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JCC: The Current Escalation Between India and Pakistan: India

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### **India-Pakistan Conflict**

The history of the India-Pakistan Conflict dates back to the initial partition of the British Raj in 1947. After decades of religious conflict, economic hardship, and colonial rule, India and Pakistan gained their independence from Britain, but hastily drawn boundaries, that cut through communities and separated Holy Sites from their worshipers, sparked a mass migration of people as they fled their hometowns and headed for the safety of Pakistan or India. (Allchin, Frank Raymond, et al.) Tensions erupted as this migration led to a spree of religiously motivated sectarian violence targeting both Hindus and Muslims. (Allchin, Frank Raymond, et al.) A few weeks after independence, fighting broke out between Pakistani and Kashmir and Jammu state forces. ("Kashmir Fast Facts.") Although the year long war ultimately resulted in the establishment of the Line of Control, the now divided region would not cease to be embroiled in conflict. ("Kashmir Fast Facts.") Eighteen years later, the region once again broke out into warfare as Pakistani irregular forces attempted to spark an insurrection in Kashmir. ("The India-Pakistan War of 1965.") Although this plan failed, a war nevertheless broke out between Pakistan and Indian regular forces. ("The India-Pakistan War of 1965.") This war, much like the last, ended after significant international pressure and mediation. ("The India-Pakistan War of 1965.") Troops were withdrawn and the borders remained the same for six years until the third war broke out in 1971. (Pariona, Amber) This time, the war ended in a clear Indian victory with the military surrender of Pakistan. (Pariona, Amber) The first round of talks occurred shortly

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after the war's conclusion, resulting in the Simla Agreement. ("Timeline: India-Pakistan Relations.") Future talks to settle the Kashmir problem were agreed upon but this never came to fruition. ("Timeline: India-Pakistan Relations.") Although more of a border conflict than a war, the Kargil War came twenty-eight years later in 1999. (Pariona, Amber) It was an Indian operation in response to Pakistani supported militants and army regulars crossing into Indian controlled Kashmir and taking control of uninhabited India military bases. (Pariona, Amber) The operation lasted two months and resulted in a clear Indian victory. (Pariona, Amber) The Kargil war was the last of the major direct engagement of regular armed forces in the region, but the Kashmir conflict is still ongoing. Since 1987, most military engagements in Kashmir have been between Indian forces and Pakistani supported militant groups. (Pariona, Amber) Recent events, such as the February 27 air battle, have brought back the concern of another military on military conflict in the near future.

It is my duty as a minister of the Republic of India to protect and serve the people and land of our great nation. The recent events in Kashmir have brought back vivid memories of the repetitive attacks we have sustained in the defense of our rightful borders. As the Ambassador to China from 2009 to 2013, I had a personal look at a part of the conflict, albeit the dispute with China. In the face of a military standoff, discussion and cooperation were able to prevent a conflict and resolve the issue. (Press Trust of India) My previous positions as Foreign Secretary, Ambassador to the United States, High Commissioner to Singapore, and Ambassador to the Czech Republic, as well as

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other diplomatic positions, have provided me with extensive experience with the international community and negotiation. (“Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar”) It is my opinion that violence should be used only as a last resort, but I am in full support of a continued troop presence in the region for the security of our people and defence of our nation.

The most often discussed resolution to the Kashmir problem is peace talks to negotiate the final border between the two countries. After each of the three Indo-Pakistani Wars, these talks have been discussed and considered, with India always agreeing to them, but in the end, they have never actually been held. (Pariona, Amber) These talks hold the key to lasting peace in the region and are the only effective lasting solution I can envision. I believe that although peace talks are the best option, we cannot engage in them until Pakistan ceases its terrorist operations. This conflict can be resolved through discussion and cooperation, but if the Pakistani government continues to choose violence over words and continues their unprovoked attacks on our people, no true resolution can or will be reached.

In the time being, solutions are needed to both protect our people until talks are initiated and pressure Pakistan to cease its terrorist operations and agree to talks.

These solutions can be broken up into the following categories: short-term and long-term.

To address recent events, short term solutions should be a high priority. To combat militant groups and the Pakistani armed forces, India already maintains a

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constant military presence in the region and in the wake of the recent changes in the status of Jammu and Kashmir, those forces may come under increased attack. An increased security presence in the region may be necessary and forces should be expecting an increased amount of attacks in the near future. In addition to military action, now that Jammu and Kashmir is a union territory, federal rule needs to be established and the region's laws need to be considered and adapted if needed.

Long-term solutions mainly focus on the political and legal aspects of the overarching conflict rather than responding to individual events. The two routes that long term solutions could take are the diplomatic route, and the military route. The military route could range from increasing troop presence and building fortifications to declaring martial law. Another choice, though highly inadvisable and almost certainly to backfire, would be to invade Pakistan to secure the entirety of Kashmir for India. Both invasion and drastic internal operations, like martial law, will draw massive scrutiny from the international community and will hurt our efforts in the long run, with invasion bringing the prospect of foreign intervention and massive economic loss. The diplomatic route is the safer option, and one that is more likely to achieve our goal in the long run, and the one that applies to my ministry, so it is the one I will be focusing on.

As Foreign Minister, I will be focusing on the international diplomatic side of the conflict as well as participating in peace talks with Pakistan. Before peace talks are held, most of my efforts will go to discussions with other nations to secure their support and addressing any of their problems with our actions. It is important that during these

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crucial first months, we sustain the support of the international community in our actions and show them the legality and morality of our decisions. After talks are opened, my main focus will be making sure an agreement that suits both sides is produced. With the Line of Control as the acting boundary since 1947, and no Indian invasions beyond it since 1971 (Pariona, Amber), Indian demands would most likely not involve any currently Pakistani held land. The ideal agreement would be to keep the border where it stands currently and establish agreements on the amount and type of troops that can be stationed along the border and in the region. This could establish a sort of demilitarized zone along the border, like the one in Korea, where there are enough troops to keep a standard of protection but not inflame tensions. Another option would be to follow the route of the UK and Ireland and open the border in Kashmir and establish a hard border when coming out of the region and into the rest of India. The unique environment that the border cuts through provides many challenges but the results of the talks will provide the region with security, stability, and peace.

It is time for a new era in Indian Pakistani relations and an end to this decades long war. I am confident that a fair, permanent solution that benefits both sides will be reached.

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