

The Kargil conflict of 1999 was a significant military confrontation between India and Pakistan that took place in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir. While the conflict occurred during the tenure of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, it is important to note that Nawaz Sharif and his government were largely unaware of the Pakistani military's plans and actions in the region. Here's a detailed note on the Kargil conflict in view of Nawaz Sharif's era:

1. **Background:** The dispute over the region of Kashmir has been a longstanding issue between India and Pakistan. In May 1999, Pakistani troops and militants infiltrated the Indian-controlled territory of Kargil with the objective of capturing strategic positions along the Line of Control (LoC). The aim was to put pressure on India to resolve the Kashmir issue in Pakistan's favor.
2. **Lack of Political Oversight:** One of the notable aspects of the Kargil conflict was the lack of political oversight and awareness on the Pakistani side. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his government were not informed about the operation, and it was primarily planned and executed by the Pakistani military under the leadership of General Pervez Musharraf, who was the Chief of Army Staff at the time.
3. **International Response:** As the conflict escalated, international attention turned to the region. The international community, including the United States, urged Pakistan to withdraw its forces from the Indian territory. India, on the other hand, received support for its stance that the infiltrators were Pakistani-backed forces. The conflict put Pakistan in a diplomatic and strategic disadvantage, with limited international support.
4. **Ceasefire and Resolution:** Under mounting international pressure, and facing the risk of a full-scale war with India, Nawaz Sharif sought to de-escalate the situation. In July 1999, he met with US President Bill Clinton and agreed to withdraw Pakistani forces from Kargil. The conflict ended with a ceasefire, and Pakistan faced criticism for its involvement in the unauthorized military operation.
5. **Political Fallout:** The Kargil conflict had significant political consequences in Pakistan. Nawaz Sharif faced criticism for his lack of oversight and control over the military's actions. The conflict strained civil-military relations in the country and led to tensions between the political leadership and the military establishment.
6. **Lahore Declaration:** In an attempt to ease tensions and rebuild diplomatic relations, Nawaz Sharif and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee met in Lahore, Pakistan, in February 1999, just a few months before the Kargil conflict. The Lahore Declaration aimed to promote peace, security, and stability between India and Pakistan. However, the Kargil conflict severely undermined the progress made through the Lahore Declaration.

The Kargil conflict of 1999 was a significant event in the history of Indo-Pak relations, and while it occurred during Nawaz Sharif's era, he was largely unaware of the military's

actions. The conflict had far-reaching implications, including diplomatic repercussions, strained civil-military relations, and a setback in the peace process between India and Pakistan.