

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology  
of Egypt / Egyptology

**A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF ISSUES BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA  
IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

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**Dr Karim Haider Syed , A Brief Overview Of Issues Between Pakistan And India In 21<sup>st</sup> Century , Palarch's Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 17(12). ISSN 1567-214x.**

**Keywords; India, Issues, Pakistan, Peace Process, War.**

**Abstract:**

Pakistan and India appeared on the world map as independent nations on August 13 and 14, 1947 respectively. Both countries were liberated on the basis of Hindu-Muslim population. India, a Hindu-majority nation, was declared a secular state. While the Muslim-majority Pakistan was renamed as Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Since independence, the two countries had pledged to maintain good relations with each other, but due to Hindu-Muslim riots and regional conflicts, the two countries never had good relations. Since independence, the two countries have had two major wars and many border clashes. Although there are number of small-scale conflicts between the two countries and they probably are rigid but they can be summarized in six major groups. These include terrorism and related issues in both the countries, conflicts about Kashmir and water issue, Siachen issue and issue of Sir Creek, and newly emerged issues relating to the war in Afghanistan. This study has provided the comprehensive introduction of key issues between Pakistan and India in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Introduction:**

Since the partition of India, the diplomatic and military fronts between Pakistan and India have been open in one way or another and every years tension between the nations has not only increased but also the two countries has started the Complaints against international institutions and world powers to take side of them in their disputes. While the world powers, including other countries in the region, have made every effort to keep the two nuclear powers out of war and conflict, the two countries have been keen to demean each other on the diplomatic front. As in the

past, since February 2019, India has made a concerted effort to disrupt peace in the region, which has strained its relations, especially with its traditional rival, Pakistan. Pakistan not only assured the countries in the region and the world powers that it would not take the initiative of war against India in any case but also made it clear that it would take all possible steps to protect its borders. When Pakistan was in search of peace initiatives with India, India opened another front and that was the end of the special status of occupied Kashmir, this action of Indian has given rise to the discussions on Pakistan and India relations in the international level. Pakistan and India has history of wars and border skirmishes and nations with such kind of history and nuclear capabilities can worry the world community. International community must have the knowledge of the issues between Pakistan and India as Kashmir is not sole issue between two nuclear states of the subcontinent.

### **Objectives:**

To systematically investigate the key issues between Pakistan and India.

To shed light on the approaches and policies of Pakistan and India about each other in new millennium.

### **Hypothesis:**

Pakistan and India has long history of wars and peace agreements but since the beginning of new century both nations have no war and no new peace agreement as both are busy in internal matters or developing other than the war and peace process strategies to counter each other.

### **Literature Review :**

"Neither A Hawk or a Dove" is a book by Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, written at a time when Pak-India relations are going through a critical period. Narendra Modi's government, which has no "vision" for peace and has fallen into a delusional state of enmity with Pakistan, has in fact created a "storm of insults" in the world. The most important thing about this book is that Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri has done a great job of exposing Indian conspiracies on the diplomatic front. Published by British Oxford University Press and Penguin Publishers, with 850-page, this book is so timely and up-to-date that perhaps even Khursheed Kasuri did not anticipate it. He completed his book in four years. He is so careful that in any case he has not relied on mere hearsay but has researched and discovered the real facts and then included them in the book. Hundreds of books were scattered on his table all the time while writing the book. Which he would have explore and write with a single thought. This book is very important work that help the researcher to shed light on the key issues between Pakistan and India (Kasuri, 2016).

### **Research methodology:**

Looking at the theme of the research topic a suitable research model is adopted and for this study two important model of research methodology are used. Historical model of research that is important model of research to provide a sound background of any research project whereas the descriptive model of research model is used to precisely explain the issue and its significance and facts about the research problem. Secondary research tools are used to collect data about Pakistan and India relations and issues between two nations.

