



CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

Chinars in Chains:

India's Siege of Jammu and Kashmir

Analysis Report



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CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

Chinars in Chains:
**India's Siege of Jammu
and Kashmir**

Analysis Report

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INTRODUCTION

Following the landslide victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2019 Indian General Elections, the government led by Narendra Modi swiftly announced revocation of the special status of Jammu & Kashmir by repealing Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution on 5 August 2019. More than five years on, the Muslim majority of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) continues to be marginalised in every domain of their lives. They remain subjected to the worst kind of exploitation and repression, while being disenfranchised in the land of their ancestors. Regrettably, the world, at large, remains a spectator of this tragedy.

To take stock of the current situation in IIOJK, and deliberate possible remedial measures, CASS organised a special lecture as part of its *Catalyst Conversations Series* on 7 August 2024 titled '***Chinars in Chains: India's Siege of Jammu and Kashmir***'.

The lecture aimed to explore the socio-political impacts of abrogating Articles 370 and 35A in IIOJK, assess India's strategic objectives and Kashmiri responses, and deliberate on internationalising the Jammu & Kashmir dispute. It also sought to analyse Pakistan's options, role of digital narratives in shaping international perceptions, and influence of non-traditional diplomatic channels on the Jammu and Kashmir conflict.

The distinguished subject matter expert was Mr Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR). The '*Catalyst Conversation*' was moderated by Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd), Senior Director at CASS with concluding remarks by President of CASS, Islamabad Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In his *Opening Remarks*, **Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd)** highlighted the need to evaluate the holistic picture of 77 years of illegal occupation in IIOJK. He mentioned that the Kashmir issue should be seen through subtleties of the conflict rather than statistics and shortened phrases. He lamented that it is impossible to mention Kashmir without a deep sense of guilt and pain, and further stressed the need for formulation of a cogent policy on Kashmir as per the aspirations of its people.

In his *Keynote Address*, **Mr Altaf Hussain Wani** elaborated on the significant impacts of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A on the socio-political fabric of IIOJK. He reported that the Indian government had implemented its Hindutva agenda in IIOJK by altering administrative and demographic structures, reshuffling the bureaucracy, and centralising power. Mr Wani highlighted the Indian strategy of launching disinformation campaigns to project calm in Kashmir. He argued that despite increased militarisation, enforcement of draconian laws, and silencing of human rights defenders, the people of IIOJK demonstrated their defiance in the recent Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir, overwhelmingly supporting candidates who stood for their rights over the BJP and its proxies. He praised the role of various international human rights organisations and Kashmir diaspora and youth in drawing attention to Indian atrocities in IIOJK, despite restrictions on information flow. However, he noted the need for more collaborative engagements with international human rights organisations to effectively internationalise the Kashmir dispute. He suggested that Pakistan should develop a unified national narrative on Jammu & Kashmir, increase media coverage of Indian atrocities, foster innovative scholarship, and enhance diplomatic efforts to advocate globally for the self-determination rights of the people of IIOJK.

