



FORUM: Disarmament and International Security committee

TOPIC: Security Threat of the Strategic Use of Drones in Pakistan-India Irregular Warfare

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POSITION: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Greetings and welcome to this year's AMLMUN conference. My name is Gregory Kasteroudis, I am 18 years old and a graduate of Anavryta. I am a Co-Chair of the DISEC committee, my second time participating as a Student Officer in an MUN conference, and I'm excited to share this experience with you. A lot of work was put into this Study Guide so I hope that it proves useful in your preparation, though remember that you should also gather information through your own research as well. Good luck and I wish you all a fruitful preparation! If you have any questions feel free to ask me for help!

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Hello, I'm Paola Papaconstantinou and I will be your committee's Main Chair in this year's AMLMUN conference! I am 17 and a student of Anavryta and I'm very excited to be sharing this experience with you, especially since our committee's topics are very interesting. Because of this, a lot of research is needed to get a better understanding of the topics. The Study Guides (written carefully by the chairs) will be your starting point support during your own further research, therefore I highly recommend that you examine them thoroughly. Don't forget to have fun and a fruitful debate! For questions, feel free to reach out.

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TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The Indian-Pakistani war is one of the longest lasting armed conflicts in modern history. Even before the separation of British India into two independent nations, the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, conflicts between the different religious groups of the country were not uncommon and they were all elements of the British government's strategy to keep the population of British India under control. Realising that any attempt they made at breaking the nationalist spirit of the Indian population had failed and the public would not adhere to their occupation any longer, they began dividing the people of India, planning to redirect the rage and dissatisfaction of the people from the British government towards the



common people. This was achieved using the two major religions of the nation, Hinduism and Islam.

Their plan was successful and also the reason British India was split into India and Pakistan in 1947. The situation only got worse after the official separation. During the six month shift from British rule to the new governments, millions of residents were forced to move out of their homes according to the religious nature of the two states, their independence and borders' division. This resulted in various armed conflicts between the two religious groups, the Muslims of Pakistan and the Hindus of India.

The other problem that surfaced after the split of British India was the fair allocation of the natural and financial resources of the former nation between the new ones. India was satisfied with the initial resources they received, but Pakistan believed they were getting less than they deserved. This disagreement quickly escalated into armed conflicts, specifically over the region of Jammu and Kashmir, which was sold by the British to a Hindu prince. When the prince's family was urged to join either India or Pakistan, the maharajah and his family faced retaliation from the mostly Muslim residents of the area and had to flee to India for protection, providing the Kashmir region to the Indian government in return. Various conflicts have broken out over the right to the region, including three wars taking place inside the region, those being the First, Second and Fourth Indo-Pakistani Wars. Even though there have been many attempts to put an end to the violence, both by individual nations and by the United Nations, which at the time was still a newly established organization with not much recognition, neither India nor Pakistan respected the terms of the resolutions aimed at ending the conflicts permanently and ensure the Kashmiri people can independently choose which nation to be a part of.

Now that we understand the history behind the Indo-Pakistani conflicts, we can begin analysing the role of drones and generally unmanned-combat-aerial-vehicles in modern-time conflicts between the two countries. First, it is important to recognise the role of drones in modern warfare and military operations worldwide. The spread of drones in the military sector began in the early 21st century and, two decades since then, unmanned combat vehicles (UCV) have become a necessary asset of many countries. Therefore, it is no surprise that India and Pakistan have already adopted the usage of drones in military affairs, with Pakistan having built a considerable force of unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAV), primarily acquired through China and Turkey, while India has steadily renewed its military assets with Israel as their main supplier. In fact, India first acquired UAVs from Israel in 2009 while Pakistan developed its own UAV in 2013.

With both countries heavily armed with this new technology, it is only reasonable that drones stand in the spotlight of the recent incidents between the two countries. Following a shooting in India's section of Kashmir during which 25 people lost their lives, India launched an attack on Pakistan's section of Kashmir using drones which claimed the lives of 31 residents.¹ Since then, reports of UCAVs sent out from both participants have increased dramatically, resulting in rising tensions and raising concerns over the safety of Kashmiri residents and the many tourists which visit the region known for its beautiful countryside.² Overall, drone attacks and attempts at attacks have been reported in over 20 cities across India and Pakistan combined, raising even more concerns over the livelihood of unarmed civilians.³

The current situation of the conflict has not yet seen any improvement, even though the armed warfare has stopped for now. This is because India has halted processes for the adoption of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) and is threatening to cut Pakistan's water supply completely. Pakistan's dependency on the Indus river's water renders it defenseless against India's advances.⁴ On the other hand, India justifies its actions by reporting Pakistan for terrorist acts on foreign soil, promising to reinstate the IWT if their terms are met.

The Indo-Pakistani wars, the ongoing situation and the drone conflicts between the nations pose a threat to most of the UNs 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially goal 16 (peace justice and strong institutions).⁵

¹ Staff, Al Jazeera. "Have India and Pakistan Started a Drone War?" *Al Jazeera*, 8 May 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/8/have-india-and-pakistan-started-a-drone-war>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

² *India–Pakistan Drone and Missile Conflict: Differing and Disputed Narratives*, <https://www.iiss.org/online-analysis/online-analysis/2025/05/indiapakistan-drone-and-missile-conflict-differing-and-disputed-narratives/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

³ Staff, Al Jazeera. "Have India and Pakistan Started a Drone War?" *Al Jazeera*, 8 May 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/8/have-india-and-pakistan-started-a-drone-war>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

