

## Kashmir Scenario

The Kashmir situation continues to be grim. The UPA government, under pressure from the USA, appears to have accepted the four-point formula put forward in 2006 by former Pakistan President General Musharraf to settle the Kashmir dispute. The four-point formula envisages the total withdrawal of all army units and other security forces from Kashmir, grant of full autonomy and self rule to the people of Kashmir, allowing the people of both parts of Kashmir to travel across the border without Passport and visa and joint supervision of unified Kashmir by Pakistan and India. Gen. Musharraf and some other senior Pakistani leaders and also Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh have admitted in the recent past that an agreement to settle the Kashmir issue had almost been reached between India and Pakistan during the UPA government's first term, but no formal agreement could be signed between the two countries because of some unexpected political developments in Pakistan like the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, general elections and ouster of Gen. Musharraf from power, followed by the Mumbai terror attacks and suspension of the peace talks. The four-point formula suggested by Gen. Musharraf to settle the Kashmir dispute was originally proposed by Kashmiri separatist leaders like Hisbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin. It is an atrocious proposal which, if accepted by India, will allow Pakistan to snatch away Kashmir through the back door. If the Jammu & Kashmir is allowed to merge with POK and Indian army and other para-military units are pulled out from the state and full autonomy and self rule is granted to the J&K, how can it still remain as a part of India? The UPA government should have out-rightly rejected this treacherous proposal. But Prime Minister Manmohan Singh found it worth consideration and included the Musharraf formula in the composite peace dialogue with Pakistan. Subsequently, the PM had stated that he was willing to reduce the LoC which separates the two Kashmirs to "a line on map". Later on July 15, 2007, while speaking in the context of Indo-Pak dialogue on Kashmir at the Jammu University, the PM said that there cannot be any change in the borders, but it can be made irrelevant. He also said that the natural resources in the region need no longer be points of contention or sources of conflict and advocated the use of land and water resources of the region jointly for the benefit of people living on both sides of the LoC.

### Danger signals

Though India has not formally accepted General Musharraf's four-point formula to resolve the Kashmir issue, the UPA government's subsequent Kashmir policy showed a distinct shift from the past, making it conducive to gradual implementation of the Musharraf formula. For instance, the Centre appears to be surreptitiously implementing the Musharraf formula on withdrawal of army and para-military personnel from Kashmir. In December, 2009, Defence Minister A.K Antony announced withdrawal of two divisions of infantry formations (about 30000 men) from Kashmir citing improvement in the overall situation in the state. He also hinted about withdrawal of more troops from Kashmir if there is further improvement in the ground situation. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had also announced in the state assembly on March 18, 2010 that since the beginning of 2009 the Centre has withdrawn 35000 regular troops from the state and added that a few battalions of BSF and CRPF men deployed on internal security duty were also replaced by Jammu and Kashmir police. Withdrawal army and other security forces from Kashmir has been a long-pending demand of the separatists and the successive state governments in the past. The government of J&K has already increased the strength of the state police from 30000 to 70000 during the last five years to cope up with the additional burden that will have to be borne by the state government after the withdrawal of security forces from the internal security duty. The prime minister is reported to have dismissed the serious reservations expressed by the security, defence and intelligence officials against withdrawal of troops and AFSPA from J&K.

## AFSPA

In another development, speaking to media people on August 1, 2009 Union home minister P.Chidambaram had said that the Centre is working on amendments to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) to limit its application to only certain specified areas in Kashmir. The Act is presently enforced in Jammu & Kashmir, besides some parts of the North-Eastern region. The NGO and human rights lobby has been demanding the total withdrawal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act since last few years describing it as a draconian law and alleging its gross misuse by the security forces. However the proposed amendment to the AFSPA could not be carried out so far because of stiff resistance by the army. Due to the continued unrest and violence in Kashmir valley under one pretext or other, there is tremendous pressure again from the state government, NGO and human rights lobby and separatists for the total withdrawal of AFSPA from Jammu and Kashmir and the UPA government is inclined to at least partial withdrawal of AFSPA from Kashmir. National Conference leader and present chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah has now taken a very bold and assertive stance seeking at least partial withdrawal of AFSPA. He could not have taken such a bold stand without the indirect approval of the Centre. But the UPA government has not been able to take a final decision in this regard, because of the continued and tough resistance against it by the army.

## More autonomy to Jammu & Kashmir

The government of India is reportedly thinking of granting more autonomy to Jammu & Kashmir as per the aspirations of the separatist leaders in the state. It may be noted that the Musharraf formula had called for the grant of full autonomy and self-rule to people of Kashmir. The government is reported to be considering an amendment to the Constitution to give more autonomy to Kashmir. However there appears to be some opposition to this proposal even within the Congress party forcing the government to move forward cautiously in this regard. Already the state has a separate Constitution and flag and all Indian laws have to be ratified by the state legislature before being enforced in the state. The proposed special package to be announced by the UPA government to mollify the stone-pelting rioters in the Kashmir valley is likely to be a prelude to the grant of full autonomy and self rule to people of Kashmir.

## Demand for introduction of dual currency

Tariq Hamid Karra, former Finance Minister of J&K while addressing a public meeting at Srinagar on Jan.2, 2008, had demanded a separate currency for Kashmir. The Congress leadership did not press for any action against Tariq Karra for his irresponsible and provocative utterances, obviously because it did not find anything wrong with the atrocious demand raised by a prominent member of the J&K ministry. PDP leader Mehabooba Mufti and other separatist leaders in the state have been strongly advocating for allowing the use of both Indian and Pak currency in state since last few years.

## Major change in India's Kashmir policy

India had always considered Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India and in accordance with this policy, in all our bilateral talks with Pakistani leaders in the past, India had never allowed Pakistan to raise the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. We had always made it clear to Pakistan that as far as India is concerned, the illegal occupation of one part of Kashmir by Pakistan is the only dispute over Kashmir. During the National Democratic Front's regime, under indirect pressure from the US, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpai had agreed to hold a peace dialogue with Pakistan to resolve all outstanding issues and differences between the two countries. But there was no possibility of making any headway in the bilateral talks as Pakistan's agenda for the talks was always dominated by its

insistence on the need for an early settlement of Kashmir dispute while India stood firm on its policy of not accepting Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory. Then came the Kargil intrusion.

