JCC: The Current Escalation Between India and Pakistan

Background Guide

Stanford Model United Nations Conference 2019
Letter from the Chair

Namaste,

I’m Emily, and I’m really excited to be serving as your chair for this year’s SMUNC! In normal life, I am a senior studying International Relations here at Stanford. Since it is my senior year, this is my last SMUNC and likely one of my last MUN conferences ever. I am looking forward to making a memorable weekend, filled with rich debate, strategic thinking, and (hopefully) our decisive victory over India.

The conflict between India and Pakistan has been long and bloody – and the danger of its further escalation is all too eminent. Despite various peace processes and armed clashes, the uneasy relationship between these two countries continues to quiver. The potential for war endangers not only the countries’ massive populations (Pakistan has 212 million citizens; India has 1.4 billion (“Pakistan”)) but also the entire South Asian subcontinent and, quite possibly, the world at large, due to the nations’ nuclear arsenals and intricate webs of alliances. Both diplomatic and military solutions have eluded the globe’s foremost thinkers; this weekend, the weight of solving the issue falls on you.

By nature, SMUNC reduces this behemoth topic into a weekend exercise, which I hope will be filled with intra-committee jokes, creative war plans, and good-natured rivalry – all good joint-crisis committees are. However, we must take care in our fun to remember and respect the real lives impacted by this conflict. 2017 marked the 70th year of this conflict, and these 70 years have already seen the death of more than 47,000 people (“Kashmir Fast Facts”). During committee, you will be tasked with bringing an end to this incessant conflict. While I hope that
we will have fun and I encourage delegate creativity, we must all understand the
weightiness of the discussion at stake. I am excited to explore this topic right alongside you.

I would also like to emphasize that before, during, and after SMUNC, I am here to help.
Please feel free to contact me at ebishko@stanford.edu with any questions, comments, or
concerns! I look forward to meeting you all soon!

Kindly,

Emily Bishko.

Hello there!

I am Zoha Fatima Syed and I shall be serving as your chair for JCC this year at SMUNC!
I’m from Pakistan and am a freshman at Stanford, intending to major in Psychology, with a
minor in International Relations. Model UNs have always held great importance to me not just
because of how utterly exciting they are (that’s a bonus) but because of how they helped me
develop into a person who was more aware of the world that surrounded her and who took an
active step to participate in discourse about matters that affect the world that we live in. It’s easy
to take a backseat while time plays right before your eyes and eventually becomes history.

What distinguishes the MUN circuit is that it consists of people who actively engage in
conversation about what they should and what they do care about and play their own unique
parts in changing the course of history. Here at SMUNC, this is exactly what we aim to achieve.
We want our delegates to learn about what will affect the future of generations to come and to
have their voices heard.
JCC this year will be debating the issue of Kashmir, a tale of grief, of cruelty and of pain. The study guide will provide you with a baseline on which to base your research on the topic. We expect all the delegates attending the conference to have thoroughly researched, beyond the and to know the unique stances that each of them will present. Apart from encouraging conversation, SMUNC also aims to build diplomacy skills in the ambassadors of tomorrow and we hope that this conference will provide a platform where these aspirations can take flight.

So gear up for three days of intense debating, lobbying and of course, having the time of your lives! Feel free to reach out to me at zoha514@stanford.edu if you have any questions or concerns regarding the proceedings of the committee or the subject matter. Here’s to Stanford, here’s to SMUN, here’s to some amazing debate!

Regards,

Zoha Fatima Syed.

About the Committee
This is a Joint Crisis Committee (JCC): one committee room will represent the government of India while the other represents the government of Pakistan, with the daises representing the respective heads of government. The premise is that there has been a recent flare-up in India-Pakistan relations, and the heads of government have gathered their ministers to debate how to proceed.

The committee will run like any normal crisis committee, with the added element of having the directives passed and crisis arcs created will effect both committees. Delegates can also request to communicate with members of the other committee. The goal is to simulate how bilateral relations change, and delegates will have to contend with the real-life challenges of internal disagreements plus the unknown intentions and capabilities of external actors.

Crisis will work via a notebook system: each delegate will have two notebooks that they can use to communicate with the crisis directors, of which only one can ever be with the crisis director at any given time. This allows us to keep a record of your crisis developments, and it helps keep our crisis staff from getting overwhelmed.

In committee, we are looking for rich debate and innovative thinking. Crisis should be a supplement to the front room discussions, not a distraction. Through procedural votes, directives, and crisis arcs, the delegates will be largely responsible for the flow of debate, with the chairs present for supervision, support, and safety.

The committee will start in the wake of the August 5, 2019 curfew and military lockdown imposed in Kashmir.

The India-Pakistan Conflict
Pre-National History

Land comes before borders. Long before there was an India or a Pakistan, there was the Indian subcontinent, a fertile area that promoted advanced civilizations – and attracted foreign conquerors.

