign media outlet and attend a reception hosted by Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad for selected UN ambassadors and senior UN officials.

FM Dar, UN chief call attention  
towards Gags

Speaking at the UNSC session, FM Dur said, "We call for an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire in Gaza."

He added that Israel's latest onslaught in Gaza had killed over 50,000 Palestinians — mostly women and children. "The humanitarian situation is dire, with civilians bearing the brunt of the violence and deprivation," Day said.

"Today's debate is both timely and urgent. Multilateralism is not merely a diplomatic convenience; it is the need of the hour. Peaceful settlement of disputes is not just a principle; it is the lifeline of global stability," Dar continued.







# Kashmir Gazette

Muzaffarabad & Srinagar

**Pearl of Wisdom**  
"And if they incline to peace, then incline to it [also] and rely upon Allah. Indeed, it is He who is the Hearing, the Knowing."  
— (Surah Al-Anfal 8:61)



**PM Shabbaz takes notice of urban flooding in Islamabad, orders swift rescue**

In a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, PM Shabbaz directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and other administrations to immediately launch rescue operations and ensure swift drainage of water from the affected neighbourhoods near waterways.



**CM congratulates Pakistani students on achievement in international nuclear science Olympiad**

People's Chief Minister Muzaffar Sharif has congratulated Pakistani students for their remarkable success in the International Nuclear Science Olympiad, where they secured gold, silver, and bronze medals, bringing pride to the region.

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WEDNESDAY, 8 AUGUST 2025

## PAKISTAN CALLS ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO URGE INDIA TO HALT 'HUMAN RIGHTS CRIMES' IN KASHMIR



**ISLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif on Tuesday called on the international community to urge New Delhi to stop "human rights crimes" in Indian-administered Kashmir, reiterating that demanding a swift resolution to the disputed territory's issue remains a key pillar of Islamabad's foreign policy.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) released Sharif's statement on the occasion of "Youss-e-Zakat," or Day of Exploitation, observed annually in Pakistan on August 7 against the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in 2019. Pakistan has been marking the day since August 7, 2020.

The Himalayan territory has been disputed by nuclear-armed neighbors India and Pakistan since they both secured independence in 1947 from British colonial rule. The two countries have fought two of their three wars over the region, and both claim it in full but rule it in part. Pakistan accuses India of occupying Kashmir and denying its people their right to self-determination, joining its political activists and journalists. It regularly calls on India to abide by the United Nations Security Council resolutions and hold a transparent plebiscite in the territory.

India, on the other hand, accuses Pakistan of arming and funding militant separatists in the part of Kashmir it administers. Islamabad has denied the allegations and says it secures only diplomatic and moral support to the people of Indian-administered Kashmir.

"On this day, I wish to reiterate that seeking a just resolution of the Jammu

and Kashmir dispute remains a key pillar of our foreign policy and call upon the international community to urge India to halt its human rights crimes in IIOJK, reverse its unilateral and illegal actions of 7 August 2019, repeal the draconian laws, and implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir," Sharif's message read.

Sharif condemned the imprisonment of Kashmiri activists and politicians Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Molk and Muzaffar Ali Shah, saying it would never "dim the resolve" of the people of Kashmir.

"The continued defiance of Kashmiris in an environment of unending intimidation across the illegal Indian occupation is

more proof of the indomitable courage of the Kashmiri people," he noted.

India and Pakistan engaged in the worst fighting in decades between the two countries in May after New Delhi blamed Islamabad for supporting an attack in Indian-administered Kashmir on April 22 that killed 26. Pakistan denied it was involved

and called for an international probe into the incident.

The two countries attacked each other with missiles, fighter jets, drones and artillery fire before US President Donald Trump brokered a ceasefire on May 10. The four-day conflict had killed over 70 people on both sides of the border.

"India's unprovoked aggression against Pakistan in May 2023, and its swift and comprehensive military defeat are only the latest evidence of the urgent need for the international community to ensure that resolution of the Kashmir dispute becomes a global priority," Sharif said.

The Pakistani prime minister said the denial of basic human rights for the people of Kashmir was a "recipe of regional instability."

"Pakistan reaffirms its unflinching stance and moral, political and diplomatic support to its Kashmiri sisters and brothers till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination," Sharif concluded.

Pakistan's military said in a separate message that it supports the "legitimate and ongoing struggle" of the Kashmiri people for their inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in international law and UN Security Council resolutions.

Omar Abdullah urges Indian political parties to back IIOJK's statehood bill in parliament.

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has urged major political parties in India to support the introduction of a bill for the restoration of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and

### Joy and relief as lotus flowers bloom again in Kashmiri lake after three decades

**W**ith three seeds into the lake hundreds of times, but nothing grew. It's only now, after the silt was cleared, that we see the flowers again after nearly 33 years," says Shabbir Ahmad, a 65-year-old who fishes in Kashmir's Wular Lake for his livelihood.

Wular was once among Asia's largest freshwater lakes. It lies in the Kashmir valley, about 18 miles (30km) north-west of Srinagar, at the foot of the Pir Pampal and Himalayan mountain ranges. It was

renowned for its high-quality lotus plants, and sustained the livelihoods of more than 5,000 people who harvested and sold them — the edible lotus stem, cherished as a delicacy in Kashmiri households and which features in wazwan, the region's traditional multi-course celebratory meals.

Then, in 1992, devastating floods hit the region. They choked the lake bed with silt, wiping out the lotus plants and plunging families into poverty. The prized stems gradually disappeared as an ingredient used in local kitchens.

Over the next three decades, the condition of the lake — designated as a Ramsar wetland of international importance since 1990 — worsened, Shabbir says. Pests were found in dumping grounds and its area was drastically reduced.

Algae and weeds first on the surface of the polluted Wular Lake in September 2012, with monsoon rising in the distance.

Algae and weeds on Wular Lake in 2012. The lake had been reduced to about a quarter of its original size largely due to



Self power in hard place: The mirage of normalcy in Kashmir

The idyllic beauty of Pahalgaon was shattered on April 22, 2023, when gunmen attacked tourists, killing 24 people. This assault was particularly significant, occurring as the Indian state actively promoted a narrative of peace and normalisation in Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

State-sponsored media and tourism campaigns cultivated a discourse of integration, economic renewal, and civil peace—a narrative brutally contradicted by the events in Pahalgaon.

While tourism is often presented as a symbol of peace in Kashmir, the reality is far more complex. Kashmir remains a landscape of clashing interests, power dynamics, and ongoing conflict. The Pahalgaon attack was not merely an act of violence; it was a deliberate disruption of a carefully constructed state narrative, a stark reminder that Kashmir's tourist industry is deeply politicised.

Since 2019, the Indian government has heavily invested in marketing Kashmir as a premier tourist destination. Strategies employed influencers, film festivals, and travel bloggers to portray a region of serene beauty, aiming to rebrand Kashmir into the national mainstream.

This strategy yielded record visitor numbers in 2022 and 2023, presented as evidence of progress. The reopening and promotion of pilgrimages routes like the Amarnath Yatra further reinforced this image of peace and cultural harmony.

However, this carefully curated picture masks a persistent reality of militarisation and surveillance. Kashmiri residents experience daily life defined by checkpoints, curfews, and military events—a stark contrast to the idyllic scenes in travel brochures. This pervasive security presence extends beyond military installations, impacting even recreational visits. Armed forces have increasingly occupied spaces traditionally used for community gatherings and cultural expression in towns like Pahalgaon, Gulmarg, and Srinagar, eroding local cultural practices and creating psychological pressure on residents.

Crucially, insurgent groups target these symbols of normalcy not solely to inflict violence, but to dismantle the state's illusion of stability. The Pahalgaon attack served as a potent message: the facade of calm is unsustainable. The underlying tensions and conflict remain, and tourism, used as a tool to project peace, only exacerbates the existing fractures.

The consequences fall disproportionately on ordinary Kashmiris—small business owners, tour guides, and others whose livelihoods depend on a tourism industry now vulnerable and politicised. Each attack triggers increased security crackdowns, leading to more detentions, profiling, and harassment of innocent civilians. The resulting economic fallout—cancellations, business closures, and lost income—represents a devastating collateral damage, often dismissed in the pursuit of counter-insurgency efforts.

This prolonged militarisation is reshaping the socio-political fabric of Kashmir. Constant monitoring and restrictions erode social cohesion and create resentment towards these spaces. Furthermore, it casts doubt on the sustainability of tourism policies, leading to anger that the root causes of conflict that drive the violence. Tourism remains largely shielded from the realities of daily life for Kashmiris.

The use of civilian spaces to bolster state narratives raises critical questions under international humanitarian law (IHL). While conventions prohibit the exploitation of civilian domains in conflict zones for political purposes, organisations like Amnesty International and the OHCHR consistently document ongoing violations of civil liberties in the region. The international community must recognise that a government leveraging "soft power" at the expense of civilian lives undermines international legal norms and obstructs long-term conflict



## Kashmir: Status Quo, Anti-Status Quo & Status Quo Ante



5th August 2019 marked a watershed moment in the contemporary political and resistance history of Kashmir. The unilateral actions by India shattered the pre-existing paradigm, shifting the trajectory of the region from a contested occupation to outright annexation, and now toward an alarming phase of settler colonialisation in play. The post-2019 landscape must be understood through three lenses: the status quo, the anti-status quo, and the status quo ante—each representing a distinct ideological and strategic position. The status quo is staunchly defended by India, rooted in its military occupation and concocted through manufactured legal instruments. For India, maintaining the current grip over Jammu & Kashmir is not merely a territorial concern but the cornerstone of its Ultra nationalist Modi's narrative. Through its 15th, 14th, and 13th Corps deployed in the region, India maintains a suppressive military hold that ensures this status quo is preserved at all costs. On the other side of the spectrum lies the anti-status quo camp—represented not only by the people of Kashmir, but also by Pakistan, and UN resolutions. These actors reject India's unilateral actions and advocate for the Kashmiri people's internationally recognised right to self-determination. The UN resolutions, which are the legal foundation that differentiate Kashmir from all other disputes in the region. They affirm that the conflict must be resolved—not imposed—through the will of the people, not the barrel of the gun. India's focus, however, has always been conflict management, not resolution. It seeks to contain, divert, and dilute the resistance through calculated political, military, and demographic maneuvers. The 5th August move aimed to consolidate India's grip by altering its legal, political, and demographic status. The status quo ante, the original position prior to the Indian occupation and its constitutional manipulations, is what the people of Kashmir have lost is not alternative to right to self-determination. It reflects the desire to return to a state of justice, dignity, and international legality—restoring the terms under which Kashmir was brought before

the UN in 1948, when Nehru himself committed to a plebiscite before the world.

From 27 October 1947 to 5 August 2019, India maintained a tactical status quo through internal guarantees like Article 370 and 35-A—not out of benevolence, but as a buffer to manage Kashmiri resistance. After revoking these provisions, India transitioned the conflict from occupation to annexation, and now from annexation to settler-colonialism. This is not just political strategy—it is demographic engineering. The current phase reflects a textbook case of settler colonialism, wherein India aims to change the identity, culture, and population composition of Kashmir. This is not simply an internal matter; it is a violation of international law and a direct threat to the survival of an entire people. Kashmiri Muslims, once recognized by New Delhi as political subjects (albeit selectively), have now been reduced to objects under domination. India's strategy is multi-pronged: It eliminates dissent through mass arrests, torture, and incarceration in far-flung Indian prisons. It manufactures political alternatives through parties like NC, PDP, and AAP which do not challenge the status quo. It weaponizes statehood and local governance as distractions from the broader issue of right to self-determination. These pro-India parties are now struggling for the restoration of statehood, a demand that once had meaning in a semi-autonomous framework but has now become cosmetic in the face of settler colonialization. Even Omar Abdullah, a loyalist of the Indian union, has launched a campaign to restore what Delhi once granted—undercutting the depth of betrayal even felt by those within India's political sphere in Kashmir. The freedom movement, contrary to propaganda, has not been replaced—it has been sidelined, deferred, and suppressed. The slogan exists; the desire still burns; but the space for articulation has been squeezed in India's. It is now essential for the movement to innovate—to adopt new tools of resistance such as, media activism, resistance poetry, resistance literature, poetry, digital activism, and international advocacy through diaspora. These are not soft methods—they are potent forms of struggle that preserve identity, build solidarity, and challenge false narra-

tives. The youth are the final and only enduring constituency. The elders must pass on their experiential wisdom, equipping the younger generation to navigate the harsh terrain of modern occupation. Resistance must evolve into a life cycle—one that is organic, strategic, and rooted in truth. Pakistan, as a state actor, has become a direct target of India's regional ambition and the buffering reply had created a balance and also the hope for Kashmiris facing direct Indian kinetic wrath. It is no longer merely managing a conflict through non-state support; now, Pakistan's own stability and strategic balancing against India are central to the future of Kashmir. A strong, sustainable Pakistan is the only viable guarantor of hope for Kashmiris in a world where power, not principle, shapes policy is purely the realistic frame work in anarchic world order. In post 5th August 2019 Kashmir is no longer simply occupied—it is annexed and is in the throes of demographic extinction. The post-5th August era is not merely about repression—it is about erasure. The silence of the world and the complacency of many only accelerate this process. But the Kashmiri resistance, though wounded, but alive. It waits—for direction, for humanitarian assistance, and for a global awakening to its cause. Let the record show: Kashmiris did not give up. They are pushed into silence and it is our moral obligation who reside away from ruthless illegal occupation to represent those who are unrepresented in every and any forum which matters to bring the pain in open where it can be seen and dealt with. But silence is never the same as they will accept the status quo with interpretation but the status quo will only shake when the right to self-determination is given the chance to determine the will of the Kashmiris.

