

Regional Power Balance and Peace Building: India and Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Pakistan and India have helped maintain South Asian peace, stability, and harmony. Pakistan and India may work together and improve relations to maintain economic growth and peace. However, excluding Kashmir from any framework to investigate peace between Pakistan and India will guarantee the failure of any collaboration and durable peace process. To create lasting peace, the geopolitical conflict must be resolved. To analyze peace alternatives between Pakistan and India, one must define peace and evaluate how its perception affects conflict resolution. Peace can be 'negative' or 'good'. 'Negative peace' means no violence, but 'positive peace' means social integration and 'structural violence' prevention. Peace and Conflict Studies' founder developed theoretical and conceptual frameworks to understand peace and violence's causal links. The peace process is a dynamic process that seeks to end systematic violence by understanding different conditions and cultural factors. Lack of resolve hurts state politics, economics, and strategy. A durable peace process requires a comprehensive strategy and common resolve from all sides. To choose the best techniques for fostering peace in Indo-Pak relations and resolving problems, one must understand the cultural and historical intricacies and the nature of violence and conflict. Kashmir is Pakistan and India's main dispute.

Key Words: Geopolitical Conflict Resolution, Indo-Pak Relations, Positive and Negative Peace, Kashmir Dispute

Introduction

Numerous possibilities for communication exist between India and Pakistan. The majority in both countries view normalization of bilateral relations favorably rather than being entrenched in a permanent ideological deadlock (Khan, 2011). To effectively manage and resolve crises, both nations require durable institutional frameworks for diplomatic interactions and crisis management. Over the years, they have utilized various mechanisms, including international, regional, bilateral, and third-party mediations, which have often been ad hoc and insufficient for nuclear-armed neighbors (Basrur, 2017). Permanent and dependable institutional mechanisms are necessary to prevent or address crises effectively.

The background and nature of past India-Pakistan crises and conflicts. The second section evaluates the current confidence-building measures (CBMs) in place. The third section proposes strategies for fostering lasting normalcy in bilateral relations and enhancing counterterrorism efforts and crisis management mechanisms (Paul, 2005). Proposals include enhancing backchannel communications, organizing bilateral summits, and considering doctrinal shifts to improve crisis management.

Both States have a history of disagreements and mistrust since their independence. Local perspectives emphasize the importance of multifaceted peace-building strategies, encompassing public rights, sustainable development, and competent governmental leadership competent of resolving disputes (Talbot, 2013). Confidence-building measures, such as establishing military hotlines, promoting cross-border trade, and facilitating cultural exchanges, have played significant roles in mitigating tensions (Basrur, 2017). The Simla Agreement of 1972 was a seminal CBM following the Indo-Pakistani War, setting guidelines for future interactions (Sridharan, 2005).

External interventions by regional and international organizations have supported CBMs, serving as mediators and providing technical assistance (Chari, Cheema, & Cohen, 2009). Despite the positive contributions of CBMs, deep-seated partisan, national, and ethical differences remain to trigger challenges (Ganguly, 2001). However, sustained commitment to implementing CBMs remains crucial for promoting reconciliation, permanency, and collaboration between both States. (Bajpai, 2003).

India and Pakistan share a history marred by conflict and mistrust, both pre- and post-Independence. Despite periodic periods of relative calm, tensions and disputes persist between the two nations. These issues have been extensively studied, shedding light on local dynamics and perspectives surrounding the conflict (Mishra, 2019). Such studies advocate for comprehensive research addressing not only national-level issues but also local or district-level challenges and solutions, emphasizing the need for a multifaceted approach to peacebuilding jkk/(Mishra, 2019).

In addition to historical conflicts, both have retained in frequent conflicts, border disputes, and territorial conflicts since gaining independence from British colonialist rule. In response to this ongoing tension, “Confidence Building Measures” (CBMs) have emerged as vital tools to foster confidence, ease tensions, and promote peaceful coexistence between the two nations (Chowdhury, 2018). CBMs encompass various programs and initiatives aimed at enhancing mutual understanding, communication, and collaboration between India and Pakistan (Chowdhury, 2018). By facilitating open channels of communication, increasing transparency, and encouraging interpersonal relationships, CBMs provide a valuable platform for constructive dialogue and conflict resolution, thereby reducing the likelihood of misunderstandings and miscalculations.

These Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) have evolved over time in response to changing dynamics and the shared aspiration for improved bilateral

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relations. Examples of such measures include the establishment of hotlines between military authorities to prevent accidental escalations, initiatives promoting cross-border trade and transportation, cultural and educational exchanges, and facilitating religious pilgrimages (Kumar, 2017).

One of the earliest and most significant CBMs between India and Pakistan was the signing of the Simla Agreement in 1972, following the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. This agreement emphasized non-interference in each other's domestic affairs, negotiations, and respect for territorial integrity, thereby establishing guidelines for future interactions (Sinha, 2019). Moreover, it established a bilateral framework for resolving disputes through dialogue, laying the foundation for subsequent confidence-building initiatives.

