



Forum: Security Council (SC)

Issue: Managing Ongoing Security Challenges and Conflict Escalations
Between India and Pakistan

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Introduction

The conflict between India and Pakistan over the sovereignty of the Jammu-Kashmir region is a matter that troubles the global geopolitical scene since the partition of British India in 1947. There have been several disputes over the rule of the Line of Control leading to militant and political tensions. In addition, the issue is rooted in a complex historical and cultural context that determines the actions of both neighboring states. Mainly due to their ethnic disputes and different religious beliefs their relationship remains a constant threat to international security. The matter is even more pressing, considering that India and Pakistan are de facto possessors of nuclear arsenals, even though they are not recognized as Nuclear Weapon States under the NPT (Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons).

The latest incident of violence took place on 22 April 2025 in a city in Indian-administered Kashmir called Pahalgam when Pakistani militants killed 26 people igniting a significant escalation in tensions amidst India and Pakistan. The attack was initially linked with a Security Council-Sanctioned terrorist group called Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) based on Pakistan and triggered a chain of events that led to gunfire exchanges and diplomatic escalation. India responded with the expulsion of diplomats and the abeyance of the 1960 Indus Water Treaty, a treaty essential in maintaining the proper agriculture in Pakistan. Finally, on May 10 the Foreign Secretary of India announced the agreement between both sides to stop all firing and military action on land and in the air and sea, a development that was positively received from the Secretary General of the UN, Antonio Guterrez.

In spite of all that, the greatest challenge of the United Nations in the Indian peninsula remains to achieve humanitarian and political stability for the years to come. This study guide is designed to inform you briefly about all the perspectives and challenges of the issue. The study guide will help you in addressing this feud not only as delegates but also as teenagers who will work together to improve the world we live in. Our conference will provide you via this document a basic understanding of the topic, however the rest is up to you.

Definition of key terms

Jammu-Kashmir region¹

Jammu and Kashmir is a union territory of India located in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent centered on the plains around Jammu to the south and the Vale of Kashmir to the north. It has been a subject of conflict between India, Pakistan and China since the partition of British India in 1947

Union Territory²

Union territory is an administrative unit in the Republic of India. There are eight union territories in India, and they are governed, in part or wholly, by the union government of India.

Line of Control (LoC)³

The line of control is the border that divides the region of Jammu-Kashmir into two, Indian and Pakistani administered, parts. It was initially created in 1949 as a thin line to bring an end to the hostilities of the first Indian-Pakistani war and it was renamed in 1972 to Line of Control serving as a barrier that divides people, resources and land.

Sovereignty⁴

Sovereignty is the power of a country or a state to control its own government, and it is considered as the ultimate authority in the decision-making process of the state and in the maintenance of order. Its roots can be traced to the Latin word *superanus* which means the equivalent of supreme power.

¹ Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Jammu-and-Kashmir> . Accessed 16 Aug 2025

² Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/union-territory> . Accessed 16 Aug 2025

³ Oxford Research Encyclopedias

https://oxfordre.com/asianhistory/search?btog=chap&f_0=keyword&q_0=Line%20of%20Control .

Accessed 19 Aug, 2025

⁴ Cambridge Dictionary

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sovereignty> . Accessed 16 Aug 2025

Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/nation-state> . Accessed 16 Aug,2025

Indian Peninsula⁵

Indian Peninsula or Subcontinent is called the region of Asia south of the Himalayas and southeast of the Indus River. It consists of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal and it is one of the most densely populated areas on Earth with a population of approximately 1.8 billion people.

Ceasefire⁶

An agreement, usually between two armies, to stop fighting in order to allow discussions about peace.

Offensives⁷

Any weapons system designed to strike an enemy at the source of his military, economic, or political power. These systems usually use atomic or thermonuclear devices, because only these weapons have sufficient explosive power to destroy, with quickness, the entire war-making capability of a large nation. The term refers also to the complex delivery systems that enable these warheads to reach their targets.

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)⁸

An Islamist organization founded in Pakistan in the late 1980s. Its ultimate goal is to establish Muslim rule over the entire Indian subcontinent. Initially operated in Jammu and Kashmir but the last 10 years it has expanded farther into India. It has been declared a terrorist organization by the United Nations and several other nations.

