

SUMMARY of the Article “Ties with India,” by Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Dawn [Published on December 24th, 2023]

Managing the strained relationship with India remains Pakistan’s most challenging foreign policy task, rooted in the bitterness of the 1947 partition of British India. While issues like finance, defense stores, and canal waters were eventually settled, the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir persists. India’s occupation of the state, with a Muslim majority, and violation of UN Security Council resolutions further complicates the matter. Despite wars and peace initiatives, resolution remains elusive. Modi’s government’s actions in 2019, abolishing statehood and autonomy, exacerbate the situation. The recent Indian Supreme Court decision, upholding actions but directing the return of statehood and elections by September 2024, has implications. India’s attempts at demographic and electoral engineering raise concerns. The international community’s silence on India’s actions is criticized. Pakistan’s response includes diplomatic downgrading and trade cessation. The strained bilateral ties since 2016 are detrimental to regional peace. Future prospects hinge on both countries abandoning mutual hostility, fostering peaceful coexistence, and exploring small steps like easing the visa regime, promoting tourism, encouraging people-to-people contact, and restarting bilateral trade. Suggestions for conflict resolution involve revisiting the 2007 four-point formula and maintaining support for Kashmiri self-determination.

Easy/Short SUMMARY:

The article addresses the persistent challenges in Pakistan-India relations, primarily rooted in the 1947 partition bitterness and exacerbated by the

unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Recent actions by India, violating international law, have strained ties further. Despite attempts at resolution, the strained relationship and lack of contact since 2016 pose risks to regional peace. The author advocates for abandoning hostility and embracing peaceful coexistence, suggesting small confidence-building steps and conflict resolution strategies.

SOLUTIONS of The Problem:

1. Peaceful Coexistence:

- Both countries should abandon mutual hostility and embrace peaceful coexistence.

2. Confidence-Building Measures:

- Initiate small steps like easing the visa regime, promoting religious tourism, encouraging people-to-people contact, and restarting bilateral trade.

3. Revisit 2007 Four-Point Formula:

- Explore a resolution by revisiting the four-point formula of 2007 for conflict resolution.

4. Maintain Support for Kashmir:

- Pakistan should uphold support for the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination.

5. **Provisional Status for Gilgit-Baltistan:**

- Subject to the final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, grant Gilgit-Baltistan the status of a provisional province in response to the region's elected assembly's desire.

6. International Condemnation:

- Mobilize diplomatic efforts to garner international condemnation of India's actions in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the violation of UN resolutions

and international law.

7. Regional Collaboration:

- Encourage regional collaboration and dialogue among South Asian countries, urging them to collectively address concerns related to India's actions in Jammu and Kashmir.

8. Humanitarian Assistance:

- Provide humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Jammu and Kashmir, addressing the socio-economic impact of India's demographic engineering and ensuring the well-being of the residents.

9. Media Diplomacy:

- Leverage media diplomacy to highlight the plight of the people in Jammu and Kashmir on the international stage, emphasizing the human rights violations and socio-political repercussions of India's actions.

10. Cultural Exchanges:

- Facilitate cultural exchanges between Pakistan and India, promoting people-to-people contact and fostering understanding through shared heritage, arts, and traditions.

11. Track II Diplomacy:

- Engage in Track II diplomacy by facilitating unofficial, non-governmental dialogues between scholars, activists, and influential figures from both countries to explore alternative solutions and build mutual understanding.

12. UN Mediation:

- Advocate for United Nations mediation in the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, emphasizing the need for an impartial third-party intervention to ensure a just and lasting solution.

13. Economic Cooperation Incentives:

- Propose economic cooperation incentives to India, demonstrating the potential benefits of improved relations, increased trade, and shared economic prosperity for both nations.

14. Educational Initiatives:

- Launch educational initiatives that promote awareness and understanding of the historical context and complexities of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute among the youth in both Pakistan and India.

15. Conflict Resolution Summit:

- Propose a regional summit focused on conflict resolution, inviting leaders from Pakistan, India, and other South Asian nations to engage in constructive dialogue and explore comprehensive solutions to longstanding disputes.

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IMPORTANT Facts and Figures Given in the Article:

- **Issue Origin:** Bitterness from the 1947 partition of British India.
- **Unresolved Dispute:** Jammu and Kashmir, occupied by India against the terms of partition.
- **Modi Government Actions in 2019:**
 - Abolished 'statehood.'
 - Announced Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as two separate Union territories.
 - Revoked the special autonomy of Indian-occupied Kashmir.
- **Indian Supreme Court Decision (2023):**

- Upheld the 2019 actions.
- Directed to restore J&K's statehood and hold elections by September 2024.
- **Current State of Relations (2023):**
- **Bilateral Ties since 2016:** No formal contacts, termed 'no-contact warfare.'
- **Strained Relations Impact:** Detrimental to regional peace.