Regional and international institutions have played a crucial role in enabling CBMs between the two nations. These institutions have provided platforms for discussion, acted as mediators during crises, and offered technical support for confidence-building activities (Nawaz, 2020). Their interventions have often bridged gaps and foster an environment conducive to bilateral engagement.

Despite the positive impact of CBMs on India-Pakistan relations, significant challenges persist. Profound political, geographical, and ideological divisions continue to hinder the establishment of lasting trust between the two nations. However, consistent dedication to and implementation of confidence-building measures remain essential for fostering a climate of mutual understanding and cooperation.

The Simla Agreement of 1972 aimed to establish guiding principles for future relations between India and Pakistan, emphasizing peaceful solutions, respect for territorial integrity, and non-interference in internal affairs. Additionally, it provided a bilateral framework for resolving disputes through negotiations, laying the groundwork for subsequent confidence-building efforts.

Regional and international organizations have played a crucial role in facilitating Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) between the two countries. These organizations have served as platforms for dialogue, mediated during crises, and provided technical assistance for implementing CBMs (Singh, 2018). Their interventions have often bridged gaps and create an environment conducive to bilateral engagement.

Despite the positive impact of CBMs on India-Pakistan relations, challenges persist due to deep-rooted political, territorial, and ideological differences. However, sustained commitment to and implementation of CBMs remains vital for fostering peaceful coexistence, promoting economic cooperation, and addressing shared challenges such as terrorism and regional instability. CBMs between India and Pakistan have played a crucial role in promoting peace by encompassing various military, diplomatic, economic, and cultural initiatives. Overcoming historical animosities and fostering an environment conducive to lasting peace, stability, and cooperation between the two nations requires continued dedication to implementing CBMs.

History of CBMs between India and Pakistan

There have been several important agreements and attempts in the history of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) between Pakistan and India that have attempted to promote conversation, communication, and the settlement of conflicts. After the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War, key CBMs included the Shimla Agreement of 1972. Principles for future ties were established forth in this agreement, which stressed non-interference in internal affairs, respect for territorial integrity, and peaceful solutions (Singh, 2018). During a time of better bilateral ties, another landmark event was the 1999 Lahore Declaration, which dealt with nuclear risk reduction and conventional weapons control measures. It highlighted the significance of CBMs in fostering stability and peace and reaffirmed the resolve to address any unresolved concerns via discussion (Hussain, 2016).

Beginning in 2004, the Cumulative Negotiation progression marked a major turning point in CBMs between the two nations. Peace and security, terrorism, commerce, and people-to-people contact were among the many topics covered by this all-encompassing framework. Khan (2019) explains that to foster trust and collaboration, it utilized many engagement tracks, including partisan, consular, financial, and social.

There is need to avoid escalations and improve crisis communication, recent initiatives have concentrated on certain areas of concern, like creating instant linkages between military influentials. Improving economic cooperation and masses interaction are the goals of cross-border commerce and transportation efforts, such as expanding trade routes and providing bus and rail services (Ahmed, 2020). India and Pakistan continue to face challenges and disputes, but these CBMs have been crucial in encouraging conversation, trust-building, and collaboration.

The pre-framework of “Confidence Building Measure”(CBMs) between Pakistan and India shows how both countries have tried to build trust, have conversations, and find ways to resolve conflicts. These efforts have been vital in improving communication and collaboration between the two countries, despite the challenges of their bilateral relationship. They help provide stability and peace to the region by creating an atmosphere of predictability and mutual comfort. Several CBMs have been put in place by nuclear-armed South Asian neighbors Pakistan and India to lessen the likelihood of nuclear war. The two nations' relationship will be strengthened through these steps by increasing openness, communication, and stability. This research takes a look at the nuclear CBMs that both countries have implemented, the problems that have come up with them, and the important ones.

In February 1999, the prime ministers of Pakistan and India signed the Lahore Declaration, which reaffirmed their nations' resolve to peacefully resolve all remaining concerns, including the nuclear dimension. In a 1999 statement, the Indian government's Ministry of External Affairs reiterated its commitment to

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nuclear testing moratoria and stated its goal of preventing the accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons.

To reduce the likelihood of nuclear war by accident, both States inked the Agreement on Decreasing the Probability from Disasters Concerning to “nuclear weapons in May 2007”. Information sharing on nuclear facilities and the introduction of confidence-building procedures pertaining to nuclear command and control systems are also part of this agreement.

India and Pakistan continue to have difficulties in maintaining nuclear stability in their relationship, even with these CBMs. Significant challenges to the effective implementation of nuclear CBMs include trust problems, unresolved issues, and restricted communication routes. Furthermore, efforts to establish long-term stability and confidence are further hampered by the lack of a thorough bilateral nuclear weapons control agreement (Siddiq, 2019).