Dr. Waheed Rasool PhD (G) Assistant Professor, Director Institute of Dialogue, Devolution & Diplomacy waheed.rasool@gmail.com



The lone instrument to continue my  
Journey for freedom is the  
argument: Does it work when  
Democratic liberalism is used as a  
shield to keep Kashmir in the  
Pressure Cooker of India? & the idol  
of Gandhi installed in front of UN

call to

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT



**DR.WALEED RASOOL**

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## Power of Pain

Pain pinches toward the resistance art.  
Pain punches terror—in chilling cold and hot.  
Pain aids the rusted chains to unknot.  
Pain is the ultimate power of the aggressed—  
To deny antagonists, not to acquiesce. Pain  
penetrates the corrosion to rot.  
Pain empowers while driving the liberty cart.  
Pain breathes in silence where screams  
depart.  
Pain etches truth on the coward's chart.  
Pain births the voice from a muted heart.  
Pain kindles hope where shadows dart.  
Pain is the anthem where revolutions start

### Kashmir- Walls of Silence

Dr Waleed Rasool

Indian Democracy was always the same.  
Democracy was a mockery—just a name.  
India pushed us hard against the wall.  
Locked our leaders, silenced the call!

Before the verdict of fifth of August.  
They played their moves—dark and unjust.  
Occupied, annexed, and claimed our land.  
Snatched our flag from mother's hand.

They brought the strangers, forged the fate.  
Asked the native—"Who owns this state?"  
Is identity a crime so deep?  
Do we not breathe? Do we not weep?

They stole our language, culture, song.  
Polluted rivers where springs belong.  
They scarred the meadows, lakes, and streams.  
Shattered our peace, broke fragile dreams.

Laws engineered through secret doors.  
Settler boots on sacred floors.  
They think their power can rule the soul.  
But every tyrant has paid the toll.

UN promised, the verdict stands.  
Freedom will rise from bleeding sands.  
Though chains now grip our vale so tight.  
Our dawn will break this endless night

The poets muted, the singers bound.  
Yet in each silence, hope is found.  
Kashmir must speak, must knock each gate.  
Till pain is heard and ends this fate

**Title; Kashmir in post 5th August, Unthread Voices, Unspoken Suffering's, media Blackout- A Way forward**  
**Format: Media Moot**  
**Target Audience: Journalists**



### **Concept Note:**

Post-5th August 2019, the media in Indian-occupied Jammu & Kashmir became the first and most immediate casualty of India's authoritarian turn. Prior to this unilateral revocation of Article 370 and 35A, media outlets in Kashmir operated under highly restricted conditions. Still, they managed to serve as a faint yet resilient voice of the oppressed people. But after the abrogation, even that restricted space has been completely dismantled. Now, declaration and circulation of media in Kashmir is conditional—tied directly to promoting the Indian state's narrative. Independent journalism, dissent, and truth-telling are equated with sedition. Freedom fighters are labelled as terrorists, and journalists and activists are either imprisoned, silenced, or surveilled. The entire region has been transformed into



a media-dark zone, where the only stories allowed to escape are those sanctioned by the occupier.

This parallels the pre-1947 Dogra rule, where Muslim-majority Kashmir was subjected to Hindu minority tyranny. Even then, Kashmiri voices could not travel outside the Valley, and the press in Lahore became the sole outlet for narrating Kashmir's agony. That historical experience demands that today's Pakistan-based and diaspora media step up to play a similar role—becoming the alternative voice of Kashmir in the global arena.

#### Seminar Objective

The objective of this seminar was to go beyond symbolic solidarity and generate concrete outcomes—even if on a micro level—to build a functional media front at a time when all other avenues of resistance are choked, except for the fragile path of human rights advocacy.

### **Recommendations: A Way Forward**

To counter India's multi-pronged strategy of occupation → annexation → settler-colonialism, we propose the following immediate, realistic, and scalable actions:

1. Form a Dedicated WhatsApp/Signal Media Group

A curated, secure communication forum to coordinate among independent journalists, editors, bloggers, and social media managers.

2. Conduct Follow-Up Meetings Across Press Clubs

Use the network of Press Clubs in Pakistan (Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Muzaffarabad, etc.) to host localized follow-ups, ensuring consistency and momentum.

3. Forge International Media Contacts

Build relationships with like-minded journalists, digital activists, and human rights media units abroad. This diaspora coordination can give Kashmir's voice a global reach.

4. Launch Thematic "X (Twitter) Campaigns"

Design monthly coordinated hashtag campaigns tied to major events (e.g., 5th August, 27th October, UN Day, Human Rights Day) with infographics, short videos, survivor stories, and legal angles.

5. Develop a Digital Archive of Kashmir Testimonies

Even with limited resources, we can crowdsource digital content—testimonies, short clips, case studies of prisoners, demographic shifts, and media repression—for use by international NGOs, journalists, and human rights forums.

6. Engage Urdu and Regional Media

Not just English outlets—leverage Urdu, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Pashto, and Sindhi media to create a groundswell of awareness and build public pressure.

7. Establish a Volunteer Content Creation Network

Bring together writers, designers, translators, and video editors who can produce

multilingual content on a regular basis.

8. Coordinate with Legal and Human Rights Networks

Media alone is not enough; combine media campaigns with legal petitions, shadow reports, and testimonies submitted to international bodies.

9. Create a Weekly/Monthly Kashmir Bulletin

A brief, digestible bulletin highlighting key developments inside Kashmir—targeted for embassies, foreign journalists, think tanks, and civil society abroad.

10. Train the Next Generation of Resistance Journalists

Conduct workshops for aspiring Kashmiri and Pakistani journalists on conflict reporting, digital security, and ethical storytelling.

**Dated: 5th August**

**Venue: ETB Restaurant, F-6, Islamabad**

**Title: 5th August – Unheard Voices, Unspoken Sufferings & Media Blackout**

Target Audience: Journalists

Format: Media Moot – Round Table Discussion

Expected Outcome: Joint Declaration by Journalists

Participants:

Participants:

1. Azaz Syed Geo Reporte/Anchor Person
2. Dr. Sajjad Bukhari, Analyst
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4. Irfan Sadozai (President, KJF), Dawn
5. Shahid Muntazir (GS, KJF), 365 TV
6. Abid Abbasi – Kashmir Times
7. Kashif Mir, State View
8. Khalid Gardezi, State Views
9. Mudasser Chaudhry, The Destination
10. Raja Khalil, APP
11. Sardar Hameed – Country News
12. Safdar Gardezi, PTV

13. Raja Kafeel, Jammu Kashmir
14. Shahzad Khan, Digital Dubai
15. Adeel Bashir, Roze News
16. Adnan Abbasi, Kashmir Express
17. Nissar Kiani, Neel Fari
18. Naqash Abbasi, Nidaie Kashmir
19. Javed Iqbal Chaudhry, Parliament Times
20. Raja Tahir Usman, Rassian Channel
21. Faizi Sahib, PTV analyst
22. Asim Rizwan – Controller, PTV
23. Khawaja Mateen, GTV
24. Raees Chaudhry, GTV
25. Zeeshan Gardezi, News One
26. Hanif Waqar– Controler Such News,
27. Abrar Astori, Such News
28. Dr. Sajjad Bukhari, Analyst
29. Raja Rukhsar, News One
30. Zahid Munir, Jammu Kashmir
31. Abdul Qadeer, Anchor PTV
32. Muhammad Aslam , A Tiv

33. Danish Irshad
34. Raja Ibrar
35. Bashir Usmani, Kashmir Post
36. M. Aslam, Senior Reporter APP
37. Hasnain Gardezi, News Editor APP
38. M. Ashraf Wani,
39. Naeem-ul-Asad, PTv
40. Shabbir Dar, Geo
41. Asif Mehmood, KMS
42. Bilal Ahmed, PTv
43. Javed Ahmed, PTv
44. Hilal Ahmed, APP
45. Zahoor Ahmed Sofi, Radio apakistan
46. Abdul Aziz, KMS
47. Talib H. Bhat, Sadai Hurriyat
48. Arshad H. Mir, Sadai Chinar
49. Rais Mir, INI
50. Umer Bhat, Dwan News

### **Recommendations < Declaration and Way forward:**

#### **1. To Deconstruct Indian Media Narratives:**

To critically examine and expose the agenda-setting, framing, and priming strategies of the Indian media, particularly in the post-May 2025 context, where its credibility has been severely questioned due to biased and fabricated reporting on Kashmir.

#### **2. To Uphold the Role of Free Media in National Unity:**

To emphasize the essential role of independent journalism in fostering national cohesion, especially in times of political manipulation and disinformation warfare.

#### **3. To Act as Frontline Respondents Amid Media Blackout:**

In the wake of the ongoing media blackout in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the journalists in free zones must serve as the frontline voices for the voiceless, reporting verified facts and countering suppression with responsibility and courage.

#### **4. To Promote the Kashmir Cause in Light of UN Resolutions:**

To project the Kashmir issue as an unresolved international dispute, and amplify the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, as recognized under relevant UN resolutions and international legal frameworks.

#### **5. To Enhance Capacity for International Outreach:**

To build capacity among local journalists and media institutions to effectively engage with international media, ensuring that the genuine voice of Kashmiris reaches global forums, parliaments, and civil society.

#### **6. To Forge Alliances with Media Organizations:**



**Post 5th August, 2019**

## **Unspoken sufferings Unheard voices & media blackout- A Way forward**

In post-5th August Kashmir, India has absolutely silenced all independent voices inside the region. therefore, burden of truth-telling now shifts to journalists, writers, media houses, and human rights defenders outside the conflict zone particularly to AJ&K & Pakistan. Media is not just a messenger in IIOJK—journalism is a form of resistance. truth itself is subversive, IIOJK has become a theatre of war where exposing India's covert aggression is treated as a larger crime than armed resistance. Since 2019, 13 journalists have been killed and 9 remain in jail. Dozens of media outlets have been shut down, accreditations cancelled, and the remaining few operate under constant surveillance. India's actions on Media blatantly violate Article 19 of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Even Indian laws such as Article 19(1)(a) of its Constitution, the Press Council Act (1978), the Right to Information Act (2005), and the Working Journalists Act (1955), all formally guarantee press freedom—but remain unimplemented in Kashmir, exposing the duplicity between India's legal framework and its colonial practice. Where India imposes silence, our response must be structured storytelling, evidence-based documentation, and digital resilience. Silence is complicity—resistance must now echo through the press beyond Kashmir's borders. Journalists must take the responsibility with sole goal they are not under the blanket of an occupation.

