

# CRISIS STUDY GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION:

### Crisis overview

Since obtaining independence, Pakistan and India—both of whom were ruled by the British until 1947—have had a tense relationship regarding the Kashmir area. Four wars between the two countries have resulted from the disagreement, which has been a recurring thorn in their relations. The problem has not been rectified in spite of multiple attempts to do so. Given that both India and Pakistan are armed with nuclear weapons, the dispute has an additional dangerous element because there is always a chance that the continuous tension will turn into a full-scale nuclear war. One of the main unsolved issues in South Asian geopolitics is still the Kashmir conflict.

### Purpose of the Guide

**This study guide aims to provide delegates with comprehensive information and context to navigate the complexities of this crisis. It will help delegates understand the background, key issues, and potential solutions, facilitating informed and strategic decision-making during the simulation.**

## 2. Background Information

### Historical context:

- After British India was divided, on August 14, 1947, Pakistan became independent of British authority. Based on religious distinctions, this split resulted in the creation of two distinct states: Pakistan, which was meant to be the homeland for Muslims, and India. Mass migrations, intercommunal bloodshed, and profound shifts in South Asia's geopolitics coincided with Independence.
- Kashmir was a princely state at the time of independence. A majority of its population was Muslim with a Hindu Raja at the helm. Raja wanted to join India while masses wanted to join Pakistan. The Raja agreed to accede the State with India. The masses did not accept this. Fighting ensued afterwards. Jihadists from Pakistan entered Kashmir territory and war took place. As the fighting worsened, the UN became involved, and India took the matter to the UN Security Council on January 1, 1948. The Council suggested holding a vote in the area to decide on its future and demanded a truce. But the plebiscite's requirements were never fulfilled, mainly because of differences in the demilitarisation process. With the help of militants allegedly supported by the Pakistani Military, Kashmir was divided into two regions after war that spanned over 2 years; Jammu and Kashmir controlled by India and Azad Kashmir controlled by Pakistan.
- Current situation  
The Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan is still bitter and unresolved as of end-2023. With the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir's special autonomy was terminated, and the area was divided into two Union Territories. Pakistan fiercely disagreed with this action, seeing it as a breach of international resolutions. Diplomatic ties are being strained by ongoing ceasefire violations and cross-border fighting along the Line of Control. Human rights are of particular concern on a global scale, as is the possibility of escalation; nonetheless, limited direct involvement has occurred. Despite continuous political upheaval and calls for more autonomy, efforts to upgrade Jammu & Kashmir's infrastructure continue. In the last few months, the matter has escalated. From a few skirmishes starting in March and April, the matter is now moving swiftly towards a full-fledged war.

## 3. KEY ISSUES AND QUESTION

- Nuclear and Military Readiness
  - Both India and Pakistan have mobilized their nuclear arsenals and positioned tanks along their border, escalating military tensions. Risk of Full-Scale War: Both nations are on the edge of a full-scale conflict, with the situation rapidly deteriorating.
- UN Security Council's De-Escalation Call
  - The UN Security Council has urged both countries to reduce tensions and seek peaceful solutions.
- Potential UN Peacekeeping Deployment

- If the conflict is not resolved soon, the UN plans to deploy peacekeeping forces to manage the situation and support

#### Questions to Consider

- What steps can be taken from both sides to de-escalate
- How can the masses of both countries play their role in Peacekeeping
- What can the UN do in case of an all-out war
- Can the UN peacekeeping force have a meaningful impact.
- What is the solution to the Kashmir issue

## 4. Stakeholders

### Key players

- India Controls Jammu and Kashmir, seeks to maintain territorial integrity.
- Pakistan : Claims the region based on its Muslim majority, controls Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.
- People of Jammu and Kashmir: Have diverse views; some want to stay with India, join Pakistan, or seek independence.
- China : Controls Aksai Chin, has strategic interests tied to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- United Nations: Advocates for peaceful resolution, monitors the Line of Control.
- International Community: Includes countries like the U.S., Russia, and the EU, interested in regional stability.
- Militant Groups: Operate in the region, adding to the conflict complexity.

## 5. Previous actions and responses

- 1947-1948: The first Indo-Pakistani War ended with a UN ceasefire and the establishment of the Line of Control (LoC).
- 1950s-1960s: UN proposals for a plebiscite were stalled due to demilitarization disagreements.
- 1965: The second Indo-Pakistani War ended with the Tashkent Agreement after Pakistan's Operation Gibraltar and India's military response.
- 1971-1972: The Indo-Pakistani War over Bangladesh led to the Simla Agreement, reaffirming the LoC.
- 1980s-1990s: Increased insurgency in Kashmir and the 1999 Kargil War, which ended with international mediation.
- 2000s: Dialogue efforts included cross-border trade and transport but faced setbacks due to terrorist attacks.
- 2016: The Uri attack led to Indian "surgical strikes" across the LoC.
- 2019: India abrogated Article 370, revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status, escalating tensions with Pakistan.

