
Background Guide

UNSC: “Addressing the conflict in Kashmir and its international
repercussion”



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1. Greeting Word

1.1. By the Secretary General and PGA

Dear Delegates, Chairs, and Participants of HUMUNITED2021,

after one year at home, it feels, to almost everyone, like our daily lives have come to an infinite sameness as if we had to follow the same journey every day. Our routines have become repetitive and new experiences are a distant idea hidden inside our memories.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we realized that our compromise with the Humboldt students was more than just organizing a conference, especially in hard times like these. Over the last 7 years, we have recognized that HUMUNITED was never an ordinary MUN Conference that takes place every year.

HUMUNITED is a feeling, a wonderful experience that is almost indescribable since it has a different meaning for more than a thousand students that have already participated in our event.

HUMUNITED is an independent idea, apart from its format, its organizers, or its committees, that will keep growing over the next generations.

HUMUNITED is a journey in which the most important high school project from our lives can also influence our future careers and university decisions.

In one of the delegates' application forms we received, there was a very remarkable sentence which said: "Life is a learning path". After a long quarantine, we realized that life is not a permanent journey with a determined goal, but a learning path in which challenges and events bring us special knowledge and make us stronger, enabling us to persist along the way.

Similarly, HUMUNITED has always been a learning path, enabling us to improve our English, communication, leadership, and debating skills, but also allowing its own members to change it, improving and adapting it to its participants. With a huge tradition and an amazing 7-year history, we realized that, as said by Martin Luther King, Jr. "*We are not makers of history. We are made by history.*"

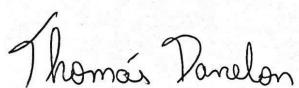
Bearing in mind that innovation and challenges would be a great possibility to unite ourselves during such difficult times, we decided to make a bigger conference than the ones before the pandemic. With more than 170 delegates, 9 committees, and students from 12 different schools, including other countries such as Mexico and Argentina, our event has more participants than ever.



Additionally, we would like to point out that this conference would not have been possible without our incredible Organizing Team. We are truly grateful for all your work and we are extremely proud to have you as part of this year's team.

Thus, it is with great satisfaction that we welcome you to our sixth edition of HUMUNITED. We are looking forward to seeing all of you, and we hope that you enjoy HUMUNITED2021 as much as we always do.

Best wishes,



Thomás Danelon

President of the General Assembly



Nicole vom Bauer

Secretary-General

1.2. By the Chairs

Honorable delegates,

It is with great honor that we welcome you into the United Nations Security Council. We are glad to serve as your chairs at HUMUNITED2021. The topic of this committee, addressing the conflict in Kashmir and its international repercussion, is of utmost importance when bearing the current world scenario in mind.

This modern conflict has been taking place for many years now, and we are counting on you to debate ideas and find a diplomatic solution that respects both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948 and the Charter of the United Nations from 1945. From you, delegates of the Security Council, nothing but detailed short-term and long-term solutions are expected. Do not write superficial clauses: make sure that you state how and under which conditions the proposed solutions would take place. Always defend your country's external policy. And face the foundations of the conflict and deconstruct them in cooperation with as many countries as possible: this is diplomacy.

That being said, the chairs must inform you: this guide should not and will not provide you with all the information you need to sustain a productive debate. Delegates are required to do their research separately so that they can, through their own effort, highlight themselves among the others. Remember that speaking well is better than speaking a lot. Proposing solutions is an essential component of a good speech. Avoid making speeches with the sole intention of attacking another delegate: focusing on the problem is the best way to maximize your contribution to the committee.

As chairs, we are here to help you, so please feel free to contact us if you have any doubts or problems whatsoever. Good luck!

Sincerely,

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2. About the United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six main committees of the UN and has a very simple, yet complicated objective: the maintenance of peace and security on a global scale. Its sole purpose is to examine, evaluate, discuss and propose solutions to solve conflicts that endanger people's lives. Because lives are at stake, the UNSC is one of the most powerful committees of the UN. Compliance with the decisions of the Security Council are compulsory for all member states: there is no such thing as ignoring an UNSC's resolution.



<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/time-for-the-european-union-to-reassert-itself-in-the-un-security-council/>

After coming into existence by rectification of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council had 15 members: five of them are permanent, the others are elected every two years by the General Assembly. Particularly in the MUN, the committee is not limited to fifteen members. In real life, the

committee might welcome guest speakers from other countries, even though they are not allowed to vote. However, in the Model United Nations all nations in the committee will have the right to vote, as long as they are members of the United Nations.

The permanent members are the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the United States of America and the French Republic. They hold the veto power: this means that they may inhibit a resolution from taking place whenever they wish. This is utterly a measure to avoid retaliation from these world powers towards a non-favourable decision, which would compromise world peace.

Conflicts are usually solved by the calling upon countries to settle disputes peacefully and through negotiations. However, if the diplomatic method fails to be effective, the council may resort to imposing economic/political sanctions, as well as authorizing the use of force such as the UN Blue Helmets. While all other committees such as ECOSOC or WHO recommend actions, the UNSC may demand a certain action or condemn a given country.

The figure on the right shows the real United Nations Security Council during a session. Awesome.