### **1. Complete Media Blackout in IIOJK & NIA Raids**

- Hurdle: Internet shutdowns, press restrictions, revoked accreditations
  - o Use secure messaging apps (Signal, Briar, Session) to send outfield updates
  - o Collect offline testimonies and relay through AJK/diaspora-based journalists
- 2. Intimidation and Harassment of Local Journalists
  - Hurdle: Threats, detentions, raids, and sedition charges on journal-

ist by NIA

- o Protect identities; publish under pseudonyms
- o Collaborate with international journalist protection networks (e.g., CPJ, RSF)
- 3. Censorship & Indian-Controlled Narrative in Indian Media
  - Hurdle: National media echoing government propaganda; denial of ground relation
    - o Shift narrative through podcasts, alternative YouTube channels, and international digital outlets
    - o Use subtitles and translations to reach global audiences

#### 4. Lack of Global Media Attention (Media Fatigue)

- Hurdle: Kashmir often overshadowed by other global crises
  - o Link Kashmir's human rights abuses to broader global themes: colonialism, Islamophobia, press freedom
  - o Engage international journalists and documentary makers through personalized outreach and human-interest stories

#### 5. Suppression of Visual Evidence

- Hurdle: Ban on photojournalism, seizure of phones/cameras, surveillance
  - o Train citizens in covert documentation and safe digital transfer methods
  - o Use animation, AI-based reconstructions, or illustrations where real footage is unavailable

#### 6. Digital Surveillance and Algorithmic Suppression

- Hurdle: Posts from Kashmir often flagged, shadow-banned, or removed
  - o Use decentralized platforms (like Mastodon, PeerTube) and mirror content on multiple sites
  - o Coordinate hashtag campaigns with diaspora and allies globally

#### 7. Absence of Unified Kashmiri Media

#### Voice

- Hurdle: Fragmented efforts, lack of coordination across regions
  - o Establish a joint Kashmir Media Desk (based in AJK or diaspora) for consistent messaging
  - o Build a pool of freelance contributors with secure communication channels

#### 8. Inaccessibility for Foreign Journalists

- Hurdle: Foreign correspondents denied entry or tightly controlled
  - o Use diaspora researchers and journalists to act as international correspondents

#### 9. Limited Capacity and Technical Skills Among Kashmiri Youth

- Hurdle: Lack of media training in conflict communication, reporting, and safety
  - o Run virtual workshops and mobile journalism (MoJo) training programs in AJK and Pakistan
  - o Partner with global journalism schools

# Kashmir Gazette

Muzaffarabad & Srinagar

**Pearl of Wisdom**  
 "And if they incline to peace, then incline to it [also] and rely upon Allah. Indeed, it is He who is the Hearing, the Knowing."  
 — (Surah Al-Anfal 8:61)

**US report on human rights shows Modi went a mirror**  
 According to the report, India has seen an increase in hate speech and violent incidents against minorities, and the Modi government has taken several actions against officials involved in various human rights violations. The report also pointed out that India's minority communities are facing discrimination and violence. The United Nations has also called for the declassification.



**Marka-e-Haq's victory sends clear message to**  
 Alka Tatar  
 Speaking to the media, Tatar stated that the triumph had defined the joy of Independence Day. "With the green of Allah, the victory has been delivered in the Marka-e-Haq. The nation is celebrating not only Independence Day but also the

2025 | GazetteKashmir@gmail.com

THURSDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

## NATION CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH PATRIOTIC ZEAL



Islamabad: Pakistan is marking its Independence Day today with heightened patriotic fervour, driven by its recent victory in Marka-e-Haq, the military operation against India that has bolstered national unity and pride.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the day began with a 31-gun salute in Islamabad and 21-gun salutes in each provincial headquarters. Special prayers were held in mosques across the country, seeking peace, solidarity, and prosperity for Pakistan.

Buildings, streets, and markets across the country have been adorned with national flags, bunting, and lights. Vendors in cities and towns are selling flags, caps, and green-and-white clothing, while vehicles and rooftops proudly display the national emblem. Special programmes have been lined up on Radio Pakistan, Pakistan Television and private media networks to mark the occasion.

On Wednesday evening, after Maghrib prayers, a grand ceremony marking Independence Day and celebrating the victory in the "Marka-e-Haq" was held at Jinnah Sports Complex in Islamabad. President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and the chiefs of the three armed forces attended the event, joined by members of the federal cabinet, parliamentarians from the National Assembly and Senate, ambassadors of friendly nations, and a large number of citizens. The ceremony featured a spectacular march-past by the musical bands of the Pakistan Army, Navy,

and Air Force, accompanied by smartly turned-out contingents from all three services, Punjab Rangers, and the Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also unveiled the model of the "Marka-e-Haq" Memorial, during the event. July 19, 1947 resolution was ex-

pression of real feelings, aspirations of Kashmiris. Masarat Alam  
 July 19, 2025  
 In Karachi and Lahore, graceful change-of-guard ceremonies were held at the mausoleums of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal, respectively. President Asif

Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in their separate messages on Independence Day said the day served as a reminder of courage, unity, and sacrifices that led to the creation of Pakistan and paid homage to founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and the workers of the Pakistan

Movement for their struggle and sacrifices.

President Zardari emphasised in his message that the nation had "reaffirmed its strength, resolve, and unity in the face of external aggression." "Our success in Marka-e-Haq and Operation Buryan-un-Marsoos is a landmark moment in our history," he said. "It was a demonstration of unshakable national will, professional excellence, and united purpose." He said that "faced with unjustified Indian aggression, Pakistan responded with clarity, courage and restraint. 'The world witnessed a nation that is peace-loving, but fully capable of defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity.' He said that this victory has lifted the morale of the people, restored faith in our institutions, and enhanced Pakistan's stature on the global stage. "Today, the world sees Pakistan as a country that seeks peace but does not bow to coercion."

President Zardari also expressed solidarity with the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, saying "their courage and struggle for justice and their right to self-determination remain close to our hearts. "Pakistan will continue to extend its unwavering diplomatic, moral, and political support until their right to self-determination is realised."

In his message, PM Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal, who along with other resolute leaders and workers of the Independence Movement, united the nation under one vi-

### Why is US President Trump unhappy with India?

New Delhi: Former Indian ambassador Vikas Swarup has said that US President Donald Trump is unhappy with India ignoring his role in mediating the war with Pakistan in May and this is a major reason for Washington to impose trade tariffs on India.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Vikas Swarup, former India envoy to Canada, in an interview said that Pakistan not only recognised Trump's role but also nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize,

while India took the position that the ceasefire was directly agreed between the DGMOs of Pakistan and India and the role of any external mediator was not accepted.

According to Vikas Swarup, President Trump is also unhappy with India's joining the BRICS group because he believes it is an anti-American alliance that is trying to bring an alternative currency system to the dollar.

He said the US is putting pressure on India to give more access to the agricultural and dairy sectors and wants to accept

the demand for the import of genetically modified commodities, but India has refused to accept the US demands.

Congress shows PM Modi for ignoring Minister, calls Amit Shah's response a 'big failure'

New Delhi: The Indian National Congress has attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for persistently ignoring criticism. Minister and labelled Amit Shah's handling of the state's ongoing conflict, which began in 2023, a "big failure".

According to Kashmir Media Service, Congress General Secretary, Jyotirm



sion, one mission and one goal. "Their relentless efforts changed the course of the history with the establishment of an independent, ideological state, thus realising a seemingly impossible dream into a reality," he said in a statement. He also paid tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of Pakistan's freedom, saying Manka-Haq was not just a military conquest, but also the victory of validation of a Two-Nation Theory. "Pakistan's historic victory in Manka-Haq during the four-day war imposed by India has not only reinforced the sanctity of our freedom, but has also instilled a renewed sense of ambition and national spirit in the hearts of our people, magnifying the pride and fervour of this independence day."

While expressing resolve to protect Pakistan's sovereignty, PM Shehbaz said "we reiterate our belief in the principles of peaceful coexistence and resolving the regional and global issues through dialogue and diplomacy. He said India needs to demonstrate the same will for the resolution of all disputes, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) also issued a statement in which the Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Saifur Rahman Mirza, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashtar, and Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zahoor Ahmed Baloch, extended heartfelt greetings to the entire nation on the joyous occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day. "As guardians of national security, we reaffirm our unwavering resolve to safeguard Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, uphold the Constitution, and protect the values that define our national identity," the statement said. "The military top brass paid homage to the founding fathers and honoured their 'indomitable spirit, resolute determination, and unparalleled sacrifices (which) paved the way for independence."

At least 32 killed in massive cloudburst in Kishorew

Jammu: A massive cloudburst struck a remote village in Kishorew district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir today, killing at least 32 people and causing widespread damage.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the disaster hit Chakral, the last accessible village on the way to the Machail Mata temple, where a large number of people had gathered for the temple yatra. From there began the 1.5 km trek to the temple. Situated at an altitude of 9,500 feet and about 90 km from Kishorew, the village's makeshift 'lagers' for pilgrims bore the brunt of the cloudburst, triggering flashfloods.

Officials confirmed that 32 bodies have been recovered, with fears that the death toll could rise. "Massive rescue operations have been started in the area," said the Deputy Commissioner of Kishorew.

Teams of India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been rushed from Udhampur to Kishorew. Authorities estimate that rescue, relief, and recovery operations could take up to 20 days due to the challenging terrain. Pakistan will continue to support Kashmiris: Amir Moqam

Pakistan will continue to support Kashmiris: Amir Moqam  
Peshawar: Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Fawaz Amir Moqam has said that Pakistan goes a long way to support Kashmiris and will continue to support Kashmiris.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Engineer Amir Moqam addressing a con-



### Younis-Ishraq Seminar Slams India's 2019 Actions, Urges Global Push for Kashmir Solution

Srinagar: Political observers have said that India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council. For over seven decades, yet the Kashmiri people have been denied their UN-mandated right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the ongoing freedom struggle in the territory, they added, is purely indigenous, rooted in the Kashmiri people's historic quest to safeguard their identity, liberty and fundamental human rights. Indian authorities, in a bid to suppress this struggle, have resorted to grave human rights abuses, including fake encounters, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, illegal detentions and massive crackdowns aimed at silencing the population through fear and repression.

The observers said, nearly one million Indian troops are stationed in the Valley, but despite this massive military presence, neither peace

has been restored nor public resistance crushed—an open testimony to the failure of New Delhi's policies. The abrogation of Article 370, the incarceration of local leadership, and the paralysis of political activity have further destabilized the territory, they added.

Observers note that the Modi regime, facing declining popularity, humiliation in the recent four-day conflict with Pakistan, and a tariff dispute with the United States, is pushing military commanders into staging operations for political mileage. The recent Kulgam operation, in which soldiers reportedly remained hungry and thirsty for 12 days in hostile conditions, is seen as part of this diversionary tactic. The observers referred to The Wire report, which quoting the families of the two soldiers identified as Praveen Singh and Hamid Singh as having disclosed that they were forced to eat dirt before being killed during the operation.

Grand flag-hoisting ceremony held at Pakistan HC in New Delhi

New Delhi: A grand flag-hoisting ce-

remony was held at the Pakistani High Commission in the Indian capital, New Delhi, on the occasion of Pakistan's 76th Independence anniversary.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires Saad Ahmed Warrich hoisted the national flag at the ceremony.

On this occasion, special messages from President Arif Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar were also read out to the attendees.

Addressing the ceremony, Charge d'Affaires Saad Ahmed Warrich said under the wise leadership of Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Muslims of the subcontinent changed the course of history for freedom. Pakistan is the successful completion of a long and great struggle of Muslims for their right to self-determination, he added.

He said freedom is a great blessing and a priceless gift of Allah Almighty which must be defended at all times. He further said this freedom has been achieved through the sacrifice of the blood of martyrs and Pakistan today has the full capacity to protect its sovereignty and integrity.

Saad Ahmed Warrich said Pakistan is capable of giving a befitting reply to every external threat or aggression and the enemy itself retreated in the war imposed with the intention of domination. KMS-15A.

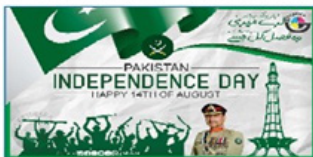
US report on human rights shows Modi govt a mirror

Washington: The US Department of State has released its annual report on human rights around the world, which shows a mirror to India's Modi government.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the US Department of State's annual report on human rights says that India has either taken insufficient or no action on various human rights violations.

