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**INDIA - PAKISTAN RELATIONS: POST PARTITION ERA**



**Sanjeet Kumar**  
Research Scholar (Central University of Haryana)

**Short Profile**

Sanjeet Kumar is a Research Scholar at Central University of Haryana. He has completed Ph.D.(doing).



**ABSTRACT:**

Bilateral relations between India and Pakistan are undoubtedly the most important in South Asia and the world also. But relations among both states not at all smooth in nature and has been full of ups and downs. In this case of India and Pakistan, given the historical divide between Hindus and Muslims, it is Understandable for a certain amount of acrimony and distrust to have an impact on their relationship. This resulting quarrelsome mindset has

prompted three wars so far. The partition of the subcontinent into India and Pakistan came with a record brutal violence, deaths, and damage. The history of Indo-Pak Relations has been mainly a story of conflict and discord, mutual distrust and suspicion. Other than Israel, Pakistan is the only nation in 20th century whose birth resulted from the demand by a religious community. From the very beginning, the two powers became involved in a conflict ridden relationship over the status of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir and forced immigrate of thousands of Hindu and Muslim into the new countries which affected both emerging countries. The dispute has proved severely opposed to resolution because, at bottom, it is infused with the self-images of the two states. Following is the analysis of India Pakistan relationship in post partition era.

**KEYWORDS**

*Historical Divide, Partition, Religious Community.*

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## INTRODUCTION :

India's image among its neighbors is not at all sober in nature and its relations are not smooth in its entirety. There is perhaps no other bilateral relationship which has attracted such intense global scrutiny for over six decades as the India-Pakistan relationship. But it is strange that, despite the geographical, historical and cultural similarity the relations between these two states not so much smooth and peaceful. The demand for Pakistan was itself based on distrust. Roots of this kind of relationship between India-Pakistan can be seen in the colonial history of Indian subcontinent. British colonial rules established a tradition by the partition of this subcontinent that creates a chain of struggles, disputes and instability in the region. Bilateral relations between India and Pakistan are undoubtedly the most important in South Asia and the world also. But relations among both states not at all smooth in nature and has been full of ups and downs. Now the both countries are overtly nuclear powered, they poses greater risk, if the ongoing crisis is not resolved.

In this case of India and Pakistan, given the historical divide between Hindus and Muslims, it is Understandable for a certain amount of acrimony and distrust to have an impact on their relationship. This resulting quarrelsome mindset has prompted three wars so far, which have resulted in both the countries diverting huge and precious financial resources to defense unfortunately. Pakistan's obsession with India began when the subcontinent got independence in 1947. The partition of the subcontinent into India and Pakistan came with a record brutal violence, deaths, and damage after the All India Muslim League (AIML) declared on the Direct Action Day (DAD) on August 16, 1946, to divide India or destroy India. At the time of the partition the world's worst migration of people, who cross borders in Punjab and Bengal, was more than ten million and genocide of communal carnage of almost one million in the subcontinent. The demand for Pakistan was not an ideological revolution but an extremism to set up a new land for Islamists that stoked and fomented communal hatred and bloodshed. The Hindu and Muslim who revolted together in 1857 against the British were killing each other in the 1940s. It is in this background, the study of Indo-Pak relations is an attempt to analyze the relationship of post partition era. The relation between India and Pakistan can be categorized since 1947 in five different phases. These phases are (a) Process of partition and separation (1947-1954), (b) period of Conflicting relations (1955-1971), (c) Period of efforts to make peace and good relationship (1972-1979), (d) Period of ups and downs (1980-1998), and (e) The period of new beginning (since 1999 to till now ).

### Analysis of Relations in Post Partition Era:

The history of Indo-Pak Relations has been mainly a story of conflict and discord, mutual distrust and suspicion. Other than Israel, Pakistan is the only nation in 20<sup>th</sup> century whose birth resulted from the demand by a religious community for a political structure in which it would be dominant. In the August, 1947 British India was divided into two parts as decolonization process that was the birth of the two independent nations in the subcontinent namely India and Pakistan. Since, India and Pakistan, became independent it has been rightly stated that Pakistan's foreign policy is made in India but unfortunately India and Pakistan never became good friends and always engaged in conflicts and disputes. There is a fair amount of scholarly agreement that partition occurred not because of Hindus and Muslim could not live together, but because the elite of the two communities could not agree to

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## INDIA - PAKISTAN RELATIONS: POST PARTITION ERA

power sharing. The greatest tragedy was that, the deciding feature of this division was religion.<sup>4</sup> These two nations never come out from the circle of conflicts and disputes since independence. Their relations travel from dispute to peace and peace to dispute subsequently but remain always far from friendship and cooperation. It has resulted from a number of complex factors like legacy, the difference in religion and race, conflicting national interests, ideologies, power struggle.<sup>5</sup> From the very beginning, the two powers became involved in a conflict ridden relationship over the status of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir and forced immigration of thousands of Hindu and Muslim into the new countries which affected both emerging countries. The dispute has proved severely opposed to resolution because, at bottom, it is infused with the self-images of the two states. Pakistan deemed its identity as a Muslim homeland incomplete without Kashmir; while India sees its control over this Muslim-majority state as a demonstration of its secular identification. This tense relationship has resulted in three major wars (1947-48, 1965, 1971) and a limited one (1999) and multiple crises like the question of minorities, evacuee property, sharing of assets, division of military stores, Hyderabad and Junagarh --- the list is endless. A number of promising agreements were made. For instance, the Tashkent and Shimla agreements, and Lahore declaration. Although they resolved the Indus Waters dispute in 1960 and the Rann of Kutch dispute in 1968 through negotiations, there was no agreed mechanism to guide their stable conflicted relationship. After 1971, consequent the liberation of East Pakistan and formation of Bangladesh, India gained legitimate status of being an emerging power in South Asia.<sup>7</sup> In the 1980s the two sides began to talk on the Siachen, Sir Creek and the Tulbul-Wullar disputes and put in place a series of confidence building measures pertaining to conventional and nuclear weapons power. These negotiations had no set time table and were held on a need to meet basis. There was no compulsion on either side to continue their negotiations when their relationship declined in the face of terrorist attack or armed aggression.<sup>8</sup>

