

# Kashmir issue

BY ABDUR RASHID TURABI

The State of Jammu and Kashmir owing to Muslim majority population should have acceded to Pakistan in accordance with all norms and principles of the partition of Subcontinent. But Congress leadership manoeuvred its fraud accession with India bringing into play a conspiracy involving Lord Mountbatten and state's Hindu Maharaja Hari Singh with the view that keeping occupation on Kashmir, Pakistan either would not be able to keep up for a long time or would be ready to sustain under India's subjugation.

Founding fathers of Bharat like Mr Nehru and Patel are on record that they only accepted Pakistan with the hope that Pakistani leadership would soon bow before India for reunification because to them Pakistan was not feasible as an independent state.

They also wanted to nullify the Two Nation Theory, the very basis of existence of Pakistan through the occupation. Having clear perceptions of Congress's designs and conspiracies All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, the then sole representative of the state, securing 15 out of 21 seats in the state Legislative Assembly adopted a resolution of state's accession to Pakistan on 19th July 1947.

On the other hand, India sent its forces to the State on 27th October 1947 on the pretext of fake accession. During the course of events Mujahideen declared Jihad against occupation forces and got liberated 1/3rd of the state.

They were proceeding towards Srinagar and Jammu controlling most areas of the State when India went to the United Nations and pleaded intervention for peaceful settlement of the issue. UNCIP was constituted on her request and resolutions for free and fair plebiscite were also passed. Even an administrator for conducting the plebiscite was also appointed but later India defied its commitment and declined to cooperate for holding a neutral plebiscite. Many rounds of bilateral talks have been held in this regard between:

- » Quaid-e-Azam and Mountbatten
- » Nehru and Liaqat Ali Khan
- » Mohammad Ali Bogra and Nehru
- » Ayub and Nehru

work of Hizbul Mujahideen along with other sister Jihadi organisations.

- » Suitable terrain for guerilla activities.
- » Diplomatic and other support (or opportunity available) from Pakistan, Azad Kashmir.
- » Inter Muslim sympathy
- » Awareness of issue and concern of International community regarding issue.
- » A nuclear Pakistan with potent and credible defense technology.
- » Motivated and determined Pakistani nation supportive to the movement.

Steps required by Kashmiris and Pakistan to sustain the movement:

- » Integration of leadership and unification of political and resistance command structure.
- » Scale of political activities should be raised
- » Militancy should be continued adopting innovations and measures befitting the prevailing situation, spending minimum men and material resources with target oriented operations. For success of negotiations silence of guns in the field shall prove counter productive.
- » Contribution from base camp though at any level is essential for sustenance.
- » Hurriyet leadership strengthening their own ranks and files should also maintain contact directly or indirectly with other groups and parties particularly people of the valley
- » A proper arrangement of relief for affectees should be managed what they get is equal to nothing compared to their requirement.
- » Despite many lapses, still Pakistan is a source of inspiration for Kashmiris. Therefore, any good news from here make them jubilant and any bad news affects them adversely. Therefore, Pakistan should remain a fountain of hope and strength for Kashmiris.

For sustenance and logical conclusion of the movement in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir keeping in view that the issue of Kashmir is a part of the agenda of the division of the Subcontinent:

- \* Pakistan should persistently carry on national consensus policy based

was running about 1000 institutions.

Meanwhile, after demise of Sheikh Abdullah, National Conference splitted between his son and daughter demoralising Kashmiris who once again turned their faces from NC and supported MUF, which was constituted in late 1986. Kashmiris contested elections under the banner of MUF with a view to overturn through the so-called accession by securing majority in the Assembly. These elections were rigged and manipulated. This course of events changed the mindset of Kashmiri youth. They came to the conclusion that ballots and peaceful struggle mean nothing to Indians. And in severe anger they came out from the nook and corners of the Valley for seeking guns and bullets to counter Indian occupation.

Afghan Jihad and steadfastness of Afghan Mujahideen did convey message of encouragement and resolve to resist tyranny of the oppressors all over the world. Kashmiris also received this message. Afghan Jihad attracted Muslim youth from all over the world. Youth from Kashmir also participated in the Jihad in good number.

Encouraged by such historical events, Kashmiris came out in streets of Srinagar demanding independence and right of self-determination. Such peaceful procession of hundreds of thousands of the peoples were brutally suppressed by Indian forces. Only on one occasion on 21st of May 1990, a huge procession of a Nimaz-e-Jinaza of Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq was attacked by Indian forces leaving more than 350 innocent Muslims dead and many hundred injured. Every peaceful activity and effort made by Kashmiris for their right of self determination was met with guns and bullets. Consequently Kashmiri youth were left with no options but to respond Indians brutalities with guns. So they started armed resistance against the Indian occupation forces.