The first people in the subcontinent belonged to the Indus Valley civilization, which flourished around 2,500 BCE in today’s Pakistan and Western India. Their agricultural society was largely overrun by environmental changes by 1,500 BCE, around which time Indo-Aryan culture began to dominate the region. While originally nomadic, the Indo-Aryans became increasingly urbanized, and power became increasingly centralized with the onset of the first of many Indian dynasties in the last century BCE. This Indo-Aryan era saw the emergence of languages and practices traditionally associated with India, including Sanskrit, an ancient language that shares linguistic roots with Greek, Latin, and Avestan (Ancient Persian). This period also saw the emergence of the Veda, texts which recorded the Indo-Aryans’ complex ritual system and today serve as an important basis for Hinduism (Murphy).

The subcontinent then attracted a series of emperors and foreign conquerors: over the millennia, the Indian region had been overtaken by Alexander the Great (from Ancient Greece), Genghis Khan (from Mongolia), and migration movements from Persian, Iranian, and Parsis communities. Such conquests also saw the introduction of Islam as a primary religion in the area in the eighth century (“Pakistan: History”). Furthermore, different regions of the subcontinent also boasted domestic dynasties, who ruled over swathes of land. The interlacing times and borders of these various rules help explain the diversity of cultures, languages, religions, and identities found in the subcontinent today.
The last of the conquerors, and arguably the ones with the most immediate influence on contemporary subcontinental politics, were the Europeans, most notably the British, who succeeded at exerting their influence through the East India Company. The Europeans first arrived in the region in the early 17th century looking for trade, but following the Battle of Plassey in 1757, the British amassed significant political control on the subcontinent. Their influence was solidified a century later in the wake of the First War of Indian Independence, which was contemporaneously referred to as the Mutiny by the British. The rebellion left Britain in control of approximately 3/5 of the subcontinent, and the rulers of non-British land still had to contend with the central British power (Murphy).

While the British helped modernize and globalize the region, many Indians were discontent with their rule: they felt as though the British were stealing their markets and oppressing their people, and they resented that they were not permitted to have roles in their top levels of governance. The British also responded cruelly and unfairly to a series of protests, most notably the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919, in which British troops fired into a crowd of unarmed Indians protesting the arrest and deportation of two national leaders, killing approximately 379 people (“Indian History”). This event and others led to increasing clamor for independence, but the pursuit for independence led to the emergence of interior tensions that had remained mascaraded by British rule.

*Independence and Separation*

British rule in India ultimately fell in 1947. World War II had ended two years prior, which led to the fundamental re-forming of the international system and the crumbling of
Britain’s force. Around the world, former colonies had become independent and their former empires rescinded in favor of domestic reconstruction. The emergence of India and Pakistan were part of this trend. However, under the British, the subcontinent did not have the chance to develop their own rule of law. British rule also suppressed intra-national tensions from emerging, but the question of independence pushed these conflicts to the limelight. At the forefront of these issues were the question of religious identities.

Under British rule, different national affiliations became more salient. The All India Muslim League, an advocacy organization for a separate Muslim state, was founded in 1907 (“Pakistan: A History). Around the same time (September 1920 – February 1922), Indian independence hero Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress started the Non-Cooperation Movement to push for Indian independence. Widely popular amongst the Indian population, this movement greatly shook the British authorities. In August 1942, Gandhi started his “Quit India Movement” civil disobedience movement, and in the coming years, he engaged in a series of hunger strikes (“Indian History”). However, independence led to its own questions.

The idea for a separate, Muslim-majority homeland on the Indian subcontinent was first voiced by a student in 1933 (“India-Pakistan: Troubled Relations”). The Muslim League endorsed the idea in 1940, and after fierce internal debates, the partition became a reality in 1947 under the leadership of Muhammed Ali Jinnah (“Pakistan Timeline”). However, separating the subcontinent into Hindu- and Muslim-majority countries proved easier said than done: the mass migrations required resulted in severe protests, approximately 500,000 deaths, and at least 1,000,000 people left homeless (“India-Pakistan: Troubled Relations”).
Furthermore, the partition did not resolve all of the region’s internal tension.

Discord remained surrounding the ownership of the regions of Jammu and Kashmir remained unresolved (“India-Pakistan: Troubled Relations”). India and Pakistan have fought three times over their unresolved issues; the third war led to the independence of Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority country to India’s East that had previously been known as “East Pakistan”, in 1971 (“Pakistan Timeline”). While the borders have remained relatively constant since, the cause for tension between the two countries has been-ever growing, resulting in the precarious peace known today.

![A map of Indians subcontinent borders, through time (“History of India”).](image)

**The Current Situation**

The recent bus attack happened in the northernmost region of India: in the region of the disputed territory of Kashmir. Kashmir has been a disputed territory between India and Pakistan ever since the independence of the two countries in 1947. The Line of Control or LoC divides Indian occupied Kashmir from Pakistan occupied Kashmir and there is barely any civilian
movement across this line. The bus attack killed 40 personnel and has been featured in mainstream media, yet adequate action on the matter seems to not have been taken.

