



JCC Kargil War
INDIA

Letters from your Dais

Dear delegates,

My name is Vishwaa Sofat and I will be your chair for the Indian side of JCC Kargil War: The Battle for Kashmir! I've been doing Model UN since middle school and have enjoyed my time in Stuyvesant's Model UN Team. I decided to continue doing Model UN in high school because the topics we discuss as delegates have affected and still affect millions of people. The skills taught by MUN not only make us stronger individuals but prepare us to make a social impact in our own communities by finding solutions to complex problems. In the past, I have helped chair the Uber BOD Crisis and JCC Brexit. Alongside Model UN, I am also heavily involved in Stuyvesant's Student Union as Vice President of the school. I am also the curator of TEDxStuyvesant, an organizer for our blood drives and captain of the Varsity Co-Ed Cricket Team.

I am really excited to be directing this committee with Julian. As an Indian citizen, I have seen lasting impact the partition and border conflicts has had on the Indian subcontinent. The politics might be messy, but I expect all delegates to thoroughly address the issue during committee. I am looking forward to a really good conference with all of you. Remember to have fun, make friends and be creative because that's what MUN is all about. Make the best out of this conference!

Best,
Vishwaa Sofat
vsofat00@stuy.edu

Dear delegates,

My name is Julian Giordano, I am a sophomore, and I will be your director for the Indian side of The JCC Kargil War: The Battle for Kashmir! I've been doing Model UN since middle school, and have appreciated being a part of Stuyvesant's MUN team. I love MUN because the skills taught by working with other delegates at conferences (public speaking, diplomacy, researching, etc...) transcend beyond them and into our own lives. MUN serves as an inspiration and encouragement that students can invest themselves into critically understanding a topic, and then apply their understanding towards real change and conflict-resolution. Apart from MUN, I also write for the Opinions section Stuyvesant's newspaper, the Stuyvesant Spectator, and am a Delegate of External Affairs in the Student Union, Stuyvesant's student government. I'm psyched to be directing this committee with Vishwaa, and I'm looking forward to discussing the Kargil War, which I believe is crucial to understanding the present-day geopolitics of South Asia.

Sincerely,
Julian Giordano
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The Kargil War



Historical Context - The Kashmir Conflict

This wasn't the first time there had been conflict related to the Line of control (LOC) between India and Pakistan. In fact, these conflicts started at the time of the partition. The partition of 1947 was a result of the British policy of 'divide and rule'. They used religion to divide the Indian subcontinent into two states: Union of India and Dominion of Pakistan. Kashmir fell right on the border, but for the most part on the Indian side. Pakistan's first President Muhammad Ali Jinnah tried convincing the Maharaja (King) of Kashmir to join Pakistan. The Muslims in the area used violence as a demonstration that Kashmir belonged on the other side. The violence involved the neighboring state of Jammu and eventually led to the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947. The Pakistani forces used irregular waves, a theme that has persisted since. Neither side was willing to make concessions, as they strongly believed the other would try to pull a power move. The British and UN both attempted to mediate the war of accession. The Security Council passes Resolution 47, which attempted to remove all Pakistanis residing in the Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir.

The second attempt by Pakistan came to be known as Operation Gibraltar or the 1965 Indo-Pakistani War. Pakistan had signed a military pact with the United States, which had offered to provide military equipment and training. Using these resources, Pakistan trained its military in guerilla warfare and eventually dispatched irregular units of forces to create tensions within the area. Locals, however, did not revolt but rather reported the infiltrators. The Pakistani plan had failed but they made another attempt. This time they targeted Akhnoor, hoping to cut off communication with Kashmir so they could successfully attack. India answered by increasing the broadening the war to include Punjab, Pakistan. The war came to an end with the Tashkent Agreement: a settlement to abide by previously accepted positions and not interfere with the other nation.

The origins of the Kargil War are more closely associated with the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. During the Bangladesh Liberation War (in East Pakistan), India sided with the Bengali nationalist forces after an airstrike from Pakistan. In one of the shortest wars in history, it forced Pakistan to surrender in only 13 days. India emerged with strong military dominance over Pakistan, as well as a positive relationship with the new Bangladesh. Pakistan struggled to resurge after losing half of its population, a third of its military, and a large part of its economy. After the war, there was a long period of peace undertoned with mounting tensions as both countries strengthened military outposts surrounding the Siachen Glacier. By the 1990s, separatist movements in Kashmir combined with nuclear weapons testing by both nations created a hostile environment. In February of 1999, both nations signed onto the Lahore Treaty in an attempt to curb a potential nuclear race and promise a resolution to the Kashmir Conflict. However, during that same winter, the Pakistani Armed Forces began an infiltration operation codenamed "Operation Badr" to send Pakistani troops to the Indian side of the LOC with the goal of separating Kashmir and Ladakh and forcing Indian forces to retreat from the Siachen Glacier. This would give Pakistan the upper hand at forcing Indian into a negotiation of the Kashmir dispute, with the potential of settling Pakistan's claim to Kashmir.

Overview

In the summer of 1999, India and Pakistan became embroiled in the conflict otherwise known as the Kargil War—a dispute over land along the Line of Control (LOC, which is a de facto border between India and Pakistan) and in the Kashmir district. On May 3rd, local shepherds reported the infiltration of Pakistani forces under the guise of Kashmiri militants into the Indian side of the LOC. Two days later, the Indian army responded with a patrol of soldiers, 5 of whom were captured and tortured to death by Pakistani forces. The Pakistan Army then proceeded to heavily shell Kargil on the 9th of May, prompting a further mobilization of Indian forces.