3. Historical Background

3.1. Introduction

Kashmir, formally alluded to as Jammu and Kashmir, is an 86,000-square-mile region of northwest India and northeast Pakistan. It currently has an estimated population of 14,957,251, and used to be considered an “earthly paradise” by its emperors in the 16th and 17th century. It used to be known for its radiating beauty and incredible views. However, it has been violently disputed by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of India since they separated in 1947, creating a division between Muslims (Pakistan) and Hindus. This Conflict has now been going on for over seven decades and taken the lives of over 60,000 people. This way it is now hosting an endless conflict over its natural resources and access to the vital Indus River, featured by Pakistan, India, its own people and China.

It is of common belief that Buddhism was introduced in Kashmir by the Mauryan emperor, Ashoka, in the third century BCE. This was maintained until the 9th century, from which Hindu culture became dominant until the 12th century. Until 1346 Kashmir was ruled by a succession of Hindu dynasties. So for many years ancient Kashmir was a very renowned center for Hindu and Buddhist learning. However around the 14th century, Muslim Moghul emperors (Central Asia) took the governing upon themselves, and converted the whole population to Islamic Moghul. (It is important to note that Islamic Moghul diverges from the modern forms of Islamic regime). This period lasted approximately 5 centuries. These Hindus faced prosecution that led to mass migrations until the late 17th century. During the 18th century the Sikhs kingdom of the Punjab controlled the region, which resulted in another Hindu Dynasty.

In the 19th Century Britain got involved and invaded Kashmir, only to sell the whole Valley to the oppressive ruler of Jammu, Global Singh, who made Kaschmir a part of the state of its State. So began the Dogra kingdom of Jammu. During the division England made between India and Pakistan, all princely States were allowed to decide which country they would join. However, the British were manipulating the situation in order to ensure the merge of Kashmir into Pakistan to keep control over the region. In the meantime, Pakistan sent military attacks on Kashmir, which forced its then ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, to ask India for help. India agreed, in exchange for the absorption of the then called Jammu territory, and sent its forces to combat the attacks ordered by Pakistan. This way Kashmir became part of the Republic of India in 1947.

Still, the British continued their attempt to conquer the merge of Kashmir into the Pakistan territory by helping Pakistan to insert its forces in strategic locations inside the region of Gilgit. Gilgit had been used as a special agency in 1889 under a British agent.

In 1948 the UNSC took action by passing Resolution 47, which required all Pakistan Military to be withdrawn from the region before the calling of a plebiscite. This plebiscite would have confirmed the desire of the people to join India. Instead of doing this, Pakistan increased its military presence, which eliminated the option of a plebiscite. Article 370 of the Indian constitution prohibited non-Kashmiris to own Land or move to Kaschmir in those areas that were occupied by Pakistan. This forced approximately 41,000 Hindu Families to flee because of the violence Pakistan was practicing.

During the decade between 1981 and 1991 the so-called "ethnic cleansing of Kaschmir Hindu Pandits" took place. This was sponsored by Pakistan and aimed to cleanse Kaschmir of all non-muslims to change the state's demographics. More than 95% of the Valleys Indigenous Hundu population (≈ 350.000 pandits) were ethnically cleansed through the insertion of violence in the forms of rapes, killings, threats as well as destruction of property and religious sites. Families were ordered to leave Kaschmir through letters, which threatened their children's safety and stated the reason for their expulsion as their Musmil religion. For the past 25 years the few thousand hindu pundants that are left have been living in camps in Jammo and New Deli always scared for their life, as over and over Pakistani police forces continue to torture them.

Since 1989 to the current date Kaschmir has been in a Proxy War. This began when Pakistan's social services flooded the Kashmir Valley, killing over 15,000 civilians until today. But India has not done much better, since in an attempt to combat militants, its police committed many abuses in Kaschmir such as Lakshya Taiba and Jaisch-E-Mohammed who have launched terrorist attacks in Kashmir and India itself. In 2001 for example, both organizations joined forces in order to attack the Indian parliament, which ended in the death of 9 people. Lakshya Taiba was also found responsible for the November 2008 Mumbai attack, which resulted in the death of at least 165 people, including civilians and security personnel, of which a lot were international. Jaish-E-Mohammed caused the September 18th 2016 attack on an Indian army base as well as the February 14th 2019 attack on a base in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir which ended the lives of over 40 members of the central reserve police and injured at least as many. India responded to this with retaliatory air strikes and the UNSC defined the leader of Jaish-e-mohammed, Masood Azhar an international terrorist.

From 2001-2012 violence decreased, which gave tourism a chance of rising. This was the region's previous main source of income and brought ≈ 1.5 Million tourists to the Kashmir region in 2012. During this period of time people were experiencing less fear, which caused a significant decrease of insurrection. Voter participation increased, and many former militants were rehabilitated and reinstated into society.

However, this did not stop Pakistan, as it continued its violent attacks. In 2016 fear was sparked by the death of Hizbul Mujahideen, commander Burhan Wani, who died during an armed battle with Indian security forces. These armed attacks did not decrease, as they caused the injuries of 11.000 people, 7.000 civilians and 4.000 security personnel members, over the course of a few weeks. At least 82 people were killed during clashes between protestors of separatist groups and indian security forces. At this point the European Union determined Hizbul Mujahideen as a terrorism organization. These violent attacks continued to produce casualties, as mobs attacked pandit camps in 6 cities in the valley.