Skirmish⁹

A fight between a small number of soldiers that is usually short and not planned, and happens away from the main area of fighting in a war

Hinduism¹⁰

A major global religion originating from the Indian Peninsula and comprising several systems of philosophy, belief, and ritual. It can be considered as a civilization, lasting for more than 1000 years it is known as the world's oldest living religion.

⁵ Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Indian-subcontinent> . Accessed 19 Aug 2025

⁶ Cambridge Dictionary

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ceasefire> . Accessed 25 Aug 2025

⁷ Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/technology/strategic-weapons-system> . Accessed 25 Aug 2025

⁸ Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Lashkar-e-Taiba> . Accessed 25 Aug 2025

⁹ Cambridge Dictionary

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/skirmish> . Accessed 27 Aug 2025

¹⁰ Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hinduism> . Accessed 25 Aug 2025

East India Company¹¹

An English company formed for the exploitation of trade with Southeast Asia and India. The company started as a trade body in 1600 and acted as an agent of British imperialism in India from the early 18th century to the mid-19th century.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)¹²

Gross domestic products measure the total value of all goods and services produced in a country during a certain period of time. Tracking GDP over time can provide a sense of long-term trends in the economy.

Timeline of events

Date	Description of event
1947, August 15	Partition of British India into a Muslim-majority Pakistan and a Hindu-majority India while providing the regions of Jammu and Kashmir the opportunity to choose which country to accede to.
October 1947- January 1 1949	First war between India and Pakistan triggered by the accession of Kashmir to India
1960, September 19	The Indus water Treaty is signed which split the Indus and its tributaries between the two countries and regulated water sharing. Both nations are heavily dependent on water from this river system for hydropower and cultivation.
1965, August 5- September 22	Second war fought over Kashmir with Pakistani troops invading the Indian-administered Kashmir and India launching in retaliation major offensives along the border with Pakistan
1971, December 3-16	This war was rooted in opposing the West Pakistani rule in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The outcome of this brief but catastrophic conflict led to the creation of Bangladesh
1972, July 2	The 1972 Simla agreement is signed which established the Line of Control (LOC) and was an effort to start a new era for the relationship of the neighbors. The Line of Control split Kashmir into two administrative regions.
1974, May 18	In 1974 India tested its first nuclear weapon taking the conflict to a new dimension

¹¹ Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/East-India-Company> . Accessed 26 Aug 2025

¹² Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/money/what-is-gdp> . Accessed 27 Aug 2025

1999, May 20-July 16	Pakistani soldiers crossed the LoC igniting the Kargil war
2008, November 26	Ten terrorists of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) launched attacks at the Indian capital Mumbai over the span of 3 days with 166 people dying.
2016, September - 2018	A period of border skirmishes that began in late 2016 and continued until 2018, killing and displacing civilians on both sides of the Line of Control.
2025, April 22	Pakistani militants shot and killed 26 people in Pahalgam. A terrorist group, which is linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), called the Resistance Front claimed responsibility
2025, April 22- May 10	Deadly exchanges of fire took place with India accusing Pakistan of using the situation in the region for justifying terrorism. In response India declared a series of measures against Pakistan.
2025, May 10	An agreement for immediate ceasefire is announced

Background information

Historical information

British Rule of the Indian Subcontinent

The British rule of the Indian Subcontinent began officially in 1858, as a result of the Indian Mutiny. The Indian Mutiny was a revolt against the command of the East India Company. The direct British rule was intended to advocate for the Indian rights while serving British interests. Nonetheless, injustices and cruelties from the British authorities continued creating after decades various independence movements.



Image 1: Map of British India in 1914¹³

¹³ New Zealand History

By the 1920s incidents of civil disobedience multiplied laying pressure to the British to grant India complete independence. At the same time, along with Hindu liberation efforts came the Muslim separatist movement. This movement represented several Indian Muslims wanting a state separate from the one with a Hindu majority. After Great Britain declared war on Germany Muslim leaders met at the city of Lahore to decide on whether to support the war efforts. There the Lahore Resolution, often known as the Pakistan Resolution passed, through which the Muslim leaders stated that they would accept a possible constitutional solution if only two different states, a Muslim Majority and a Hindu Majority state, were created. Finally, on July 18, 1947, the British Parliament passed Indian Independence Act and ordered British India to be divided within a month. On August 15, 1947, the British were gone, and three countries were formed, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.