In his *Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks*, **Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd)** pointed out the hardships faced by the people of IIOJK under Indian subjugation. He mentioned that Pakistan's approach of 'strategic patience' with India was not ideal. He further proposed use of technology, social media, movies, dramas and engaging media influencers for the Kashmir cause along with underscoring the need to establish a model of development in Azad Kashmir to showcase development by Pakistan.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ❖ Mentioning the Jammu & Kashmir dispute inevitably brings a profound sense of pain and guilt, deeply embedded in history and persisting into the present. This sentiment will continue into the future unless a just solution to the conflict is negotiated.
- ❖ The Kashmir dispute is unique because the involved parties initially proposed the principles and terms for its resolution. India's deviation from the United Nations Security Council Resolutions is, thus, equivalent to retracting its own commitments.
- ❖ Repeal of Articles 370 and 35A has led to significant socio-political consequences in IIOJK, such as the loss of autonomy for the Kashmiri people, widespread protests and violence, detentions of politicians, economic decline, increased militarisation, and the imposition of draconian laws.
- ❖ India's primary motive for revoking Articles 370 and 35A was to facilitate demographic change in IIOJK, initiating a process of settler colonialism in the region.
- ❖ The Indian government is advancing its Hindutva agenda in IIOJK by altering the disputed territory's administrative framework, reshuffling the bureaucracy, and centralising power.
- ❖ The Indian government currently offers a reward of INR one million for information about individuals who post anti-government banners. Despite this, people continue to defy government orders.
- ❖ Five years have passed since revocation of Articles 370 and 35A, but no political process has begun in IIOJK, which continues to remain under the direct control of New Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian government has strategically created new assembly segments in the Jammu region to manipulate electoral outcomes and disenfranchise Muslims in the Kashmir Valley.
- ❖ In the Lok Sabha polls in IIOJK, the Kashmiris expressed their outrage over abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A by overwhelmingly voting for candidates who championed their rights, rejecting the BJP, its proxies, and former government officials.
- ❖ Amidst the clampdown on local Kashmiri press, the Indian media, at the behest of the BJP government, has been spreading disinformation and propaganda globally claiming normalcy and calm in IIOJK.
- ❖ Local and international human rights organisations have published eye-opening reports on human rights suppression in IIOJK despite India's restrictions on the flow of information.
- ❖ Increasing internet curbs and disruptions may drive the adoption of direct satellite connections, circumventing future government-imposed restrictions.
- ❖ The younger generation in IIOJK has become a pillar of strength in resisting India's attempts to block information flow. Many serve on editorial boards of international media outlets, building a support base in the international press, something previous generations could not achieve.
- ❖ Since the repeal of Articles 370 and 35A, there has been a surge in discussions and research on IIOJK's struggles within Pakistani universities and think tanks. This has significantly contributed to developing scholarship on Kashmir from a Pakistani perspective, filling a previously existing gap.



PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

- ❁ There is need for a cogent policy on IIOJK, in sync with the history, traditions, and aspirations of Kashmiri people.
- ❁ Exercising strategic patience with India or maintaining a defensive mindset is not likely to yield results.
- ❁ Pakistan's approach to the Jammu & Kashmir dispute should include sustained diplomacy, potentially strengthened by appointing a Special Envoy or Deputy Foreign Minister specifically dedicated to advocating for the Kashmir cause
- ❁ To internationalise the Jammu & Kashmir dispute effectively, more sustained engagements with various global human rights platforms are needed.
- ❁ Pakistani academia and think-tank community could foster alliances among their peers abroad and amplify global awareness by producing more innovative scholarship to advocate for Kashmiri rights.
- ❁ Pakistan should ensure dedicated personnel are assigned to the Foreign Office's Kashmir cell to effectively spread information and data on Jammu & Kashmir globally, especially on the post-August 2029 atrocities being committed by Indian forces.
- ❁ In the long-term, Pakistan should opt for more sustained and comprehensive diplomatic efforts to expose Indian actions in the occupied territory, morally isolating India.
- ❁ Pakistan also needs to actively employ lawfare to counter the Indian narrative on Kashmir, which lacks any legal grounds.
- ❁ A concerted campaign should be undertaken to counter India's narrative of giving a religious/communal tint to the Jammu & Kashmir dispute.
- ❁ There should be continuous prime-time coverage of the Jammu & Kashmir conflict by the Pakistani media.
- ❁ Utilising social media, songs, dramas, and movies focused on Kashmir, along with engaging Pakistani influencers, are effective measures that could support the Kashmir cause.
- ❁ Pakistan should endeavour to establish a model of governance and development in Azad Jammu & Kashmir that starkly contrasts with Indian atrocities against Kashmiris in IIOJK.



SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd),

Senior Director, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad

Opening Remarks

Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd) began his opening remarks by emphasising that the 'Chinars' in occupied Kashmir were not only chained but also being chopped and charred. He highlighted that while India had intensified its siege over Kashmir since August 2019, its illegal occupation had persisted for the last 77 years. Consequently, he underscored the need for a comprehensive evaluation of the 77 years of India's illegal occupation.

