

INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS: EVOLUTION, CHALLENGES & RECENT DEVELOPMENTS: A STUDY

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Abstract

Major military battles that have changed the character of relations between India and Pakistan include the 1947 partition of British India and the struggle in Jammu and Kashmir. Due to the partition of British India, many individuals were brutally killed as they attempted to escape their homes during the largest migration in human history. Nearly a million people were killed in the conflict, and another 12.5 million were forced to flee their homes. Pakistan became an Islamic nation-state with an almost exclusively Muslim population, whereas India adopted a secular model dominated by Hindus and home to a sizable Muslim minority. However, due to historical factors, modern India is home to a sizable Muslim population. The relationship between India and Pakistan has been impacted by various historical events, including the violent partition of British India in 1947, the fight in Jammu and Kashmir, and the several wars that have broken out between the two nations. One of the greatest human migrations ever occurred as a direct consequence of the partition of British India, and many individuals were brutally killed on their way out of their homes. About 12.5 million people were uprooted, and a million likely lost their lives. Modern India, in contrast to the Islamic country of Pakistan, is a secular state with a sizable Muslim minority coexisting with its mostly Hindu population. But because of demographic changes, Muslims are now a large minority in India.

Keywords: Jammu and Kashmir, Indian, Pakistani, War Zones, Trade, Commerce

Introduction

Many people travelled between the two nations and returned in the months after the separation. It never occurred to anybody that they would have to transport individuals over the gap physically. It was common for authorities to demand that members of religious minority never leave. Punjab did not take part in the statewide population exchange because

of the ongoing sectarian unrest there. Other provinces did not get this exemption. Punjab and Bengal, both of which having been under British authority for many years before to partition, were split between the new countries of India and Pakistan. India and Pakistan may now legally declare their independence from one another. India annexed the mostly Hindu and Sikh eastern part of the province, renaming it East Punjab, while Pakistan laid claim to the predominantly Muslim western half. Partition caused mass migration and considerable murder because many Muslims lived in the east and many Hindus and Sikhs lived in the west, and because the concerns of all such minorities were so serious. Some people's response to the killings in Punjab has been to label them a genocide. It is estimated that as many as 12 million people have left Punjab as a direct consequence of the conflict. During this period, about 6.5 million Muslims relocated to West Punjab from East Punjab, whereas 4.7 million Hindus and Sikhs did the opposite. Under the British partition plan, the 680 separate princely kingdoms of British India may choose to become part of either India or Pakistan. Small, autonomous nations with a Muslim majority often aligned themselves with Pakistan, whereas those with a Hindu majority often aligned themselves with India. Some Muslim-majority princely kingdoms have made it a policy to maintain their independence. However, a handful of princely states will decide the fate of the relationship between Pakistan and India. (Malone, David M., Raja, & Srinath, 2013)

Indian and Pakistani War Zones

The bilateral ties between the two countries are difficult due to a few constant factors. Following is the most recent data on these subjects, as reported by the appropriate government authorities as of February 2020.

International Terrorism

- Cross-border terrorism against India is a topic that has often been brought to Pakistan's notice due to its role as a long-standing source of friction between the two nations.
- Despite having access to all of the evidence, the courts in Pakistan for the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks have so far failed to bring those responsible to justice.
- India has made it clear that any national security threats would not be tolerated or compromised.

- After a terrorist assault in Uri, Jammu, and Kashmir, the Indian Army conducted a surgical operation across the Line of Control, destroying several launch sites used by the invading terrorists.
- An Indian security convoy was assaulted in Pulwama, prompting the Indian government to destroy a JeM training camp in Balakot, Pakistan.

Trade and Commerce

Statistics on commerce between India and Pakistan for the last six years are as follows:

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Export	US\$2.2bn	US\$1.85bn	US\$2.1bn	US\$1.83bn	US\$1.92bn	US\$2.06bn
Import	US\$0.426bn	US\$0.497bn	US\$0.441bn	US\$0.456bn	US\$0.488bn	US\$ 0.495bn
Trade Balance	US\$1.8bn	US\$1.3bn	US\$1.7bn	US\$1.3bn	US\$1.435bn	US\$1.57 bn

Throughout the troubled history of ties between India and Pakistan, India has repeatedly asked Pakistan to stop cross-border terrorism against India. Pakistan has failed to successfully prosecute individuals responsible for the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai despite having access to all relevant evidence. India has made it plain that it would not negotiate on national security issues. After a military facility in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir, was attacked, the Indian armed forces retaliated with a surgical strike across the Line of Control. Immediately after the terrorist attack in Pulwama, India launched a successful airstrike on a JeM training camp in Balakot, Pakistan. (Higgins, 2016)