⁴ Paddock, Vlad. "The Case for India's Suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty." *The National Interest*, 16 July 2026, <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/silk-road-rivalries/the-case-for-indias-suspension-of-the-indus-waters-treaty>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

⁵ "The 17 Goals | Sustainable Development." *United Nations*, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>. Accessed 17 Aug. 2026.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

British India

“The 17 provinces of India formerly governed by the British under the British sovereign: ceased to exist in 1947 when the independent states of India and Pakistan were created.”⁶

The Indus River

“Indus River, great trans-Himalayan river of South Asia. It is one of the longest rivers in the world, with a length of some 2,000 miles (3,200 km). Its total drainage area is about 450,000 square miles (1,165,000 square km), of which 175,000 square miles (453,000 square km) lie in the ranges and foothills of the Himalayas, the Hindu Kush, and the Karakoram Range, the rest is in the semiarid plains of Pakistan.”⁷

Irregular Warfare

“A form of warfare, where states and nonstate actors campaign to assure or coerce states or other groups through indirect, non-attributable, or asymmetric activities, either as the primary approach or in concert with conventional warfare.”⁸

Line Of Control (LoC)

“The Line of Control (LoC) is a 450 mile (724 kilometer) military border that separates India and Pakistan in the Disputed region of Kashmir. This line was established following the partition of British India in 1947, which created two independent nations amid significant communal tensions. Kashmir’s strategic importance has made the LoC a focal point of conflict, leading to three wars between the two countries and numerous skirmishes over the decades.”⁹

Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAV)

“An unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) also known as a combat drone, or a battlefield UAV, is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that is used for intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance and carries aircraft ordnance

⁶ “British India Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.Com.” *Dictionary.Com*, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/british-india>. Accessed 28 July 2026.

⁷ “Indus River | Definition, Length, Map, History, & Facts | Britannica.” *Britannica*, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Indus-River>. Accessed 28 July 2026.

⁸ “What Is Irregular Warfare? ...and Why Does It Matter?” Irregular Warfare Center, <https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/IW-Quick-Reference-1-pager.pdf>. Accessed 28 July 2026.

⁹ Biscontini, Tyler. “Line of Control | Diplomacy and International Relations | Research Starters | Ebsco Research.” *EBSCO*, 2023, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/diplomacy-and-international-relations/line-control>. Accessed 28 July 2026.

such as missiles, anti-tank guided missiles and/or bombs in hardpoints for drone strikes.”¹⁰

United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP)

A special UN Commission, created especially for dealing with the conflict between India and Pakistan. The UNCIP was active between 1948 and 1950 and its scope was to investigate and to regulate the Jammu and Kashmir areas.¹¹

The Resistance Front (TRF)

An Islamic terrorist group based in Pakistan that is active in the area of Jammu and Kashmir since 2019.¹²

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

History of Conflict before British India's Separation

The Indian-Pakistani feud stems from British India and the political conflicts of the Muslim and Hindu communities. Starting from the 18th century, British forces had already begun occupying regions of India, specifically Bengal and Bihar, right after the East Indian Company had won over the Muslim rule in 1757, but ultimately assumed full control of India in 1858, appointing an Indian regent to rule over the nobles of India. A year before that, a revolution had taken place, after the Indian population was already dissatisfied with the rule of Britain, who were not trying to conceal their ulterior motives, meaning stealing all of India's resources and enslaving citizens to use as working hands. The British were able to suppress the revolution and thus took over the Indian administration in 1858. In the following years, they attempted to fawn the Indian leaders and nobles many times through amendments within the Indian government. However, by that point the Indians had already perceived the reality of the British rule's action and were beginning to unite against it. The situation only worsened for the British after they introduced European history to Indian education systems which only amplified their nationalist spirit. The climax of the movement began with the partition of Bengal from the British lord Curzon in 1905, who aimed to give the Muslims more political power in order to create a religious and political discord amongst the population. The British feared a union between the Muslims and the Hindus and so they tried to ensure the religious

¹⁰ “Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles - Stratign.” *Stratign*, <https://www.stratign.com/unmanned-combat-aerial-vehicles/>. Accessed 28 July 2026.

¹¹ United Nations. (n.d.-a). *Redirecting...* United Nations. <https://search.archives.un.org/united-nations-commission-for-india-and-pakistan>

¹² Terrorist designation of the Resistance Front - United States Department of State. (2025, July 18). United States Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/07/terrorist-designation-of-the-resistance-front>

conflict would not end by any means. The partition of Bengal was the perfect way to solidify the success of their plan. The Hindus did not want the separation of the states, since they were the majority and had most of the political power. On the contrary, the rift favoured the Muslims, who suddenly became the new majority and sought to claim full political control, creating their first political party since 1757, the Mohammedan Provincial Union, in 1905. One year later, to increase their power against their religious and political adversaries, the Bengali Muslims united with the rest of the Muslims inside of Indian territory to create the All India Muslim League.

In the following years, the Muslim League started actively calling for a creation of a second nation named Pakistan, claiming that the Indian Muslims were already united and were not just a minority within the Indian state, but a nation trapped inside the Indian community. The congress members of India despised the idea, believing it to be a disgrace to the unity of India. From this moment onward the Muslim-Hindu conflict reached its largest scale yet, with both sides remaining unpersuadable, going as far as political and religious leader Gandhi stating that the division would only happen after he was proclaimed dead.¹³ Gandhi, who was active in the Indian political scene since 1920, played a major role in upholding the final separation of British India through movements he proposed to congress, those being the non-cooperation movement, the civil disobedience movement and the quit India movement, all centered around the dissatisfaction with British rule and the pursuit of Indian independence. If not for British interference, Gandhi's efforts would have been successful, but the British pushed for the creation of the two different states and, finally, the Indian independence bill was proposed in the British parliament on July 4th of 1947 and was voted successfully on 18th of the same month. The bill solidified the split of British India into the sovereign nations of India and Pakistan, while the British lifted their political control completely during the following month.