According to the report, India has seen an increase in hate speech and violent incidents against minorities, and the Modi government has taken nominal action against officials involved in serious human rights violations.

The report also presented evidence of India's seemingly controversial citizenship law being used against minorities. The United Nations has also called this law discriminatory.



### Journalists urge unified media push against India's info blockade in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Aug 5 (APP): Prominent figures from journalism, academia, and human rights advocacy called for a coordinated and sustained media campaign to break India's ongoing information blockade in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

The demand was raised during a seminar titled "Post-August 5, 2019

— Unspoken Sufferings, Unheard Voices & Media Blockout: The Way Forward," organized by the Institute for Dialogue, Development & Diplomatic Studies (IDDD5) in collaboration with the United Kashmir Journalists Association (UKJA).

A comprehensive five-point media action plan was presented, outlining the establishment of a se-

crete media coordination network; enhanced collaboration with international journalists, digital activists and human rights organizations; the launch of monthly issue-based campaigns; the creation of a digital archive on Kashmir; and the alignment of media efforts with legal advocacy through petitions and international submissions.

The speakers at the event highlighted the alarming erosion of press freedom in IOJK following India's unilateral revocation of Articles 370 and 35A on August 5, 2019.

Director IDDD5 Dr Waheed Rasool described the media climate in Kashmir as "engineered silence," where only state-approved narra-



Soft power in hard place: The mirage of normalcy in Kashmir

The idyllic beauty of Pahalgan was shattered on April 22, 2023, when gunmen attacked tourists, killing 26 people. This assault was particularly significant, occurring as the Indian state actively promoted a narrative of peace and normalization in Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

State-sponsored media and tourism campaigns cultivated a discourse of integration, economic renewal, and civil peace — a narrative brutally contradicted by the events in Pahalgan.

While tourism is often presented as a symbol of peace in Kashmir, the reality is far more complex. Kashmir remains a landscape of clashing interests, power dynamics, and ongoing conflict. The Pahalgan attack wasn't merely an act of violence; it was a deliberate disruption of a carefully constructed state narrative, a stark reminder that Kashmir's tourist industry is deeply politicized.

Since 2019, the Indian government has heavily invested in marketing Kashmir as a premier tourist destination. Strategists employed influencers, filmmakers, and travel bloggers to portray a region of serene beauty, aiming to reinvigorate Kashmir into the national mainstream.

This strategy yielded record visitor numbers in 2022 and 2023, presented as evidence of progress. The reopening and promotion of pilgrimages routes like the Amarnath Yatra further reinforced this image of peace and cultural harmony.

However, this carefully curated picture masks a persistent reality of militarization and surveillance. Kashmiri residents experience daily life defined by checkpoints, curfews, and arbitrary arrests — a stark contrast to the idyllic scenes in travel brochures. This pervasive security presence extends beyond military installations, impacting even recreational areas. Armed forces have increasingly occupied spaces traditionally used for community gatherings and cultural expression in towns like Pahalgan, Gulmarg, and Sonmarg, eroding local cultural practices and creating psychological pressure on residents.

Critically, insurgent groups target these symbols of normalcy not solely to inflict violence, but to dismantle the state's illusion of stability. The Pahalgan attack served as a potent message: the facade of calm is unsustainable. The underlying tensions and conflict remain, and tourism, used as a tool to project peace, only exacerbates the existing fractures.

The consequences fall disproportionately on ordinary Kashmiris — small business owners, tour guides, and others whose livelihoods depend on a tourism industry not vulnerable and politicized. Each attack triggers increased security crackdowns, leading to more detentions, profiling, and harassment of innocent civilians. The resulting economic fallout — cancellations, business closures, and lost income — represents a devastating collateral damage, often dismissed in the pursuit of counter-militancy efforts.

This prolonged militarization is reshaping the socio-political fabric of Kashmir. Constant monitoring and restrictions erode social cohesion and create resentment towards these spaces. Furthermore, it casts doubt on the sustainability of tourism policies, failing to address the root causes of conflict that drive the violence. Tourism remains largely shielded from the realities of daily life for Kashmiris.

The use of civilian spaces to bolster state narratives masks critical questions about international humanitarian law (IHL). While the conventions prohibit the application of civilian domains in conflict zones for political purposes, organizations like Amnesty International and the OHCHR consistently document ongoing violations of civil liberties in the region. The international community must recognize that a government leveraging "soft power" at the expense of civilian lives undermines international legal norms and obstructs long-term conflict



## M.A. Jinnah: The tragic hero



Triumph, rather than tragedy, in the first world that comes to mind when an ordinary Pakistani thinks of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Surviving against formidable odds, he gifted us, through his extraordinary leadership, an independent, Muslim-majority nation-state.

Yet his life, from his birth in 1876 to his demise in 1948, was also marked by much tragedy. He repeatedly suffered setbacks to his supremacy at different points in time. Though his capacity to absorb sudden shocks helped him overcome them all, these events merged, by gradual accretion over the decades, into a singular, tragic dimension of his legend towards the end of his life. This is an aspect of Mr. Jinnah's life that contrasts starkly with the public acclaim he is usually associated with and one that has not been explored enough.

13 months, not 13 years

Possibly the greatest tragedy suffered by Mr. Jinnah was the extraordinarily short period he got to build on his greatest achievement: Pakistan. After Independence, Mr. Jinnah only had 13 months to savour victory, or a little over one year. That too, in severely impaired health and at an incredibly tumultuous time.

In comparison, the founding fathers of an assortment of countries across the world were able to continue their nation-building exercises for many years after their countries emerged as independent nation-states. Through Mohammed Ghandi was associated with seven months of India's independence and he never held public office, Jawaharlal Nehru served as the first prime minister of India for a good 17 years, ensuring continuity and stability post-independence. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman retained his office for over three and a half years after his assassination in August 1975. D.S. Sananyal was in Sri Lanka toward his third tenure as its first prime minister from 1947 to 1952.

Decades earlier, Vladimir Lenin led the Russian Revolution and established and ruled the giant USSR for seven years, from 1917 to 1924. About a century and a quarter earlier, George Washington pioneered America's history for 23 years, from 1776 to 1799.

In Latin America, the phenomenal Simon Bolivar, regarded as the founder of six independent states — Venezuela (his birthplace), Colombia (where he passed away), Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Panama — lived on for about 19 years after the formation of Venezuela in 1811. In Africa, Jomo Kenyatta, the first president of Kenya, held office for about 14 years from 1964 to 1978. Further north, in Egypt, Gamal Nasser became president in 1956, just four years after his independence, and continued as president for 14 years till his demise in 1970.

In Eurasia, Turkey was transformed from "the sick man of Europe" to an independent nation under Mustafa Ataturk's leadership from 1923 to 1938. In Europe, West Germany gained from the leadership of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer for 14 years, from 1949 to 1963. Shakhbuz Zayed guided the UAE for 33 years from 1971 to 2004. Almost for the same length of time, Lee Kuan Yew changed a micro-state into a global force, leading Singapore for 31 years between 1959 and 1990.

Next door, even though for less than half that tenure, Tunks Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first prime minister from 1957 to 1970, set his country in a firm, steady direction. As Indonesia's first president, Sukarno wielded 15,000 islands together for over 22 years from 1945 to 1967. In China, Mao Tse Tung overcame uprisings and upheavals for 27 years from 1949 to 1976.

The many setbacks the Quaid-i-Azam faced over the course of his life marred, by gradual accretion over the decades, into a singular, tragic dimen-

sion of his legend that does not seem to be discussed enough.

How would any one of the above nations have fared if these illustrious figures had been given only 13 months? As to what M.A. Jinnah achieved even before his untimely demise, let's the concluding paragraph of this reflection wrap up the truth. For now, let us go back to his early years of personal struggle.

Arranged marriage, new freedoms

Married to Esmi Bai at only 16 years of age in 1893, as a precondition for his passage to London — where he was to learn about finance and accounting before returning to help grow his father's business — the young M.A. Jinnah must surely have departed with more than a tinge of regret. He was to leave his bride for what would be a prolonged, four-year absence without getting to know her even cursorily.

Once in the capital of the British Empire, the law and the stage attracted him far more than the ledger, and even after he was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, it seems that theatre remained his actual passion. He even signed a contract with a company to serve as an actor. Shakespeare, and Romeo in particular, reportedly fascinated him. But when his father received a letter informing him of his son's radical new phase, a quick, angry retransmission compelled a reversal. It was fortuitous that the theatre company was understanding and relented him of the agreement he had signed requiring a three-month notice period.

Surely, this triple turn-around period had him with a sharp pain: from dull but profit-promising accounts to a fascination for make-believe, from the theatre — and due to the obfuscations of Jinnah. The only consolation may have been the scope for dramatic, capturing intellects in court arguments.

Two more blows followed: marriage and the loss of both his dotting mother and his wife within weeks of each other. Can a woman who loved him so dearly, the other, a young woman he knew little, but one he must have looked forward to knowing, and perhaps even to love?

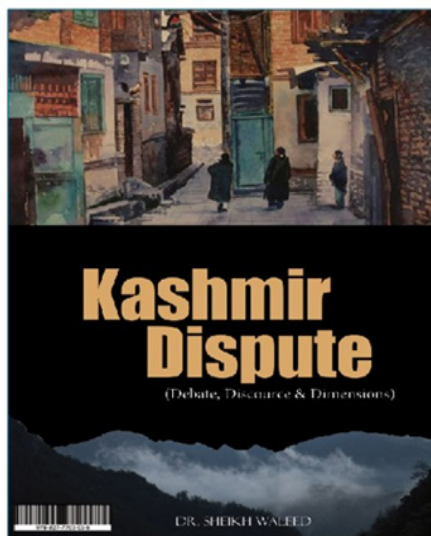
So bleak was the news from Karachi that M.A. Jinnah seems to have decided to turn away from the city of his birth. His self-imposed exile would last for at least the next four decades. The ability to suffer without visible upset must have matured in him at this relatively early stage. The acquisition of Swire's Raw vint as standard wear and the collection of a delirious, varnished calm to imitate that quiescently English trait of impassivity must have helped console, but not entirely dented the distress or shaped it from memory.

Before leaving London in 1896, he opened a bank account in Bombay and, soon after arrival there, began a new, uncertain legal practice with a scarce clientele. The struggle continued until his almost chance appointment to a junior magistracy. This opportunity enabled him to learn how to justify neither a solemn public responsibility. It also gradually led to success in the legal sphere as a private practitioner.

Swift exposure to political heat

From active membership of the Home Rule League to his resignation and a parting of ways with its ardent leader, Annie Besant, to the awkward position of opposing the Khilafat Movement — which had curiously united both the fervently Muslim Mohammad Ali brothers and the proudly Hindu Mohandas Gandhi, under the unrealistic aim of sustaining a decaying Muslim Ottoman Caliphate, disavowed by the entire Indian Union — these contrary positions taken and ardently advocated could only have stirred inner discomfort and distraction.

# Kashmir Dispute – Debate, Discourse & Dimensions



**WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN  
KASHMIR—AND WHY DOES THE  
WORLD STAY SILENT ?**



## Why You Should Read This Book

**T**his book presents well-researched insights into the Kashmir conflict, examining its historical, legal, political, and human rights aspects. Drawing from academic work and field experience, it challenges common narratives with facts and firsthand understanding. Written by Dr. Waleed Rasool, a scholar and expert on Kashmir affairs, the book serves as a valuable resource for students, researchers, policymakers, and anyone seeking a deeper, unbiased view of one of South Asia's most complex conflicts.



**Subject: Conference on eve of 15th August –A black day for Kashmir**

Title:

When Freedom Becomes Hypocrisy:

Kashmir — Trajectory from Quit Kashmir Movement to Pakistan Movement

Venue: University (Poonch University, AJKU, or Barani University)

Target Audience: Youth

Concept Note:

On India's Independence Day, Kashmiris have every reason to mourn, for history's cruel irony is laid bare. The very leaders India hails as "freedom fighters" were once branded terrorists by the British for resisting colonial rule, yet today, New Delhi uses the same label for Kashmiri freedom fighters whose struggle is identical in essence—to end foreign occupation. In 1947, Kashmir was not part of India but an independent princely state, where resistance under the Quit Kashmir Movement was already underway, rooted in the same principles that inspired Pakistan's independence movement: self-determination, dignity, and liberation from tyranny. While India celebrates its escape from the British yoke, it denies Kashmiris that same right, turning the tricolour into a symbol of hypocrisy and unfulfilled freedom. The fate of the Kashmir and Pakistan movement is same as Kashmir is Kashmir is Geographically, Legally, Politically, and the Ideologically the Part of the Pakistan as unified Nation.