The committee will begin a week before the start of the War to allow delegates to change the historical events using their portfolio powers. As members of the Indian government, army, and other political organizations, delegates will be tasked with finding an ending and resolution to the conflict that most benefits the party they represent. The Dias will serve as the President of India and act as the Commander-In-Chief throughout committee.

Committee Spot Descriptions

(A note about spot descriptions: all spots are based on real figures. While we will do our best to provide some background about them to help you understand their position, we advise that you do additional research on your own.)

Atul Bihari Vajpayi, PM of India

Vajpayi is the first PM who didn't represent the INC. He is leading the country under the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. He is known for swaying the nation with his eloquent speeches and always open to collaboration.

Ved Prakash Malik, Army Chief

Chief Malik started serving in 1959 in the Sikh Light Infantry. He served as a Brigadier during the Operation Cactus. Malik is in a position where the successes and failures of the war will have to be accepted by him as "moral responsibility".

Anil Jashwant Tipnis, Air Chief Marshal, Chief of Air Staff

Tipnis started serving for the Air Force in 1961 and was named Air Chief Marshal in 1998. The Air Force has never engaged in ground targets from similar heights as the mountain peak in Kargil, so the Marshal must decide how plausible this will be and whether it will be worth it.

George Fernandes, Minister of Defence

Before becoming the Minister of Defence, Fernandes served as the Minister of Railways. His long tenure in the Lok Sabha has left him with a lot of connections. The Minister of Defence must work alongside the Army Chiefs to defend India's honor.

Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister of J&K

Abdullah was born into Kashmir politics, as his father was the former Chief Minister. Before becoming Chief Minister of J&K, he served as the Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy. As Chief Minister of J&K, Abdullah must present his state's concerns to the Union. He must keep the state together in this time of emergency.

Girish Chandra Saxena, Governor of J&K

Girish Chandra Saxena served as an Indian Police Service, an Indian Civil Services position. Now as Governor, Saxena could impose a Gubernatorial rule over the state and determine the extent of the threat the state of emergency imposes.

Jaswant Singh, Minister of External Affairs

Singh was one of the founders of the Bharatiya Janata Party, the current party in power. He served as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee in conjunction with Minister of External Affairs. The events related to border conflict have caught international attention and Singh must make sure India does not lose supporters or have to fight a stronger Pakistani side.

Yashwant Sinha, Minister of Finance

Before his political tenure, Sinha served in the Indian Administrative Services. He also held positions in the Indian Foreign Services. He served as a Member of the Rajya Sabha, representing the Janata Dal Party. He later became the National Spokesperson for the BJP and in his tenure as Minister of Finance has begun rolling out initiatives and reforms that will pull the Indian economy on a positive trajectory.

LK Advani, Minister of Home Affairs

A long time politician, Advani has served multiple key roles in the Indian government, such as Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Member of Parliament representing two different constituencies. Advani's faces a key challenge of maintaining internal security, while India prepares itself to fight this crucial war.

Sonia Gandhi, Head of INC

As the Leader of the Opposition and President of the Indian National Congress, the party not in power for the first time in Indian history, and being a Gandhi she has a lot of pressure on her shoulders to keep the BJP-led government in check.

Arun Jaitley, Minister of Information and Broadcasting

Before his political career, Jaitley served as a lawyer in front of the Supreme Court. Preceding the 1999 General Election, Jaitley became the spokesperson for the BJP. After the party assumed power, Jaitley was named Minister of Information and Broadcasting, where he must make sure the I&B regulations are enforced in a time of sensitive media.

P.R. Kumaramangalam, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Kumaramangalam started his political career as the first President of the National Students Union of India (NSUI) and later a close confidante of Rajiv Gandhi. After being a Congress leader, he switched to the BJP but still loved on both sides. He is a people's politician who keeps his promises.

Ramakrishna Hegde, Minister of Commerce and Industry

Hegde started his journey at the local and state levels. He was elected to Karnataka Legislative Assembly and eventually became the Chief Minister of Karnataka. His involvement in revolts against the INC landed him a spot to be more active in national politics. The investment in war might take away from the growing industries and Hegde has to defend his sector.

P.V. Narasimha Rao, Leader of INC, Former PM

Rao was an extremely successful President, who is known as the “Father of Indian Economic Reforms” because of his success in transforming the economy of India. His successful work must be continued by the new PM.

Sikandar Bakht, Leader of Rajya Sabha

Bakht started his political career, as a member of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. He opposed the INC and was one of the founding members of the Janata Dal. He later joined the BJP and served as the Vice President of the party. He was the leader of the party in the Rajya Sabha, a division of appointed leaders in the Union government.

Kamalesh Sharma, Permanent Representative of India to the UN

Sharma faces the challenge of maintaining strong international ties and not losing support from other nations. The Representative will also be India’s voice in the UNCIP.

Yasin Malik, Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front Leader

Malik and his supporters are not content with the Kashmir they live in and want the border lines to change to accommodate those who were left behind in 1947. He has a hard job to make sure the voice of a slim group is heard by everyone in the nation which never took partition well.

Captain Vikram Batra, War Hero, Captain of the Army

Batra has shown his dedication to defend the nation. In a time, where his bravery is needed again it is important he is listened to and not only commanded by his seniors.

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