

**RESEARCH PAPER****Abrogation of Article 370: Impacts on India Pakistan Relations****¹Hamza Rehman, ²Dr. Tayba Anwar* and ³Rizwan Haider**

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***Corresponding Author:** taybaanwar@gcwuf.edu.pk**ABSTRACT**

This analysis examines the effects of the removal of Article 370 on India-Pakistan relations and identifies potential pathways for resolving the Kashmir conflict. The Indian government's decision to repeal Article 370 in August 2019, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, has significantly strained relations with Pakistan. This move has important implications for regional security, bilateral relations, and the potential for future cooperation between the two nations. The abrogation of Article 370 has escalated tensions, increased violations of the ceasefire, and negatively impacted the possibilities for dialogue. Pakistan has sought to internationalize the Kashmir conflict, while India maintains that it is an internal matter. To effectively address the Kashmir conflict and other bilateral issues, India and Pakistan need to engage in genuine, uninterrupted dialogue. Establishing effective conflict resolution mechanisms, such as mediation or arbitration, can help resolve disputes peacefully. Additionally, promoting regional cooperation and economic integration can reduce tensions and create an environment conducive to a peaceful resolution of conflicts. The international community should encourage and support efforts aimed at dialogue and conflict resolution while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both nations. By implementing these measures, India and Pakistan can work towards de-escalating tensions, resolving the Kashmir conflict, and promoting regional peace and stability.

KEYWORDS Article 370, Globalization of the Kashmir Issue, India-Pakistan Relations, Kashmir Ceasefire Violations, Regional Security, Security Situation**Introduction**

The scrapping of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution on the 5th August 2019 unearths/provides a reshaping of the political and strategic structure in South Asian region. Article 370 gave special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir in India and this state remained free to frame its own constitution and even had its own flag and had exclusive right in all matters pertaining the state including legislative in all matters including those related defense, communicational and foreign policies. The suspension of this privileged status, by the Indian government under its then Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has therefore had the following impact, which was not only regional but also impacted their bilateral relationship. Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed area, where Indo-Pakistan tensions began soon after partition of British India in 1947. Although both countries claim to own the territory in full, they partly control it, India has control over Jammu, Kashmir Valley, and Ladakh as well as Pakistan controls AJK and GB(Sodhi, 2021). The revocation of the Article was interpreted in Pakistan as an attempt to change the status of a territory which is recognized as disputed by Pakistan making an already strained relationship worse.

However, Article 370 sparked large-scale politicization in the Indian context and its abrogation was painted as Instrument of national integration, development of Jammu and Kashmir and eradication of the discrimination against women in the territory. Official reasons of the Indian government included that the special status of the region hampered its development and incited separatism. It also underlined that such decision was an internal affair and did not affect anyone or anything outside of the country. But this narrative was received outright hostility by Pakistan which accused India of aggression against the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and brutality against the Kashmiri population. Scrapping of Article 370 has escalated the India and Pakistan rivalry, diplomatically and militarily, resulting in constant jitters. In response, Pakistan responded by reducing the level of its relations with India, expelled the Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan and stopped trade relations as well. The incident has also brought back the focus on the Kashmir dispute on the international level as Pakistan tries to mobilize support from countries like China Turkey and Malaysia. On the other hand, India has also tried to deescalate these steps by claiming sovereign right over Jammu and Kashmir and which accused Pakistan of supporting cross border terrorism(Mir, 2024). It has also considerably affected domestic and regional relations. Internationally it led bitterly to debates on federalism, Democracy and human rights in India where reorganization Jammu and Kashmir into two union territory J&K and Ladakh was perceived by some as infringement of self-rule. Globally it has put a new strategic dimension to South Asian affairs as players like China, the United States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Military wise the so-called abrogation has resulted into increased cases of ceasefire violations across the LoC with both Indian and Pakistan accusing each other of aggression. These grievances have amplified concerns in the unsteady security environment a full-scale conflict between the two nuclear India and Pakistan. On the other hand, the ordinary people of the Jammu and Kashmir have been the major sufferer of escalating tensions, they have been shackled, there is no communication, and are very often exposed to violence. Pakistan's opposition to the abrogation is based in its historical position that Jammu and Kashmir is a Muslim-majority territory that should have joined Pakistan during the division. Why removing those measures was seen as an effort to strengthen New Delhi's grip on the disputed territory and undermine its Muslim majority. Political leaders in Pakistan, including PM Imran Khan at the time of writing, denounced the action as a blatant military aggression and compared the situation to ethnic cleansing; claimed rights abuses in the Valley of Kashmir(Rather, 2020).

