

## India-Pakistan Conundrum

### What is the issue?

At this moment of great flux in Pakistan comes Sharat Sabharwal's book, India's Pakistan Conundrum (Routledge), to guide us through the country's complexities.

### What is the current issue in Pakistan?

- Pakistan is in the midst of another spiralling political and economic crisis.
- Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif took office in April after the opposition voted out the Imran Khan government.
- The former prime minister is drawing huge crowds as he rails against an alleged U.S. conspiracy that unseated him.
- The Army chief General Javed Qamar Bajwa, is due to retire in November and his successor may well decide the political course over the next five years.

### What are the ground realities in Indo-Pak relation?

- **Dysfunctional state-** Pakistan is a dysfunctional state because of its
  - civil-military imbalance
  - use of jihadi/terrorist groups
- **Role of surgical strikes-** India's tactical military options to deter Pakistan's terror machine ("surgical strikes", Balakot for Pulwama) may carry only temporary impact.
- **Persuasion through trade-** Coercion through trade or water does not work as
  - The volumes are too small
  - It could lead to unintended consequences for India where it is the lower riparian (as with China)
- **China factor-** With the snug China-Pakistan relationship, Pakistan is now part of India's bigger China problem.
- **Nuclear weapon state-** Pakistan too has nuclear weapons and the resulting chaos will not stop at the boundaries of that country.



# INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

## INDIA-PAK WAR 1947

After partition, Pakistan tribal army entered Kashmir. Maharaja of Kashmir signs a treaty of accession with India.

## INDIA-PAK WAR OF 1965

A brief war breaks out after Pakistan's operation Gibraltar. Ends in a ceasefire.

## INDIA-PAK WAR OF 1971

Another Indo-Pakistan war ends in defeat for Pakistan. Creation of Bangladesh.

## SIACHEN CONFLICT 1984

The Indian Army seizes control of the Siachen Glacier.

## KARGIL WAR 1999

Terrorists backed by Pakistani forces occupy Kargil peaks. India repulses the attack.

## PARLIAMENT ATTACK 2001

Pakistan backed terrorists attack Parliament on December 11, 2001.

## 26/11 MUMBAI ATTACK 2008

Terrorists from Pakistan enter Mumbai through sea and attack public.

## SURGICAL STRIKES 2016

India carries out surgical strikes against terror camps in Pok in response to Uri attack

## ARTICLE 370 REVOKED

India revokes Article 370 which granted special status to J&K, Pakistan takes the matter to UN



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## How can the relations be improved?

- A pragmatic approach that stresses the region's co-prosperity to make Pakistan realise that it has more to gain by bettering itself economically than pulling India down is needed.
- India's own house has to be put in order,
  - Including in Jammu & Kashmir
  - Rebuilding what used to be the broad national consensus on foreign policy
  - Avoiding competitive show of nastiness towards the neighbor

## References

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