Discussing the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, the moderator pointed out that long-standing, complex conflicts are often reduced to statistics and simplified phrases, overshadowing the nuances and thereby obscuring historical injustices and human suffering. He lamented that discussing Kashmir inevitably brings a profound sense of pain and guilt, deeply rooted in history which persisted into the present, with potential future repercussions if a just resolution is not achieved. He underscored the necessity for a cogent policy on IIOJK that aligns with the history, traditions, and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Altaf Hussain Wani,

Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR)

Keynote Address

Mr Altaf Hussain Wani commenced the address by elaborating on the topic of discussion, 'Chinars in Chains.' He highlighted that 'Chinar' was a metaphor for the identity, culture, and resilience of the Kashmiris.

“Kashmir had been in chains for very long, but Kashmiris have remained resilient in their resistance against India's occupation.”

Five years had passed since revocation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution. However, no political process had begun in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, reflecting a huge democratic deficit.

“The region continues to remain under the direct control of New Delhi and operates as a 'police state' with high levels of surveillance and incarceration of political leaders and activities.”



Mr Wani highlighted that India's primary motive for revoking Articles 370 and 35A was to effect demographic changes in IIOJK, a clear sign of settler colonialism in Kashmir. He pointed out that a key manifestation of this was the issuance of new domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris and acquisition of land by Indian industrialists and the Army. The Army has been granted the authority to occupy any land, declare it strategic, and build cantonments. Furthermore, the authorities initiated an eviction drive to reclaim lands allocated to the local people.

While discussing key socio-political effects of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, Mr Wani stated that the people of Kashmir had lost their autonomy and no longer owned a separate constitution, flag, or administrative independence.

“The Kashmiris were integrated into the Indian Union forcibly and draconian counter-terrorism laws are being misused to arrest and detain hundreds and thousands of politicians, activists, ordinary people, and journalists. Notably, the Indian government amended the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and introduced it in Jammu & Kashmir, which remains the most abused law there.”

Mr Wani further highlighted the economic consequences within the region, including an increase in the unemployment rate and losses in business, particularly in the tourism sector. The unemployment rate in the occupied territory increased from less than 18% in 2019 to 23%. According to him, this was primarily attributable to amendments in domicile laws, allowing non-Kashmiris to acquire jobs in the occupied Valley and compete with local Kashmiris, who were less privileged in terms of education.

Furthermore, there was marked change in the administrative structure. Earlier, 70% of high-level positions in the bureaucracy were allotted to Kashmiris and only 30% to non-Kashmiris, but there was complete reversal in this ratio post-revocation. Additionally, positions allocated to Kashmiris in the new set-up were relatively marginal.

“Centralisation of power has weakened local governments, and the Indian government, through such administrative and bureaucratic changes, has been able to implement its Hindutva agenda.”

While discussing widespread crackdown on dissent in the occupied region, he highlighted that employees were dismissed from jobs on mere allegations of sympathising with the freedom movement or criticising the government on social media.



“Properties belonging to political leaders, freedom fighters, and sympathisers of the movement are forcibly confiscated, which is tantamount to collective punishment.”

Moreover, Mr Wani pointed to the unjust delimitation of the assembly segments in IIOJK which resulted in allocating six additional seats for Jammu and only one for the Kashmir Valley, bringing total seats in the Jammu region to 43 and the Kashmir Valley to 47. While in the past, there were no seats for the Scheduled Tribes, the Commission reserved nine constituencies for them, out of which three were in the Kashmir Valley and six in the Jammu region. These new assembly constituencies for Jammu were carved out from Kishtwar, Doda, Kathua, Samba and other districts.

“The creation of new assembly segments in the Jammu region is a strategy employed by India for electoral manipulation, revision of electoral rolls, and disempowerment of Muslims in the Kashmir Valley. 16 political parties have been completely outlawed in Jammu and Kashmir.”

