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## Pahalgam Attack and an Insight of Pakistan-India longstanding rivalry over Kashmir

On April 22, 2025, a tourist spot in Indian-Occupied Kashmir named Pahalgam has been hit by few terrorists. As a result of this deadly attack, 26 citizens are dead. Since the happening of the attack, Indian government has accused Pakistan of its involvement in the terrorist attack.

As of now, the terrorist organization called "Lashkar-e-Taiba" has claimed responsibility for conducting such attack in Indian-Occupied Kashmir's district Pahalgam. On the other hand, Pakistani government has denied the blatant ~~violations~~ accusations by the Indian government and has called it yet another "false-flag operation" of Indian government, similar to Pulwama attack in 2019. Moreover, it is also asserted by the Pakistani government that all of this has been done under the garb of upcoming elections to be held in India, in order to gain enough support in this regard. Similarly, it was also apprehended

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by the Pakistani government that India will possibly carry out its military strikes in Pakistan amidst the attack.

However, <sup>in yet another</sup> surprising move, India has issued notification regarding the suspension of Indus Water Treaty.

It is significant to highlight that this treaty is regarded an exemplary treaty of its own nature internationally and it has survived more intense

situations between the two nuclear armed neighbours including the three major wars, such as 1965, 1971 and Kargil War in 1999. Furthermore,

there has also been a diplomatic fallout between the two states including suspension of trade activities, closing of major yet working borders <sup>and</sup> returning of nationals as well as diplomats.

~~across the~~ As a retaliatory measure, Pakistan also held the Simla Agreement, 1972 in abeyance; a crucial accord that determines and formally recognize the Line of Control along with the provision <sup>establishing</sup> of peaceful resolution of disputes in case of any

conflict. In addition to this, Pakistan also closed its airspace for Indian commercial flights

operating from Pakistani airspace due to which India incurred a loss of around \$15 billion on the very first day.

Since there was already an apprehension of India's military aggression into Pakistan, it turned into a happening when it fired missiles on five major cities of Pakistan on the night of May 6 and 7 around 2am. These missiles were fired from within Indian territory on Lahore, Bahawalpur, Multan, Sialkot and Kashmir. Due to this, 32 people are slain and approximately 40 are injured. Pakistan, in the meantime responded by shooting down five Indian fighter jets which also includes Rafale; a French-origin jet with latest technology. A report published in the CNN stated that the intelligence report from French official media has confirmed the downing of Rafale jet by the Pakistan Air Force during May 7 midnight airstrikes. Not just this, on May 8 again, India sent around multiple drones in various cities of Pakistan such as Lahore, Sialkot, Gujrat, Gujranwala, and Rawalpindi, total of around 25

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drones; all of these drone have been neutralised by the Pakistan army.

Now that the tensions between both the nuclear states have escalated to a dangerous level, it is imperative for the International community to intrude and mediate between the two states. While many states such as United States, China, Turkey, Iran, and Saudi Arabia have condemned the attack, most of them have also offered to mediate or provide good offices for peaceful resolution of disputes between both of them. It is extremely important for both the states to realise that war is not a solution to any conflict. It has only deteriorated the situation further rather than bringing peace in any region. Hence, both the states need to sit together, and have a dialogue on the peaceful resolution of prevailing stand-off with the cooperation of international community.