The Pakistan occupied part of Kashmir has lately been occupied by protestors against human rights violations by the Pakistan military and inter service intelligence (ISI). These accusations include rigged elections, repression and murder of kaschmiri political activists. The US State department echoed these. In August 2019, the Indian government legally and democratically repealed articles 370 and 32A of the Indian constitution, that conferred a special status on Jammu and Kashmir allowing it to integrate to the Indian territory. India agreed to take them in regardless of religion, sexual orientation, gender or socioeconomic background and granting them better education as well as equal protection by the law. It is also expected to future achieve the rehabilitation of pundits in the Kashmir Valley. Jammu and Kashmir were divided into two new union territories, one of these being for Jammu and Kashmir and the other one for Ladakh. This has however not been a fixed solution, as in Ladakh political and religious leaders have called for separate union territories status and complained about social and economic marginalization because of certain policies that favor the Kashmir Valley.

3.2. The Kashmir Problem

However long the region's presence was ensured by the Assembled Realm, the shortcomings in its design and along its peripherals were not of extraordinary outcome, but rather they became obvious after the English withdrawal from South Asia in 1947. By the terms consented to by India and Pakistan for the parcel of the Indian subcontinent, the leaders of august states were given the option to pick either Pakistan or India or, with specific reservations, to stay autonomous. Hari Singh, the maharaja of Kashmir, at first accepted that by deferring his choice. He could keep up the freedom of Kashmir, yet, got up to speed in a train of occasions that incorporated an unrest among his Muslim subjects along the western boundaries of the state and the intercession of Pashtun tribesmen. He marked an instrument of increase to the Indian association in October 1947. This was the sign for intercession both by Pakistan, which believed the state to be a characteristic expansion of Pakistan, and by India, which expected to affirm the demonstration of promotion. Restricted fighting was kept during 1948 and finished, through the intervention of the Assembled Countries, in a truce that produced results in January 1949. In July of that year, India and Pakistan characterized a truce line—the line of control—that partitioned the organization of the domain. Viewed at the time as a brief catalyst, the segment along that line actually exists.

3.3. Attempts at Resolution and Legitimization

Despite the fact that there was a reasonable Muslim majority in Kashmir before the 1947 segment, and its monetary, social, and geographic contiguity with the Muslim-dominant part of the Punjab could be convincingly illustrated, the political advancements during and after the segment caused a division of the region. Pakistan was left with an area that, albeit fundamentally Muslim in character, was meagerly populated, generally out of reach, and financially immature. The biggest Muslim gathering, arranged in



the valley of Kashmir and assessed to number the greater part of inhabitants in the whole area, lay in Indian-controlled domain, with its previous outlets by means of the Jhelum valley course obstructed.

Numerous recommendations were in this manner made to end the disagreement about Kashmir, yet pressures mounted between the two nations following the Chinese attack into Ladakh in 1962, and fighting broke out among India and Pakistan in 1965. A truce was set up in September, trailed by an arrangement endorsed by the different sides at Tashkent (Uzbekistan) toward the beginning of January 1966, in which they made plans to attempt to end the debate by quiet methods. Battling again erupted between the two in 1971 as a component of the India-Pakistan war that brought about the making of Bangladesh. An agreement endorsed in the Indian city of Shimla in 1972 communicated the expectation that from this time forward the nations in the area would have the option to live in harmony with one another. It was broadly accepted that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, at that point head administrator of Pakistan, may have implicitly acknowledged the line of control as the true line, in spite of the fact that he later denied this. After Bhutto was captured in 1977 and executed in 1979, the Kashmir issue turned into the main source of contention among India and Pakistan.

Various developments have differently looked for a consolidation of Kashmir with Pakistan or freedom for the locale from the two India and Pakistan. To fight with these developments and go up against Pakistani powers along the truce line, the Indian association government has kept a solid military presence there, particularly since the end of the 1980s. Until 2019 the military presence was additionally planned to help the regulatory trustworthiness of Jammu and Kashmir state from developments looking for Indian association domain status for Buddhist Ladakh.

3.4. Attempts at Resolution and Legitimization

China had never acknowledged the arranged limits by England in northeastern Kashmir. This stayed the case following the socialist takeover in China in 1949, albeit the new government asked India, without progress, to open arrangements regarding the boundary. After Chinese authority was set up in Tibet and reasserted in Xinjiang, Chinese powers infiltrated into the northeastern pieces of Ladakh. This was done essentially in light of the fact that it permitted them to construct a military street through the Aksai Jawline level region (finished in 1956–57) to give better correspondence among Xinjiang and western Tibet. It additionally gave the Chinese control of passes in the district among India and Tibet. India's late disclosure of this street prompted line conflicts between the two nations that finished in the Sino-Indian conflict of October 1962. China has involved the northeastern piece of Ladakh since the contention. India would not haggle with China on the arrangement of the Ladakhi limit around here, and the occurrence contributed essentially to a political crack between the two nations that started to recuperate just in the last part of the 1980s. In the next many years, China attempted to improve its relations with India, however there has been no goal to the contested Ladakh outskirts.



4. Topic Overview

As described in the last section of this guide, the conflict in Kashmir originated many years ago and makes the region one of the most militarized zones in the world, according to BBC. Long-lasting problems are very hard to be solved exactly due to the reasons why they were not figured out earlier. Considering a very complex crisis that involves three nuclear powers, the best way to facilitate its comprehension is to break it down into its main aspects and analyze them separately. The topics to be debated in session within the Kashmir conflict are not limited to the ones stated here, as they will be defined by the delegates themselves. Autonomy in research is expected from award-winning delegations.



