



IPEEC

INDO - PAK CRISIS CABINET

**STUDY
GUIDE**

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

DEAR DELEGATES,

WELCOME TO THE INDIA PAKISTAN CRISIS CABINET (IPCC) AT THE SCOTTISH MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2026.

IT IS WITH IMMENSE ANTICIPATION THAT WE WELCOME YOU TO ONE OF THE MOST INTENSE AND DYNAMIC COMMITTEES OF THIS CONFERENCE. OVER THE COMING DAYS, YOU WILL STEP INTO A ROOM WHERE DIPLOMACY IS FRAGILE, INFORMATION IS UNCERTAIN, AND EVERY DECISION CARRIES CONSEQUENCES FAR BEYOND THE COMMITTEE WALLS.

THE AGENDA BEFORE YOU IS NOT MERELY A DISCUSSION OF CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO NEIGHBORING STATES. IT IS A CONFRONTATION WITH DECADES OF HISTORY, POLITICAL RIVALRY, MILITARY TENSIONS, TERRORISM, NATIONALISM, AND THE CONSTANT STRUGGLE TO PRESERVE REGIONAL STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA. THE INDO-PAK RELATIONSHIP HAS REPEATEDLY OSCILLATED BETWEEN UNEASY DIALOGUE AND DANGEROUS ESCALATION, AND TODAY, YOU INHERIT THAT VOLATILE REALITY.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU ALL TO MAKE PIVOTAL DECISIONS THAT WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE OF BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN. THE TENSIONS BETWEEN OUR NATIONS HAVE ESCALATED TO A CRITICAL JUNCTURE, AND TODAY, WE STAND ON THE EDGE OF MAJOR CHANGE. BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE ENDURED SIGNIFICANT TURMOIL, INCLUDING RIOTS, BLASTS, AND TERRORIST ATTACKS, PUSHING US TO THE BRINK OF CHAOS AND UNCERTAINTY. AS YOU PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE, WE HAVE PROVIDED A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY GUIDE THAT OFFERS HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND COVERS ALL FUNDAMENTAL SUBTOPICS OF THE AGENDA. INDIA AND PAKISTAN MAINTAIN A CAREFUL BALANCE BETWEEN COLLABORATION AND WARFARE. YOUR DECISIONS WILL BE CRUCIAL IN STEERING THE COUNTRIES TOWARDS PEACE, STABILITY, OR FURTHER DISCORD.

INDIA, KNOWN AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY, AND PAKISTAN, WITH ITS STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE AND VIBRANT HISTORY, BOTH FACE THE THREAT OF HAVING THEIR SOCIAL FABRICS TORN APART. REMEMBER THAT THE LEGACIES OF THESE TWO GREAT NATIONS ARE IN YOUR HANDS. THE FUTURES OF OVER A BILLION PEOPLE IN INDIA AND MILLIONS IN PAKISTAN HINGE ON YOUR ABILITY TO NAVIGATE THIS CRISIS WITH WISDOM AND COMPASSION. WE URGE YOU TO CONSIDER THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR ACTIONS AND THE ESSENTIAL ROLE YOU CAN PLAY IN FOSTERING PEACE AND RECONCILIATION.

WE REMIND YOU THAT THIS IS A CRISIS COMMITTEE, AND YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO THINK ON YOUR FEET AND RESPOND TO CRISIS UPDATES. AS THE COMMITTEE PROGRESSES, REMEMBER THAT TRUE DIPLOMACY IS TESTED NOT IN MOMENTS OF COMFORT, BUT IN MOMENTS OF CRISIS. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CHALLENGE CONVENTION, THINK CREATIVELY, AND REMAIN COMPOSED UNDER PRESSURE. THE MOST SUCCESSFUL DELEGATES WILL NOT MERELY REACT TO EVENTS, THEY WILL SHAPE THEM.

REMEMBER, WITH GREAT POWER, COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. WELCOME TO THE INDIA PAKISTAN CRISIS CABINET, DELEGATES, AND GOOD LUCK.

SINCERELY,
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD- IPCC
SMUN POWAI 2026

CHAIRPERSON: SOHAM BAISHYA
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: MAHIKA GUDIPATI
MODERATOR: SPARSH SEN.

INTRODUCTION TO THE

COMMITTEE:

AGENDA:

DELIBERATION ON STRATEGIC RESPONSES TO THE PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK, WITH EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING ESCALATION CONTROL AND COUNTER TERRORISM.

AT SMUN POWAI 2026, THE INDO-PAK CRISIS CABINET (IPCC) HAS BEEN CONVENED TO DISCUSS THE PRESSING AND INTRICATE MATTERS RESULTING FROM THE PAHALGAM ATTACK. INDIA AND PAKISTAN ARE NUCLEAR-ARMED NEIGHBOURS. ON APRIL 22ND 2025 IN THE PICTURESQUE TOURIST RESORT OF PAHALGAM AT LEAST 26 TOURISTS HAD BEEN KILLED IN INDIAN ADMINISTERED KASHMIR.

