

Advisory Panel on the Question of Kashmir (APQK)

The question of Kashmir



Forum	Advisory Panel on the Question of Kashmir (APQK)
Issue:	The Question of Kashmir
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Position:	President & Deputy President

Introduction

Kashmir is disputed between India and Pakistan since the partition in 1947. This region of about 230,000 square kilometres (86,000 square miles) and home to 18 million people is seen as one of the main obstacles to a peaceful resolution in the Indian subcontinent. The area is critical as it borders Afghanistan, China, India and Pakistan. Kashmir was the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir and is the only Indian province with a Muslim majority, which was British protectorate during British Raj, and it held a *plebiscite* 1947 to determine whether it would join India or Pakistan. There are many protests in Indian administered Kashmir, due to both religious and civil unrest. The situation is delicate as both nations having nuclear arsenals.

Definition of Key Terms

Plebiscite

A public referendum

Maharajah

The prince or king of a region, the ruler.

UNSC

United Nations Security Council

UNCIP

United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan



LOC

Line of control the ceasefire line that was created in 1948 renamed. 850km long.

UNCLOS

United Nations Convention on the law of the sea

AFSPA

Armed forces special powers act. An act passed by the Indian government in response to secessionist forces and the violent tendencies of such. The act allows Indian forces to shoot anyone suspicious.

Curfew

Places of public gathering close and ordinary civilians may not be outside between the hours of 18:00 till 7:00. Curfews were placed in Indian Administered Kashmir in February due to increased tension.

General Overview

The issue stems from the shared history of the two nations with the British colonizing much of South Asia. The division of the nations was opposed by the Indian Congress. The division was outlined in The Indian Independence Act which was effective on 15 August 1947.



When they became independent the Muslim minority was placed in Pakistan whilst India was Hindu, due to years of political side-lining through sperate electorates under British rule and the rise of separatist movements and riots. The separation of the nations legitimized the tensions between the Muslims and Hindus. The British division of the Hindu's and Muslims divided those opposed to their rule it ensured their control.

The region referred to by the majority as Kashmir however within the larger region there are many smaller ones mainly including Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, the Northern areas as a whole



Model United Nations International School of The Hague 2019 | XXIX Annual Session (currently under Pakistani rule), Askai Chin and the Shaksgam valley. The area is therefore sometimes referred to as Jannu and Kashmir.

The Independence act gave three options: to join the dominion of Pakistan or India or independence. Most states chose, however, the maharajah of Kashmir, a Hindu named Hari Singh, called for independence. An agreement with Pakistan allowed trade between them, however, it was not mirrored in India, with the government promising to sign a standstill but failed to see it through.

As tensions heightened between the nations pro-Pakistani rebels with government funding would enter the region with Pashtun tribesmen, leading to war. Singh for assistance from India, but this was only offered if the state seceded to India. The population despite a Muslim majority was in favour of joining India. He signed the Instrument of Accession and became part of the Dominion of India in October 1947. Pakistan claimed that this was not a legitimate secession as the Indian Military was present during it and the free will of the people could not truly be asserted, but India upheld its legitimacy.

In 1948 there were several days of conflict over the issue leading India to take the issue to the UNSC.

Siachen dispute

This was started in 1980 after an American map differed from the original ceasefire line in 1948 around the Siachen Glacier, it appeared as though several places, namely Lyogme and Lagongma, were actually within Pakistan's borders rather than India's. This is mostly

because it was not considered when the LOC was drawn. This led to an investigation by the Indian Army in April 1984. Pakistan followed, creating competition over who could get their



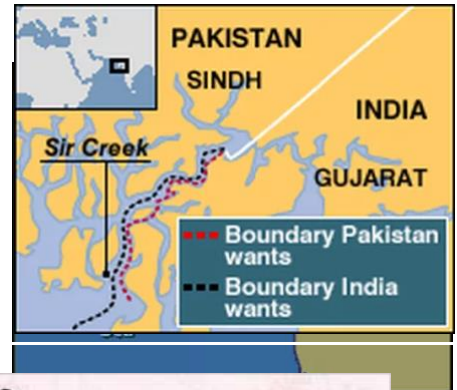
military to the high ground quicker. The Indian troops won, but in 1987 Pakistan attempted to force their movement but failed. This area became a no-man's land.

