

**Committee: AIPPM**

**Topic: Addressing Cross-Border Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir: Evaluating India's Internal Security Approach**

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### **Position Paper**

Cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir remains one of the gravest threats to India's sovereignty, peace, and internal harmony. As someone who has served both as **Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir** and **Union Minister for Health and Parliamentary Affairs**, I, Ghulam Nabi Azad, firmly believe that while national security must be protected with the full strength of our forces, **lasting peace can only come through a balanced, humane, and constitutional approach.**

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### **Understanding the Challenge**

The issue of cross-border terrorism is deeply rooted in the hostile strategy adopted by **Pakistan**, which continues to sponsor militant groups such as **Lashkar-e-Taiba** and **Jaish-e-Mohammed**. These groups infiltrate through the **Line of Control**, exploit local grievances, and pose a direct challenge to India's internal security.

While the **military response to infiltration** has been robust, we must not ignore that **radicalization and alienation within**

**sections of Kashmiri society remain a concern.** Any internal security strategy that fails to address these underlying socio-political issues will only offer temporary relief.

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## **Evaluation of India's Internal Security Approach**

India has taken several strong steps post-Kargil and post-Pulwama:

- **Surgical strikes** and **Balakot airstrikes** marked a shift from reactive to proactive security doctrine.
- **Technological upgrades** — fencing, drones, and surveillance — have helped reduce infiltration.
- The creation of institutions like the **Multi-Agency Centre (MAC)** and strengthening of the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** have improved intelligence coordination.

However, the internal dimension needs closer scrutiny:

- **Abrogation of Article 370**, though justified by the government as a national security step, was executed **without the consent of the people or the legislature of J&K**, weakening democratic trust.
- The **prolonged absence of an elected government**, and the centralization of power in a Union Territory, have **deepened alienation among youth** — creating fertile ground for recruitment by terror outfits.
- There remains **limited accountability** for misuse of powers under laws like UAPA and AFSPA, which must be reviewed to ensure human rights are not violated in the name of security.

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## The Way Forward

As a proud Indian and a representative of Jammu & Kashmir, I propose the following balanced approach:

1. **Restore full statehood** to Jammu & Kashmir and conduct free, fair, and timely elections. A democratically elected government is the first step to stability.
2. **Enhance counter-terrorism capacity** without compromising civil liberties. Laws must protect the nation, but not silence dissent or punish the innocent.
3. Launch **comprehensive de-radicalization programs** focusing on education, mental health, community engagement, and vocational training.
4. Ensure **land and job protections** for locals so that economic justice counters extremist propaganda.
5. Strengthen **cross-border diplomacy and intelligence pressure** on Pakistan via multilateral forums like FATF and the UN.

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## Conclusion

India must remain uncompromising on the question of national security — terrorism has no religion, and no justification. But **guns alone cannot bring peace**. We must listen to the people, win their trust, and build a Kashmir that is not just secure, but also just, inclusive, and free.

Let us not treat security and democracy as contradictions — but as complements. That is the India I believe in. That is the Kashmir I have served — and will always stand up for.

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