

## UNSC Resolution 47 on Kashmir

### What is the issue?

- The government removed the special status for the state of Jammu and Kashmir by modifying Article 370 of India's Constitution.
- Pakistan's Prime Minister said that this is an illegal move.

### How did Pakistan react?

- Pakistan's Prime Minister, Imran Khan said that India's move will further deteriorate relations between nuclear-capable neighbours.
- Its Foreign Ministry said that no unilateral step by the Government of India could change the disputed status, as enshrined in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

### What are the UNSC resolutions that Imran Khan spoke about?

- Imran Khan in his statement referred to **UNSC Resolution 47**.
- In 1947, following an invasion by Pakistani soldiers, the Maharaja of Kashmir signed the Instrument of Accession with India.
- After the first war in Kashmir (1947-1948), India approached the UNSC to bring the conflict in Kashmir to the notice of its members.
- This resolution focuses on the Government of India's complaint concerning the dispute over the State of J&K.

### Who were the UNSC members who oversaw the issue?

- **5 permanent members** - China, France, UK, US & Russia.
- **6 non-permanent members** - Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Syria and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

### What happened at the UNSC?

- **India** - Was ready to hold a plebiscite, to know of the people's desire and accept the results of the vote.
- **Pakistan** - Denied its involvement in the conflict and counter-accused India.
- **UNSC** - Under Resolution 39 (1948), it set up the UN Commission with a view to facilitate the restoration of peace and order and to the holding of a plebiscite, by the two Governments in Kashmir.

### **What did the UNSC order India to do?**

- It said that after the Pakistani army had withdrawn from the State, India was to submit a plan to the Commission.
- The plan should be for withdrawing the forces from J&K and to reduce them over a period of time to the minimum strength required for civil maintenance of law and order.
- India should appraise the Commission of the stages at which steps had been taken to reduce military presence to the minimum strength.
- India was ordered to keep the State forces and police forces in the areas to be agreed upon by the Plebiscite Administrator.
- It also directed India to recruit local personnel for law and order and to safeguard the rights of minorities.

### **What did the UNSC order Pakistan to do?**

- The UNSC ordered that Pakistan was to withdraw its nationals who had entered the State for the purpose of fighting and to prevent future intrusions.
- It also stated it to give full freedom to all subjects of the State to express their views and the freedom to vote in the plebiscite.

### **Why India rejected the UNSC Resolution 47?**

- India's disagreement was that the resolution ignored the military invasion by Pakistan and placing both nations on an equal diplomatic ground was a dismissal of Pakistan's aggression.
- The fact that the Maharaja of Kashmir had signed the Instrument of Accession (IoA) was also ignored in the resolution.
- The order to form a coalition government will put the Prime Minister of the Jammu & Kashmir, in a difficult position.
- India also believed that the powers conferred on the Plebiscite Administrator undermined the state's sovereignty.
- India wanted Pakistan to be excluded from the plebiscite.

### **Why Pakistan rejected the UNSC Resolution 47?**

- It objected to even the minimum presence of Indian forces in Kashmir, as allowed by the resolution.
- It wanted equal representation in the state government for the Muslim Conference (Dominant party in Pakistani-held Kashmir).
- **Despite their differences** with the provisions of Resolution 47, both India and Pakistan **welcomed the UN Commission** and agreed to work with it.

**Source: The Indian Express**