Sir Creek Dispute

The Creek is a 60-mile long estuary dividing the two nations. The surrounding area is known as Rann and can be seen in the image.

Pakistan claims that around half of Rann (drawing a line on the 24th parallel), but India assert their right for 90% of the area. A tribunal in February 1986 favoured India and so the majority of the Rann was then in their possession. The prospect of natural gas in the area has prompted both sides to come to an agreement.

The UNCLOS III seemed to solve this by declaring the river as international water, thus not belonging either state.



Wullar Barrage Dispute.

Also, known as the Tulbul Navigation project, this issue relates to Indian plans to build a Barrage in Wuller lake. Pakistan claimed this would limit their water supply. It could be considered to be inconsistent with the Indus treaty of 1960. The treaty also provided a framework for settling disputes over water and calls for cooperation and information sharing between the nations.



Pakistan was unsuccessful in proving their case, resulting in the eventual construction of the barrage thanks to the all-clear from the Indus water commission in 1986.

Water dispute

This Indus is used to irrigate the land, essential for the farmers and villages for both states. Although previously the disputes over the water were domestic the separation into two nations creates international issues. The Partition of Punjab gave the majority of the low-lying basins with access to water over to India and access to the source of the river. India has looked to industrialise the area, but developments threaten Pakistan's agriculture.



Pakistan called for the issue to go to the International Courts, but India refused and called for a simple agreement between the nations. This would quickly fail so that the sides were no longer involved in negotiations by 1951. In February 1954 the World Bank distributed the tributaries between the nations with three to each. This would be confirmed through the Indus water treaty.

Similarly, in December 2018 India would be given the all-clear to build a dam on the Ravi which will help to improve irrigation in the area. It is planned to be built by June 2020.

Both nations are some of the most water-stressed in the world, with scarcity leading to protests in both. Some predictions claim Pakistan will see water scarcity by 2025.

There were further disputes over proposed Indian hydro-electric dams, however, in January 2019 India allowed Pakistan to inspect the dams.

In February 2019 the Indian government announced plans to redirect all water from the rivers it has use of so that the water no longer flows into Pakistan. They have insisted this still falls within the Indus water treaty.

The second India-Pakistan war

In 1965 all attempts to solve the dispute had fallen through, and in August Pakistan sent guerrilla units into the area in what was known as 'Operation Gibraltar'. They believed the Kashmir Muslims would rise up in rebellion after being given this spark, instead, the groups were given to the authorities. Tensions grew amounting in Indian troops crossing the border into Pakistan on 1st September.

Pakistan forces would eventually claim some of Kashmir and then called for a UN plebiscite and a ceasefire. Here the US, UK and China all took a pro-Pakistan stance and the Soviets became mediators between the two states. The war ended in January 1966 with the Tashkant Declaration. This ensured the withdrawal of groups and redevelopment of ceasefire upon the LOC.

The third India-Pakistan war

Although the war in 1971 was focused on Bangladesh, the area of Kashmir became an outlying issue. The ceasefire line was broken with the Indian army opening fronts along it. The war ended with Pakistan surrender to the Indian forces in December, there would then follow a unilateral declaration of ceasefire.



Secessionism

Within India secessionist forces have brought violence. The forces have moved across into Pakistan for weapons and training. In response, the Indian government created AFSPA and the Jammu and Kashmir disturbed area act. India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of aiding these Kashmiri separatists through funding and training.

The Kargil war

The Kargil war (1999) was fought after Pakistan moved 1500 militants into Indian bunkers which had been abandoned over winter. In May, India launched 'Operation Vijay'. This caused a fierce war. The US Clinton administration became involved and the pressure from the US and the G-8 would see the creation of a ceasefire declaration in July 1999.

