

STUDY GUIDE



HFS²⁰²⁵ MUN

ICC

Indian Crisis Cabinet



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#hfsmun2025



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Letter from the Executive Board

We the Executive Board of Indian Crisis Cabinet are elated to welcome all delegates at the Hiranandani Foundation School Model United Nations 2025. Our committee shall discuss the agenda "Deliberation upon the status of Indus Water Treaty and the bilateral India-Pakistan post the Pahalgam attack".

Every conference we have experienced has instilled in us an eccentric composition of information and interplay, but what is most important is that we have been taught something new, whenever we gave a speech, wrote a chit, or participated in a lobbying session all we left with is mesmerising memories. MUNs have inculcated in us a sense of duty to pass on the privilege and knowledge we have received from them

As your Executive Board, we aim to be dedicated, approachable and impartial while also being passionate and motivated. We expect all delegates to be well-researched and well-informed of the diverse aspects of our complex agenda. We encourage each of you to participate enthusiastically and always put your best effort forward, no matter the situation you encounter during the committee.

If you have any queries, feel free to reach out to us,
All the best !!

Behest,
Executive Board,

Aryaveer Singh,
Jay Khanna,
Vihaan Arora.





NATIONS UNIES

Agenda I

*Deliberation upon the status of
Indus Water Treaty and the bilateral
India-Pakistan post the Pahalgam
attack*



Introduction to ICC

The Indian Crisis Cabinet is composed of significant leaders and key personnel who hold distinct responsibilities towards the citizens of the country while upholding its fundamental principles. Each member represents a vital aspect of governance, bringing diverse perspectives and their own expertise to the table.

Our Cabinet is tasked with the responsibility of providing a comprehensive approach to crisis management, and formulating strategic responses to the current situation and crisis at hand in the country.

By the mandate of the committee, it is established as a medium for bilateral dialogue between the two nations post the occurrence of the Pahalgam attack. Since being set-up in a neutral paradigm this study guide or any paperwork from the executive board or neutral faction shall be non discriminant..





Introduction to the Agenda

The order of business for this debate is as follows: continuing effects of the India-Pakistani Indus River Water Treaty (IWT) and the On 6 July, during a series of Aftermath of the Pahalgarn attack. The Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 has been one of the cornerstones of relations between India and Pakistan but the pact has also faced criticism for its dispute resolution mechanisms; however, bilateral water-sharing has continued despite the ups and downs of relations between the countries. This session aims to review the current state of the treaty, considering both its operational aspects and any challenges arising from its implementation.

Beside the agreement itself, attention will shift to the other more general state of India-Pakistan relations in the aftermath of the Pahalgarn incident. The disaster has far-reaching impacts on diplomatic relations, security and regional stability. With its analytical and far-reaching conversation, this Roundtable works to decipher the changing India-Pakistan relationship post the attack, particularly in the track two domain





Historical Context

There is no relationship in modern history that has been as complex and acrimonious as that between India and Pakistan. The two countries, which emerged from the bloody partition of British India in 1947, have been trapped in a cycle of conflict, diplomatic stalemate and awkward truces. Despite years of mutual hostility, the relationship is so much more — a deep web of social ties, of economies yoked together, of politics and military testing that plays out on the world stage.

The redrawn borders in August 1947 separating the Hindu majority India from the Muslim majority Pakistan caused the move of one of the largest human population mass migrations in the world. About 15 million people were uprooted, and as many as 1 million killed in communal violence. Cities such as Lahore, Delhi and Karachi turned into battlegrounds and blood flowed as Hindus and Sikhs ran for India and Muslims for Pakistan. This tragic division left scars that have affected national identities on both sides ever since.

The immediate outbreak of conflict over Kashmir resulted in the First Indo-Pak War (1947–49). Pakistan sponsored tribal militias invaded the principality, and the Hindu ruler acceded to India in return for military assistance. The war concluded with a UN-mandated ceasefire, which divided Kashmir along the Line of Control (LoC), a makeshift border that remains one of the world's most heavily militarized today.

Tensions flared again in 1965, when Pakistan launched Operation Gibraltar, infiltrating militants into Kashmir to incite rebellion. India retaliated with a full-scale assault, leading to a bloody stalemate. The Tashkent Agreement (1966) restored pre-war borders but failed to resolve Kashmir's status.



