

AREAS OF CONFLICT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Background

- **The Partition of India** came about in the aftermath of World War II, when both Great Britain and British India were dealing with the economic stresses caused by the war and its demobilisation.
- It was the intention of those who wished for a Muslim state to come from British India to have a clean partition between independent and equal "Pakistan" and "Hindustan" once independence came.

- Nearly one third of the Muslim population of British India remained in India.
- Inter-communal violence between Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims resulted in between 200,000 and 2 million casualties leaving 14 million people displaced.
- Princely states in India were provided with an Instrument of Accession to accede to either India or Pakistan.

Indo-Pakistani War of 1947

- The war, also called the **First Kashmir War**, started in October 1947 when Pakistan feared that the Maharaja of the princely state of Kashmir and Jammu would accede to India. Following partition, princely states were left to choose whether to join India or Pakistan or to remain independent. Jammu and Kashmir, the largest of the princely states, had a majority Muslim population and significant fraction of Hindu population, all ruled by the Hindu Maharaja Hari Singh.
- Tribal Islamic forces with support from the army of Pakistan attacked and occupied parts of the princely state forcing the Maharaja to sign the Instrument of Accession of the princely state to the Dominion of India to receive Indian military aid.

- A formal cease-fire was declared at 23:59 on the night of 1 January 1949. India gained control of about two-thirds of the state (Kashmir valley, Jammu and Ladakh) whereas Pakistan gained roughly a third of Kashmir (Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit–Baltistan). The Pakistan controlled areas are collectively referred to as Pakistan administered Kashmir

Indo-Pakistani War of 1965

- This war started following **Pakistan's Operation Gibraltar**, which was designed to infiltrate forces into Jammu and Kashmir to precipitate an insurgency against rule by India. India retaliated by launching a full-scale military attack on West Pakistan.
- The seventeen-day war caused thousands of casualties on both sides and witnessed the largest engagement of armored vehicles and the largest tank battle since World War II.
- The hostilities between the two countries ended after a ceasefire was declared following diplomatic intervention by the Soviet Union and USA and the subsequent issuance of the Tashkent Declaration. India had the upper hand over Pakistan when the ceasefire was declared.

Indo-Pakistani War of 1971

- This war would culminate in the declaration of Independence of Bangladesh from the state system of Pakistan.
- Following Operation Searchlight and the 1971 Bangladesh atrocities, about 10 million Bengalis in East Pakistan took refuge in neighbouring India. India intervened in the ongoing Bangladesh liberation movement.
- After a large scale pre-emptive strike by Pakistan, full-scale hostilities between the two countries commenced.

- Pakistan attacked at several places along India's western border with Pakistan, but the Indian Army successfully held their positions.
- Within two weeks of intense fighting, Pakistani forces in East Pakistan surrendered to the joint command of Indian and Bangladeshi forces following which the People's Republic of Bangladesh was created.

Indo-Pakistani War of 1999

- Commonly known as the Kargil War, this conflict between the two countries was mostly limited.
- During early 1999, Pakistani troops infiltrated across the Line of Control (LoC) and occupied Indian territory mostly in the Kargil district. India responded by launching a major military and diplomatic offensive to drive out the Pakistani infiltrators.

- Fearing large-scale escalation in military conflict, the international community, led by the United States, increased diplomatic pressure on Pakistan to withdraw forces from remaining Indian territory.
- Faced with the possibility of international isolation, the already fragile Pakistani economy was weakened further.

- By the end of July 1999, organized hostilities in the Kargil district had ceased. The war was a major military defeat for the Pakistani Army.

Other skirmishes and stand offs

- **Operation Brasstacks:** The largest of its kind in South Asia, it was conducted by India between November 1986 and March 1987. Pakistani mobilisation in response raised tensions and fears that it could lead to another war between the two neighbours.
- **2001–2002 India–Pakistan standoff:** The terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament on 13 December 2001, which India blamed on the Pakistan-based terrorist organisations, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, prompted the 2001–2002 India–Pakistan standoff and brought both sides close to war.

