



JUNIOR ACADEMY MODEL UN XII

**UNSC**

TOPIC GUIDE

**Irene Kang  
Adrian Wu**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Letters from Chairs:

Irene Kang	1
Adrian Wu	2
Introduction	3
Topic History	4
Current Situation	6
Country Policies	8
Potential Solutions	10
Questions to Consider	10
Bibliography	11

# JUNIOR ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

- Twelveth Annual Conference -

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Esteemed Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to JAMUN XII! My name is Irene Kang, and I am a freshman in the Academy for the Advancement of Science and Technology academy of BCA. I am a part of the JV Policy Debate team and a member of the BCA's Model UN Team. I am a part of an ensemble, which performs for nursing homes every other Saturday. I am delighted to be your co-chair for this committee alongside my distinguished co-chair Adrien Wu.

My Model UN journey began in sixth grade, where I joined the club at my school. At the time, I had taken an interest in public speaking and was a part of the debate team. With the season ending and free time on my hands, one of my teachers suggested MUN for me. Though I found the idea of speaking in front of an entire committee daunting, a greater drive for fulfillment and ambition compelled me to accept the challenge, which would become one of the best decisions I made in my life. I attended 3 JAMUN conferences in my three years of middle school, which solidified my interest to pursue it further. In high school, I joined the Model UN club at BCA, attending conferences and even staffing at AMUN. My time in Model UN has developed my leadership, public speaking, and research skills; beyond that, I forged connections with others and learned to grow from the challenges I faced.

My first conference was JAMUN, where I was surrounded by countless strangers and far out of my comfort zone. I have been in your shoes, dear delegates, and I know all too well of the intimidation and nervousness some of you are feeling. But I want you to know that making mistakes during this conference is okay. During my time with Model UN, I've come to learn that rather than the awards, the skills and experiences you gain are far more valuable. I encourage you all to bite the bullet, raise your placard, and tear your eyes from your paper to speak.

Feel free to contact us for inquiries, whether it be about MUN or anything else. We're looking forward to seeing you all.

Regards,  
Irene Kang  
UNSC co-chair  
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Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to JAMUN XII! I am Adrian Wu and I am currently a freshman in BCA's Academy for Technology and Computer Science. I am part of the Model UN club in BCA, but this is actually my first Model UN conference. However, I have a rich experience in public speaking: I have been part of a public forum debate club, BDC, for 3 years. I am honored to be a co-chair, especially with my very exceptional partner, Irene Kang.

My MUN experience started with a mock conference back around 6th grade at a debate club. Since Model UN requires public speaking skills, I saw this opportunity very attractive to showcase and develop my skills I developed in debate. I was very disappointed when the mock conference was not offered again in my middle school years, as it prevented me from gaining more experience in Model UN. However, I was still able to develop my public speaking skills by participating in debate, enabling me to preserve my excellence in MUN. I was delighted when I was able to rejoin the MUN experience in high school, by joining BCA's MUN club. Although I was not able to fully commit to this wonderful activity this year, I was able to gain valuable knowledge about Parliamentary Procedure and the characteristics of an ideal delegate to chair a conference.

I understand if you are nervous or overwhelmed, as Model UN requires a lot of public speaking. When I first started public speaking, I was very nervous and reluctant to speak because I couldn't possibly imagine myself speaking in front of people. Like I said earlier, MUN helped me improve my public speaking skills, so I aim to help you through this conference and can help you develop your confidence, along with other skills such as collaboration.

Best,  
Adrian Wu  
UNSC co-chair  
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## INTRODUCTION

Kashmir is a mountainous, heavily militarized region in the northern Indian subcontinent, in between Pakistan and India. Its strategic region bordering several countries makes it a critical border zone separating India and Pakistan [1]. The region controls key rivers and Himalayan resources critical to agriculture and electricity generation, and being a water resource chokepoint makes it critical for nearby countries. The region consists of mostly Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist populations [2]. Three nations in particular have been competing over Kashmir—Pakistan, India, and China. Currently, Pakistan and India are actively fighting for control. India claims that Kashmir aligns with India's secular identity, as it is the only Muslim-majority region in India. On the other hand, Pakistan views Kashmir as a natural extension of its nation based on its Muslim-majority population. China has interest in the Xinjiang-Tibet Highway, which is located in Askia Chin. The primary reason is that the 1,200 km China National Highway 219 passes through this area, linking Xinjiang and Tibet. All three countries are nuclear-armed, and the potential for escalation to a full-scale nuclear conflict is a major concern for global security. Additionally, the Kashmir conflict is one of the longest standing disputes the United Nations Security Council has been involved with. Delegates are encouraged to discuss over pressing issues at hand. This includes—but is not limited to—handling the increased militarization in the Kashmir region, negotiating about the India-Pakistan Border Conflicts, and establishing diplomacy to avoid nuclear escalation. All 16 delegates are expected to work together and resolve this conflict.