Image 2: The Partition of India in August 1947¹⁴

After the British departure an extraordinary wave of refugees followed as millions of Muslims fled to the new Pakistani Borders, with millions of Hindus and Sikhs coming the other way. During this movement panic prevailed and millions of people died or were displaced because of riots that broke out the first 6 weeks of the partition. The Muslim-majority areas in the east of Calcutta became East Pakistan while the Indus Valley region west of the Indus River became West Pakistan.

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/map-british-india-1914> . Accessed 26 Aug 2025

¹⁴ BBC

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-62467438> . Accessed 27 Aug 2025

The first years after the Partition (1947-1971)

The hasty creation of Pakistan widened the gap between the two nations, and it led to three catastrophic wars. As mentioned beforehand when the Partition took place the regions of Jammu and Kashmir had the opportunity to choose which country to accede to. Initially, Kashmir sought independence because of the suppression and neglect its people suffered for centuries from conquering empires. Eventually Kashmir chose to join India in exchange for their aid against Pakistani invading tribesmen. This triggered the first war fought by Pakistan and India that ended with a United Nations- intermediated ceasefire on January 1, 1949. The Karachi Agreement of 1949 terminated for a while the violence in the region establishing an early attempt of the Line of Control (LoC), overseen by the United Nations. Ever since, the area of Jammu and Kashmir is divided to Indian and Pakistan administered regions with China claiming a part of the northern Kashmir as well.

On September 19, 1960, the Indus Water Treaty was signed and it was brokered by the World Bank. The treaty established and outlined both nations' rights and responsibilities regarding the usage of the Indus River system's waters. It granted India authority over the waters of the eastern rivers (the Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej) and Pakistan control over the western rivers (the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab).

In early August 1965 Pakistani troops crossed the ceasefire line of 1949 to incite a local rebellion against the Indian administration. The operation, even though it failed, escalated the conflict furthermore. The conflict officially stopped on September 22 after both sides accepted the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 211 forcing them to withdraw troops immediately and stop all hostilities.

The Independence of Bangladesh (1971)

In 1971 another brief war was fought. However, this time the region of Jammu-Kashmir was not the center of the fighting, and the conflict was concentrated elsewhere, East Pakistan. The war was the result of the Bangladesh liberation movement that pursued the independence of East Pakistan from West Pakistan. There were various cultural, linguistics and other reasons that differentiated the two Pakistani regions. The governance was even more difficult considering the geographical gap of 1,600 km between East and West Pakistan. Tensions arose when in the December 1970 elections of Pakistan, East Pakistan's Awami League party won the majority. When they didn't allow them to form a government, protests broke out throughout the region. Atrocities were committed by Pakistani soldiers, including sexual violence towards thousands of women. India found the opportunity to intervene providing training, arms, and assistance to the East Pakistani rebels. The Indian Prime minister at the time, Indira Gandhi, claimed that the motivation was humanitarian concerns, still many considered the intervention driven by strategic reasons. On the other hand, Pakistan justified its military strike as an effort to prevent the destabilization of East Pakistan by rebels supported by India. When Pakistan launched air strikes targeting Indian air bases, the Indian government interpreted them as an act of war, and they declared war against Pakistan. Within a few days the Indian Army gained control of major cities in East Pakistan while they launched

multiple air raids on Karachi and Lahore. On December 16 Pakistani forces in East Pakistan surrendered and hours later a ceasefire on West Pakistan was agreed. The outcome of the war was the creation of Bangladesh, which later emerged as one of Asia's most promising economies.

After the war of 1971 India in order to resolve the border dispute and other issues signed the Simla Agreement formalizing the ceasefire line in Kashmir as the Line of Control (LoC).

Post-Simla Period (1972-1999)

Despite the establishment of the Line of Control disputes over the dominion of the region have troubled the United Nations up until today. On May 18, 1974, India conducted its first nuclear test, in the Thar desert transforming the territorial dispute into a complicated global foreign policy issue. Thus, a nuclear arms race started that would see Pakistan reach that same goal twenty years later. In 1989, Pakistan was rumored of supporting resistance movements in Indian-administered Kashmir to undermine Indian governance. Ten years later, on May 5, 1999, the Indian Army detected the infiltration of Pakistani fighters and immediately ordered its army to push back the intruders, among them soldiers of the Pakistan Army, and recapture occupied areas. Skirmishes took place in harsh terrain about 5,000 meters above the sea level but eventually on July 11, the Pakistani authorities announced that the militants would withdraw within the course of 5 days.