**Two prospects:**

Looking at the prevailing situation between Pakistan and India there can be two prospects; in the first prospect, the mistrust between the two countries will continue in which the peace process will never progress. In this scenario, the role of the civilian political leadership in improving relations will be as limited as it is. However, it can be said that some progress can be made in the area of cultural exchange, such as increased joint media programs and the organization of cultural and literary festivals. The second and best scenario may be that there will be positive dialogue between the two countries and there will be a gradual improvement in the establishment of peace. However, this excellent scenario does not appear to have full trust between Pakistan and India. In this scenario, trade relations will also improve, but no agreement can be expected on the Siachen and Kashmir issues. However, the issues of Sir Creek and water will be resolved. Beyond these prospects there are key issues between Pakistan and India that needs solution and understandings;

**Terrorism:**

Although Pakistan and India are suffering from the terrorism like many other countries in the world, but in any dialogue with India, it is now calling the issue number one (Sathasivam, 2017). The move to end the special constitutional status of Indian-administered Kashmir has not only strained relations between Islamabad and New Delhi, but has since suspended normal diplomatic contacts. On the other hand, there has been an increase in the number of exchanges of fire on the Line of Control (LoC) dividing the disputed Kashmir region in recent months, causing loss of life and property on both sides. Pakistan claimed that India was allegedly backing some extremist organizations for military operations in Pakistan. India has denied the allegations, saying that Pakistan is making such allegations to divert attention from alleged cross-border terrorism and violations of the ceasefire agreement on the LoC. India says that a comprehensive dialogue process cannot begin until the action against anti-Indian militants in Pakistan is done by Pakistan. India is particularly demanding a serious action against those involved in the Mumbai attack (Feyyaz, 2019). Delhi wants to focus on this issue in talks. On the other side of Pakistan's stance is that it is a terrorist victim country, so no state should angry with it on terrorist hide outs, but to cooperate on action against the extremists. Pakistan says non-states actors were involved in attacks on India. (Prakash, 2009). Pakistan said the restoration of negotiations could not be meaningful unless the axis of communication is only on security issues.

**Kashmir and water Issue:**

After the partition of India in August 1947, Pakistan and India came into being as two separate states. The Dogra Hindu Maharaja Hari Singh, ruler of the Muslim-majority state of Kashmir, decided to merge Kashmir with India. This decision sparked a wave of revolt by the state's Muslims, which led to the first war between Pakistan and India in 1948. To resolve this issue, in October 1949, in Karachi, Pakistani and Indian representatives met with UN officials to agree on a ceasefire. Boundaries were demarcated. Since the partition in 1947 Kashmir is cause of disagreement for Pakistan and India and mother of the all issues. The steps taken by India on August 5, 2019 regarding occupied Kashmir are a blatant insult and violation of these resolutions.

Modi government wants to turn the majority of Muslims in occupied Kashmir into a minority through these measures, Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed and occupied territory and India has snatched the referendum and all other basic human rights from the Muslims through these measures. (Rather, 2020). . This was main reason of the two of the three wars between the two countries. After losing East Pakistan in December 1971, defeated Pakistan agreed to a new border agreement in July 1972 at Shimla in India. The agreement was signed by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, but in the document, the demarcation of the border was done under the name of Line of Control (LOC) instead of Cease Fire Line. "The two sides cannot unilaterally change the status of LOC beyond any legal intervention. Unilateral change of status of Kashmir in Indian constitution has made Kashmir Issue the leading issue between Pakistan and India. Musharraf formula can become a possible solution for the issue. Former president Pervez Musharraf had offered to withdrawal of forces from Indian held Kashmir and Pakistani held Kashmir for the implementation of UN resolution and peaceful neutral environment for vote in Kashmir (Snedden, 2015). Pakistan later offered to evacuate the Kashmir in its administration if India became to do same on the other side of the Line of Control and people of Kashmir can be allowed to run their own business with coordination of Islamabad and Delhi. India once convinced to soften the borders in the long-term context, but opposed the re-drawing of the borders. Musharraf was criticized because of the suggestions but no government could move forward if it was PPP, PMLN or PTI in power.