### Kargil conflict

The border town of Kargil in the Ladak Sub-division of Jammu and Kashmir is located about 205 km from Srinagar. The summers are cool in the area while the winters are chilly with temperatures often dropping to -45\* C. An Indian national highway (NH 1D) connecting Srinagar to Leh cuts through Kargil. The area that witnessed the conflict is a 160 km long stretch of ridges overlooking the Srinagar-Leh highway. The military outposts on the ridges above the highway are located at an average height of 16000 ft. The defenders of these fortress-like outposts atop the peaks thus enjoy many advantages against an advancing enemy. It has been the common practice by both Indian and Pakistani military personnel occupying such forward posts on their respective sides of LOC to withdraw from their posts during the winter months because of the extreme cold in the snow-capped region and reoccupy the posts when the climatic conditions become less gruesome. They generally leave these posts in February and reoccupy their posts by early May. In February 1999 the Pakistani soldiers who left their posts with the onset of winter came back in large numbers in February itself and occupied all the border posts on both sides of the LOC in Kargil sector as part of a sinister conspiracy. This enemy intrusion was detected by the Indian authorities only in early May. India immediately took necessary counter measures and mounted a massive counter attack to evict the Pakistani intruders. Pakistan's irresponsible and provocative action was condemned by world leaders in one voice. US President Clinton requested India not to open any new front and escalate the war and promised to take all possible steps to get all Pakistani soldiers withdrawn from Indian territory. Clinton had conveyed his strong displeasure to the Pakistani leaders for their irresponsible action and asked them to ensure an immediate end to the conflict and total withdrawal of all the Pakistani intruders from the Indian territory. Indian army by then had already recaptured most of the peaks occupied by the intruders. The rest of the intruders also left their positions and withdrew from Indian territory as per the July 4 Washington accord reached by Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sherif and US President Bill Clinton. The border-war which broke out on May 15 finally came to an end on July 26.

### Conspiracy behind the conflict

After the Kargil conflict, as a quid pro quo for the friendly gesture shown by the US, India had to agree to start a peace initiative with Pakistan to resolve all outstanding issues including Kashmir. This was the price India had to pay for accepting the American mediation in the Kargil conflict. As a result of this unofficial US mediation, Pakistan withdrew rest of its troops from Kargil heights and India for the first time showed willingness to talk to Pakistan for a negotiated settlement on Kashmir.

But there are some intriguing questions that remain unanswered. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sherif had claimed that he was not even aware of the Kargil operation before the outbreak of the conflict. He was probably speaking the truth as the way he sought President Clinton's help in preventing any escalation in the war showed that he did not want an all out war with India, and he was probably not a party to the Kargil conspiracy. Then who started this border war and what was its objective? There are strong reasons to believe that the entire Kargil conflict was part of a CIA operation, planned in consultation with the then Pakistan's Army chief General Musharraf and ISI to bring around India to the negotiation table to resolve the Kashmir issue through a peaceful dialogue with Pakistan. It may be noted here that after the Kargil conflict while answering a query from a journalist, Gen. Musharraf had pointed out that India's willingness to open a dialogue with Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir dispute was the greatest achievement of Pakistan from the Kargil conflict. Musharraf had thus admitted the truth. He had admitted the same thing again in an interview to Karan

Thapar in his Devil's Advocate programme. In the said interview he had termed the Kargil operation as a big success and had asserted that India agreed to discuss Kashmir only because of the Kargil conflict. He pointed out that India which had earlier refused even to accept the existence of any dispute over Kashmir changed its stance after the Kargil conflict and started talking about the need for a negotiated settlement of Kashmir. The Kargil conflict had thus brought India to the negotiating table, he pointed out. It is thus clear that the Kargil operation was planned by the US and Pakistan together with the limited objective of forcing India to agree to resolve the Kashmir dispute peacefully through a dialogue with Pakistan. The peace initiative got further momentum with the victory of Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in the 2004 elections.

The first major decision of the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government after coming to power, was the abolition of Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA). When the jihadi terror was becoming deadlier and Maoist movement was making steady inroads into all remote and tribal areas in the country, what was the need and logic behind abolishing a tough anti-terror law like the POTA? Government's justification for abolition of POTA was that its stringent provisions could be misused by the police. It is an illogical excuse as any punitive law can be misused by the law-enforcing agencies. It is the duty of the government to ensure that such laws are not misused.

Then in the name of engaging in a composite peace dialogue with Pakistan, the government started a series of confidence building measures with Pakistan beginning with the opening up of the borders and removing all travel restrictions to Pakistan. More cross-border bus services were introduced and train services between the two countries were also resumed. Two cross-border trade links were also established with POK, which was actually a long-standing demand of the separatists in the Kashmir valley. The Centre initiated all these steps in the name of promoting people to people contacts and for cementing our friendly ties with Pakistan. With the relaxation of all travel restrictions, the separatists in the Kashmir valley were able to make frequent trips to Pakistan to meet their mentors and other jihadi friends to discuss and chalk out their future strategy in Kashmir. Some of the separatist leaders from Kashmir during their visits had even participated in anti-India rallies organized by Hisbul Mujahideen in Pakistan. Various jihadi terrorist groups in Pakistan took full advantage of this lowering of guard by the Indian authorities to send their operatives to establish closer liaison with the home-grown terror outfits like the SIMI and select terror targets in India for their future terror attacks. The opening up of the border also helped the SIMI activists and new jihadi volunteers recruited by PAK-ISI from different parts of the country to travel across the border easily to avail training in the use of fire arms and explosives in terror camps in Pakistan. The Pak-ISI was thus able to convert the SIMI and the newly created Indian Mujahideen into dreaded terror outfits. The Indian Mujahideen later started conducting regular terror attacks, mainly in the form of serial bomb blasts, in different parts of the country with the support and guidance of Pakistani terrorist groups like Leshkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad. Thus we can see how the government's new Kashmir policy had gone horribly wrong and resulted in the spread of jihadi terror, which was earlier confined only to J&K, to every nook and corner of the country.

### UPA government becomes pro-separatist

There is conclusive proof to show that the Congress-led UPA government is following a pro-separatist policy in Kashmir. Obviously, Sonia Gandhi who took over as the President of the Congress in 1998 is the architect of this new policy. The Congress under Sonia Gandhi had no compunctions in forging an alliance with the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2002 assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir despite being fully aware of PDP's pro-separatist and pro-Pakistan leanings. PDP Leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who headed the Congress-PDP coalition government in the state in November 2002 used his tenure as the chief minister to consolidate and strengthen his party's mass

base in the state. Mufti Mohammad's daughter Mehbooba Mufti is closely linked with different separatist and terrorist outfits in the state and also those based across the border. She is a staunch proponent of self-rule and autonomy for Jammu & Kashmir. She had also been strongly advocating for the introduction of dual currency, free trade in goods and services, free mobility of capital and labour between the two Kashmirs and shared sovereignty of an integrated and united Jammu & Kashmir. Despite such open display of anti-national traits by Mehbooba Mufti and other PDP leaders, the Congress leadership did not find anything wrong with their association with the PDP. On the contrary, in the name of promoting confidence building measures through people to people contact, it allowed the PDP and other separatist leaders in the state and their mentors in Pakistan to freely travel across the border to meet, discuss and plan their future strategy for strengthening the ongoing freedom struggle in Jammu & Kashmir.