Post-separation Problems and First Indo-Pakistani War

Immediately after the separation, new problems arose between the two countries. Firstly, the religious nature of the conflict resulted in the separation of British India being done with religion as the main factor. This meant that Hindus living within Pakistani territory and Muslims living in Indian territory were forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in the state chosen for them. This mass displacement affected millions of citizens of both countries and was the trigger for a plethora of armed conflicts. Moreover, the two countries couldn't agree on how to split the resources of the dissolved government, neither decide upon their borders. India was satisfied with the part they received, but wanted to claim control of the

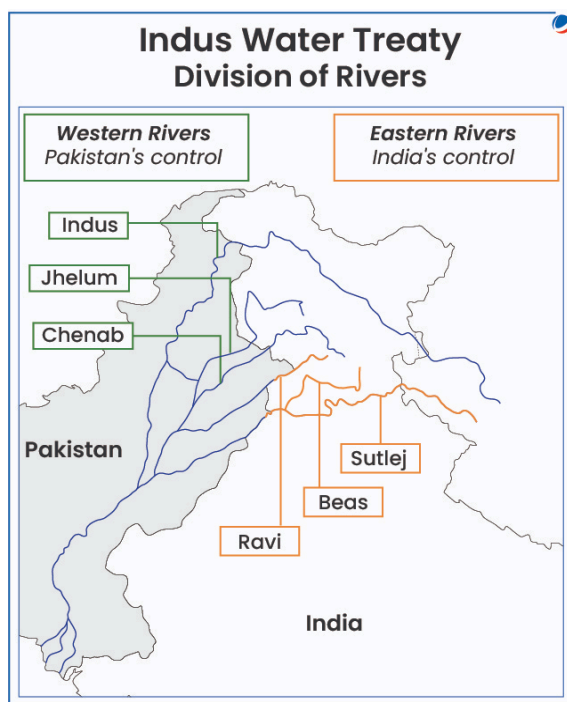
¹³ *Partition History of India before Independence*, <https://www.ijrar.org/papers/IJRAR19D3256.pdf>
Accessed 31 July 2026.

whole Kashmir region. Pakistan believed they had gotten less than India and also wanted to control the entirety of the Kashmir region. At the same time, the Kashmir region belonged to the family of a maharajah prince, since the British government had sold it to him over a hundred years ago. Now that the British were no longer active in the area, the prince's family faced outlash and revolts, demanding the incorporation of the Kashmir region into either the Indian or the Pakistani government. The family were Hindus but the majority of the local residents of the region were Muslims. Pakistan, realising that the Muslim population of Kashmir would potentially prefer to join Pakistan rather than India, entered Kashmir on 22th of October 1947. After serious threats and uproar, the family fled from Kashmir on 25th of October 1947 and two days later gave up the land to the state of India on 27th of October 1947, requesting protection from the revolution in return. At that point, India had the jurisdiction to deploy troops within Kashmir to stop the revolts, but, because Pakistani soldiers were already there, helping the Muslim citizens take power, a violent clash began that escalated into an open war between India and Pakistan over the region. The war did not last long, since the prime minister of India eventually requested the help of the UN's Security Council in order to end the conflict. Subsequently, on 13 of August 1948, India and Pakistan signed Resolution 47 of the United Nations Security Council which called for an immediate ceasefire. Officially, the ceasefire began on 31 of December 1948, but neither country ordered the retreat of their troops and the borders were decided upon based on the areas each army controlled, known as the Line of Control (LoC). An observation group was also administered in Kashmir as per the resolution demanded to ensure the ceasefire is honored.

The Question of the Division of the Indus River

The Indus River is a river which stems from a Chinese lake and flows through both Indian and Pakistani territory along with its tributaries. Since the separation, both nations feared that their access to the river's water would be cut off from the other nation. Even though neither nation proceeded with their threats, there were hindering actions made using each other's dependency to the river's water to cause disturbance, such as the Indian Tulbul navigation project which had to be swiftly concluded due to Pakistan's intervention. After the second Indo-Pakistani war, trust between the two countries was minimal and this fear made them attempt to solve the Indus river dispute. In February 1954, the president of the World Bank, Eugene R. Black created and proposed a draft resolution after consulting with both states' officials. The treaty was signed six years later on 19th of September 1960 and was named the Indus Water Treaty. The agreement distributed the three eastern rivers to India and the three western ones to Pakistan. Its success was a huge step towards

lowering the tensions between India and Pakistan which at the time were extremely



high due to the war which came before.¹⁴

Division of the Indus river¹⁵

Operation Gibraltar and the Second Indo-Pakistani War

Operation Gibraltar

Although the tension between India and Pakistan was always high, the next serious conflict began with Pakistan's operation Gibraltar in 1965, a plan formed by Pakistan following a new revolution attempt in Kashmir two years earlier. On the 5th of August of 1965, Pakistani guerilla forces along with some Kashmiri locals crossed the lines of the ceasefire into India's sector of Kashmir with the intent to defeat and remove the Indian army. Pakistan believed India had a weak military after their defeat to China in 1962 and that all of Kashmir wanted to be a part of Pakistan. The attack failed and Pakistan denied any involvement even though UN observers confirmed it. A smaller follow-up mission codenamed Operation Grand Slam was initiated immediately after, aiming to take control of Akhnur, a small town connecting

¹⁴ VisionIAS. 'Indus Waters Treaty | Current Affairs | Vision IAS'. *Current Affairs | Vision IAS*, 16 May 2025

¹⁵ Why, Upsc Cse. "#364: Indus Water Treaty & a Year of OP SINDOOR." #364: *Indus Water Treaty & a Year of Op Sindoor*, UPSC CSE Why Newsletter, 11 May 2026, <https://blog.csewhy.com/p/364-indus-water-treaty-and-a-year>. Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.