Background to the Agenda

The 1971 war was a game-changer. Pakistan's military repression of Bengali separatists in East Pakistan led to a flood of refugees, 10 million of them, into India. India intervened and Pakistan surrendered, and Bangladesh was born. The Simla Agreement (1972) instituted bilateral dispute resolution, but mutual lack of confidence remained.

Pakistan from the 80s been a supporter of militant groups especially in Kashmir. What started as a providing a safe harbour to US operations in Afghanistan against the soviets. Against India they have promptly supported Laskar-e-Taiba, and Jaish-e-Mohammed. Also, ISI has been said to facilitate the attacks attributed to this group, namely; 2001 Parliament attack, 2008 Mumbai attack, 2019 Pulwama attack, 2016 Uri attack, 1993 Ghatkopar bombings and many more.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has repeatedly accused India for its involvement in Balochistan, and supporting insurgents like BLA - Baloch Liberation Army, which has targeted key Pakistani infrastructure including the Chinas Gwadar Port.

Pakistan has been highly dependent on China for military and economic backing. The 62 billion \$ China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure project has brought the two countries even more closely together, and China has now become Pakistan's top supplier of modern weaponry, from JF-17 jets to drones. And Turkey has become an important strategic ally, offering Bayraktar drones and diplomatic support in times of crisis. Meanwhile, India has strengthened its ties with the US, Western nations and its old ally Russia.





Background to the Agenda

India has not only risen as a soft power and voice of the south but has stabilised its global stature with its actions. India has now become the world's third largest economy, and with a great Human Resource it is only expected to grow.

Arab states, who previously were in complete support and confidence of Pakistan have now normalized their relations, especially with the new Europe-Middle East India corridor.

Despite of the political instability between the states, economic ties do exist, if not directly then indirectly. Formal trade stands limited due to the heavy restrictions, but still persists. Primarily the trade happens through intermediaries like Dubai and Singapore. Pakistan has recently struggled with its economy requiring to call for 24 bailout packages from the IMF since 1958.

The Indus Water Treaty of 1960 was a set as a rare example of cooperation and allocation of the river waters between the states. Pakistan and North India both heavily depend on these water for agriculture, hydropower and industrial activity.

Beneath the hostility lies a shared very rich cultural heritage. With the two states practically being one until the unfortunate partition. The divided families still yearn to contact their loved ones, but can't get through the strict visa regulations. Earlier the Samjhota Express, and recently the Kartarpur Corridor mark a new beginning of people to people democracy.

At last, this bumpy relationship now stands at a crossroad, with a very fragile independence from a cycled conflict. As per experts and committee's paradigm, the status of the Indus Water Treaty will not only decide but direct the future of these bilateral relations.





Parties Involved

PAKISTAN

Pakistan is the fifth most populous country in the world and an Islamic republic located in South Asia. Its foreign policy focuses on security and achieving strategic balance with India, its larger neighbor. Pakistan has a strong partnership with China, which provides significant economic and military support. The country also aligned with the United States during the Cold War and the period after 9/11, though relations with Washington have changed over time. Pakistan participates actively in multilateral diplomacy, including the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. As a Muslim-majority nation, it often supports Islamic causes and regularly brings up the Kashmir dispute in international discussions.

Domestically, Pakistan is a federal parliamentary state with a history of military coups that have disrupted civilian rule. The military continues to have significant influence in governance, particularly in security matters. The population of about 240 million is around 96% Muslim, mostly Sunni, with a notable Shia minority. Hindus and Christians make up small minorities. Pakistan is ethnically and linguistically diverse; its major provincial groups—Punjabi, Pashtun, Sindhi, and Baloch—each speak their own languages. Urdu is the national lingua franca, though it is the first language for few people, and English is used in official contexts.

Socio-economically, Pakistan faces ongoing development challenges. It has been affected by repeated economic crises, marked by high inflation and debt, often requiring assistance from the IMF. Poverty is widespread, although urban growth has helped create a modest middle class. Pakistan's defense posture is influenced by its rivalry with India.





Parties Involved

Despite limited resources, it allocates a large portion of the budget to the military and has developed nuclear weapons to deter India. Pakistan has not established a No-First-Use policy, leaving open the option of a preemptive nuclear strike if it feels an existential threat, in response to India's conventional strength.