Mr Wani highlighted that the BJP had thought that it would be able to win the hearts and minds of the Kashmiri people by employing its carrot-and-stick policy. However, during the recent Lok Sabha elections, the BJP could not secure a single candidate for the three constituencies in the Kashmir Valley, and their proxy candidates were also defeated. In the two constituencies where BJP won, including Udhampur and Jammu, the margin was extremely narrow. Foreseeing the possibility of a similar situation in the upcoming elections in September, the BJP has introduced amendments to the constitution to transfer the powers of the Chief Minister to the Lieutenant Governor to maintain its foothold. This transfer of powers deprived the Chief Minister of numerous powers, such as the authority to transfer or post police officers, deputy commissioners, and divisional commissioners or appoint the Advocate General of Kashmir.

According to Mr Wani, the Indian government has tried to deflect the world's attention from Kashmir through its strategy of biased and selective media reporting.

“Amidst clampdown on local press, the Indian media, at the behest of the BJP government, continues to spread disinformation and propaganda regarding state of normalcy and calm in IIOJK.”

However, Mr Wani commended local and international human rights organisations that published eye-opening reports on human rights suppression in IIOJK despite restrictions on the flow of information. The Indian government has received around 20 communications by the UN Human Rights Special Procedures on the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir, criticism from the Special Rapporteur, and recently faced tough questions on Kashmir during a review by the HR Committee of the



International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). In this frustration, India had intensified silencing human rights defenders by imposing terrorism charges through UAPA. He further opined that relentless state oppression in IIOJK has continued with impunity while India refuses to respond to international criticism and sane voices from within.

In the speaker's view, the Indian government had failed to achieve its intended outcomes in IIOJK despite five years of high-handedness. Amid muzzling of dissenting voices, the people continued to demand their rights as evident in the recent Lok Sabha elections. Mr Wani further mentioned that the continuous suppression had led to more alienation of India, including from the section of local political factions who once favoured New Delhi's policies in IIOJK. He also questioned the Indian government's claim of security and calm in IIOJK that had been debunked by the continuous deployment of troops and enactment of draconian laws, providing impunity to police, army, and other agencies.

While shedding light on the struggle of the Kashmiris to counter Indian policies in the absence of external support, Mr Wani emphasised that Kashmiris had been resisting Indian oppression even before the advent of social media. Owing to the lack of informational flow from IIOJK, the people outside, including Pakistan, remained largely unaware of the stories of Kashmiris' resilience from earlier decades. However, after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, there had been an increase in discussions and research on topics surrounding the struggle of IIOJK in universities and think tanks in Pakistan. It aided in building scholarship on Kashmir that had been missing in the past. Mr Wani was full of praise for the younger generation in Kashmir, which he said, had proven to be a source of strength for the resistance against Indian designs of blocking flow of information. Many of them on the editorial boards of international media outlets had created a support base in the international press, which the previous generation could not do.

While discussing strategies to internationalise the Jammu and Kashmir conflict effectively, Mr Wani elaborated on the need for sustained engagements with various global human rights platforms. He shared that there had been active collaborative engagements with the Human Rights Commissioner's Office, Human Rights Special Rapporteur, along other organisations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, mainly due to active efforts by Kashmiri human rights activists like Khurram Parvez.

“Pakistani academia and think-tank community should foster alliances among their peers abroad and amplify global awareness by producing more innovative scholarship to advocate for Kashmiri rights.”



Mr Wani was of the view that despite Pakistan's initial active efforts in response to the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, including taking up the matter actively in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resulting in two in-door meetings on the issue, there had been a lack of follow-up compared to India's proactive global outreach on the matter.

“Pakistan's policy in resolving the Jammu & Kashmir dispute should involve consistent diplomacy, which can be enhanced by the appointment of a Special Envoy or Deputy Foreign Minister designated solely to advocate the Kashmir cause.”

In the long-term, Pakistan should opt for more sustained and comprehensive diplomatic efforts to apprise the international community about the plight of the people of IIOJK. He further highlighted the need for consistent prime-time coverage of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute by the Pakistani media instead of focusing just on the internal fault lines.