India, however, rejected such claims and summed up Pakistan's human rights abuses in the areas its occupation and dubbed Islamabad of exploiting the Kashmir issue to sidetrack its domestic issues. India also accused Pakistan of supporting terrorist groups in the region of Jammu and Kashmir stating that removal of the provision of Article 370 would put an end to terrorism as the region would be integrated into mainstream India.

There is a reaction of the international community to the abrogation. Some of the countries such as United States and Russia have urged both countries to sort out their issues through diplomatic means, whereas others have put more importance on sovereignty and integrity of both, Indian and Pakistan. The leaders of major organizations like United Nation have termed the solution of Kashmir issue as essential only in non-violent manner but using their power to reduce tensions or act as a middleman has not been brought in practice.

That is why the dismantlement of Article 370 has also influenced India's overall foreign policy. It has flexed its muscles in relations to the neighbors; China which has expressed concern with the re- organization of Ladakh, a part of which China occupies. Moreover, the issue has affected India's relations with the Islamic countries, those, which are supporting India with neutral positions like Saudi Arabia and UAE while some

countries like Turkey and Malaysia are openly criticizing India. At home, there has been cheers and jeers to the abrogation (Gupta, 2021). Therefore, it has been for the development and integration of Jammu and Kashmir on other states' standards to the Indian mainstream. The detractors disagree with this opinion by asserting that the decision weakens the spirit of federalism in India, disappoints the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and makes the violent situation in the region potentially even worse.

From a strategic point of view, the abrogation of Article 370 can be analyzed as an important step of the Indian government to strengthen its control over the region of Jammu and Kashmir allowing to deepen sovereignty despite the escalation of the conflict with Pakistan. Nonetheless, this policy may only sustain for the long terms if the Indian government is willing to face up to economic, social and political challenges in the region besides enduring the tumultuous relationship with Pakistan.

Thus, the annulment of Article 370 has socio-political effects on the diplomatic, military and geopolitical extents of India-Pakistan relations. It has also exacerbated the rivalry between the two countries which resulted to deteriorating of security situation in South Asia. This decision has also raised the question about the desire and need to start a dialog and conflict solving processes in relation to the concerns and set goals of the people in Jammu and Kashmir (Iqbal, 2024). As the dynamic of the tensions and conflicts still progress, the repeal of Article 370 has become one of the main events affecting the bilateral relations of India and Pakistan as well as the standpoint of the future development of the whole South Asian region.

Removal of this article (370) that gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir has worsened relations between India and Pakistan. It has heightened diplomacy tensions followed by armed conflict across the LoC and also increased stirrings of the Kashmir question all over the world. Pakistan sees the act as a breach of United Nations resolutions to change the population ratio in the region while the latter sees the act as the internal affairs of the country with intention of developing integrated regional states. This continued friction in response to disputed development has not only expanded the lack of trust between them but also increased the probability of military action in an already instable region and raised the questions about the possibility of diplomatic and peaceful relationship between two nuclear powers of the sub-continent.

Literature Review

Indo-Pak hostility stems from historical political, cultural, social, and economic factors such as India's partition, asset division, boundary demarcation, communal riots, Hindu-Muslim-Sikh. . Kashmir issue is the main cause of enmity between two states. That's why both countries focusing their attentions on buying weapons and latest military technology instead of working on welfare for the people. Other that the different number of event also discuss in this chapter such as 1965 war separation of East Pakistan in 1971 and Shimla Agreement. Pakistan Executive General Pervez Musharraf talked about India for bringing peace and stability to the region stressing that the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir. In the discussion on the Agra Summit 2001. PM AtalBihari Vajpayee's invitation letter of May 6 2001. General Pervez Musharraf extended the offer of dialogue on address all standing issue including Jammu and Kashmir (Mustaffa, 2023)

It overemphasizes the India-Pakistan relations in the South Asian region by pinpointing Article 370 has an icon and underlines how this has revolutionized regional security and politics. India's decision to abrogate its Constitution to remove the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was seen by Pakistan as an infringement of international law including for breach of United Nations resolutions on the dispute of Jammu Kashmir. The move further strained relations: Pakistan recalled its ambassador and broke off trade, and

also stepped up the strategy of taking the conflict to the next international level. In this regard, the Council would like to note that India spoke of the action as an internal policy attempting to promote integration and development of states in the region, but it resulted in the increase in ceasefire violations and militant activities. The abrogation has not only tilted the relations of the two nuclear-armed neighbors in the worse direction which shrinks chances for dialogue and enlarges the dangers of confrontation but differently reacts in the international powers (Center for Preventive Action, 2024).

