

India's Relations with Pakistan: A Socio-Political Analysis

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Abstract:

On August 15, 1947, Indian became a dominion within the common wealth, with Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister. Enmity between Hindus and Muslims led the British to Partition British India, creating East and West Pakistan, where there were Muslims majority India as a republic with the common wealth after promulgating its constitution on January 26, 1950. The Present paper will highlight India's relations with Pakistan with the Socio-Political Analysis

Keywords: India, Relations, Pakistan, Socio-Political

Introduction:

Indian's size, population and strategic location give it a prominent voice in international affairs and its growing industrial base, military strength, scientific and technical capacity give it added weight. It collaborates closely with other developing countries on issues from trade to environmental protection. The end of the cold war dramatically affected Indian foreign policy. Indians remains a leader of the developing world and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and hosted the Nam Heads of the State Summit of South Asia Association for the Regional Co-operation (SAARC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for the Regional Co-operation (IORARC).

Objective of the Study:

The very objectives of the study are-

1. To study about the India's Relations with Pakistan.
2. To analysis the Socio-Political relations towards India and Pakistan.

Methodology:

The paper is based on secondary sources which are collected from edited books, reference books, journals, articles, Government reports, newspapers and website relevant to the study.

Foreign Relations:

India has always been an active member of the United States and now seeks a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. India has a long tradition and participating in UN peace keeping operations and the most recently contributed personnel to UN operations in Somalia, Colombia, Mozambique, Kunit, Bosnia, Angola and El Salvador.

India's Relations with Pakistan:

Indian's relations with Pakistan are influenced by the centuries-old rivalry between Hindus and Muslims which led to partition of the British India in 1947. The principal source of contention has been Kashmir whose Hindu Maharaja chose in 1947 to join India, although a majority of his subjects were Muslims. India maintains that his decision and the subsequent election in Kashmir rights to self-determination although a plebiscite in accordance with an earlier Indian pledge and a UN resolution. This dispute triggered wars between the two countries in 1947 and 1965.

In December 1971, following a political crisis in what was then East Pakistan and the flight of millions of Bengali refugees to India, Pakistan and India again went to War. The brief conflict left the situation largely unchanged in the west, where the two armies reached an impasse, but a decisive India victory in the east resulted in creation of Bangladesh.

Since the 1971 War, Pakistan and India have made only slow progress towards normalization of relations. In July 1972, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto met in the Indian hill station of Shimla. They signed an agreement by which India would return all personnel and captured territory in the west and two countries would "settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiation".

Democratic and Trade relation was re-established in 1976:

After the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, new strains appeared in India Pakistan relations: Pakistan supported Afghan resistance, while India implicitly supported the Soviet occupation. In the following eight years, India voiced increasing concern over Pakistani arms purchases, US military aid to Pakistan and Pakistani's nuclear weapons programme. In an effort to curtail tensions, the two countries formed a joint commission. In December 1988, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto concluded a pact not to attack each other's nuclear facilities. Arguments on cultural exchanges and civil aviation also were initiated.

In 1947, high level Indo-Pakistan talks resumed after a 3 years pause. The Prime Minister of India and Pakistan met twice and the foreign secretaries conducted three rounds of talks. In June 1997, the foreign secretaries identified eight "outstanding issues" around which continuing talks would be focused. The dispute over the status of Jammu and Kashmir, an issue since partition, remains the major stumbling block in their dialogue. India remains that the entire former princely state is an integral part of the Indian Union, while Pakistan insists that UN resolution calling for self-determination of the people or the statement to be taken into account.

In September 1997, the talks broke down over the structure of how to deal with the issues of Kashmir and peace and security. Pakistan advocated that the issues be treated by separate working groups. India responded that the two issues be taken up along with others on a simultaneous basis.

In May 1998 India and then Pakistan, conducted tests. Attempts to restart dialogue between the two nations were given a major boost by the February 1999 meeting of both prime ministers in Lahore and their signing of three agreements. These efforts have since been stalled by the intrusion of Pakistani-backed forces into Indian held territory near Kargil in May 1999 and by the military coup in Pakistan that overturned the Nawaz Sharif's Govt. in October the same year.