## **TOPIC:** De-escalating the Kashmir Conflict

# Topic History



Map of disputed Kashmir [44].

The disputed region consists of Jammu, Kashmir Valley, Ladakh, and Siachen Glacier. Its strategic location between three significant powers make it a key chokepoint. Its major Himalayan and Karakoram glaciers into the Indus River system provide water for over 200 million people in India and Pakistan[3]. The fight over Kashmir has been one of the longest standing disputes on the United Nation Security Council's agenda. Several conflicts between India and Pakistan occurred in the following years.

When British colonial forces withdrew from the Indian subcontinent in 1947, the Partition of India 1947 divided the sub-continent India into two states—the Hindu-majority Union of India and the Muslim-majority Dominion of Pakistan[4]. There were territorial

disputes over Kashmir, as it was an independent region that bordered India and Pakistan. British India's independence and division meant Kashmir was forced to either join India or Pakistan. Initially, Kashmir declared itself independent—though its population's majority was Muslim, the Maharaja(ruling class), was Hindu. Within months, it was stormed by an invasion from a Pakistan-backed tribal militia to annex it.

Kashmir quickly sought India for aid against the tribal pressure. Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession to India for Indian military intervention, which stated that Kashmir would join India but remain an autonomous region within the country[5]. The series of events would lead to the first war over Kashmir—the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947–1948. The conflict paused when the United Nations brokered a ceasefire, and both sides agreed upon a **de facto boundary**(a boundary enforced by control or military presence but lacks official legal recognition/formal status).

At the end of negotiations, approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Kashmir belonged to India, and the remaining  $\frac{1}{3}$  was given to Pakistan. Originally, the ceasefire called for a **referendum**(a direct public vote on a specific policy, law, or amendment) so the region could decide its status. In the end, no referendum was called, so the region remained disputed.

## Topic History (continued)

Tensions rose between the two nations with stakes in Kashmir. Pakistan claimed that the Muslim-majority region should belong to them. Furthermore, they stated that the absence of a referendum rendered India's claim over Kashmir null. India refuted this by stating the signing of the Instrument of Accession validated their claim over it. Though there was a UN-proposed plebiscite for Kashmir—initiated by the Security Council Resolution 47 in 1948—so Kashmiris could choose between joining India or Pakistan[6], the suggested plebiscite was never held.

Kashmir has been fought over not only between Pakistan and India, but also between India and China. The 1962 Sino-Indian War was a military escalation of the Sino-Indian border dispute—over Askai Chin, the eastern region of Kashmir controlled by China[7]. It is important to consider China's position as one of Pakistan's close allies. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is also located in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir region, making it an economic interest for China. As a global superpower, China's involvement in the Kashmir conflict also makes this a significant issue.

Pakistani and Indian clashing over Kashmir didn't end with one conflict. Pakistan, in an attempt to gain control over the region, initiated Operation Gibraltar, aiming to incite an insurrection between the

Kashmiris and India. Pakistan failed their objective, and India fought back once discovering their plot. For the second time, war broke out between the two countries[8]. The second Indo-Pakistani War ended in a stalemate.

The third Indo-Pakistani War happened in 1971 over East-Pakistan. For months, there had been movements for East-Pakistan's independence. Pakistan launched pre-emptive air strikes on Indian airbases on December 3, 1971—known as Operation Chengiz Khan—and prompted India to counterattack [9]. India won on the Eastern front by a landslide. The Simla Agreement shifted gears from a UN-mediated dispute to becoming a **bilateral**(relations conducted between two sovereign states) issue. The 1972 Simla Agreement converted the ceasefire line from 1949 into the Line of Control (LoC), freezing the territorial division and reinforcing Indian control. Any chance for the UN-suggested plebiscite to be held was removed.