- **2008 India Pakistan standoff**: a stand-off between the two nations following the 2008 Mumbai attacks which was defused by diplomatic efforts. Following ten coordinated shooting and bombing attacks across Mumbai, India's largest city, tensions heightened between the two countries since India claimed interrogation results alleging Pakistan's ISI supporting the attackers while Pakistan denied it. Pakistan placed its air force on alert and moved troops to the Indian border, voicing concerns about proactive movements of the Indian Army and the Indian government's possible plans to launch attacks on Pakistani soil. The tension defused in short time and Pakistan moved its troops away from border.

- **India–Pakistan border skirmishes (2016–2018)**: On 29 September 2016, *border skirmishes between India and Pakistan* began following reported "surgical strikes by India against militant launch pads across the Line of Control in Pakistani-administered Kashmir killing a large number of terrorists

- The Indian operation was said to be in retaliation for a militant attack on the Indian army at Uri on 18 September in the Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir that left 19 soldiers dead. In the succeeding days and months, India and Pakistan continued to exchange fire along the border in Kashmir, resulting in dozens of military and civilian casualties on both sides.

- **2019 India–Pakistan standoff:** On 14 February 2019, a suicide attack on convoy of India's CRPF resulted in death of at least 40 troops. The responsibility of attack was claimed by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad. 12 days later in February 2019, Indian jets crossed international border to conduct air strikes on alleged camp of JeM in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.
- India claimed that it killed very large number of militants belonging to JeM. Pakistan rejected to have suffered any losses

- The incidents escalated the tension between India and Pakistan. The following day, Indian and Pakistani air forces got locked on in an aerial engagement. Pakistan claimed to have shot down two Indian aircraft and capturing one pilot Abhinandan Varthaman.
- Pakistan military officials claimed that the wreckage of one Indian aircraft fell in Pakistan administered Kashmir while the other one fell in Indian administered Kashmir rumored to be a Sukhoi Su-30MKI.

- India released the electronic footage of aerial engagement to re-assert its claims. Pakistani officials has rejected radar images released by India. Stand off followed with intermittent firings across the LoC.

- **Pokhran-I (Smiling Buddha):** On 18 May 1974 India detonated an 8-kiloton nuclear device at Pokhran Test Range, becoming the first nation to become nuclear capable outside the five permanent members of United Nations Security Council as well as dragging Pakistan along with it into a nuclear arms race .
- The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Chairman Munir Ahmed Khan said that the test would force Pakistan to test its own nuclear bomb.

- **Pokhran-II (Operation Shakti)**: On 11 May 1998 India detonated another five nuclear devices at Pokhran Test Range.
- With jubilation and large scale approval from the Indian society came International sanctions as a reaction to this test, the most vehement reaction of all coming from Pakistan. Great ire was raised in Pakistan, which issued a stern statement claiming that India was instigating a nuclear arms race in the region.
- Pakistan vowed to match India's nuclear capability with statements like: "We are in a headlong arms race on the subcontinent"

- **Chagai-I: (Youm-e-Takbir)** Within half a month of Pokhran-II, on 28 May 1998 Pakistan detonated five nuclear devices to reciprocate India in the nuclear arms race. Pakistani public, like the Indian, reacted with a celebration and heightened sense of nationalism for responding to India in kind and becoming the only Muslim nuclear power. The day was later given the title Youm-e-Takbir to further proclaim such.
- **Chagai-II:** Two days later, on 30 May 1998, Pakistan detonated a sixth nuclear device completing its own series of underground tests with this being the last the two nations have carried out to date.

- On February 2021 both the countries have issued a joint statement indicating that both the parties have agreed to stop firing at each other at LOC.

Plesbicite in kashmir

- Opponents of a plebiscite in Kashmir generally cite three main reasons:
- First, there is the historical-emotional argument that “Kashmir is an integral part of India”

- The second argument is one of national security. Most of Pakistan's water and a small, but important, part of India's originates in Kashmir. The control and maintenance of these waters is important. The mountains of Kashmir also form a defensible border against land based invasion

- The final argument against a referendum invokes the fear of the threat to national unity – namely, if Kashmir can have a referendum today, why can't other parts of India demand one tomorrow?