

Reviewing **Indo- Pak** Bilateral Relations

Quarterly Monitoring Brief

April 2018 - June 2018

India and Pakistan seemed to be making progress in their bilateral relations as tensions abated at the end of March when both countries released a coordinated statement reiterating their decision to adhere to the 1992 code of conduct for diplomatic staff. This positive turn in relations was short-lived, and from April to June 2018, bilateral relations once again entered a phase of *détente*. The quarter was punctuated by a few positive statements and decisions, resulting in nothing more than a few temporary moments of respite.

The Kishanganga project, subject to immense criticism from Pakistan for nearly a decade, was finally inaugurated by India in late May this year. Pakistan termed the construction of the hydropower project a violation of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), and approached the World Bank to address their concerns however the involved parties could not reach a resolution. While Pakistan lodged several protests with India, the latter did not accept allegations of violating the IWT.

Ceasefire violations and unrelenting violence in Kashmir continued and worsened in this quarter resulting in increased casualties. The gang rape of an eight year old girl by many men including an Indian police constable sparked protests and fears of communal violence and growing insecurity among the Muslim community in Hindu majority areas of Indian Occupied Kashmir. 17 people were also killed by Indian forces as they clashed with protestors. Pakistani PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi called the killings deplorable. In the beginning of June, Indian security personnel drove an armored vehicle into a crowd of protestors in Srinagar, killing one person. Increased state violence further exacerbated already strained bilateral relations.

Pakistan summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner and other senior diplomats several times over the quarter to condemn ceasefire violations. Pakistan's DGMO also took up the matter of ceasefire violations with his Indian counterpart, and at the end of May, in what was an unprecedented move, the DGMOs of both countries released identical statements agreeing to restore ceasefire along the LoC and Working Border. This agreement however was short-lived as only three days later Indian troops shot and killed a man in Azad Jammu Kashmir, bringing an abrupt end to the DGMOs' agreement. As the quarter progressed, violence in Kashmir and ceasefire violations continued to rise.

While they were not as incendiary or as frequent as in the first quarter of the year, several aggressive remarks were made during this period. Indian Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, accused Pakistan of attempting to break India up by aiding militant entry into India. In May, Indian Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, said that India would treat any comments by Pakistan on wanting peace seriously, but in June, he said that while India would make an effort to honor the ceasefire agreement, if provoked, the Indian Army would not hold back from giving Pakistan a fitting response. Also in June, Singh and the Indian External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj expressed India's willingness to engage in dialogue only if Pakistan eradicated terrorism.

Barring a few, statements from the Pakistani side centered on the importance of dialogue for normalizing bilateral relation. Speaking at the Pakistan Military Academy, Pakistan COAS Qamar Javed Bajwa said that resolution of disputes between the two countries was possible only through comprehensive and meaningful dialogue. Pakistan's NSA Nasser Janjua also stressed on the importance of dialogue over war for the resolution of disputes and path to peace.

In a first, Pakistan and India announced their decision to participate in a joint military exercise in Russia under the banner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Additionally, an anti-terrorism conference was organised in Islamabad under the SCO that India agreed to attend.

Despite the temporary relief brought on by a few positive developments, tensions between the two countries did not show any signs of abating as the quarter came to an end. In late June, strains in Pakistan and India's relations led the two countries to refrain from exchanging sweets at Wagah Border on Eid, defying a long-held tradition. Pakistan's High Commissioner to India Sohail Mahmood was also not invited for the Eid celebration hosted by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

Media Reports

Kashmir

<p>01-04-2018 Three Indian soldiers and 13 suspected militants were killed in a series of clashes near the city of Srinagar. Police said hostilities broke out while security forces were conducting anti-militant operations. Four civilians were also killed when police reportedly opened fire on thousands of demonstrators, some throwing stones and demanding an end to Indian rule.</p>	<p>Time</p>
<p>02-04-2018 Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi expressed deep shock and grief at the indiscriminate killing of at least 17 Kashmiri youth in occupied Kashmir by Indian forces.</p>	<p>Geo News</p>
<p>06-04-2018 United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday said that the body was following the Kashmir situation "very closely".</p>	<p>Dawn</p>