Sino-India War

The India-China war of 1962, started in October with a Chinese surprise attack. The Indian army was outnumbered due to limited notice with 80,000 Chinese troops to a maximum of 20,000 Indian troops. Although the relations had been positive, India disagreed with the Chinese taking Tibet, but acknowledged Chinese rule in 1954. In July 1954 a discrepancy was found in the maps with China claiming territory within India of about 120,000 km². Tensions were exacerbated when Mao claimed that the rebellion in Tibet at the time was caused by India. The perceived Indian threat to China can be considered a predominant reason for the war. Many disputes of the war remain unsolved.

Kashmir insurgency

Starting in 1989 this 30-year-long insurgency has undergone many changes. More recently the insurgents have used social media. Their goals have also changed. Initially, they campaigned for an Independent Kashmir, mainly fought for by the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). Since then Pakistan's military has offered training and weapons to the insurgents, namely AK-47's, a form of assault rifle. In 1996 HM (Hizb-ul- Mujahideen) became the dominant group, which instead supported entry to Pakistan. This gave Pakistan the advantage as the main weapon supplier.

In 1990 there were targeted attacks on the Kashmiri Pandits (KP) to scare them out of the valley. These worked and many did move out of the Valley. 23 KP's were massacred in 1998, and a following 23 in 2003. Hindu's and Sikhs were also targeted in an attempt to have a fully Muslim population, demonstrating the religious tensions in the area and the diversity present



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within Kashmir, causing it to become a disputed area and within the rest of Pakistan and India
the majority are Muslim and Hindu respectively.

After the end of the Kargil conflict in 1999, the Fidayeen became prevalent with over 50 suicide attacks. They were mostly Pakistani with origins in extremist religious groups. Some attacks were even seen within India on parliament, which failed, and a hotel.

Attempts to develop peace around 2009 did see a reduction in the number of casualties but ultimately failed due to diverging views.

Since 2014, there has been increasing civilian support of the insurgents including throwing stones at the security forces and trying to save wounded insurgents. This had led to civilians being killed by the security forces, provoking a question of human rights. At least 14,000 civilians have been killed since 1990. In 2016 the Indian forces used pellet ammunition to control protesters, this caused Amnesty International to launch a campaign against their use after many people were blinded and around 5,850 were injured. Civilians have also had claims of violence and harassment during the campaigns

In 2017 India launched 'Operation All-Out' to remove the insurgents in the area, which was only around 200, but this failed.

Operation Ginger

In July 2011 Pakistani forces attacked an Indian outpost, killing 6. India responded more troops to the area and launched Operation Ginger. In August they attacked 3 Pakistani outposts killing 13. The operation lasted less than one hour, with Pakistani soldiers killed.

2016 Kashmir curfew

In July 2016 the leader of HM, Burhan Wani, was killed by Indian forces, this led to an indefinite curfew placed in Kashmir. The curfew sparked protests in August causing over 9,000 people to be injured. The protests lasted around 2 months. The curfew has continually been resisted.

Airstrikes

In February 2019, Pakistan shot down two Indian military jets and captured pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan who was shown in a video released by Pakistan to be blindfolded and bloody. This comes after re-engagement of forces over the LOC in the form of aerial attacks. This happened after India struck a Pakistani military camp and a suicide bomber killing 40



Indian troops. There was a claim that an Indian plane had shot down a Pakistani fighter on Pakistan's side of the LOC, however, Pakistan denies the event.

Although the attack could have provoked a war, in public statements both sides were willing to settle the matter peacefully, especially since they are both holders of nuclear arsenals, of around 140 warheads each.

In April 2019 Pakistan allowed international access to the disputed air strikes location, Balakot. Pakistan takes the view that the strike landed in an empty area and no-one was hurt, but India says that it destroyed an insurgent camp belonging to the Jaish-e-Mohammad group.