THIS INCIDENT WAS INITIALLY CLAIMED BY THE RESISTANCE FRONT (TRF), WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE AN OFFSHOOT OF THE PAKISTANI BASED LASHKAR-E-TAIBA ARMED GROUP AND LATER THEY DECLINED RESPONSIBILITY. THIS ATTACK FURTHER HEIGHTENED THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NUCLEAR-ARMED NATIONS.

THE IPCC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADDRESSING THESE CHALLENGES TO DEVELOP ESCALATION CONTROL, COUNTER TERRORISM AND PROMOTE REGIONAL STABILITY.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

ON 22ND APRIL 2025, AT LEAST 26 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE TOURIST REGION OF PAHALGAM. THE INCIDENT WAS INITIALLY CLAIMED BY THE RESISTANCE FRONT (TRF), WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE AN OFFSHOOT OF THE PAKISTANI BASED LASHKAR-E-TAIBA AND LATER THEY DECLINED RESPONSIBILITY. THIS WAS ONE OF THE DEADLIEST INCIDENTS IN THE REGION IN RECENT YEARS. INDIA RESPONDED WITH A SERIES OF STEPS LIKE ITS DECISION TO SUSPEND ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE INDUS WATERS TREATY (IWT), INDIA HAD ALSO CLOSED ITS MAIN LAND BORDER WITH PAKISTAN AND GIVEN SOME PAKISTANI NATIONALS CURRENTLY IN INDIA A DEADLINE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. IN RETALIATION PAKISTAN WITH SIMILAR STEPS AGAINST INDIA, HAD ALSO THREATENED TO SUSPEND ITS PARTICIPATION IN ALL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO, INCLUDING THE 1972 SIMLA AGREEMENT, PAKISTAN ALSO SUSPENDED VISAS ISSUED TO INDIANS UNDER THE SAARC(SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION) PROGRAMME, REDUCED THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION STAFF IN ISLAMABAD TO 30 AND CLOSED ITS AIRSPACE TO ALL INDIAN AIRCRAFT, WHILE ALL TRADE ACTIVITIES WITH INDIA WERE SUSPENDED.

COMMITTEE MANDATE

THE IPCC IS CALLED TO ORDER IN JULY 2026 TO DISCUSS THE UNSTABLE STATE THAT HAS EMERGED. IN RESPONSE TO THE PAHALGAM ATTACK, DELEGATES MUST ADDRESS IMPORTANT TOPICS LIKE STRATEGIC RESPONSES TO THE PAHALGAM ATTACK, DEVELOPING ESCALATION CONTROL AND COUNTER TERRORISM.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS :

1. 1947-1948: FIRST INDO-PAK WAR:

- THE MAHARAJA OF KASHMIR CHOSE TO ACCEDE TO INDIA, SPARKING THE FIRST WAR BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.
- THE CONFLICT RESULTED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LINE OF CONTROL (LOC), DIVIDING THE REGION INTO INDIAN-ADMINISTERED AZAD KASHMIR AND JAMMU AND KASHMIR AND PAKISTAN ADMINISTERED GILGIT-BALUCHISTAN.
- A UN-MEDIATED CEASEFIRE TOOK EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 1949.

2. 1965: SECOND INDO-PAK WAR:

- A SECOND WAR BROKE OUT OVER KASHMIR, WITH BOTH SIDES SUFFERING HEAVY CASUALTIES.
- A CEASEFIRE WAS ESTABLISHED, AND BOTH NATIONS AGREED TO RETURN TO THEIR PRE-WAR POSITIONS UNDER THE TASHKENT AGREEMENT.

3. 1971: THIRD INDO-PAK WAR AND THE CREATION OF BANGLADESH:

- THE CONFLICT OVER EAST PAKISTAN (NOW BANGLADESH) ESCALATED INTO A FULL-SCALE WAR.
- THE WAR LED TO THE CREATION OF BANGLADESH AND FURTHER STRAINED INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS.

4. 1972: SIMLA AGREEMENT:

- INDIA AND PAKISTAN SIGNED THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, CONVERTING THE CEASEFIRE LINE INTO THE LOC AND COMMITTING TO RESOLVE ISSUES BILATERALLY.

5. 1980s ONWARDS: MILITANCY AND INSURGENCY

- THE LATE 1980s WITNESSED THE EMERGENCE OF AN ARMED INSURGENCY IN INDIAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR, WITH MILITANTS SEEKING INDEPENDENCE OR MERGER WITH PAKISTAN.
- GROUPS LIKE HIZBUL MUJAHIDEEN, LASHKAR-E-TAIBA, AND JAISH-E MOHAMMED CARRIED OUT ATTACKS ON INDIAN SECURITY FORCES AND CIVILIANS, ESCALATING THE CONFLICT.
- THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONDED WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AND COUNTERINSURGENCY MEASURES, LEADING TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

6. 1999: KARGIL WAR

- THE KARGIL CONFLICT ERUPTED IN MAY 1999 WHEN PAKISTANI SOLDIERS AND MILITANTS INFILTRATED INTO INDIAN-ADMINISTERED TERRITORY IN THE KARGIL SECTOR.
- THE INDIAN MILITARY LAUNCHED OPERATION VIJAY TO EVICT THE INTRUDERS, LEADING TO INTENSE FIGHTING AND CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES.
- INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE MOUNTED ON PAKISTAN TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM INDIAN TERRITORY, RESULTING IN A CEASEFIRE AND THE RESTORATION OF THE STATUS QUO ANTE.

