



# SciMUNC XVII

*UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)*

# India/Pakistan Partition

**BACKGROUND GUIDE**

*DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE*

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## Letter from the Dais

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SciMUNC XVII! I am Taksh Pradhan, and I am your chair for this year's UNSC committee! I extend a warm welcome to everyone participating in this year's conferences, and I hope you are as excited as I am to be participating this year! I am a senior at Bronx Science, and I have been a part of this team since I was a freshman. Model UN is something that I have enjoyed throughout the years, and something that I have had passion for since the very start! Ever since freshman year I have actively participated in conferences on the varsity team, and I have chaired and co-chaired previous iterations of SciMUNC as well! This year's topic is one that is relevant to the current political climate, as well as a topic that has been relevant for many decades. Political and religious affiliations play into this topic, so take care in your presentation of your viewpoint as many aspects are relevant to the overall perception of the situation at hand. And with that being said, please enjoy your time this year at SciMUNC! I look forward to meeting you all, and being your chair for this year! Feel free to email me at [pradhant@bxscience.edu](mailto:pradhant@bxscience.edu) if you have any questions!

My name is Philicia Lin, and I am so excited to be one of your chairs for the UNSC committee at SciMUNC XVII! I am currently a senior at Bronx Science, and I've been a part of the Varsity Model UN team here since my freshman year. My passion for Model UN continues to grow through connecting with new people through each conference that I attend, and I hope that your experiences from participating in this committee will make you feel like that as well! Model UN is all about coming together to create solutions to combat problems from all over the world, so I hope that by working together, you can all become one step closer to finding a solution through diplomacy and collaboration. Thank you so much for choosing to contribute to the discussions that you delegates will have during the committee sessions, and I can't wait to see what you have in store for us. I hope you learn valuable lessons while still having fun, and I'm so excited to share these experiences with you! If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [linp3@bxscience.edu](mailto:linp3@bxscience.edu). Good luck, and have a great time!

Sincerely,  
Taksh Pradhan and Philicia Lin

## Committee Description

### *UN Security Council*

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is responsible for maintaining international security through determining how to respond to threats that disrupt international peace. Its powers are unique from those of the other principal organs of the UN, as it is allowed to authorize the use of military force as long as the resolution passed permits it. Additionally, the UNSC is capable of imposing international sanctions as well as establishing peacekeepers to maintain stability and peace.

The UNSC consists of fifteen members, five of which are permanent. Permanent members —China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States— are capable of vetoing Security Council resolutions. However, all members have the right to vote on resolutions presented in committee. In order to pass a resolution,  $\frac{3}{5}$  of the total committee members must agree with the proposed resolution. Thus, assuming that fifteen members will be present, at least nine members would have to be in favor of the resolution presented at hand in order for it to

follow through. For the purpose of this conference, we will have more than fifteen members, so we will adjust the number of members who would have to be in favor of a resolution in order to pass it.

This committee will run as a specialized committee, which consists of both General Assembly and Crisis elements. Essentially, our committee will operate crisis updates, but there will be no crisis notes being written and passed. Compared to GA committees, specialized committees are much faster paced, as members will be tasked with coming up with solutions to the crisis updates. It is expected for all delegates to remain professional throughout the committee sessions, meaning that racism, sexism, or any other forms of discrimination will absolutely not be tolerated. Prewriting will also not be allowed, as it creates unfair advantages to other delegates. We expect that all delegates maintain decorum to ensure that this committee is a safe space for all participants.

## Background Information

### *Leading Up to the Partition*

Prior to the partition of India and Pakistan, both states were held under British rule as one. In 1947, India gained its independence from Britain, and at the same time, Pakistan split from India and gained its independence. It was that same year when Pakistan and India both committed to war in the Kashmir region. Initially, Kashmir was held fully by India; however, there were disputes about the partition and which regions of Kashmir were to be held by each country. India claimed that they had full right to the land, but Pakistan challenged their claim by stating that they were the ones that were to be in control. The entire conflict arose from border and partitioning conflicts driven from India's separation from Britain. In terms of who owned what land, no nation officially owned Kashmir—it was a grey area.

The First Kashmir began in October of 1947 and lasted roughly a year, ending at the start of 1949. The first advancement was led by Pakistan, and they suffered pushback from India as well as Kashmir. At the time, Kashmir wanted to retain its sovereignty.

However, they turned to India for military assistance in return for intel, and they had to agree to collaborate with India for future instances. India still claimed that they had a claim to Kashmir, but Kashmir was technically independent, despite them collaborating with India for the first war in 1947.

