MAPPING OF KASHMIR CONFLICT UNDER NUGGET MODEL

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Abstract

The flawed and awfully-crafted Partition Formula applied by the British in the Subcontinent (in 1947) sowed the seeds of conflict between India and Pakistan while leaving the State of Jammu and Kashmir in gloominess. Consequently, both countries soon indulged in an armed conflict known as the 'Kashmir Conflict' due to which this whole region has remained volatile and subjected to instability. India's illegal occupation of Muslim-majority areas of Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), a complete denial of the Right of Self-determination to innocent Kashmiris (a clear violation of the UNSC resolutions), and the abolition of Kashmiris' Special Status through hasty constitutional amendments (a clear reflection of Hindutva mindset) indicate afresh rise to indigenous struggle in IIOJK. For that matter, India is cunningly engaged in false propaganda campaigns against Pakistan, in which it blames Pakistan for providing support to Kashmiri freedom fighters. India's irresponsible State-behaviour is quite evident from recent occurrences like Pulwama incident and release of Indian pilot, Wing Commander Abhinandan Virthaman, by Pakistan. In such a tense regional setting, this paper examines the historical aspect of the Kashmir conflict while discussing different related issues between Pakistan and India by using the Nugget Model. This conflict-analysis tool helps an indepth understanding of the Kashmir conflict and leads to identify root causes that are accelerating the conflict day-by-day.

Keywords: Kashmir, Right of Self-determination, Freedom, Human Rights, Nugget Model.

Introduction

Ashmir has been an unresolved dispute between Pakistan and India since the partition of the Subcontinent in 1947. During the early days of partition, this dispute turned into an armed conflict when India illegally occupied Muslim-majority areas of Jammu and Kashmir (a Princely State at that time) by unlawful use of force, which was not only contrary to the British-made Partition Formula but also a greater setback for the UN Charter. Such a conflicting and unlawful move made by India in Jammu and Kashmir is continuously ruining the basic principles of Human Freedom and Self-determination, which is clearly abstained by Article 1 of the UN Charter. Though the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on

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Kashmir clearly demand a free and fair plebiscite as a resolve, the Indian atrocities in IIOJK have reached an inhumane level just to avoid the proposed legal course of action for the sake of a false notion 'Akhand Baharat.'

Today, armies of both countries are incessantly engaged at the Line of Control (LOC) with a huge military presence, sophisticated weaponry, and heavy artillery. Pakistan is continuously reminding India to fulfill its State responsibility and stop terrorizing and killing innocent Kashmiris. India, on the other hand, is striving hard to change the demography of IIOJK under the umbrella of constitutional amendments, which are totally against basic norms of the Indian constitution, thus, diminishing all possibilities of holding a 'free and fair' plebiscite in Kashmir. This unlawful approach towards attaining the dream of Akhand Bharat, knitted by Hindutva philosophy (an ideology of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) - an Indian right-wing, Hindu nationalist, paramilitary organization), has multiplied the miseries and sufferings of Kashmiri men, women, and children in IIOJK. At present, Kashmiri people are facing a year-long brutal lockdown in IIOJK besides communication blackout amid the spread of Covid-19, which is compelling them to live in a hopeless situation, where extrajudicial killings, abductions, rapes, burning of houses, torture, mental trauma (post-traumatic stress disorder) and denial of basic human rights are the 'new normal' for Indian security forces.

The theory of Relative Deprivation suggests that people, who are being deprived of something considered essential in their society, e.g., money, rights, political voice, and status, may form or join social movements to obtain the right things they are deprived of. The inhumane lockdown in IIOJK is continuously depriving Kashmiris of their basic needs, such as food, shelter, water, sleep, and peace, etc. People are suffering from the denial of primary needs that every human deserves in this civilized world. The sufferings of Kashmiri people started from the 1840s, when the treaty of Amritsar was signed, and continue till today. In view of this theory, there is a strong possibility that the people of Kashmir may join indigenous movement against Indian atrocities to obtain their basic rights as well as the Right of Self-determination.