**Indian Independence day - The right to life, liberty and property of Kashmiris is crippled Muzaffarabad, August 16, 2025 —**

The Institute of Dialogue, Development & Diplomatic Studies (IDDDs) organized a youth seminar titled “Shame Day – India’s Independence Amid the Blasting of Kashmiri Houses” at the Park Hotel, Muzaffarabad. The event brought together youth from various uni-

versities and colleges, along with members of civil society.

The awareness program sought to unveil India’s double standards in weaponizing its own laws against the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). Speakers highlighted that while India celebrates its Independence Day, the liberty, life, and property of Kashmiris remain under brutal siege. They stressed that the Indian concept of independence and democracy has lost its essence, for in

Kashmir these values exist only in name.

Dr Mehmod reminded the international community that those outside India's state-controlled narrative have a moral duty to expose the reality. Kashmir today is a pressure cooker: leadership is exiled to far-flung Indian prisons, media has no space to breathe, and human rights activists remain behind bars.

Participants condemned India's recent ban on 25 more books — a hidden phase in its systematic attempt to erase Kashmiri voices, ensuring only the Indian version of history and politics is taught in universities and colleges. They argued that India's Independence Day is a "shame day," as the state itself is involved in sponsoring terrorism across borders, including targeted killings abroad in countries such as Canada and the USA.

Dr Sumair Director Kashmir Studies –AJK University emphasized that the blasting of Kashmiri homes — particularly with winter approaching — is not just collective punishment but a heinous crime under the Rome Statute, amounting to a war crime. Such acts must be exposed before the global community with facts and figures.

The seminar concluded with the adoption of a declaration, calling for unity among Kashmiri ranks and reaffirming the struggle for the right to self-determination as enshrined in the UN Charter.

Resolution passed Unanimously , At the conclusion of the Youth Seminar organized by the Institute of Dialogue, Development & Diplomatic Studies (IDDDs), the participants — comprising university and college students, representatives of civil society, and concerned citizens — collectively adopted the following memorandum:

Reaffirmation of Commitment:

The youth of Jammu & Kashmir reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the just and legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination as recognized by the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Condemnation of Indian Oppression:

The participants strongly condemned the ongoing repression, including demolition of homes, arbitrary detentions, and systematic denial of fundamental freedoms under Indian occupation, and demanded the legal access to Kashmiri leaders from Indian Jails

Solidarity & Awareness:

The seminar highlighted that observing 15 August as a "Shame Day" reflects the collective pain of the Kashmiri people, whose aspirations remain



brutally suppressed despite international commitments.

#### Commitment and Role of Youth:

The youth pledged to amplify awareness at academic, diplomatic, and digital fronts to ensure that the voice of the oppressed Kashmiris reaches the global community.

#### \*Guarding Against Division and forging Unity

The participants emphasized the crucial role of youth in keeping a close vigil against nefarious elements who attempt to sow hatred and division within society. The seminar praised the true Qur'anic concept of “Bunyanun Marsus” (a solid cemented structure) — symbolizing unwavering unity in thought and practice — as the guiding principle to defeat disunity and to build a cohesive, resilient, and morally strong community

#### Future Commitment:

The IDDDs and youth participants resolved to continue organizing awareness programs, academic engagements, and advocacy campaigns until justice and peace are restored in Jammu & Kashmir



Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad  
India Study Centre (ISC)



Roundtable Discussion

# ONE YEAR OF MODI 3.0

## INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY AMBITIONS AND DOMESTIC GOVERNANCE

 Monday, August 11, 2025

 1100 hrs

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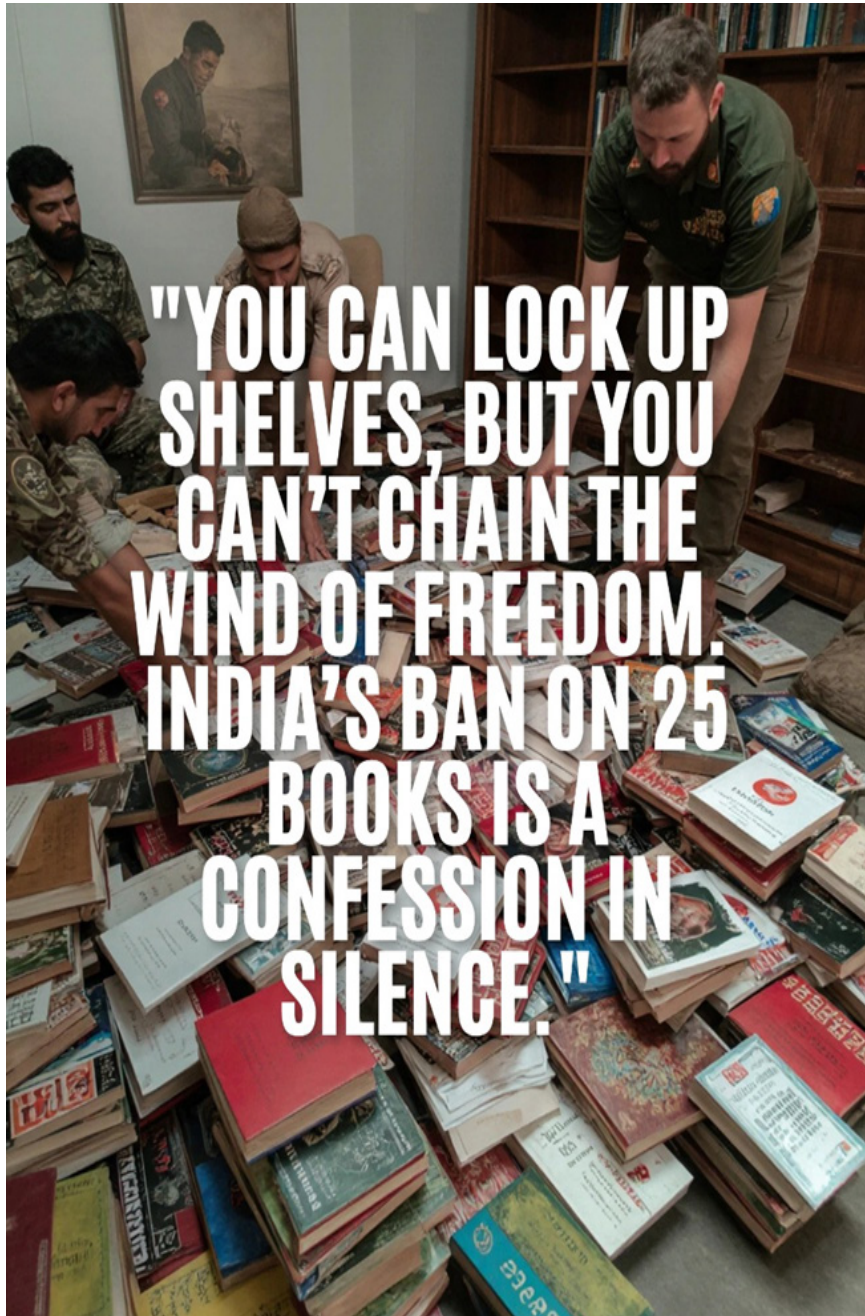


+92-51-9205882



[isc@issi.org.pk](mailto:isc@issi.org.pk)





ANNEXURE-A

LIST OF BOOKS

S. No.	Name of the Book	Name of Author	Publisher
1.	Human Rights Violations in Kashmir	Piotr Balcerowicz and Agnieszka Kuszewska	Routledge (Manohar Publishers & Distributors)
2.	Kashmir's Fight for Freedom	Mohd Yosuf Saraf	Feroze Sons Pakistan
3.	Colonizing Kashmir, State-Building under Indian occupation	Hafsa Kanjwal	Stanford University Press
4.	Kashmir Politics and Plebiscite	Dr. Abdul Jabbar Gockhami	Gulshan Books Kashmir
5.	Do You Remember Kunan Poshpora?	Essar Batool & others	Zubaan Books
6.	Mujahid ki Azaan	Imam Hasan Al-Bana Shaheed edited by: Maulan Mohammad Enayatullah Subhani	Markazi Maktaba Islami Publishers Delhi
7.	Al Jihadul fil Islam	Moulana Moudadi	Darul Musannifeen-Markazi Maktaba Islami Publishers
8.	Independent	Christopher Snedden	Manchester University Press
9.	Resisting Occupation	Nancy Deschinski, Monica J. Phelps, John T. Zeman	University of Pennsylvania Press
	Democracy and Nation (Gender and Militarization in	Feea K...	Women Unlimited New Delhi

**India occupied our land,  
now they occupy our  
libraries.  
Yet every banned book  
becomes a louder voice**

آڈٹ پیورٹ سروس کیلچن سے تصدیق شدہ اشاعت ABC CERTIFIED یاست جموں و کشمیر کا پہلا مکمل کثیر الاشاعت اخبار

Daily  
Kashmir Times

راولپنڈی

ایڈیٹر

عابد عباسی



کشمیر ٹائمز

چیف ایگزیکٹو

بنارس علی چوہری

چیف ایڈیٹر

محمد افضل بٹ

جلد 17 جمرات 7 اگست، 2025، 12 منٹ لطف 1447، صفحات 8 قیمت 30 روپے شمارہ 171

## صحافتی حلقوں کا بھارتی اطلاعاتی مقابلہ کرنے کیلئے میڈیا اتحاد کا مطالبہ

یونائیٹڈ کشمیر جرنلس ایسوسی ایشن کے تعاون سے اسلام آباد میں سیمینار کا انعقاد، پانچ نکاتی میڈیا ایکشن پلان کے قیام کا خاکہ پیش ڈاکٹر اشرف وانی، حنیف قمر، سید قیوم بخاری، عابد عباسی، ڈاکٹر سجاد بخاری، ڈاکٹر اویس، مصدقہ گردیزی، عدنان عباسی و دیگر کا خطاب

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) معروف صحافیوں، ماہرین تعلیم اور انسانی حقوق کے کارکنوں نے بھارت کے غیر قانونی زیر تسلط جموں و کشمیر میں معلومات کی ناکہ بندی کے خاتمہ کے لئے مربوط اور جامع میڈیا مہم پر زور دیا ہے۔ اسٹی ٹیوٹ فار ڈائلاگ، ڈومینسٹ اینڈ ڈیولپمنٹ انسٹی ٹیوٹ کے زیر اہتمام یونائیٹڈ کشمیر جرنلس ایسوسی ایشن کے تعاون سے اسلام آباد میں سیمینار کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ سیمینار کا موضوع "5 اگست 2019 کے بعد - ناقابل بیان مصائب، ان کی آوازیں اور میڈیا بلیک آؤٹ: مستقبل کا لائحہ عمل" تھا۔ اس موقع پر ایک جامع پانچ نکاتی میڈیا ایکشن پلان میں محفوظ میڈیا کوآرڈینیشن نیٹ ورک کے قیام کا خاکہ پیش کیا گیا جس میں بین الاقوامی صحافیوں،

ڈیجیٹل کارکنوں، اور انسانی حقوق کی تنظیموں کے ساتھ بہتر تعاون، ماہانہ اعداد و شمار پر مبنی پٹرن کا آغاز، کشمیر پر ڈیجیٹل آرکائیو کی تشکیل اور درخواستوں اور بین الاقوامی گزارشات کے ذریعے قانونی وکالت کے ساتھ میڈیا کی کوششوں کی صف بندی شامل ہے۔ تقریب کے مقررین نے 5 اگست 2019 (بانی صفحہ 6 پچیس نمبر 28)





