

# Pakistan's Foreign Policy

## R2P

### Pakistan's Policy:

PM Khan on Saturday said there was an urgency for the international community, as well as their obligation under the unanimously adopted UN principle of Responsibility to Protect (R2P), to provide immediate humanitarian relief to millions of Afghans on the brink of starvation. He said one pillar of R2P was to help protect people from mass-scale humanitarian crisis left in the wake of a prolonged conflict. Uzair Younus, the director of the Pakistan Initiative at the Washington-based Atlantic Council advocacy group, said R2P was a doctrine endorsed by all member states of the UN in 2005 and dealt with the international community's duty to protect human beings in a country where they were faced with atrocities in the form of mass violence, genocide and others.

“If this is the case, R2P opens the door for international intervention in the affairs of a sovereign state, including through the use of military force, to stop the atrocities even if that included toppling a government,”

### R2P and Kashmir:

According to Geneva Academy's project, Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts (RULAC) — which monitors more than 80-armed conflicts involving at least 55 State and more than 70 armed Non-State actors — “The disputed status of Kashmir has been a source of conflict between India and Pakistan since the first Indo-Pakistan war in 1947, with a devastating impact on the civilian population.” It was the first of four wars that was fought between the two newly created states over the Muslim majority Kashmir that was supposed to join Pakistan by virtue of the partition of British India.

Several human rights organisations report that thousands of civilians have been killed by Indian state in the conflict, since 1989. There are recorded cases of torture, enforced disappearances, rape, arbitrary detentions and the use of lethal weapons on civilians, along with media censorship and attacks on journalists. It is these crimes that gave a rise to locally revered indigenous armed movement in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) resisting Indian rule.

The Government of Pakistan has launched a comprehensive dossier titled, ‘Human rights violation 2021 in IOJK’, exposing the scale of mass atrocity crimes perpetrated by the Indian Occupying force in the disputed territory. The dossier comes three years after India unilaterally abrogated the status of the region by claiming it to be its ‘integral part’.