

Q. What are the major provisions of Simla Agreement (1972) between Pakistan and India? How it was helpful for establishment of durable peace in the region?

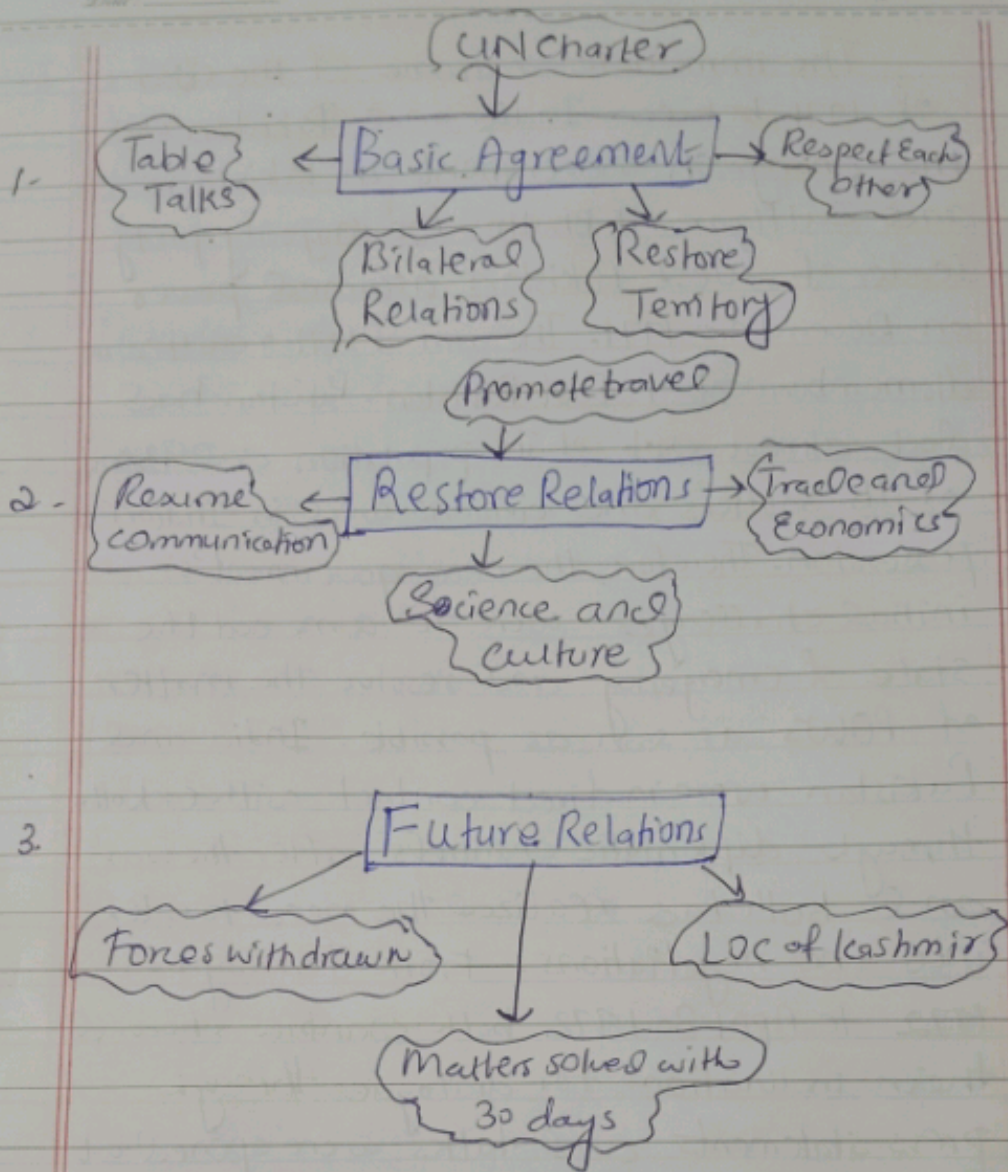
## 1- Introduction

Several Provisions, despite multiple problems, have been signed between Pakistan and India on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1972 known as the Simla Agreement. However, the major Provisions in the agreement are mainly the settlement of differences through bilateral agreements and the imposition of a ban on the unilateral alteration of the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir. It is an evident fact that it has not only compensated for the war of 1971 but also promoted diplomatic relations between the concerned states to large extent. Adding more to it, the agreement has helped the nations in the establishment of peace through the maintenance of communications, along with the prohibition of the propaganda war against one another, and withdrawal of forces from other states. Thus the Simla accord holds great importance in the establishment of peace in both countries.