In the 1990s, Burton propagated his theory called 'Basic Human Needs', in which he underlined that identity and security are the basic needs of humans that reflect their behaviors. He also highlighted that the welfare and freedom of people are very important for living. When someone's identity is not being recognized, it can cause the survival issue. Identity is the major component for self about the outer world. If it comes in question, the nation or group collapses. Same is the case with security, whether cultural, judicial, or religious.² Every human needs security in order to live freely or independently. Kashmiri people living in IIOJK are deprived of all these human needs. They have been facing identity as well as security crises for decades now, whereas, every human being requires specific needs to survive. The abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A from the Indian constitution is not only an

abolition of Kashmir's Special Status but also elimination of their ethnic and religious identity, thus, creating security crisis for Kashmiris in IIOJK.

Against this backdrop, this academic research endeavors to apply a conflict-analysis tool known as the "Nugget Model" to map the correlation of thorny issues between India and Pakistan and their mutual effects on the Kashmir conflict. Nugget is an analysis tool that helps to find apposite issues, their corresponding relations, and their interdependency. Each such issue is called a nugget. This tool also helps to discover the mutual-influence of related issues contributing towards a conflict. The circles (as illustrated by the Figure 1.1) are the nuggets and arrows indicate their corresponding relationship or interdependency. This conflict-analysis tool is handy in finding how issues are interconnected in a conflict and how they are influenced by one another.³ Kashmir conflict is, therefore, a unique case to study under the Nugget Model. It explains different related issues between Pakistan and India and their correlation within the ambit of the Kashmir conflict. It also provides an in-depth understanding of the Kashmir conflict and helps to identify root causes, which are expanding its scope and accelerating its momentum day-by-day.

Historical Underpinnings of the Kashmir Conflict

Kashmir is a longstanding conflict between Pakistan and India. It has been engulfed by several related issues, which are escalating the conflict manifold. The contemporary structure of the Jammu and Kashmir region is largely designed by the agreement of Amritsar, at the culmination of the First Sikh War (1846). Under the agreement, British colonialists sold Kashmir alongside its kin to Dogras for 7.5 million Nanakshahi rupee.⁴ The brutal part of this treaty was the vending of individuals alongside the region, which can be depicted as the most noticeably dreadful subjection.⁵ The Two-nation Theory, later on, defined the difference between the two nations, which helped Kashmiris to identify with the Muslims.

The Two-nation Theory was given by Sir Sayyed Ahmed Khan after the War of Independence in 1857. He emphasized in his work that Muslims and Hindus are two different nations. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah explained it further that Hindus and Muslims are two discrete nations with two distinctive strict perspectives of religion. Muslims and Hindus are two separate entities by definition. Muslims have their own traditions, customs, norms, and conventions from social and moral perspectives. Muslims are not quite the same as Hindus. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah believed that both nations cannot live together, so Muslims should have their homeland where they can practice their religion freely.

Subsequently, the British government proposed an arrangement, on June 3, 1947, that incorporated the code of the Partition of British India which was fully acknowledged by the British Raj in India. Punjab and Bengal were to be partitioned based on the Muslim majority. The entire procedure was led by Viceroy Lord Mountbatten. After taking the charge, he began meeting with political groups,

however, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah completely rejected all plans, because he precisely demanded a separate country based on Muslim dominant areas. In 1947, the partition of the Indian Subcontinent gave birth to two new nation-states, Pakistan and India.

Notwithstanding, the issue of more than 562 states remained because the sovereigns or princes were ruling those areas, embedded within the two nations.10 These states were given options to join Pakistan or India or they could remain autonomous. Maharaja Hari Singh was the leader of Kashmir, who was a Hindu while the majority of his subjects were Muslims. Cyril John Radcliffe was a British Law-Lord, who was sent to India in July 1947 and just 5 weeks were permitted to cut India into two segments, based on religion. Two separate cutoff commissions were constituted as a game-plan; one for Punjab, and one for Bengal. Both commissions were driven by Radcliffe himself. The partition line could be drawn particularly through the Britishruled areas leaving as many as 562 states, small states, to the hands of their rulers to pick, which side to join. States, like Kashmir and Junagadh, had rulers from different religions in contrast to their larger-part populace, which wound up in significant clashes." Comparatively big states like Hyderabad, Rewa Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Gwalior, and Bahawalpur, included an enormous part of the Indian land and needed to pick one side. Surprisingly, Muslim majority states, like Gurdaspur, Ludhiana, and Jalandhar, were given to India. Partition was articulated on August 14, 1947, and problems were reported following two days of Independence.12 The patrician-injustices under the British caused more hurdles between the two States, which eventually resulted in a standing conflict, i.e., the Kashmir Conflict.