Recent years

On November 26, 2008, numerous terrorist attacks were executed simultaneously by ten gunmen thought to have ties to the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is based in Pakistan. The militants targeted civilians at multiple sites in Mumbai, the Indian capital. Many of the attacks ended after few hours, unfortunately, the terror continued to unfold at three locations for two days where innocent people were taken as prisoners. Security forces ended the siege at the sites around midday of the 28th. At least 174 people died and more than 300 were injured. With Indian intelligence finding evidence proving that the attack was originated within Pakistan requested the cooperation of Pakistan in dealing with terrorism. India's request was heavily supported by the international community. After India's demand, the Security Council imposed sanctions on Jamaat-ud-Dawa, a front organization for Lashkar-e-Taiba and declared them a terrorist group. The cooperation of the two neighbors paved the way for ameliorated relationships.

The progress between the two nations halted when Pakistani militants attacked and killed 18 Indian soldiers near the Line of Control (LoC) in September 2016. India responded with strikes against suspected militants along the border with Pakistan in Jammu-Kashmir. Skirmishes and minor incidents continued for the next two years with more than three thousand cross-border strikes being reported.

Current developments



Image 3: The Line of Control (LoC)¹⁵

On April 22, 2025, Pakistani militants killed 26 Indian tourists in Kashmir. India accused Pakistan of protecting the group responsible for the terrorist attack. Immediately the Indian authorities suspended the Indus Water Treaty, closed the Attari Border and terminated a visa free-travel agreement. On the other hand, Pakistan rejected the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty and warned that any action of altering Indus River flows would be considered an act of war. After the attack, fire was exchanged and both United States and China called for de-escalation fearing a nuclear conflict. On May 6, a military action, known as Operation Sindoor was launched. It targeted nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir, where it was believed the plotting of the attack took place. From May 7 to May 10 Pakistan and India almost fought a full-scale war with India using cruise missiles on Pakistan for the very first time. Although drones have occasionally been used for smuggling along the Line of Control in Kashmir and other places, this is the first time in the India-Pakistan rivalry that both sides have utilized drones with the intention of harming the other. During the fighting, efforts were made from mainly the U.S., as a third party, for direct negotiations to begin. In the final hours of the conflict Secretary of State of the United States Marco Rubio engaged in continuous communication with both sides offering reassurances to both sides for future talks. After days of communication and the engagement of other nations such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, China and the United Nations successful conversations occurred leading to formal immediate ceasefire.

Economic Status

India

Throughout the last 15 years India has developed into a giant and global merchant with the Indian stock market gaining more ground and solidifying its status. From ranking 11th in 2009 in GDP terms to world's fourth largest economy India has been leading on three

¹⁵ BBC

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-37504308> Accessed 27 Aug 2025

economic fundamentals, strong capital market, robust domestic consumer spending, and dynamic, cheap workforce. However, India's biggest advantage is its rising youth. With more than half of its population under 30 and another 100 million predicted by 2030, the nation is establishing itself as a major hub for tech-enabled workforces by leveraging its youthful, tech-savvy populace. The Indian market proves that a country's biggest asset is its young people, eager to work and with far further knowledge than the previous generations. India generates 2.5 million graduates annually and according to a study by Stanford University it presents a rapid improvement in fields such as artificial intelligence, data science, cloud, and cybersecurity. It is rather obvious that a potential large-scale conflict could affect our lives considering that India is one of the most dominant producers of electronic devices.

Pakistan

Pakistan on the other hand lacks the economic growth and prowess of its neighbor. The Partition gave India an important head start since within its borders was the vast majority of the peninsula's industry. Even more, Pakistan received just 17 per cent of the financial reserves that had been controlled by British India. The Pakistani economy was left with agriculture as its only possible income, no money to spend on infrastructure and a state divided in a lot of ways. Pakistan is ranked as the 38th global largest economy with a GDP of 373 billion compared to India's 3,9 trillion. Except the 1960s when Pakistan saw a brief period of progress, Pakistani Economy remains stable. The roots of this economic mediocrity can be traced to multiple reasons such as inequality and inadequate education. According to specialists, two thirds of industrial assets are controlled by a small elite. Real development needs opportunity-sharing, participation and empowerment. Additionally, the conversation broadens to include structural problems in poverty alleviation, healthcare, and education, highlighting how these concerns intersect with social and economic inequality. Inclusive policies, institutional change, and social cohesiveness will foster long-term success. Pakistan is risking wasting its numerous young people due to a poor educational system, shockingly, ¾ of Pakistani 10-year-olds can't read. So, it can be easily understood that the best solution for the development of Pakistan is investing on young people especially when 40 per cent of Pakistani citizens are under 14. Another possible source of income can be its natural gas and mineral wealth with China proposing routes to pass Pakistani oil to them.