The country also deals with internal security threats from militant extremists and separatist movements. While the government claims to fight all such groups, it faces international accusations of tolerating certain militants who target India, which Islamabad denies. In the current crisis following the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam attack in Indian-administered Kashmir, Pakistan is facing intense scrutiny as the incident has significantly increased tensions in the disputed region. Islamabad has condemned the attack and strongly denies any involvement, emphasizing that Pakistan is also a victim of terrorism. Pakistani leaders are calling for restraint and offering dialogue to prevent further escalation while seeking international support for a measured response. Balancing domestic pressures with the need to avoid war, Islamabad's approach highlights de-escalation and ongoing diplomatic efforts.





Parties Involved

INDIA

India is the world's most populous democracy and a key global player. It has one of the five largest economies, and its foreign policy focuses on strategic independence and working with multiple partners. As a founding member of the United Nations, India participates actively in forums like the G20 and BRICS and has long supported non-aligned principles. It promotes a multipolar world and often represents the interests of developing countries. India has strengthened its ties with the United States and other democracies in the Indo-Pacific while maintaining a defense partnership with Russia and balancing its relationship with China. It seeks a bigger role in global governance, including a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Domestically, India is a federal parliamentary republic marked by great diversity. Its population of 1.4 billion consists of a Hindu majority (around 80%) alongside a large Muslim minority (about 14%) and many other religious groups. The country recognizes over twenty official languages, with Hindi widely spoken and English serving as a common link. This diversity is supported by a secular constitution, but challenges remain in maintaining social harmony and reducing regional inequalities.

Economically, rapid growth and urbanization have positioned India as a global hub for technology and services, but significant socio-economic disparities continue to exist. Ensuring inclusive development is a top priority. Furthermore, the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, which is India's only Muslim-majority region, has faced a long-running separatist insurgency and remains a sensitive security issue.





Parties Involved

In terms of security, India has one of the largest armed forces in the world and is a nuclear-armed country. Its defense strategy emphasizes credible minimum deterrence and follows a No-First-Use policy regarding nuclear weapons. India's strategic interests are influenced by its rivalry with Pakistan and tensions with China, leading to vigilance along disputed borders and ongoing military modernization. Fighting terrorism is a major part of its security policy due to a history of attacks on Indian soil. The terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, in Pahalgam, Kashmir, which targeted civilians, highlights India's concerns over cross-border militancy. In response to this crisis, India is focused on protecting its citizens and holding those responsible accountable. It is intensifying counterterrorism efforts and seeking international support to isolate any sponsors of the violence. At the same time, aware of the nuclear context, India will adjust its response to prevent unnecessary escalation while firmly asserting its sovereignty.





Events leading to tensions between India and Pakistan

For nearly eight decades since their 1947 partition, India and Pakistan have faced nearly constant hostility, marked by wars, military standoffs, terrorist attacks, political disputes, and mutual blame. The partition itself led to one of history's bloodiest migrations, with communal violence claiming between 200,000 and 2 million lives and displacing around 14 to 15 million people. This created deep-seated animosity from the very start. The heart of their rivalry quickly focused on the Himalayan region of Jammu and Kashmir. In 1947–48, the two newly independent countries fought their first war after Pakistan-backed tribal militias invaded Kashmir. The territory's Maharaja decided to join India in exchange for military assistance.

That conflict ended in 1949 with a UN-brokered ceasefire, leading to an effective partition of Kashmir. India controlled roughly two-thirds of the area while Pakistan held one-third, along what became known as the Line of Control (LoC). The dispute over Kashmir has remained the main flashpoint in their relations. In 1960, amidst a tense decade, the countries achieved a rare cooperative milestone by signing the Indus Waters Treaty, mediated by the World Bank, to share the Indus river system. This water-sharing agreement, which assigned the three western rivers to Pakistan and the three eastern rivers to India, endured through future wars and is regarded as one of the most successful inter-state water treaties. However, Pakistan has consistently feared that India's upstream dams could threaten its water supply and has raised objections to projects like the Baglihar and Kishanganga hydroelectric dams.





Events leading to tensions between India and Pakistan

Meanwhile, the political conflict continued to escalate. A second Indo-Pakistani war broke out in 1965 when Pakistan sent thousands of troops covertly into Indian-administered Kashmir (Operation Gibraltar). This prompted a significant counterattack by India across the international border. The fighting lasted several weeks with heavy casualties until a ceasefire and the Tashkent agreement in January 1966 ended the conflict without any territorial change.