Trade and Economic Confidence-Building

Measures (CBMs)

To foster monetary cooperation and develop bilateral ties between Pakistan and India, Commerce and Moneymaking “Confidence-Building Measures” (CBMs) have been important. With these steps, we hope to ease economic integration, increase trade volumes, and pave the way for more fruitful relations. The land Route Agreement regarding “Wagah-Attari” for commerce was established as a major CBM in the realm of trade (Zaidi, 2016), acting as an important transit point for products and enabling commodity exchange between the two nations.

Key to strengthening economic connections between the two nations has been the establishment of the India-Pakistan Joint Business Forum, which brings together the business communities of the two nations to discuss potential investment and trade opportunities (Hussain, 2017). To further economic CBMs, it has been crucial to work to simplify customs processes and reduce trade obstacles. The goal of South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) is to facilitate regional trade integration among South Asian nations, such as Pakistan and India, by lowering tariffs and non-tariff obstacles (World Bank, 2018).

Optimal market access for certain goods and increased bilateral commerce may result from a Preferential commerce Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and India, which has been the subject of recent talks (Jaffrelot, 2017). These commercial and economic CBMs have the power to deepen economic connections and help bring about peace and stability between the two nations. These steps can encourage the two countries to keep the peace and work out their differences amicably by increasing their economic dependency on one another.

People-to-People CBMs

Cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and cordial ties between Pakistan and India have all been greatly improved via the implementation of People-to-People

“Confidence Building Measures” (CBMs). By providing avenues for direct engagement and bolstering mutual trust, these strategies seek to foster relationships between inhabitants of the two nations. The two-way exchange of cultural and artistic delegations, which include performances of music, dance, and visual art, is a prime example of a “CBMS”. The cultural diversity and richness of both countries are celebrated and appreciated via these events (Saeed, 2018). Unity and common values have been promoted through the yearly Dargah Diplomacy effort, which involves adherents from both nations visiting Sufi sites (Mishra, 2021). By facilitating the interchange of students, researchers, and instructors between educational institutions in Pakistan and India, educational exchanges have played a crucial role in promoting people-to-people confidence-building measures (CBMs). As Rizvi (2017) pointed out, these interactions make it easier to learn about and work with people from different cultural backgrounds. The youth of both nations benefit from these exchanges because they strengthen interpersonal bonds and increase mutual understanding.

There have been major initiatives to improve interpersonal communication and streamline visa requirements. The Visa-on-Arrival program has simplified travel for elderly pilgrims and strengthened religious ties for them as they visit sacred sites in Pakistan (Hassan, 2017).

Military CBMs between India and Pakistan

When it comes to easing tensions, avoiding miscommunication, and fostering peace between Pakistan and India, military (CBMs) have proven important. The goal of these steps is to make it easier to talk to each other, build trust, and prevent conflicts from getting worse. Opening a line of direct contact between the two countries' military brass is an important (CBMs) between the two countries. During times of crisis or to resolve urgent military matters, this direct communication method allows for rapid and effective interaction (Roy, 2019).

The protection of the international border and the Line of Control (LoC) through the implementation of ceasefire agreements is another important CBM. There has been less fighting along the borders and more stability because of ceasefire agreements like the one in 2003 (Siddiqi, 2019). India and Pakistan's militaries have been able to better understand and work together thanks in large part to initiatives to organize military visits and conduct joint military exercises. According to Chari (2016), these contacts help with communication, professional networking, and building personal ties.

Controlling and discouraging unlawful access into airspace is an example of a military (CBMs). To steer clear of misunderstandings and promote transparency, the Agreement on Reducing the Risk of Accidents Relating to nuclear weapons includes procedures for informing about ballistic missile testing and giving early warning of missile launches (Pant, 2018).

If India and Pakistan are serious about avoiding inadvertent escalation and keeping the peace, they must follow these military Confidence Building Measures

(CBMs). By enhancing communication, boosting confidence, and avoiding misconceptions, these programs contribute to larger regional security efforts.

CBMs as Tools for De-escalation and Conflict

Prevention

To promote peaceful relations among nations, Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) are powerful tools for lowering tension and avoiding wars. To help avoid disagreements and keep things stable, these methods aim to build trust, improve communication, and lower tensions. Confidence-building measures, or CBMs, play a crucial role in conflict prevention by reducing the likelihood of violent encounters and resolving security concerns head-on. Efforts like sharing military intelligence, keeping everyone informed about military exercises, and establishing direct communication channels all contribute to a better understanding of everyone's intents and behaviors. Misunderstandings and errors in computation are thus less likely to occur (Barnett, 2013).