Men running from attacks in Kashmir

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2020/08/indias-kashmir-conundrum-and-after-abrogation-article-370>

4.1. Geopolitical Aspects

Kashmir has been the battleground for conflicts between nuclear-armed countries India and Pakistan for a long time now. The reason why is that the region of Kashmir and Jammu is a disputed territory. Since India's independence, there has been no settlement on the ownership of the region. Precisely, India owns two-thirds of the Kashmiri territory, and the Pakistani seized the northernmost part; in theory, however, both countries fully claim the territory of Jammu and Kashmir. As a result, there is the Pakistani-administered Kashmir and the Indian-administered Kashmir. In between them, there is a Line of Control, where most skirmishes occur. In the 1950s, China claimed the eastern part of the region: partly by a yield of Pakistan (Arunachal Pradesh) and partly by arguing that there was no proper delimitation of the northern Indian territory and claiming it. However, it is discussed whether China had objectives regarding the connection provided by Aksai Chin between Tibet and Xinjiang or not. After all those claims, the map of Kashmir is portrayed in the next figure.



Most recent map of Kashmir

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-11693674>

Regarding the dispute between India and Pakistan, the muslim nations demands a popular referendum to evaluate the situation of the region, as recommended many times by the United Nations. Delhi, however, states that Kashmir has voted in successive Indian elections, hence confirming their accession to India. Furthermore, India refers to the Simla Agreement of 1972 to solve this problem with Pakistan in a bilateral negotiation. For Kashmiris, there is also a third possibility to consider: independence. However, this is very unlikely to take place without any kind of external support whatsoever.

The Simla Agreement determined the Line of Control as a border for ceasefire between the Pakistani-administered region and the Indian-administered one. However, the conflicts between both nations remain around the area and the risks are very high, given the fact that both parties possess nuclear weapons. Over the years, there have been some notorious events there, including the Islamist-led insurgency that broke out in 1989, the 1999 clash on the Siachen Glacier (beyond the Line of Control), the conflict that almost generated another war in 2002 and the confrontation of pro-Pakistan and pro-independence protests by the Indian security forces in 2010.

A rather important political event regarding the Indian-administered Kashmir is related to the Article 370: a clause in the Indian constitution that grants significant autonomy to Kashmir, allowing it to have a constitution, a flag and independence in all matters but in foreign affairs, defense and communication. Recently, the Article 370 was revoked by the BJP, Indian nationalist party, marking a significant tendency towards a greater control of Delhi over the territory. The Indian parliament is also expected to pass a bill in which Kashmir would be directly controlled by the Indian government.

Regarding this, the Pakistani government stated that this action was “illegal” and that it would “exercise all possible options” to counter it. However, India argues that since the action took place within the Line of Control, it does not have any external implication.

The population of Jammu and Kashmir is divided into 10 million people under Indian rule and 4.5 million under Pakistani rule. Additionally, there are 1.8 million people in the autonomous territory of Gilgit-Baltistan, within the Pakistani administration. This population is very diverse, containing Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims.

4.2. Economical Aspects

The region of Jammu and Kashmir is rather simple, with an agrarian economy. This way, one cannot avoid asking: why is Kashmir so important? The answer, like many others, lies in the field of economics as well as in the value of natural resources and territory.

As evidenced by the claim of Kashmiri territory by the Chinese, Kashmir can be in a strategic position to have trade routes, despite the irregular terrain. That is, Kashmir would be especially interesting to stimulate trade between China and Pakistan, that cultivate a good relation since their agreement that ceded some territory to the Chinese.



However, mainly, Kashmir is a region that is very privileged in the provision of glacial and fresh water. The rivers and lakes are so abundant that they can satisfy the needs of not only themselves but also from India and Pakistan. India relies deeply on the water for regular uses and for the generation of electricity to a billion people. With the Indian tendency to invest in hydroelectric power, the Pakistani are afraid they might divert the water in their own benefit, compromising the use of water for agriculture by Pakistan.



Glacial waters in Kashmir

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2014/8/5/anger-brews-in-kashmir-over-lake-pilgrimage>

4.3. Defense and Military Aspects

As previously stated, the military situation in Kashmir is big and complex. The physical characteristics of the region, however, are not a contributing factor. Since there are many mountains and lakes surrounding the territory, the armies that invade and fight are likely to have a hard time during their displacement.



© Getty Images/T. Mustafa

Military in Kashmir

<https://www.dw.com/en/kashmir-several-dead-in-clashes-between-indian-army-and-militants/a-47570806>

Most violent conflicts currently involve the Indian army. There are recurring skirmishes and confrontations regarding Chinese and Indian armies in the surroundings of the Pangong Lake up to this day, due to the territory that was claimed by China in northern Kashmir. There is a significant amount of insurgency and terrorism there; most of it is motivated by the feeling of anger against a government to whom one does not identify.

In somewhat more detail, the Kashmiri militias, like the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, have actively recruited Muslim young people to fight for the independence of Kashmir. In the meantime, Pakistan supported radical Islamic militants to increase their influence in the area. As a response, India heavily deployed their troops in the Indian-administered part of Kashmir. Along with the Indian military, the violence came as well with attacks against civilians and no respect for the community.