<p>07-04-2018 Pakistan summoned the Indian deputy high commissioner to condemn ceasefire violation in Nikial sector along the Line of Control (LoC), resulting in the martyrdom of a woman and injuries to three others.</p>	<p>Express Tribune</p>
<p>11-04-2018 Five Pakistani civilians were injured in unprovoked firing by Indian forces across the Line of Control (LoC) on Wednesday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.</p>	<p>Geo News</p>
<p>12-04-2018 Former Pakistan ambassador to the US, Husain Haqqani said that Pakistan should try to resolve the Kashmir issue after normalizing its relations with India.</p>	<p>The Indian Express</p>
<p>14-04-2018 Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa said that the peaceful resolution of disputes between Pakistan and India, including Kashmir, is only possible through a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue.</p>	<p>Hindustan Times</p>
<p>19-04-2018 The rape and murder of an eight year old girl in Indian Occupied Kashmir heightened the fears of Muslim nomads living in what has become a hostile and Hindu-majority area.</p>	<p>Express Tribune</p>
<p>26-04-2018 Firing by the Indian Army at Padhar sector killed two civilians and injured two others using heavy automatic weapons, mortars, and anti-tank guided missiles.</p>	<p>Pakistan Today</p>
<p>27-04-2018 Pakistan's Director General Military Operations (DGMO) took up the issue of increasing ceasefire violations by Indian Army in a hotline contact with his Indian counterpart, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.</p>	<p>Geo News</p>
<p>02-05-2018 Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan accused India of using chemical weapons in the Indian occupied Kashmir.</p>	<p>The Express Tribune</p>
<p>18-05-2018 Pakistan and India accused each other's militaries of launching unprovoked shelling across their disputed Kashmir frontier — skirmishes that officials said caused mostly civilian casualties on both sides.</p>	<p>VOA</p>

<p>23-05-2018 A mortar and gunfire battle between Pakistani and Indian forces along the Kashmir frontier killed five civilians, taking the death toll in the six-day confrontation to 16.</p>	<p>Express Tribune</p>
<p>27-05-2018 Rejecting Indian protests against the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Order 2018 and its claim over India-held Kashmir (IHK), Pakistan said that baseless Indian propaganda about GB could not cover up the atrocities being perpetrated by Indian forces against innocent and unarmed Kashmiris, nor could it succeed in diverting the attention of the international community from the deplorable situation in India-held Kashmir.</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>29-05-2018 Joint separatist leadership of Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik expressed their willingness to join a dialogue on Kashmir if Pakistan was involved in the process.</p>	<p>The Indian Express</p>
<p>29-05-2018 An agreement to restore ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC) and Working Boundary (WB) was reached during a hotline conversation between the Directors General of Military Operations of Pakistani and Indian armies.</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>31-05-2018 China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying called for Pakistan and India to resolve conflict through dialogue after both sides agreed to abide by the 2003 ceasefire agreement on May 29.</p>	<p>Pakistan Today</p>
<p>01-06-2018 Indian security personnel drove an armored vehicle into a crowd of protesters in Srinagar on Friday, slamming into a half-dozen people and crushing one man beneath its wheels, injuring him critically, locals said. Only three days after the top military officials of Pakistan and India agreed to fully implement the ceasefire agreement of November 2003, Indian troops shot at and injured a man in a border village of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Friday, police said.</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>05-06-2018 Pakistan's military says there is "no space for war" with India, calling upon its regional rival to respect a reiterated commitment to a ceasefire in the disputed region of Kashmir made last week.</p>	<p>Al Jazeera</p>