There are two main entry points for commerce between the two nations:

1. Through the Sea: From Mumbai to Karachi
2. Land Route - Trucks Crossing the Wagah Border

Indus Waters Treaty

On August 29 and 30, the 115th session of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) met in Lahore, Pakistan. The Indian and Pakistani delegations were each headed by a Commissioner for the Indus River (PCIW). Over two days, participants discussed the Lower Kalnai HEP, the Pakal Dul HEP, and their respective inspection trips to the Indus basin. A PCIW-led team assessed many hydroelectric facilities in the Chenab Basin between January 28 and 31, 2019. These included the Pakal Dul, Lower Kalnai, Ratle, and others. **(Ganguly & Wagner, 2004)**

People-to-People Relations

- The 115th session of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) met in Lahore, Pakistan, on August 29 and 30 of this year. Each country's delegation was headed by their respective Indus Water Commissioner (ICIW and PCIW) (PCIW).
- The two days discussed the Indus basin's Pakal Dul HEP and Lower Kalnai HEP and trading inspection trips. Therefore, a PCIW-led team assessed many hydroelectric plants in the Chenab Basin between January 28 and 31, 2019. These facilities include the Pakal Dul, Lower Kalnai, Ratle, and others.

Kartarpur Corridor

- The holy Gurudwara Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Pakistan, is located in Pakistan. On October 24, 2019, India and Pakistan agreed to make it easier for Indian pilgrims to go to the site. They did this to fulfil a long-held wish of visitors to the hallowed Gurudwara for unhindered passage.
- Thanks to the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor Agreement, Hindu and Sikh pilgrims from India may visit the sacred Gurudwara in Pakistan on a daily, 365-day basis without a visa.
- In honour of Guru Nanak Dev ji's 550th birthday and the occasion of his birth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened the corridor on November 9, 2019.

The India-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement

Both nations benefited from the trade deal that had been concluded between them. The 10 Articles of the Free Trade Agreement are as follows.

Article I –Products will be traded across nations according to their respective needs, benefiting both parties.

Article II –To the extent permissible by their respective laws, rules, and processes, both governments are committed to facilitating the import and export of the commodities and goods listed on Schedules A and B appended to this Agreement.

Article III – Only mutually agreed upon commercial channels may be imported and exported.

Article IV –All exports and imports, including those of goods and commodities not included on Schedules A and B, are subject to both nations' laws, regulations, and processes.

Article V – To promote national trade, any government must:

Article VI –Some exclusions apply to Article V.

Article VII –To ensure compliance with the GATT,

Article VIII –Everyday need for goods may be traded across borders.

Article IX –Meetings might be held every six months to ensure the agreement is being followed.

Article X –There are, however, several exceptions under Article V.

1947-1948

When India and Pakistan initially fought, Jammu and Kashmir served as a hotspot. In October 1947, armed Pakistani tribesmen, backed by the newly established Pakistani Army, attacked Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir's lawful leader, Maharaja Hari Singh, asked for and received military aid from India after a revolt inside his own kingdom and an invasion from outside. He gave the Indian government responsibility for defense, communications, and international affairs. All of 1948 and all of 1949 were spent in battle. The United Nations (UN) called for a ceasefire on January 1, 1949, and a referendum on Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India and a UN peacekeeping force deployment. The third of Jammu and Kashmir, now under Pakistani occupation, has been renamed Azad (Free)

Jammu and Kashmir. Hunza and Nagar, once independent kingdoms, are now part of the territory that the central government of Pakistan directly administers. **(Bisht, 2015)**

1965

Between April and September of that year, a full-scale war broke out between India and Pakistan. The deadliest tank warfare since World War II resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of troops on both sides. After negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States led to the Tashkent Declaration, the United Nations (UN) advocated a ceasefire. **(Batcher, 2014)**

1971-1972

East Pakistan's breakaway led to the third war between India and Pakistan, which is now known as Bangladesh. East Pakistani Bengali Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League won the most seats in parliament in 1970. However, Rahman's appointment as prime minister would be opposed by West Pakistan's central government, led by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The Pakistani military repressed student and faculty demonstrations in 1971 during the Dhaka March. In December, Pakistani aircraft launched a preemptive strike on Indian airbases in the country's northwest, drawing India into the conflict. India launched a land, air, and sea assault on East Pakistan. Over 90,000 Pakistani troops were taken prisoner as their army surrendered in Dhaka. The modern nation of Bangladesh may be traced back to December 6, 1971, when East Pakistan declared its independence from Pakistan.