### **Water issue:**

Rising world populations, rising meat consumption and increasing economic activity have put pressure on the world's water resources. It is feared that water shortages will force millions to flee, leading to tensions and political instability. From Chile to Mexico, from Africa to tourist destinations in southern Europe, water problems are on the rise. Areas facing water problems are determined by how much water is being used from underground reservoirs and other surface reservoirs compared to the available water resources. The Indus Basin Treaty is basically an agreement between the two countries for the distribution of Indus Basin water. The source of water in the Indus Basin is in China and it flows through Indian-administered Kashmir through Punjab and Sindh to the Arabian Sea. There are six rivers in this canal system, three of which are east and three west. The western rivers include the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab, while the eastern rivers include the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. The geography of these rivers is such that the rivers flow in Pakistan but they originate from India. After the partition of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent in 1947, there was a water dispute between Pakistan and India over the distribution of resources (Bakhtawar, 2012). To deal with this dispute, an agreement was reached between the two countries on May 4, 1948 that India would provide Pakistan with the water it needed, while Pakistan would compensate India for that water. The agreement was for temporary arrangements and negotiations for a lasting solution between the two countries continued and eventually the talks stalled. In view of these circumstances, the World Bank began to mediate the matter and after years of efforts, in 1960 the World Bank succeeded in concluding the Indus Basin Agreement between Pakistan and India. Under this agreement, India was given three eastern rivers while Pakistan was given the right to use water of three western rivers. Pakistan accused India that it is blocking its water supply by the construction of dams. In 2016, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed his commitment to stop Pakistan's water. After the Uri attack, Narendra Modi had said that blood and water could not flow together. In addition to the western rivers, Pakistan also uses the water of the eastern rivers. Pakistan gets 2 million acre feet

of water from the eastern river, especially the Ravi, which India is trying to stop. To curb this water, India is working on the Shahpur Kundi project on the Ravi River, the Ojha Dam and the Ravi Beas Link on the Ojha itself, which could affect water access to Pakistan. As an agricultural country, Pakistan's agriculture depends on the western rivers (Ranjan, 2020). As these rivers pass through Indian-administered Kashmir, that has increased importance of Kashmir for Pakistan. But with the Indus Water Treaty in place, it does not seem possible for India to block Pakistan's share of the water it could to war and war means war on Kashmir.

### **Sir Creek:**

Sir Creek dispute is also a long run dispute between the two states on the southeast border. The Sir Creek area is extremely important due to its rich natural resources and disputed border. Protecting the most difficult and complex swampy area is no less than a challenge. The most important duty of protecting the twenty large creeks and swampy islands lies with the hard-working Marines of the Pakistan Navy. They are doing well with their eyes closed. The 256 km long Creek area is also rich in mineral resources where the protection of oil and gas explorers is also the responsibility of the Marines. In addition to modern weapons and equipment, the area is constantly monitored from the air. Due to the lack of clear boundaries, fishermen accidentally cross the sea border (Mishra, 2015). . Due to this dispute, the oil and gas exploration work has been stopped in the region, whereas anglers of both countries are often caught in this area. This region has been surveyed and the parties have exchanged the maps. According to some official statements, it is near to resolve, but there are no talks on this also. There are some oil wells in the disputed Sea Creek area and there is a possibility of oil presence there. This is an added attraction of the area. The second and fundamental issue of delimitation is how to delimit (Misra, 2010). In the last round of talks on Sir Creek, the two countries made significant progress in resolving the 96-kilometer-long watershed dispute, which divides the Indian state of Gujarat and the Pakistani province of Sindh in the Run of Kachchh area. Any peace talks or war between Pakistan and India must involve these areas in future.

### **Siachen Issue:**

At the height of 18,000 feet, conflict of Siachen war field is being considered a highest battlefield of the world. Siachen is the world's highest military front in the northern Himalayas. This is the cause of the dispute between Pakistan and India and this dispute has been at the forefront of the wars between the two countries so far. It is also home to the second highest peak in the world. The uninhabited area of Siachen is 20,000 feet (6,000 meters) above sea level. Military experts say the death toll from the harsh weather and the serious problems it causes is not as high on the battlefield. An estimated 10,000 to 20,000 troops from both countries have been fighting each other since 1984 (Misra, 2010). Pakistan says it was in control of the area, but On April 13, 1984, the Indian Army launched Operation Megh Dhoot, where 40 soldiers were airlifted to the glacier over the next four days. Four days later, on April 18, Pakistan began sending troops in response, setting off the world's highest battlefield. India captured the Siachen Glacier that was Pakistani territory through a military operation and set up permanent military posts there. India has suggested that if its current military position is recognized, India can withdraw its troops from Siachen, but Pakistan does not accept this condition. Given the importance of glaciers, this issue is a source of contention between the two countries. (Misra and Clarke, 2013). Until 1984, there were no armies of any country in Siachen. Both countries have agreed to withdraw their troops from Siachen, but neither is willing to take the initiative. India is