A more decisive war occurred in 1971, not directly related to Kashmir but arising from civil unrest in Pakistan's eastern wing. India intervened in December 1971 to support Bengali separatists after a brutal Pakistani crackdown in East Pakistan caused millions of refugees to flee into India. The 1971 war ended with the Pakistani army surrendering over 90,000 troops and East Pakistan becoming the new nation of Bangladesh. This was a humiliating defeat for Pakistan that changed the subcontinent's map. Afterward, the two sides signed the Simla Agreement of 1972, promising to resolve disputes peacefully and confirming the 1949 ceasefire line in Kashmir as the LoC, which both sides agreed not to change unilaterally. This agreement marked a tentative step toward normalization, but its potential was undermined by ongoing mistrust and new tensions. In 1974, India carried out its first nuclear explosive test (code-named "Smiling Buddha"), signaling the start of a nuclear arms race in South Asia. Pakistan viewed India's nuclear capabilities as an existential threat and accelerated its own secret nuclear weapons program, eventually testing nuclear devices in 1998 shortly after India's second round of tests that year. This made both countries open nuclear-armed states.





Events leading to tensions between India and Pakistan

The development of nuclear capabilities by the late 1990s raised international concerns during every Indo-Pakistan crisis. Throughout the 1980s, conflicts simmered on multiple fronts. In 1984, Indian forces launched Operation Meghdoot to take control of the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir, a remote 70-km long icy battlefield at 20,000 feet elevation. This action sparked a localized yet long-lasting military conflict, as Pakistani and Indian troops engaged in intermittent skirmishes in the high Himalayas until a ceasefire in 2003, with both sides still maintaining a heavy military presence on the glacier. Another near-war occurred in 1986–87 when India's large-scale Operation Brasstacks military exercises prompted a counter-mobilization by Pakistan. This crisis raised fears of an imminent war but de-escalated through diplomatic efforts. During the same period, internal unrest in Indian-administered Kashmir evolved into an armed insurgency with cross-border connections. After disputed state elections in 1987, a full-blown Kashmiri separatist rebellion broke out by 1989. Pakistan was accused of training, arming, and sending militants into Kashmir as part of a strategy dubbed "bleeding India with a thousand cuts" to drive the anti-India insurgency. Pakistan's government claimed to provide only "moral and diplomatic" support to what it regarded as a legitimate Kashmiri freedom struggle. However, various insurgent groups, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), operated from Pakistani territory, leading to a significant increase in violence in Indian Kashmir and further straining bilateral relations.





Events leading to tensions between India and Pakistan

In the 1990s, India and Pakistan made hesitant efforts at building confidence. They signed agreements in the early 1990s regarding advance notice of military exercises and the non-attack of each other's nuclear facilities. Still, both sides continued to accuse each other of supporting separatism—Pakistan facilitating Kashmiri and Sikh militants and India allegedly backing dissidents in Pakistan's Balochistan and elsewhere. In May 1998, both countries demonstrated their nuclear capabilities through a series of underground test detonations, with India's Pokhran-II tests followed by Pakistan's Chagai tests. This escalation solidified the looming threat of nuclear confrontation over future conflicts. Just months after these tests, tensions nearly sparked another war in 1999. In February that year, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Lahore to hold a summit with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, resulting in the Lahore Declaration that emphasized peaceful relations.

However, optimism was short-lived. By May 1999, a Pakistani Army incursion across the LoC at Kargil in Indian-administered Kashmir ignited the Kargil War. Pakistani troops, disguised as militants, took strategic mountain positions on the Indian side of the LoC, and India responded with significant air and ground offensives to reclaim its territory. After weeks of fierce fighting in the challenging high-altitude terrain, international pressure—especially from the United States—increased on Pakistan to withdraw.





Events leading to tensions between India and Pakistan

Sharif ultimately ordered the Pakistani forces to retreat, and by late July 1999, the conflict subsided, with India regaining most of the heights. The Kargil conflict ended with a Pakistani withdrawal and was seen as a serious military and diplomatic defeat for Pakistan.