To "put a resolution to the war and conflict that have hitherto marred bilateral relations and work for the promotion of a friendly and harmonious relationship and the establishment of a durable peace in the subcontinent," Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto signed an agreement in the Indian town of Simla in July 1972. In the event of a disagreement, "peaceful means via bilateral conversation" would be used to settle the issue. The two governments recognise and adhere to the "Line of Control" between their nations, which is the authorised ceasefire line set up by the Simla Agreement. Their respective parliaments ratified the Simla Agreement between India and Pakistan in 1972. **(Ahmed, 2015)**

1989

An armed uprising broke out in the Kashmir Valley. Radical offshoots of Muslim political

parties gained traction when those parties accused the state authorities of meddling in 1987 state legislature elections. Pakistan has admitted to providing "moral and diplomatic support" to terrorist groups. However, many believe Pakistan is aiding the insurgency by providing financial resources, political and military advice, safe refuge, weapons, and training. By targeting Indian security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan is attempting to "bleed India with a thousand cuts," which has alarmed the Indian leadership. Pakistan has responded that this is not the case.

With the support of a large influx of combat-experienced "Mujahideen" who had previously fought in Afghanistan against the Soviets, militant organizations arose in the Kashmir Valley conflict during the 1990s. While Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus have historically coexisted in Jammu and Kashmir without incident, terrorist strikes in the Kashmir Valley have forced many Hindus to flee the territory (Kashmiri Pandits). The majority of the world believes that Pakistan and the part of Jammu and Kashmir ruled by Pakistan are the epicenters of these groups. India conducted five nuclear tests at Pokhran in 1998. In retaliation, Pakistan exploded six nuclear weapons in the Chatham Hills. Both countries faced international penalties after the tests and joined the ranks of nuclear powers. (Ahmad & Ebert, 2015)

1999

An insurrection, marked by violence, broke out in the Kashmir Valley. In 1987, Muslim political organizations got increasingly extreme after accusing the state administration of vote fraud. Pakistan has publicly apologized for its "moral and diplomatic" backing of the extremists. However, many believe that Pakistan is helping to fuel the insurgency by giving the terrorists money, strategic guidance, haven, weapons, and training. Several pieces of evidence lend credence to this viewpoint. India is certain that the savage assaults on its forces in Jammu and Kashmir are part of Pakistan's plan to "bleed India by a thousand cuts." Pakistan strenuously rejects the veracity of such a claim. New terrorist groups sprung up in the Kashmir Valley during the 1990s. An inflow of "Mujahideen" who had fought against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan supported these organizations. Jammu and Kashmir have been safe havens for many different pan-Islamic terrorist organisations, such as the Lashkar-e-Taibah (LeT), Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM), and the Hizbul Mujahideen, for decades despite relative calm between Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus in the Kashmir Valley. As a consequence, many members of Kashmir's Hindu minority, the Pandits, have left the region.

2001

On December 13th, there was an assault on the Indian parliament in New Delhi that claimed the lives of 14 people. LeT and JeM were blamed for the attacks. In reaction to the latest strikes, forces from both India and Pakistan have amassed around the LoC. The stalemate was finally resolved with help from outside in October of 2002.

2004

Fourteen persons, including the attacker, were killed in an armed assault on the Indian parliament in New Delhi on December 13. Both the LeT and the JeM have been blamed for the incidents. As a result of the attacks, military personnel from both India and Pakistan have gathered along the LoC.

2008

Terrorists carried out one of the biggest assaults ever on November 26 by starting fire at many sites in and around Mumbai, India. Multiple assault reports were filed at the Times of India building, the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower, the Oberoi Trident Hotel, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Train Terminal, the Leopold Cafe, the Cama Hospital, the Nariman House Jewish Community Centre, the Metro Cinema, St. Xavier's College, and a nearby alley. The assaults directly caused the deaths of about 160 individuals. It took Indian security personnel almost three days to track down and kill the terrorists who had taken refuge in the Taj Mahal. The only survivor of the assault, Ajmal Kasab, has come forward claiming that he and his co-conspirators are members of the terrorist group LeT. All of the conversations and communications for the operation originated in Pakistan, where it was planned and controlled. Since the strikes, there has been no communication between India and Pakistan. (Haroon, 2017)

2009

The government of Pakistan has recognised that the attacks on Mumbai were plotted there, but they have denied any intelligence agency participation or permission. However, India's coalition government has maintained a firm stance with Pakistan, insisting that Islamabad take the initiative in starting serious negotiations by clamping down on terrorist groups inside its borders.

2013

In September, India and Pakistan's prime ministers met in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly. To reduce tensions between their respective soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir, they agreed.