7. 2001: PARLIAMENT ATTACK

- THE ATTACK ON THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT IN DECEMBER 2001 BY PAKISTAN-BASED MILITANTS STRAINED BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.
- INDIA BLAMED PAKISTAN-BASED TERRORIST GROUPS, INCLUDING JAISH-E MOHAMMED AND LASHKAR-E-TAIBA, FOR THE ATTACK, LEADING TO HEIGHTENED TENSIONS AND MILITARY MOBILIZATION ALONG THE BORDER.

8. 2008: MUMBAI ATTACKS

- THE COORDINATED TERRORIST ATTACKS IN MUMBAI IN NOVEMBER 2008, CARRIED OUT BY PAKISTAN-BASED MILITANTS, FURTHER ESCALATED TENSIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.
- THE ATTACKS, WHICH TARGETED MULTIPLE LOCATIONS IN MUMBAI, RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF OVER 160 PEOPLE AND INJURIES TO HUNDREDS MORE.
- INDIA ACCUSED PAKISTAN OF HARBOURING AND SUPPORTING THE PERPETRATORS OF THE ATTACKS, DEMANDING ACTION AGAINST THE MASTERMINDS AND DISMANTLING OF TERRORIST INFRASTRUCTURE.

9. 2016: SURGICAL STRIKES

- IN SEPTEMBER 2016, FOLLOWING THE URI ATTACK ON AN INDIAN ARMY BASE IN KASHMIR, INDIA CONDUCTED "SURGICAL STRIKES" AGAINST TERRORIST LAUNCH PADS ACROSS THE LINE OF CONTROL.
- THE STRIKES, CARRIED OUT IN RETALIATION FOR THE URI ATTACK, TARGETED MILITANT POSITIONS IN PAKISTANI-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR, LEADING TO CASUALTIES AMONG MILITANTS AND THEIR HANDLERS.
- INDIA'S DECISION TO CONDUCT SURGICAL STRIKES WAS HAILED DOMESTICALLY AS A BOLD RESPONSE TO CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM, BUT IT ALSO RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT THE RISK OF ESCALATION.

9. FEBRUARY 14, 2019- PULWAMA ATTACK:

- A CONVOY OF INDIAN PARAMILITARY PERSONNEL FROM THE CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE (CRPF) WAS ATTACKED BY A SUICIDE BOMBER IN PULWAMA, JAMMU AND KASHMIR.
- THE ATTACK RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF 40 CRPF PERSONNEL. JAISH-E-MOHAMMED (JEM), A PAKISTAN-BASED MILITANT GROUP, CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK.

10. FEBRUARY 20-21, 2019:

- INDIA INTENSIFIED ITS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO ISOLATE PAKISTAN INTERNATIONALLY, URGING COUNTRIES TO DESIGNATE JEM LEADER MASOOD AZHAR AS A GLOBAL TERRORIST.
- SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE US, UK, FRANCE, AND RUSSIA, CONDEMNED THE PULWAMA ATTACK AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR INDIA.

11. FEBRUARY 26, 2019 – BALAKOT AIRSTRIKE:

- IN RETALIATION FOR THE PULWAMA ATTACK, INDIAN AIR FORCE (IAF) JETS CONDUCTED AIRSTRIKES ON A JEM TRAINING CAMP IN BALAKOT, PAKISTAN.
- INDIA CLAIMED SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES AMONG MILITANTS, BUT PAKISTAN DENIED ANY MAJOR DAMAGE OR LOSS OF LIFE.

12. AUGUST 2019: ARTICLE 370

- IN A CONTROVERSIAL AND UNEXPECTED MOVE, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT REVOKED ARTICLE 370 WHICH GRANTS INDIAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR AUTONOMY.
- ARTICLE 370 GAVE KASHMIR THE RIGHTS TO ITS OWN “CONSTITUTION, A SEPARATE FLAG AND FREEDOM TO MAKE LAWS” REGARDING RESIDENCY, PROPERTY OWNERSHIP, AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.
- INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ARGUED THAT THE ARTICLE NEEDED TO BE SCRAPPED IN ORDER TO PUT KASHMIR ON THE SAME FOOTING AS THE REST OF INDIA.
- PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN IN 2019 TERMED INDIA'S MOVE TO REVOKE ARTICLE 370 AS “ILLEGAL” AND ONE WHICH WOULD “DESTROY REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY”.