There is also a record of attacks in India linked to the Islamists who are currently in Kashmir and Pakistan. There was an attack placed towards the Indian parliament in New Delhi, 2001. The consequences were the deaths of the five terrorists, eight staff security members and one gardener. The security personnel was efficient enough to prevent all members of the parliament from getting hurt. There was another attack in Mumbai, 2008, where 10 terrorists killed at least 174 people. Both attacks are attributed to the Islamist Lashkar-e-Toiba group.

Up to this day, India blames Pakistan for provoking unrest by financing militias in Kashmir (a charge denied by Pakistan). In the meanwhile, the Indian military's violence towards the population in Kashmir generates almost as much unrest. More on that in the next section of this guide.

4.4. Humanitarian and Social Aspects

The basic understanding of this section is simple: the Kashmiris have no voice, as they are constantly overshadowed by the powerful countries trying to dominate them. Ever since the lack of decision from Maharaja Hari Singh, the population of that region have had no opportunity to express their opinion about the belonging of their territory in any way. It has all been about whether India or Pakistan would rule. In fact, the Kashmiri have received nothing but violence from both sides and are the main stakeholders of the conflict.



Kashmiri woman with her child near Indian military, in Kashmir

<https://www.dailysabah.com/world/asia-pacific/concern-grows-for-vulnerable-people-in-kashmir-yemen-bangladesh-amid-coronavirus-crisis>

Ever since Kashmir was stripped from its special status by the Indian government through the downstrike of the Article 370, the local Kashmiri leaders were put in home arrest, communications were cut off, and a strict lockdown was imposed (much before the Covid-19 pandemic, precisely in August 2019). This all was done to avoid a new uprising on behalf of the population: if they are at home and communications are cut, they cannot organize themselves. There were harsh humanitarian consequences, such as increasing levels of poverty and, according to Deutsche Welle, increasing levels of domestic violence.

In fact, according to The Lancet, the denial of access to health care and the lack of communication characterizes a humanitarian crisis in the Indian-occupied part of Kashmir. It also states that “long-term psychological consequences” are expected and that they shall “be felt for generations to come”. The human rights violations that occurred in the Indian-administered part of Kashmir, as reported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, are grotesque. The population has to deal with lack of access to justice and impunity, meaning that the Indian special forces in Kashmir have obstructed the normal course of law, preventing accountability on behalf of those who violate human rights to support Indian rule. If the actions get to justice, there is also another step: military courts. This basically means that the forces under the central government are governed by their own specific acts and rules, making it harder to convict the forces.

Administered detention is also common, where individuals are arrested without a proper trial. This measure is used when dealing with terrorists, but there are firm believers that the Indian troops use this to justify civilian detention. Notwithstanding, excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests (including children), use of pellet firing shotgun, torture, enforced disappearances and sexual violence also take place as acts of violence. Records show reprisals against human rights defenders and restriction of journalists on behalf of the Indian administration. Violations of the right of education, restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and violations of the right to health show how little they care about the well-being of the population.



Children blinded by pellets in Kashmir
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1513749>

Particularly in the heavily militarized Indian-administered Kashmir, a cycle takes place: the youth is mistreated and attacked by the military, which motivated them to rebel against India. As a

consequence, they tend to join Islamic militias and seek revenge on the military. The tendency of the Islamic fighters to increase in number alarms Delhi, which sends more troops to the region. These troops act violently with the inhabitants and the cycle begins again.

Similarly, there are also violations on behalf of Pakistan. There are constitutional and legal structures impacting the enjoyment of human rights, as the control of Pakistan over those territories is not so well established as it is in India. Restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and restrictions on the freedom of religion or belief also suffocate the population of the Pakistani half. Due to the constant presence of terrorist groups, the counter-terrorism required to stop them has severe consequences on the population and on human rights. Even the displaced population is reporting violations of land rights, in which they have not received compensation or relocation from the authorities.



5. Covid-19 Crisis

After the ordering of a 21-day national Lockdown provoked by COVID-19, not much seemed to change in Kashmir. To them, this was merely an extension of the many restrictions put in place by the central government through Article 370. This withdrew the previously granted regional autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir. However, this isolation did not completely avoid the spread of the Coronavirus, since over 650 Covid-19 cases have been reported as of May 2nd. The amount of cases significantly increased after a religious was diagnosed with the virus.

But even with the increase in cases, the residual restrictions from the post-Article 370 have not been lifted, slowing down the response and intensifying the ongoing conflict. A total communication blackout was enforced across the Valley, and high speed mobile internet has not been restored. Access to 2G and a fixed-line internet took over six months to be reinstated, and the access to social media has only recently been reinstated. 4G has been banned in an attempt to avoid its misuse. Nevertheless, the internet restrictions have deprived the population of Kashmir of the information on how to combat the virus, and made it almost impossible for doctors to spread awareness. This situation is also impacting those who work from home and students who are supposed to be taking online classes.