Tensions between the two countries have only increased since then. Conflict over military acquisitions, relationships with foreign countries, as well as border and internal disputes have only increased the divides between the two countries.

Additionally, religious gaps have created larger gaps in the already deteriorating relationship between Hindus and Muslims.

### *Conflict Between the Borders*

The conflict between the borders has been a long-lasting issue that has stood since the separation of India and Pakistan from Britain in 1947. Kashmir as well as Jammu originally sided with India because they were opposed to Pakistan as they had tried to help launch an offensive against them, and thus alleviated the conflict. The conflict dubbed as The First Kashmir War begins,

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only to cease temporarily in 1949 with the Karachi Agreement after both countries recognized the extensive loss that preceded that point. Both India and Pakistan tried legally recognizing Kashmir as their own, but the region was still in heavy conflict despite the standstill. Tensions were still very high at this point. At one point both countries had also reached out to the United Nations in order to reach a solution but failed to initially act upon the recommendation that they were given, only to heed the recommendation in 1949 when they had the first ceasefire. However, despite the United Nations wanting both nations to demilitarize the zone, the borders still had heavy military personnel.



This agreement did not last. In 1965, firefight continued with the tensions reaching a boiling point. The definitive reason for the ending of the ceasefire is not

clear, however it can be attributed to precautionary measures and high tensions leading to the agreement being broken, but India claimed that it was Pakistan who made the first move. War once again ensued at the borders, and within the Kashmir region, and India also invaded Pakistan at this time. Ceasefire was approached two years later, only for a major conflict to burst out in 1971, where India and Pakistan fought a war in the midst of the Bengali Revolution. This war was prompted when evacuations from the East Pakistan region resulted in refugees arriving into India, and India decided to support the Bengali revolution, but before they could declare war officially, Pakistan conducted air raids, prompting the start of another war in the midst of the Bengali revolution. The outcome was that Bangladesh became its own country, with the Pakistani army in newly liberated Bangladesh surrendering. A key note is that in the midst of this war, the Soviet Union was a close ally to India, but the U.S. tended to side with Pakistan.

The next year, an official border was somewhat established with the Simla Agreement which defined proper borders to prevent war for the time being. However

tensions would rise in 1974 when India tested nuclear weapons for the first time, much to the dismay of the U.S. and Pakistan.

The 1990s brought more fighting within Kashmir with rebels who advocated for Pakistan rule fighting in the India ruled part of Kashmir.. Tensions once again rose in 1998 with Pakistan testing nuclear weapons, however India had also built up their arsenal and were developing more nuclear weapons. The Kargil War took place in 1999, in which Pakistan supported rebels launched a raid to take the area, however India reclaimed it in the end. In 2003 a border was once again established, however it has no real value as there have been many border disputes leading to deaths of thousands since the agreement.

2019 poses as the most severe year in terms of relations in almost a decade. Rebels who advocate for separation killed Indian soldiers, which led to India heavily restricting the people of Kashmir in the India led region, as punishment. There were many notable changes, such as routine military rounds in the regions, as well as the area now strictly being under Indian legislation and government, as well as outside

connection being cut, with no internet or phone lines for years, until 2021.

Russia remains a close ally of India, and the U.S. has also established close ties with India in somewhat recent years after relations soured with Pakistan due to affiliations with terrorist groups. More specifically post 9/11 was the era in which the U.S. started to distance itself from Pakistan.

### ***Current Solution***

In the past decade, tensions increased severely due to terrorist attacks and disputes between land and waters. In February of 2019, a member from a Pakistan-based terrorist group called Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeD) conducted an attack where an SUV ridden with explosives struck a convoy carrying dozens of paramilitary police in Pulwama, ultimately killing 40 soldiers. This crisis sparked widespread outrage throughout India as India blamed Pakistan agencies for supporting the attack. In retaliation, India, believing that Pakistan initiated conflict after years of supposed peace, launched jets on a JeD training base in Palakot, Pakistan, claiming that the strike

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was a non-military action in order to prevent any further attacks. However, Pakistan denied involvement with the crisis that occurred and highlighted that India's actions violated their airspace. In retaliation, Pakistan conducted an airstrike and shot down two Indian military jets and captured an Indian fighter pilot named Abhinandan Varthaman.