13. 2020: INTENSIFIED LINE OF CONTROL CEASEFIRE

VIOLATIONS

- INTENSE SHELLING BY INDIAN FORCES HIT A VILLAGE WHICH IS LOCATED JUST FOUR KILOMETRES FROM THE LINE OF CONTROL (LOC), THE DE FACTO BORDER THAT DIVIDES KASHMIR.
- SINCE 2019, AT LEAST 60 CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED AND MORE THAN 280 WOUNDED DUE TO INDIAN SHELLING INTO PAKISTAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR, ACCORDING TO PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT DATA, WHICH ALSO REVEALED THAT THE DEATH TOLL ROSE BY 114 PERCENT COMPARED WITH THE YEAR BEFORE.
- SEVERAL CIVILIANS HAD ALSO BEEN KILLED IN INDIAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR BY PAKISTANI SHELLING, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SHARE OFFICIAL DATA ON THOSE ATTACKS.

14. FEBRUARY 2021: CEASEFIRE REAFFIRMATION

- A CEASEFIRE HAS BEEN IN PLACE AT THE LINE OF CONTROL (LOC), WHICH DIVIDES INDIAN-ADMINISTERED AND PAKISTAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR, SINCE 2003, BUT IT IS FREQUENTLY VIOLATED BY BOTH SIDES, RESULTING IN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CASUALTIES.
- PAKISTAN AND INDIA'S MILITARIES HAD AGREED TO STRICTLY OBSERVE A CEASEFIRE AT THE DE FACTO BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE DISPUTED REGION OF KASHMIR.

15. NOVEMBER 2021:

- SIKH PILGRIMS HAD BEGUN TO ARRIVE IN PAKISTAN TO VISIT ONE OF THEIR HOLIEST SHRINES BEFORE THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELIGION'S FOUNDER AFTER INDIA GAVE THEM THE GREEN LIGHT TO CROSS THE BORDER.
- THE KARTARPUR CORRIDOR IS A VISA-FREE CROSSING ALLOWING INDIAN SIKHS TO VISIT THE TEMPLE JUST 4KM INSIDE PAKISTAN WHERE GURU NANAK DIED IN 1539.
- THE CORRIDOR FIRST OPENED IN 2019 FOR NANAK'S 550TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY BUT WAS CLOSED BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.
- THE CORRIDOR CONNECTS PAKISTANI AND INDIAN PUNJAB, THE BIRTHPLACE OF SIKHISM, WHICH WAS DIVIDED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AFTER THEY GAINED INDEPENDENCE FROM BRITAIN IN 1947.

16. MARCH 2022:

- A BRAHMOS CRUISE MISSILE LAUNCHED FROM INDIA ACCIDENTALLY ENTERED PAKISTANI AIRSPACE AND CRASHED NEAR THE CITY OF MIAN CHANNU.
- THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT ATTRIBUTED THE LAUNCH TO A "TECHNICAL MALFUNCTION" DURING ROUTINE MAINTENANCE, AND NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED.
- PAKISTAN CONDEMNED THE INCIDENT AS A RECKLESS PROVOCATION WHICH WAS HIGHLY IRRESPONSIBLE AND DEMANDED A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION.
- INDIA LATER DISMISSED THREE AIR FORCE OFFICERS FOR THE ERROR, AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WARNED THAT THE INCIDENT HIGHLIGHTED THE RISKS OF MISCALCULATION BETWEEN NUCLEAR ARMED RIVALS.

17. 2022 – 2023:

- THE INDIAN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CRACKED DOWN ON INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN THE REGION, REDREW THE ELECTORAL MAP TO PRIVILEGE HINDU-MAJORITY AREAS IN KASHMIR, AND HELD A G20 TOURISM MEETING IN SRINAGAR.
- TARGETED KILLINGS AGAINST HINDUS HAD BECOME MORE FREQUENT, MOTIVATING SOME TO FLEE AND PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT POLICIES.
- IN RESPONSE TO THE UPTICK IN VIOLENCE, THE MODI GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN AN INCREASINGLY MILITARIZED RESPONSE. DEADLY CLASHES BETWEEN INDIAN AND PAKISTANI FORCES ALSO PERSISTED IN 2023.

18. 2024:

- THROUGHOUT 2024, VIOLENCE CONTINUED IN KASHMIR IN RESPONSE TO INCREASING EFFORTS BY NEW DELHI TO CONSOLIDATE TERRITORIAL CONTROL. ATTACKS SPECIFICALLY TARGETED INDIAN TRAVELERS AND WORKERS IN THE REGION.
- IN JUNE 2024, MILITANTS OPENED FIRE ON A BUS CARRYING PILGRIMS TRAVELING TO A HINDU SHRINE IN THE TOWN OF REASI WHICH IS IN INDIAN ADMINISTERED KASHMIR. THE ATTACK KILLED NINE AND INJURED OVER THIRTY.