The Atlantic Council (2019) presents a deeper discussion of the prospect of India's abrogation of Article 370 in terms of strategy, with a focus on the significant crises of the India- Pakistan relationship. The review observes that the decision to abrogate the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was highly sensitive that has reduced India's relations with Pakistan to below frosty level due to the latter's perception of this move as illegal change of the status of the region. The Line of Control, the de facto border between the two countries, has seen increased military tensions and Combat activities as well as increased militant incidents in the region according to the Atlantic Council. In addition, the review discusses how abrogation has preempted regional stability and negotiation possibilities for other resolutions have been diminished and Pakistan wants the Kashmir issue to go to the UN and India says it is their internal affair. According to the Atlantic Council, this has raised the strategic rivalry throughout the South Asian region and is likely to add to the region's instability (Nooruddin, 2019).

The London School of Economics (2022). It says the review noting that the recent action of the Indian government to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir has sharply raised the level of confrontation between South Asian neighbors and Pakistan in particular, given the fact of the unresolved conflict around the territory of Kashmir. According to the LSE analysis, Indian considers the action as the process of integration and growth of the nation while Pakistani regard it as violating the status of the claiming territory. The review also covers the regional impact of the review showing how bald act of abrogation has further fueled Pakistan's hostility resulting into diplomatic crisis and military build-up accentuated by the Line of Control. In addition, the LSE report points out the problems that this stance creates for Indian foreign policy: it has created problems with neighbors such as China, and it has been negatively received by much of the international community. The study finds that the abrogation has deepened the Kashmir strife, devoid of any change in diplomatic relations between the two nuclear states (Sulehria., 2022).

The East Asia Forum (2024). It elaborately analyses the effects of abrogation of the Article 370 the gut has continues the Kashmir problem and intensified the polarization between India and Pakistan. The review states that while India's action was presented as domestic affairs related to integration and development in Jammu and Kashmir; Pakistan perceived it as violation of international law and attempt to change the demographic and political composition of the disputed territory. The East Asia Forum analysis covers issues of the deterioration of relations including the new phase of military skirmishes along the LoC and easing of trust between the India and Pakistan. It also explains how the abrogation has impacted geopolitics of South Asia and its neighborhood besides having bearings on India and Pakistan and China. These findings of the review are summarized and highlighted at the conclusion to the paper and arguable that the dangers of conflict are constant in this particular region because the Kashmir issue still persists as an unresolved one in the strategic framework for South Asia (Haque, 2024)

Newslaundry (2023) gives a compelling legal and political reaction after decision of the India Supreme Court over the constitutional validity of the revocation of the Article 370, which defines special status of the territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Hence the review captures how the decision has escalated the tension between the India and Pakistan by

shifting the status of the region as disputed by Pakistan by opposing it on the basis of the violation of the international resolutions. Newslaundry again analyses that the verdict is still quite sensitive within India and beyond the country and some critics refer that the decision is anti-Kashmir liberation and increases the insecurity in the region. Moreover, the review does discuss how the abrogation has made the military and security situation even deeper and more stringent and how diplomatic relations between the two nuclear states are becoming even more challenging as a result. Newslaundry says that the verdict has made India stronger on Kashmir but has made the peace with Pakistan further away (Vardhan, 2023).

Material and Methods

For the purpose of analyzing the significance of the abrogation of Article 370 on the relations between India and Pakistan, employing a qualitative research strategy, the primary and secondary research methods are adopted. Primary sources are newspaper articles, books, articles in scholarly journals, online resources from the library, as well as secondary sources from social media, newspapers, books, and articles. The sources would be scrutinized for Set Pattern, Arguments and Counter Arguments regarding the Political, Social and Diplomatic repercussions of the action. Analyzing accounts of these sources, the paper will use a thematic analysis to explore its research question on how these sources portray changes in bilateral relations, security, and international interventions to inform the future of India-Pakistan relations.