Major Parties Involved

The Republic of India

Controls most of Kashmir (44% , in terms of both land and population. A majority Hindu nation (roughly 80%) with a Muslim minority (roughly 15%), India has maintained its claim over the entire of Kashmir and Jammu.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Majority Muslim (over 95%), Pakistan is India's main contestant over control of Muslim majority Kashmir and Jammu. Pakistan controls 37% of the entire Kashmir region

The People's Republic of China

The only major party involved from outside of the Indian subcontinent. The PRC was ceded control of the Aksai Chin region by their ally, Pakistan, after which several wars over control of this region was fought with India until in 1996 when both the PRC and India signed an agreement to respect the 'Line of Actual Control'. The PRC controls 19% of the Kashmir region.

Kashmiri Separatists

Also known as the Kashmiri Intifada this is a loose term describing groups who seek secession from India. They don't control any significant territory and have limited international recognition. They're considered terrorists by India and various international communities.

Pashtun Tribesmen



Also referred to as Pathans or Kashmiri Pathans, they are a majority Muslim tribe residing mainly in Afghanistan but also in Northern Pakistan and the Kashmir region. They lead nomadic lives, but many have settled throughout the territory where they roamed in the past. The exact number of Pathans within Kashmir is difficult to determine.

World bank

The world bank has been monitoring the situation in Kashmir, trying to build up the region despite the continuous threat of destruction.

G-8

A group of the 8 economies, (the USA, the UK, Germany, France, Japan, Italy, Canada, and Russia). At G8 meeting a representative of the European Union is also present, representing EU interests.

USA

A supporter of India, but has military bases in Pakistan. The USA supports bilateral talks between the nations, but it refuses to mediate dialogue between the two countries. It supports India in fighting the terrorists as part of its war on terror.

JKLF

Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front. An organisation that believes in a sovereign and independent Kashmir. Unlike the Kashmiri Separatists, this organisation wants independence for all of Kashmir.

HM

Hizb-ul- Mujahideen, a Muslim organisation that is backed by Pakistan that seeks to integrate Kashmir into Pakistan. It is designated as a terrorist organisation by India, the USA, the EU, due to their goal to establish an Islamic Caliphate in the World.

KP

Kashmir Pandits are one of the last original Kashmiri Hindu inhabitants of Kashmir and Jammu. They are pro-India, but many have left the region due to violence in recent decades.

JeM

Jaish-e-Mohammed has the same goals as HM.



Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of event
July 1947	Indian Independence Act received royal assent
August 1947	Partition of the Punjab, the act that gave independence to the Indian and Pakistani- governments from British rule. It saw an increase in violence between Hindus and Muslims and a forced migration of Muslims to Pakistan.
September 1947	Pashtun Tribes entire Kashmir.
October 1947	The instrument of accession signed the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir joined the Republic of India
January 1948	India brings the issue to the UNSC
August 1948	UNCIP resolution called for a ceasefire
1951	Negotiations fall through over water
February 1954	World bank intervenes in water dispute
1958	Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) was signed into law by the Indian Parliament, allowing for special forces to maintain the status quo, maintain public order in disturbed areas.
1960	Indus treaty
1962	The sino-indian war between India and China
1962	China took eastern Kashmir from India
August 1965	Operation Gibraltar conducted by Pakistan triggers the second Indo-Pak war
September 1965	Indian troops cross into Pakistan
1965	Negotiations over Kashmir fall through



January 1966	Second Indo-Pak war ends with the Tashkent Declaration.
1971	Third Indo-Pak war with a focus on Bangladesh
July 1972	The Simla (Shimla) Agreement was signed between India and Pakistan. It was signed following the 1971 war (Bangladeshi Independence).
April 1984	Indian Army launches an investigation in the Siachen glacier.
February 1986	Tribunal over Sir creek settles in India's favour
1987	Pakistan tries to remove Indian forces from the Siachen glacier but fails.
1989	Insurgency begins with JKLF dominating.
1989	Army officially deployed
1990	An AFSPA was signed into law specifically for the region of Jammu and Kashmir and has been in place ever since.
1990	Insurgents launched targeted attacks on the KP
1996	HM appears to dominate the insurgency
1998	23 KP massacred by insurgents
July 1999	Ceasefire declaration ending the Kargil war.
1999	Kargil war
2001	A failed insurgent attack on India's government
2003	A further 23 KP were killed by insurgents
February 2011	Talks resume between the two nations