By fostering an environment of trust and cooperation among governments, "CBMs" can de-escalate situations and also contribute to conflict avoidance. In order to keep disputes from getting worse, they facilitate dialogue, negotiation, and diplomatic engagement by giving people a place to air their grievances and work out their differences (Diehl, 2004). "CBMs" also help reduce the likelihood of disputes by making processes clearer and more consistent. Jentleson (2000) argues that a more stable and secure environment may be achieved by measures such as agreements on weapons control, confidence-building visits, and verification mechanisms. Countries may foster an atmosphere of trust, enhance communication, and create opportunities for peaceful conflict resolution by employing Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) as preventative instruments for de-escalation and conflict prevention.

Prospects and Recommendations for CBMs

Future Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) between Pakistan and India are crucial to advancing bilateral ties, achieving peace, and settling outstanding issues. There have been several proposals to strengthen and broaden the scope of (CBMs), with the goal of fostering a more cooperative and stable relationship between the two countries. Considering the persistent conflicts and tensions in many regions, it is of utmost importance to investigate potential avenues for advancing (CBMs) and provide recommendations for their effective implementation.

1. We must strengthen the institutional structure so that (CBMs) may be implemented successfully. This entails setting up dedicated channels of communication like joint commissions or committees to provide constant dialogue and uniform supervision of CBMs (Fischer, 2011).
2. "CBMs" have traditionally focused on military and security issues, but they can be more effective if they are expanded to include non-traditional

sectors. Integrating humanitarian, environmental, and economic concerns, addressing root causes of conflicts, and promoting comprehensive peacebuilding are all part of this (Hampson, 2009).

3. Enhancing Regional Cooperation:(CBMs) must prioritize regional cooperation, particularly in conflict-prone regions. A stronger feeling of shared responsibility and ownership can be achieved by encouraging regional organizations such as the African Union, ASEAN, or OSCE to participate in the facilitation and implementation of Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) (Breslin et al., 2013).
4. Reducing the need for crisis management and promoting preventative methods requires investment in conflict prevention. Financial support for mediation services, early warning systems, and preventative diplomacy can help identify and settle conflicts before they escalate (Galtung, 1996). Track II diplomacy can complement official channels and give different opinions by including non-governmental entities like think tanks, academia, and civil society organizations. According to Puri (2018), casual conversations can create an environment that is conducive to conflict resolution by generating new ideas, bringing people together, and bridging gaps.
5. Support for (CBMs) between Pakistan and India might come from regional organizations or powerful global countries. Their involvement can provide impartial mediation, professional assistance, and political support, all of which can help overcome obstacles and keep the CBM process going (Bose, 2015). With these suggestions in place, Pakistan and India may begin to approach Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in a constructive and beneficial light. The two nations would be able to better understand each other, communicate, and work together as a result, which would lead to permanent peace in the region.
6. LoC ceasefire, bilateral trade resumes, and Indian PM Narendra Modi writes amiable letter to Pakistani PM Imran Khan in an attempt to defuse tensions; all of this points to unanticipated steps towards reconciliation. The Balakot-Pulwama battle and India's decision in August 2019 ratcheted up bilateral tensions, thus these steps might be considered as efforts to reduce animosity and promote amicable ties.

Despite this, several political and historical issues have contributed to tumultuous ties between Pakistan and India. The security situation in South Asia has become more complex as a result of India's policy, which aims to achieve strategic objectives by resorting to force. Tensions might rise as a result of India's attempts to foster a favorable strategic climate with respect to its neighbors. This would have far-reaching effects for peacebuilding efforts and the possibility of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs). Efforts to upgrade the military, the goal of military superiority, and India's strategic relationship with the US are all variables that pose challenges. The process of developing communication channels

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is further complicated by India's aggressive regional dominance attempts and its pursuit of domestic political aims.

India's attempts to establish a favorable strategic environment against the regional states may lead to more friction that would have critical implications for peacebuilding efforts or any prospects of CBMs.

India's attempts to influence a beneficial strategic atmosphere in the area may worsen tensions, creating substantial obstacles to efforts to establish peace and the potential for Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) (Roy, 2019). Multiple factors contribute to obstacles in creating efficient nuclear Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in South Asia. A significant barrier to establishing official communication linkages between India and Pakistan is the deep-rooted lack of trust between the two countries (Barnett, 2013). CBMs provide a structure for enhancing ties between states and cultivating mutual confidence. However, a certain degree of trust is required even prior to engaging in CBM negotiations. Nevertheless, due to the profound fears and long-standing mistrust between the two powers, establishing such trust remains difficult to achieve.

Moreover, the efficacy of Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) between India and Pakistan is impeded by territorial conflicts, namely over Kashmir, Siachen, and Sir Creek (Siddiqi, 2019). India's own acts, including as the revocation of Article 370 and 35A and the implementation of new domicile rules, have increased bilateral volatility, making the process of normalization more complex. Despite having signed many accords, both nations still have difficulties in resolving their water-related conflicts, which raises concerns about the effectiveness of current pacts or treaties (Pant, 2018).

