

# The Kashmiri Identity: “Kashmir Enclave” at Georgetown University

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- The “Jammu and Kashmir” entity has a total area of about 87,000 square miles. Areas of the component territories are:
  - Jammu and Kashmir State (Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh), 39,000 square miles (45%)
  - Azad Kashmir, 5000 square miles (6%)
  - Northern Areas, 25,000 square miles (29%)
  - Aksai Chin, 12,000 square miles (14%)
  - **Global Focus: Kashmir Valley - 6000 square miles (7%, 15%)**
- What is Kashmiri Identity?
  - Cultural Roots: Empires of Maurya, Kushan and Vikramaditya of Ujjain
  - Advent of Islam: 1322, 1339, 1389 (Sultan Sikander Butshikan)
  - Evolution of Kashmiriyat: 1423, 1589
  - Rise of Wahabism: 1975, 1985
  - Islamization of Kashmir: 1986, 1989, 1990
  - Death of Kashmiriyat: March 1997, June 1997, January 1998
- Why is Kashmiri Identity So Much in News Today?
  - Distraction for a dysfunctional state with no time for development
  - Employment generator for “political shops” within valley
  - Nurturing of “alienation complex” among ruling elites
  - A new factor in local politics: Muslims uniting to resist return of Pandits, refugees (internally displaced) since 1989-1990
- Restoring faith among minorities:
  - It is not going to be easy: There is a serious lack of visionary leadership
  - No space for robust civil society or challenges to Islamist narrative
  - Truth and Reconciliation Commission
  - Political Overtures
  - Economic Revival
  - Cultural Revival
  - Bottom Line: Minorities are what made Kashmiri Identity special
- Challenge to Seminar Speakers:
  - Continue harping on one-dimensional solutions to the waxing Kashmir issue, or
  - Strive for holistic solutions that take into account political realities of the subcontinent and the fate of minorities on both sides of the ceasefire line today