Kashmir with India. Pakistan's aggressive strategy caused India to respond with a surprise attack on Lahore, starting the second Indo-Pakistani War.

Second Indo-Pakistani War

The second official war between India and Pakistan began almost exactly a month after the launch of Operation Gibraltar. On the 6th of September of 1965, Indian soldiers entered into Pakistan, attacking the city of Lahore. Pakistani forces fought back, occupying the city of Khem Karan. This prompted India to become more aggressive. On September 9th of 1965, India deployed their 1st armored military division but it was effectively countered by Pakistan's army. The war took a larger scale when both countries began fighting using their aerial forces, with Pakistan overpowering due to their superior weaponry and machinery. The war ultimately reached an end after a ceasefire was signed and thanks to the Tashkent Declaration, which was signed by both countries on the 10th of January of 1966.

Third Indo-Pakistani War and the Creation of Bangladesh

In 1970, Pakistan was beginning to be split into two parts, western and eastern Pakistan with language and culture as a criterion since all citizens shared the same religion, Islam. Western Pakistan had almost complete control of Pakistan's military force and when they organized elections and lost, took over the entire nation using force to subdue the eastern Pakistani rebels in March 1971. It was then that India, due to the enormous amount of political refugees entering the nation, took the side of eastern Pakistan and initiated a full-scale invasion of Pakistan. On 3rd of December, 1971, West Pakistan launched a surprise aerial attack which failed on account of limited supplies. The war lasted a mere thirteen days, ending on 16th of December, 1971 after west Pakistan surrendered inside of east Pakistan's capital, Dacca. East Pakistan went on to become the state of Bangladesh.

Fourth Indo-Pakistani War/The Kargil War

The third war fought over the region of Kashmir, which began with Pakistan's invasion of Kargil Drass, a sector of Kashmir, with 1500 troops of Pakistani and Afghan origin. On 26th of May 1999, India responded with Operation Vijay, attacking the bunkers the Pakistani soldiers had taken over with both foot soldiers and aerial forces. The war ended on 11th of July 1999 after Pakistan was pressured to retreat and sign the ceasefire proposed by India. Later the same year, Pakistan faced internal political and military problems that were resolved forcefully in December 1999.

Recent Indo-Pakistani Disagreements and Conflicts

Operation Parakram

An Indian operation carried on after the Indian parliament bombing on 13th of December 2001 by a Pakistani terrorist organization. Since both states owned nuclear weaponry at the time, under the Prohibition of Attack Against Nuclear Installations and Facilities Treaty, they were forced to share among them their lists of nuclear related machinery on 1st of January 2002. After a speech made by the president of Pakistan, Musharraf on 12th of January 2002, the situation de-escalated to an extent, even though neither country recalled their armies. Tensions rose once again during the May of the same year when another terrorist attack occurred, this time targeting the families of Indian soldiers. Through the United States' intervention, Pakistan swore to cancel any and all operations across the line of control between the two countries in Kashmir. This move gained India's trust who on 16th of October 2002 ended Operation Parakram.

Siege of Mumbai

During the late 2000s, an incident temporarily worsened the situation once again. On 26th of November 2008 a Pakistani military group named Lashkar-e-Taiba attacked Mumbai, India's capital for three days and claimed the lives of 160 Indians along with 6 Americans.¹⁶ Both India and USA blamed Pakistan for the attack, claiming that the Pakistani government knew of the military group's activity and did not intervene. Later on, Pakistan's cooperation with India in order to punish the terrorists responsible for the siege, improved the diplomatic relations of the two states for a short while.

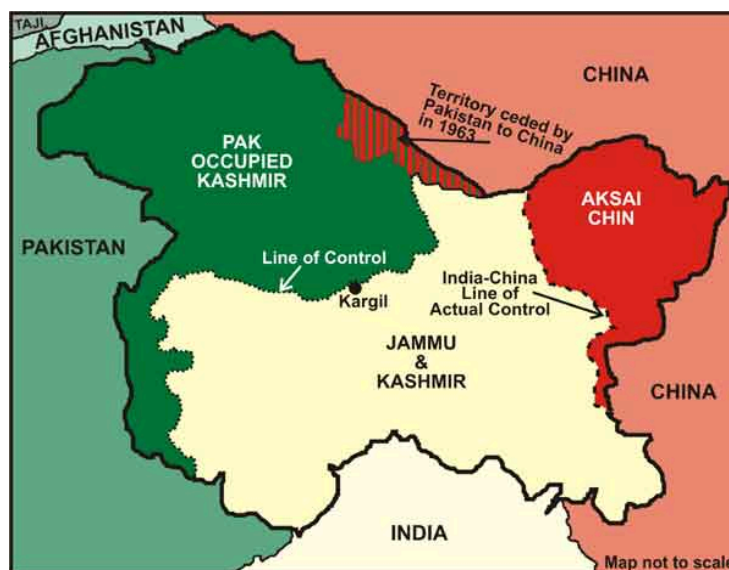
The situation in Kashmir 2016-2024

Following an attack on an Indian military force in September of 2016, the situation in Kashmir is spiraling downwards. Exchange of fire across the line of control between Indian and Pakistani soldiers is reported on a daily basis, with neither side seeming to retreat. An attempt at a ceasefire was made in May 2018 but was short lived, ending after an attack on an Indian convoy in February 2019. The attack escalated to a full back and forth exchange of aerial strikes and to the deployment of thousands of armed foot soldiers¹⁷. The aggressions reached an apex after India revoked article 370, making Jammu and Kashmir a regular Indian state, forcing the residents to abide by Indian law. Before, under article 370, Kashmir and its residents received different treatment from regular Indian states, meaning less taxes