After Pakistan captured Abhinandan Varthaman, the Indian government demanded for his immediate return. Social media also shared information about his capture, praying for his safety and hoping that he would return unharmed. As a result, the Pakistani government released him two days later, essentially offering his return as a gesture of peace. Tensions eased after the pilot's returned, but Pakistan and India still have a brittle relationship to this day. In 2020, the media reported four thousand cross-border attacks on the border between Pakistan and India, resulting in hundreds of deaths of both Indian and Pakistani citizens.

India and Pakistan's decades of conflict have also created a large impact on the Kashmiris, as thousands of people have been forced to migrate to different areas.

Mass migration led to the separation of families, as well as dislocation for citizens in all areas. Regardless of their religious and ethnic identities, Kashmiris dealt with human rights violations, including forced displacement and violence. The conflict itself has created large instability in terms of Kashmir's politics as well as economy, as there has been a constant period of political unrest in Kashmir. To this day, Kashmiris are caught in the crossfire between Pakistan's and India's land disputes.

Throughout the past few years, the relationship between the two nations has improved slightly. As floods began to pour into Pakistan, Pakistan asked for worldwide assistance for humanitarian aid and additional resources. The Indian government reached out to Pakistan and gave their condolences for the tragedy that struck in Pakistan, but they still did not offer help in terms of sending in resources and aid. Nevertheless, the relationship has slightly improved since the Pulwama attack in 2019, but there is still much to do to have total peace between the two nations.

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### ***Past Actions***

When the First Kashmir War occurred, the UNSC created resolution 39 in January of 1948. This resolution established the creation of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) which then expanded through resolution 47 later in the year. Through the expansion of the UNCIP, India and Pakistan were able to create the Karachi Agreement, which established a temporary ceasefire line in Kashmir and was supervised by the United Nations Military Observer Group (UNMOGIP). In 1951, the UNSC officially terminated the UNCIP and left the UNMOGIP in charge of observing the ceasefire in place. In 1965, however, the ceasefire line officially collapsed after Pakistan and India both made claims over the Rann of Kutch, creating even more tensions between the two nations despite the ceasefire that was in place. In 1965, the UN attempted to establish another ceasefire in order to take control of the situation on the borders.

In 1972, Pakistan and India both signed the Simla Agreement which created principles to put a halt to the conflict and to instead put their efforts into making a better

nation for their people. The Simla Agreement was in favor of bilateral negotiations and restated the Line of Control in Kashmir. In following years, the Indian and Pakistani Prime Ministers signed the Lahore Declaration, which emphasized cooperation as well as tension reductions between the two nations. Both Prime Ministers took different steps to promote collaboration despite their differences, as they both wanted to take a step forward from their troubled, intertwined past in terms of border disputes.

In 2014, the newly elected Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to attend his inauguration in an attempt to show that the ties between India and Pakistan were warming up. However, after hopes of finally having peace between the nations, tensions began rising yet again after India canceled on Pakistan after the Pakistani high commissioner met up with Kashmiri separatist leaders.

After the Pulwama crisis, tensions between India and Pakistan increased, despite their efforts for peace in previous years. As a response to the airstrikes that

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occurred from both India and Pakistan, both nations were left blaming one another for the cause of such sudden attacks. In February of 2021, Pakistan and India established a new Ceasefire Agreement along the LoC, which created a base for hopes of peace between the two nations. Civilians from Kashmir welcomed this agreement as they suffered many casualties throughout their many years of conflict.

2. What efforts should be made to help the Kashmiris as they are stuck in the conflict between Pakistan and India?
3. Who should be held responsible for the Pulwama Crisis?
4. How do we ensure peace between the two nations after decades of constant conflict?
5. What are the economic implications of the ordeal?

### ***Possible Solution***

The goal of this committee is ultimately to reach an agreement between all relevant parties in order to disengage the conflict as best as possible. However, that is the goal of the United Nations as a whole. Different countries and positions may have different opinions on what solutions are ideal, and what is the best outcome, for their point of view. Try the best you can in order to appease your position, while still maintaining the values of the United Nations.

### ***Questions to Consider***

1. How can we ensure that the current ceasefire in place would last?
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**Bloc Positions***India**Russia**United Arab Emirates**Pakistan**Bangladesh**United States**Afghanistan**France**United Kingdom**Bhutan**Iran**Saudi Arabia**China**Myanmar**Nepal**Albania**Ecuador**Ghana**Japan**Switzerland**Canada**Malta**Angola**Argentina**Austria*

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*Belarus**Turkey**Brazil**Canada**Colombia**Croatia**Korea**Thailand**Sri Lanka*

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