Pakistan-India relations: a rocky course ahead

Presented by:- Beant Singh Siddhu
• Relations between India and Pakistan have been complex and largely hostile due to a number of historical and political events. Relations between the two states have been defined by the violent partition of British India in 1947, the Kashmir conflict, and the numerous military conflicts fought between the two nations. Consequently, their relationship has been plagued by hostility and suspicion. Currently after Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, Pakistan cut off bilateral and trade relations with India, recalled the Pakistani ambassador to India, and expelled the High Commissioner of India to Pakistan. Northern India and Pakistan somewhat overlap in areas of certain demographics and shared lingua francas (mainly Punjabi and Hindustani).
After the dissolution of the British Raj in 1947, two new sovereign nations were formed—the Dominions of India and the Dominions of Pakistan. The subsequent partition of the former British India displaced up to 12.5 million people, with estimates of loss of life varying from several hundred thousand to 1 million.

Some major conflicts and disputes between Pak and India are:

- Partition of British India in 1947
- Kashmir dispute
- Water crisis
- Sir creek issue
- Rann of kutch
- Siachen issue
- Nuclear Deterrence
- Many military conflicts
Kashmir War (1947-49)

- Kashmir had to accede to either Pakistan or India based on geographic location and on demographics.

- In December bombardment Beri Pattan bridge area was destroyed.
- At midnight on 30th December, India asked for cease-fire Pakistan accepted.
  - It halted the Indian offensive.
  - Closing up to Pakistan's vital border areas, thus ended the war in Jammu and Kashmir.
1965 War

• Indian forces intruded in **Rann of Kutch** in April 1965
• Indian forces were **ejected**, an agreement was signed: the forces disengaged

• After continuous attacks and airstrikes Pakistan's army was captured
1971 War

- India support for independence of Bangladesh
- In November India’s massive build up on East Pakistan border
- State of emergency 180 Bombs were dropped by Pakistan
Kargil War

• Took place between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Kashmir
• The infiltration of Pakistani soldiers and Kashmiri militants into positions on the Indian side of the Line of Control, caused the war.
• Indian forced a Pakistani withdrawal across the Line of Control (LoC).
• Pakistan occupied portions of Indian Territory in the Kargil area
• India defeated Pakistan
• Relations worsened
Attempts for peace and betrayal

There have been numerous attempts to improve the relationship—notably, the [Shimla summit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shimla_Summit), the [Agra summit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agra_Summit) and the [Lahore summit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahore_Summit). Since the early 1980s, relations between the two nations soured particularly after the [Siachen conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siachen_conflict), the [Kashmir insurgency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir_conflict) in 1989, [Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) and [Pakistani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) nuclear tests in 1998 and the 1999 [Kargil war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kargil_War). Certain confidence-building measures — such as the 2003 ceasefire agreement and the [Delhi–Lahore Bus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi%E2%80%93Lahore_Bus) service — were successful in de-escalating tensions. The [2001 Indian Parliament attack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aglasem_Aglasem_Parliament_Exchange) almost brought the two nations to the brink of a nuclear war. The [2007 Samjhauta Express bombings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samjhauta_Express_bombing), which killed 68 civilians (most of whom were Pakistani), was also a crucial point in relations. Additionally, the [2008 Mumbai attacks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Mumbai_attacks) carried out by Pakistani militants resulted in a severe blow to the ongoing India-Pakistan peace talks.
bilateral discussions again stalled after the 2016 Pathankot attack. In September 2016, a terrorist attack on an Indian military base in Indian-administered Kashmir, the deadliest such attack in years, killed 19 Indian Army soldiers.

The attack sparked a military confrontation across the Line of Control and further militant attacks on Indian security forces.

Since 2016, the ongoing confrontation, continued terrorist attacks and an increase on both sides has resulted in the collapse of bilateral relations. Notably, following the 2019 Pulwama attack.

The Indian government revoked Pakistan's most favoured nation trade status, which it had granted to Pakistan in 1996. India also increased the custom duty to 200% which majorly affected the trade of Pakistani apparel and cement.
since the election of new governments in both India and Pakistan in the early 2010s, some attempts have been made to improve relations, in particular developing a consensus and agreements. Both India and Pakistan are members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and its South Asian Free Trade Area. Pakistan used to host a pavilion at the annual India International Trade Fair which drew huge crowds.[12] Deteriorating relations between the two nations resulted in boycott of Pakistani traders at the trade fair.
There is a need to embrace an overarching strategic stability regime and to shun aggressive security doctrines to reduce the possibility of a nuclear conflict.

The problems of terrorism needs to be addressed jointly through institutionalised mechanisms.

Water issues should be resolved through the mechanisms provided by the Indus Basin Treaty and should not be allowed to degenerate into a serious source of conflict.

Confidence-building measures should be pursued to alleviate the “trust deficit” but should not be used as a substitute for the resolution of disputes.

Economic co-operation and trade should be facilitated to develop mutuality of interest.

Initiatives like Kartarpur corridor should be taking to increase trade, relations and trustworthiness to revive interlinked cultures.
The Kartarpur Corridor is a visa-free border crossing and secure corridor connecting the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan to the border with India. Started operation from 550 birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji.

The Kartarpur Corridor was first proposed in early 1999 by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Nawaz Sharif, the prime ministers of India and Pakistan respectively, as part of the Delhi–Lahore Bus diplomacy.
Any Questions?