## 2. Historical Background

The immediate outcome of the war of 1971 between India and Pakistan was the change of Government in Pakistan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the majority party leader of West Pakistan assumed power on December 1971. The war of 1971 resulted in dismemberment of East Pakistan. Pakistan had lost almost 54% of its population and 93,000 of its soldiers and civilians were in Indian possession. Therefore, the new government's initial challenges were to come out the state of emergency and resolve the matter of POWs as soon as possible. India and Pakistan were in direct contact with each other through diplomatic channels, after the war and both had realized the need to enter into the negotiations. From January 12, 1972 to April 30, 1972 both countries showed their inclination for dialogue through press statements and talks were opened at initial level. Finally, it was agreed that the talks between Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Indra Gandhi would open on June 28, 1972. The Simla agreement conference was held from June 28 to July 2, 1972.

### 3. Provisions of Simla Agreement



### 3a Principle of Peaceful Resolution

One of the important provision of Simla agreement was that: "Both countries intend to resolve their disagreements peacefully through bilateral dialogue." India has repeatedly said the Kashmir conflict is a bilateral problem that must be resolved via bilateral discussions in accordance with the Simla agreement of 1972, and so has

1- refuse any third-party interference, including that of United Nations.

### 3b. Respect for Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty:

2- The ceasefire line of 17 December 1971 was changed into the line of control (LOC) between India and Pakistan, and it was agreed that "Neither party should seek to alter it unilaterally, regardless of mutual disputes and legal interpretations"

3- So, according to the agreement, both agreed to respect the line of control between Jammu and Kashmir. Maintaining the inviolability of the Line of control in Jammu and Kashmir is essential to achieving lasting peace between India and Pakistan and is a condition that must met before peace can be achieved.

### 3c. Abiding by the Principles of UN Charter:

3a- The principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter were affirmed as guiding principle in their bilateral relations. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, they will refrain from the threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence of each other, and the basic issues and causes of conflict which have bedeviled the relations between the two countries for

the last 25 years shall be resolved by peaceful means-

### 3d Restoration of relations between two countries

In order to progressively restore and normalize the relations between the two countries step by step, it was agreed that steps shall be taken to resume communications, postal, telegraphic, sea, lanes including border posts, travel facilities for nationals of the other countries and exchange in the fields of science and culture will be promoted. In this connection, delegations from the two countries will meet from time to time to work out necessary details.

### 3e Future Prospects discussed in the Agreement

Both Governments agreed that their heads will meet again at a mutually convenient time in the future and that, in the meanwhile, the representatives of two sides will meet to discuss arrangements for the establishment of durable peace and normalization of relations, including questions of prisoners of war and civilian internees, a final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir and resumption of diplomatic relations. "The withdrawal shall commence upon entry into force of this agreement"

and shall be completed within period of 30 days thereafter.

#### 4. Outcome of Simla Agreement on peace and stability

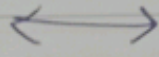
The Simla Agreement was critically important for the establishment of durable peace and stability in the states of Pakistan and India. The agreement ensured the stoppage of the propaganda war against each other as propaganda is a major cause of instability both socially and politically. And the withdrawal of forces from the captured areas is another step towards the establishment of peace in the region, for the maintenance of peace and stability of a nation is only possible in the absence of foreigners. Thus, the Simla Agreement is helpful for the maintenance of peace in both Pakistan and India.

#### 5. Conclusion

In a nutshell, The Simla Agreement of 1972, signed between Pakistan and India, aimed to establish principles of mutual relations and to settle disputes following the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. While it did contribute to a temporary reduction in hostilities and set the framework for resolving conflicts through

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bilateral negotiations. Therefore, the Simla Agreement was a significant diplomatic milestone, it did not lead to a lasting peace between India and Pakistan.



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