August 2011	India launches
February 2013	JeM member hung over the failed attack on the Indian government
August 2014	India cancels talks after accusing Pakistan of meddling in the nation's internal affairs.
October 2014	Violence along the LOC leads to 14 dead
July 2016	Leader of the HM is killed and a curfew is adopted
August 2016	Curfew lifted on the Indian half of Kashmir
September 2016	India claims they have lead strikes on the militants but Pakistan denies this.
2016	Indian government uses pellet ammunition on protestors creating a question of human rights violations.
July 2017	Militants attack Hindu pilgrims killing 7.
2017	India launches 'Operation All-Out' to remove the 200 insurgents.
August 2018	Talks between the two nations held over the Indus water treaty.
January 2019	Water scarcity issues.
February 2019	India announces plans to redirect water from the rivers so that it no longer flows into Pakistan.
February 2019	Pakistan shoots down two Indian Military Jets
February 2019	India revokes Pakistan's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status, increasing tariffs on Pakistani goods to 200 %.



April 2019	Pakistan allows media access to disputed airstrike site
July 2019	Trump claims that Modi asked him to meditate on the issue, the Indian foreign ministry denies it.
August 2019	India removes Article 370 that gives Kashmir some independence.

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- The India-Pakistan Question, 17 January 1948 (S/RES/38)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 20 January 1948 (S/RES/39)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 21 April 1948 (S/RES/47)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 3 June 1948 (S/RES/51)
- UNCIP creates UNMGIP, 24 January 1949
- The India-Pakistan Question, 15 March 1950 (S/RES/80)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 30 March 1951 (S/RES/91)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 10 November 1951 (S/RES/96)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 23 December 1952 (S/RES/98)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 24 January 1957 (S/RES/122)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 21 February 1957 (S/RES/123)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 2 December 1957 (S/RES/126)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 4 September 1965 (S/RES/209)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 6 September 1965 (S/RES/210)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 20 September 1965 (S/RES/211)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 27 September 1965 (S/RES/214)
- The India-Pakistan Question, 5 November 1965 (S/RES/215)



- The India/Pakistan Subcontinent, 21 December 1971 (S/RES/307)
- UNCLOS III - 1982
- General Debate of the 28th Session of the UNGA Committee on Information, 26 April 2006
- General Debate of the 65th Session of the UNGA, 28 September 2010
- General Debate of the 69th Session of the UNGA, 27 September 2014

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

In 1948 there was an attempted solution through the security council resolutions on the matter, this internationalized the issue. Both sides agreed to a plebiscite overseen by the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP). There was also a call for the removal of the tribe and the rebels from the area and consequently for fighting to stop. There is an allowance for minimal Indian forces in the area. This fails as Pakistan refuses to remove the forces, and eventually, the crisis blew over.

UNCLOS solved the issue relating to Sir creek by declaring it international waters and so those rules now applied, and the states would no longer dispute over the region. Yet, the Republic of India has repeatedly nullified the claim that the rivers in Jammu and Kashmir are international waters, repeatedly threatening to divert them. Most recently in February 2019 during another sovereignty dispute with Pakistan.

Several UNSC resolutions have been passed either condemning the human rights atrocities committed in the region, or advocating for a peaceful resolution. However, due to the PRC's role as a P5 member, these resolutions have avoided the issue of Aksai Chin, focusing more often on the Pakistani/Indian claims and disputes. Both Pakistan and India refuse to cede control of the region or to remove sufficient military personnel, for a peaceful resolution.