However, with the coming in of the BJP government in 1998, and the nuclear tests by both states give status of nuclear power to these. The period between 1999 and 2002 witnessed a high level of tension between India and Pakistan. Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpai started a bus service between Delhi and Lahore on 20 Feb, 1999 by a great journey through this bus. At the time of this journey the Prime Minister signed a MOU (Memorandums of Understanding) with their Pakistani counterpart on 21 Feb, 1999. This MOU known as the Lahore Declaration. In this declaration the focus was given on co-operations, to fight against terrorism, to give respect to human rights, to don't interfere in their internal issues and to behave like good neighbors. But unfortunately Pakistan started war against India in May, 1999 in the Kargil but this became a great tensions between these nations. After Kargil conflict and attacks on J&K legislative assembly and Indian Parliament in 2001 there was tensions on border across LOC and the ceasefire declared. The Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee extending "the hand of friendship" towards Pakistan. Pakistan responded large number of CBMs including announcement of the ceasefire on the LOC.<sup>10</sup> Thus, there are many ups and downs between these nations in the last century.

The peace process launched in January 2004 had been one of the most productive and sustained in the history of a dismal bilateral relationship. This process has seen significant expansion of bilateral trade, improved people to people contact, a ceasefire on their borders, the implementation of number of confidence-building measures in disputed Kashmir, and above all serious back channel negotiation on the Kashmir question. While its policy makers have increasingly talked about the urgent need to construct a 'peaceful periphery' for many of its leader an integrated North West region of the

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## INDIA - PAKISTAN RELATIONS: POST PARTITION ERA

subcontinent was a living memory. None exemplifies this better than Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh of India, whose family lived in the North West part of what is now Pakistan and migrated to India after partition. In early 2007, speaking on India's relations with its neighbors, Singh mused on his aspirations for restoring these historic connections:

"I sincerely believe... that, the destiny of the people of South Asia is interlinked. It is not just our past that links us, but our future too. India cannot be a prosperous, dynamic economy and a stable polity if our neighborhood as a whole is also not economically prosperous and politically stable. Similarly, our neighbors cannot prosper if India does not do so as well. There are enormous opportunities for promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in South Asia. To exploit these opportunities, the nations of South Asia have to work sincerely to control the scourge of terrorism and extremism... I dream of a day, while retaining our respective national identities, one can have breakfast in Amritsar, lunch in Lahore and dinner in Kabul. That is how my forefathers lived. That is how I want to our grandchildren to live."<sup>11</sup>

After a long breakdown the newly elected prime minister of India Narendra Modi invited his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif in his oath taking ceremony with all the SAARC countries leaders and despite the immense pressure of ISI, Military Nawaz Sharif accepted the invitation from New Delhi and he came with his team in Oath ceremony of Narendra Modi and get warmed welcome from New Delhi and as well as from media of all over the world and describing this moment as 'new beginning', 'historic opportunity' ' **Landmark Talks**' and many more by the experts and media all over the world. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif talked near about 50 minutes in a meeting in Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 26, May 2014 and describing the meeting 'good and constructive' and both leaders agreed to pick up the threads of the Lahore declaration, referring to a pledge both countries made in 1999 to cooperate more closely to ease tensions.<sup>12</sup> They also talk about terrorism and Indian Prime Minister asked that his country 'abide by its commitment' to prevent terrorism against India arising there and to speed up investigations into the 2008 attacks in Mumbai. They also discussed increasing trade and other exchanges. Sharif told reporters and said that, the meeting should be 'a historic opportunity for both countries' and both leaders were elected with popular mandates and could succeed in 'turning a new page' in their countries often hostile relations and both nations shared the goal of economic development, which could not be achieved without peace and stability in the region. Both leaders agreed to change confrontation into cooperation and increase trade and people- to people contact and the foreign secretaries will stay in touch and explore how to move relationship forward. They also agreed that the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India would meet in near future. Raza Rumi, a policy analyst at Jinnah Institute in Islamabad, said Pakistanis viewed the visit as an icebreaker between the two leaders and were not expecting much more concrete progress. Although 26 May 2014th meeting was a milestone, political analysts say it is too early to say how talks between the two countries will progress. However, they say Modi's initiative in calling the Pakistani leader, and Sharif's decision to come to New Delhi, shows that both sides are willing to break the deadlock. The two rivals, who have fought three wars, have not held official talks for nearly last two years.<sup>14</sup>

## CONCLUSION:

Today, more than sixty five years after independence, the common people as well as the elite of

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## INDIA - PAKISTAN RELATIONS: POST PARTITION ERA

India and Pakistan are concerning towards establishing condition for permanent peace. But unfortunately the situation is not so much better for India and Pakistan which it should be but the power of the old mindset is declining and the momentum for peace is growing.

### END NOTES

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