¹⁶ "Conflict between India and Pakistan | Global Conflict Tracker." *Council on Foreign Relations*, <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-between-india-and-pakistan>
Accessed 31 July 2026.

¹⁷ "Conflict between India and Pakistan | Global Conflict Tracker." *Council on Foreign Relations*, <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-between-india-and-pakistan>
Accessed 31 July 2026.

and obligations to the Indian government, due to the fact it was controlled by India, but not Indian territory. Indian Kashmiri was put under a year long lockdown immediately after and effectively took complete control of Kashmir, since the Indian forces administered in the general region of Kashmir far outnumbered those of Pakistan. Revolts from Muslims residents of Kashmir against the Indian rule became more common than ever before, forcing the Indian government to respond with an increase in military activity in the area.¹⁸



The disputed area of Jammu and Kashmir¹⁹

The role of drones and UCAVs in the current situation

India and Pakistan have both controlled drones and unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAV) for over a decade now. Pakistan first reported successfully producing such equipment in 2015 whilst India had already bought drones in 2009 from Israel. Since then, both arsenals have dramatically increased but no noteworthy attack was made until May of 2025. On 22nd of April 2025, armed soldiers opened fire and killed 26 people in Indian Kashmir.²⁰ As a response, India placed the Indus Water Treaty on hold for the first time in over 60 years. Two weeks later, on 7th of May 2025, India claimed Pakistan had attacked again, this time using drones, which were shot down and disabled by the Indian army. A day later, on the 8th of May 2025,

¹⁸ Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir: The Future Trajectory. (2015). [online] *Indian Defence Review*. Available at: <https://indiandefencereview.com/pakistan-occupied-kashmir-the-future-trajectory/> [Accessed 5 Aug. 2026].

¹⁹ Wu, Xieyi. "Kashmir Conflict." *ArcGIS StoryMaps*, Esri, 19 June 2022, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bbf77113c6f2420ba3f2433a7ebffb09>. Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.

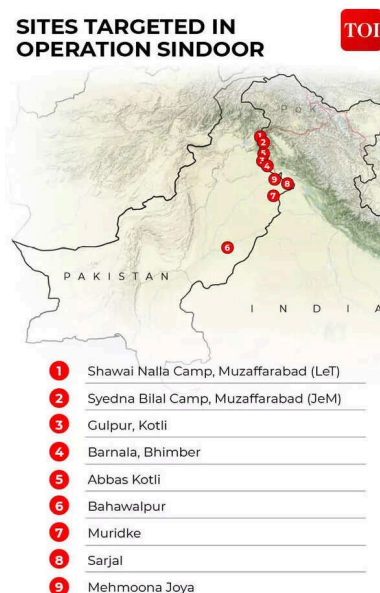
²⁰ India–Pakistan Drone and Missile Conflict: Differing and Disputed Narratives, <https://www.iiss.org/online-analysis/online-analysis/2025/05/indiapakistan-drone-and-missile-conflict-differing-and-disputed-narratives/> Accessed 31 July 2026.

India responded with drone strikes of their own, targeting terrorist camps and reportedly eliminating approximately 100 terrorists in the process.²¹ The United States were able to get India and Pakistan to sign a ceasefire on 10th of May 2025 which is active to this day. Although active hostilities are not currently taking place, the relations of India and Pakistan relations have significantly deteriorated and the tensions do not seem to be easing anytime soon.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

India

One of the key nations involved in the battle is India. Religious disagreements between Muslims in Pakistan and Hindus in India, as well as territorial claims to Jammu and Kashmir, were the main causes of the Indo-Pakistan War. Since then, India has contributed to numerous ceasefires and agreements, but like Pakistan, both nations have broken the terms of the truce. Operation Sindoor, which came after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, was one of India's most notorious strikes. The first-ever official drone war began in 2025 when India launched missile and drone raids on militant sites in Pakistan. India asserts that all of its attacks were in retaliation for Pakistan's hostile actions and did not target civilians. The country is willing to negotiate a truce with Pakistan, but insists that diplomatic discussions should be conducted primarily between the two countries. The US's involvement in the 2025 ceasefire was never acknowledged by India, although India supported it and even reminded Pakistan of its role in the conflict. India has suspended the Indus Water Treaty and repeatedly halted diplomatic and commercial relations with Pakistan, despite the country's apparent willingness for a peace deal. When it comes to India's supply of UAVs, Israel is the country's main supplier. India's drone ecosystem consists of 38.575 UAVs that are being actively used in the Indo-Pakistan conflict.



Sites targeted in operation Sindoor²²

²¹ *India–Pakistan Drone and Missile Conflict: Differing and Disputed Narratives*, <https://www.iiss.org/online-analysis/online-analysis/2025/05/indiapakistan-drone-and-missile-conflict-differing-and-disputed-narratives/>
Accessed 31 July 2026.