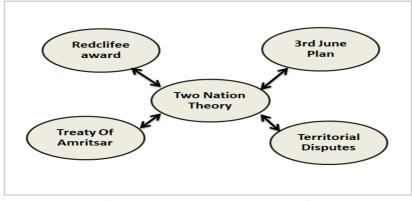


Figure-1.1: Nugget Model and Pre-Conflict Related Issues

(**Source:** Author's Own Compilation)

Wars and Agreements on Kashmir Issue War of 1948 and UN Resolution

The core regional-issue between Pakistan and India is the Kashmir conflict and that has been since the two countries got independence in 1947. In the early days

of partition, Maharaja Hari Singh of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, was perhaps the one, who was anxiously waiting for state-independence. According to Indian perspective, he consented to India on the condition that the state will hold self-governance in all issues except resistance, finance, and remote undertakings. However, Pakistan contended that Jammu and Kashmir are Muslim-majority areas with 77% of Muslim population; it should fall in Pakistan. India cunningly launched a false propaganda that Maharaja had signed an Instrument of Accession with India and asked for military aid and assistance.¹³ This turned out be an armed conflict, when Indian troops landed in Jammu and Kashmir on October 27, 1947, in contravention of the principles of partition; resultantly, the first war broke out between Pakistan and India.

The British policy-approach apprehended that the princely states would need to agree to either Pakistan or India depending on their geographical contiguity, demographic proportion, and economic dependencies. The illegal intrusion and forceful occupation of Muslims-majority areas of Jammu and Kashmir by Indian forces left Pakistan with no option other than gaining approximately two-fifth of Kashmir region, which is now set up as Azad Jammu and Kashmir.¹⁴ This armed conflict ended (for time being) with a mutually accepted LOC (checked by the UN Military Observer Group since 1948) and to hold a plebiscite under the UN Resolution (1948) on Kashmir, which is still unaccomplished because of Indian denial of the Right of Self-determination to Kashmiri people.¹⁵

Karachi Agreement

The Karachi Agreement was signed in 1949, which was marked by the military representatives of Pakistan and India. This agreement was administered by the UN Commission for Pakistan and India, constructing and building up a ceasefire line in Kashmir, following the 1948-war. ¹⁶ India violated the agreement many times and always tried to cause hurdles for Pakistan. In 1965, India broke the conditions of the agreement and, once again, followed the path of aggression instead of holding plebiscite in Kashmir.

1965-War and Tashkent Declaration

In spring 1965, Indian armed forces entered Pakistani zone area 'Rann of Kutch' to capture it; which was totally against the demarcation-principles of Karachi Agreement. Resultantly, an armed clash took place and Indian armed forces were pushed back to their domain. At that time, both sides were prepared and equipped, with an eyeball-to-eyeball contact. Meanwhile, Pakistan proposed a ceasefire and forces were pulled back on both sides to end the conflict.¹⁷ However, on September 5, 1965, Indian Army crossed international border on two fronts, Lahore and Kasur, without any customary proclamation of war. Pakistan armed forces battled with India at all fronts with full force and courage to defend its areas.¹⁸ This war quickly heated up the tension in Kashmir and both armed forces fought a lethal battle there to protect

the line of control. The war ended with Soviet mediation and both countries agreed to a ceasefire followed by the Tashkent Declaration. It was a peace agreement between Pakistan and India to stop 1965-war, however, Kashmir issue remained at its place. ¹⁹ This agreement also proved ineffective to keep peace in the region, thus, in 1971, another war triggered between Pakistan and India.