Furthermore, India's recent endeavors to modernize its military have contributed to the escalation of an arms race in the area (Chari, 2016). India's significant gains in both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of its conventional and strategic forces, together with its offensive military strategies, have resulted in a security conundrum and increased antagonism between the two states. The escalation of this competition for military superiority increases distrust and hostility, making it more difficult to establish trust and cooperation. Moreover, the absence of adequate tracking and monitoring of agreed (CBMs) is a substantial obstacle (Barnett, 2013). The effectiveness of (CBMs) decreases with time without consistent and persistent efforts in developing trust. Hence, it is imperative to not only efficiently deploy CBMs but also progressively broaden their scope to optimize their advantages.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, there were prospects for more reconciliation between India and Pakistan (Siddiqi, 2019). Both nations have demonstrated a readiness to collaborate on health-related matters within the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Pakistani authorities, such as Pakistan's Army Chief Gen Qamar Bajwa and Prime Minister Imran Khan, have expressed their strong commitment to cordial relations and the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir problem via negotiation.

There is a potential for a formal peace process between India and Pakistan due to the continuing dynamics (Chari, 2016). Even little actions, such as the reinstatement of a ceasefire agreement and progress on the cricket arena, act as symbols of optimism. Enhanced communication channels can be crucial in settling tensions during emergencies. Hence, it is crucial for both nations to capitalize on the current opportunities and commence official dialogues to avert misconceptions, proficiently handle emergencies, and maintain enduring tranquility in the area.

The current dynamics indicate a probable initiation of a formal peace process between India and Pakistan. Even the smallest actions serve as a source of optimism for both states. Examples include the reinstatement of a ceasefire agreement, the establishment of communication channels between the Directors General of Military Operations along the Line of Control, progress in Pakistan-India cricket relations, and news of mediation efforts by the United Arab Emirates. Enhanced communication channels can help in settling tensions during moments of crisis. However, Pakistan and India should take use of the current opportunities to begin official dialogues to prevent misunderstandings, handle crises, and achieve peace (Ali, 2021).

The development of Pakistan-India bilateral relations has been analyzed using realism, structural realism, and rational choice theory. These theories highlight the zero-sum nature of the relationship between the two competitors, resulting in a lack of trust, suspicion, and hostility (Hussain, 2019). The ideological disparities have seldom resulted in favorable and fruitful consequences, save on a few occasions that were marred by events that severely damaged the confidence and trust in their mutual interactions. The ties between Pakistan and India have been marked by significant turbulence. The split was marred by disorder, tumult, and extensive plotting, with justice and fairness being completely disregarded, particularly in the case of Pakistan (Jalal, 2018).

It saw the most extensive and tumultuous migration in human history. In 1948, two neighboring nations engaged in a military confrontation over the disputed territory of Kashmir. During that period, enmity began to take root and flourish as a result of long-standing resentment and detestation. The seedling has developed into a fully grown tree that yields no fruit other than mistrust and suspicion, which forms the basis for hostile bilateral ties. Thus far, the two competing yet adjacent republics have engaged in four conflicts, with two of them arising from disagreements over the territory of Kashmir, namely in 1948 and 1965.

In addition, both nations routinely encounter border confrontations. This alignment was seen in the Pakistan-India Bilateral Relations and the implementation of Environmental Peacebuilding. However, the bilateral ties between Pakistan and India have not always been characterized by hostility and ongoing distrust. Both adjacent nations have actively participated in various (CBMs) across multiple sectors, including military, political, economic, and cultural domains. These efforts have led to the establishment of Track II

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diplomacy and the implementation of Composite Dialogue during the 1990s. Notably, successful CBMs were achieved, particularly during the Musharraf era (2001-08) (Hussain, 2019).

Track II diplomacy and composite conversation were rendered ineffective as a result of events such as the Kargil conflict. Similarly, the positive outcomes during the Musharraf period were undermined by sad situations like the “*Samjhota*” Express and Mumbai Attacks. Regrettably, the Uri incident and Pulwama attack dashed the prospects of fostering confidence following a sudden visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Pakistan (Ali, 2021).

Deep-rooted political, geographical, and ideological divides nevertheless present difficulties even with the beneficial effects of CBMs (Ganguly, 2001). However, maintaining India and Pakistan's peace, stability, and cooperation will need a persistent commitment to putting CBMs into practice (Bajpai, 2003). Conflict and mistrust have characterized both India's and Pakistan's histories, both before and after independence. There are still tensions and disagreements between the two countries notwithstanding brief intervals of relative quiet. Numerous studies have been conducted on these topics, illuminating regional dynamics and viewpoints related to the conflict (Mishra, 2019). Such studies highlight the necessity for a multidimensional approach to peacebuilding and call for thorough study addressing concerns and solutions not just at the national level but also at the local or district level (Mishra, 2019). Apart from their past confrontations, India and Pakistan have been occupied and engaged in different wars and conflicts.