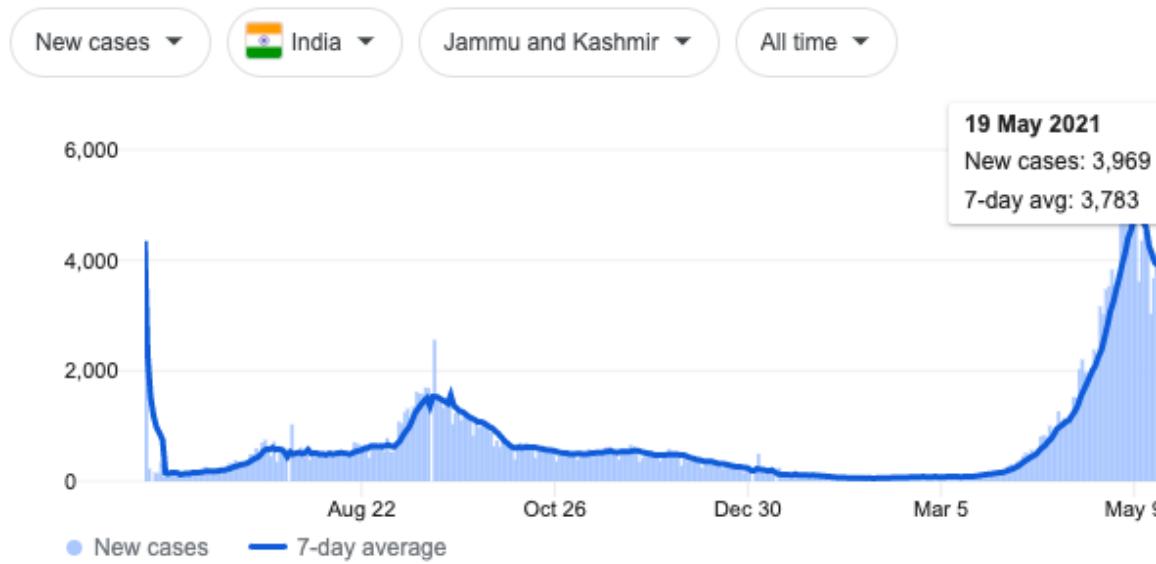
Authorities have taken an aggressive approach when it comes to the COVID-19 crisis and is using this health crisis as a security operation. People are being violently mistreated for not respecting the COVID-19 guidelines even though there are few ways of spreading awareness about these. The police are using their forces to apprehend security threats while they are supposedly being utilized to track suspected COVID-19 cases. This is striking fear into the population instead of giving them a much-needed sense of safety.

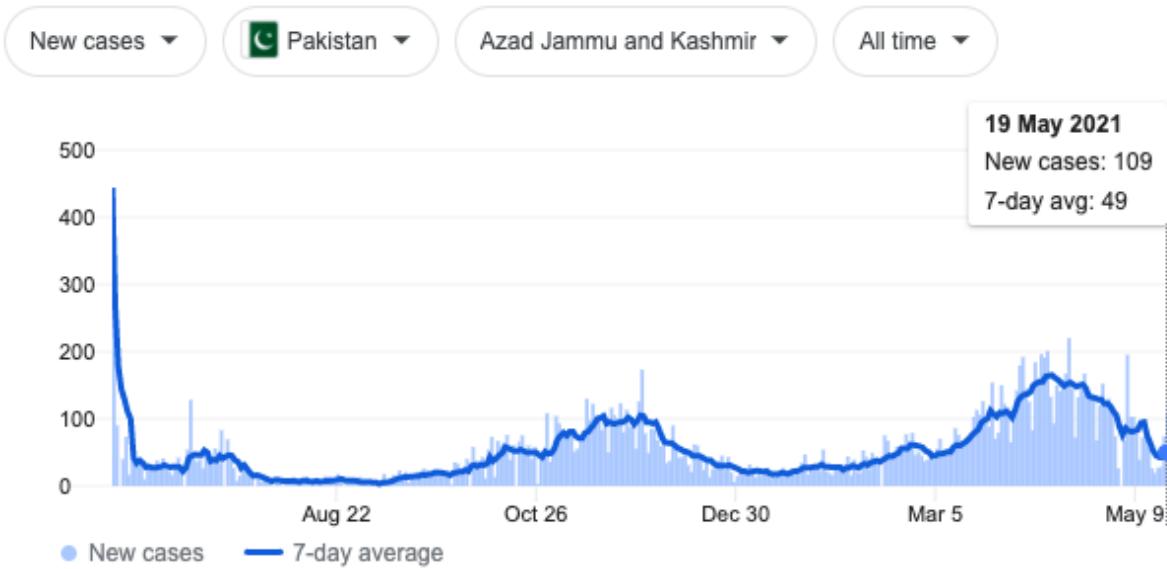
The administration is struggling to manage the increasing grade of infection, as Kashmir possesses under 100 ventilators and only 85 ICU beds. There is also a big shortage of medical supplies. Community transmissions are taking place, and the poor infrastructure does not allow the accommodation of many patients. The government has inserted Militants in order to guarantee the following of the COVID-19 guidelines. However, this could have a significantly negative outcome, since there is a bigger risk of invasion by terrorist groups, as the security along the LoC has been decreased in order to access the health crisis.