occupying the heights posts in this battel ground and it is afraid that if it vacates its post then Pakistan may occupy it. Pakistan says it is also ready to withdraw its troops, but before that India will have to give up its claim to occupy the glacier. This glacier is very important being the most important source of water in the rivers of Pakistan. According to defense experts, it is extremely difficult to deliver military equipment, troops and supplies to the Siachen Glacier, and both countries have to spend a lot of money on this. India's expenditure is much higher than Pakistan's because it is at a higher altitude. Historically Siachin has been part of Kashmir territory and in this sense has become part of Kashmir issue but can be resolved separately (Gokhale, 2020).

### **Afghanistan issue:**

Afghanistan issue is the latest issue that emerged between India and Pakistan as the destruction of three decades of war in Afghanistan has made Afghanistan a core issue of security for the region and Pakistan and India wants their influence in this country for their own security. Since the end of the Taliban government in 2001, Pakistan's influence has been replaced by the Indian growing influence in Afghanistan. Pakistan used to say that India is trying to destabilize Pakistan by helping Baluchistan's resistance workers from Afghanistan. India refuses all these allegations (Lal, 2009). The Asian countries neighboring to the Central Asian region have significant links and durable interests in the region. India, Pakistan, Iran, China and Afghanistan, India are strong actors in the economic and security issues that will decide the future of Central Asian region. India has dispute over Kashmir with Pakistan and been trying to influence Afghanistan's politics. Due to the applied intervention of India in matters of the state of Afghanistan, the Karzai administration and Ashraf Ghani administration continued to blame Pakistan for instability in Afghanistan (Chatterjee, 2013). Whenever Pakistan tried to restore the relations with Afghanistan utilizing Islam as tiding force, India had stopped the way. Afghanistan is the neighbor of Pakistan, it should establish strategically and ideological policy with Pakistan instead of India. Pakistan has been advising the US to work for the prosperity of the region by creating a healthy environment in the region and better relations. Afghanistan and Pakistan are two goodwill-neighboring countries, have religious, historical, and geographically linked; their ethnic fabric is also found and lingual similarities to work closely. Aggression of Soviet Union in Afghanistan, forced Pakistan to host more than three million Afghan refugees, despite all differences of Past (Chatterji and Jain, 2009). The border between Afghanistan and Pakistan is approximately 2250 km long, which is the longest border from any other country - neither is such a long border with any neighbor of Afghanistan nor Pakistan. In 2001, after the American invasion of Afghanistan, for the first time, India had a chance to get land footing in Afghanistan. In addition, for the first time, India has created its opportunities rather than cautious and avoiding policy, taking advantage of the presence of the United States and the whole West during the time, trying to establish influence on the region, gaining interference in security matters, and activating in biotechnology. Its effort was to be active in presence of the US invasion, for involvement in the matters of Afghanistan and establish a permanent role in the settlement of the issue (Riedel, 2014).

In this regard, Indian policy makers initiated the process of development of the Infrastructure and Security in Afghanistan. In 2001, with the fall of the Taliban government in Afghanistan, India started a new beginning of aid to rebuild Afghanistan. Then it also opened the Economic Embassy in Mazar-e Sharif, Herat, Kandahar and Jalalabad. By 2006, President Hamid Karzai had gone to India for four times on official visits. India was seen at the forefront of various forces in the rebuilding of the country. In 2011, India had given 1.5 million tons of wheat to