The clean chit given to Pakistan by the Indian Prime Minister during his Latin American tour in September 2006 over the terrorist violence in India and his portrayal of Pakistan as a fellow victim of terror was the most treacherous statement ever made by an Indian prime minister on the subject. The extent of betrayal can be gauged from the fact that Manmohan Singh's controversial statement came within days after the ISI-sponsored serial train-bomb blasts in Mumbai which the PM had condemned as an act planned and executed by elements from across the border.

In another questionable decision, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had nominated Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to lead an unofficial delegation to the U.N. to make a presentation about his concept of self-rule as a solution to resolve the Kashmir dispute before an international gathering at the General Assembly in November 2006. What was the intention of the prime minister in promoting a movement for an independent Kashmir under the guise of self rule? Was he not trying to help Mufti to muster international support for Mufti's concept of self-rule and autonomy for Kashmir? Criticism from the so-called nationalist parties against this mischievous act by the UPA government was rather muted and subdued.

The Jammu and Kashmir government's decision not to permit hoisting of the tri-colour at Lal Chowk in Srinagar on the Republic Day in 2010 had the approval of the UPA government. The government's explanation for this serious lapse was that the hoisting of the national flag would be an unnecessary provocation to the separatists in the state. Flag hoisting on Republic Day was taking place at Lal Chowk for the past 20 years. It was former BJP president Murali Manohar Joshi who 20 years ago took out an Ekta Yatra from Kanyakumari to Srinagar to hoist the tri-colour at Lal Chowk. Now to please the separatists in Kashmir valley, the UPA government has stopped the flag-hoisting ceremony at Lal Chowk in Srinagar.

One of the most shocking and unpardonable mistakes committed by UPA government was the signing of a joint statement by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani after their unofficial peace talks held at Sharm el Shaikh in Egypt on July 16, 2009, agreeing to delink the jihadi terror attacks in India from the ongoing peace talks with Pakistan and to open a dialogue on India's involvement in promoting separatist movement in Balochistan. Pakistani leaders had naturally exploited this statement as an admission by India of its involvement in stirring up militancy and separatism in Balochistan. The Congress leadership had tried to dismiss the controversial joint statement issued by the prime ministers of India and Pakistan after their meeting at Sharm el Shaikh in Egypt as a drafting mistake following severe public criticism against the reference to Balochistan and India's commitment to delink terrorist incidents from the peace dialogue. However it was later reported that those two clauses were inserted in the statement on the specific instructions of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Again he was forced to act in such a manner.

## OIC meeting appoints special envoy on Jammu & Kashmir

In support of Pakistan's efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), a grouping of 57 Islamic nations, has appointed a special envoy for Jammu and Kashmir. The OIC announced the appointment of Abdullah Bin Abdul Rahman Al Bakr, a Saudi national, as the special envoy on Jammu and Kashmir after the meeting of its Contact Group on Kashmir held at the UN headquarters in New York during the last week of September, 2009. All Party Hurriyat Conference Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who also attended the Contact Group meeting, had earlier held a series of meetings with the leaders of Muslim countries about the issue of alleged human rights violations in Kashmir. Welcoming the appointment of a special envoy for J&K by the OIC, Umar Farooq had expressed his hope that it will help to resolve the Kashmir issue according to the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The OIC Contact Group meeting on Kashmir was addressed by foreign ministers of Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Niger. Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, POK Prime Minister Sardar Yaqoob and Ghulam Nabi Fai, head of the Washington-based ISI-linked separatist outfit Kashmir American Council, also addressed the meeting. Having succeeded in securing the appointment of an OIC Special Envoy for Kashmir, Pakistan and Kashmiri separatist leaders have now started lobbying before the UN and its Secretary General Ban Ki Moon for appointment of a Special UN Envoy for Kashmir. The OIC's decision to appoint a special envoy for Jammu & Kashmir is a clear interference in the internal affairs of India. Why did the UPA government allow Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to attend the OIC Contact Group meeting at the UN as a representative of Kashmir and argue his case for Kashmir's independence and mobilize support for the same? This is another instance of the UPA government acting against the interests of the country.

## Mediatory role for Saudi Arabia

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his visit to Saudi Arabia in February, 2010 had sought the help of Saudi monarch to use his good offices to stop the Pak-sponsored terrorism in India. Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna had also indicated that India had an open mind to any Saudi initiative to resolve the Kashmir crisis. The former minister of state for external affairs Shashi Tharoor had also reacted positively about the possibility of the Saudi king playing the role of an interlocutor on Kashmir. Hurriyat Conference (moderate faction) leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had recently stated during an interview with the Indian Express correspondent that King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia had shown his keenness to play a role in resolving the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan and had expressed his personal opinion that the Saudi King could play the role of an honest broker on Kashmir issue. He had also stated that he will soon be leading a delegation of separatist leaders from Jammu Kashmir and POK and also heads of Kashmir Centres in Washington, London and Brussels namely Gulam Nabi Fai, Nazir Ahmed Shawl and Abdul Majid Trumboo, all hard-core Muslim militants with CIA links, to Saudi Arabia in his mission to seek a just solution to the vexed Kashmir problem. The Hurriyat also intends to enlist the services of OIC office in Jeddah, The Muslim World League and World Assembly of Muslim Youth for his mission. Mirwaiz further disclosed that their mission is to set up an interest group in Riyadh which will interact with the Saudi government. Mirwaiz is even seeking a role for China in settling the Kashmir dispute and has called for a joint contact group on Kashmir which will include India, China and Pakistan. Mirwaiz is reportedly planning to visit China sometime in future on the invitation of Han Foundation, a Chinese NGO. Since Mirwaiz enjoys a healthy relationship with the prime minister, his claims and statements have to be taken seriously.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/mirwaiz-gets-an-invite-says-will-go-to-china/544071/>

It has been our consistent policy in the past to reject any third party intervention to mediate on Kashmir

issue. But this policy has already been shattered with the installation of the UPA government at the Centre which unambiguously allowed the US to have an effective say in India's Kashmir policy. Now it appears that there are hush-hush moves to involve even Saudi Arabia in resolving the Kashmir dispute. Saudi Arabia is the most fundamentalist Muslim country in the world and a close ally of Pakistan. Resolutions were routinely passed at every OIC meeting presided over by Saudi Arabia, criticizing India for its oppressive policies in Kashmir and asking India to resolve the Kashmir issue as per the genuine aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. By seeking the intervention of Saudi Arabia to resolve the Kashmir dispute, Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi have now made it clear that they are now hand in glove with the Kashmiri separatists. They even seem to be ready to accept a role for China in resolving the Kashmir dispute, as desired by Pakistan and Kashmiri separatists. Such suicidal distortions in our Kashmir policy cannot be considered as a mistake. It is plain betrayal by our rulers.