The attack was followed by India carrying out air strikes on alleged terror camps in Pakistan’s Balakot region. Indian reports suggest that a number of ‘terrorists’ have been killed while Pakistani intelligence agencies refute all such claims, stating that the only harm done to the area is damage to trees in the region. A pilot from the Indian side, while conducting these air strikes within the borders of Pakistan is captured but later released as a gesture of goodwill.

The attack happened almost 3 months before the national elections in India are held and some argue that it was a strategy by the Indian government to divert attention from the country’s internal matters to a subject that would help them gain a greater vote bank and hence, retain power. The attack on the bus happened only months before the national elections in India. Could this have been a set-up to nudge a bigger vote bank?

As predicted, the elections in May 2019 turned out greatly in favour of BJP, the major political party in India, granting them a second term in office. Matters then begun to escalate.

In July 2019, US President Donald Trump offered to mediate the issue between Pakistan and India. A month later, in August 2019, prominent Kashmiri leaders were arrested by the Indian Government, including former chief minister Omar Abdullah and on the 4th of August, Section 144 of the Indian Constitution was imposed by the Indian government in Indian Occupied Kashmir. This prohibited a gathering of more than 4 people in public spaces, effectively jarring any form of public protest.

A day later, on the 5th of August, the Indian Government successfully revoked Article 370 and 35A from its constitution. This gave Kashmir the right to self determination and its
revocation took away said right, placing Kashmir under direct, uncontestable control of India. This was followed by a media shutdown in the region, preventing any form of communication with the world. Journalists were held back from entering Indian Occupied Kashmir and the issue was kept away from mainstream media. A curfew was then imposed, with reports of mass brutalities against the local Kashmiri population, large numbers of disappearances and crackdown on public protests. The situation continues to this day.

Indian Occupied Kashmir has been protesting with guns, stones and pens against the oppression that it has been facing; people are demanding the referendum that was promised by the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. The region of Kashmir has been contested by both India and Pakistan. India argues that the Treaty of Accession that wed Kashmir to India, makes it “an integral part of India.” On the other hand, Pakistan argues that the sole theory that led to the division of India and Pakistan — the Two Nation Theory — binds Kashmir to Pakistan. Over the years, the situation in Kashmir has gotten worse with no talks and no room for resolution. This makes Kashmir, one of the worst and longest political conflicts of the world.

Pakistan has raised the human rights violations in Kashmir in the United Nations, multiple times. The nexus of the international and diplomatic relations that India and Pakistan have with each one of the P5 has hindered any strong resolution to pass that could prevent the killings and the use of arms in Indian occupied Kashmir.

Ever since the new Prime Minister, Imran Khan has been elected, Pakistan has been striving for global recognition as a peaceful country. The ruling government has been making progress to bring the country out of economic depression and easing its way out of the debt trap that it has been stuck in.
All of this also happens against the backdrop of India and Pakistan’s positions as being nuclear power states, in addition to the number of domestic separatist movements in both countries, as well as the potential interest in China, Russia, and the US in benefitting from the countries’ geopolitical advantages.

**Character List - Pakistan:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan</td>
<td>Aviation Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Pervez Khattak</td>
<td>Defence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Muhammad Hammad Azhar</td>
<td>Economic Affairs Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Shafqat Mahmood</td>
<td>Federal Education &amp; Professional Training Addl: National History and Literary Heritage Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Makhdooom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi</td>
<td>Foreign Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Shireen M. Mazari</td>
<td>Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui</td>
<td>Information Technology and Telecommunication</td>
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<td>Mr. Ijaz Ahmad Shah</td>
<td>Interior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Ali Amin Khan Gandapar</td>
<td>Kashmir Affairs &amp; Gilgit Baltistan</td>
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<td>Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem</td>
<td>Law and Justice</td>
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<td>Mr. Omar Ayub Khan</td>
<td>Power Division, Petroleum Division</td>
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<td>Sheikh Rashid Ahmed</td>
<td>Railways</td>
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<td>Mr. Noor-Ul-Haq Qadri</td>
<td>Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony</td>
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<td>Mr. Fawad Ahmed</td>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
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<td>Mr. Muhammad Faisal Vawda</td>
<td>Water Resources</td>
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**Character List - India:**

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<td>Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
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<td>Raj Nath Singh</td>
<td>Ministry of Defence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ravi Shankar Prasad</td>
<td>Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar</td>
<td>Ministry of External Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narendra Singh Tomar</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Panchayati Raj</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nitin Jairam Gadkari</td>
<td>Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises</td>
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<td>Smriti Zubin Irani</td>
<td>Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Textiles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paralhad Joshi</td>
<td>Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Mines</td>
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Discussion Questions

- How should your country respond to the attack?
- What considerations should you consider when discussing how to respond?
- What does your country hope to, and have to, gain from this situation?
- How can peace be achieved in Kashmir? Can a solution be created that suits all parties relevant to this decades-old conflict?
- How can your respective ministry or division play a role in helping craft a solution to this crisis?

Helpful Sites

- [http://www.uh.edu/~sriaz/thecountry/kyiph/](http://www.uh.edu/~sriaz/thecountry/kyiph/)
Works Cited


