

Ceasefire Violation and Cross-border firing: Challenge to world peace and a global issue

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ABSTRACT

We are living in a modern era of technology which made the proximity of people possible. We can now be in touch with people who are living far away from us which leads to world harmony. Today technology and media has reduced the physical distance of the world. Therefore, events of one country affect other countries. No country is self-dependent. All nations of the world developed and developing countries are inter-dependent. Therefore, international understanding is much talked about. All the countries are suffering from their internal problems yet there is a biggest problem called problem of ceasefire or cross border firing which not only affects one nation but all the nations of the world. These activities are not performed by aliens but by the citizens of the world who are themselves humans and are performing such inhumane acts. World harmony and peace is greatly affected by the anti-social human activities like these which lead to loss of lives of hundreds and thousands of people. As the economy of one country affect the economy of other country; in a similar manner ceasefire activities in one country affects the entire world. There are plenty of ceasefire violation happened in India especially in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. It is not only affecting our state but is a global problem. For this all the nations need to work together to remove it from its roots and hence leading to a peaceful world. Conferences, meetings and dialogues are going on at global level but there is still something which is lacking in removing this problem. Our government agencies are working continuously to solve these activities. In this paper, the investigators have made an attempt to figure out the problems faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir in context of education, migration from one place to another and basic facilities, how it has become a global problem, what initiatives have been taken by government of India in removing this problem and what more can be done in this regard.

Key Words: Ceasefire, Cross-border Firing, Education, Migration and Global Issue.

I.INTRODUCTION:

Ceasefire violation is basically violation of the treaty signed between two countries or nation for stopping the war and be at rest with each other. It is a situation where one party starts violating the rules and starts

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destroying other party with bombshells and arms and ammunitions. In an article published online by NDTV with its heading ‘Pakistan Violated Ceasefire 720 Times In 2017, Highest In 7 Years’ dated December, 3, 2017, reported that “Pakistan has violated the ceasefire along the International Border and the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir more than 720 times this year, the highest in past seven years. According to the data compiled by the Union Home Ministry, Pakistani forces have violated ceasefire 724 times along the IB and the LoC till October in comparison to 449 times in 2016. As many as 12 civilians and 17 security personnel were killed in the firing from across the border till October, a home ministry official said quoting the data. A total of 79 civilians and 67 security personnel were also injured in the firing. The truce between India and Pakistan along the International Border, the Line of Control and the Actual Ground Position Line in Jammu and Kashmir came into force in November 2003. India shares a 3,323-km-long border with Pakistan of which 221 km of the IB and 740 km of the LoC fall in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2016, there were 449 incidents of ceasefire violations in which 13 civilians and 13 security personnel were killed and 83 civilians and 99 security personnel were injured. In 2015, the number of ceasefire violations was 405. In 2014, there were 583 incidents of ceasefire violation in which 14 civilians and three security personnel were killed and 101 civilians and 28 security personnel were injured; 347 in 2013, 114 in 2012, 62 in 2011 and 70 in 2010.”

Problems faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir in context of education, migration from one place to another and basic facilities:

Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Defence Ceasefire Violations on 11-December-2015 reported “the details of ceasefire violations in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) along Indo-Pakistan border is as under:-

| Year | Ceasefire Violations along Line of Control (LC) and International Border (IB) under operational control of Army | Ceasefire Violations along IB under operational control of BSF |
|-------------|--|---|
| 2012 | 93 | 21 |
| 2013 | 199 | 148 |
| 2014 | 153 | 430 |
| 2015 | 151 (from 1st January to 30th November, 2015) | 249 (from 1st January to 31st October, 2015) |

(Source: Information given by Minister of State for Defence Rao Inderjit Singh in a written reply to Sh. Abhijit Mukherjee and others in Lok Sabha)

As per assessment, details regarding infiltration in J&K for the past three years and the current year are as under:-

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| Year | Number of terrorists attempted infiltration | No. of terrorists killed on the Line of Control | No. of terrorists returned | No. of terrorists infiltrated successfully |
|-------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|--|
| 2012 | 264 | 13 | 130 | 121 |
| 2013 | 277 | 38 | 142 | 97 |
| 2014 | 221 | 52 | 104 | 65 |
| 2015 (upto 30th September) | 92 | 37 | 38 | 16 + 1* Apprehended alive |

(Source: Information given by Minister of State for Defence Rao Inderjit Singh in a written reply to Sh. Abhijit Mukherjee and others in Lok Sabha)