After 9/11, India tried her best to take benefit of the situation and succeeded in pressurising Pakistan through the US and West to change its policy, which resulted in:

- Ceasefire
- Sanctity of Line of Control
- Fencing of LOC with barbed wire and modern devices.

But despite many difficulties in the field and partisan attitude of the western powers Kashmiris are determined to carry on their struggle till victory. Many plus points are on the account

\* The process of ongoing dialogue seems worthless because of India's cold response. Their declaration of Kashmir as integral part of India construction of Baglihar dam and setting new conditions for the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus service are enough examples of their insincerity. Therefore, Pakistan should not indulge in such a futile process for indefinite period.

\* Pakistan's support for war on terror should be reciprocated by the United States, UK, and other in terms of substantial breakthrough on Kashmir.

\* Such help should be institutionalised i.e., UNSC should again take up this matter and come up with certain agenda for resolution of the issue. In this case all effort should be focused on the target. An immediate target should be to end Indian atrocities against innocent people.

\* The West's fear of Islamic fundamentalism and extremism can be made an opportunity. If west scares of militancy and Jihad - this threat can be sold to the West as President Musharraf did during his current visit. Such efforts should also be institutionalised to resolve the Kashmir-Palestine issues.

\* There should be a special summit of heads of the states of OIC to have a definition of terrorism and also to draw a differentiation between freedom struggle and terrorism.

\* A comprehensive strategy should be chalked out followed by action plan from the platform of OIC to resolve the Kashmir and Palestine issues.

\* Under the auspices of OIC a conference of Muslim Parliamentarians and religious scholars on the issue of Islam and terrorism should be convened followed by their group visits to the western countries to overcome gap of misunderstanding regarding these issues.

\* A dialogue process with Western politicians and intellectuals is also need of the hour. Religious leaders and Islamic scholars should interact in this regard.

\* The potential of AJK as base camp since so far has not been exploited. The political and administrative set-up of AJK should be reshaped focusing the freedom struggle. In present scenario, a full-fledged role of base camp can bale out Pakistan from many pressures.

\* Liberated areas of State of Jammu and Kashmir, (AJ&K and Gilgit Baltistan) should be handled in a

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But these talks did not yield result. The fall of East Pakistan caused a severe setback to the Kashmir freedom movement. Sheikh Abdullah gave up his struggle and compromised with Indira Gandhi assuming Pakistan's least role in freedom movement.

The period between 1972 to 1980 had been dormant for the movement. Different Islamic and pro-movement groups and elements organised themselves for a long-term freedom struggle during this period. Religious organisations particularly Jamaat-e-Islami, Islamic Study Circle, and Jamiat-e-Ahle Hadith united and established educational institutions throughout the State. Jamaat-e-Islami

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For sustenance and logical conclusion of the movement in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir keeping in view that the issue of Kashmir is a part of the agenda of the division of the Sub-continent:

- \* Pakistan should persistently carry on national consensus policy based on UN resolution to achieve this goal; we should wait for the appropriate moment when India would come up with options.
- \* An Islamic integrated and democratic Pakistan can prove symbol of motivation. A Pakistan littered with so-called western and Indian culture cannot extend any help to the movement.
- \* A think tank should be established to improve the intellectual input to policy making on Kashmir. There should be a group of concerned scholars and experienced diplomats to work on the issue. It should also coordinate other institutes and policy-making bodies including Foreign Office and Parliamentary Committee.

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But despite many difficulties in the field and partisan attitude of the western powers Kashmiris are determined to carry on their struggle till victory. Many plus points are on the account of this movement which can provide strength and reinforcement to the struggle if properly capitalised:

- » Determined leadership like Syed Ali Gilani
- » A justified cause recognised by international community
- » Determination of the masses for freedom
- » Political character of the movement an experience since 1931 to its credit.
- » A statewide indigenous Jihad net-

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\* Liberated areas of State of Jammu and Kashmir, (AJ&K and Gilgit Baltistan) should be handled in a better way than Occupied Kashmir is being handled by Delhi. Pakistan political leadership and establishment should have trust in the people and leadership of these areas providing them a credible democratic system and authority.

\* A target-oriented opinion making process in India should also be initiated.

The writer is Director General Kashmir Information Center Islamabad