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**Assignments**

**Q1:Kashmir Issue**

**Kashmir Conflict:** The Kashmir conflict is a territorial conflict over the Kashmir region, primarily between India and Pakistan, with China playing a third-party role.[1][2] The conflict started after the partition of India in 1947 as both India and Pakistan claimed the entirety of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan recognizing Chinese sovereignty over the Trans-Karakoram Tract and Aksai Chin since 1963.[3] It is a dispute over the region that escalated into three wars between India and Pakistan and several other armed skirmishes. India controls approximately 55% of the land area of the region that includes Jammu, the Kashmir Valley, most of Ladakh, the Siachen Glacier[4] and 70% of its population, Pakistan controls approximately 30% of the land area that includes Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan while China controls the remaining 15% of the land area that includes the Aksai Chin region, the mostly uninhabited Trans-Karakoram Tract, and part of the Demchok sector.[5][3][6][7][8][9][10][11] After the partition of India and a rebellion in the western districts of the state, Pakistani tribal militias invaded Kashmir, leading the Hindu ruler of Jammu and Kashmir to join India[12] and starting the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 which ended with a UN-mediated ceasefire along a line that was eventually named the Line of Control.[13][14] After further fighting in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 and the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, the Simla Agreement formally established the Line of Control between the two nations' controlled territories.[15][16] In 1999, armed conflict between India and Pakistan broke out again in the Kargil War over the Kargil district.

**Human Rights Abuses:** Human rights abuses have been committed by Indian forces in Kashmir. Militants have also committed crimes.[29][neutrality is disputed] Crimes by state forces are done inside Kashmir Valley which is the location of the present conflict.

The 2010 Chatham House opinion poll of the people of Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir found that overall concern, in the entire state, over human rights abuses was 43%.In the surveyed districts of the Muslim majority Kashmir Valley, where the desire for Independence is strongest, there was a high rate of concern over human rights abuses. (88% in Baramulla, 87% in Srinagar, 73% in Anantnag and 55% in Badgam).However, in the Hindu and Buddhist majority areas of the state, where pro-India sentiment is extremely strong, concern over human rights abuses was low (only 3% in Jammu expressed concerns over human rights abuses).

Indian security forces have assaulted civilians during search operations, tortured and summarily executed detainees in custody and murdered civilians in reprisal attacks. Rape most often occurs during crackdowns, cordon-and-search operations during which men are held for identification in parks or schoolyards while security forces search their homes. In these situations, the security forces frequently engage in collective punishment against the civilian population, most frequently by beating or otherwise assaulting residents, and burning their homes. Rape is used as a means of targetting women whom the security forces accuse of being militant sympathizers; in raping them, the security forces are attempting to punish and humiliate the entire community.

**Kashmir solution and Imran khan ;**  On the World Human Rights Day, Prime Minister Imran Khan in a tweet made an appeal to the world’s conscience and the upholders of the international law and to the UN Security Council to act against the illegal annexation of Indian Occupied Jummu and Kashmir. In yet another tweet he condemned the siege of IOK for the last four months and demanded an end to the gross abuse of human rights and atrocities being inflicted on Kashmiri men, women and children by the Indian occupation forces in violation of all international humanitarian and human rights laws. He saluted the brave Kashmiris fighting for their right of self-determination and vowed to stand behind them resolutely.

In his address to the UN General Assembly--which was the best ever exposition of the cause of the people of Kashmir and the implications of the Indian action for peace and security in the region—he also tried to stir the conscience of the world community and sought their intervention in stopping the impending humanitarian crisis. Nobody in his right mind can take an exception to the narrative that the Prime Minister has been trying to expound and persists with. But the dilemma is that in the permeating global environment, conscience plays no role in addressing humanitarian issues and conflicts which continue to consume thousands of human lives. Those who really matter in regards to the settlement of the conflicts and observance of human rights look at these things through the prism of their strategic and commercial interests and consequently there is a selective application of the international law and the internationally recognized human rights. Had it not been so, Palestine and Kashmir issues would have already been resolved.

**Current situation:**  Prime Minister Imran Khan has said Pakistan is looking at two or three different options to resolve the Kashmir issue, which, he added, can be settled only through dialogue in a phased manner.

Khan made the remarks during an interaction with a group of Pakistani TV anchors on Monday. However, he declined to go into specifics of the options being considered by Islamabad.

Pakistan is looking at “two or three solutions” to the Kashmir issue that can be implemented in a “gradual way or in phases, but I can’t speak about them in public till the dialogue [with India] starts”, Khan said.

“There are two ways for India and Pakistan to settle their issues – either dialogue or war. It is unimaginable for two nuclear-armed countries to go to war because it will have unintended consequences,” Khan said

Once it begins, war doesn’t remain in your control. Neither they nor us can win a proxy war,” he added.

Khan recalled that he met former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and former foreign minister Natwar Singh during a visit to New Delhi after the Bharatiya Janata Party lost in the 2004 general elections and they had told him that the two countries had come “very close to a settlement on Kashmir” during Pervez Musharraf’s regime.