The details of casualties are as under:-

| Year | No. of Army martyrs during ceasefire violations along Line of Control | No. of civilians killed in ceasefire violations |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 2012 | 01 | 04 |
| 2013 | 03 | 0 |
| 2014 | 01 | 13 |
| 2015 (Upto 06 Dec) | 06 | 02 (upto 30th June) |

(Source: Information given by Minister of State for Defence Rao Inderjit Singh in a written reply to Sh. Abhijit Mukherjee and others in Lok Sabha)

The affected families are identified and loss of property is assessed by the concerned State Government. As reported by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, 590 villages having a population of 5,32,144 are located between 0-5 km from Line of Control (LC)/International Border (IB) in the five border districts of Jammu Division i.e. Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Poonch and Rajouri. Out of these, around 448 villages of districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Poonch and Rajouri are vulnerable to ceasefire violations.

As reported by the State Government, during the period from 2012 to 2014 and the current year, 2,15,110 families were temporarily affected and 193 houses were fully or partially damaged in Jammu & Kashmir due to shelling/firing on LC/IB. During such shelling/firing, the inhabitants of border villages are shifted to safer locations to prevent any loss of life. All arrangements are made by the District administration for free boarding, lodging, medicare, water, electricity, food, sanitation and transport to safer places in such cases.

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All violations of ceasefire are taken up with Pakistan military authorities at the appropriate level through the established mechanism of hotlines, flag meetings as well as weekly talks between the Directorate Generals of Military Operations of the two countries. BSF, too, holds talks at various levels with its counterpart viz. Pakistan Rangers.”

II.CEASEFIRE VIOLATION: A GLOBAL PROBLEM:

All the nations are connected with each other; activity in one nation affects another. Likewise ceasefire violation and other such like activities not only handicap the system of the victim nation but others too. It is a problem at global level and is a global issue. Its best example is ‘LoC trade, farming in the border villages, tourism may get substantially affected’, investments may get hurt and lack of people to people, cultural contact, and contact among the intelligentsia of countries leading to a feeling of distrust among the people.

Pakistan is always behind all the terrorist activities and ceasefire violations in Jammu & Kashmir state. With such hatred and ill-thoughts against India, Pakistan is violating all human norms. It has not only affected the relations of the two countries but has become a global issue. USA has also warned Pakistan against such anti-human activities but no change in the behaviour or we can say actions of Pakistan are taking place. What to say of government? Political parties to gain their votes make it a dirty game to degrade and tarnishing the image of ruling party or the opposition. Where are we heading? Instead of solving the issues we are becoming problem-posers rather than problem-solvers. Indian media and Pakistan media keep on judging each other and pass comment on each other. The dirty face of journalism and government has maligned the human norms and ethics. Where are our ethics? We are going off the track in solving the issues. We are forgetting ethics, morality and rationality. Today we speak to demoralize others, not appreciating the ones who are badly involved in solving such issues. We do not want to listen others, if in any case we listen to others that too for our selfish interests and to respond back with same intensity.

A common man is becoming vulnerable and prey to the selfish interests of political parties and journalism and in the name of religions, regionalism and nationalism. Our youth is getting involved in terrorist groups. Their brains are washed to get freedom from all miseries in the name of Jihad. Government is also responsible for this to some extent. Disappointments and demoralization caused by government leads to frustration and aggression. This frustration and aggression needs proper guidance and direction, which some communalists and separatists use for their selfish interests. They build emotional grounds and lure the youth with stuff of hatred and then our youth stands against his/her nation and get involved in anti-social activities. The question here is who is responsible? And the answer is ‘All of us’. We Indians are born with the innate tendency of adjusting with self and environment. We are known to be having humble and warm nature at world level. Our ‘Sanskriti’ is appreciated at world level. But what we are doing, we are heading towards adopting western culture in eating, behaving, reacting, etc. Whereas West is coming and adopting the culture of India, we are forgetting the philosophy and culture of our country. We are heading towards advancement and technological innovations and