## Journalists call for united media offensive to counter India's information siege in Kashmir

By News Desk

**I**slamabad: News Reporter Prominent figures from journalism, academia, and human rights advocacy called for a coordinated and sustained media campaign to break India's ongoing information blockade in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The demand was raised during a seminar titled "Post-August 5, 2019 - Unspoken Sufferings, Unheard Voices & Media Blackout: The Way Forward," organized by the Institute for Dialogues, Development & Diplomatic Studies (IDDDDS) in collaboration with the United Kashmir Journalists Association (UKJA). A comprehensive five-point media action plan was presented, outlining the establishment of a secure media coordination network, enhanced collaboration with international journalists, digital activists, and human rights organizations; the launch of monthly issue-based campaigns; the creation of a digital archive on Kashmir, and the alignment of media efforts with legal advocacy through petitions and

international submissions. The speakers at the event highlighted the alarming erosion of press freedom in IIOJK following India's unilateral revocation of Articles 370 and 35A on August 5, 2019. Director IDDDDS, Dr. Waheed Rasool, described the media climate in Kashmir as "engineered silence," where only state-approved narratives escape the valley. Drawing parallels with the pre-1947 Dargah era, he urged Pakistani and diaspora media to serve as the external voice for Kashmiris silenced at home. President UKJA, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Wani, noted that the already restricted media space in IIOJK has transformed into a complete blackout, where independent journalism is criminalized and truth-telling punished under anti-terror laws. Director of Such News, Hanif Qamar, stressed that media must function as an independent institution serving the public good, not as a tool of influence or propaganda while Editor of Daily Kashmir Times, Abid Abbasi, called for a National Media Policy to guide Kashmir coverage and counter the Indian narrative through the documentation of human rights violations. Director News GTV, Syed Qayyum Bukhari

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The Destination, Mudassar Chaudhry, stressed mobilizing both conventional and social media to strengthen the campaign for Kashmir. Senior News Analyst Khawaja Mateen advocated for the formation of a joint media forum and enhanced capacity-building to support innovative and impactful journalism whereas senior journalist Zahid Munir encouraged moving beyond routine reporting by adopting innovative formats, digital tools, and diverse perspectives to generate impactful content. Senior Journalists, Adnan Abbasi, Arshad H. Mir, Raja Rukhsar and Yasir Hussain also spoke on the occasion and emphasized that credible news content remains the core challenge, asserting that media coverage would naturally follow once reliable information is obtained.



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## Journalists call for united media offensive to counter India's information siege in IOK

### Our Correspondent

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## Journalists Urge United Media Front to Break Kashmir's Information Blackout

**STAFF REPORTER**

ISLAMABAD

Prominent figures from journalism, academia, and human rights advocacy have called for a coordinated and sustained media offensive to dismantle India's information siege in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The demand was voiced during a high-profile seminar titled "Post-August 5, 2019 –

Unspoken Sufferings, Unheard Voices & Media Blackout: The Way Forward," jointly organized by the Institute for Dialogue, Development & Diplomatic Studies (IDDSDS) and the United Kashmir Journalists Association (UKJA).

A comprehensive five-point media action plan was unveiled during the event, which includes:

Creation of a secure media coordination network  
Stronger engagement

with international journalists, digital activists, and human rights groups

Monthly, issue-based digital media campaigns  
Establishment of a digital Kashmir archive  
Linking media efforts with legal advocacy through petitions and global submissions

Participants highlighted the alarming erosion of press freedom in IIOJK following India's unilateral abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A on August 5, 2019.





وادی کشمیر محدود میڈیا کے بجائے مکمل بلیک آؤٹ میں تبدیل ہو چکی، مقررین

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## NATIONAL NEWS

**Indian Independence day – The right to life, liberty and property of Kashmiris is crippled:**



MIRPUR (AJK), (Parliament Times): The Institute of Dialogue, Development & Diplomatic Studies (IDDDs) organized a youth seminar titled “Shame Day – India’s Independence Amid the Blasting of Kashmiri Houses” at a local hotel in the state metropolis on Friday organizers said.

The event brought together youth from various universities and colleges, along with members of civil society.

The awareness program sought to unveil India’s double standards in weaponizing its own laws against the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

Speakers highlighted that while India celebrates its Independence Day, the liberty, life, and property of Kashmiris remain under brutal siege. They stressed that the Indian concept of independence and democracy has lost its essence, for in Kashmir these values exist only in name. Dr Mehmod reminded the international



Speakers highlighted that while India celebrates its Independence Day, the liberty, life, and property of Kashmiris remain under brutal siege. They stressed that the Indian concept of independence and democracy has lost its essence, for in Kashmir these values exist only in name. Dr Mehmod reminded the international community that those outside India’s state-controlled narrative have a moral duty to expose the reality. Kashmir today is a pressure cooker: leadership is exiled to far-flung Indian prisons, media has no space to breathe, and human rights activists remain behind bars. Participants condemned India’s recent ban





## Indian Independence day - The right to life, liberty and property of Kashmiris is crippled:

rki.news

Altaf Hamid Raq

MIRPUR (AJK):

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India's recent ban on 25 more books — a hidden phase in its systematic attempt to erase Kashmiri voices, ensuring only the Indian version of history and politics is taught in universities and colleges. They argued that India's Independence Day is a "shame day," as the state itself is involved in sponsoring terrorism across borders, including targeted killings abroad in countries such as Canada and the USA. Dr Sumair Director Kashmir Studies –AJK University emphasized that the blasting of Kashmiri homes — particularly with winter approaching — is not just collective punishment but a heinous crime under the Rome Statute, amounting to a war crime. Such acts must be exposed before the global community with facts and figures. The seminar concluded with the adoption of a declaration, calling for unity among Kashmiri ranks and reaffirming the struggle for the right to self-determination as enshrined in the UN Charter. At the conclusion of the Youth Seminar organized by the Institute of Dialogue, Development & Diplomatic Studies (IDDDs), the participants — comprising university and college students, representatives of civil society, and concerned



citizens — collectively adopted the following memorandum:

### **Reaffirmation of Commitment:**

The youth of Jammu & Kashmir reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the just and legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination as recognized by the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

### **Condemnation of Indian Oppression:**

The participants strongly condemned the ongoing repression, including demolition of homes, arbitrary detentions, and systematic denial of fundamental freedoms under Indian occupation and demanded the legal accesses to Kashmiri leaders from Indian Jails.

### **Solidarity & Awareness:**

The seminar highlighted that observing 15 August as a "Shame Day" reflects the collective pain of the Kashmiri people, whose aspirations remain brutally suppressed despite

international commitments.

### **Commitment and Role of Youth:**

The youth pledged to amplify awareness at academic, diplomatic, and digital fronts to ensure that the voice of the oppressed Kashmiris reaches the global community.

### **Guarding Against Division and forging Unity**

The participants emphasized the crucial role of youth in keeping a close vigil against nefarious elements who attempt to sow hatred and division within society. The seminar praised the true Qur'anic concept of "Bunyanun Marsus" (a solid cemented structure) — symbolizing unwavering unity in thought and practice — as the guiding principle to defeat disunity and to build a cohesive, resilient.

### **Future Commitment:**

The IDDDs and youth participants resolved to continue organizing awareness programs, academic engagements, and advocacy campaigns until justice and peace are restored in Jammu & Kashmir.





# Kashmir Gazette

Muzaffarabad & Srinagar

**Prayer of Yousuf**  
"And if they incline to peace, then incline to [also] and rely upon Allah. Indeed, it is He who is the Hearing, the Knowing."  
— (Surah Al-Anfal 8:61)



## Pakistan attacks airports closer for India

According to Kashmir Media Service, a notification issued by the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority stated that the ban on Indian flights has been extended until September 25. Under the notification, all aircraft registered in India, including those of Indian airlines, will not be allowed to use Pakistani airports. The ban also applies to military and civilian aircraft owned or leased by India.



## Indian Opposition slams election commission of shielding BJP regime

New Delhi: The opposition parties in India have once again slammed the Election Commission of India and of shielding the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government. Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi said that polling booth videos in several states were deliberately ignored. CPI-M's John Brittas termed the Election Commission

2025 | GazetteKashmir@gmail.com

THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 2025

## FIELD MARSHAL ASIM MUNIR'S DIPLOMACY STRENGTHENING PAKISTAN-US TIES: WASHINGTON



Washington: The US media has acknowledged Field Marshal Asim Munir's effective diplomacy in strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations.

According to Kashmir Media Service, famed US publication The Washington Post has in a recent article praised the field marshal for his skilful navigation of Trump's political world, fostering closer ties with the White House at a time of US-India tension.

According to the newspaper article, the re-election of Donald Trump as US President was seen as a major challenge for Pakistan. However, Pakistani officials strengthened ties with the White House amid changing global dynamics.

The Washington Post noted that the United States condemned Pakistan's counterterrorism measures and, as a result of Islamabad's successful diplomacy, the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) was declared a global terrorist organization by Washington. Pakistan also offered the US partnership in cryptocurrency projects and mineral development, which drew strong investment interest from President Trump.

The publication added that after the ceasefire with India, Pakistan-US relations gained further momentum, and Field Marshal Munir's visits to Washington is seen as a milestone in further solidifying this relationship.

Indian Opposition slams election commission of shielding BJP regime

New Delhi: The opposition parties in India have once again slammed the Election Commission of India and of shielding the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government.

According to Kashmir Media Service, leaders of the opposition alliance INDIA, while addressing a press conference at the Constitution Club in New Delhi, said that

the Modi government usurped power by stealing public votes and securing a fake mandate, while the Election Commission has been acting as a "B-team" of the BJP.

Triumphant Congress leader Mahua Moitra demanded action against former election commissioners responsible for preparing fake voter lists and called for the dissolution of the Lok Sabha followed by

fresh elections. TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee stated that the Election Commission failed to respond to irregularities in voter rolls and adopted a partisan approach.

Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi said that polling booth videos in several states were deliberately ignored. CPI-M's John Brittas termed the Election Commission

the B-team of the BJP, while Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav alleged that the names of over 18,000 voters were deleted in the 2022 elections. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin pointed out that even names of dead people continue to appear on the electoral rolls. RJD leader Manoj Jha said the Election Commission had violated the spirit of the Constitution and marred democratic values.

## India frames charges under UAPA against Minar Qayyum in murder case

Srinagar: In India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the authorities have framed charges under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against Minar Qayyum, former President of the High Court Bar Association, in a politically motivated case linked to the assassination of advocate Babar Qadir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Minar Qayyum, 77, is a well-known advocate of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people in line with the United Nations resolutions. He was arrested in June last year and is being falsely implicated by the State Investigation Agency (SIA) to punish him for his principled stand on the Kashmir dispute.

During the major uprising, post 2008 in Kashmir, he was at the forefront of anti-India demonstrations and his calls for shutdowns coincided with the calendars issued by Huzayrat, the SIA said.

World urged to take India to task for caging thousands of Kashmiris unlawfully

Srinagar: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has called upon the international community to hold India accountable for depriving the thousands of Kashmiris of their fundamental rights by

## India clobbering world, concealing crimes in Kashmir: APHC

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has said that India is deceiving the international community

about the ground situation in India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir by hiding its state terrorism and grave human rights violations in the territory.

According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesperson Advocate Abid Rashid Minhas, in a statement issued in Srinagar, said the BJP-led Indian government cannot perpetrate its illegal occu-

pation of Jammu and Kashmir through military might and its Hindu-driven RSS agenda.

He said the people of Kashmir are striving for peace and political justice, adding that the implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir would not only guarantee freedom to Kashmiris but also pave the way for regional economic stability.

The APHC spokesperson strongly condemned India's information blockade in Kashmir, saying that truth cannot be silenced with force. He added that the

Modi regime is employing intimidation to suppress every reporting critical of its actions in the occupied territory. Since the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in August 2019, censorship has reached unprecedented levels, with journalists, rights activists, and even ordinary citizens facing arrest over social media posts. He said Kashmiris voice on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are relentlessly censored, phones are tapped, movements are tracked by Indian agencies, and mainstream media is barred from reporting ground realities.





Such initiatives have had impact between 2012 and 2016, the proportion of Syrian refugee children enrolled in formal education soared from 12 to 64 percent. Moreover, the donor-supported plan announced in February would significantly improve access to education for Syrian refugee children without lowering the quality of education for Jordanian children—a common concern.

Yet tens of thousands of Syrian children have remained out of classrooms, a problem that gets more acute as they get older and enrollment rates plummet.