Nuclear Arsenal

India is rumored of a slight expansion of its nuclear artillery in 2024 and continued developing new types of nuclear delivery system. Pakistan also increased its efforts to develop new delivery systems and accumulate fissile material in 2024, suggesting that its nuclear arsenal might expand over the next 10 years. Tensions between India and Pakistan momentarily descended into violence around the beginning of 2025. Experts stated that the combination of strikes on nuclear military infrastructure and third-party disinformation can risk turning a conventional conflict into a nuclear crisis. As we speak, approximately India possesses 180 nuclear warheads and Pakistan 170.

Stakeholders

China

China always considered the relationship between its neighbors and the situation at the Indian Peninsula a case of outmost importance. On October 20, 1962, the Sino-Indian war broke out when the Chinese tried to connect Thibet with the Northern part of Kasmir, Aksai Chin through military roads. This area was always considered useless, however, China saw it as a bridge towards Pakistan and the Arabian sea. Indian forces objected to the Chinese sector, but they were heavily defeated with 7,000 men having been killed or captured. One month later, on November 20 U.S. convinced China to withdraw from most of the invaded area retaining control of 38,000 square km of territory in Aksai Chin, and the area remains a point of contention ever since. The Chinese want to use Pakistan as land route for its energy needs. In 2013, China and Pakistan signed an agreement of 46 billion dollars to build a system of roads, railways, and pipelines. In addition, China made a deal with Pakistan to lease 2,000 acres of land in the port area to develop an economic zone and an international airport. At the latest conflict of April 2025, China called for ceasefire and stayed neutral even though it stated that Pakistan's frustration was understandable. China needs the geopolitical advantages Pakistan can offer but doesn't want any incident, that can be interpreted as an act of war, happen between them and India.

United States

The United States play a crucial role in crisis management and stability in the region. As the only acceptable third-party mediator between the two countries, their actions seriously affect the de-escalation of the conflict and the amelioration of the Indian-Pakistani relationship. India's economic relationship with U.S. worsened since President Trump imposed 50% tariffs on any Indian export. Nevertheless, U.S. remains one of India's biggest clients when it comes to electronics and trade. The United States remain a very important player of the situation, especially after their success at facilitating communication among military leaders and establishing themselves as the only trustworthy advocate in the region.

Russia

Russia continues watching patiently the Indo-Pakistani relationship making efforts to influence both sides indirectly. Its role as a stakeholder has evolved significantly and is characterized by its strong military and economic ties with India. These ties significantly influence the regional dynamics of the India-Pakistan conflict. The Russian government is providing India with Significant military equipment while it honors their traditional defense partnership. The Indian-Russian relationship becomes even stronger through energy cooperation, and this is one of the reasons why Indian-U.S. relationships shifted.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a country of an extremely location and an increasingly improved economy. It has a unique and complex relationship with Pakistan mainly due to the injustices its people suffered and the 1971 war. On the other hand, it its strong economic ties with India considering them an important economic and political ally. Bangladesh awaits for strategic partnership opportunities and remains a vital influence in regional dynamics.

United Nations and United Nations Security Council

The United Nations and Particularly the Security Council hold a very important position on the efforts of the maintenance of peace and the Improvement of these two countries relationship. Since the first Ildo-Pakistani war in 1949 where the United Nations advocated for the ceasefire and oversaw Karachi Agreement. They still maintain presence through peacekeeping missions and with the help of the SC both nations have been able to fight more efficiently terrorism. The SC can provide both peaceful resolution mechanisms, funding but also, if necessary, sanctions that can de-escalate any conflict. The United Nations remain a major stakeholder and a trustworthy negotiator for the years to come.

Relevant UN resolutions, treaties, and events (Previous attempts)

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)¹⁶

The NPT is an international treaty and a pillar of global security whose goal is preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology. This international agreement has been signed by 191 member states of the U.N. and promotes cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Its primordial goal is achieving nuclear disarmament. The treaty was signed in 1970 and extended indefinitely on 11 May 1995. The importance of the NPT is demonstrated by the fact that more nations, including the five nuclear-weapon States, have ratified it than any other weapons control and disarmament agreement. The NPT is considered as a cornerstone of international security and is an important treaty bearing to mind when managing the relationship of two nuclear nations such as India and Pakistan.