The COVID-19 crisis was expected to become the government's main priority. However, this has not been the case. Though there has been a big concern about this health crisis, the government has tried to use it to their political advantage. New Delhi enabled a new domicile law that grants a domicile status to 15 year residents of J&K. This allows those to apply for local jobs and buy land. The law that



alters the region's democracy has also taken focus away from the COVID-19 crisis, as pressure is being put on leaders to react to this matter, and Kashmiris are beginning to complain about the state's reactions. Militant violence has continued along the LoC, which could escalate into a greater conflict between India and Pakistan, that would require militant attention taken away from the COVID-19 crisis. This way, the government has been attempting to balance its response between the addressing of the security and health crisis.





https://www.google.com/search?q=situation+of+Covid+19+in+Kashmir&bih=821&biw=1440&ei=732mYPTvHunT1sQPndKPqAc&oq=situation+of+Covid+19+in+Kashmir&gs_lcp=Cgdnd3Mtld6FANQAFgAYLHJBmgBcAB4AIABvwGIAb8BkgEDMC4xmAEAqgEHZ3dzLXdpesABAQ&sclient=gws-wiz&ved=0ahUKEwi0o_-4x9jwAhXpqZUCHR3pA3UO4dUDCA4&uact=5&safe=active

6. Timeline of Events

| **1947** - End of British rule and partition of sub-continent into mainly Hindu India and Muslim-majority state of Pakistan.

Britain gives up colonial control of the Indian subcontinent and divides the territory into Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan, sparking one of the largest human migrations in history.

Between 12 million and 15 million people fled to either India or Pakistan.

The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir briefly asserts its independence before agreeing to join India in exchange for help putting down a Pakistan-supported insurgency.

Both countries claim control over the territory, and the first Kashmir War begins in October.

The Maharaja of Kashmir signs a treaty of accession with India after a Pakistani tribal army attacks. War breaks out between India and Pakistan over the region.

| **1948** - India brings Kashmir up in the UN Security Board, which in Resolution 47 requires a referendum on the situation of the territory. It additionally calls on Pakistan to evacuate its soldiers and India to eliminate its military presence to a bare minimum. A truce comes into power, yet Pakistan refuses to withdraw its soldiers. For practical reasons, this caused the division of Kashmir.

| **1949** - The United Nations negotiate a ceasefire line in an attempt to terminate this conflict. To do this they recommended a referendum in order to determine control of Kashmir. However, this referendum was never held.

India emerges from the conflict with control of 65% of Kashmir, and Pakistan takes the remaining 35%.

| **1951** - Elections in the Indian-managed province of Jammu and Kashmir back promotion to India, which from India's perspective makes the referendum unnecessary. Still, Pakistan as well as the UN strongly believe in the referendum as a necessity since it is crucial to take into consideration the perspective of electors of all the former princely states.

| **1953** - Those authorities who support India arrest Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah, leader of the governing National Conference, after he takes a supportive position towards the referendum and defers formal access to India. Another Jammu and Kashmir government consents accession to India.

| **1954** - Article 35A of the Indian Constitution guarantees the "special status" of Jammu and Kashmir, which kept up critical self-governance upon joining India.

The law granted the state control over land ownership and residency status.

| **1957** - The constitution of Indian-administrated Jammu and Kashmir officially defined it as part of India.

| **1950s** - China began to occupy eastern Kashmir (Aksai Chin).

-Indian war with China-

| **1962** - China defeated India in a short war over the control of eastern Kashmir.

| **1963** - Pakistan handed the Trans-Karakoram Tract of Kashmir over to China.

| **1965** - A brief war between Indian and Pakistan over Kashmir ended in a ceasefire and a return to the previous positions.

According to India, it began when Pakistani Soldiers crossed the ceasefire line disguised as Indian soldiers. Because of this, India proceeded to invade Pakistan.

| **1966** - The war ended in an impasse, as the two countries agreed to the pre-war territory lines defined by the US State Department.

| **1971-72** - Another Indo-Pakistani war ended in defeat for Pakistan and led to the 1972 Simla Agreement. This turned the Kashmir ceasefire line into the Line of Control (LoC), which vowed for the settlement of both sides' differences through negotiations and was an attempt for a final settlement of this dispute. This agreement became the new foundation of Pakistani-Indian relations.

| **1974** - The Plebiscite Opposition Front in the Indian-administered half of Jammu and Kashmir demanded a referendum in return for an agreement with the Indian government that should guarantee peace.

The political dynasty of Sheikh Abdullah began and continues in domain even after his death in 1982.

India tested a nuclear weapon.

| **1984** - The Indian Army acquired control of the Siachen Glacier, which was not demarcated by the LoC. Pakistan attempted to conquer this area multiple times in the following decades.



-Beginning of insurgency-

| **1987** - Very disputed state elections in the Indian part of Jammu and Kashmir took place. This gave the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) propulsion.

India accused Pakistan of promoting the insurgency by sending fighters across the LoC. This was denied by Pakistan.

| **1989** - Muslim groups formed an armed resistance against the Indian government in Kashmir after accusing authorities of rigging elections.

| **1990** - The insurgency escalated after the Indian Army terminated the lives of around 100 demonstrators at Gawakadal Bridge. These violent attacks led to the departure of most Hindus from the Kashmir Valley and into the state. India imposed Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Jammu and Kashmir.

| **1990s** - The insurgency continued, with India deploying hundreds of thousands of troops in Kashmir and Jammu. In the meantime, Kashmiri militants began training in Pakistan. This caused the practice of Violence against civilians by and on both sides.