### Further concession to visitors from POK

India on March 26, 2011 decided to increase the period of stay for people visiting Jammu and Kashmir from POK to six months with multiple entries. According to Foreign Office spokesperson Vishnu Prakash, this decision was taken by India unilaterally to encourage more people-to-people contacts across the Line of Control (LoC). Earlier, the validity of entry permit was for four weeks which could be extended by another two weeks. The decision came ahead of the Indo-Pakistan Home Secretary-level talks which was scheduled for 28 March, 2011.

### Inclusion of Human rights as a topic in the school curriculum in J& K

The Jammu & Kashmir government has decided to include human rights education as a subject in the school syllabus. According to Prof. Deshbandu, Chairman of the State Board of School Education, the decision to include human rights in the curriculum will help to create a society free of fear, where the rights of all sections of the people would be respected without any bias. This decision will also help to make the human rights issue a household concept and encourage the youth to adopt a proactive stance for restoration of rights through concerted action. There have been some efforts to introduce human rights and humanitarian law in the educational institutions in the state in the past, but there was no initiative to make it a permanent feature of the curriculum. In 2007, the education department with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had conducted a 12-week programme to teach humanitarian law to children in the 13-18 group to sensitize them about human rights. In March, 2009, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) had also shown willingness to introduce human rights as an optional subject in schools. A proposal to include this subject in Class XI and Class XII is reported to be under the active consideration of the NCERT. (Indian Express, dated October 10, 2009).

Most of the human rights activists and organizations in country are found actively associated with various militant and insurgent groups in India. A number of human rights activists in India including Dr. Binayak Sen of Chattisgarh (Vice President, People's Union for Civil Liberties) were arrested by the police in the recent past in connection with their links with Maoist and other militant outfits. Kobad Ghandi, the top Maoist leader and a Politburo member of the CPI-Maoist, who was recently arrested by the Delhi police had started his militant career as a human rights activist. He is the founder of the Committee for People's Democratic Rights (CPDR), a prominent human rights outfit based in Mumbai. The close links between the human rights activists and various militant and secessionist outfits in the country is a well-established fact now.

Under the circumstances, the decision to include human rights as a subject of school curriculum in Jammu & Kashmir is not only ill-advised, but an extremely dangerous move meant only to promote and strengthen militancy and anti-India feelings among the young generation in the state.

### Anti-national activities of NGO and human rights activists in the state

The NGO and human rights lobby in the state is the mastermind behind the systematic and massive campaign undertaken by the separatist elements and pro-separatist media in the state to dub the Indian Army personnel posted in the Kashmir valley as rapists, abductors and murderers of innocent people.

The hate-campaign against the army was further intensified after the alleged discovery of some mass graves in places like Baramulla and Uri by some NGO and human rights activists and their propaganda claiming those mass graves as that of disappeared Kashmiri youths who had become victims of atrocities by the Indian security forces. A rights body called the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) which claimed to have conducted a two-year survey of people missing after being taken under custody by the security forces in J&K also suddenly cropped up with its survey report titled 'Facts Under Ground' giving details of missing people allegedly taken under custody by security forces, labeling them as foreign militants, torturing them to death and buried in unmarked graves. Releasing the report in April, 2008, the APDP claimed that many of those buried in about 900 unmarked graves were victims of enforced disappearance. Highlighting this claim by the APDP, Amnesty International and other international human rights organisations had projected a grim picture of the human rights situation in J&K and the separatists and rights activists in the Kashmir valley had used the Amnesty and APDP reports to start a hysteric campaign demanding the total pull out of the army from the state. During the prolonged and violent anti-India agitation that followed, the armed forces and the J&K police had clarified that hundreds of foreign militants who were trying to infiltrate into the country were killed in the past by Indian security forces and the alleged discovery of so-called unmarked graves played up by the media and rights activists were actually the graves of such unidentified infiltrators from across the border. However the rights activists were not ready to accept this clarification and even the UPA government remained indifferent and did nothing to defend and salvage the reputation of the army thereby indirectly giving some legitimacy to the allegations raised by the separatists against the army personnel. The clashes and encounters between Indian security force personnel and militants and infiltrators from across the border is a routine development in the border areas of the Kashmir valley. It is also a known fact that all the dead bodies of foreign militants killed in such incidents are routinely buried on our side of the border. The so-called unmarked graves unearthed by the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP), a human rights body, are located in 18 border villages falling under the Uri sector, clearly indicating that it could only be the graves of foreign militants. The APDP's action of cooking up a list of disappeared Kashmiri youths allegedly abducted or taken under custody by security force personnel and its claim of the unmarked graves as that of the missing Kashmiri youths, was part of a well-planned and vicious conspiracy meant to malign the security forces, generate anti-India sentiments among the local people and incite passion and violence.

The NGO and human rights lobby had also played a major role in misguiding the local Muslims and instigating them to take recourse to a violent agitation against an agreement reached between the Centre and the J&K government on May 26, 2008 to transfer 99 acres of forest land in Kashmir valley to Sri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) to set up temporary shelters and facilities for the Hindu pilgrims coming for darshan at Amarnath shrine. The area earmarked for transfer was not inhabitable during the winter months and the temporary shelters were meant only to accommodate Hindu pilgrims participating in the Amarnath Yatra. Yet, due to the mischievous and misleading campaign by the human rights activists and separatists, an impression was created in the minds of residents of Kashmir



valley that the land transfer was a ploy by the Union government to accommodate Hindu settlers from outside with the objective of changing the demographic complexion of Kashmir. Following a violent agitation over this issue by the people of Kashmir valley led by the separatists, which led to unnecessary bloodshed and loss of life, the land transfer agreement was revoked on July 1, 2008. However the decision to revoke the land transfer led to massive protest programmes by Hindus in the Jammu region. More than 30 Hindu organizations had come together under the banner of Shri Amarnath Yatra Sangharsh Samiti to conduct an agitation demanding the cancellation of the land transfer revocation order. Meanwhile there were some instances of blockade of Jammu-Srinagar road by some sections of agitating Hindus, which led to a revival of violent protests in Kashmir valley by fruit-growers and separatists who threatened to cross the border and take out morchas to Muzaffarabad to market their products. On August 11, 2008, the security forces had to open fire at the separatists who tried to cross the LOC and fifteen people were killed and about hundred others were injured in the incident. The 61-day old agitation in Jammu was called off on August 31, 2008, following an agreement signed between the Shri Amarnath Yatra Sangharsh Samiti leaders and a J&K governor-appointed panel. As per this agreement, the J&K government would make available 40 hectares of land to the Amarnath yatries during the yatra period.