²² TOI News Desk / TIMESOFINDIA.COM / Updated: May 08, 2025. "India Targets Nine Sites across Pakistan and Pok: What We Know so Far: India News - Times of India." *The Times of India*, TOI, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-targets-nine-targets-across-pakistan-and-pok-what-we-know-so-far/articleshow/120942974.cms>. Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.



Israel

Despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations and in defiance of its own major power partner, the United States, Israel secretly provided India with military supplies during the 1971 India-Pakistan conflict, including 105 mm mortars, ammunition, and specialised training. Additionally, Israel supported the Mukti Bahini, a Bengali guerilla group that fought Pakistan and eventually contributed to the formation of Bangladesh. In 1980, Israel offered to destroy Pakistan's Kahuta nuclear facility in order to help India. Even though both nations never committed to this action due to the possibility of a nuclear war, this offer by Israel depicts the strong bond between the nations that led to the official establishment of their diplomatic ties in 1992. Israel's support has remained consistent throughout all the following years (for example their aid during Operation Sindoor, and President Benjamin Netanyahu's suggestion that India becomes a permanent member of the UN) especially in the military sector. With 15% of India's significant weaponry purchases from 2021 to 2025,²³ Israel has become the nation's third-largest arms supplier. In Kashmir, Israeli equipment, training, surveillance, border control technologies, and counter-insurgency doctrines—such as collective punishment, home demolition, and the use of pellet guns against civilian protesters—have been utilized by Indian security forces.

Pakistan

Pakistan's biggest attack in the war was the Pahalgam assault on Kashmir. India responded by suspending the Indus Water Treaty, and with Operation Sindoor that started the drone war. Pakistan also threatened to walk away from the Simla Agreement but never acted upon it. After the Operation that targeted Punjab and Kashmir (Pakistan) things escalated from both sides. Since then, terrorist groups in Pakistan have used UAVs not only in their attacks but also to smuggle weapons across the Indian border. Despite the constant attacks and provocations by India, Pakistan's restraint on using its nuclear weapon supply indicates the country's defensive position towards a nuclear war. Pakistan's UAVs supply is being supported by Russia and China with attack and kamikaze drones. The country has also manufactured drones and created altered versions of others like the localised version of the Chinese CH-3A. In total, the Pakistani army holds 290 active UAVs.

²³ Singh, Ashutosh. "India's Partnership with Israel: Drones, Labor, and the Politics of Complicity." *Arab Reform Initiative*, 30 July 2026, <https://www.arab-reform.net/publication/indias-partnership-with-israel-drones-labor-and-the-politics-of-complicity/>. Accessed 05 Aug. 2026.

People's Republic of China (PROC)

China is undeniably one of Pakistan's biggest allies in the war, since 1965, alongside Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. China made efforts to pressure India into a ceasefire by calling out its crimes, and by limiting access to the Sino-Indian border. That caused a de-escalation in India's actions. China continued to support Pakistan despite sanctions and despite their inability to directly intervene in the war because of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship. Its biggest contribution was financial and military aid towards Pakistan. Offering 60 million US dollars²⁴ In 1965, as well as military equipment, Pakistan was able to cover the war losses it suffered. This friendly relationship between the two nations stays strong until today with China being the biggest investor in Pakistan (for example through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)). China benefits from this alliance since it provides a gateway to the Middle East, the Persian Gulf and an opening to the Islamic world.

United Kingdom (UK)

For almost 200 years, India and Pakistan were both ruled by the British. In the 1940s, circumstances began to change when the Indians started to advocate for their independence, and tensions increased between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League. The British often contributed to the escalation of this conflict and exploited the situation. After World War II, Britain was weakened economically and could not support its colonies. Tensions were also expanding and the fight for independence forced Britain to withdraw, leaving behind two nations with deep-rooted differences and territorial disputes since the countries were divided based on religion, which forced many people to migrate. Since then, the UK has not been involved in the dispute. There have only been diplomatic statements from the country, urging for de-escalation in the region of Kashmir.

United States of America (USA)

US intervention in the Indo Pakistan war, although present, has been inconsistent. The US's role, since the beginning of the conflict, had been diplomatic, with scope the de-escalation of the dispute and the prevention of a crisis. In the past the US went as far as activating their Crisis Management mode during the Kargil War, The Mumbai attacks, Indian LoC attack, and other strikes which shows the significance of these conflicts as a security threat and emergency. Since President Donald Trump's first term, the US's position in the conflict has changed, with Trump suggesting to abandon the nation's peacemaking role. After the Pahalgam attack, the US initially maintained their newly established policy, claiming that the attack was

²⁴ Hafeez, Qura tul ain. "China's Role in 1965 Indo-Pak War." *Modern Diplomacy*, 27 Sept. 2018, <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2018/09/27/chinas-role-in-1965-indo-pak-war/>. Accessed 05 Aug. 2026.

"none of their business", as the Vice President stated. On the contrary, Secretary Marco Rubio urged for de-escalation and engaged in diplomatic talks with both nations. This, alongside Washington's fear of a nuclear war, led to the India-Pakistan 2025 ceasefire, which Washington was credited for. Even though Islamabad publicly thanked the US, India denied the country's intervention.