“Pakistan should have a unified national narrative on Kashmir for extending unwavering support to the people of IIOJK rather than proposing a new out-of-the-box solution.”

Mr Wani concluded his remarks by reiterating that non-traditional diplomatic and Track-II channels could be viable in making inroads on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Still, the prospect of resolving this age-old conflict would depend on the will of the governments and people of both countries. Mr Wani underscored a need for political leadership in India and Pakistan that would have the will and ability to make decisive changes for the future of Jammu and Kashmir, and South Asia.

Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd),

President, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad

Vote of Thanks and Concluding Remarks

President CASS Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd) began his remarks by shedding light on the hardship of the Kashmiri population under subjugation. Discussing the impact of internet curbs in the Valley and the role of emerging technologies, the President explained that increasing internet disruptions could drive adoption of direct satellite connections, potentially overcoming Indian restrictions on the flow of information in future.

Speaking on the Pakistani approach towards India, Air Marshal Ahmed highlighted that exercising 'strategic patience' with India or maintaining a defensive mindset was not the ideal approach. He highlighted CASS's contributions which forecasted that absence of a strong stance on Kashmir, would lead to an aggressive Indian policy in Gilgit-



Baltistan. Likewise, CASS also predicted the February 2019 Indian military action against Pakistan and provided a course of action, which ultimately laid the basis for deterrence for at least a decade.

Proposing a way forward, the President stressed strategic use of technology and online projection through active engagement on social media, and production of songs, dramas, and movies about Kashmir. He advocated involving Pakistani influencers to support the cause. Additionally, he highlighted insufficient awareness surrounding Kashmiri heroes and martyrs.

Concluding his remarks, Air Marshal Ahmed advocated that Pakistan should endeavour to establish a model of governance and development in Azad Jammu & Kashmir that starkly contrasts with Indian atrocities against Kashmiris in IIOJK.



ANNEXURES

Profile of Speakers



Altaf Hussain Wani

Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations

Altaf Hussain Wani is an active member of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (AJK chapter) and serves as a representative for the Jammu Kashmir National Front. Mr Wani has a rich history of involvement in political advocacy, having held leading positions in the United Jihad Council from 1996-99. Moreover, he has represented the Jammu & Kashmir cause at the UN Human Rights Commission and the UN Human Rights Council from 2005 to 2024. Mr Wani is also actively engaged in conflict transformation initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, collaborating with partner organisations such as Conciliation Resources in London. He has been instrumental in fostering cross-Line of Control (LoC) people-to-people contact and has delivered numerous lectures on the Jammu & Kashmir issue at various universities. Furthermore, he regularly briefs diplomats from Pakistan and allied countries at the Foreign Services Academy in Islamabad. His contributions to the discourse on Jammu & Kashmir are also reflected in his extensive writings, with numerous articles published by both national and international platforms.



Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd)

Senior Director, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad

Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd) joined the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad as Senior Director in February 2022. A graduate of National Defence University and Air War College, he has 36 years' experience of military aviation as fighter pilot in the Pakistan Air Force. He holds Master's Degrees in Strategic Studies and Defence & Strategic Studies. During his service with the PAF, he has held various Command and Staff appointments including Commandant of Air War College, Deputy Chief of Air Staff Training, Deputy Chief of Air Staff Personnel and Vice Chief of Air Staff. He lectures regularly at National Defence University and Air War College on related subjects. He is a recipient of Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) for his services to the PAF.



Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd)

President, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad

President, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd) was appointed President of the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad on 29 April 2024. Previously, he served as Vice Chancellor of Air University. With a distinguished career spanning approximately 40 years in the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), he has held several critical positions. His roles have included Chairman of the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) Kamra, Officer Commanding of the Combat Commanders School, and Chief Project Director of the JF-17 Fighter Aircraft Production Program. He is recognised for his expertise in aerospace development policies, as well as doctrine formulation and implementation strategies. Air Marshal Ahmed is an alumnus of the Air War College, where he graduated in Defense & Strategic Studies. He also holds Master's degree in War Studies from the National Defence University. His skills in command and management are complemented by his advanced knowledge in emerging academic fields. Previously, he also served as Director of Policy and Doctrine at CASS, Islamabad. In recognition of his significant contributions to the Pakistan Air Force, he awarded Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Sitara-i-Imtiaz, and Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).



