

Two Day International Conference
Kashmir Dispute: Past, Present and Future

February 27 – 28, 2018

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CONCEPT NOTE

The Kashmir dispute is not only the timeworn issue of the United Nations (UN), but is also an unfinished agenda of partition of the sub-continent. The UN passed certain resolutions, particularly the one on August 13, 1948 as well as another one passed on 5th January, 1948, calling for holding a plebiscite in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) in order to determine the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir under the UN auspices. The resolutions were accepted by both India and Pakistan. In addition, the prominent leaders of India also repeatedly promised to hold plebiscite there. However, they were not serious in fulfilling their promises. Rather, India has tried to delay the matter on one pretext on the other ever since. In fact, in the age of twenty first century and globalization, the South Asian region is still facing the aftermaths of colonization in the garb of so-called democracy. India, apparently also engaged in talks with Pakistan; specifically after June 16, 1997 in the shape of the composite dialogue for the resolution of dispute. However, it clearly appears that India since then has been trying to use the delaying tactics in negotiations which has resulted in placing the Kashmir dispute on the sidelines/back burner and instead it is mostly interested in the progress of the development of socio economic relations by utilizing the dialogue as a means for the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) to the exclusion of this longstanding dispute. To be clear, from 1989 India has tried to crush the movement by force, which further ignited the fire of freedom. India has deployed largest ever military and paramilitary forces in the Occupied Kashmir, empowering them with draconian laws, which give them a free hand to play a spree of death. The human rights violations perpetrated by the Indian Security Forces in the occupied territory have been condemned by various leaders of the world, the human rights organizations, like Amnesty International, Asia Watch, Human Rights Watch, UN Human Rights Commission, etc. Even Indian officialdoms and scholars, like Arundhathi Roy along with others have condemned this extreme harshness and high handedness. Pakistan wishes to resolve this dispute with India peacefully. It has shown maximum flexibility and offered India to talk on the issue at any time and at any level. However, despite all efforts of Pakistan to resolve the issue, Indian leaders are adamant. To the contrary, India has increased its defense budget enormously and is spending

huge amounts on the enhancement of its firepower and brutalities in the Occupied Kashmir. Moreover, it is building dams in the Occupied Kashmir on the rivers, flowing towards Pakistan, in violation of the Indus Water Treaty (1960). This reflects the mindset of the Indian leaders against Pakistan. The freedom struggle of the Kashmiris for their right to self-determination can't be called as terrorist movement, because this right has been accepted in the UN resolutions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and by the international organizations.

Kashmir is not a territorial problem. It's a human problem, involving around 14 million Kashmiris; If the Kashmir issue is resolved, all other issues will automatically be resolved and both countries will save a lot of funds presently spent on defense, for bettering the lot of their peoples. Three wars have since been fought between the two countries on Kashmir. If atrocities in the Occupied Kashmir continue and the Kashmir issue is not resolved, situation in the nuclearized subcontinent can take an awful turn. The world community should not remain a silent, disinterested spectator to the Jammu & Kashmir Imbroglio, because any blaze in the subcontinent can affect peace and stability of not only the region, but the world at large. Hence, it should play its role in resolving the issue. The need of the hour is that international community should take interest and convince India to be serious enough in making the dialogue meaningful and result oriented. Needless to say, practically speaking any breakthrough may only be possible through a win-win outcome for the two countries, keeping in mind the aspirations of the great majority of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Also, this needs to be now seriously seen as to whether the bilateral mode of negotiations between the two countries is anywhere near to the breakthrough or that it has actually turned out to be the dialogue of deaf. Therefore, finally is there now an urgent requirement to tackle this issue at multilateral forum(s), as well; by internationalizing it?

The contemporary designs of great power politics should sincerely try to create a peaceful South Asian environment by exclusively emphasizing the Kashmir issue instead of helping the both contesting states in polishing their strategic muscles. In order to academically understand, analyze and address the Kashmir issue, the Departments of International Relations, Pakistan Studies, and Governance and Public Policy, National University of Modern Languages, (NUML)

Islamabad, Pakistan is planning to organize an intellectual gathering of scholars/ experts and practitioners in the shape of holding an international conference on; "The Kashmir Dispute: Past, Present and Future" on February 27-28, 2018 at NUML. The effort of NUML is an endeavor to venture and suggest a theoretically solid and practically applicable solution of the dispute.

The following are the sub themes of the conference:

1. New Intifadah – Sacrifices of Youth in Kashmir: Challenges and Opportunities.
2. Human Rights and Socio-Political and Democratic Spaces.
3. Intra-Kashmir Relationship and Connectivity.
4. Psycho-Social, Environmental/Water Issues and its Impact on the Kashmir Dispute.
5. Dividends of Peace Process on Kashmir.
7. The Kashmir Dispute in Historical Perspective: From Legalism to Realism – Myth and Reality.
8. The Changing Geo-political and Geo-economic Prospects of CPEC for Kashmir.
9. The Role of the International Organizations in Resolving the Dispute.
10. Kashmir Dispute and the Regional Peace and Prosperity: The Way Forward.

Important Dates

- Deadline for abstract submission: January 5, 2018
- Confirmations: January 12, 2018
- Conference paper submission: February 10, 2018
- Conference dates: February 27 – 28, 2018

Abstract

An abstract of not more than 300 words along with short bio should be submitted on or before deadline.

Conference Paper

A paper of 2500-3000 words with 1.5 space should reach on or before 10th February. Please follow Chicago manual of style.

- Dr. Sarwat Rauf (Focal Person)
- Mr. Attiq-Ur- Rehman (Coordinator) arehman@numl.edu.pk

- Mr. Safiullah Tariq (Coordinator) satariq@numl.edu.pk

Contact: +92519265100 (ext. 2195)