2014

In March, Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir formed a coalition administration consisting of the regional People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The PDP has elected its leader, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, to the position of Chief Minister. In December, for his birthday and his granddaughter's wedding, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi makes an unexpected detour in Lahore on his way back from Afghanistan. **(Pye & Schofield, 2016)**

2015

A coalition administration led by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Jammu and Kashmir's People's Democratic Party (PDP) was established in March. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, head of the PDP, was just appointed as the country's next prime minister. During his December trip to Pakistan, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi detoured to Pakistan to attend Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's birthday party and his granddaughter's wedding. Jammu and Kashmir's regional government, the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, established a coalition government in March. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, a recent political upstart, led the People's Democratic Party. In December, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stopped in Lahore, Pakistan, on his way back from Afghanistan to celebrate Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's birthday and attend his granddaughter's wedding. **(Lumby, 1954)**

2016

At the start of May, Indian troops crossed the Line of Control (LoC) and assaulted Pakistani outposts in the Nowshera area. Indian Army spokesman Ashok Narula said the move was made to prevent terrorists from accessing Indian-controlled territory in Jammu and Kashmir. There were at least seven deaths and 16 injuries among Hindu pilgrims in the worst attack on Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir since the year 2000. In December, an ambush in the Keri sector of Rajouri claimed the lives of four Indian troops, while three Pakistani soldiers

were killed in Jammu and Kashmir when Indian Army commandos breached the LoC. (Metcalf & R, 2016)

2017

According to Army Spokesman Ashok Narula, Indian forces attacked Pakistani Army checkpoints in Nowshera along the LoC in May to stop terrorists from entering Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir. The biggest assault on Hindu pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir since the year 2000 resulted in the deaths of at least seven people and the injuries of at least 16. Indian commandos crossed the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir and killed three Pakistani soldiers two days after an ambush in the Keri sector of Rajouri killed four Indian forces. (Pye, 2016)

2018

In January, the Indian Army reported that 28 of its soldiers had been killed and 138 of the Pakistani Army had been killed over the previous year as a result of cross-border firings and tactical operations along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir. India and Pakistan finally decided in May to execute the 2003 ceasefire accord in "letter and spirit" after months of killing and cross-border shooting along the LoC. A Pakistani Border Action Team attempt is thwarted by Indian special forces later in the month (BAT). "Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Kashmir: Developments in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir from June 2016 to April 2018, and General Human Rights Concerns in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan" was published in June by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Despite being labelled as terrorists by the UN, some organisations and individuals are repeatedly referred to as "armed groups" and "leaders" throughout the United Nations' 49-page report on the human rights situation on both sides of the Line of Control. (Shamim, 2018)

2019

On February 14 in Pulwama, an area of Jammu and Kashmir under Indian administration, a suicide bomber killed 40 members of the Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). India's armed forces have been mostly unharmed for decades. On February 15, the Pakistani terrorist organisation JeM released a video online claiming credit for the attack. All exports from Pakistan entering India will be subject to a 200 percent tariff for the next two days. After a devastating suicide strike on November 18 killed 40 Indian security personnel, terrorists from the JeM organisation in Jammu and Kashmir have now killed an Indian Army

major and at least three more servicemen. On February 14, the Indian Army and the JeM engaged in combat, with the former emerging victorious and the latter having lost two terrorists and a JeM commander widely believed to be the plot's architect. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has wanted to talk to India after the Pulwama attack on February 14. If India's neighbour continues to try to destabilise the region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised a strong retaliation. Armed conflict between Indian and Pakistani troops along the Line of Control in the Rajouri region of Jammu and Kashmir erupted on February 25. The Indian government launched "non-military pre-emptive" attacks on the "largest training camp" of the Pakistan-based terrorist organization JeM at Balakot in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region on February 26. Pakistan first disputed the attack, but has now acknowledged that Indian fighter planes penetrated Pakistani territory without being seen and dropped bombs near Balakot. Pakistani military spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor, however, claimed that no one was hurt in the attacks. (Singh, 2015)

Conclusion

In a rare joint statement issued in February 2021, India and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment to the 2003 ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC). At midnight on the night of February 24-25, 2021, the two nations will rigorously adhere to all agreements and understandings and end all hostilities at the LoC and elsewhere. If the two DGMOs are serious about achieving a mutually beneficial and long-lasting peace, they have promised to address the core challenges and concerns that can disturb the peace and lead to bloodshed along the borders. In recent bilateral briefings, Indian officials have expressed a desire to continue their "Neighborhood First Policy" and to resume regular relations with Pakistan once the region is free of terrorism and war (February 2020). In 2019, India's parliament voted to remove Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. Consequently, tensions rose between the two nations. The Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad was removed from Pakistan and all lines of contact were cut. The mutual distrust that plagued bilateral relations in 2020 was particularly evident in the Kashmir conflict. On February 15, 2019, India stopped treating Pakistan as a Most Favored Nation.

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