Historical Context of Article 370

Article 370 refers to the provision in the Constitution of India that provided a special status in the Indian union only to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The origins can be dated to the time of the Partition of India in 1947 the princes were given the option to join India or Pakistan. In 1947, when India got independence the ruler of J&K Maharaja Hari Singh wanted to keep his state independent. But, unfortunately, the invasion by the tribes aided by Pakistan compelled him to take the assistance of India. The Instrument of Accession (IoA) was executed on October 26, 1947 in which India gained the power of defense, foreign affairs and communication. To honor the state's distinctiveness, the state's autonomy was guaranteed under Article 370 which was passed in 1949 but incorporated into the constitution of India in 1950 (Bhat, 2019).

Such an arrangement was the political deal between the Government of India with Jawaharlal Nehru as its first prime minister and Jammu and Kashmir with its leader Sheikh Abdullah. The provision let J&K have its own constitution and the right to fly its own flag and have its separate laws in all spheres except in the subjects mentioned in the (IoA). Besides, the Indian Parliament could not extend any laws to J&K, without the consent of the state's legislative assembly. This was for the multifaceted demography and geography of the state, and the still open international question regarding the southern part of the state, the territory of Kashmir. The particularity of Article 370 was to be a temporary measure; however, it was vague enough to allow political battles over the years.

For more than three decades, Article 370 suffered many changes. In the past, Indian governments changed the laws of J&K through successive Presidential Orders, and centralization process expanded and weakened its autonomy. While this gradual integration continued to serve the Indian security establishment's purpose, it only created a new source of anger among various factions of the Kashmiri populace, who deemed such a policy as a break of the pledge. However, Pakistan did not accept the Indian control over J&K that had resulted in many wars and a long-drawn-out insurgency in the region due to Pakistan sponsored cross border terrorism. Article 370 became a sign of unity and at the

same time sign of division- some peoples saw it as a way to mince the gap between J&K and other parts of India, and others regarded it as a way of separation.

However, even besides its legal implications, the provision proved particularly valuable in terms of contextualizing contemporary socio-political configuration of J&K as well as its relationship the two neighboring countries, India and Pakistan (Hussain, 2020). This represented an area of incomplete integration of the region into the Indian Union for many in India. To critics especially those in J&K and Pakistan it was a wake-up call to the unfulfilled promises and the onslaught. Disputes over the historical context, the prospect of the impact of its repeal in August 2019 on Indian federalism, and the relations between India and Pakistan have arisen.

Immediate Reactions to the Abrogation of Article 370

India's Position: and the Justifications

The Indian government led by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah defensibly eroded the Article 370 on August 5-2019 because it aimed to integrate the territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) fully into India. The government maintained that the special status delayed development process, stimulated separatist spirits and resulted in the feeling of being different from rest of the population. By eradicating this provision and redrawing J&K into two Union Territories – Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh stated that the government seeks to attract more economic opportunities, better governance, and an equal opportunity for all citizens. The act of the abrogation was masked and cloaked as an internal issue of India where the Indian government spoke about its sovereign right to take decisions regarding the nation (Bhatia, 2021). The change was appreciated by many, especially nationalist groups in India referring to the change as the correction of historical injustice and an affirmation of the policy of “one nation one constitution”.

The Moderation of Pakistan's Strong Opposition & Diplomatic Escalation

The abrogation gave an enraged Pakistan a cause to secure its hold over the disputed territory and protect its fellow Muslim brothers. The government of Pakistan decided to cut off diplomatic relations with India reducing the Indian High Commission, and Pakistan halted the process of trade with India. Pakistan's Prime Minister, Imran Khan, called it an act against the UN reference and cautioned that the region can become volatile. Pakistan also began an aggressive diplomatic drive, using the international media and approaching international organizations including the United Nations, the OIC, and a number of specific nations like China, Turkey and Malaysia to condemn actions India (Bhat M. a., 2024). Nevertheless, Pakistani diplomacy did achieve some success, but, at the same time, most of the world, including the USA and Russia, saw it as India's domestic problem. it added to tensions between the two South Asian rival powers of India and Pakistan, which already considered each other arch enemies and raised tensions across the LOC.