How the accidental death of two sisters-in-law of Shopian in Kashmir valley was used by the NGO and human rights activists to create mayhem and chaos in Kashmir valley for almost three months in 2009 is another instance of the role played by the NGO and human rights lobby in promoting separatism in Kashmir. In this case, dead bodies of the two women named Nilofar Jan and Aasiya Jan who were found missing from May 29, 2009 were recovered in the next morning from a nearby stream in Shopian. Initially the government authorities had described the incident as an accidental death of drowning. However two separate postmortems conducted on the bodies indicated it as a case of rape and murder. The issue was immediately taken up by the separatists and the rights activists who alleged that the two women were abducted, raped and murdered by the security force personnel and accused the state government of trying to hush up the brutal rape and murder incident as a case of accidental drowning. The sensational story of alleged rape and murder of two Kashmiri women by Indian security personnel triggered a spontaneous and violent agitation in the Kashmir valley. A special committee called the Majlis-e-Mushawarat was set up by different separatist groups and the so-called civil society to conduct, guide and coordinate the agitation. The violent protests over the Shopian killings had attracted a lot of attention of the international media, especially in the western countries, and it had figured as a front-page news in the New York Times. Meanwhile the CBI which was entrusted with the case in September, 2009 exhumed the bodies of the two women on 28<sup>th</sup> September for a fresh autopsy by a team of nine doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. The autopsy report submitted by the AIIMS team of doctors clearly indicated that the two women were not subjected to rape and that Aasiya's hymen was intact. Based on the various tests conducted by the team, the report categorically stated the cause of death of the two women as drowning. The findings of the medical team were also shared with the Majlis-e-Mushawarat. The CBI in its 66-page final report submitted on December 14, 2009 dismissed all allegations of rape and murder of the two victims and concluded that Neelofar and her sister-in-law Aasiya had drowned in an accident. The J & K High Court in its verdict gave a clean chit to the accused and concluded that Neelofar and Aasiya were neither raped nor killed. The CBI has filed charge-sheets against six doctors, five lawyers and two others for conspiring to cook up evidence of rape and murder and attempting to malign security force personnel. The charge-sheeted doctors had reportedly confessed that they had faked the evidence. Dr. Nighat Chillu who conducted the second postmortem and prepared the vaginal swab slides of the two victims had confessed to the CBI that the slides sent to the forensic lab were actually prepared from the vaginal swab taken from other women in the maternity ward of the Pulwama hospital. The fact that so many people had colluded to fabricate evidence to make a drowning incident of two women as a

sensational rape and murder case indicates a larger conspiracy behind this episode. to boost up anti-India sentiments among the people of Kashmir and keep the Kashmir valley under eternal turmoil.

The NGO and human rights lobby and the separatists of Jammu and Kashmir however rejected the CBI findings and dubbed it as a document released to please the Union government. The J&K High Court Bar Association also condemned the report as a biased one and challenged the competency of the AIIMS doctors who conducted the third autopsy to undertake such a complicated job. The NGO and human rights lobby set up a six-member team of women activists consisting of lawyers and doctors from Delhi, called "Independent Women's Initiative for Justice(IWIJ) and sent them to Shopian to conduct a detailed investigation into the Shopian killings. The IWIJ found many holes in the CBI report and the autopsy report of the AIIMS team and concluded that it definitely is a case of rape and murder. The incident indicates the extent of involvement of NGO and human rights activists in whipping up anti-India sentiments among the people of Kashmir and in keeping the Kashmir valley under eternal turmoil.

From the past activities of the NGO and human rights lobby in Kashmir, it is clear that more than the separatists it is this lobby which has been trying to inject the venom of anti-India sentiments and separatism in the minds of Kashmiri Muslims. These so-called civil rights activists enjoy projecting Indian Army and other security forces in Kashmir as an occupation force. They ensure that Kashmir always burn over one issue or other so as to maintain and strengthen the tempo of anti-India sentiments among the people of Kashmir valley. They manipulate and create issues that could keep Kashmir burning. They enjoy scenes like protesters burning India's national flag or separatists raising anti-India slogans and projecting such scenes in international media.

### Invitation to terrorists from POK

Pakistan no more needs to take much trouble and pain in sending infiltrators to Jammu & Kashmir. Heeding to the recommendations of the J&K government and PDP leadership, Union Home Minister P.Chidambaram has given an open invitation to all Kashmiri terrorists in POK to come home and settle down in Jammu Kashmir. He also promised a scheme for the proper rehabilitation and reintegration of all those who had gone across the line of actual control for various reasons since 1989. To avail this general amnesty all that they have to do is to make a declaration that they have left militancy. Since there is no record of the actual number of youths who have crossed over to the other side during the last 20 years, the J&K government even sought the help of the government of POK in obtaining the actual number of Kashmiri militants who have taken shelter in POK for giving shape to the rehabilitation programme. Giving these details to the media people, J&K Minister of State for Revenue and Tourism Nasir Aslam Wani claimed on 12<sup>th</sup>. Feb.2010 that almost two-third of the population from border villages have migrated to POK after 1990. The minister's statement is an indication that under the pretext of the said scheme, tens of thousands of Kashmiri militants from across the border would now be rehabilitated in the Kashmir valley. In fact, the proposal for providing a safe passage to the militants and those political leaders who had crossed over the LOC and were staying in Pakistan or POK to come back and lead a normal life in J&K was originally made by senior PDP leaders and it was under the serious consideration of the UPA government since last more than a year. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti had personally taken up this issue with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi. This was a clever move by the PDP and its patrons in Pakistan to resettle thousands of ISI-trained militants from POK in Kashmir valley in preparation for launching a final jihad against the Union of India. The UPA government however could not give the green signal for this proposal earlier because of stiff opposition from various security agencies.