Press Release

CASS Discusses Ongoing Crisis in Jammu and Kashmir Under Indian Siege

8 August 2024



The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, conducted a special session under its *Catalyst Conversation Series* on '**Chinars in Chains: India's Siege of Jammu and Kashmir**' with Mr Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations, to discuss the current situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).



Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd), Senior Director at CASS, set the stage for the discussion and highlighted that the full integration of IIOJK into the Indian Union has been a central element of the BJP and RSS's Hindutva agenda. He noted that abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A on 5th August 2019 by the Modi government were followed by severe security measures including curfews and communication blackouts in the disputed territory. Air Marshal Habib also observed that the Indian Supreme Court supported the government's actions, which included the enactment of laws aimed at changing the region's demographics by allowing an influx of non-Kashmiris.



He shared that five years on, the Muslim majority in IIOJK continues to face marginalisation and repression, with the international community largely remaining silent on these issues.

In his *Keynote Address*, the Distinguished Speaker **Mr Altaf Hussain Wani**, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations, discussed the considerable socio-political and economic upheavals in Jammu & Kashmir since the revocation of Article 370 and 35A, marking five years of continued distress and despair. Mr Wani highlighted that Jammu & Kashmir remains under direct control from New Delhi, lacking an elected government, which he described as a severe democratic deficit. He noted that the region operates akin to a 'police state', with heightened levels of incarceration and constant surveillance.



About 19,000 people, including political and human rights activists, were detained, impacting over 8 million Kashmiris who faced shortages of essentials and medical supplies due to the lockdown. He further pointed out the economic turmoil within the region, stating that businesses have suffered immense losses while poverty, hunger, and unemployment have risen, starkly contradicting claims made by the Modi government. Mr Wani observed that in the recent Lok Sabha elections, the electorate in IIOJK expressed their dissatisfaction through their votes. Despite the BJP's carrot and stick policy, it failed to secure a candidate for the three constituencies in the occupied Kashmir Valley, and their proxy candidates were also defeated, indicating that the Kashmiris' support lies with those who champion their rights.

Mr Wani was of the view that significant settler-colonial policies are in place, including land acquisitions by non-local industrialists which disrupt the local Muslim demography. He underscored the issuance of over 500,000 new domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris as an intentional act to alter the demographic makeup of the region.

Regarding human rights, Mr Wani detailed numerous violations under the enforced draconian laws such as the Public Safety Act and the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. These laws, he said, have facilitated a surge in extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and a general misuse of anti-terrorism legislation.



He lamented the international community's response, noting that despite criticisms from UN Special Rapporteurs about the incompatibility of India's actions with international human rights standards, there remains a lack of accountability for these abuses. Mr Wani also criticised the severe restrictions on media freedom and the suppression of dissent, which he said significantly curtails the flow of information and silences human rights defenders in the region. However, he also highlighted that the youth of IIOJK have become pivotal in conveying the ground realities of suppression. In the absence of external support, this younger generation has not only been a source of information but also a source of strength. They have successfully established a support base beyond the international press, a feat that eluded the previous generation.



In his *Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks*, **Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd)**, President CASS-Islamabad, reflected on the strategic and diplomatic approaches necessary for addressing the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He discussed the limitations of strategic patience or a defensive posture in dealings with India, asserting that such approaches are unlikely to bring about a resolution. He advocated for the proactive use of modern communication tools. 'The active employment of social media, along with cultural productions such as dramas, movies, and songs about the occupied territory, and leveraging influencers in these mediums, are critical strategies for shaping international perceptions and garnering global support for Jammu & Kashmir,' he noted. President CASS also stressed the importance of developing Azad Kashmir as a model for future governance and development strategies in the region. 'We must critically assess our development achievements in Azad Kashmir; it should serve as a benchmark for envisioning the future of Kashmir,' he concluded.