Lahore Resolution (Pakistan Resolution)

This resolution that was signed on May 1940 declared Muslims will of creating an independent Muslim-majority nation. This resolution serves as a big part of Pakistan's ethnic identity. It was the decisive part that divided the British Peninsula in two countries.

¹⁶United Nations

<https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/npt/>
<https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/56/24> . Accessed 27 Aug 2025

Agreement between military representatives of India and Pakistan regarding the establishment of a Ceasefire Line in the state of Jammu and Kashmir (Karachi Agreement)¹⁷

The Karachi Agreement was signed on 27 July 1949 by military representatives of Pakistan and India and supervised by the United Nations. It established a cease-fire line which has been monitored by United Nations observers from the U.N. since then. Since then, this line has been a de facto border between the two nations, however, its constant trespassing has triggered multiple wars.

Indus Waters Treaty 1960¹⁸

The Indus Waters Treaty was signed on 1960 by Pakistan and India and was brokered by the World Bank. This treaty set the rights and obligations of the two countries concerning the use of the waters of the Indus River system. It gave control of the waters of the western rivers, the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab, to Pakistan and those of the eastern rivers, the Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej, to India. The Indus River rises from the region of Tibet in China and flows into the Kashmir region, Pakistan and later the Arabic Sea. This is why the region of Jammu-Kashmir is so important to both countries since the Indus waters irrigate the vast majority of fields and cities of Pakistan. Before the treaty was signed both countries would conceal necessary information for the flow of the Indus River leading to catastrophic floods. The treaty obligates India and Pakistan of not obstructing or harming the flow of the river and share every information about the flow. When India, in response of the attack on April 22, 2025, announced they would postpone the Indus Water Treaty Pakistan accused India of weaponizing terrorism. Apparently, the Indus Water Treaty is essential in maintaining peace and prosperity in the region. Honoring the agreement is the only way that both countries can make progress together.

Agreement on Bilateral Relations between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan (Simla Agreement)

In 1972, the Simla agreement was signed formalizing the border and renaming it as LoC. The more important decision of the resolution was the independence of Bangladesh. Under the Simla agreement both sides committed on peacefully coexisting, mutually respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interfering in internal affairs. Both sides promised to respect the LoC even though it is not recognized as an international border. The Simla Agreement, when combined with the earlier Indus Waters Treaty (1960), formed a pillar for conflict management and communication remaining as crucial for the

¹⁷ Securitycouncilreport.org
https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/karachi_agreement_1949.pdf . Accessed 27 Aug 2025

¹⁸ Treaties.un.org
<https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTs/Volume%20419/volume-419-I-6032-English.pdf> . Accessed 27 Aug 2025

maintenance of peace in the area as it was the day it was signed.

Possible solutions

Confidence Building through Education

Mistrust between the two nations is perpetuated not only by the strategic aspects of the issue but also by the media and school programs. As stated previously the future of this relationship is its rising youth and funds need to be invested in improving the educational system of these countries. Pakistan has a high toll of illiteracy that fuels hatred and misbelief, with a lot speculating that illiteracy fosters injustices and poverty. Funding could be given to the educational systems of both countries, laying long-term bases for peacebuilding.

Targeted Sanctions for Crisis Escalation

While immediate sanctions are unlikely due to India's and Pakistan's economic weight, targeted sanctions could be designed as a leverage to prevent military escalation and human right abuses. Sanctions against people that have any relationship, such as funding and more, with terrorist groups need to be designed. However, caution is needed because of both states' strong alliances, possible measures could risk backlashes and widen the gap even further.

UN Peacekeeping and Observer Mandate Expansion

The UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan is in the region ever since 1949 and the Karachi agreement. However, after the Simla agreement its authority is limited. Expanding UN's monitoring technology in the area could help greatly in the efforts of combatting terrorism. In spite of all that, India has always opposed internationalization of the issue, making this mandate expansion politically fragile.

Further reading

To better understand the topic, it is advised to go through the following links that explain the issue and its complicated background explaining further the risk of a nuclear clash:

- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/India-Pakistan-conflict#ref414823>
- <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2025/05/india-pakistan-emergency-closed-consultations.php>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2e373yzndro>

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