In addition to the armed conflicts, nuclear proliferation started around 1998, when India tested 5 nuclear bombs, prompting Pakistan to respond with their own tests. Nuclear escalation would devastate the world and is a severe concern for global security. Risk of such an occurrence is one of the major impacts of the conflict that must be addressed.

In 2007, the Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, supported by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, outlined components of a confidential framework

## Topic History (continued)

known as the “Four-Point Formula” in an attempt to resolve the Kashmir dispute through backchannel diplomacy. The Formula proposed a four-step approach: regional identification, demilitarization, self-governance, and a joint management mechanism. Its purpose was to render the Line of Control inconsequential without having to redraw borders. Though it was acknowledged as a viable proposal that established a decent middle-ground, it failed to move forward due to instability that emerged from Pakistan [10].

Recent matters have derailed the situation, including India’s cracking down on its controlled regions. In 2019, India rescinded Article 370 of its Constitution, revoking Kashmir’s autonomous identity. This removal was just the start to integrate Kashmir into India. The Indian government has persisted in increased aggression with the restriction of Kashmir, including an Indian-administrated lockdown of the region, prohibition from media, and making the electoral map favor Hindu-majority areas[11].

Experts express concerns over South Asia’s regional instability. Foremost, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation cannot properly integrate the countries; in fact, South Asia remains one of the least integrated regions in the world, intra-regional trade being less than 5% of total trade. Disruption of the trade routes in

the Kashmir region have impacted both foreign and local investors. Conflict also limits land-based trade between South and Central Asia, causing countries to utilize more expensive air or sea routes, reducing competition. The ongoing conflict has disturbed potential bilateral trade between India and Pakistan, despite the fact that they are neighbors. Even before the latest conflict, India and Pakistan’s trade plummeted from \$2.5 billion in 2018 to about \$1.2 billion in 2024[12].

For these reasons, the Kashmir conflict is becoming a serious threat to global security. Rise in military tensions between countries of interest, disruption of trade routes, and the threat of nuclear escalation make it imperative for the crisis to be dealt with.

## Current Situation

On August 5, 2019, India integrated Kashmir into its sovereign territory, which sparked heavy resistance from the disputed region in the form of terrorist attacks. Many of these attacks are documented to be pro-Pakistani militants targeting Indian tourists in Kashmir. A major cause of escalation in tensions was caused by a recent attack in Baisaran Valley, where at least 26 people were killed, the highest number of casualties since the Mumbai Bombings in 2008. Pakistan denied affiliation with the militant group involved in the attack, but expressed support for the self-determination of Kashmir. This was met with anger from India, whose defense minister vowed to retaliate [13].

## Current Situation (continued)

Following the attack, both nations began retaliation, with India ordering all Pakistani military advisors and all Pakistani nationals to leave within 48 hours, while recalling their own military advisors from Pakistan [15]. India also closed its border trading points in response to the attack, signaling preparation for war by downgrading both economic and diplomatic ties with Pakistan [14]. Pakistan responded similarly to India's actions, escalating tensions. Islamabad closed Pakistani airspace to all Indian commercial airlines and halted a special visa for Indian citizens, degrading diplomatic ties between the two nations. The nation also suspended bilateral trade with India, signaling that Pakistan was not willing to yield to its neighbor.



The Indus River [45].

A key event that escalated tensions was India's suspension of the 1960 Indus Water Treaty, which was an international agreement brokered by the World Bank [15]. Before these events, the treaty was never violated, even during open conflict

between Pakistan and India [14]. The Indus Water Treaty is an essential treaty for the economies of both India and Pakistan: It splits the Indus river and its tributaries between India and Pakistan, encouraging water sharing [17]. Pakistan is especially reliant on this treaty to secure its water supply for irrigation and hydroelectric needs. Statistics show that as much as 80% of Pakistani agriculture relied on water provided by the Indus river system, highlighting the importance of the treaty to Islamabad [17]. India's suspension of this treaty signaled a new level of escalation, greatly increasing tensions in Kashmir. With its water and food supply threatened, Pakistan reacted violently to this action, condemning it as "an act of war," while rejecting the suspension [16].

