India and Pakistan—the two neighbouring countries of South Asia—have much in common in terms of history, culture, language and religions. Both the countries were parts of a single political entity until August 1947. Despite these close affinities psychologically both the countries have always been living two poles apart. When the British left the sub-continent, it was widely expected that the geographical location, historical connections, socio-cultural commonalities, ethnic and linguistic affinity of the two countries would pave a way for peace, progress and prosperity for the entire region, but the reality has turned out to be different. Both the countries since their inception have grown ever further apart; and their policies both domestic and international have evolved increasingly in divergent directions. One underlying reason for this, perhaps the most important, is to be found in the consequences of the dispute over the possession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. During about five and a half decades of their existence the two countries have fought several bloody wars specifically over the question of title to this territory. More so, in the recent years, Kashmir issue has turned into a powder keg which seems to be threatening to blast the entire South Asia any time. This dangerous state of affairs is the direct result of the confrontation between India and Pakistan on the happenings in Kashmir.

The trouble started when a large number of young Kashmiri Muslims armed with sophisticated weapons resorted to an underground armed struggle against the Indian authority since 1989-90. The separatist slogans which these militants raised received a massive public support and the situation reached to a point where it became a question of reestablishing Indian state’s writ over Jammu and Kashmir. In order to deal with this kind of situation, the Indian security agencies resorted to massive force. The counter attacks by the
militants were equally effective and this gave rise to a war like situation in which thousands of the people were killed and innumerable turned physically disabled. Besides the destruction of property worth billions of rupees, a large number of people especially Kashmiri Pandiths were rendered homeless as they had to migrate from Kashmir. However, among all these proportions which this armed militancy assumed the most alarming one has been that it resulted in the complete deterioration of Indo-Pak relations and brought the two countries at the brink of a nuclear war. This research work entitled "Militant upsurge in Kashmir and its impact on Indo-Pak relations since 1990", is an attempt to study the phenomenon as a whole.

The study consists of five chapters. Chapter I provide a brief account about the causes of the Indo-Pak conflict on Kashmir. It also throws some light on the socio-economic and political dynamics of the state at the time of partition of the sub-continent. Chapter II deals with the issues which resulted in the 'accession' of the state with the union of India. It also throws light on the estrangement of the Kashmiri nationalist leadership from the Indian union. Chapter III examines the reasons that motivated the Kashmiri youth to opt for armed struggle against India and thus gave rise to militancy in Kashmir. Chapter IV brings to light as to how after the eruption of militancy the relations between India and Pakistan deteriorated and how the escalation of tension between the two countries became a cause of serious concern for the international community. It also tells us about the process of bilateral negotiations which has always failed to reach to any logical end. Finally the chapter V sums up the main conclusions of the study.

This study is a humble attempt at weaving the diverse threads of available material into a coherent fabric. The facts have been scrupulously studied and presented with a sense of objectivity. All that the one can say is
that the study is based on facts collected both from the primary and secondary source material.

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