<p>08-06-2018 India asked Pakistan to adhere to the 2003 ceasefire understanding and not use its violations at Line of Control (LoC) to provide cover for infiltration. The Indian government also claimed that there had been over 1,000 violations from the Pakistani side of the 2003 ceasefire agreement between New Delhi and Islamabad in 2018 alone.</p>	<p>The Times of India</p>
<p>16-06-2018 At least one person was killed and about two dozen others were wounded as protests against Indian rule followed by clashes erupted in Indian-controlled Kashmir shortly after Eid prayers, police and residents said. Meanwhile, the Indian military said a soldier was killed after his patrol came under fire from Pakistani soldiers along the LoC.</p>	<p>The National</p>
<p>18-06-2018 The Indian government is resuming military operations against rebels in Indian-administered Kashmir after the end of a 30-day unilateral ceasefire announced at the beginning of Ramadan.</p>	<p>Al Jazeera</p>
<p>28-06-2018 India accused Pakistan of being involved in the murder of Kashmiri journalist Shujaat Bukhari. The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) police also released photos of the four prime suspects involved in the killing, and identified Shujaat Gul, reportedly associated with LeT, as the main suspect.</p>	<p>Pakistan Today</p>
<h2>Economic Relations</h2>	
<p>08-05-2018 Taking notice of a misleading newspaper article based on a ‘flawed’ report of the World Bank, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has started verification whether former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was involved in sending \$4.9 billion to India.</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>04-06-2018 According to Waheed Ahmed, the vice president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Kuwait's ban on India would have positive effect for Pakistani fruit and vegetable exports to Kuwait, which will eventually double in the volume.</p>	<p>ARY News</p>
<p>29-06-2018 Speakers on the second day of a regional conference on “Connectivity and Geo-Economics in South Asia” organized by the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), an Islamabad-based think tank, said that despite historically tense relations, Pakistan and India must establish linkages for trade to flow in the region.</p>	<p>The Express Tribune</p>
<h2>Bilateral Relations</h2>	
<p>01-04-2018 The two countries held discussions in India on sharing river water. The latest round of discussions centered on two hydroelectric power plants that New Delhi is building in Jammu and Kashmir: The 1,000-megawatt (MW) Pakal Dul dam, and the 48-MW Lower Kalnai dam.</p>	<p>Arab News</p>

03-04-2018 The Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria met National Security Adviser Lt-Gen (retd) Nasser Khan Janjua, and a possibility of lowering tensions with a step-by-step approach leading to the resumption of the comprehensive dialogue process was hinted at.	Express Tribune
05-04-2018 After receiving confirmation that India has completed the controversial Kishanganga hydropower project, Pakistan asked the World Bank to recognize its responsibility under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 to address its concerns over two disputed projects.	Dawn
08-04-2018 India's air force will begin its biggest-ever combat exercise as it weighs up potential threats from nuclear rivals Pakistan and China, and will include joint operations with the country's army and navy.	Arab News
09-04-2018 In a first, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) put a Pakistani diplomat on its 'wanted' list. The diplomat — Amir Zubair Siddiqui, who was posted as visa counsellor in the Pakistani High Commission in Colombo — had been included in the list along with two other Pakistani officers for conspiring to launch 26/11-type attacks on US and two other Pakistani officers for conspiring to launch 26/11-type attacks on US and Israeli consulates besides Army and Navy commands in south India in 2014. NIA said a fourth Pakistani officer posted in the high commission in Sri Lanka was also involved in the conspiracy.	Times of India
15-04-2018 India has lodged a strong protest with Pakistan for not allowing Sikh pilgrims' access to Indian diplomats and consular teams, the Ministry of External Affairs said.	Times of India
16-04-2018 Russia's envoy to India defended his country's burgeoning relationship with Pakistan, and called for a "realistic" approach to regional security and stability , saying Islamabad's "credibility" in the war on terror had increased.	Hindustan Times
19-04-2018 More than a year after India claimed to have conducted surgical strikes against Pakistan, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed that New Delhi tried to contact Islamabad before making news of the strikes public.	Express Tribune
20-04-2018 Days after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to Pakistan as a "terror export factory" China came to Pakistan's support , urging the international community to back the country in its counterterrorism efforts.	Express Tribune
22-04-2018 Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh has said that Pakistan is trying to break up India by helping militants sneak across the border into the Hindu-majority country.	Express Tribune

<p>25-04-2018 China asked Pakistan to engage with India to keep tensions between the two countries to a minimum in order to maintain a conducive environment for timely completion of various projects under the ongoing multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.</p>	<p>The Economic Times</p>
<p>26-04-2018 Pakistan confirmed that it would be taking part in joint military exercises with India and other regional countries under the banner of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).</p> <p>Referring to Home Minister Rajnath Singh's statement that India will not attack Pakistan first, but if Pakistan does so, it will retaliate with full force, Pakistan asked India to take steps to resume bilateral talks instead of issuing "provocative" statements.</p>	<p>Express Tribune</p> <p>Times of India</p>
<p>28-04-2018 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan expressed dim hopes for improved Pakistan-India relations, blaming Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the deadlock.</p> <p>With ceasefire violations along the line of control already crossing 750 this year, India told Pakistan that it was only retaliating due to Pakistan's continuing support to aid and abet cross-border terrorism.</p>	<p>Geo News</p> <p>Times of India</p>
<p>30-04-2018 The Pakistan Navy said it had delivered "medical and humanitarian assistance" to 12 Indian fishermen on a boat which was lost at sea after developing engine trouble.</p>	<p>The Nation</p>
<p>02-05-2018 The Foreign Office (FO) announced that an Indian prisoner named Jitendra will be released "on compassionate grounds" due to his deteriorating health.</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>03-05-2018 Pakistan's top civil-military leadership directed authorities to "forcefully" pursue the alleged violations of Indus Water Treaty with India and the World Bank, the guarantor of the agreement.</p>	<p>The Indian Express</p>
<p>05-05-2018 According to a report released by Royal United Services Institute, the Pakistani military leadership is reaching out to India because it believes that the way to peace and prosperity is through military cooperation with India.</p> <p>India's massive military spending upset Pakistan as this could endanger regional peace and stability, and so contacted the United Nations to stop India's arms buying spree, diplomatic sources said.</p>	<p>Dawn</p> <p>The Nation</p>