United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP)

The United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) was created in order to solve the dispute over the region of Jammu and Kashmir. Both nations objected to its creation, but on the 21st April 1948 it was accepted and put into operation by placing UN observers in the region on July 13. The UN body contributed to the 1949 ceasefire and was in charge of observing and reporting on the effectiveness of the Line of Control without any interference. The Commission was both recognised by India and Pakistan and with their partnership, it investigated possible breaches of the ceasefire until the official termination of the UNCIP in 1950.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
1858	Britain takes full control of India's government
16 October 1905	The first partition of Bengal by lord Curzon ²⁵
16 October 1905	Creation of Mohammedan Provincial Union ²⁶
30 December 1906	Creation of All India Muslim League ²⁷
1920	Gandhi enters the Indian political scene
4 July 1947	Indian Independence bill proposed in the British parliament
18 July 1947	The Indian Independence bill is passed after a vote
22 October 1947	Pakistani forces invade Kashmir

²⁵ Editor, Vajiram. "Partition of Bengal (1905), Background, Reasons, Impact, Annulment." *Vajiram and Ravi*, 6 July 2026, <https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/partition-of-bengal-1905/>. Accessed 17 Aug. 2026.

²⁶ "Yusuf Jan, Khwaja." *Banglapedia*, https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Yusuf_Jan,_Khwaja. Accessed 17 Aug. 2026.

²⁷ "Muslim League Protests Government Abuses of Minority Rights in India: History: Research Starters: EBSCO Research." *EBSCO*, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/muslim-league-protests-government-abuses-minority-rights-india>. Accessed 17 Aug. 2026.

25 October 1947	The maharajah and his family flee from Kashmir
27 October 1947	The maharajah turns over Kashmir to the Indian government
13 August 1948	India and Pakistan sign Resolution 47
31 th of December 1948	The ceasefire officially begins
1954	President of World Bank proposed resolution concerning the Indus River
19 September 1960	The Indus Water Treaty is signed by India and Pakistan
5 August 1965	Start of Operation Gibraltar
6 September 1965	The second Indo-Pakistani war is declared by India
9 September 1965	India deploys 1st armoured division
10 January 1966	The Tashkent Declaration is signed by India and Pakistan
3 December 1971	Beginning of third Indo-Pakistani war
16 December 1971	The third Indo-Pakistani war ends after ceasefire
26 May 1999	Operation Vijay begins
11 July 1999	Fourth Indo-Pakistani war ends with India's victory
13 December 2001	Indian parliament terrorist bombing and Operation Parakram
1 January 2002	India and Pakistan disclose nuclear facilities' locations
12 January 2002	Pakistan's president anti-terrorist speech
16 October 2002	India ends Operation Parakram
26 November 2008	Siege of Mumbai by terrorists
September 2016	Pakistani attack on Indian soldiers
May 2018	Ceasefire agreement
February 2019	Ceasefire is broken through an attack on an Indian convoy
22 April 2025	Shooting in India
7 May 2025	Indian reports of drone attacks from Pakistani forces
8 May 2025	Indian retaliatory drone strikes
10 May 2025	USA brokered a ceasefire

RELEVANT UN TREATIES, CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 13-8-1948²⁸

A resolution proposed by the Security Council of the United Nations and adopted by both India and Pakistan, which ordered a cease-fire be put in place and an observant appointed to watch over the two nations and ensure the cease-fire is honored. Furthermore, the second part of the resolution called for the withdrawal of the Pakistani and Indian troops from the region of Kashmir, only letting a few Indian soldiers in the area to act as guard to allow the Kashmiri people to live peacefully.

The effects of the resolution lasted until 1965, when Pakistan started operation Gibraltar, two years after a stand off against Kashmiri residents and the Indian troops. In conclusion, the resolution was successful for a few years but was inevitably breached during the war of 1965.

UN Ceasefire & Truce (S/995), 13 August 1948

In January 1948, India referred the Kashmir dispute to the UN Security Council following the start of the Indo-Pakistan War. After that, the council established the UNCIP (United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan) and demanded a ceasefire. The ongoing conflict forced the Security Council to formally establish the terms for a truce. The paper's main points are: 1) An immediate ceasefire, 2) The withdrawal of both sides' troops and forces and 3) Mandated UN supervision from UN military observers and the UNCIP.

The foundational ceasefire for the Indo-Pakistani wars was established by this agreement. Not only did it end the first war and temporarily put a stop to the conflict, but it also laid the foundation for succeeding accords like the Simla Agreement.²⁹

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The Indus Water Treaty (IWT)

An agreement between the Indian and Pakistani governments signed on 19 of September 1960, concerning the division of the eastern and western rivers of the

²⁸ Resolution Adopted by the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan On, <https://mofa.gov.pk/storage/files/1/65427a1e77a6f.pdf>
Accessed 31 July 2026.

²⁹ "Resolution for a Ceasefire Order and Truce Agreement Adopted by the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan on 13 August 1948 and the Commission's Correspondence with the Indian and Pakistani Governments in Relation to the Resolution :'' *United Nations*, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/471051?ln=en&v=pdf#files>. Accessed 17 Aug. 2026.

region, meaning Indus Basin and its tributaries, and the allocation of their water among the two countries. Control of the three western rivers, Jhelum, Chenab and Indus was given to Pakistan, while India received control of the three eastern rivers, Ravi, Sutlej and Beas. Pakistan was able to make use of water from the western rivers but not allowed to limit the flow of any rivers that would affect India's access, while India could only use water from the eastern rivers but was also not allowed to affect Pakistan's access to western rivers' water. Both nations were required to preserve the rivers, deter pollution and only make changes to the rivers that would not redirect their flow or diminish their water.

The treaty proved quite successful, still existing to the present day, although currently on suspension by India. Even though there have been reports by India accusing Pakistan of deliberately hindering Indian projects, such as the Tulbul navigation project, the treaty has mostly been honored from both sides, remaining intact throughout all wars India and Pakistan have engaged in over the few years.