India formerly referred to the Kashmir problem as a bilateral matter. However, in 2019, India made a unilateral and illegal constitutional step that effectively disconnected Kashmir from the Pakistan-India bilateral ties. This action has further contributed to the ongoing obstacles in their relations (Malik, 2020). Moreover, India has consistently emphasized its intention to isolate Pakistan in the South Asian region, especially on the international stage. India's malevolent objectives have been apparent since the 2008 bombings in Mumbai. In the aftermath of the Pulwama assault, Indian Federal Minister Arun Jaitley expressed India's intention to employ diplomatic measures to isolate Pakistan from the world community, as seen by its actions at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). India's persistent efforts to maintain Pakistan on the greylist at FATF, together with its distribution of disinformation and incredulity through false media and propaganda, as uncovered by the Brussels-based EU Disinfo Lab, serve as evidence of India's malicious intentions against its neighbor.

The EU Disinfo Lab has revealed a well-organized network of 256 fraudulent media outlets that are active in 65 countries. These outlets are disseminating information with the intention of undermining Pakistan by presenting a distorted and biased portrayal of the country to the global audience. Similarly, as previously said, the matter of Kashmir has consistently been a source of conflict between Pakistan and India. Their bilateral ties have been shaped by the violent and unjust partition of 1947, which acted as a catalyst for the Jammu and Kashmir dispute between the neighboring states.

Pakistan considers Kashmir to be of vital importance, whereas India asserts that Kashmir is an integral part of its heartland. Both countries have consistently expressed their commitment to resolving the Kashmir dispute through direct negotiations. However, things became much more tense following the Uri incident.

The attacks occurred in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). As usual, the Indian government blamed Pakistan for the attacks, disregarding the presence of a separatist movement and armed rebellion against Indian rule that has been ongoing in the Jammu and Kashmir valley since 1989. Furthermore, beginning in June 2018, the administration led by Modi has temporarily halted the functioning of the government in Jammu and Kashmir, therefore contributing to the existing conflict. In 2019, bilateral ties were suspended when India unilaterally revoked Article 370 and Article 35-A of its Constitution, therefore contravening the UN resolution (1948) and the Simla Agreement of 1972 on Kashmir.

In addition to conventional security concerns, Pakistan and India have also encountered complex non-traditional security risks over the past few decades, which have had readily observable implications (Malik, 2020). Since 1947, the preservation of state and territorial integrity has been a fundamental principle of their national policy, which has subsequently influenced their international policies.

Non-traditional security risks in the context of Pakistan and India encompass climate change, environmental stresses, natural catastrophes, epidemic illnesses, unresolved border disputes, and energy problems. Furthermore, the issues of cyber-attacks, drug trafficking, unregulated migration, and food crises are encompassed as well (Kumar, 2018). These dangers transcend the traditional territorial security concept and instead focus on human security. Non-traditional security threats are global in nature and extend beyond the realm of the military. They manifest in unanticipated ways and pose a significant risk to human security (Chandra, 2017). Pakistan and India are highly susceptible nations to the devastating impacts of climate change, since they both have resource constraints in effectively addressing or mitigating the consequences of shifting climatic conditions and environmental concerns independently.

This article examines the bilateral ties between Pakistan and India within the framework of environmental peacebuilding. It explores how this approach facilitates collaboration in addressing shared environmental issues. This study has a narrow focus on discussing climate change and environmental concerns as non-traditional security risks specifically encountered by Pakistan and India.

The Environmental Peacebuilding Literature is filled with examples of how the environment, particularly natural resources, has been used as a means to promote and prolong conflict in countries like Sierra Leone, Colombia, and Afghanistan. However, the positive aspects of environmental cooperation have not received the attention they deserve in both domestic and international relations (Singh, 2019). This thesis is grounded in the premise that environmental conditions and changes often operate as threat multipliers, ultimately resulting in

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conflicts between competing parties or governments. Environmental peacebuilding is a method that facilitates cooperation between conflicting parties to address common environmental concerns when other types of discussion and forums have been exhausted.

Environmental Peacebuilding is now in its early stages of development and continues to evolve. It is not a convoluted theory in the field of international affairs or peace and conflict studies, but rather a method or structure for promoting peace between two or more conflicting parties. The main objective of environmental peacebuilding is to emphasize shared environmental concerns between two opposing factions and promote a transition towards Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) by replacing political and strategic objectives with ecological challenges. The concept of environmental peacebuilding has been defined by various scholars and practitioners.