Afghanistan with drought-affected people. Salma Dam in Harat, also known as Friendship's Dam, is made with the help of India. For the construction of this dam, India spent \$ 30 million, in which fifteen hundred engineers of both countries worked together. India established the Afghan National Institute of Science and Technology in Kandahar and promised to make a thousand buses to facilitate travel in Kabul. The question here is: Is India also got anything other than this investment? According to the Indian Embassy in Kabul, until now, India has spent US \$ 2 billion, i.e. 139 billion Indian rupees and that India wants peace and development in Afghanistan. It is important to understand two things: 'First, there are traditional ties of Afghanistan since pre-Islamic era with India. It was neighbor to India before partition. Secondly, if there is democracy in Afghanistan, in the worsening situations, it will be a good thing for all South Asian nations including India, especially for India. Pakistan always strives to keep an eye on Afghanistan. Because if there is peace with the pro India afghan regime then the afghan government will think of the interests of its own country which will not be in favor of Pakistan in the context of past when stable Afghanistan had been creating problems in Pakistan (Krause and Mallory, 2015). There is a plenty of natural resource of about two trillion worth of baseball worth in Afghanistan. Over time, there have been many bad incidents in Afghanistan with its relations to the neighbors. However, relations with India are always good. There is a lot of stress in the region and every country tries to make friends and good friends for themselves. India is also trying to make Afghanistan a friend. One reason for this is that there is no friendly relationship between India and Pakistan, because it is important for India to keep Afghanistan in its friendship camp. If Afghanistan supports India in the regional politics, then it will also affect Pakistan (Kiessling, 2016). Understanding politics in Afghanistan and the potential role of Taliban is very important. It also has to understand that peace in Afghanistan is very important for peace in the entire region and it is important for India and Pakistan. Taliban are not a group. All these work like warlords in the name of religion. In addition, this is a huge threat to the region. If the government like a Taliban in Afghanistan comes, it will be a big problem for India. That is why there is no big deal if there is even more than three billion rupees spent for peace there. India has earned good names for itself by investing in Afghanistan. However, stability without Pakistan in Afghanistan is still dream and Afghanistan has become big factor for India and Pakistan relations and in the politics of south Asian region.

### **Chah-Bahar and CPEC:**

The United States emphasize on other nations for commitment to sanctions on Iran and the US government pressure on states including India not trade for oil. India and Iran close ties emerges on the basis of development of ChahBahar a deep sea port in Persian Gulf, India, which is located in Southeast of Iran. For India, ChahBahar is the best counterweight (parallel resort) for Chinese ports in South Asian countries, especially Gwadar, and increasing Chinese influence in Pakistan. Now there is a challenge for India after Iran's latest American sanctions (Kumaraswamy, 2014). India has been reluctant to Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and beyond. Nevertheless, whether ChahBahar is located in Sistan-Baluchistan Province of Iran and is situated at a distance of 80 km from Gwadar, this port provides access to India through Central Asia and Central Asia and Afghanistan, and it eliminates its dependence on Pakistan. It is as if India's relations with Pakistan are usually unhealthy. Whether it is a new focus on ChahBahar, the Bharat has shown interest in it for the first time in 2003 but sanctions on Iran and bureaucratic issues of India delayed the Indian investment. In 2015, the joint venture between Iran and the US was signed. and Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCCPO), which has led to