Map of Jordan Click to expand image

This report addresses some of the key reasons why Jordan, despite increased efforts, has been unable to enroll more Syrian children in schools and keep them in the educational system. It also highlights key areas that should be addressed if the fundamental right of Syrian children to education is to be realized, and the foundation laid for them to be able to contribute meaningfully one day to Syria's reconstruction.

\*\*\*

Part of the solution is economic. Jordan spends more than 12 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on education, more than twice as much as countries like the US and the UK. But its public school system, strained even before the Syria conflict, needs more financial support.

Existing policies that prevent Syrian boys and girls from going to school also need to be removed. For example, refugee registration policies that require school-aged children to obtain identification documents, or "service cards," to enroll in public schools may have prevented thousands from doing so. Such cards are virtually unobtainable for tens of thousands of Syrians who left refugee camps without first being "bailed out" of the camps by a guarantor—a Jordanian citizen, a first-degree relative, and older than 35—after July 2014, when a new policy was introduced. Since February 2015, Jordan has also required that all Syrians obtain new service cards, although schools have allowed children to enroll with older cards. As of April 2016, about 200,000 Syrians outside refugee camps still did not have the new cards, and humanitarian agencies estimate tens of thousands of them may be ineligible to apply.

Certification and documentary requirements create additional barriers to enrollment for older children. Requirements of some school directors that children show official Syrian school certificates proving they completed the previous grade are impossible for many families that fled fighting in Syria without bringing originals. Up to 40 percent of Syrian refugee children in Jordan lack birth certificates, which are required to obtain service cards. Lack of birth certificates will pose a barrier to enrollment to increasing numbers of children as they reach school age.

Education Ministry regulations that bar school enrollment to all children, Jordanian and Syrian, who are three or more years older than their grade level, pose yet another barrier to Syrian children: according to a 2014 United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees report, they

Drawing parallels with the pre-1947 Dogra era, he urged Pakistani and diaspora media to serve as the external voice for Kashmiris silenced at home.

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Editor of Daily Kashmir Times Abid Abbasi called for a National Media Policy to guide Kashmir coverage and counter the Indian narrative through the documentation of human rights violations.

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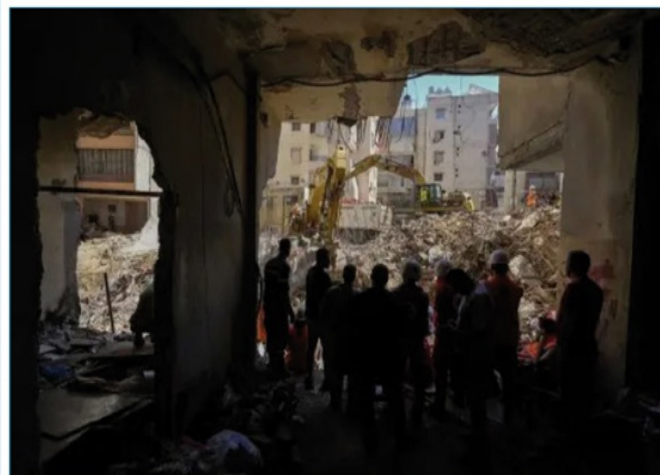
Senior news analyst Khawaja Maan advocated for the formation of a joint media forum and enhanced capacity-building to support innovative

and impactful journalism whereas senior journalist Zahid Munir encouraged moving beyond routine reporting by adopting innovative formats, digital tools and diverse perspectives to generate impactful content.

Senior Journalists, Adnan Abbas, Arshad H. Mir, Raja Rukhar and Yaseen Hussain also spoke on the occasion and emphasized that credible news content remains the core challenge, asserting that media coverage would naturally follow once reliable information is obtained.

They called for establishing a joint platform to facilitate the coordinated dissemination of Kashmir-related information among journalists.

## Lebanon: Israeli Strikes Kill Hundreds as Hostilities Escalate



(Beirut) — More than a thousand Israeli strikes across Lebanon that have killed hundreds of people and injured thousands since September 23, 2024, are placing civilians across the country at grave risk of harm, Human Rights Watch said today.

The UN should urgently establish, and UN member countries should support, an international investigation into the recent hostilities in Lebanon and northern Israel and ensure that it is dispatched immediately to gather information and make findings as to violations of international law and recommendations for accountability.

Israeli Lebanon Strikes Kill Hundreds

"The Israeli military killed hundreds of people in Lebanon in just one day; thousands have been injured and forced to flee from their homes, and hundreds of homes, businesses, and farms have been destroyed" said Luma Fakih, Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "It is paramount for Israel and Hezbollah to comply with the laws of war to

minimize civilian harm."

The Israeli military on September 24 said that it struck more than 1,600 Hezbollah targets in Lebanon. Lebanon's Health Ministry said on the same day that attacks killed 558 people, including 50 children and 94 women, and injured over 1,835, while damaging "hospitals, medical centers and ambulances." Tens of thousands of people have since been displaced, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Since September 22, Hezbollah has launched more than 200 rockets into northern Israel towns, injuring 6 people, according to media reports. On September 22, Hezbollah said that it targeted an Israeli military base and the headquarters of a weapons manufacturing company, but one rocket reportedly struck a residential neighborhood near Haifa, and part of an intercepted rocket reportedly fell in Nazareth in northern Israel.

On September 17 and 18, thousands of papers and two-way radios exploded across Lebanon, killing at least 37 people, according to

Lebanon's Health Ministry, including children and medical workers. US officials and others have said that Israel was responsible for the attacks, although the Israeli military has not commented on them. The weaponization of these communication devices appears to violate the prohibition against booby-traps under the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices of 1996.

The use of an explosive device whose exact location could not be reliably known would be unlawfully indiscriminate, a means of attack that could not be directed at a specific military target and as a result would strike military targets and civilians without distinction.

On September 23, Israel's military spokesperson stated that civilians in Lebanon "located in and next to buildings and areas used by Hezbollah for military purposes [should] immediately move out of harm's way." According to media reports, tens of thousands of people across Lebanon received calls with prerecorded messages in

Arabic warning them to evacuate their buildings. Residents in south Lebanon, reportedly received calls ordering them to distance themselves one kilometer from Hezbollah positions. Reuters reported, in a post to his account on X (formerly known as Twitter), the Israeli military's Arabic-language spokesman told residents in Lebanon's Bekaa region to do the same "within two hours."

The same day, Lebanon recorded its highest daily death toll since the country's 1975-1990 civil war.

Human Rights Watch reviewed two screenshots posted to X, and a photograph taken by Agence France-Presse, of identical messages sent in Arabic received by residents at 8:20 a.m. and 8:35 a.m. on September 23, according to the time shown on the message, via SMS. These messages instruct people to "leave the village" until further notice "if they are located in a building containing Hezbollah weapons."

Many civilians fleeing south Lebanon were trapped on the single north-south highway connecting the

caging them unlawfully for the past many years.

According to Kashmir Media Service, APCH spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Mithani is a prominent leader in Srinagar amidst the detention of few thousand Kashmiri political prisoners including Hurriyat leadership as illegal and frustration of the occupation authorities. He said Modi regime is prolonging unlawful detentions using draconian laws to silence Kashmiris' growing demand for right to self-determination.

The spokesman deplored that the Hindu-inspired regime uses delay in the release of Kashmiri political detainees despite court orders as a tool to break their resolve for freedom. He said that arrests, house raids, harassment and other atrocities couldn't suppress the freedom sentiment of the Kashmiri people who are determined to take their ongoing liberation movement to its logical conclusion at all costs.

Among these detainees include Masarat Ahsan Butt, Shabir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Syeda Asiya Andrabi, Fahmida Sofi, Nafisa Nazeen, Nayeen Khan, Ayaz Akhtar, Far Tahir, Maryam Khatun, Shahid-ul-Islam, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Shoukat Hakeem, Syed Shabaz Younis Shah, Mushtaq Ismail, Bilal Siddiqi, Mervin Bashir Irfani, Anwar Hameed, Dr. Hameed Fayaz, Abdul Akbar Butt, Muhammad Younis Farooq, Dr. Muhammad Qasim Farooq, Dr. Muhammad Shah Sharif, Advocate Mian Abdul Qayyum, Advocate Muhammad Aslam Butt, Farooq Ahmad Shah, Shahidul Parry, Ghulam Qadir Butt, Rafiq Ahmad Ghani, Zahoor Ahmad Butt, Umar Adil Dar, Saleem Nazeem, Muhammad Yasin Butt, Advocate Zahid Ali, Fayaz Hussain Inayat, Adil Sani Zargar, Dawood Zargar, human rights defender Edurne Parvaiz and Muhammad Ahsan Uddin who have been languishing in jails in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and all over India before and after the onset of August 5, 2019.

We're Afraid for These Future

Today, Syrian refugee children in Jordan face a bleak educational present, and an uncertain future. Close to one in three—226,000 out of 660,000—Syrians registered with the United Nations refugee agency in Jordan are school-aged children between 5-17 years old. Of these, more than one-third (over 60,000) did not receive a formal education last year.

There are almost 1.3 million Syrians today in Jordan, a country of 6.6 million citizens. Their arrival, and specifically that of Syrian children, since the outbreak of conflict in Syria in 2011, has spurred Jordan's Education Ministry to take a number of steps to accommodate their educational needs. These include hiring new teachers; allowing free public school enrollment for Syrian children; and having second shifts at nearly 100 primary schools to create more classroom spaces. In the fall of 2016, the ministry aims to create 10,000 new spaces in public schools for Syrian children, and to reach 25,000 out-of-school children with accredited "catch-up classes."

A photo of Syrian Refugee children studying in a class at the Al-Khazana Al-Kheir Charity Association in Jordan.

Donor aid, while consistently falling short of that requested by Jordan to host refugees, has played an important role in providing educational opportunities, and is set to increase. In February 2016, donors pledged to give US\$70 million per year to Jordan for the next three years (although World Bank calculations put the cost of hosting Syrian refugees in Jordan at \$2.5 billion annually), with the European Union (EU), United Kingdom (UK), Germany, United States, and Norway pledging \$61.5 million in May specifically to support expanding access to education.



### Three months on, Pahalgam incident mystery remains unresolved

New Delhi: Three months after the controversial Pahalgam flag operation, the Modi government has yet to reveal the actual circumstances surrounding the incident. No transparent investigation report has been presented so far.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the government's narrative is increasingly being viewed as deceptive. The situation has been further complicated by a recent alleged encounter in Dalgithan, Srinagar, where Indian forces claimed to have killed three suspects linked to the Pahalgam attack. However, the same individuals had previously been removed from the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) initial suspect list, raising serious doubts about the legitimacy of the encounter, which many now label a "fake shootout".

Indian police had released sketches of the alleged attackers two hours after the Pahalgam incident, using them to justify the demolition of several homes in Kashmir. Later, the NIA disowned both

the sketches and the initial suspect list. In June and July, multiple local shepherds were detained and reportedly tortured to force confessions linking them to alleged Pakistani militants—yet no evidence was found. Now, with the timing of the Dalgithan encounter coinciding with the Indian Parliament's Monsoon session, critics allege the operation was staged to divert growing opposition criticism of the so-called Operation Sandhurst.

Doubts persist over whether the slain individuals had truly evaded capture for three months in the forests, or if they had already been in Indian custody and were used to fabricate a success story.

16 years on: Justice eludes families of Shopian double rape & murder victims

May 29, 2025 The Dalgithan operation, now being touted by the Modi government as part of "Operation Mahadevi," is being presented as a major counter-terror victory. However, analysts and opposition leaders describe it as a politically motivated

move aimed at shielding the government from scrutiny, discrediting Pakistan, and escalating repression in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. They draw comparisons to the 2006 Mumbai bombings, in which 12 innocent Muslims were wrongfully imprisoned for 19 years before being acquitted by the Bombay High Court.

Congress and other opposition parties have called for a Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate the Pahalgam attack. They questioned why, if Operation Sandhurst was so successful, six Indian aircraft were destroyed. The announcement of the Dalgithan killings, made immediately after an emergency meeting headed by Prime Minister Modi, Amr Shah, Rajat Singh, and JP Nadda has further deepened suspicions.