<p>07-05-2018 Addressing a gathering in Lahore, ousted Congress leader MS Aiyar said that Savarkar was the real proponent of the two-nation theory and followers of his ideology are currently running India.</p>	<p>Times of India</p>
<p>10-05-2018 National Security Adviser (NSA) Lt Gen (ret'd) Nasser Khan Janjua said that Pakistan and India will ultimately destroy each other if they remain enemies.</p>	<p>Express Tribune</p>
<p>12-05-2018 Deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif's controversial remark – linking the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks to Pakistan – was seen as an attempt to put international pressure on the country's military establishment, as the corruption trials against him and his family members entered a decisive phase.</p>	<p>Pakistan Today</p>
<p>13-05-2018 Former interior minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, while weighing on the recent wave of discussion on the 2008 Mumbai attacks, remarked that the incident was used by India to malign Pakistan.</p>	<p>Geo News</p>
<p>15-05-2018 State Congress chief Ashok Chavan condemned New Delhi for allowing import of sugar from Pakistan, viewing this as an attempt by the government to pledge support to Pakistani rather than Indian farmers. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that the recent statement of his predecessor Nawaz Sharif was misreported, and blamed Indian media for using it to its advantage.</p>	<p>Times of India Daily Pakistan</p>
<p>18-05-2018 Pakistan expressed "serious concerns" over the inauguration of the controversial Kishanganga hydropower project by India and termed it a "violation of the Indus Waters Treaty".</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>19-05-2018 Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a hydroelectric power plant in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, amid protests from neighbor Pakistan which says the project on a river flowing into Pakistan will disrupt water supplies.</p>	<p>Reuters</p>
<p>20-05-2018 An Indian diplomat convicted of passing state secrets to Pakistan's intelligence services has been jailed for three years.</p>	<p>Express Tribune</p>
<p>21-05-2018 India's Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that India will take any "comment on wanting peace" by Pakistani officials "seriously".</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>22-05-2018 India said that it will be sending its delegation to Pakistan to participate in the anti-terrorism conference being held in Islamabad, under the banner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).</p>	<p>Express Tribune</p>

<p>24-05-2018 Pakistan and the World Bank have failed to reach an agreement on a way forward to address the former's concerns over violation of the Indus Waters Treaty by India, as a strong Indian lobby in Washington again frustrated the latest push to stop New Delhi from violating the treaty.</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>28-05-2018 In an unprecedented move, Pakistan's military barred an ex-spy chief Asad Durrani from leaving the country, after ordering a probe into a book he co-authored with Amarjit Singh Dulat, former head of India's Research and Analysis Wing, and Indian journalist Aditya Sinha.</p> <p>External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said that there cannot be any comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan till it shuns terrorism, asserting talks were not appropriate while people were dying on the border. .</p>	<p>VOA</p> <p>Times of India</p>
<p>03-06-2018 Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti sought an end to the conflict between India and Pakistan on the lines of the thaw between the Koreas after 70 years of rivalry.</p>	<p>Hindustan Times</p>
<p>05-06-2018 In a fresh communication last week, World Bank president Jim Yong Kim advised the government to withdraw from its stand of taking the matter to the ICA for which the bank had on Nov 10, 2016 even picked a US chief justice, the rector of Imperial College, London, and the WB president for appointing chairman of the court to resolve the dispute over the Kishanganga dam.</p> <p>Indian Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that though India honors the ceasefire agreement with Pakistan, it will not hold back in giving a befitting reply to the neighboring country if provoked.</p>	<p>Dawn</p> <p>India TV News</p>
<p>06-06-2018 The Indian and Pakistani militaries will participate in a joint exercise along with six other countries, including China, in Russia this August. According to Chinese experts saying the maneuvers could ease tensions between the two neighbors and mark a new high for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).</p>	<p>Daily Pakistan</p>
<p>07-06-2018 Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh said that his government was ready for talks with only "right-minded people" in Indian-Occupied Kashmir (IOK) and Pakistan, but only after Pakistan eradicated terror either on its own or with India's assistance.</p>	<p>Express Tribune</p>
<p>08-06-2018 Indian Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said that India wants good relations with all its neighbors, but Pakistan needs to take initiative and stop using its soil for promoting terrorism against India.</p>	<p>The Indian Express</p>