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discoveries. Advancement does not mean advancement in arms and ammunitions; it rather means modification in thought process, change and development of broader outlook of life. Just by hearing these news of ceasefire violations one's heart starts sinking and skips beat for a minute, but the people on chair play blame games and earn political votes by cursing and using abusive languages while sitting in the Parliament or in the news channels as panellists for discussions and debates. It is good that we are getting advanced day by day routine life. But following the culture of another country blindly is of no good. However, a 'Blended Approach' should be followed; as in, we can accommodate and assimilate good things of other countries in our culture, we cannot and should not completely the culture of India. Good things of other countries can help in advancing and enhancing the rich heritage of our country also. We should take lessons from developed countries like USA in the sense that how to take care of the interests of each community, individual and society. Our youth is getting busy on virtual websites of social networking on internet. We are involved in posting updates of the places we visit, the events done in our personal lives, etc. it has become a very important aspect of status symbol. Everyone comment on social networking sites to showcase their ideas and opinions about one thing or the other. But they are not doing anything at their end for solving the issue. An issue of a country is not an issue of political leaders but of all the citizens irrespective of caste, colour, creed, gender, etc. It is the duty of all of us to suggest ideas and solutions to solve the issues of infiltration, cross-border firing, etc. A common man is getting affected the most at grass-root level. The lives of human beings and animals are equally important. In a state like Jammu & Kashmir, which is considered to be a sensitive state, the news of infiltration attempts and ceasefire violation has become a part of our daily lives. But it does not mean that we the citizens of Jammu & Kashmir are habitual to these things. Are the lives of human beings residing in the border areas of Jammu & Kashmir not important? The governments of both the countries are playing the game of homicide in which both the countries are getting grade points when the citizen of each country dies and loses his/her lives. It can be victory of one country or defeat of another, but in reality it is defeat of humanity. Humanity at both the ends gets tarnished and dies every new day.

What was the crime of a child who is of few months old (first child born to a newly wedded couple) in R.S.Pura tehsil of Jammu district who was sleeping in 'charpai' (bed) of his house when a bullet hit him while ceasefire violation attempt by Pakistan and he dies on the spot? What was the crime of cows and buffaloes that were tied in the shed when the rain of bomb shells and bullets hit them and all of them died on the spot? No one bothered, government gave compensation of few lakhs in order to calm the family members. Can an amount of few lakhs bring the lives of the humans and animals back? The answer is big 'NO'. Then, what is going on?

The army men who are guarding our nation are dying every day. They are filled with the love for their nation; they leave behind their families and loved ones to guard each citizen of the country. But what they are getting back is nothing. The plight of the family members of our jawans or we can say 'Brave Martyrs' is vulnerable. They lost their brave sons and then what they got is suffering at every end. There is no proper care of them. The

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army personnel of other countries get honours and recognitions to acknowledge their sacrifices. We should learn some lessons from them.

India is facing many problems already of internal nature; may it be social problems of problems of naxalites which has become a challenge. Ceasefire violation is a problem which needs proper and immediate actions. It is a global problem as it is affecting the relations of every country of the world. Any harm to one country affects the other. Government of India at national level and State Government of Jammu & Kashmir at local level especially take necessary actions but there are certain loopholes in their policies which is the major reason why ceasefire violations or cross border firing is not stopped yet. Leaders of both the countries meet for the purpose of 'Dialogue' but returned back with empty hands. Is this issue that sensitive or difficult that we do not have any solution or we are playing any foul play? The reason can be anything but the ones who are struggling at the grass root level is the residents of border area.

III. INITIATIVES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN REMOVING THIS PROBLEM:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) discharges multifarious responsibilities, the important among them being - internal security, border management, Centre-State relations, administration of Union Territories, management of Central Armed Police Forces, disaster management, etc. Though in terms of Entries 1 and 2 of List II – 'State List' – in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, 'public order' and 'police' are the responsibilities of States, Article 355 of the Constitution enjoins the Union to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance and to ensure that the Government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. In pursuance of these obligations, the Ministry of Home Affairs continuously monitors the internal security situation, issues appropriate advisories, shares intelligence inputs, extends manpower and financial support, guidance and expertise to the State Governments for maintenance of security, peace and harmony without encroaching upon the constitutional rights of the States. The Department of Official Language has a separate Secretary and functions independently. The Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs does not, therefore, cover the activities of the Department of Official Language.

The list of existing Divisions of the Ministry of Home Affairs indicating major areas of their responsibility are as below:

- Administration Division
- Border Management Division
- Coordination Division
- Centre-State Division

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- Disaster Management Division
- Finance Division
- Foreigners Division
- Freedom Fighters and Rehabilitation Division
- Internal Security – I Division
- Internal Security – II Division
- Internal Security – III Division
- International Co-operation Division
- Jammu & Kashmir Division
- Judicial Division
- Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Division
- North East Division
- Police – I Division
- Police – II Division
- Police Modernisation Division
- Union Territories Division

All the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India are available to the permanent residents of J&K in terms of Constitution of J&K. Further, power of the State Legislature to make laws in future or the existing law in force, including the pre-Constitution laws relating to permanent residents and their rights have been given protection under article 35(A) of the Constitution of India, as applicable to J&K. Such protection is not available to other States.