On 12 October, 1999 General Musharraf led a bloodless army coup. He dismissed Prime Minister Shariff and assumed all powers as new Chief Executive of Pakistan. Musharraf indicated his willingness to improve ties with India by reviving the Lahore Declaration but the offer was turned down by New Delhi. Pakistan made a formal proposal for the resumption of stalled talks on resolving issues plaguing bilateral relations through its Foreign Secretary Inamul Haq. However, the offer was firmly rejected by India. India asserted that cessation of crossing border terrorism and abandonment vicious propaganda was pre-requisites and before any meaningful dialogue could start.

The relations between the two countries were further strained following destruction of a Pakistani naval air craft Atlantique in August 1999. Pakistan took the dispute to the international court of Justice (ICJ), which declared that it had no jurisdiction to adjudicate upon dispute brought before it by Pakistan and India in this case.

In the midst of this deployment India made a bid to improve relation with the people on the other side of the border. A declaration of 36 women visited Islamabad and Lahore in March 2000 with a view to promote peace in the sub-continent by holding dialogue. The creation of a Nuclear arms free world war also on the agenda of this declaration.

In November 2000 Prime Minister Vajpayee announced unilateral cease fire in the terrorism hit state of Jammu and Kashmir during the holy month of the Ramazan. The case fire war extended till it was finally ended in May 2001. The initial reaction of Pakistan was also quite encouraging and it ordered its troops along the line of Control (LOC) in Jammu and Kashmir exercise maximum restraint. But the relations between the two countries got further strained on account of persistent promotion of cross border terrorism and vicious anti-India propaganda from across the border. There were several case of violence against India viz. attack at Red Fort at Delhi, threat of a strike at the PM's Office, attempt of the life of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, CM of Jammu and Kashmir, and the attack on Srinagar airport.

In the midst of above development, a high-level India delegation visited Islamabad in January 2001 as a part of the track II diplomacy. As guest of the Islamabad policy Research Institute, the member of the delegation held meeting with Pakistan Government official and members of leading research Institutes on matters of Natural concern to India and Pakistan. The expert from the two countries suggests concrete proposal for reducing Nuclear risks and agreed to submit these proposal to the governments of India and Pakistan for their consideration.

In January 2001 the two countries agreed to extend the 1991 bilateral agreement on rail communication by three years.

The most dramatic development in the Indo-Pakistan relations to place in May ,2001 when Prime Minister A.B Vajpayee and extended an invitation to general Musharaff of Pakistan and offered to hold talks without any precondition.

In order to normalize relations India, introduce Bus service between deli and Lahore in 2003. But inspite of these development in order to establish peace between the two countries most recently in 22nd October in 2003 India made Ten peace proposal towards Pakistan in announced by external Affairs Minister Yashwanth Sinha.

India today described an "impractical and extraneous" Pakistan's response to some of the peace proposals but affirmed that it would continue its initiatives to normalize relations.

In a carefully worded two pages written statement, External Affairs Minister Spokesmen, accused Pakistan or opting to 'politicise and disrupt' India proposal for a bus link between

Srinagar and Mugafforabad in Pakistan occupied Kashmir by attaching conditions and the UN should be involved in this.

Asserting that J and K is not a disputed territory, the statement said, “ the only issue that remains to be resolved for the settlement or J& K is question of Pakistan’s illegal occupation or a portion of the state.”

It is said though India welcomed Pakistan’s positive response to at least some of its proposals, “we are disappointed that they have attached impractical, extraneous and delaying conditions.”

Conclusion:

Regardless of the “limited positive responses” from Pakistan, the statement said that it is clear that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s initiative has gathered momentum. It is clear from the above discussion that despite occasional effort by the leaders of the two countries to resolve their differences and the relation between the two countries have generally remained strained.

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