



Institute of Regional Studies

IRS observes Self-determination day

Islamabad January 5, 2021: The Institute of Regional Studies held an in-house Roundtable on 5th January on the occasion of Kashmir self-determination day. The event was moderated by Amna Nisar Abbasi, Asst. Research Officer.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Abbasi stated that right of self-determination is an essential component of human dignity and its negation is actually a denial of basic human rights. The deteriorating human right situation in Kashmir followed by Indian unilateral revocation of special status on 5th August 2019, has necessitated immediate global intervention to implement UN resolution in its true spirit.

Mr. Imran Sardar, Research Analyst, while highlighting the historical developments to the Kashmir resolution at the UN Security Council said that Indian resistance over international mediation efforts stems from the fear that its acceptance constitutes an indirect admission that Kashmir is a disputed territory. This is contrary to the Indian position that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and constitutionally part of India.

Ms. Nabila Jaffer, Research Analyst, was of the view that right of self-determination is essentially people-centric that warrants that the inhabitants of Kashmir be given their unalienable right to decide their own future. She elaborated on the Kashmiri struggle and termed it indigenous. She argued that heavy Indian military presence throughout the J&K, the atrocities committed on the innocent Kashmiris have strengthened the resolve of the people to continue their struggle.

Ms. Humera Iqbal, Research Analyst, lamented that the role of UN has been disappointing. She argued that the delay in implementing the resolution has turned a people-centric issue into a geopolitical complexity. She argued that Article 1 of the UN charter that guarantees right of self-determination is in contrast to article 2 that prohibits UN to intervene into matters of other states jurisdiction. She said that legally jurisdiction of India and Pakistan has not been determined vis-à-vis Kashmir, yet the conflicting articles keep the UN at bay.

Ms. Maryam Mastoor, Research Analyst, while elaborating on the right of self-determination was of the view that principally this right allows the people to choose their own political status. It also provides liberty to determine their own economic system, cultural and social development. Unfortunately, the Kashmiris have been deprived of their basic right for the last seven decades.

The presentations were deliberated upon and there was a general consensus that the Kashmir cause could be furthered by concerted efforts which also would require including the Kashmiri diaspora.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President IRS lambasted India on post August 05 developments. He stressed that in addition to highlighting the Kashmir cause with Governments, it has become imperative to reach out at the international level to parliamentarians, academicians and researchers at reputed Think Tanks. Involving the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora has also become essential to derive better results. He called on the international community to take notice of the atrocities being committed by the Indian security forces on the innocent people of Kashmiris.

The in-house discussions concluded with prayers for all those who had lost their lives in the Kashmiri struggle.