

Quadrant II - Notes

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Indo-Pak Challenges

- Pakistan and India are two immediate neighbors having common history and culture
- They should have had the warmest ties, but their relationships have remained hostile all the time.
- Kashmir is very important between the two states, over which three main wars have been fought between them. Despite some important and effective peace initiatives, the main problems in maintaining the bitter taste in bilateral relations remain unresolved.
- Today, more than 70 years after independence, both Pakistan and India are not concerned for solving long lasting issues like the Kashmir issue, and water issue.
- Peace process and stability in South Asia lies between the two major countries.

- South Asian regional security structure is affected by the two main players of this region because they cannot find a peaceful solution of lingering issues
- Soon after gaining their independence, India and Pakistan established diplomatic relations, but the violent partition and reciprocal territorial claims quickly overshadowed their relationship.
- Since their independence, the two countries have fought three major wars as well as one undeclared war and have been involved in numerous armed skirmishes and military standoffs.
- The Kashmir conflict is the main centre-point of all of these conflicts with the exception of the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971 and the Bangladesh Liberation War, which resulted in the secession of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

Kashmir Issue

- “There are various viewpoints regarding Kashmir issue due to a difference in ideology and interests. The simple issue of the right of self-determination has been turned into a complex conflict between India and Pakistan”.
- The Kashmir conflict has been a burning issue for many years waiting for a solution. On 1 January 1949, a ceasefire agreement was signed between Pakistan and India by UN resolution. Since both countries' views and demands for Kashmir are different, the issue remains an unresolved and serious conflict.
- The unresolved conflict in Kashmir has proved a security threat in the South Asian region . India and Pakistan have fought many wars and the main motive behind the wars has been Kashmir

Kargil Conflict

- The Kargil issue itself is not considered a complete war, “but it is one of the serious conflicts between Pakistan and India.
- The region is important in the context of the Kashmir problem because there was an Indian reinforcing line in the Kashmir Valley.
- The war highlighted the serious threat of nuclear war. Both states tested the atomic bomb just before the conflict.
- The conflict ended with the intervention of the international community and prevented it from becoming a full nuclear war”

Water Issue

- In 1948 India cut off the supply of water to Pakistan and this fact alarmed the Pakistani population imagining a possible scenario where Jammu and Kashmir are under the complete dominion of India.
- This is shared not only by the outbreak of the conflict in Kashmir but also by the often intense conflicts over water resources and the distribution of conflicts, numerous border issues and allegations of ethnic minority movements.
- Much of the debate on the relationship between India and Pakistan is inconsistent and is often recorded in bitter language both within the government and in the media .

Terrorism

- It is stated that “Every nation’s primary goal is to protect and secure adequate defense for its homeland. No nation feels comfortable living under a security threat.
- South Asian region is declared as the most politically unstable place where terrorism, suicide attacks, target killings and assassination on the basis of political, sectarian and ethnic lines etc.

- The “War on Terrorism” has turned out to be the most critical clash of the 21st century and it is Pakistan that has endured the most in this war. “

Confidence-building Measures (CBMs)

- Confidence-building measures can be defined as a method that strengthens the security of the heart and Pakistan and India Relations. The belief in the dignity of national trust.
- Confidence is the product of much broader patterns of relations than those which relate to military security. In fact, the latter has to be woven into a complex texture of economic, cultural, technical and social relationships.

Role of Media

- The media can be another very significant source to alter the existing misperceptions on both sides about each other’s intentions.
- Both electronic and print media should try to play their role in a very professional way. The mishandling of various issues by media had been proved the main problem to stabilization of relations between these two major players of South Asia.
- Exaggerated facts and propaganda not necessarily always produce fruitful results. The role of media can be highly constructive regarding the resolution of various issues such as, to highlight different aspects of involving issues and to discuss available possible options to solve problems.

Impact on Regional Security

- The region is usually known as one of the most dangerous regions and named the ‘nuclear flashpoint’ in the world. The vulnerability to the ethnic, sectarian, religious conflicts and

continuous cross border terrorism is, due to the inadequate basic necessities or facilities.

- Alarming security conditions of war-trodden Afghanistan, military antagonism among bigger states of the region, nuclearization, historical intra-state conflicts and rivalries, along with the widespread and systematic human rights violations are the unprecedented threats to peace and harmony among the regional states .
- A significant challenge to regional security pertains to Pakistan's threat perceptions about India's military intentions and nuclear weapons programme.
- In the Pakistani view, the flawed approach of the Modi government toward crisis management has placed the regional security in danger, and tensions could escalate.
- The key to preserving the precarious stability in the region is to tackle the roots of regional tensions i.e. the Kashmir issue.

Conclusion

- The relations between the two countries have been complex and largely hostile due to a number of historical and political events. Relations between the two states have been defined by the violent partition of British India in 1947 which started the Kashmir conflict, and the numerous military conflicts fought between the two nations. Consequently, their relationship has been plagued by hostility and suspicion.
- Recently ,India and Pakistan issued a joint statement indicating that both sides agreed to stop firing at each other at the disputed Line of Control border in Kashmir