The Tashkent Declaration

The agreement that ended the second Indo-Pakistani war. It foresaw the withdrawal of the borders to their position before the beginning of the war and to a ceasefire between the two countries. The goal of the Tashkent Declaration was an attempt at restoring the good faith of India and Pakistan, the creation of new friendly economic and military relations and the protection of the Kashmir region and its residents. The rules of the agreement were broken in 1971 when India took part in the civil war of Pakistan, enabling the creation of Bangladesh.

Line of Control (LoC) 1972 Simla Agreement

The Simla Agreement followed the 1971 war and the formal establishment of Bangladesh after the surrender of Pakistani forces in East Pakistan. Key terms within the paper are: 1) Peaceful bilateral negotiations between the two parties as well as the reduction of third party interference since later negotiations were made mostly between India and Pakistan 2) The establishment of the Line of Control, the ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir 3) Further diplomatic acts led by India and Pakistan. The aftermath of the agreement was significant to the conflict since crises were handled primarily through direct diplomacy with minimal international factors. Unfortunately like most treaties, the Simla agreement only temporarily stopped the dispute and became ground for incidents, military activity and conflicts.³⁰

The SAARC Summits

The topic of the Indo Pakistani conflicts was discussed in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit. Since India and Pakistan are

³⁰ "UN, United Nations, UN Treaties, Treaties." *United Nations*, <https://treaties.un.org/>. Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.

two of the biggest and economically stronger nations of the summit, their influence plays a leading role in the summit's actions. On one hand, Pakistan was urging the summit to pay more attention to the geopolitical problems of the nations rather than the financial aspect that was generally the main topic of conversation. India on the other hand, insists on dealing with financial problems first, aiming to spread its influence to the smaller member-nations.

The summit has made some progress towards the betterment of the India-Pakistan relationship, achieving a free trade deal among all Member States, along with India and Pakistan, with only a few tariffs left. Even so, tensions are still high since Pakistan still demands that India lowers their military budget because it is interfering with Pakistan's spending due to the fear of an imminent attack.

India–Pakistan ceasefire 10 May 2025

After an agreement between India and Pakistan, a ceasefire was declared on May 10, 2025. Aided by the US, its target was the total cessation of military engagement on land, air and sea. The ceasefire was announced by president Donald Trump, and shortly after, both nations confirmed the claim. Pakistan's prime minister publicly thanked the US, in contrast with India who dismissed the US's involvement and claimed that the agreement was made on their own accords. There have been several border breaches, accusations between parties, and violent incidents since the truce was implemented.

1991 India–Pakistan Agreement on Prevention of Air Space Violations

One of the reasons the agreement was created was because of the constant airspace violations and aerial fights over Jammu and Kashmir. Even though UAVs (drones) were not a major factor in 1991, when the treaty was signed, not only does it now address manned aircraft but also applies for UAV operations. The treaty includes: 1) Prohibition of airspace violations between aerial borders of all parties 2) A buffer zone to reduce crossings near the border 3) Mechanisms in order to investigate and to inform upon possible violations. After 1991 airspace violations from both parties were reduced and a technical settlement was put in place that was efficient during periods of high tension.³¹

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Humanitarian Aid to the Kashmiri People

The longevity of the conflicts has affected most of the population of the Kashmir region which remains the center of attention for both nations. Inhumane

³¹ No. 31419 India and Pakistan Agreement on Prevention ..., <https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/unts/volume%201843/volume-1843-i-31419-english.pdf>. Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.

living conditions, fear of imminent attacks, financial problems and even loss of family members plague the lives of innocent people on a daily basis. By supplying them with food, clean water and accessibility to shelter and medical care, we can ensure their survival and safety, keeping the loss of human life to a minimum while the war is ongoing. This could be achieved through the contribution of the World Food programme as well as the World Health Organization with the assistance of UN peacekeeping operations which can establish safe zones for the distribution of food and medical supplies.

Protection of Civilian Population

After the recent events it has become clear that even residential areas are not completely safe from drone attacks. For that reason it is crucial to implement stricter restrictions on the use of such weaponry in order to protect human life. This could be achieved through a new resolution proposed by the United Nations stating the prohibition of UCAVs for attacking purposes and the imposition of severe sanctions for those that violate the agreement and ignore the consequences.

Diplomatic Talks

The tension between the two nations is currently at a critical level following last year's attacks. Furthermore, India has rejected the long standing Indus Water Treaty (IWT), further worsening the diplomatic relations of the two nations. For that reason, the UN could mediate a conference between Indian and Pakistani officials in order to ease the tension and possibly put a diplomatic end to this war.

Limitation of UCAV Sales

The widespread use of unmanned combat aerial vehicles in the Indian-Pakistani conflict has proved to be chaotic and a significant danger to human life. The drones have been mainly used to attack populated cities rather than military targets, especially in the region of Kashmir, which brings forth the question concerning the morality of their usage in warfare. So, to lessen their destructive impact and minimize the threat towards the Kashmiri residents, the United Nations can place limitations on the number of UCAVs India and Pakistan can own at a given point in time and make them account for the intended use of each one.

War Crime Accountability

With civilian safety targeted by drone attacks, it is now clear that both of the two parties show reluctance to obey international laws and actively endanger innocent human lives. To protect the human rights of all affected residents of either country, responsibility should be taken from those responsible for these acts and justice should be served by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The UN first committee and the UN Security Council should collaborate and bring forth the ongoing conflict to the ICJ. This action will not contribute to ending the war but will

greatly reduce the risk of civilian life loss if the Member States involved understand that the impact of the conflict to their country is greater than the gain.

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