19. APRIL 2025: THE PAHALGAM ATTACK

- ON APRIL 22ND 2025 IN THE PICTURESQUE TOURIST RESORT OF PAHALGAM 26 PEOPLE WERE ATTACKED WHICH INCLUDED TWENTY-FIVE INDIAN NATIONALS AND ONE NEPALESE NATIONAL.
- THE RESISTANCE FRONT (TRF), WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE AN OFFSHOOT OF THE PAKISTANI BASED LASHKAR-E-TAIBA ARMED GROUP, CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK INITIALLY AND THEN DECLINED RESPONSIBILITY.
- IN THE WAKE OF THE ATTACK, TIT-FOR-TAT MEASURES BY INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAVE DRIVEN BILATERAL RELATIONS TO THEIR LOWEST POINT IN RECENT YEARS.
- NEW DELHI FIRST TOOK MEASURE TO DOWNGRADE TIES WITH PAKISTAN, SUSPENDING THE INDUS WATERS TREATY AND CLOSING THE ATTARI BORDER CROSSING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
- IN TURN, PAKISTAN REJECTED THE SUSPENSION OF THE WATER TREATY, WARNING THAT ANY ATTEMPTS TO ALTER PAKISTAN'S INDUS RIVER FLOWS WOULD BE CONSIDERED "AN ACT OF WAR." ISLAMABAD ALSO MOVED TO CLOSE PAKISTANI AIRSPACE TO ALL INDIAN COMMERCIAL AIRLINES, HALTED A SPECIAL VISA REGIME FOR INDIAN CITIZENS, AND SUSPENDED BILATERAL TRADE.
- INDIAN AND PAKISTANI FORCES HAD EXCHANGED FIRE ACROSS THE LINE OF CONTROL EVERY DAY SINCE THE ATTACK.

20. MAY 2025: OPERATION SINDOOR

- THE INDIAN ATTACK CAME 15 DAYS AFTER THE DEADLY PAHALGAM ATTACK.
- PARTS OF PAKISTAN AND PAKISTAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR WERE ROCKED BY MULTIPLE MISSILE ATTACKS BY INDIA. PAKISTAN'S MILITARY SAID INDIAN MISSILES STRUCK SIX CITIES. THAT INCLUDED FOUR DIFFERENT PLACES IN PUNJAB PROVINCE - THE FIRST TIME THAT INDIA HAS HIT PAKISTAN'S MOST POPULOUS STATE SINCE THE 1971 WAR BETWEEN THE NEIGHBOURS.
- INDIA CLAIMED THAT ITS "OPERATION SINDOOR" TARGETED NINE SITES WITH "TERRORIST INFRASTRUCTURE". PAKISTAN SCRAMBLED ITS JETS IN RESPONSE AND CLAIMED IT HAD BROUGHT DOWN FIVE INDIAN PLANES.
- THE NUCLEAR-ARMED NEIGHBOURS STOOD ON THE PRECIPICE OF A FULL BLOWN MILITARY CONFLICT.

IMPACT ON CIVILIANS AND HUMANITARIAN ISSUES:

1. CASUALTIES AND VICTIM PROFILES:

- THE OFFICIAL FIGURE IS THAT 26 MEN WERE KILLED IN THE PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK.
- METHOD: ATTACKERS APPROACHED A PICNIC SPOT IN THE BAISARAN MEADOW (NEAR PAHALGAM) AND OPENED FIRE, TARGETING TOURISTS IN FRONT OF THEIR FAMILIES.
- AMONG THE KILLED WERE 25 INDIANS (ONE UAE RESIDENT) AND 1 NEPALESE CITIZEN.
- AT LEAST 17 OTHERS WERE INJURED.

2. DISPLACEMENT AND ACCESS:

- THERE WAS NO MASS EVACUATION. HOWEVER, THE INDIA-PAKISTAN ESCALATION DISRUPTED TRADE AND TRAVEL.
- THE ATTARI (WAGAH) BORDER WAS SHUT AND TRADE SUSPENDED BY INDIA.
- THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT DECLARED ON APRIL 24, 2025 THAT ALL PAKISTANI NATIONALS MUST LEAVE INDIA BY APRIL 27, 2025.
- LIKewise, PAKISTAN WITHDREW VISAS FOR INDIAN NATIONALS ON APRIL 24, 2025.
- THE KARTARPUR CORRIDOR REMAINED OPEN, HOWEVER, TO ALLOW SIKH PILGRIMS FROM INDIA TO VISIT THE GURUDWARA.
- LOCAL TOURISM ALONG THE BORDER COLLAPSED.

3. MEDICAL RELIEF AND RESPONSE:

- INJURED TOURISTS WERE AIRLIFTED TO SRINAGAR HOSPITALS.
- THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS: ₹10 LAKH FOR EACH DECEASED'S FAMILY, ₹2 LAKH FOR SERIOUS INJURIES AND ₹1 LAKH FOR MINOR INJURIES.

4. HUMANITARIAN LAW AND RIGHTS:

RESPONDING TO THE ESCALATING ARMED ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN, CAROLYN HORN, PROGRAMME DIRECTOR FOR LAW AND POLICY AT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SAID:

“THE ESCALATION OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAS ALREADY TAKEN A TOLL ON CIVILIANS. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS CONCERNED BY REPORTS OF LOSS OF CIVILIAN LIVES IN BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN. IN EVERY ARMED CONFLICT, PROTECTING CIVILIANS IS PARAMOUNT— IT'S A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW WHICH BINDS ALL NATIONS. DELIBERATE, INDISCRIMINATE OR DISPROPORTIONATE ATTACKS HARMING CIVILIANS OR DAMAGING CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS HOMES, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES, ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED UNDER THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS AND UNDER CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW.”