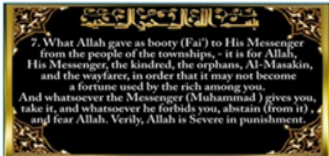
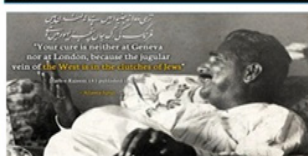
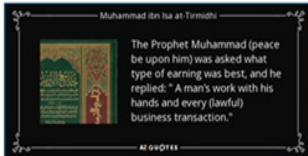
Critics state that the government is evading the truth and misleading the public, asserting that Operation Mahadevi may simply be a desperate attempt to salvage the BJP's eroding credibility.

Silencing Kashmir: India's

### Ban on Critical Scholarship

Muhammad Hanza The ban of 21 scholarly books recently imposed by the Indian government in occupied Jammu and Kashmir is not just a case of censorship, but a coordinated effort to suppress the academic debate and to manipulate past reality. The ban issued on August 5, 2021, the anniversary of six years since the Indian government abrogated the constitutional autonomy of Kashmir unilaterally includes works by internationally-known scholars such as those by Anandhi Ray (And), Hiba Kanjwal (Colonizing Kashmir), and Anuradha Bhasin (A Disoriental State). The Indian government defended the action by claiming that each of these texts spreads "false narratives", "glorifies terrorism" and incites "secessionism" and magnifies the young while fostering a culture of grievance. But, in reality, these books are scholarly works, thoroughly researched and published by leading international academic presses and winning academic honors.

This crackdown comes in the midst of stark contradictions. Even as police raided bookshops in Srinagar, Handwara, and Islamabad—censoring texts and threatening vendors



### Journalists urge unified media push against India's info blockade in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Aug 5 (APP): — Unspoken Sufferings, Unheard Voices & Media Blockout: The Way Forward, organized by the Institute for Dialogue, Development & Diplomatic Studies (IDDDS) in collaboration with the United Kashmir Journalists Association (UKJA).

The demand was raised during a seminar titled "Post-August 5, 2019

— Unspoken Sufferings, Unheard Voices & Media Blockout: The Way Forward, organized by the Institute for Dialogue, Development & Diplomatic Studies (IDDDS) in collaboration with the United Kashmir Journalists Association (UKJA).

A comprehensive five-point media action plan was presented, outlining the establishment of a se-

crete media coordination network; enhanced collaboration with international journalists, digital activists and human rights organizations; the launch of monthly issue-based campaigns; the creation of a digital archive on Kashmir; and the alignment of media efforts with legal advocacy through petitions and international submissions.

The speakers at the event highlighted the alarming erosion of press freedom in IDDK following India's unilateral revocation of Articles 370 and 35A on August 5, 2019.

Director IDDDS Dr. Waleed Rasool described the media crisis in Kashmir as "engineered silence," where only state-approved narra-



region with Beirut for hours amid the congestion and chaos of those trying to flee. They reported little to no cell phone connectivity and that strikes were reported near the highway and other main roads.

Human Rights Watch reviewed fire detection data recorded by the Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS) on September 23 that shows a substantial increase in thermal anomalies across Lebanon's South and Nabatiyah governorates compared to data collected on September 22. Some of these thermal anomalies were detected along or in close proximity to roads.

The Israeli military killed hundreds of people in Lebanon in just one day; thousands have been injured and forced to flee from their homes, and hundreds of homes, businesses, and farms have been destroyed. It is paramount for Israel and Hezbollah to comply with the laws of war to minimize civilian harm.

Laura Fakih  
Middle East Director at Human Rights Watch

International humanitarian law, also known as the laws of war, requires parties to a conflict to take constant care during military operations to spare the civilian population, and to "take all feasible precautions" to avoid or minimize the incidental loss of civilian life and damage to civilian objects. These precautions include doing everything feasible to verify that the objects of attack are military objectives and not civilians or civilian objects, giving "effective advance warning" of attacks when circumstances permit, and refraining from an attack if the requirement for proportionality will be violated.

Warnings that do not give civilians adequate time to leave for a safer area would not be considered "effective" under the law. Broad warnings unrelated to any imminent attack cannot be considered "effective," and may instead improperly instill fear in the affected population.

Customary international law prohibits "acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population." Statements that call for evacuating areas that are primarily intended to cause panic among residents or compel them to leave their homes for reasons other than their safety would fall under this prohibition.

Civilians who do not evacuate following warnings are still fully protected by international humanitarian law. Forced displacement is prohibited under the laws of war, except in cases in which civilian security is involved or for imperative military reasons. Moreover, some civilians are unable to heed a warning to evacuate, for reasons of health, disability, fear, or lack of any place else to go.

Forces deployed in populated areas must, to the extent feasible, avoid locating military objectives—including fighting positions, weapons, equipment, and military infrastructure—in or near densely populated areas, and endeavor to remove civilians from the vicinity of military objectives. Battleships are prohibited from deliberately using civilians to shield military objectives or operations from attack.

At the same time, the attacking party is not relieved from its obliga-



## International recognition can pave way for lasting peace in Kashmir



India is celebrating its 79th Independence Day today, on August 15, 2023, marking seventy-two years since it broke free from colonial rule and entered the dawn of freedom. The people of India should remember that they won freedom with courage and unity and do to preserve their historical and unpreceded achievement. We extend our warm greetings to the people of India on their Independence Day celebration.

India certainly has the right to celebrate this historic day within its legal boundary. However, India persists in styling itself with a position that has no legal, moral or constitutional authority to celebrate this auspicious day in occupied Kashmir which is not an integral part of its territory. In fact, under the international law, Kashmir does not belong to any member country of the United Nations. It is recognized by the United Nations as a disputed territory whose future is yet to be decided by its people.

Kashmir was not automatically regarded as an integral part of India even by Mahatma Gandhi—the father of nation of India. Instead, Gandhi championed the principle that the people of Kashmir must be free to determine their future, whether they want to join India, Pakistan, or remain independent. Gandhi said, "They (Kashmiris) should be left free to decide for themselves." And on October 27, 1947, Gandhi said, "Kashmir has to establish popular rule in the state." The real rulers of the state must be their people. If the people of Kashmir are in favour of joining Pakistan, no power on earth can stop them from doing so. But they should be left free to decide the question for themselves."

Pundit Jeshwant Lal Nair, the first Prime Minister of India and himself a Kashmiri wrote to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on October 11, 1947, "We shall withdraw our troops from Kashmir as soon as peace and order are

restored, and leave the decision about the future of the state to the people of the state is not merely a pledge to your government but also to the people of Kashmir and to the world."

Agree, Pundit Nair said in the Indian Parliament on August 7, 1952, "It is only the people of Kashmir who can decide the future of Kashmir. It is not that we have merely said that to the United Nations and to the people of Kashmir, it is our conviction. It is for the people of Kashmir to decide their own future. We will not compel them. In that sense, the people of Kashmir are sovereign."

Arundhati Ray, author, activist and Booker Prize winner said on October 28, 2010 (Daily Hindu, India), "Kashmir has never been an integral part of India. It is a historical fact. Even the Indian government has accepted this."

Columnist Swaminathan Aiyar wrote in The Times of India in 2008, "We promised Kashmir a plebiscite on decades ago. Let us hold one now, and give them three choices: independence, union with Pakistan, and union with India. Let Kashmiris decide the outcome, not the politicians and scribes of India and Pakistan."

Mr. Vire Sanghvi, former Editor of Hindustan Times wrote in the New Delhi based Hindustan Times on August 16, 2008, "So, here's my question: why are we still hanging on to Kashmir if the Kashmiris don't want to have anything to do with us? I reckon we should hold a referendum in the Valley. Let the Kashmiris determine their own destiny. If they want to stay in India, they are welcome. But if they don't, then we have no moral right to force them to remain." "It's time to think the unthinkable."

Guram Nerkhsha, former Editor of Economic and Political Weekly of India said, "Long and short of it is that Indian state has become its own worst enemy. There is no point blaming Pakistan, fundamentalism, human rights activists and

the usual alibis used by the Indian state. It is time to acknowledge that 'national security' paranoia cannot hide the reality that Muslims of J&K have no confidence in the Indian state."

It is a historical fact that the dispute over the status of Jammu & Kashmir can be settled only in accordance with the will of the people which can be ascertained through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite, internationally supervised, was the common ground taken by both India and Pakistan.

It was supported without any dissent by the United Nations Security Council—and prominently championed by the United States, Britain and France. These are not resolutions in the routine sense of the term. These provisions were negotiated in detail by the United Nations, and it was only after the consent of both Governments was explicitly obtained that they were endorsed by the Security Council. They thus constitute a binding and solemn international agreement about the settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

India has defied the United Nations Security Council resolutions for more than 77 years because she knows that Kashmiris will never vote in her favor. The irony of the fact is that even few world powers would like India to be the member of the Security Council whose resolutions have been blatantly violated by India right from 1948.

The United Nations has the opportunity to affect a positive resolution to the conflict and reviving humanitarian situation by promoting the conditions of the original mandate. It is only through international recognition and inclusive representation that a genuine and lasting peace can ensue. The risks of maintaining the status quo—for Kashmir, South Asia and the world—are too great to ignore.

BBC quoted Prof. Sumatra Bose of London School of Economics who said, "Any action that the Kashmir con-

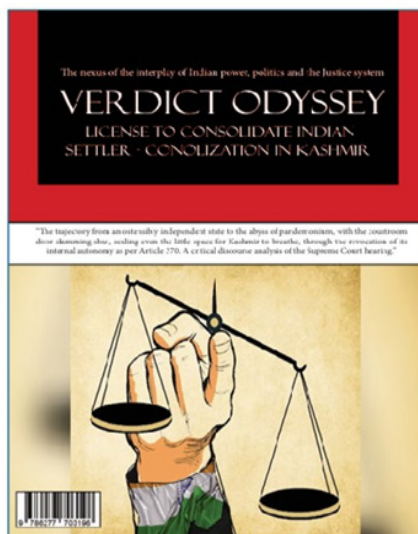
dict has been successfully put in cold storage has been exposed as a delusion during the summer of 2008. The lesson: Frozen conflicts don't stay frozen, and windows of opportunity to make real progress towards solutions don't come often. Stalling on such opportunities can be perilous."

Dr. Sumatra Bose proved prophetic when in early 2022, renewed violence brought India and Pakistan close to war. In a rare moment of active United States diplomacy, President Donald Trump, working with Secretary Marco Rubio, helped open back-channel talks that led to a short-term ceasefire. Secretary Rubio even suggested that the national security advisors of India and Pakistan meet at a neutral location to discuss Kashmir. This was a bold and constructive idea that could have restored peace efforts. Sadly, India rejected it outright, repeating its false claim that Kashmir is purely an internal matter. This refusal proved again that outside mediation is essential, because left on its own, India will never allow a fair review.

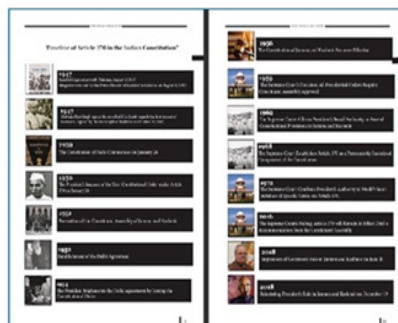
The Kashmiri global diaspora must rise to this challenge. Since 2019, protests have taken place in Washington, New York, London, Brussels, Paris, Berlin, and other cities, but more is needed. Kashmiris should must approach various governments in their capitals and urge them to endorse UN resolutions and investigate human rights abuses. Every killing, demolition, and eviction must be recorded for presentation in international courts. India propaganda must be countered in global media, and alliances must be built with other like-minded struggles.

World powers, including the United States need to know that the lasting peace in Kashmir can only be achieved through genuine international recognition and inclusive representation that reflects the will of its people.

# Verdict Odyssey



THE INSIDE STORY OF THE SUPREME COURT CASE THAT CHANGED KASHMIR FOREVER.



## Why You Should Read This Book

In a historic decision that shook the world, India's Supreme Court upheld the abrogation of Article 370, ending Jammu and Kashmir's special autonomy. But what really happened behind the courtroom doors? "Verdict Odyssey" is the definitive, critical account that goes beyond the headlines to expose the legal, political, and human drama of this landmark case.

This isn't just a book; it's a crucial investigation into one of the most significant geopolitical events of our time.