Separatists fought against Indian government. Fighters from Afghanistan joined the conflict by following the war against the Soviet Union in the 1980s. Between 1990 and 1994, about 5,000 people were killed.

| **1998** - Pakistan conducted its first nuclear weapons test.

| **1999** - Once again India and Pakistan went to war after militants crossed from Pakistani-administered Kashmir into the Indian-administered Kargil district. India fought back by accusing Pakistan of being behind it and breaking all their ties.

India's and Pakistan's prime ministers met in Lahore to sign the countries' first major agreement since 1972.

Later, the Kargil War broke out, during which India retook an occupied area on its side of the LoC.

| **2001-2004** - There is no attempt of peace or reconciliation, as the terror and the attacks keep escalating. One was made in the parliament of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir in Srinagar in 2001.

| **2001** - Tensions became high along the LoC after a series of attacks.

| **2003** - Both countries agreed to respect the original borders.

| **2008** - India and Pakistan opened some trade routes twice a week across the L0C.

Members of a Pakistan-based terror group killed 165 people during a three-day blockade of hotels in Mumbai. Therefore, peace was threatened.



| **2010** - Major protests occurred in the Kashmir Valley of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir over the summer after a demonstrator was killed by the Indian army. The protests decreased in September after the government announced measures to ease this tension.

| **2011** - Chief Minister Omar Abdullah pardoned the 1,200 young men who threw stones at security forces during the anti-government protests in the Kashmir Valley the previous year.

Indian State Human Rights Commission confirmed the presence of over 2,000 unidentified bodies in unmarked graves near the LoC.

Indian forces killed three Pakistani soldiers in a firing across the LoC. Pakistan was accused by India of opening fire first.

| **2013** - Prime ministers of India and Pakistan met and agreed to attempt to reduce violent incidents at the LoC.

| **2014** - India cut communication with Pakistan after accusing it of interfering in India's internal affairs. The decision came after Pakistan's High Commissioner in Delhi consulted Kashmiri separatist leaders, before their official meetings.

Pakistan was accused by Narendra Modi, of waging a proxy war against India in Kashmir.

| **2014** - BJP joined the government

| **2015** - India's ruling BJP party was sworn into government in Indian-managed Kashmir together with the Peoples Democratic Party, with Mufti Mohammad Sayeed as chief minister.

- Curfew -

| **2016** - Authorities imposed an indefinite curfew in most parts of Indian-administered Kashmir after the killing of a popular militant by security forces of Burhan Wani, sparking violent protests.

This curfew was later on lifted, but schools, shops and most banks remained shut and mobile, and internet services remained suspended.

India and Pakistan exchanged a war of words after the killing of 18 Indian soldiers by gunmen on an army base in Indian-administered Kashmir.

Human Rights Watch appealed for an end to the burning of schools in Indian-administered Kashmir after reaching a total of 25.

| **2017** - Violent clashes took place in Indian-administered Kashmir on the anniversary of the death of militant commander Burhan Wani.



Militants attacked Hindu pilgrims, killing at least seven and injuring 16, in the worst attack of that kind since 2000.

- Recent events -

| 2019 - The Indian government stripped the Jammu and Kashmir state of their special status that guaranteed significant autonomy.

Feb. 14th - The deadliest attack against soldiers in nearly three decades took place (44 Indian paramilitary officers were killed)

Aug. 5th - India revoked constitutional provisions guaranteeing the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, and brought the state under direct rule.

Kashmir was placed into lockdown with all its communication shut off

Aug. 7th - Pakistan downgraded its diplomatic ties with India and suspended trades.

Aug. 13th - The Indian Supreme Court determined the lockdown in Kashmir should continue, in order to give authorities a chance of restoring peace.

Aug. 16th - The UN Security Council discussed Kashmir for the first time since 1971 but did not agree on a statement.

Sep. 12th - New government data showed that Indian officials arrested nearly 4,000 people in Indian-administered Kashmir since the withdrawal of the state's special status.

Oct. 31st - India revoked Kashmir's constitutional autonomy and split it into two territories ruled by the central government.

Nov. 4th - A grenade attack took place in Kashmir, injuring over 45 people and killing one.



7. Guiding Questions

This session is dedicated to inspiring the delegates when planning their call for action or even to be consulted during the drafting of working papers. Important: your clauses should NOT be limited by these questions.

To what extent does India have the right to maintain a military there? Under what grounds?
What, according to your country's external policy, should be done about it?

What economic aspects should be considered when taking action? What economic benefits would a conflict-free Kashmir bring?

What should be done in response to the violation of human rights by both Pakistani and Indian troops?

Considering the Covid-19 situation in Kashmir, what could be done regarding the conflict to decrease the spread of the virus?

To what extent should the historical background of Kashmir be considered when drafting a resolution?

How can one ensure peace among the different ethnicities of Kashmir if the geopolitical situation is solved?

How big is the role played by the sovereignty of India/China/Pakistan in the conflict? To what extent does it limit the potential action of the UNSC?

What could convince the thereby present nations to stop the conflict without any enforced measures by the UN?

What are the responsibilities of the other countries of the UNSC regarding the crisis?



8. Further Research

In this session, the chairs cared to include some sources that were not directly used in the production of this study guide, but that could be useful for a delegate to understand the subject in depth. Be careful! This should not replace your autonomous research.

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