“This means there is a solution. It can’t be discussed openly because there are so many vested interests which will scuttle things,” he said. “Vajpayee told me if the BJP hadn’t lost the election, they would have settled the issue.” Khan said Pakistan’s decision to launch work on the Kartarpur corridor reflects the future plans of his government. “We want to improve relations with all our neighbours,” he added.

The ground-breaking for the corridor, which will allow Indian pilgrims to visit the Kartarpur Gurdwara in Pakistan without visas, was done by Khan on November 28.

Khan acknowledged that an engagement with India is unlikely at present because the neighbouring country is set to go to elections. But he added, “After Kartarpur, it will be very difficult for India to create hate against Pakistan.”

The premier spoke on a range of matters during the interaction, including the state of Pakistan’s economy, civil-military relations, and governance. Replying to a question on the military’s role in shaping foreign policy, he said, “Advice from the establishment is taken on those issues where the security situation is involved.” He said the Pakistan Army and his government “are on the same page” and his decisions are backed by the military.

**My view:** Indian security forces claim they are fighting to protect Kashmiris from militants and Islamic extremists, while militants claim they are fighting for Kashmiri independence and to defend Muslim Kashmiris from an abusive Indian army. In reality, both sides have committed widespread and numerous human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law (or the laws of war).

**Q2:**

**Women empowerment:** How well a society treats its women is one of the strongest indicators of the success and health of that society. It is no secret that despite the media uproar regarding this pertinent issue, women are constantly being harassed and cornered in our society. Traumatic and dreadful issues are emerging which are physically and mentally affecting the lives of women. The sad part is that now; age is actually considered just a number by a hand picked number of brutal rapists and murderers.

**Islam:**

Islam has raised the status of women below the earth to so high that Paradise lies at her feet.

Although the first convert to Islam was a woman (Muhammad's first wife, Khadijah), and women played an important role in the transmission of hadith (the sayings and deeds of the prophet Muhammad) and the development of Sufism, women have generally been marginalized from the male centers of Islamic interpretation, including both scripture and law, and leadership roles in public worship. But this has changed in recent times.

**A woman and her struggle:** **Ayesha Farooq** Twenty-eight-year-old Ayesha Farooq is Pakistan’s, and South Asia’s, first female war-ready fighter pilot. Hailing from Bahawalpur, Ayesha flies Chinese F-7PG combat planes for the Pakistan Air Force.

Losing her father when she was just three, Ayesha has always had her mother as her idol and her love for flying developed from seeing uncles and a cousin, who were in the PAF.

Undergoing tough theory, physical and practical training, Ayesha proved that there are no limits to what women can do. Her advice to young girls and women is that “instead of looking up to role models become one yourself.”

****About 19 women have trained as pilots in the Pakistan Air Force over the last decade, five as fighter pilots, but they are still training to qualify for combat.

**Q3: Democracy in pakistan;** Democracy is a Greek word literally means “rule by the people”.

Democracy is a form of government which supports extensive participation of people in government and also promotes the views of citizens for the smooth functioning of society. The form of Democracy in Pakistan is one of the best and unique democracies in the world but unfortunately its future is bleak due to the non observance of what is actually the true essence of democracy, the informed choices. The main reasons that informed choices are not made is due to the unawareness of the people about the form of democracy in Pakistan, flawed political culture, and legal pluralism.

**Q4: Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq**

* **16 September 1978 – 17 August 1988**
* **6th President of Pakistan**
* **Born**: 12 August, 1924 in Jalandhar
* **DIED**: August 17, 1988 (aged 64)

Bahawalpur, Pakistan

* **TITLE / OFFICE:** President, Pakistan (1978-1988)

Zia was commissioned in 1945 from the Royal Indian Military Academy in Dehra Dun and served with the British armoured forces in Southeast Asia at the end of World War II. After 19 years spent in various staff and command appointments he was made an instructor at the Command and Staff College in Quetta. He successively commanded a regiment, brigade, division, and a corps during the period 1966–72. A major general from 1972, he was president of the military courts that tried several Army and Air Force officers alleged to have plotted against the government of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1972. Bhutto promoted him to lieutenant general in 1975 and made him chief of Army staff in 1976.

Zia seized power from Bhutto in a bloodless coup on July 5, 1977, and became chief martial-law administrator while retaining his position as Army chief of staff. He assumed the presidency after Fazal Elahi Chaudhry resigned. Zia tightened his hold on the government after having the charismatic and still-popular Bhutto executed on charges of attempted murder in 1979. Zia suspended political parties in that year, banned labour strikes, imposed strict censorship on the press, and declared martial law in the country (nominally lifted 1985). He responded to the Soviet Union’s invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan in 1979 by embarking on a U.S.-financed military buildup. He also tried to broaden his base of support and worked for the Islamization of Pakistan’s political and cultural life. He died in an airplane crash.