1971-War and Shimla Agreement

The 1971-war was fought between Pakistan and India, in which the separation of East Pakistan from West Pakistan took place. In this war, India conspired against the State of Pakistan and provided military support to *Mukti Bahini* uprising in East Pakistan, that turned this war destructive and devastating for the whole region. This war was brutal and made thousands of Pakistanis suffer; the citizens of Pakistan, who lived in Dhaka and wanted to return to West Pakistan, were taken as prisoners of war by Indian armed forces. Amid such a geopolitical destruction of this region, Pakistan and India agreed to Shimla Arrangement on July 2, 1972, to end the conflict.²⁰ Although Shimla Agreement fetched truce at the LOC, the Kashmir issue remained there, rather more highlighted. Meanwhile, Indian security forces started their brutality in IIOJK by killing and abducting thousands of innocent Kashmiris as well as asserting their claim over Siachen Glacier.²¹

Siachen Issue

In 1984, Indian armed forces, while violating the truce at LOC, launched an assault at Siachen and started claiming over a 10 sq km of its area. It was the first but grave violation of the Shimla Agreement by India army to demonstrate its animosity against Pakistan. Resultantly, an armed clash was triggered between the two States. Around six rounds of talks took place between the two states, in which Pakistan insisted India to pull back from Siachen, however, due to Indian non-serious approach towards the talks, there was no productive outcome. In 1988, Indian forces launched another assault, this time at Qamar Sector, which was responded by Pakistan Army. Since then, Indian armed forces have violated the line of control several times and those were equally responded by Pakistan armed forces. The growing frequency of fire exchange at LOC, eventually, turned out to be another major armed clash in Kargil.

Kargil War

After the Shimla Agreement, India kept on demonstrating its animosity in Siachen, Nellum Valley, and lately, in Kargil. India assaulted Nellum Valley and for that Pakistan responded forcefully in Dras-Kargil area. India was confronted with a lot of trouble due to a strategic blockade against its military assault. Pakistan armed force captured Indian posts, thus, gained complete advantage over Indian army. This was the third war fought between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue. ²³

The following Figure-1.2 (drawn through the Nugget Model) depicts that the Kashmir conflict, which needs to be resolved under the UN Resolution of 1948, is continuously escalating through different armed clashes and ineffective peace agreements (generally because of the irresponsible state-behavior of India). These occurrences not only remained interdependent and influenced one another but also had corresponding relations with the Kashmir conflict, thus, contributed towards its escalation instead of resolve.

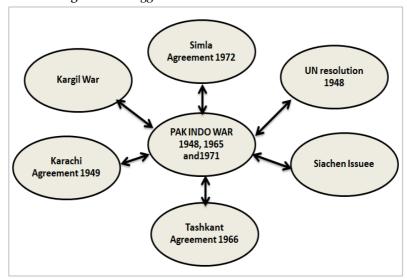


Figure-1.2: Nugget Model and Conflict Related Issues

(Source: Author's Own Compilation)

Non-military Issues related to Kashmir Conflict Water Dispute

Pakistan and India have an agreement on the distribution of rivers water, known as the Indus Water Basin Treaty (IWT), which was arbitrated by the World Bank in 1960. According to the agreement, Pakistan was given control over the waters of three western rivers, i.e., Chenab, Indus, and Jhelum, whereas, India had control over three eastern rivers including Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas. Unfortunately, India is not following this agreement in its true spirit and keeps on violating its different clauses. In recent years, there have been a lot of violations from Indian side, especially irregular release of water downstream to Pakistan, causing damage to irrigated land in the form of floods.²⁴ Besides, India is constructing illegal dams on the upstream of rivers Jhelum and Chenab, which is not only contrary to IWT but also depriving Pakistan of water to a considerable extent. As all these rivers flow from IIOJK to Pakistan, all water disputes hunch back to the Kashmir conflict. Major water related issues that have corresponding relations with the Kashmir conflict are given below:

- **Sir Creek:** Sir Creek is a 96-km flowing estuary in uninhabited marshlands of the Indus River Delta on the boundary of India and Pakistan. The brook streams into the Arabian Sea and isolates the state of Gujarat in India from the Sindh region of Pakistan. The creek is important because of its economic resources, such as oil and gas reserves. Though dispute is minor in nature, it can cause a major conflict because Sir Creek is a disputed land.²⁵
- Baglihar Dam: Under the Indus water settlement in 1960, both States were precluded from undertaking any manmade structure that caused change in the volume of regular flow of waters. However, infringing upon this particular arrangement, India carried out the construction of Baglihar hydropower dam on Chenab River in IIOJK. This illegal construction of dam has evoked resistance from Pakistan, while indicating Indian intentions to get away from IWT. India cannot utilize or store waters of western rivers without the assent of the Pakistan government.²⁶
- Wullar Barrage: Despite agreeing upon IWT, another issue came to surface, i.e., Tulbul navigational project. The construction of a dam on that site can abolish the whole agreement of triple waterway project inside Pakistan including upper Chenab canal, upper Jhelum canal, and lower Bari Doab canal.27 Pakistan has already raised this issue and protested that India is disregarding IWT by not complying to its provisions. IWT clearly prohibits any man-made obstacle that may cause change in the volume of the day-to-day flow of water except where it is of immaterial sum. Further, it explicitly bars India from putting away any water or develop any capacity that takes a shot at the western rivers. The control of India over the waters of Jhelum river in IIOJK through capacity building work would be a clear danger to Pakistan as India may choose to retain water over an all-inclusive period, particularly, during the dry season. It would likewise increase and amplify the dangers of floods and dry seasons in Pakistan.28

The recent threatening statements of Indian government officials regarding the stoppage of water flow to Pakistan highlight the intensity of water related issues surfacing between Pakistan and India. The following Figure-1.3 shows the interdependency of water related issues and their corresponding relations with the Kashmir conflict.

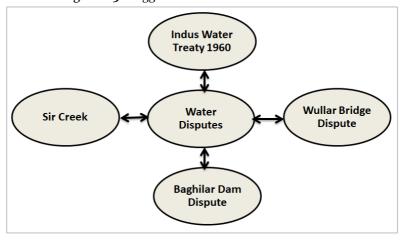


Figure-1.3: Nugget Model and Water related Issues

(Source: Author's Own Compilation)

Human Rights Violations in IIOJK

On January 19, 1990, India launched a massive crackdown against Kashmiris and imposed Governor rule in IIOJK that resulted into endless human rights infringements, such as extrajudicial killings, assault on unarmed protesters, and illegal execution of prisoners. In May 1990, the growing tension between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue raised fear of another war between the two countries. The fact of matter was that thousands of Hindu pandits entered the Valley on the pretext of their *Hindutva* ideology and forced Kashmiris to convert to Hinduism and Muslim women were asked to marry Hindus. On refusal, they were ruthlessly beaten, raped, and killed by the Hindu pandits as well as Indian security forces.²⁹ Though India is a signatory to the Geneva Conventions and has a State-obligation to protect human rights even in wartimes, Indian armed forces have been using inhumane methods to snub voices of Kashmiri people raised for their right of Self-determination, which resulted in deaths of more than one hundred thousand Kashmiris.³⁰

Article 3, clause 1 of the Geneva Convention (1949) states that "persons taking no active part in the hostilities ... shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, color, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria." It also prohibits "(a) violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment, and torture; (b) taking of hostages; (c) outrages upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment; (d) passing of sentences and carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples." However, India has always been violating the Geneva Conventions in IIOJK.

The Armed Forces Special Powers Act of the Indian constitution gives special powers to security forces so that they can use inhumane torture techniques and are not accountable for it. In May 2015, more than 50 individuals were murdered and more than 200 individuals were harmed in similar assaults carried out by Indian security forces. They neglected to investigate the wrongdoings, slowed down examinations, overlooked procedural requirements, and recorded criminal proceedings against Kashmiris just to threaten them. Since 1989, more than 100,000 people have been killed, thousands of women have been raped, thousands of innocent Kashmiris have been abducted, and several hundred houses and shops have been burned in IIOJK by brutal Indian security forces, which shows how gravely India is violating the international law in the Kashmir conflict.³²