The Kargil War, which followed shortly after the nuclear tests, alarmed the world and highlighted the dangerous mix of long-standing grievances and nuclear weapons. During the 2000s, although large-scale wars diminished, issues in Kashmir and terrorism kept India and Pakistan on edge. On December 13, 2001, a suicide squad attacked the Indian Parliament in New Delhi, killing 14 people. India blamed militant groups from Pakistan, specifically Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), for the bold attack. This incident led to India's biggest military mobilization since 1971, as both countries stationed hundreds of thousands of troops along their shared border. The tense standoff lasted ten months and featured repeated threats of war and nuclear posturing. Intense U.S.-led diplomatic efforts eventually calmed the situation in 2001-2002 without leading to open conflict, and by late 2002, military forces were withdrawn. A formal ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) began in 2003, which momentarily eased tensions. Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf even promised to curb militancy, and a peace dialogue, known as the "Composite Dialogue," kicked off in 2004 to discuss various issues including Kashmir and trade. Unfortunately, the cycle of provocations and breakdowns resumed quickly.





Events leading to tensions between India and Pakistan

In July 2006, a series of train bombings in Mumbai, linked to an Islamist militant network with suspected connections to Pakistan, disrupted the dialogue. Then in February 2007, the Samjhauta Express—a train meant to foster friendship between the two nations—was bombed, resulting in 68 deaths, with Hindu extremists later charged for the attack. The peace process faced a major setback after the November 2008 Mumbai attacks. A group of ten Pakistani militants from LeT executed coordinated shootings and bombings across Mumbai, targeting luxury hotels and a Jewish center, and killing 166 people.

India's investigation traced the planning of the attack to Karachi and pointed to involvement by Pakistan's ISI intelligence service, a claim that Islamabad denied. However, Pakistan did eventually admit that part of the planning occurred on its territory. The shocking events in Mumbai drew worldwide condemnation and put India and Pakistan on high alert once more. Pakistan readied its air force and positioned some troops near the border amid concerns that India might seek military retaliation. Intense international diplomatic pressure helped prevent an immediate confrontation, and Pakistan later banned certain militant groups, but the bilateral talks remained frozen for years. Over the following decade, unrest in Kashmir and sporadic cross-border terrorism continued to spark crises. In September 2016, militants attacked an Indian Army base at Uri in Kashmir, resulting in the deaths of 17 soldiers.





Events leading to tensions between India and Pakistan

India responded by announcing “surgical strikes” against terrorist launch pads in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Pakistan challenged India’s claims of any significant incursions, but this led to days of heavy cross-border firing. Numerous ceasefire breaches and skirmishes were recorded, with both sides blaming each other, marking one of the most dangerous escalations since 2001.

Tensions escalated dramatically in February 2019 after a suicide bomber from Jaish-e-Mohammed attacked an Indian paramilitary convoy at Pulwama in Kashmir, killing at least 40 troops—the deadliest attack in the region in three decades. India accused Pakistan of harboring leaders of Jaish-e-Mohammed and, departing from its previous restraint, launched an airstrike on February 26, 2019, targeting what it called a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp deep within Pakistani territory.

The following day, Pakistan retaliated with its own air strikes over the LoC, leading to the first aerial dogfight between the two countries’ air forces since 1971. During the clash, Pakistan shot down an Indian MiG-21 and took its pilot captive, while India claimed to have downed a Pakistani F-16, leading to disputed claims on both sides. The captured Indian pilot was released after two days, helping to de-escalate the situation. The 2019 Pulwama-Balakot crisis showed how quickly a terrorist incident could lead to direct military confrontation between two nuclear-armed neighbors. Later that year, India took a significant political step that heightened tensions once more.





Events leading to tensions between India and Pakistan

In August 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government revoked Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which removed Jammu and Kashmir's special status and divided it into federally governed territories. India claimed this was an internal administrative change meant to encourage development, but Pakistan criticized it as a violation of past agreements and a serious injustice to Kashmiris. In response, Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties, expelled the Indian envoy, halted bilateral trade, and raised the issue at the United Nations, viewing India's action as an attempt to strengthen control over disputed territory. India enforced a security lockdown and communications blackout in Kashmir for months, detaining thousands, including pro-India Kashmiri politicians, to prevent unrest.

