

K E T M U N | 2 0 2 1

STUDY GUIDE



DISEC
NON STATE ARMED GROUPS IN
KASMIR VALLEY



• **The Kashmir Region**

The Kashmir Region refers to the land locked area on the northern tip of the Indian subcontinent

administered jointly by India, Pakistan and China. The Kashmir region can be broadly divided into three regions, Pakistan occupied Kashmir, Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir and Chinese fringe territories.



The Kashmir region has in the past been ridiculed by insurgency, communal violence, natural disasters and territorial disputes. The present day tensions in the region continue to escalate as

territorial disputes between India-Pakistan-China continue to strain the already decades old feud

amongst the three nations which have participated in three full scale wars to dictate control over the region.

However, amongst all of the threats mentioned earlier that of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG's) continues to be of increasing concern to peace and dialogue in the region.

• **Brief History of The Kashmir Region.**

Since pre-colonial rule in India and Pakistan, the Kashmir region has strived to be an independent self-governing entity. However, the modern day Kashmir conflict originated in the partition phase when the British Raj decided to leave the sub-continent.

Kashmir then a selfgoverning province under Maharaja Hari Singh, a Sikh ruler of a majority Muslim population an accession to the newly formed republic of India. After an unsuccessful campaign to become an independent nation, under a special charter in the Indian constitution allowing for it to become a selfgoverning territory.

However, the popular public sentiments were to either join the adjoining Pakistan, an Islamic nation with shared heritage, or have a country free from both the nations. The people protested this widely unpopular decision but were swiftly quashed by the ruler. This led Pakistan to infiltrate the Kashmir province in 1947, and launch a campaign to claim the Kashmir territory into Pakistan. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India considered this an act of war as per his newly formed agreement with Maharaja Hari Singh and deployed Indian armed forces to retaliate. The 1947 Indo-Pakistan war marked first of three conflicts regarding the Kashmir region, the Indian forces gained most of the territory back, however lost a large part of the territory which is now the Pakistan administrated part of Kashmir.

-Introduction of NSAG's

This was not just the beginning of conflict between two nations regarding the territory, but also the beginning of an ongoing movement in the Kashmir region led by Non State Armed Groups some of whom are known to the world as notorious terrorist groups responsible for bloodshed and international instability. These NSAG's can majorly be divided into two groups based on their intent. The groups either aim at forging an independent Kashmir (Azad Kashmir) or making the entirety of the Kashmir region a part of the Pakistani territory and governance. The Kashmir region in all three administrations has a number of NSAG's most of whom are recognized as terrorist outfits by the UN and major governments such as that of USA. These NSAG's are responsible for thousands of terrorist attacks on Indian and Pakistani soil leading to tens of thousands of fatalities and a constant atmosphere of hostility in the region. Some of the most notorious groups include Hizb-al-Mujahidin, Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, Jammu Kashmir Islamic Front,

• The Kashmir Region Today.

The current year has been that of extreme unrest in the Indian and Pakistani regions of Kashmir.

At 2016 a high level of destabilization occurred in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir after the death of a popular rebel leader Burhan Wani.

Burhan Wani was a young leader in the infamous Hizb-al-Mujahidin and was a face of the organization through his active social media presence.

Indian armed forces killed Wani in a controversial encounter and after the news of his death spread widespread protests were waged throughout the southern part of Kashmir leading to the worst violence in Kashmir in a decade with at least 11,000 people left injured and more than 200 dead.

His funeral procession was estimated to have an overwhelming attendance of 15,000 militants and civilians.

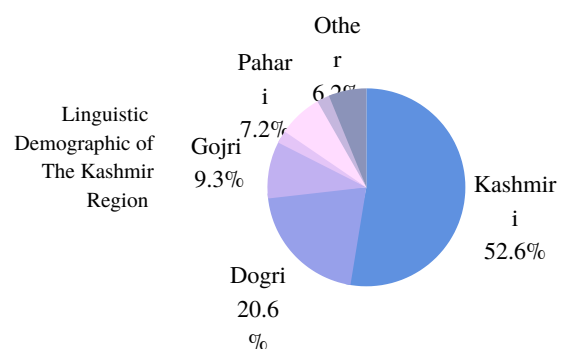
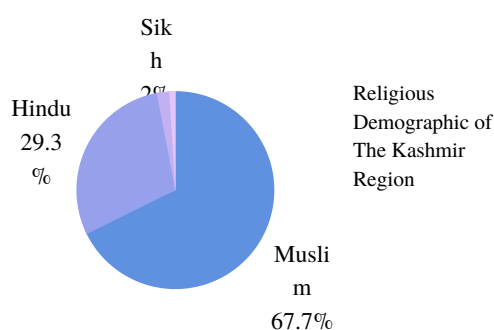
The Indian administration has put majority of southern Kashmir under a curfew lasting more than 42 days as of 19th August, 2016. The region has an indefinite ban on social-media, cellular networks and other methods suspected of crowd instigation.

The Pakistani government reacted to the incident by conducting its dismay for the death of Wani and criticizing India of human rights violations against Kashmiri civilians.

The incident sparked up tensions amongst the two nations and gave the NSAG's in the region and opportunity to threaten the safety and peace of the region yet again.

Not only have these recent activities brought international highlight to the long standing issue of terrorism in Kashmir but have also opened up a window for discussion to safeguard the security of the people of Kashmir and maintain the regional and codependent international peace.

• Demographics



• Photographs.