This general amnesty scheme for the Kashmiri terrorists announced by the UPA government is the most atrocious, stupid and dangerous move which will have serious implications for the security interests of the country. Along with many Indian Muslims, this scheme will also allow thousands of Pakistani infiltrators and other civilian Muslims from the POK to come and settle down in J&K to inflate the Muslim population in the state, avail the rehabilitation assistance from the government and to strengthen the separatist movement in the state. Even a veteran Congress-I leader like Ghulam Nabi Azad, a Union minister and former chief minister of J&K, had opposed this amnesty move and had warned the government that since there was no way of checking the identity of those who crossed over to the POK, the proposed move will only facilitate the entry of thousands of infiltrators and trouble-makers into the valley. The proposed general amnesty scheme is definitely a part of the US plot to allow Pakistan to annex Kashmir through a bloodless coup. It is now certain that under the American pressure and dictates, India is steadily moving towards the full implementation of the 4-point formula suggested by Gen. Musharraf in 2006 to settle the Kashmir dispute. The pull out of regular troops and also paramilitary forces has already started in phases. Soon there will be a unified borderless Kashmir where currencies of both India and Pakistan would be a legal tender in both parts of Kashmir and Passports or visa would not be required by the Kashmiris to cross the border. According to press reports, Indian army has started clearing all land mines laid in the border areas along the Indo-Pak border to avert any harm to the people crossing the borders. With the grant of the promised autonomy and self-rule to the Kashmiris, India with no physical or administrative control over J&K can then remain only as an onlooker. It will then take only a couple of years for the unified Kashmir to become an integral part of Pakistan . It is very tragic that the prime minister and many senior Union ministers, bureaucrats and security experts have become willing or silent parties to this heinous conspiracy hatched by the US for the transfer of Jammu Kashmir to Pakistan through treacherous means. Kashmir is the sole issue behind the strained relations between India and Pakistan . We fought two wars and a border war with Pakistan mainly because of Kashmir . We lost thousands of our jawans in these wars and many more thousands were injured. We spent more money in Kashmir for the economic upliftment and welfare of the people than any other state in India . We also incurred huge expenditure for deployment of regular troops and paramilitary forces for guarding the borders and maintenance of internal security all these years. If we are now going to settle the Kashmir problem by giving it away to Pakistan in a deceptive manner, why did we make all these sacrifices in the past? And why to give away the entire J&K state when the Kashmir valley is the only Muslim majority area in the state. Can all those jawans who sacrificed their lives for safeguarding the unity and integrity of the country rest in peace in the face of such a betrayal?

### Real enemy

Kashmir problem is as old as partition itself and both England and the US had from the beginning been siding with Pakistan. Given a free hand, the Indian Army would have settled the Kashmir issue in 1947 itself when the Pakistani armed-tribesmen and army personnel invaded and occupied a part of Kashmir . Instead, our first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, influenced by Lord Mountbatten and his wife Edwina, took the issue to the United Nations and thereby internationalized the issue. Though the J&K had joined the Union of India through the Instrument of Succession signed between Maharaja Hari Singh and Indian authorities, both the USA and England were opposed to Kashmir's accession with India . Leaders of both these countries knowing fully well Nehru's weakness for Edwina cleverly used her to exert influence on Nehru to take the Kashmir issue to the United Nations, successfully preventing India from recapturing POK back by force. This episode has been mentioned and confirmed in detail by Edwina's daughter Pamela in her auto-biography titled "India Remembered".

Pakistan had always been a staunch ally of the US ever since it came into existence. Hence the

US can never be trusted as an impartial umpire as far as the Kashmir dispute is concerned. During the 1962 border conflict with China, Prime Minister Nehru had sought some urgently needed arms and equipments from the US. The US had responded positively. But even at that vulnerable point, the US authorities had taken maximum advantage of the situation by forcing India to agree to two conditions. The first condition was that India's defence plan would have to be approved by the US before it would agree to provide necessary supplies to India. The second condition was that India would have to initiate a dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir. After the border war with China, India had initiated a dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir. Although the talks did not yield any results, the incident shows how committed the US was in protecting the interests of Pakistan even in those days. (Declassified secret and confidential papers as quoted in the book "India & United States" by Kalyani Shankar.)

It was with the full concurrence and support of the US that Pakistan has adopted terror as a strategy to fight a proxy war in Kashmir from the eighties, following the realization after the disastrous 1971 war with India that it can never annex Kashmir by force. President (Gen).Zia-Ul-Haq, who devised this strategy in consultation with the CIA, took about 10 years to prepare the necessary spade work for the implementation of this terror project meant to bleed India to death. However before the full realization of his pet project, he died in an air crash in August 1988. The proxy war which started in 1989 did bleed India for all these years and a large number of security personnel, civilians and militants were killed in this proxy war. Then the inevitable happened. The terror strategy soon back-fired so badly that not a single day passes now in Pakistan without a terror strike by one or other group of home-grown terror squads..

The US is very well aware that the LeT and other terror groups which are routinely involved in serial bomb blasts and other forms of terror at various places in India are trained in Pakistani terror camps and given all possible assistance by the Pakistani state agencies. These groups are in fact considered as highly valuable assets by the Pakistani authorities, particularly the military and ISI. In a shockingly candid, but disturbing confession, former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has admitted recently while giving an interview to German magazine Der Spiegel that Pakistan routinely trained terrorists and pushed them into Jammu and Kashmir to indulge in terror acts to force India to discuss Kashmir. (<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/spiegel-interview-with-pervez-musharraf-pakistan-is-always-seen-as-the-rogue-a-721110.html>)

The US knows all about the terror and criminal empire and all illegal operations of Karachi-based underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, who is wanted in India in connection with various terror and criminal cases. The US knew fully well about the involvement PAK- ISI in the 2008 car-bomb attack on Indian embassy in Kabul in which four Indians including a Brigadier and an IFS officer were killed. The US had advance information about the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai and the fact that the entire operation was planned, guided and controlled by the masterminds based in Pakistan in close collaboration with Pakistan's state agencies. The Interpol which had issued a red corner notice earlier against Lakshar founder Hafeez Saeed, Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Mohammed Ramadhan Mohammed Siddiqui @ Abu Hamza, has issued fresh arrest warrants in October, 2010 against five Pakistanis including two serving army majors for their role in Mumbai terror attacks. Pakistan is printing fake Indian currency in three of its government presses and pushing it into India for ruining Indian economy. All these illegal activities are carried out by Pakistan with the approval and blessing of the USA. Because, ruining the Indian economy through terrorism, fake Indian currency, etc. is in line with the American interests. Out of its 63 years of existence, Pakistan was under the military rule for 32 years. But still the US is a close friend and a strategic ally of Pakistan . Because, it is immaterial for the US whether Pakistan has a civilian ruler or a military ruler, as long as the ruler's allegiance is with the US .

