

Why do India and Pakistan fighting over **Kashmir**?

On Wednesday, Pakistani and Indian fighter jets engaged in a **skirmish** over Indian-controlled territory in the disputed border state of Jammu and Kashmir. The **incursion** came just one day after Indian aircraft flew into Pakistan and attacked near the town of Balakot.

Kashmir 克什米尔

skirmish 小冲突

Now there are fears that **hostilities** could escalate between the two countries, which were created by the bloody partition of British India more than 70 years ago and have coexisted uneasily ever since.

incursion 入侵

hostilities 战争

The immediate cause was the Feb. 14 **suicide bombing** by a young Islamic militant, who blew up a **convoy** of trucks carrying **paramilitary** forces in Pulwama in southern Kashmir. It was the deadliest attack in the region in 30 years.

suicide bombing 自杀式爆炸

convoy 护卫; 护航

But there are also broader political forces at work. India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, is up for re-election in May, and he is eager to **avenge** a bombing that has stirred outrage.

paramilitary 准军事的; 辅助军事的

avenge 报仇

Pakistan, for its part, has a new prime minister, Imran Khan, who was elected last year with the backing of his country's powerful military. Khan wants to show that he can stand up to India, even as the country's economy is so weak that he is seeking **bailouts** from Saudi Arabia and China.

bailout 援助

Khan urged India to settle matters through talks. "All big wars have been due to miscalculation," he said in a televised address. "My question to India is that given the weapons we have, can we afford miscalculation?"