Government of India on 29 September 2016, conducted surgical strikes against militant launch pads across Line of Control in Pakistani administered Azad Kashmir (as stated in Wikipedia). In 2018, also the number of ceasefire violations is more than 1000 times as reported by Indian Express. The residents are falling prey to these attempts. In order to have a basic idea of the situation, the investigators conducted a pilot study.

IV.PILOT STUDY DONE BY THE INVESTIGATORS:

The investigators tried to get an idea of the problems faced by the residents of border areas of **R.S.Pura tehsil**. The sample for the study consisted of **50 residents** (mixed sample of students, elderly persons and middle-aged persons, male and female). The sampling technique used was '**Purposive Sampling**' technique. The investigators prepared an '**Interview Schedule**' of **seven items** and took the interview of the sample selected for the study. '**Content Analysis**' was done to analyse the responses of the sample. The analysis and interpretation of the results of the pilot study is given as follows:

1. On asking, about the effect of ceasefire violations and cross border firing on their lives, the respondents responded that they are continuously in fear of ceasefire violation and cross border firing. Every now and then they hear and feel the sounds of bombshells and firing, their houses were damaged, and their cattle were dead, hue and cry everywhere when firing takes place. Loss of human lives, loss of property, loss of education of children, loss of agricultural lands, loss of livelihood and migration from one place to another were prime effects of the same.
2. On asking about the trauma of ceasefire violations and cross border firing, the respondents responded that many physical and mental problems were faced by the residents. Many got injured and hospitalised, many got trauma especially children, many faced psychological ailments.
3. On asking about the government aid and support, the respondents responded that during firing and ceasefire attempts they are forced to leave their homes in order to save their lives. Government helped them to some extent by arranging shelter homes, food, medicine, etc. They reported that during the time of ceasefire the studies of their students get badly affected as the schools get shut down and the government educational institutions were converted into shelter homes where all the residents were resided in big halls. The residents seemed to be unhappy with the governmental support and aid. They also added that after the ceasefire or firing gets over political leaders visit them to gain their votes or for media attention. No one is concerned for their lives. They had many complaints with the government.
4. On asking about role of army men during ceasefire violation or cross border firing, the respondents responded that the army men are their strength; they inspire them to be brave at the time of crisis. They helped them whether it was saving their lives, distribution of food, medicines, giving directions, etc. They also reported that the first person to visit them during firing and ceasefire violation was the army men who 'gherao' the area and made the residents vacant the place.
5. On asking about the number of pre and post ceasefire violations after surgical strike, the respondents responded that they were not interested in telling on the increase or decrease in the number of ceasefire violation attempts after surgical strikes as they are not data analysts and political leaders. They reported that they were common man they did not deal with numbers but they were more concerned with the loss of lives. They added that number did not matter, all what matter was these kinds of attempts have not been stopped and fear of loss of

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lives and property always lies in their minds. They also added that they want government of India to take necessary actions rather than playing dirty politics over this issue.

6. On asking about the education of the children of the area, the respondents responded that they belonged to rural areas and wanted their children to progress in their lives as the urban children do. But how can it be possible when the schools were shut down and the students were moving from one place to another to save their lives leaving their property and books behind. Schools remained shut for days and months, they lag behind in Board examinations, their syllabus did not get completed and then final examinations came. At that time their children rather chose not to go for examination and if in case they sit for examinations either they get failed or very less scores. How can their children get jobs when they score less?

7. On asking about what they want from government, the respondents responded that they want the government to think rationally and respond back to these ceasefire violations with the same intensity so that the people or country involved in these attempts get afraid of conducting such attempts.

V.CONCLUSION:

It is an undoubted fact that ceasefire violation affects both the parties involved. The major effect of the same is on the common man who struggles for food, shelter and living. All have to move from their respective places to shelter houses or government schools present in the area. The education of the children also get affected, a continuous fear and trauma in the minds of the people causing trauma, mental sickness, physical ailments, loss of money and property and likewise started creeping which directly or indirectly affects the nation or the world at large. We always say that we have to make strict laws but do not reach at any conclusion. This is the high time for the government of all the nations and common people to come out of their comfort zones and contribute in making world ceasefire violation free universe and thereby enhancing peace and harmony in the inter and intra nations.

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