## 6. Possible solutions and strategies

- Bilateral Dialogue: Encouraging India and Pakistan to engage in ongoing talks could help build trust and address security concerns.
- International Mediation: Involving the UN or another neutral party to mediate could facilitate negotiations and ensure adherence to agreements.
- Autonomy and Self-Governance: Offering greater autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir might meet local demands and reduce tensions.
- Demilitarization: A phased reduction of troops in the region could ease military tensions.
- Human Rights Monitoring: Establishing independent bodies to monitor human rights could help address abuses and build trust.
- Plebiscite or Referendum: Conducting a fair plebiscite or referendum could give the people of Kashmir a voice in determining their future.

## 7. Scenario Development

Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar are accused of training militants who operate in the Jammu and Kashmir region, and India has sought their detention. Pakistan has responded by accusing India of propagating terrorism inside Pakistan and acting as a proxy.

Following the recent assassination of ten Pakistani military soldiers near the Line of Control by Indian gunfire, Pakistan killed eight Indian Border Security Forces officers in retaliation. Additionally, India claimed to have shot down a Pakistani F-16 aircraft that was purportedly invading Indian territory, and Pakistan's air defence system defused a short-range missile that India had launched.

### Crisis Updates

- **Real-Time Information:**
- **Delegates will receive real-time updates on the crisis through designated channels.**
- **Updates may include new developments, intelligence reports, and situational changes.**
- **Examples: New terrorist threats, shifts in political stances, emerging alliances.**
- **Response Protocols:**
- **Delegates should be prepared to adapt their strategies and actions based on new information.**
- **Emphasis on flexibility and quick decision-making to address evolving scenarios.**
- **Coordination with allies and international organizations to ensure a unified response.**

## 8. Character / Role profiles

- **Masood Azhar:** The mastermind behind the attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, Masood Azhar founded the extremist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). Azhar, who was born in Pakistan in 1968, became well-known for his violent actions in the 1990s. His group has been connected to significant attacks, such as the attack on the Indian Parliament in 2001. The UN and other countries have designated Azhar as a terrorist, and his acts have increased hostilities between Pakistan and India.
- **Hafiz Saeed:** The organisation responsible for the 2008 Mumbai attacks, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), was founded by Hafiz Saeed. Saeed, who was born in Pakistan in 1950, went from being an academic to being the head of a militant group. Others, like the United States and India, have designated his group as a terrorist organisation. Even after facing legal action, Saeed continues to be a contentious character that has an impact on
- **Jhangvi Lashkar-e:** The Sunni extremist group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) is well-known in Pakistan for its use of sectarian violence against Shia Muslims. LeJ, a breakaway group from Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan, first appeared in the 1990s and has carried out multiple bombings and attacks. Its actions have caused great alarm both domestically and internationally because they pose a threat to sectarian harmony and regional stability.

## 9 Further readings / resources

Books:

1. **Kashmir: A Disputed Legacy** by Srinath Raghavan  
- Offers a comprehensive historical account of the Kashmir conflict from its origins to the present day.
2. **The Kashmir Conflict: A Tale of Two Narratives** by Sanjay Kak  
- Provides an analysis of the conflict from multiple perspectives, focusing on the differing narratives of India and Pakistan.
3. **Kashmir The Forgotten Conflict** by Praveen Swami  
- Examines the ongoing conflict and its implications for regional stability and security.
4. **The Kashmir Crisis The Policy Perspective** by A. G. Noorani  
- Analyzes the political and diplomatic aspects of the Kashmir dispute.

Academic Journals

1. **Journal of South Asian Studies**  
- Features articles and research papers on various aspects of the Kashmir conflict.
2. **International Affairs**  
- Publishes articles on global conflicts, including the Kashmir dispute, and their international implications.

## 10. References

1. The International Crisis Group (ICG)
  - Offers reports and briefings on the Kashmir conflict and peace-building efforts.
  - [ICG Kashmir Reports](<https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-asia/kashmir>)
2. The United Nations Digital Library
  - Contains documents and resolutions related to the Kashmir dispute.
  - [UN Digital Library](<https://digitallibrary.un.org/>)
3. Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)
  - Provides analysis and background on the Kashmir conflict.
  - [CFR Kashmir Overview](<https://www.cfr.org/region/south-asia/kashmir>)
4. BBC News - Kashmir Conflict
  - Offers news articles, special reports, and updates on the Kashmir situation.
  - [BBC Kashmir News](<https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cz4pr2gdg2vt/kashmir-dispute>)
5. Brookings Institution
  - Provides in-depth articles and analysis on the Kashmir conflict and South Asian geopolitics.
  - [Brookings Kashmir](<https://www.brookings.edu/topic/kashmir/>)

## 11. Conclusion

**This study guide provides an in-depth analysis of the crisis scenario,** Tensions between two nuclear-armed neighbors, India and Pakistan, have reached a breaking point over the disputed region of Kashmir. Cross-border skirmishes have escalated into full-scale military engagements. **It covers the historical context, current situation, key issues, stakeholders, previous actions, possible solutions, and scenario developments.**