The most suitable and significant definition of this framework was proposed by Dressed, Schindler, Nielsen, and Zikos (2018) in their paper titled "Environmental Peacebuilding: Towards a theoretical framework." They defined environmental peacebuilding as the process of transforming environmental challenges, which are common to the conflicting parties, into opportunities for establishing long-term cooperation and peace.

There are two primary prerequisites for commencing environmental peacebuilding between two opposing factions. Initially, it is imperative that the parties involved in the dispute possess mutual and overlapping ecological obstacles. The second objective is to emphasize the environmental concerns that might harm all parties involved and have the capacity to motivate them to collaborate, ultimately resulting in sustainable or beneficial peace. Therefore, when faced with shared and common environmental issues, parties in conflict are compelled to cooperate, engaging in communication and pursuing mutual interests, ultimately leading to the establishment of peace between them.

Battle analysts specializing in the Pakistan-India conflict have forecasted that the impending battle between the two nations will mostly revolve on the competition over shared natural resources, particularly water resources. India has often expressed its intention to terminate the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) and exercise its comprehensive authority over the Indus Water Basin and its tributaries. The purpose of environmental peacebuilding is to promote collaboration in addressing shared ecological concerns and to resume conversation and peacebuilding efforts from the 2000s.

Following the Pulwama incident, the SAARC has been inactive and attempts at state-level meetings, both bilateral and multilateral, have failed. Consequently, there appears to be no other common areas or opportunities for dialogue and cooperation between Pakistan and India. Notably, cooperation on shared environmental challenges has never been discussed or pursued in their bilateral relations. Despite Pakistan and India being signatories to the Indus Waters pact (1960), the pact has never undergone any amendments or reviews due to the persistent climate-related issues faced by the Indus River over many years. Given

the poor bilateral ties between Pakistan and India, the focus on environmental cooperation has become a fundamental reason for their bilateral interactions, since other political, diplomatic, and other routes to Track II diplomacy have already been exhausted.

The question of whether climate change is a hoax or a fact has been definitively settled, as evidenced by the fifth Annual Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Nevertheless, the impacts of environmental and climate-induced alterations are evident and more intense in South Asia. Regrettably, both Pakistan and India are woefully ill-equipped to effectively address or alleviate the consequences of environmental concerns. Both adjacent nations are currently dealing with floods, water scarcity, transboundary smog, and unprecedented locust infestations. Climate change in this particular situation offers a chance for India and Pakistan to overcome their stalemate in bilateral ties by working together on shared environmental concerns (UNDP, 2021).

The environmental peacebuilding paradigm suggests that by addressing these common environmental difficulties, it is possible to initiate communication and collaboration, which might potentially lead to the resolution of other ongoing issues between the two opponents. In the end, the practice of environmental peacebuilding might potentially rejuvenate regional organizations such as SAARC. Hence, it is imperative to pinpoint the domains in which Pakistan and India may collaborate and take advantage of prospects to strengthen their bilateral relations. The Indus River Basin (IRB) is a cross-border river basin that originates from the Himalayan Mountain range and the Tibet Plateau. The allocation of the International River Basin's water resources between Pakistan and India highlights its importance for the large population living along its shores. Both nations largely depend on agriculture, with millions of people's lives relying on the rivers and tributaries of the basin. Nevertheless, in recent decades, the agricultural sector's contribution to the GDP of both Pakistan and India has decreased. As of 2020, agriculture contributed to barely 18% of Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while a similar pattern was seen in India, where agriculture made up only 19.3% of the GDP (IWMI, 2020).

The present course of water resources in the region gives rise to apprehensions over probable future water disputes, resulting in coercive diplomacy between Pakistan and India.

India's response to water shortage along the IRB has been the construction of dams on shared water resources. This action has the potential to weaponize water and might be seen as a violation of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT). Hence, it is crucial for Pakistan and India to utilize the Permanent Indus Commission as a means of collaboration in dealing with water resource management, while considering the impact of climate-induced alterations in the area (UNDP, 2021).

Pakistan and India both encounter contradictory yet mutually experienced natural issues, including floods and droughts. Both of them depend on water supplies from the IRB, which originates in the Tibetan Plateau, where Glacial

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Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) provide substantial hazards. Based on research, about 5 million individuals in Pakistan and India are vulnerable to these environmental occurrences (IWMI, 2020).

Pakistan has been contending with catastrophic floods during nearly every monsoon season. The intense monsoon rainfall in 2022 caused widespread destruction throughout the country, resulting in the submersion of almost one-third of the nation. Consequently, a total of 81 districts were officially designated as 'calamity-hit' and 40 districts were classified as 'flood-affected,' resulting in a tragic death toll of over 1700 individuals and the displacement of almost 7.9 million people (UNDP, 2022). India had substantial floods in provinces such as Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, leading to the death of 1,800 people and impacting around 1.3 million residents (NDMA, 2022).