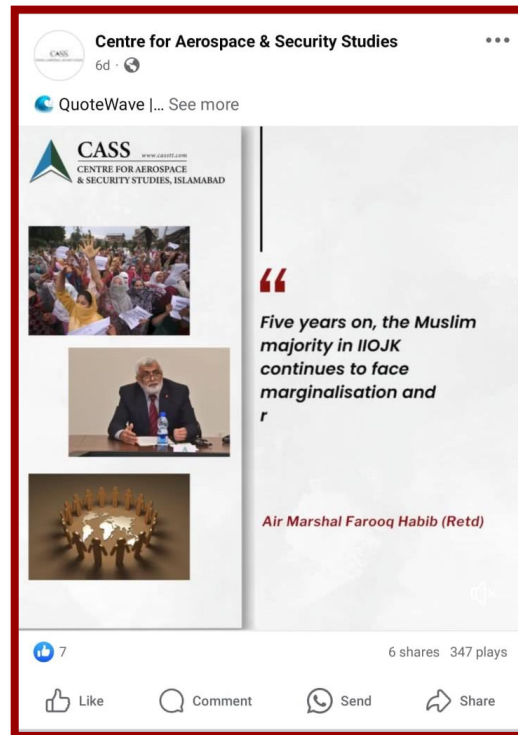


Social Media Engagement

Twitter





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Distinguished Speaker
Altaf Hussain Wani
Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR)

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We were honored to be joined by Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations, for a special session under our Catalyst Conversation Series on 'Chinars in Chains: India's Siege of Jammu and Kashmir.' The discussion focused on the current situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

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Nationwide English Dailies publish important recommendations of the CASS Catalyst Conversations Series on 'Chinars in Chains: India's Siege of Jammu and Kashmir' with Altaf Hussain Wani , Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations @kiir_isb
#catalystconversations #Jammukashmir #Kashmir #youmeistehsal #jammunews #kashmiri #freedom #Article370 #BJPGovernment #UNResolutions #indiasuppression

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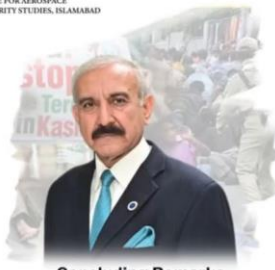


Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd.)

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Concluding Remarks
Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd.)
President,
Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad

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YouTube

The image shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a microphone icon. The video content is displayed in a central frame. The top part of the video shows the CASS logo (Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad) and a quote by Altaf Hussain Wani: "Despite criticisms from the UN Special Rapporteur about the incompatibility of India's actions with international human rights standards, there remains a lack of accountability for these abuses." Below the quote is a photograph of a person holding a protest sign that reads "India! stop State Terrorism in Kashmir". The video player includes a play button, a progress bar (0:51 / 1:36), and various control icons (volume, full screen, etc.). Below the video player, the video title "Catalyst Conversation | Chinars in Chains | Altaf Hussain Wani" is visible, along with the channel name "Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies" (2.46K subscribers) and interaction buttons for likes (2), comments, share, download, and save.



ABOUT CASS

Established in 2018, the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) in Islamabad is a non-partisan think tank offering future-centric analysis on aerospace and security issues. CASS engages with thought leaders and informs the public through evidence-based research, aiming to influence discussions and policies at the national, regional, and global level, especially concerning airpower, emerging technologies, traditional and non-traditional security.

VISION

To serve as a thought leader in the aerospace and security domains globally, providing thinkers and policymakers with independent, comprehensive and multifaceted insight on aerospace and security issues.

MISSION

To provide independent insight and analysis on aerospace and international security issues, of both an immediate and long-term concern; and to inform the discourse of policymakers, academics, and practitioners through a diverse range of detailed research outputs disseminated through both direct and indirect engagement on a regular basis.

CORE AREAS OF RESEARCH

Aerospace
Emerging Technologies
Security
Strategic Foresight



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