the development of ChahBahar project due to the softening of Sanctions on Iran's nuclear program The Indian government pledged to invest \$ 500 million for making two projects in ChahBahar as well as the additional investment of \$ 6.1 billion for making railway links from ChahBahar to Zahidan (near Afghan border). In October 2016, India sent a cargo of wheat to western Afghanistan through a remote Iran road, aimed at identifying the utility of the route. Nevertheless, President Trumps came out of the JCCPO and put again the sanctions on Iran that had shaken the ChahBahar as it has been a big blow for the India and Iran. Secondary American sanctions apply to Iran as well as external stakeholders who deal with it. The Bharat is also the same stack holder and will be affected by its involvement in ChahBahar. At the time, India wants to take over the charge of ChahBahar form the Iranian company to change it with the Indian company so that they can handle the port for the next 10 years (Amine and Yang, 2010). . Nevertheless, considering the structure of secondary sanctions, Indian companies can be affected from the sanctions. It will be challenge for the Indian government to find out the company that could face secondary sanctions, and to control the port for the Indian government, it will be definitely a challenge to find out such private or public sector company. Indian reliance on Iranian oil depended on the issue of sanctions. India imports more than 80% of crude oil, in which Iran is its third or 15% oil supplier. Prior to the signing of the JCCPO in 2015 and the sanctions on Iran, the India made the import of oil from Iran in currency of rupees and other nutrients. However, after the JCPOO, Indian imports increased from Iran. After the introduction of secondary sanctions in November, the Indian refineries reduced crude oil import from Iran on the risk of being affected. Some Indian refineries have begun suspending Iranian imports due to insurance and secondary sanctions and this number was expected to increase. Despite the opposition to the relationship with Tehran, the United States had second thought about it for New Delhi, India in hope continued the development of ChahBahar as it actually is beneficial for US interests. This is because the ChahBahar project will increase links between India and Afghanistan, while providing access to the Indian market, the country will provide economic development, especially if the ChahBahar becomes an active port for the region or global port. As the purpose of the South Asian strategy of the US are stable, then Indian efforts to promote ChahBahar Will help in fulfilling regional interests of US. It would be harmful for India to lose its interests in ChahBahar (Paul, 2018). The exemplary forbearance in Iran's case for India will also work for the American Indo-Pacific strategy. The 2017 American National Security Strategy presents India as a significant contributor to the region, which balances the growing Chinese role in the Indian Ocean due to its volume, location and economy. While Washington supports the role of Indian leadership in the region and any such role is not acceptable for Pakistan or for China. That is why in the Iranian matter, Pakistan will not be able to understand such India role, if yes then as little as possible because of its own security concerns. No doubt, US warned India to "revise" on its policy on Iran and asked the Indians to increase the distance with Iran, especially when India is committed to strategic autonomy in the regional matters. Pakistan and China will not be comfortable if Iran, India, Afghanistan developed a silent collation for the regional interests (Ashwarya, 2017).

### **Nuclear Weapons:**

At present, Russia has the large number of nuclear weapons in the world, it has 7,000 nuclear weapons. On the other hand, the United States has 6800, France has 300, China has 270, Britain has 215, Pakistan has 140, India has 130, Israel has 80 and North Korea has 60 nuclear weapons. Pakistan is also preparing "tactical nuclear weapons" that is so small in size that it can be used



very easily in the field of war. On the contrary, traditional nuclear weapons can only be dropped on cities or other major infrastructure. These tactical weapons in short-term notes can also be used through the submarines. Apart from this, Pakistan is also close to the preparation of 'Nuclear try AID', which will enable the ability to launch nuclear missile from all the land, air and sea. Remember that India had started its nuclear program in the 1960s and became a nuclear power in the 80s, due to which the Pakistan was invigorated to start its nuclear program and today it has more nuclear weapons than India (Chapman and Ciment, 2013). India had forced Pakistan to develop mobile nuclear weapons under the Cold Start Doctrine. Through the Cold Start Doctrine, India has developed a plan to attack Pakistan with a full force and its forces have been deployed on the borders under this plan. Pakistan's army did not have the ability to combat this kind of strategy, so it decided to adopt nuclear alternatives. For this purpose, small mobile nuclear weapons have been developed, which will be used by it to prevent Indian prompt attack under the Cold Start Doctrine. These mobile nuclear weapons can quickly and easily move from one end to another, and they can be fired on the enemy through a small missile system (Sagan, 2011).

### **Conclusion:**

The leaders of India continue to incite hatred. If there are miscreants in India, then some people in Pakistan also want war between two nations. The desire for peace has increased in Pakistani society during the last few decades. The role of people with ideas of war has decreased in Pakistan but at the same time has increased in India. A simple example of this is vision of Narendra Modi and the agenda of the RSS. Its sole purpose is anti-Muslim initiatives. The Kashmir dispute between the two countries stands in the way of normal relations, there have been three or four wars on this issue, and the same issue could lead to an unexpected war in the future. Issues of Siachen, terrorism and water are directly linked with the issue of Kashmir and intensity of other issues will reduce with the solution of the Kashmir Issue if the two nuclear nations of South Asian region can resolve this very issue.

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