Despite Pakistan's continued involvement in engineering terrorism in India, the US was able to force India to continue with its composite peace dialogue with Pakistan as India under the UPA rule has become a client state of USA. Under the American pressure, the UPA government in the name of confidence-building measures took certain crucial decisions like the opening up of the borders, lifting of all travel restrictions to Pakistan, free mixing of separatist leaders from both sides of the LOC, etc. which were all bound to have an adverse impact on the security situation in the country. The fact that this was done without even insisting on the total dismantling of the terror infrastructure in Pakistani territory and without the extradition of all the wanted accused sheltered in Pakistan clearly indicates that the American intention was to encourage terror in India. Despite the gravity of the terror attacks like the 2006 serial train blasts and 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the US was not allowing India to hit back at the perpetrators of the terror based in Pakistani territory and was instead forcing India to show restraint and suffer all the battering and indignities silently in the interest of peace. The truth is that the US is doing it deliberately to punish India. The US is a partner in terror with Pakistan. It is so very easy to keep a bag containing a bomb in a market place, cinema theatre or coffee house and kill hundreds of innocent people. No amount of security alert can effectively check it, unless we take prompt and tough action against the origin of terror. But the US won't allow it. It wants to see continued terror attacks in India and the resultant economic setback to the country. Besides settling the Kashmir dispute in favour of Pakistan through the treacherous Musharraf formula, the US wants to ensure that there is some check on India's growing economic might. Terrorism, Maoism, etc. would lead to total chaos and mayhem in the country, which will keep the investors away. Stalling our economic progress through terror and insurgency with the ultimate objective of total destabilization of India is the goal of the imperialist block.

The Group of Interlocutors appointed by the UPA government to suggest measures for a political solution to the problems of Jammu and Kashmir submitted its report titled "A New Compact with the People of Jammu and Kashmir" to Home Minister P.Chidambaram on October 12, 2011. The report is learnt to have proposed the setting up of a Constitutional Committee that would review the applicability of Central statutes extended to Jammu and Kashmir after the July 1952 Delhi Agreement. The review process, once ratified by Parliament and State legislature, would eventually end the extension by presidential order of further Central laws to the State. One of the key recommendations of the report is that Parliament will make no new laws applicable to Jammu and Kashmir unless they relate to the country's internal and external security and its vital economic interest.

### Infiltration into top administrative, police and judicial posts

It has been found that over the years several former militants have succeeded in getting recruited to top administrative, police and judicial posts in Jammu and Kashmir after qualifying through state administrative, police and judicial exams. This came to light following detailed inquiries conducted after the appointment of a topper in the higher judicial exams this year (2012) was stopped until February, pending CID verification. He is said to be the former deputy chief of Al-Jehad, responsible for several acts of terror. He topped the exams for the district and session judge this year. The matter came to light when other candidates challenged his selection. The said candidate is now demanding treatment at par with other newly appointed officers despite his past affiliation to militant outfits. It is also learnt that a civil service officer of 1966 batch, currently posted in north Kashmir, was a Hizbul Mujahideen militant trained in making improvised explosive devices, and his left hand was damaged in a blast. Similarly, a senior police officer of the 1999 batch, posted in central Kashmir was a Hizbul man earlier. It has also been reported that there are a number of former militants holding posts in subordinate judiciary in Kashmir and engineers in Srinagar Municipal Corporation who were even jailed earlier for abducting their senior officers for extortion, etc.

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-12-19/india/35912156\\_1\\_militant-outfits-hizbul-verification](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-12-19/india/35912156_1_militant-outfits-hizbul-verification))

### Documentary film on atrocities committed by security forces in Kashmir

Kashmir University authorities on December 16, 2012 stopped the screening of a film showing heart-rending visuals of victims of brutalities and human rights abuses by the Army and para-military personnel in Kashmir. The controversial documentary of 27-minute duration titled “Ocean of Tears”, made in Kashmiri and English, was directed by Bilal Jan. Most shockingly, the film was funded by subsidiaries of Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and has also been certified as legitimate by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The organizers confirmed that the film showed the plight of women who had been raped and tortured by the Army, their sons who had been killed and their husbands subjected to enforced disappearance. However they did not find anything unlawful or unethical in screening such a film as it was approved and funded by MIB’s Film Division and a key subsidiary, the Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT). Briefing the journalists, Bilal Jan reportedly said that main part of the film dealt with the infamous Kupwara rape of February 1991 and the rape cum murder of two young women of Shopian in 2009. He also said that the CBFC members were divided in giving clearance to the film and it was the assertive stand of the chairperson Leela Samson which prevailed over the voices of dissent. The screening of the film was stopped only after a local activist of a Gujarat-based NGO complained that his work had been plagiarized by the producers and researchers of the documentary, clarified Kashmir University Registrar Prof. Zaffar Ahmad Rishi. (<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/topper-in-jk-judicial-exam-a-former-paktrained-militant/article4207161.ece>)

### Removal of bunkers

The government has already removed 44 bunkers from Kashmir, including the CRPF bunker from Srinagar’s Amirakadal Bridge, which was constructed in 1990, as per the recommendations of an all party delegation which visited Kashmir in 2010 and suggested removal of all heavy and visible security features.

### Protest against Afzal Guru’s hanging

Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) leader Yasin Malik, who is on a visit to Pakistan, started a 24-hour hunger-strike outside the National Press Club in Islamabad on February 9<sup>th</sup> evening in protest against the hanging of Afzal Guru in New Delhi for his involvement in the 2001 Parliament House attack case. Describing Afzal Guru’s hanging a “blot on Indian democracy”, he urged leaders from POK to organize public protests against Guru’s hanging. He was also found sharing the dais with 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed.

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on February 10 cautioned that Afzal’s hanging may fuel a sense of alienation among the Kashmiris and criticized the Centre for executing the death sentence selectively. He criticized the Supreme Court also for awarding death sentence to Afzal Guru merely on the basis of circumstantial evidence and admittedly to satisfy the collective conscience of the society.

### Interlocutors’ report

In a criminal complaint filed in a federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, on July 19, 2011, the US Justice Department has alleged that the Kashmir American Council (KAC), an NGO based in Washing DC had received up to four million dollars as illegal contributions from the ISI to influence politicians and opinion-makers on the Kashmir issue. Syed Gulam Nabi Fai, Executive Director of KAC and a Kashmir-born American citizen was arrested in this regard on 18<sup>th</sup> July for violating laws which prohibit working for foreign governments without authorization. Fai, who was accused by the FBI of

being a spy for the Pakistani spy agency ISI, pleaded guilty on December 7, 2011 to the charge of illegally lobbying the Congress to influence the American policy on Kashmir. Fai, 62, Head of the Kashmiri American Council (KAC), a front organization of the ISI, acknowledged secretly receiving at least \$3.5 million from the ISI between 1990 and 2011 and causing revenue loss to the US government to the tune of \$200000 to \$400000. Fai was arrested on spying charges on

The UPA government on October 13, 2010 appointed a 3-member team of interlocutors to initiate a dialogue with different sections of people in Jammu and Kashmir and submit their recommendations to help the government to resolve the Kashmir problem. The interlocutors assigned with this task are noted journalist Dileep Padgaonkar, academic Radha Kumar and former information commissioner M.M.Ansari. Dileep Padgaonkar and Radha Kumar are known for their ISI links.