The fallout from the Article 370 decision drastically worsened relations and effectively halted dialogue once more. Even as diplomatic communications ceased, border clashes and militancy continued; a 2020 surge in ceasefire violations recorded thousands of incidents along the LoC until India and Pakistan reaffirmed the 2003 ceasefire in early 2021, bringing a brief period of calm. However, insurgent violence remained a problem in Kashmir, and Pakistan kept accusing India of human rights issues in the region, while India urged Pakistan to take action against militant groups. From 2022 to 2024, attacks on civilians resurfaced, including targeted killings of minority community members and migrant workers in Kashmir, further straining relations.





Events leading to tensions between India and Pakistan

The cumulative effects of these ongoing issues have fostered deep and lasting distrust between New Delhi and Islamabad. Each crisis raises the risk of a wider conflict. As of early 2025, the relationship is still tense and unstable. On April 22, 2025, unidentified militants carried out a mass shooting of Indian tourists in the Pahalgam area of Kashmir, resulting in 26 deaths—25 Indian nationals and one Nepalese. This was the deadliest terror attack on Indian soil since the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

India quickly accused Pakistan of involvement, claiming the attackers belonged to an extremist group based in Pakistan, a charge Pakistan strongly denied. Within days, both nations exchanged threatening messages and troop alerts. This incident, part of a long history of wars, proxy conflicts, and diplomatic breakdowns, once again brought the nuclear-armed neighbors close to serious confrontation. It emphasized how historical issues and unresolved disputes, from Kashmir to water rights, continue to drive their rivalry. The pattern of Indo-Pakistani relations since 1947 shows a clear trend of recurring flashpoints and crises: four full-scale wars (in 1947-48, 1965, 1971, and 1999), multiple smaller conflicts or standoffs, many terrorist attacks linked to Pakistan-based militants, contentious political decisions regarding Kashmir's status, and ongoing disputes over resources like water—all contributing to sustained high tensions and periodic threats to regional stability.





Current Event

On April 22, 2025, came a deadly assault on tourists in the Pahalgam region of Indian-controlled Kashmir that reverberated throughout the region, leaving at least 26 dead. This awful act — one of the worst on ordinary people there in recent years — has quickly escalated tensions between India and Pakistan. There is anger and pain on both sides of the border. In India the assault prompted anger and calls for tough action against those responsible for it and anyone supporting them. Pakistan, while saying the violence was wrong, has strongly denied any role in it. The result is a dangerous rise in hostility and mistrust between the two nuclear-armed countries at a time when relations were already tense.

Additional security measures were put in place in Jammu & Kashmir after the Pahalgam incident. The April 22 attack on tourists in scenic Pahalgam has worsened an already delicate situation, shocking and frightening both nations. After the attack, as people mourned and looked for answers, security forces were put on high alert. This incident has not only increased worries about further violence in Kashmir and possible revenge attacks but has also highlighted the importance of agreements like the Indus Waters Treaty. It shows how quickly one violent act can endanger peace in the entire region.





Current Event

Following the attack in Pahalgam, the Indus Waters Treaty has become a point of contention in the crisis. Some hard-line voices in India are calling for a new look at the treaty's terms, questioning whether India should continue to be bound by an accord with a country they regard as a menace. Top officials in New Delhi even floated the idea of quitting the treaty to pressure Pakistan. These are steps we have never seen before — neither country has previously attempted to formally halt any duties under this agreement. Pakistan, meanwhile, is alarmed and intransigent. Its leaders say the treaty is an international commitment that cannot be unilaterally ditched, and that halting water would be “unacceptable” because Pakistan relies heavily on it. The treaty has long been called the “backbone” of Pakistani agriculture and water needs; a threat to the water supply is a threat to the nation's economy. So in a short period of time, a treaty that had become a symbol of hope for India-Pakistan collaboration is hanging by a thread. Distrust on both sides has resulted in heated attacks and fresh counter moves. Reportedly there is a reordering of travel and trade links, and diplomatic talks have become strained. The attack has rekindled old grievances on both sides, driving the region to a dangerous pass. Both sides understand that one wrong move at this juncture could escalate into a higher conflict — a prospect the world is watching with concern. The developments have touched off clamoring, from both inside the two countries and elsewhere, for both sides to keep cool and not let things get worse. The fate of the Indus Waters Treaty, in particular, has become a telltale of where India-Pakistan relations could head in this tense, post-attack period.