Both sides refuse to relinquish claims to the region, therefore a fully independent Jammu and Kashmir is unlikely to occur. One of the defining factors in Why Jammu and Kashmir voted to accede to India was to avoid being trapped in a conflict between India and Pakistan. A partially independent Jammu and Kashmir would be continuously appeasing both sides while existing in a constant state of fear due to the possibility of invasion by either nation. India's refusal to give up claims to Pakistani Administered Kashmir is a major factor that prevents peace in the region.



In 1972 the Simla/Shimla agreements was an attempt to solve the issue in Kashmir. It created a set of principles that both India and Pakistan would follow when negotiating with each other. Both sides agreed to uphold the inviolability of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. Unfortunately, this agreement failed because it didn't include the people of Kashmir.

Within several years of the 1972 negotiations, in 1975 another round of negotiations took place, known as the 1975 accords, between the Indian Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. These talks failed because they excluded Pakistan.

Possible Solutions

Three state solution

Currently, the area is divided between Pakistan and India along the LOC. This division can be viewed as the root cause. However, when first discussing the independence of the British colonial region it was suggested that Kashmir could become independent. This was welcomed by the Maharajah and late the insurgents. If the state became a nation itself it could potentially solve the issue. It also has the capacity to become a successful nation with a strategic position as mentioned before and the possibilities for farming on the fertile land. To offer this solution one must decide how to secure the nation in its infancy to prevent causing a war over the territory.

Use of UN peacekeepers

The situation is dangerous with civilian deaths from the campaigns and insurgents. There are small groups of peacekeepers in the area, more could be introduced to help keep the ceasefire and protect civilians and religious minorities. Nations must be willing to deploy peacekeepers. It must be remembered that Peacekeepers are not troops but can offer protection. The decision here is mainly where to place the peacekeepers, along the Pakistani border, spread throughout, along the line of control; there are many possibilities to explore.

Plebiscite

Although there have been failing plebiscites previously, this could be tried again. A plebiscite could prevent civilians from protesting or helping the insurgents. However, it may legitimize the insurgents. Pakistan, India and potentially China would all need to recognise the plebiscite as legitimate. There is a question of what do you allow the people to vote on, can they only vote whether to join India or Pakistan or can they also opt for independence?



Recommendation to the Security Council

In the advisory panel, there is no veto and clauses passed are non-binding. To ensure action is taken you may suggest action such as sanctions to be placed. Sanctions on Pakistani weapons could prohibit insurgents access to weapons.

Counterinsurgency methods

There are different schools of thought on how to deal with rebellions, insurgencies, terrorist attacks and guerrilla wars. These methods are often referred to by their abbreviation of COIN. However, when considering these options, one must inspect how the insurgencies in Kashmir differ from others and their specific political aims whether it be secession into Pakistan or to become independent. Within this is the use of anti-radicalisation methods. One method can be seen with the British and the IRA, this is just to stay within the laws to prevent provocation of the rebel group. Alternatively a government or military force and use its advantage of having more resources. With either of these methods in Kashmir the size and landscape makes it hard to control. One can also consider stopping the insurgency at its roots.

Improvement in irrigation

Water is a key resource in the area for irrigation and farming. In the Advisory Panel we have unlimited budget so it could be good to research building infrastructure to help with the irrigation of the land, such as dams. Indeed, perhaps it would be better to deal with this lack of irrigation by offering education and resources to farmers so that they may grow crops that will be successful without the need for large quantities of water, currently many of the crops exhaust the freshwater supply mainly rice paddy fields and sugarcane.

Peace talks with each other and insurgents

This solution has been attempted by both sides separately and together. However, due to the complex nature of sovereignty in the Kashmir region progress during these talks have been stifled. The most successful talks have had a mediator. The situation is one that is continually changing and the UN will always promote diplomacy.

Fact-finding mission

In recent years it has been hard to gather information on the area as a whole due to its divided nature. One step in solving any problem is to understand it fully, this can be done using a UN fact-finding mission.



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