MCQs from the Article:

1. **What is identified as Pakistan's most challenging foreign policy task in the article?**
 - A. Economic cooperation
 - B. Managing ties with India**
 - C. Regional diplomacy
 - D. Military alliances
2. **Which territory is at the center of the dispute between India and Pakistan?**
 - A. Punjab
 - B. Bengal
 - C. Jammu and Kashmir**
 - D. Rajasthan
3. **What action did Modi's government take in 2019 regarding Jammu and Kashmir?**
 - A. Granting autonomy
 - B. Expanding statehood
 - C. Abolishing statehood and autonomy**
 - D. Seeking UN intervention
4. **What is the author's view on the international community's response to India's actions in Jammu and Kashmir?**
 - A. Positive support
 - B. Criticized for silence**
 - C. Endorsed the actions

D. Called for diplomatic dialogue

5. **What does the author suggest as a potential future opening for improved Pakistan-India relations?**

A. Bilateral war

B. Economic sanctions

C. Elections in both countries in 2024

D. Military alliances

VOCABULARY:

1. **Acrimony** (noun) (اکریمنی): Bitterness or ill feeling.
2. **Contiguous** (adjective) (کنٹیگوس): Sharing a common border; touching.
3. **Contravention** (noun) (کنٹراونشن): Violation of a law, treaty, or agreement.
4. **Estranged** (adjective) (ایسٹریجنڈ): (of a person) no longer close or affectionate to someone; alienated.
5. **Demographic Engineering** (noun) (ڈیموگرافک انجینئرنگ): Manipulation of population demographics for political purposes.
6. **Revert** (verb) (ریورٹ): Return to (a previous state, practice, topic, etc.).
7. **Reality Check** (noun) (ریئلٹی چیک): An assessment to determine if one's circumstances or expectations conform to reality.
8. **Emboldened** (verb) (ایمبولڈنڈ): Made (someone) feel more courageous or confident.
9. **Hubris** (noun) (ہیوبرس): Excessive pride or self-confidence.
10. **Adversarial** (adjective) (ایڈورسریل): Involving or characterized by conflict or opposition.

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Ties with India
BY Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

MANAGING the troubled relationship with India has been Pakistan's most arduous foreign policy challenge. The mutual hostility has its roots in the bitterness of the manner in which the partition of British India occurred in 1947. Millions had to move across the newly created border. India's hesitation on giving Pakistan its share of finance, defence stores, and even canal waters added to the acrimony. However, all these issues were eventually settled one way or another

One major issue that could not be settled was the dispute over the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which was forcibly occupied by India, in direct contravention of the terms for partition of British India. The state had a Muslim majority (78 per cent, with 93pc in the Valley), and was contiguous to the territories that were to become Pakistan. India has also violated every resolution of the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted from 1948 to 1957, which stipulated that the state's political status should be decided by a plebiscite to be held under UN auspices.

Neither the wars between India and Pakistan in 1948, 1965 and 1999, nor the numerous bilateral peace initiatives, have resolved the matter. Complicating the matters further, four years ago, the Modi government abolished the 'statehood', announced Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as two separate Union territories, and took away the special autonomy of Indian-occupied Kashmir. This was another blatant violation of international law as codified in a series of UNSC resolutions.

Earlier this month, the Indian supreme court upheld the Aug 5, 2019, actions of the Modi government, but directed it to revert statehood to J&K, and hold elections there by September 2024. The decision came as a reality check to those Kashmiri leaders who had cooperated with the BJP government in the vain hope that they would retain their autonomy. In the past four years, the Modi

government has indulged in demographic engineering by issuing domiciles to millions of non-state persons. It has also engaged in electoral engineering to ensure that whenever polls are held, BJP would have a dominant position.

The current situation does not augur well for regional peace.

Clearly, India is seeking to dissolve the dispute by changing the basic parameters of the disputed territory. The main motivation for this comes from the RSS philosophy of making India a Hindu state. The Modi government has further been emboldened by the fact that the US has selected India as a partner of choice and invested in its military and economic prowess. Regrettably, the international community has failed to condemn India for its illegal actions in J&K, ostensibly to protect their economic and commercial interests in the large Indian market.

These developments have been resented in Pakistan, where for centuries, the people of Pakistan, especially northern Punjab, and the people of Kashmir have lived together, bound by ties of faith and culture. Pakistan had, therefore, reacted to the Aug 5 action by lowering the level of diplomatic representation and stopping bilateral trade.

Where do we go from here? The issue of J&K is connected to the state of bilateral ties between India and Pakistan. Both countries have been estranged neighbours for the past seven decades. Since 2016, there have been no formal contacts between the two countries, often described as 'no-contact warfare' by India against Pakistan.

Despite Pakistan's consistent desire for good-neighbourly ties, India continues to exhibit animosity. It has discouraged even sporting contacts, when it obliged its cricket team not to visit Pakistan for the Asian Cup, whereas the Pakistani team visited India for the World Cup. India has also paralysed Saarc, probably because it thinks this forum might be used by South Asian countries to join hands to counter-balance India.

This state of affairs does not augur well for peace in South Asia. Many scholars and former diplomats argue that India can neither isolate Pakistan nor make it irrelevant. It would be in the interest of both countries to shun mutual hostility and embrace a peaceful coexistence. An opening might arise after elections in



both countries in 2024. The two countries could start with small steps to enhance mutual confidence, such as making the visa regime easier, promoting religious tourism, encouraging people-to-people contact, and restarting bilateral trade.

There have been suggestions that the two governments find an equivalent of the four-point formula of 2007 to help resolve this long-standing conflict. Meanwhile, Pakistan should maintain its support for the right of the people of J&K to self-determination. Subject to the final settlement of the dispute, Pakistan should also grant Gilgit-Baltistan the status of a provisional province in response to the desire of GB's elected assembly.

The writer is a former foreign secretary and chairman, Sanobar Institute Islamabad.

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