The special status given to J&K under Article 370 is only temporary. The interlocutors have however recommended to give further emphasis on Article 370 by checking its erosion by deleting the word temporary and replacing it with the word 'special' thus making the special status a permanent feature of the constitution. It says that if the state government was dismissed, elections should be held within three months and no more central laws be extended to the state through a presidential ordinance. It has further recommended to set up a constitutional panel to review all central acts and articles extended to the state since the signing of the 1952 agreement (laws like the extension of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, Election Commission, CAG, AFSPA and All India Services, etc.). It says that the proportion of officers from the All India Services should be gradually reduced in favour of officers from the state. Another recommendation is that the Parliament won't make laws applicable to the state unless it relates to internal and external security and vital economic interest. It also says that all opportunities for cross-LoC cooperation should be promoted. The whole exercise is obviously an effort meant to dilute J&K's accession to India.

### Pak House condemns Guru hanging

Pakistan's Parliament on March 14, 2013 passed a resolution condemning the hanging of Afzal Guru and demanding that his body be returned to his family.

### Five CRPF jawans killed in Kashmir

Five CRPF jawans were killed when fidayeen militants, disguised as cricketers, lobbed hand grenades and opened fire at a CRPF camp at Bemina in Srinagar on March 13, 2013. Seven CRPF personnel and four civilians were injured in the attack. Two of the attackers, identified as LeT militants, were killed in the counter attack by the CRPF men.

Four of the CRPF men killed in the attack were unarmed. As per an order incorporated in the CRPF's standard operating procedure five years ago, only one-third of them are allowed to carry weapons when on duty in Srinagar so as to ensure that weapons are used sparingly against the irate protesters. This has reportedly caused a lot of resentment in the force.

The J&K police on March 14 night arrested a Pakistani militant, identified as Mohammad Zubair @ Talha of Multan, who headed the three-member fidayeen team which crossed over to Kashmir valley on March 12, to carry out their mission. The police also arrested two alleged local collaborators, namely Bashir Ahmad Mir of Uri and Parandeep Singh of Baramulla who had facilitated the fidayeen group's infiltration into the valley.

### Visa on arrival to senior citizens from Pakistan

India has started granting visa-on-arrival facility to Pakistani citizens above the age of 65 from April 1, 2013, on reciprocal basis. The single entry visa will be given for maximum 45 days. The facility was scheduled to be started from January 15. But, it was put on hold in the wake of tension along the border following the killing of two Indian soldiers by the Pakistani army on January 8. Both

countries had decided to issue a single entry VoA to each other's senior citizens and also group tourist visa facility under a new liberalized visa pact that was signed last September to ease cross border travel as part of confidence-building measures. The two countries, however, are yet to operationalize the group visa pact, which was to be started from March 15.

### Pak-trained former militant appointed as judge

A topper in the 2012 Higher Judicial Service selection conducted by the J&K High Court was found to be a former Pakistan-trained militant who had served as deputy chief of the jihadi outfit Al-Jihad. He had crossed the LoC several times, lobbed grenades at the Army, sustained gunshot injuries in an encounter with the Army and remained in jail for 14 months under the Public Safety Act (ACT). A two-member committee of the J&K High Court comprising Justices Virendra Singh and J.P.Singh completed the selection process in July, 2012 and recommended a list of nine candidates for appointment as district and session judges. However, a group of failed candidates challenged the selection process in the Supreme Court and got it stayed. But on December 14, 2012, a two-member Bench of Supreme Court vacated the stay, but only in favour of seven respondent candidates. One of the candidates was dropped as it was found that his marks were counted twice inadvertently. A decision on the second candidate, who topped the list, is deferred, as his case is being reexamined because of his alleged militant links.

### Kashmir

The NGO activists and the separatists in Kashmir valley who are opposed to the extension of any new Indian laws to Jammu and Kashmir as per the provisions of the Article 370 are however have been pressing for the extension of 73d and 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendments relating to empowerment of panchayat institutions, to Jammu and Kashmir. Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir in the first week of November, 2013 had also asserted that the situation in the state would change for the better once the 73d and 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendments were incorporated into the J&K Panchayat Raj Act. The 73d amendment deals with empowering Panchayat Raj institutions while the 74<sup>th</sup> amendment deals with strengthening urban local bodies.

Former Pakistan President General Musharraf had proposed a 4-point formula in 2006 to settle the Kashmir dispute. The four-point formula envisages the total withdrawal of all army units and other security forces from Kashmir, grant of full autonomy and self rule to the people of Kashmir, allowing the people of both parts of Kashmir to travel across the border without Passport and visa and joint supervision of unified Kashmir by Pakistan and India. If all the security forces are withdrawn from Kashmir, self-rule and full autonomy is granted to Kashmiris and both parts of Kashmir are allowed to unite, what control then India will have over Kashmir and how can it still remain as a part of India? This is a very treacherous proposal and as such it should have been outrightly rejected by India. Though India has not accepted this 4-point formula, we have not rejected it either so far. In fact, under pressure from the US and the Sonia coterie, there is a move to implement the Musharraf formula in a surreptitious manner. The whole peace talks drama with Pakistan is meant to achieve an independent unified Kashmir which will automatically become a part of Pakistan later. In the name of peace process and confidence building measures with Pakistan, the UPA government removed all travel restrictions to Pakistan. More cross-border bus services were introduced and train services between the two countries were also resumed. Two cross-border trade links were also established with POK, which was actually a long-standing demand of the separatists in the Kashmir valley. With the lifting of all travel restrictions, it became easy for the SIMI and Indian Mujahiddin voluntaries to go across the border and get trained in Pakistani terror camps. Various jihadi terrorist groups in Pakistan took full advantage of this lowering of guard by the Indian authorities to send their operatives to India and select terror targets in India for their future terror attacks. The Indian Mujahideen later started conducting regular terror attacks, mainly in the form of serial bomb blasts, in different parts of the country with the support and guidance of Pakistani terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba. Thus it is the UPA government's pro-Pakistan policy that has led to the spread of jihadi terror in the country.



In a highly questionable decision, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had nominated PDP leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to lead an unofficial delegation to the U.N. to make a presentation about his concept of self-rule as a solution to resolve the Kashmir dispute before an international gathering at the General Assembly in November 2006. Thus, the UPA government at government expense sent a delegation of PDP leaders to the U.N. to canvass support for self rule and full autonomy for Kashmir which could pave the way for an independent Kashmir. This was nothing but a seditious act.