<p>12-06-2018 Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Shehbaz Sharif has said that the Singapore summit between the United States of America and North Korea should set a good precedent for Pakistan and India to follow.</p>	<p>Geo News</p>
<p>13-06-2018 India should seriously consider a "limited war with Pakistan" as the time had come to teach the neighboring country a lesson, former Jammu and Kashmir minister and BJP leader Choudhary Lal Singh said. Singh's outburst came in the wake of killing of four BSF personnel, including an officer, in firing by Pakistani Rangers in the Ramgarh sector in Samba district.</p> <p>Pakistan on Wednesday lodged its protest to the acting Indian high commissioner and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violation by Indian forces along the LoC.</p>	<p>Geo News</p> <p>Express Tribune</p>
<p>16-06-2018 Amid heightened tensions between arch-rivals Pakistan and India, both the countries refrained from exchanging sweets at the Wagah Border this Eid, defying their years old practice to wish each other with confectionary exchanges on the prosperous occasion.</p>	<p>ARY News</p>
<p>20-06-2018 Indian authorities repatriated six Pakistani nationals who had been languishing in prisons across the border after completing their jail terms.</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>21-06-2018 Indian authorities repatriated six Pakistani nationals who had been languishing in prisons across the border after completing their jail terms.</p>	<p>Express Tribune</p>
<p>24-06-2018 A Pakistani man who mistakenly crossed into India in 2007 and was caught by the Border Security Force (BSF) has returned home after 11 years in detention.</p> <p>Expressing their anger over the release of a controversial film on the life and teachings of the Sikh religion's founder Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Nanak Shah Fakir, and the verdict of the Indian supreme court on the Khalistan movement, members of the Sikh community barred Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan Ajay Bisaria and his wife from entering Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hassanabdal. Charged Sikh pilgrims from India visiting Gurdwara Panja Sahib also refused to meet Indian diplomats.</p>	<p>Khaleej Times</p> <p>Dawn</p>
<p>26-06-2018 The officials of the Directorate General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan held "routine" talks over hotline, but the issue of ceasefire was not discussed.</p> <p>New Delhi's representative at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) said that no amount of "empty rhetoric" by Pakistan will change the reality that Jammu and Kashmir is part of India.</p> <p>Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said Pakistan will be destroyed if it depends on India for water.</p>	<p>Times of India</p> <p>Times of India</p> <p>Geo News</p>

<p>27-06-2018 In a veiled reference to Pakistan, India said the problem of terrorism in Afghanistan is not a local one and attacks inside the country are launched from safe havens in its neighborhood that has sheltered Taliban leaders and supported the "dark agendas" of terror outfits like the LeT and JeM.</p> <p>Pakistan's high commissioner to India Sohail Mahmood was not invited for the Eid celebration hosted by External Affairs minister Sushma Swaraj at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra.</p>	<p>The Economic Times</p> <p>Times of India</p>
<p>28-06-18 It was reported that Pakistani business delegation under the aegis of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry will leave for India on June 30 to participate in the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Partnership Conclave 2018.</p>	<p>Indian Express</p>
<p>Media & Culture</p>	
<p>10-04-2018 The 2018 Asia Cup was moved from India to the United Arab Emirates over Pakistan's refusal to cross the border, as relations between the two countries worsened.</p>	<p>Geo News</p>
<p>11-04-2018 The International Cricket Council created a dispute resolution panel to hear Pakistan's compensation claim against arch-rival India for refusing to play a bilateral series.</p>	<p>Samaa News</p>
<p>28-05-2018 The Board Of Control For Cricket In India (BCCI) requested the Union government to formally convey its position with regards to India-Pakistan bilateral cricket series, which has been on hold since 2012 due to political tension between the two neighbors.</p>	<p>Hindustan Times</p>