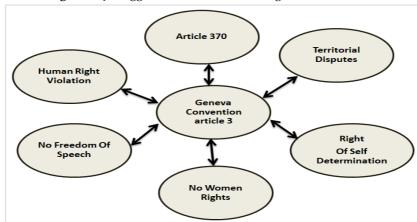


Figure-1.4: Nugget Model and Human Rights related Issues

(Source: Author's Own Compilation)

Contemporary Situation of Kashmir Conflict Pulwama Incident

The Pulwama incident, occurred on February 14, 2019, is generally known as deadliest attack in IIOJK in which 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed and several injured. Reportedly, this attack was carried out by a suicide bomber, who slammed a vehicle containing 100 kg of explosives into the convoy of CRPF on Jammu-Srinagar highway. Later, the suicide bomber was identified as a Kashmiri boy, who was assaulted by Indian security forces in IIOJK sometimes ago.³³ Although findings suggested that it was a false-flag operation carried out to malign Pakistan, surprisingly, India put its onus on Pakistan without any hesitation and its fighter jets violated Pakistan's airspace to carry out a so-called surgical-strike on an alleged terrorist camp in an area of Balakot. Following events of this incident, however, prove it to have been a miserably failed-attempt made by Indian armed forces just to satisfy the Hindu Nationalist Right-wing political leadership of the

country. Pulwama incident truly reflects an extremist approach towards attaining the objectives of *Hindutva* ideology in IIOJK.

Pakistan-India Standoff (2019)

After Pulwama incident, India initiated a tense but false propaganda campaign against Pakistan for its alleged involvement in that incident. Pakistan asked for the evidences, traced by Indian officials, to legally address the allegation leveled against it but India failed to comply. Meanwhile, on February 26, 2019, Indian fighter jets violated Pakistan's airspace along LOC, which were chased and successfully rebuffed by Pakistan Air Force. Resultantly, a few trees were damaged in the area of Balakot due to the hasty drop of their payload by Indian aircraft. Pakistan raised the issue internationally with evidentiary proofs against Indian offense and warned India not to repeat such a false-flag attempt. On the very next day, February 27, 2019, an air combat between Pakistani and Indian Air Forces occurred, in which two Indian aircraft, while violating the airspace of Pakistan along LOC, were shot down by Pakistani fighter jets. Indian Wing Commander Abhinandan Virthaman, a pilot of MiG24 bison aircraft, was made POW by Pakistan security forces soon after he touched down on the Pakistani territory. An extremely intense situation emerged across the region, and two nuclear States were ready to fight another war on Kashmir. Later, Abhinandan Virthaman was released by Pakistan as a peace gesture for the harmony of this region. In March 2019, Pakistan Navy traced an Indian submarine in its waters, which was successfully blocked and forced to leave Pakistan's waters, again for the peace of this region.34

Revocation of Article 370

On August 5, 2019, India renounced a 70-year-old Special Status, given to the people of IIOJK, by revoking Article 370 of the Indian constitution. Such an undemocratic political-approach adopted by Hindu Nationalist leadership of India has not only harmed Kashmiri leadership by abrogating their right of self-governance but also caused a year-long brutal lockdown in IIOJK. The people of Kashmir are passing through the hardest time of their lives amid the spread of Covid-19. Though India tried to handle the situation by dividing this region into two dominions governed by New Delhi, China forcefully reacted to such an illegal administrative arrangement in the contested border areas, which resulted into a Sino-Indian standoff in Ladakh. The situation in IIOJK is, therefore, becoming so tense and volatile that people like Burhan Muzaffar Wani are sacrificing their lives for freedom and attainment of their basic rights.

The revocation of Article 370 has brought the status of Kashmir conflict at the similar stage where it was in 1948, but this time with many correlated issues, which have direct influence on one and another as illustrated by the Figure-1.5.