Local Measures in Jammu and Kashmir

Till the abrogation within its territories, some level of dissent was felt but it was more felt at Jammu and Kashmir and particularly at the Kashmir Valley. India's prime minister ordered thousands of extra security forces, implemented a strict curfew, and severed internet and communication access fearing the outbreak would cause civil disturbance. Many political leaders including former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were arrested to avoid public demonstrations. Such measures raised concerns of the UK's human rights organizations and the UK's opposition political parties that the government was undermining the democratic processes. Though

some in the Jammu and Ladakh regions angered for the change believing they would get better development and representation, the Kashmir valley felt betrayed, and its identity dissolved. Surrender of civil liberties and communication has caused a lot of discomfort and irritation to the local population.

International Response and Geo-political Consequences

The reactions to the repeal of Article 370 were on the whole moderate, and the split was clearly geopolitical. While a number of countries such as China and Turkey condemned India's decision, most of the western democracies including, America, Britain and France did not fully condemn India but insisted that the two countries involved, in this case India and Pakistan should sit down for negotiation. A neighbor of Ladakh, China also raised its opinion on the change of status of the region and the Indian intent on its claim over Aksai Chin zone. It made India-China conflict worse and worse especially when the two countries are still having problem in their border line. At the same time, Pakistan attempted to take it to the international level – to the United Nations Security Council – and appeal for help from the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation. But no global outrage emanated from it owing to India foreign policy muscle and assertion and the portrayal of the act as an internal affair. Nevertheless, the shift was crucial for South Asian geopolitics in order deliberate escalation of the regional conflict and raise the issues of sovereignty, federalization and human rights(Hilali, 2021)

Impact of Abrogation of Article 370 on Bilateral Relations

The threat level up at the Line of Control (LoC)

The scrapping of the Article 370 continues to fuel animosity between India and Pakistan especially along the Line of Control/Control Line. Pakistan steps up its support for cross-border infiltration and militants' activities in Jammu and Kashmir with an intention of exacerbating anarchy in the region and take the issue of the disputed territory to international stage. Consequently, Indian Anti-terrorist squad increased their operation and raided terrorists' camps across the border of India. There was an increase in the number of ceasefires violations on both sides, and most of the areas experienced heavy artillery shelling and fights. It also took tension to the next level leading to poor relations between the two countries, which made the region's security rather insecure(Gayner, 2020)

Diplomatic Breakdown

The scrapping of Article 370 nudged relations between India and Pakistan to the lowest point what cutting off diplomatic relations. Pakistan downgraded its diplomacy by deporting the Indian High Commissioner and also asked its High Commissioner in New Delhi to leave. Trade also stopped between the two countries, and since the amount of trade was anyway insignificant, it was not a great loss. Also, Pakistan announced that it would not hold any other conversation with India if the article 370 is not reinstate(Times of india, 2019). While India continued to stress that the scrapping of the provision was an internal affair and that Pakistan had no locus standi, the Pakistan Government remained aghast at the Indian move, as the future of the Jammu and Kashmir did not rest in any outside party's realm of negotiation. This rigid position by both sides made it harder for diplomacy and made relations deep freeze as they were.

Terrorism and Security Across Borders

The abrogation gave Pakistan the chance to extend its proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir through support to militant groups and fanning separatism. India said that

Pakistan is stepping up its proxy terrorism and sending cross-LoC terrorists to disturb the stability in the area. The attack in Pulwama in February last year escalated tensions and India responded through military operation as the air strike on Balakot. Pakistan officially dismissed such reports but was gradually getting under pressure in the international community regarding its patronage to terrorism. The civil uprising in the Kashmir and constant overtures by Indian security forces to quell it has maintained a climate of insecurity within the disputed territory, and thus worsening the relations between two neighbors (Ashraf, 2019)

Resume and Solidification of –Polarized International Responses

The scrapping of Article 370 put the India-Pakistan relations in international limelight and caused a varied international reaction. In response to this move, Pakistan began pressing for the support of global bodies the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its friends in Beijing and Ankara. Although such actions may have brought some sympathy towards Pakistan nowhere did Pakistan manage to get a backlash against India's move. Majority of powers including United States and Russia and most of the European powers considered the abrogation as internal affair of India and refused to go personal. India has also assumed more diplomatic positions and enhanced its economic cooperation with countries that supported its cause and helped it to balance off Pakistan's propaganda. But it intensified the bipolarity of Indo-Pak relations and wedged deeper the structural differences pertaining to the issue of Kashmir.