MEDIA COVERAGE AND PROPAGANDA:

1. NARRATIVES IN MAJOR MEDIA:

- INTERNATIONAL OUTLETS (BBC, AL JAZEERA, REUTERS) QUICKLY REPORTED “TOURISTS SHOT DEAD AT PAHALGAM”, CITING LOCAL POLICE. AL JAZEERA NOTED THE CLAIM BY THE “KASHMIR RESISTANCE FRONT” AND INDIA’S LINKING IT TO PAKISTAN. INDIAN SECURITY AGENCIES SAY KASHMIR RESISTANCE IS A FRONT FOR PAKISTAN-BASED ARMED ORGANISATIONS, LASHKAR-E-TAIBA AND HIZBUL MUJAHIDEEN, WHICH FIGHT INDIAN RULE IN KASHMIR. PAKISTAN SAYS IT ONLY PROVIDES MORAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT.
- INDIAN PRESS (THE HINDU, NDTV) EMPHASISED THE BRUTALITY OF THE ATTACK AND POTENTIAL PAKISTANI ROLE. PAKISTANI MEDIA FOCUSED ON INDIA’S REACTIONS (E.G. BORDER CLOSURES, AIRSTRIKES) AND DEMANDED PROOF OF PAKISTAN’S INVOLVEMENT.

2. SOCIAL-MEDIA TRENDS:

- FACT-CHECK ORGANISATIONS (PIB FACT CHECK, ALT NEWS) RAPIDLY ISSUED DEBUNKS. FOR INSTANCE, PIB X ACCOUNT TAGGED A VIRAL CLAIM “PAKISTANI DOCUMENT LEAK” AS FALSE. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PUBLISHED TIMESTAMPS OF PHONE CALLS TO DISMISS RUMOURS.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA & VIRAL CONTENT:

- THE ATTACK SPAWNED INFORMATION WARFARE. ON TWITTER/WHATSAPP, HASHTAGS LIKE #PAHALGAMATTACK AND #INDIAUNDERATTACK TRENDED.
- PRO-INDIA ACCOUNTS SHOWED NUMEROUS RESCUE VIDEOS AND MILITARY FOOTAGE OF INDIAN RETALIATION. HOWEVER, MANY VIDEOS OF OPERATION SINDOOR WERE EDITED AND TAKEN FROM THE ONGOING ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR.
- PRO-PAKISTAN ACCOUNTS QUESTIONED THE OFFICIAL STORY (E.G. SHARING FAKE DOCUMENTS PURPORTEDLY LINKING THE ATTACK TO INDIAN INTELLIGENCE). FOR EXAMPLE, A WIDELY CIRCULATED “ID CARD OF ATTACKER” WAS DEBUNKED BY FACT-CHECKERS AS PHOTOSHOPPED.
- SPEAKING TO AL JAZEERA, PAKISTAN’S DEFENCE MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT SUSPECTS “VERY STRONGLY THAT IT WAS A FALSE FLAG OPERATION”.
- FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM SAW CONSPIRACIES: ONE POST CLAIMED “NO PHOTO EVIDENCE OF DEAD BODIES”. IN REALITY, MULTIPLE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS OF VICTIMS AND THE ATTACK SCENE WERE PUBLISHED BY NEWS AGENCIES (E.G. REUTERS’ AP IMAGES) BUT SOME SOCIAL POSTS MORPHED OR MIS-CAPTIONED THEM.

GOVERNMENT NARRATIVES AND DIPLOMATIC FRAMING:

1. INDIA:

- OFFICIALLY, J-K CHIEF MINISTER OMAR ABDULLAH SAID IN A POST ON X, "DEEPLY SHOCKED AND ANGUISHED BY THE DESPICABLE TERRORIST ATTACK IN PAHALGAM YESTERDAY. THIS BARBARIC AND SENSELESS ACT OF BRUTALITY AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS HAS NO PLACE IN OUR SOCIETY. WE CONDEMN IT IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS. WE MOURN THE PRECIOUS LIVES LOST."
- INDIA ASSERTED THE ATTACK WAS 'BACKED BY PAKISTAN'. "THE OIC STATEMENT, ISSUED AT THE BEHEST OF PAKISTAN, IS ABSURD IN REFUSING TO RECOGNISE THE FACTS OF THE PAHALGAM TERRORIST ATTACK AND ITS CROSS-BORDER LINKAGES," MEA SPOKESPERSON RANDHIR JAISWAL SAID. PM MODI SPOKE OF CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM AND CALLED THE ASSAULT A "HEINOUS ACT".
- UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH DECLARED THAT THEY HAD FOUND PAKISTAN-ISSUED VOTER-ID CARDS DIRECTLY IN THE POCKETS OF THE ATTACKERS, FOLLOWING OPERATION MAHADEV. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT THUS CLAIMED 'PROOF' THAT THE ATTACKERS WERE FROM PAKISTAN.
- INDIA FRAMED ITS RESPONSE (OPERATION SINDOOR) AS TARGETED SELF-DEFENCE AGAINST TERRORIST CAMPS. MAJOR POLICY MOVES MATCHED THIS NARRATIVE: INDIA SUSPENDED THE INDUS WATERS TREATY AND BORDER CLOSURES WERE JUSTIFIED AS PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN TO STOP SPONSORING MILITANCY.

