

IMUN 2025 Research Report

Security council Issue #1: Conflict between India and Pakistan

Introduction:

One of the most significant military escalations in South Asia in recent times occurred in May 2025 as a result of an unexpected eruption between India and Pakistan. Four days of fighting reportedly resulted in the deaths or injuries of over 300 civilians (Reuters, 2025). Despite commitments under international humanitarian law (IHL) to protect non-combatants, there were still airstrikes, drone attacks, and shelling that took place across civilian-populated areas in Jammu and Kashmir along with surrounding places. The ceasefire is still in jeopardy as tensions continue into July, and both nations have stepped up rhetoric and retaliatory stances. This tension underscores the urgency for enhancing the UNSC-led frameworks to maintain civilian protection and accountability in nuclear capable high risk conflict zones.

Background information:

The intricate historical, territorial, and geopolitical dispute between India and Pakistan, especially with regard to Jammu and Kashmir, is the foundation of the current conflict. After the 1947 Partition, the princely state incorporated India via the instrument of Accession, which led to decades of rivalry and the first Indo-Pak conflict (CFR, 2024). Despite diplomatic initiatives such as the 1972 Simla agreement, tensions continued to rise via subsequent wars, such as the 1999 Kargil conflict, which caused a large number of lives, both military and civilian (Al Jazeera, 2024). Further on, 40 Indian paramilitary officers were murdered in the 2019 Pulwama suicide attack, which was carried out by the Pakistan-based organization Jaish-e-Mohammed. This provoked Indian airstrikes in retaliation (BBC, 2019). In the years that followed, tensions grew more intense, with Pakistani nationals being prohibited from traveling, cross-border interactions being suspended and militarism rising. Water insecurity in Pakistan's Punjab and Sindh provinces has become a major concern as a result of India's recent suspension of participation and diversion plans, putting pressure on the traditionally resilient Indus waters treaty (IWT), a 1960 water-sharing pact (Reuters, 2024)

The most recent escalation started in April 2025 when more than 40 civilians and security personnel were killed in a terrorist strike in Pahalgam. On May 7, India began operation Sindoor, carrying out air and drone attacks in areas of Punjab and Kashmir, which are administered by Pakistan (The times, 2025). According to humanitarian organisations, Pakistan's missile strikes against Indian infrastructure in retaliation

caused widespread civilian displacement and at least 90 civilian deaths (Human Rights Watch, 2025). Despite the May 10 declaration of a ceasefire, inhabitants in border communities are still at risk from drone incursions, cross-border shelling and ongoing battles (Al Jazeera, 2025). Due to communication disruptions, the loss of vital infrastructures, the obstruction of humanitarian access, and environmental instability brought on by the water conflict, civilians continue to suffer. These events underscore the urgent need for more efficient UN mechanisms to protect civilians and guarantee accountability, as they are part of a larger pattern of infringement of international humanitarian law.

Focus of debate:

Delegates should aim at strengthening adherence to international humanitarian law (IHL), especially with regard to the protection of civilians in high-risk conflict areas like Kashmir. Debate should also focus on how the UNSC can facilitate international accountability procedures, assist or fortify the local legal system, and effectively address violations by both state and non-state actors. In order to balance sovereignty and the need to safeguard civilian life, delegates should take into account the political and practical difficulties associated with implementing IHL in nuclear capable, regionally sensitive circumstances.

Another vital component of debate should be acquiring options for ensuring humanitarian access and safeguarding vulnerable groups. Focusing on peacekeeping operations, the utilization of humanitarian corridors, and systems for providing relief continuously in times of conflict is crucial. To maintain civilian protection in changing conflict contexts, delegates should evaluate how well-equipped the current peacekeeping frameworks are to handle contemporary forms of warfare and take into account areas where resource allocation, mandate revision, or strategic coordination may be required. It is important that delegates contribute to a holistic view with multi-dimensional understanding and perspective on forming a resolution.

Recommendation for research:

Firstly, it is important delegates familiarise themselves with their assigned country's stance, alliances, and policies concerning the protection of civilians during times of conflict, in specific the conflict between India and Pakistan. This involves assessing participation in previous or current peacekeeping missions, humanitarian aid initiatives, or efforts to mediate conflicts. It is equally vital that delegates examine the legal foundation for effective policy writing and negotiation coming from international legal frameworks, including the Geneva conventions, the Hague conventions, and important UNSC decisions.

In addition, research on accountability mechanisms, such as the international criminal court (ICC), ad hoc tribunals, and national court system's roles in dealing with war crimes and civilian casualties, is crucial. The role of non-state armed organizations and obstacles to humanitarian access, including political constraints, security threats, and blockades, should also be considered. Understanding these operational and legal issues will be aided by reading reports from reliable organizations such as Human Rights Watch, OCHA, and the ICRC.

Work cited:

ET Online. "Pakistan Starts Rebuilding Terror Launchpads Destroyed in Operation Sindoor with ISI Support: Report." *The Economic Times*, Economic Times, 28 June 2025, economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/pakistan-starts-rebuilding-terror-launchpads-destroyed-in-operation-sindoor-with-isi-support-report/articleshow/122126999.cms. Accessed 1 July 2025.

Gibran Naiyyar Peshimam, and Ariba Shahid. "Pakistan Says It Has Launched Military Offensive against India." *Reuters*, 10 May 2025, www.reuters.com/world/india/pakistan-says-three-air-bases-targeted-by-indian-missiles-2025-05-10/. Accessed 1 July 2025.

Hughes, Seren, et al. "Trump Praises India-Pakistan Ceasefire — as It Happened." *The Times*, 10 May 2025, www.thetimes.com/world/asia/article/india-pakistan-live-latest-news-war-today-attack-3hnt5gc5h. Accessed 1 July 2025.

Jazeera, Al. "Multiple Explosions, Blackout in Indian-Administered Kashmir's Jammu City." *Al Jazeera*, 8 May 2025, www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/8/pakistan-says-it-downed-25-indian-drones-after-attacks-escalate-tensions. Accessed 1 July 2025.

Kings and Generals. "India and Pakistan - What Is Going On? Kings and Generals Modern." *YouTube*, 8 May 2025, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hr5aks57mzA. Accessed 1 July 2025.

Majid, Zulfikar. "After Operation Sindoor, Pakistan Secretly Rebuilding Terror Infrastructure with Sophisticated Technology." *Deccan Herald*, 29 June 2025, www.deccanherald.com/india/jammu-and-kashmir/after-operation-sindoor-pakistan-secretly-rebuilding-terror-infrastructure-with-sophisticated-technology-3607692. Accessed 1 July 2025.