Interestingly, both adjacent nations are also struggling with the problem of droughts. Prolonged disruptions in the regular rainfall patterns and intense heatwaves have resulted in drought-like circumstances in Pakistan and India. According to reports, Pakistan crossed the threshold for water shortage in 2005 and is expected to reach a state of water scarcity by 2025. In addition, many regions of Baluchistan and Sindh are now experiencing severe droughts, which are having a detrimental impact on the livelihoods of millions of people and causing thousands to relocate to nearby places (World Bank, 2020). India is currently experiencing significant water scarcity throughout the country. As a result, dams like the Kishanganga and Baglihar dams have been built, which have negative impacts on Pakistan's water resources and are in violation of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

In recent times, India has experienced severe water scarcity in key rice-producing regions such as Bihar, West Bengal, and Jharkhand. As a result, the United Nations (UNDP, 2022) has designated the nation as 'Drought Vulnerable'. Considering the fact that both Pakistan and India have economies that heavily depend on agriculture, the current patterns of floods and droughts present substantial threats to both economies. If these patterns continue, they may weaken the efficacy of the IWT and perhaps intensify coercive diplomacy between Pakistan and India. Therefore, successful water resource management requires strong collaboration to tackle current environmental concerns and climate change, which should have been essential aspects of the debates on the International Water Treaty (IWT).

The potential for reconciliation between India and Pakistan is hindered by several obstacles and differences, which are detailed below:

1. The power imbalance between India and Pakistan in South Asia has been worsened by the strategic cooperation between India and the United States, leading to substantial repercussions for the strategic equilibrium in the region. This asymmetry generates security vulnerabilities for Pakistan and erodes its regional clout. (Gupta, 2020).

2. United States' endorsement of India: India's privileged status has been boosted by the strong support of the United States, allowing it to pursue its national interests with little consequences. This include activities such as infringements on human rights in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) region and assertive nuclear positioning, which provide risks to both Pakistan and China (Tharoor, 2021).
3. Pakistan is facing international limitations due to the strengthening strategic partnership between India and the US. This encompasses the imminent risk of penalties imposed under the Countering America's Adversaries via penalties Act (CAATSA) and the politicization of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in relation to Pakistan (Haider, 2020).
4. Pakistan has been actively pursuing stronger ties with China as a counter to the growing strategic partnership between India and the United States. Pakistan regards China as a dependable ally in countering India's growing influence and strategic obstacles (Siddiq, 2020).
5. Smaller governments in the area are facing a dilemma because to the growing relationships between India and the US, and between China and Pakistan. These states may endeavor to augment their worth and pursue greater autonomy in making foreign policy decisions in order to counterbalance India's influence (Khan, 2019).

Conclusion

The balance of power and efforts to achieve peace between India and Pakistan are essential for the stability and development of South Asia. The partnership between both countries is vital for ensuring continuous economic advancement and regional stability, since they both have a pivotal role in maintaining peace. However, the ongoing geopolitical conflict, namely the Kashmir dispute, remains a major obstacle to attaining long-term peace. In order for a peace-building movement to achieve success, it is essential to directly address and settle the Kashmir issue. In order to guarantee the success of any collaborative endeavors, it is crucial to incorporate this essential matter into peace discussions. Achieving sustainable peace necessitates the implementation of a thorough and all-encompassing approach that considers the geographical, cultural, and historical factors specific to the region.

It is essential to understand the two separate concepts of peace: 'negative peace,' which means the absence of violence, and 'positive peace,' which entails social integration and the avoidance of structural violence. The theories and frameworks developed in the subject of Peace and Conflict Studies offer valuable insights into the causal relationships between peace and violence. Theoretical foundations can inform the development of solutions that seek to eliminate systematic violence and provide a sustainable environment focused on peace. The peace process between India and Pakistan is marked by its dynamic and intricate nature, influenced by a variety of cultural and historical factors. The lack of

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political resolve and commitment has traditionally hindered progress, affecting the politics, economics, and strategic interests of both nations. Therefore, the formation of a durable peace process requires a cooperative effort and shared resolve from all relevant parties.

In order to foster peace and solve the multitude of problems between India and Pakistan, it is crucial to fully grasp the cultural and historical intricacies that shape the nature of violence and conflict in the area. Thorough awareness and appreciation of these factors is necessary to build and implement effective methods and tactics. The attainment of peace between India and Pakistan is impeded by a multitude of barriers, with the Kashmir dispute being the foremost hurdle. However, by implementing a comprehensive and philosophically rooted approach, these two nations may overcome their differences. By participating in this activity, individuals may improve the mutual relationships between two parties and contribute to developing a stable and prosperous area in South Asia. Every party concerned must exhibit an unwavering commitment to peace, recognizing the importance of both the absence of violence and the presence of harmony. In order to successfully address the root causes of conflict, it is imperative that they engage in joint efforts.

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