About the Treaty

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan with World Bank as the mediator, is central to the sharing of the waters of the Indus River. Rist McMahon-Line Treaty under which Pakistan got complete control over the West of the Indus comprised of the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab following the six main rivers of the Indus.(Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) whereas India got rights of three eastern rivers. India can use the western rivers for power and limited supply, but subject to conditions that do not imperil water flowing to Pakistan. One of the significant features of the treaty is that it set up the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) to enable data exchange and resolve any matter of difference and disputes amicably on field.

The treaty includes a three-step process for resolving disputes. The steps are first through PIC, then using a neutral expert, and finally involving an arbitration tribunal. This method has been used before, such as when India constructed the Baglihar, Kishanganga, and Ratle dams. These projects led to disputes about the design and their impact on downstream water flow.

Most of these disputes were resolved through the neutral expert or arbitration, helping to maintain the treaty's integrity. The IWT has also caused tensions, especially during times of increased hostility between India and Pakistan. The treaty has endured three wars and several periods of diplomatic strain. However, growing water demand in India and the need for infrastructure in Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir have created political friction.





About the Treaty

The situation heated up in the 2010s when India considered possible changes to the treaty. Climate change and population growth in both countries have raised concerns about the treaty's ability to handle new issues, such as changing water availability and environmental impacts. As of April 2025, the treaty's future is under pressure. India is pushing for changes while Pakistan firmly opposes any one-sided adjustments. Still, the Indus Waters Treaty remains an important framework for water-sharing between these two nuclear-armed neighbors and is a significant example of cooperation across borders.





Crisis Procedure

1) Directives

In crisis and specialised committees, working papers are called directives. Directives are usually shorter, more focused, and more frequent than resolutions, typically used to address a crisis update or subtopic of the main issue.

After finishing a directive and submitting it to the Dais, a delegate may make a motion to introduce directives. Like with Working Papers and Draft Resolutions, directives will be presented to all delegates and then face questioning. Unlike resolutions in standard UN committees, voting does not only happen once at the end. Different Directives will require delegates to enter voting procedures across different committee sessions. As the conflicts in Specialized and Crisis committees are ever-evolving, delegates will get to see the effects of the directives they pass and respond to those effects.

2) Crisis Updates

Announcements informing the committee of developments in committee based on crisis notes submitted by delegates.

3) Crisis Notes

Exchanges between a delegate or group of delegates and the Backroom Assistant-Director to shape the outcome of the committee. Used to create crisis arcs that shape the narrative of the overall committee. These are not known by the committee and the Dais decides what actions are taken according to the notes. Crisis notes should be detailed, and clear about what they aim to do and what information or resources they plan on using to accomplish said aim of the committee of developments in committee based on crisis notes submitted by delegates.





Where does the committee stand?

Buried among this talk is the fact that the committee also has to keep its own people safe and secure. By renewing their unfixed gaze on the guiding spirit of the Indus Water Treaty — one that emphasizes the need for both parties to share water in the spirit of equity and work together to problem-solve — and by aggressively managing the fallout from the Pahalgam attack with steady diplomacy, India and Pakistan can start to retrace their steps from the precipice.

The question now is how to restore a modicum of trust, protect rights without compromising peace, and end with the recognition that only cooperation offers a viable path to the prosperity and security of both parties. The trust is that frank face-to-face discussions during the crisis will not only remove current tensions but also create a more substantial basis for peaceful development of bilateral relations in the future.”

Our committee shall commence on the 23rd of April, 2025 at 00:00 hours, as a response to the abrupt situation created after the Pahalgam attack. Each member of the Cabinet holds powers and responsibilities and has been provided with the means to solve and manage the crisis at hand and enlighten India towards a better future.





Where does the committee stand?

Note: All information until 11:59 pm of 22nd April, 2025 will be accepted by the committee.

FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT CRISIS AND COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE DAY OF THE CONFERENCE.

SINCE THIS IS A SPECIAL MANDATE COMMITTEE, THE RULES OF PROCEDURE WOULD BE DISCRETIONARY BUT WE WILL BE ALIGNING OURSELVES WITH HFSMUN Rules of Procedure, WITH CHANGES AS NEED BE AND DELEGATES WOULD BE INFORMED ABOUT SO.





Aim. Believe. Achieve.

#hfsmun2025