2. PAKISTAN:

- ISLAMABAD'S STATEMENTS WERE NUANCED. INITIALLY IT OFFERED "SYMPATHY AND CONCERN" AT TOURIST DEATHS BUT REJECTED INDIAN CLAIMS OF PAKISTANI INVOLVEMENT.
- THE FOREIGN MINISTRY INSISTED ON EVIDENCE AND ACCUSED INDIA OF POLITICAL EXPLOITATION, CLAIMING THE ATTACK AS A FALSE FLAG OPERATION.
- AFTER INDIAN STRIKES, PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT DAR REJECTED INDIA'S "UNILATERAL AND ILLEGAL ACTIONS" AND "ITS BASELESS PROPAGANDA AGAINST PAKISTAN".
- PAKISTAN STATED THAT IT WOULD RETALIATE PROPORTIONATELY (BUT AVOID FULL WAR). PAKISTAN'S EXTERNAL NARRATIVE STRESSED PEACE AND DIALOGUE, OFTEN ACCUSING INDIA OF USING THE ATTACK TO JUSTIFY ANTI-PAKISTAN MEASURES.
- AT THE OIC, PAKISTAN PUSHED THE THEME OF INDIA'S INTERNAL ISSUES AND CALLED FOR KASHMIR NEGOTIATIONS, LEVERAGING THE ATTACK TO INTERNATIONALISE KASHMIR.

3. CHINA:

- BEIJING CALLED FOR RESTRAINT BY BOTH SIDES.
- IN A PHONE CALL WITH PAKISTAN, FM WANG YI "CONDEMNED THE PAHALGAM ATTACK" AND BACKED PAKISTAN'S CALL FOR AN "IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION".
- CHINA HIGHLIGHTED PAKISTAN'S SOVEREIGNTY CONCERNS AND URGED DE-ESCALATION.
- HOWEVER, CHINESE MEDIA LARGELY REFRAINED FROM NAMING PAKISTAN AS A SUSPECT, ALIGNING WITH ISLAMABAD'S AMBIGUITY.
- IN EFFECT, CHINA EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH PAKISTAN'S SECURITY STANCE WHILE OFFICIALLY DENOUNCING TERRORISM IN PRINCIPLE.

4. UNITED STATES, UK AND EU:

- THE US AND EU CONDEMNED THE KILLING OF CIVILIANS. PRESIDENT TRUMP PUBLICLY “STOOD WITH INDIA”, WHILE SECRETARY OF STATE STATEMENTS (REPORTED VIA REUTERS) URGED CALM AND EVIDENCE-BASED RESPONSE.
- PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP AFFIRMED, “INDIA HAS A SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO COMBAT TERRORISM,” BACKING THE LEGITIMACY OF OPERATION SINDOOR.
- UK FOREIGN MINISTER DAVID LAMMY STATED, “INDIA HAS EVERY REASON TO BE OUTRAGED BY THE PAHALGAM KILLINGS. SUCH ACTS OF TERRORISM ARE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE.” ECHOING THIS SENTIMENT, FORMER PRIME MINISTER RISHI SUNAK EMPHASISED, “NO DEMOCRATIC STATE SHOULD TOLERATE CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM.”
- FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON EXPRESSED STRONG SOLIDARITY WITH INDIA FOLLOWING THE PAHALGAM TERRORIST ATTACK. HE CONDEMNED THE ATTACK IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS AND OFFERED HIS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES. “FRANCE, ALONGSIDE ITS ALLIES, WILL CONTINUE THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM WHEREVER NECESSARY.” THIS MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTED FRANCE’S UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR INDIA IN ITS BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM.

5. OIC:

- IN ITS STATEMENT, THE OIC EXPRESSED “DEEP CONCERN OVER THE DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION AND CALLED FOR RESTRAINT AND THE URGENT RESUMPTION OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN”.
- THE OIC ALSO CALLED FOR RESOLVING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES “THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE UN CHARTER”.
- THUS, THE OIC’S FRAMING WAS ONE OF GENERIC STABILITY/PEACE, EFFECTIVELY SIDELINING DIRECT BLAME.

TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS :

1. BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS:

SUSPENSION OF TRADE: INDIA DOWNGRADED TIES WITH PAKISTAN, ANNOUNCING A SERIES OF STEPS, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS A DECISION TO SUSPEND ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE INDUS WATERS TREATY (IWT), WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY RESTRICT PAKISTAN'S WATER SUPPLIES. INDIA HAD ALSO CLOSED ITS MAIN LAND BORDER (ATTARI WAGHA BORDER) WITH PAKISTAN AND GAVE SOME PAKISTANI NATIONALS WHO WERE IN INDIA A DEADLINE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. PAKISTAN RETALIATED WITH SIMILAR STEPS AGAINST INDIA, AND ALSO THREATENED TO SUSPEND ITS PARTICIPATION IN ALL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO, INCLUDING THE 1972 SIMLA AGREEMENT. PAKISTAN ALSO SUSPENDED VISAS ISSUED TO INDIANS UNDER THE SAARC (SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION) PROGRAMME, REDUCED THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION STAFF IN ISLAMABAD TO 30 AND CLOSED ITS AIRSPACE TO ALL INDIAN AIRCRAFT, WHILE ALL TRADE ACTIVITIES WITH INDIA WERE SUSPENDED.

2. IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMIES:

BORDER TRADE: INDIA HAD INITIATED A SERIES OF MEASURES AGAINST PAKISTAN ONE OF WHICH INCLUDES THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE CLOSURE OF THE ATTARI-WAGAH BORDER ON APRIL 23.

3. TOURISM INDUSTRY:

DECLINE IN TOURISM: THE HEIGHTENED TENSIONS LED TO A DECLINE IN TOURISM IN BOTH COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS LIKE KASHMIR. THE REDUCTION IN TOURIST ARRIVALS AFFECTED LOCAL ECONOMIES DEPENDENT ON TOURISM-RELATED ACTIVITIES. TOURISM IN KASHMIR SAW A FRESH SETBACK FOLLOWING THE PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK, WITH OPERATORS REPORTING MASS CANCELLATIONS IN BOOKINGS.

4. INVESTMENT CLIMATE:

INVESTOR UNCERTAINTY: THE CONFLICT CREATED UNCERTAINTY AMONG INVESTORS, LEADING TO A CAUTIOUS APPROACH TOWARDS INVESTING IN THE REGION. INDIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND INTEREST RATE TRADERS TURNED CAUTIOUS ON FEARS OF A POSSIBLE ESCALATION IN TENSIONS BETWEEN NEW DELHI AND ISLAMABAD.

5. ECONOMIC SANCTIONS:

POTENTIAL SANCTIONS: DISCUSSIONS ABOUT POTENTIAL ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FURTHER COMPLICATED THE ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE, WITH BOTH COUNTRIES EXPLORING MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF SUCH ACTIONS.



IPEEC

WHERE THE COMMITTEE STANDS :

GREETINGS DELEGATES,

AS WE CONVENE FOR THE INDO-PAK CRISIS CABINET (IPCC), IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC CLIMATE SURROUNDING THE COMMITTEE AT THIS STAGE. THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE CRISIS MAY HAVE SUBSIDED, BUT ITS CONSEQUENCES CONTINUE TO SHAPE THE DIPLOMATIC, MILITARY, AND DOMESTIC POLICIES OF BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN. WHAT WAS ONCE A MOMENT OF SUDDEN ESCALATION HAS NOW EVOLVED INTO A PERIOD OF REASSESSMENT, RECALIBRATION, AND RENEWED DELIBERATION TO ENSURE WE NEVER RESORT TO SUCH EXTREME METHODS AGAIN.

OVER THE PAST YEARS, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS HAVE REMAINED STRAINED. THE EVENTS THAT UNFOLDED DURING THE CRISIS EXPOSED DEEP VULNERABILITIES WITHIN REGIONAL SECURITY, INTENSIFIED POLITICAL RHETORIC ON BOTH SIDES, AND REIGNITED LONGSTANDING DISPUTES THAT CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE SOUTH ASIAN GEOPOLITICS TODAY. WHILE OPEN CONFRONTATION MAY HAVE BEEN AVOIDED, TENSIONS REMAIN UNRESOLVED BENEATH THE SURFACE, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE INSTABILITY CANNOT BE IGNORED.

THIS COMMITTEE IS THEREFORE NOT SIMPLY RESPONDING TO A CRISIS IN REAL TIME, BUT EVALUATING ITS AFTERMATH AND DETERMINING THE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION FOR BOTH NATIONS.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REQUESTS ALL DELEGATES TO CONSIDER THE CONTENTS OF THE STUDY GUIDE AS FACTUAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEBATE. THE GUIDE PROVIDES THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS, AND KEY DIMENSIONS NECESSARY TO NAVIGATE THE COMMITTEE EFFECTIVELY. HOWEVER, BEYOND FACTS AND POLICY LIES THE GREATER CHALLENGE OF LEADERSHIP, THE ABILITY TO BALANCE NATIONAL INTEREST WITH REGIONAL STABILITY AND LONG-TERM PEACE.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN NOW STAND AT A DECISIVE MOMENT. THE CHOICES MADE IN THIS COMMITTEE MAY INFLUENCE WHETHER THE REGION MOVES TOWARD DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION, OR FURTHER DISTRUST AND POLARIZATION. THE RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE YOU IS NOT MERELY TO DEBATE THE PAST, BUT TO SHAPE THE FUTURE.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD LOOKS FORWARD TO WITNESSING YOUR DIPLOMACY, CRITICAL THINKING, AND STATESMANSHIP THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THIS COMMITTEE.

COMMITTEE FREEZE DATE: JULY 28TH 2025

SINCERELY,

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD – IPCC

SCOTTISH MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2026

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