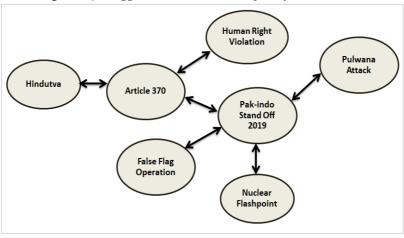


Figure-1.5: Nugget Model and Contemporary related Issues

(Source: Author's Own Compilation)

Brief Analysis

The Kashmir conflict has led to many interdependent and correlated issues between Pakistan and India that are continuously contributing towards its intensity day-by-day. The dispute, which started at the time of partition of Subcontinent in 1947, has already caused three wars and several armed clashes between Pakistan and India besides a water row on IWT and recent stand-off at LOC. In addition, India has developed multiple land disputes with other states in the region. Though the UN resolutions call for a plebiscite (a simple application of Self-determination principle) in Kashmir, India is viciously trying to subjugate Kashmiri people by locking them down under a brutal year-long curfew, thus, snatching all their basic rights. On the other hand, Pakistan, through its active diplomacy, is creating meaningful awareness in the international community regarding Indian atrocities in IIOJK and Modi's extremist approach under *Hindutva* ideology, which is persistently deteriorating the security situation in the region.

The Hindu nationalists' dream of *Akhand Bharat* coupled with territorial disputes are the major reason why Kashmiris are not given their Right of Self-determination. India is, at present, being run by a Hindu nationalist government of BJP (a political extension of RSS), which has single fascist agenda to purify Indian land from non-Hindus and IIOJK is directly under their assault to achieve such objective. The security situation in IIOJK has deteriorated to such an extent that India is directly threatening Pakistan with the stoppage of river-water flow. Both the countries have put their armed forces on high alert especially along the LOC, thus, reaching a highpoint.

Under such an intense security situation in the region, India is still not hesitating in using every means to hurt Kashmiri people through their callous acts in

IIOJK. They are being tortured and killed by Indian security forces every other day and terrorized to forego their Kashmiri identity. The Muslim women are forcefully married to Hindu pandits so that the strength of Kashmiri ethnicity be reduced. After the revocation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution, Indian atrocities in IIOJK have increased manifold and Indian security forces are openly violating the humanitarian principles of the Geneva Conventions in IIOJK. There were more than 2,200 ceasefire violations committed by Indian armed forces in the year 2020 alone. Due to these ceasefire violations, 188 innocent people have lost their lives and more than 176 civilians have been injured. 35 Despite all efforts made by Pakistan on diplomatic front, the international community is still not successful in refraining India from committing crimes against humanity. The Figure-1.6 is the complete Nugget Model of the Kashmir conflict, which helps to understand the entire conflict and its interdependency.

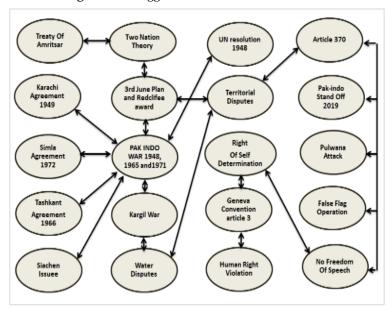


Figure-1.6: Nugget Model and Kashmir Conflict

(Source: Author's Own Compilation)

Conclusion

In South Asia, there are only two countries, which are equipped with nuclear weapons; one is Pakistan and other is India. Both countries are sharing borders and both are at dagger-drawn positions since 1947 after the British left Subcontinent. They had been facing several issues from the beginning, which includes border disputes, water issues, maritime disputes, cross border violations, and above all the Kashmir conflict. The Kashmir conflict has been the most important issue, which is causing other related issues to heat up every day. India has to reconsider its actions in IIOJK to maintain its significance in the region and needs to change its violent State-behavior,

especially in IIOJK. India must abide by its international obligations and allow Kashmiri people to decide their future by holding a free and fair plebiscite. The Kashmir conflict, if not resolved under the UN resolutions, has the intensity to embroil not only this whole region but also endanger the entire world in a nuclear catastrophe.

Moreover, the growing tension in the region and BJP-led Hindu nationalist government's endeavors of manifesting *Hindutva* ideology inside India, has the potential to lead to a big blow for the Indian so-called secular democracy. The increasing momentum of separatist movements in eastern India and Khalistan movement in Indian Punjab are also indications of fragmentation in Indian society. India must check such extremists' tendencies within its boundaries, otherwise, these extremist elements would never let India remain integrated. To conclude, economic development and social parity can only be possible in this region after peaceful resolution of the Kashmir conflict.

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