**India–Pakistan relations**

**introduction:**

India–Pakistan relations are the bilateral ties between the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The two countries have a complex and largely hostile relationship that is rooted in a multitude of historical and political events, most notably the partition of British India in August 1947. The India–Pakistan border is one of the most militarised international boundaries in the world.  
After World War II, British India was officially divided into the Union of India and Pakistan, resulting in massive migration and significant loss of life. India became a secular republic with a Hindu majority, while Pakistan adopted Islam as its state religion, initially with a significant Hindu minority, though most Hindus left after the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

**Seeds of conflict during independence**  
Massive population exchanges occurred between the two newly formed states in the months immediately following the partition. Religious minorities were expected to stay put in the states they found themselves residing in. However, while an exception was made for Punjab and this did not apply to other provinces.  
According to the British plan for the partition of British India, all the 680 princely states were allowed to decide which of the two countries to join. However, the decisions of some of the princely states would shape the Pakistan-India relationship considerably in the years to come.

1. **Junagadh issue**  
   Junagadh, a princely state in Gujarat, chose to accede to Pakistan in August 1947, despite its Hindu majority. India contested this accession, citing geographical separation and the surrounding Indian territory. The dispute escalated, with India taking control of Junagadh's principalities. In February 1948, a plebiscite decisively affirmed Junagadh's accession to India, settling the contentious issue.
2. **Kashmir issue**  
   The Kashmir dispute, the world's oldest unresolved international conflict, centers on Pakistan's claim to the region, a stance supported by the global community except India. The conflict's root lies in India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947, purportedly under the Instrument of Accession. However, this document's legitimacy is disputed, with the United Nations also regarding it as invalid. The region's majority Muslim population and its geographical and economic ties to Pakistan align with the principles that guided the subcontinent's partition in 1947, making Kashmir's status a longstanding point of contention.

**Wars**  
India and Pakistan have fought in numerous armed conflicts since their independence.

1. **1947 War**Hari Singh, the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir faced mixed sentiments among his Muslim population. He was facing an uprising by his Muslim subjects in Poonch, and had lost control of the western districts of his kingdom. The Indo-Pakistani First Kashmir War was a war fought between India and Pakistan over the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir from 1947 to 1948. It was the first of four Indo-Pakistani wars between the two newly independent nations. On October 27, 1947, India sent its army to Kashmir illegally and occupied the area.
2. **1965 war**  
   The 1965 war between Pakistan and India was marked by Pakistan's determined defense against a superior invading force, preventing the capture of key cities like Lahore. Pakistan initiated the conflict through Operation Gibraltar, aiming to instigate an insurgency against India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. This marked one of the largest tank battles since World War II. The war concluded with a UN-mandated ceasefire and the Tashkent Declaration.
3. **1971 War**  
   In 1971, an internal crisis in Pakistan resulted in a third war between India and Pakistan. East Pakistan sought autonomy but faced military suppression. India supported East Pakistani guerrilla forces, prompting an open war with Pakistan. The secession of East Pakistan created the independent state of Bangladesh.
4. **The Kargil War**  
   The Kargil War, fought between India and Pakistan in 1999, was a limited conflict centered on the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir. It was initiated by Pakistani forces infiltrating into Indian Territory. The conflict resulted in heavy casualties on both sides and ended with India regaining control of the occupied areas, reaffirming the Line of Control as the de facto border.
5. **Talks**  
   After the 1971 war, Pakistan and India made slow progress towards the normalisation of relations.  
   **1990s**  
   In 1997, Indo-Pakistan talks resumed after a three-year hiatus, focusing on eight outstanding issues, notably the status of Kashmir. India asserts it as integral, while Pakistan emphasizes UN resolutions for self-determination. Talks broke down in September 1997 over the approach to handling Kashmir and other issues. A significant step was the February 1999 meeting in Lahore, but relations faced a setback with a military coup in Pakistan later that year.
6. **2000s**  
   In 2001, talks between Pakistani President Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee in Agra failed. In 2004, both nations agreed to extend a nuclear testing ban and established a hotline for diplomatic communication. The Baglihar Dam dispute emerged in 2005. An unconditional release of an Indian man held in Pakistani prisons since 1975 aimed at improving bilateral relations occurred in 2008.
7. **2010s**  
   In February 2011, India agreed to resume talks with Pakistan, which had been suspended after the 26/11 Mumbai Attacks. In April 2012, India announced the removal of restrictions on foreign direct investment (FDI) from Pakistan to India, following a thaw in relations.In August 2019, after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, tensions escalated. Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties. The Kartarpur Corridor, however, was opened in November 2019, providing a corridor for Sikh pilgrims from India to visit a revered site in Pakistan.
8. **2020s**  
   On 25 February 2021, India and Pakistan issued a joint statement indicating that both sides agreed to stop firing at each other at the Line of Control (LOC, disputed de facto border) in Kashmir. Despite this, the Indian government has rejected Pakistan's call for talks, stating that "Peace, prosperity can't coexist with terrorism".

**Trade Relation**   
Trade and commerce has always played an important role in bilateral relationship and it has been a two way bridge which strengthens friendly relations. Therefore, normalising trading relations with Pakistan is an important component of India’s policy of overall normalisation and improvement of bilateral relations with the neighbour. Bilateral trade existed since independence, however, significant progress was made in the late nineties. India initiated the move for further boost in bilateral trade when it extended the MFN status to Pakistan in 1996 and the trade volume grew remarkably in the early 2000s. This was followed by opening up of trade through the land routes in April, 12, thereby opening up better trade opportunities.