Long-term Consequences for the Stability of the Area

The move to abrogate Article 370 worsened the existing tensions and brought forth a huge number of problems to the stability of South Asia. It kept the rivalry and animosity between India and Pakistan escalating, which made the search for a common solution even more distant. Sustaining support from China and especially in multilateral platforms like the United Nations tilted the balance of power in the region in favor of China. The abrogation also facilitated more violence and armed force along with stricter security in Jammu and Kashmir continuing insecurity. Insufficient discourse and cooperation between India and Pakistan, and the absence of diplomatic relations have prevented broader regional interaction and collaboration in broader regional issues including counter terrorism, economic integration and development hence exposed South Asia to long term instability and poverty.

Severing of Public and Political Spirits

The abolishment of Article 370 aggravated the public and political stance in the Indian and the Pakistani context. In India, the decision was proved to be the biggest step towards completion of integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union and this decision was encouraged by various nationalist organizations. In Pakistan, the abrogation was painted in seemingly devilish colors which oppressed the Kashmiri people and trampled on their right to determine their future. Since such attitudes set Scottish and British people against each other, the hostility only increases and there are no incentives for either government to take friendly stances. It must also be noted that extremization of positions has occurred in the parties contributing to the perpetuation of the division and lowering chances of serious interaction and reconciliation in the near future.

Changing Strategy in Kashmir

The change of attitude of Pakistan may be attributed to the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019. Pakistan intended to bring the matter before international diplomacy and different international forums for a long period regarding Jammu and Kashmir issue.

Still, it could be seen that Pakistan's strategy changed after India moved to abrogate the special status of the region.

Pakistan wanted to portray Indian action as unlawful which violates United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution on Kashmir which emphasizes on the right of self-determination for the people of Kashmir (Khalid, 2021). The government of Pakistan turned to the nations of the world, especially those of the Islamic faith. But even when countries like Turkey and Malaysia voiced their support behind Pakistan, Pakistan failed to get significant condemnation of India's act from the international community. International relationships showed that major world's economy such as United States of America, European power and Russia did not aggressively oppose the Act, perceiving it as India Domestic affair. This lack of support amongst the comity of nations made diplomacy a lonely affair for Pakistan to which it had to pay attention.

Conclusion

Scrapping Article 370 has created a significant impact and has further deteriorated the bilateral relationships between India and Pakistan and also has extended the age-old dispute on the Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. However, for India the policy was presented as shifting the country closer to integration, development, and solving historical problems in the region. But Pakistan studied it as a measure in violation of the signed accords, universally accepted principles, and the will of the populace of the Kashmir territory. This divergence in perspectives has deepened the Harry & David split of diplomacy and ideologies between the two countries, Pakistan has taken this act and raised the level of aggressive confrontation with India. The spike in the incidents along the LoC, the suspension of bilateral communication, and the enhancement in credibility of threats of cross-border terrorism have deepened enmity, coming to the negotiating table extinct. Similarly on the global level there is little sympathy with Pakistan's stance but there are increasing concerns regarding stability in South Asia and rights' situation in J&K.

In the long term, the abrogation has drawn a new map of the relations between India and Pakistan that will permanently enslave both countries in fear and hostility. Although India insists that the issue regarding Jammu and Kashmir is a domestic one of theirs the nation of Pakistan insists on the internationalization and dispute of the issue. Such a standstill not only does not contribute to Central Asian states' cooperation with each other but also sustains insecurity and instability in South Asia. The abrogation has also rigidified the positions of civil society and politicians in both countries, offering no space for diplomatic man oeuvre. To achieve sustainable peace, it is high time that people on both sides of the border change their strategies and protocols and work for change emphasis on dialogue rather than conflict and the plight of the suppressed people of Kashmir. Nevertheless, as long as the existing trend of bilateral relations and the overall setting on the European continent persists, it has been all but impossible to reach this balance. But scrapping of Article 370 has added a new issue, the political significance of which in turn, has brought new disturbances to an already fraught relationship, with consequences that are likely to define relations not only between India and Pakistan but between India and Afghanistan for years to come.

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