These tensions compelled Pakistan and India to engage in military conflict since the day of the attack, with both sides claiming that the other instigated military action first [16][17]. In response to the terrorist attack in Kashmir, India launched "Operation Sindoor," which consisted of drone and missile strikes on nine alleged terrorist sites in Pakistani-ruled Kashmir and Pakistan itself [19]. Pakistan protested fiercely, claiming that 31 people were killed by these attacks and 11 cities were targeted [19]. The nation also retaliated by shelling Indian cities and striking them with drones and missiles, which targeted 15 Indian cities and towns, as per India's claims [19]. Another concerning element of the Kashmir conflict, the use of nuclear weapons, was highlighted when Pakistan reiterated that

## Current Situation (continued)

the nation's nuclear arsenal of more than 130 missiles were aimed "only for India" [18]. This represents how the Kashmir Conflict can easily escalate to involve the use of nuclear weapons, which would severely endanger world peace.

## Country Policies

### **Pakistan:**

Pakistan is one of the major nations in this topic, as they are one of the three countries with a claim over Kashmir. Since its division from British India, Pakistan has been involved in numerous wars and armed insurgencies over the possession of Kashmir, and they continue with military intervention to address the issue. Pakistan does not acknowledge Indian-led elections as a substitute for the UN-mandated plebiscite[20]—which they suggested back in 1948—and desires the self-determination of the Kashmiris in their decision[21]. They fully reject bilateral negotiations and are pushing for the UN to have more involvement in the Kashmir conflict[22].

### **India:**

India claims the entirety of Kashmir as part of its sovereign territory including Pakistani-occupied Kashmir [29][31]. India also claims that the Jammu and Kashmir territory dispute is a bilateral issue that should be solved through direct negotiations between themselves and

Pakistan [30]. Believing Pakistan has wrongfully taken those territories, India sees resistance from Pakistan and within Kashmir to be powered by terrorism, not by self-determination [32]. India has revoked Kashmir's autonomy, directly integrating it into India as a way to repress rebellion [33].

### **China:**

China supports bilateral talks between Pakistan and India[34]. However, the nation is slightly leaned towards Pakistan due to their economic partnership. This is seen by how the nation protested heavily against India's revocation of Kashmir's autonomy, supporting the maintainment of the status quo [35]. The intensity of their protests are signified by China's utilization of UN Security Council meetings to condemn India's "unacceptable changes" in Kashmir's autonomy[37]. China declared that it would continue to support Pakistan in "safeguarding its legitimate rights and interests," implying their support of Pakistani claims in Kashmir [36]. It is important to note that China also has its own national interests in Aksai Chin, a region of Kashmir. China claims that their sovereignty is applicable to the region, utilizing this claim to justify their infrastructure construction in Aksai Chin [38].

### **Russia:**

The Russian Federation's official stance is to have the Kashmir conflict to be a bilateral issue between the two major countries, claiming it favors diplomatic negotiations[26]. Russia has ties to both

## County Policies

### (continued)

Pakistan and India, but the Kremlin has deeper ties with India. It has had a long-term, strategic partnership with India as its largest supplier of defense equipment. India has also bought Russian oil since the invasion of Ukraine, supporting the latter's economy. Russia has announced its support for India's involvement in the Kashmir conflict numerous times. In the past, Russia supported India during the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war[27]. In recent years, the Kremlin announced that India's decision to revoke Kashmir's autonomy was within India's authority in 2019[28].

#### **Bloc Policies:**

##### **Western powers:**

The Western powers believe that the Kashmir Conflict should be solved by bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan [39][41]. This stance avoids the endorsement of Pakistan's approach of treating the Kashmir incident as an international issue, signaling alignment with India [40]. The Western nations also support India's suppression of terrorist activities in the region, recognizing that some, albeit not all, pro-Pakistani movements are executed by terrorist cells [40]. However, these countries still want to avoid violence and aim to resolve this issue through peaceful, diplomatic negotiations [39][41].

##### **Global South:**

These countries have a tendency to distance themselves from this issue.

Although some individual African nations have taken concern over the human rights violations in the Indian-administrated regions of Jammu and Kashmir, the AU does not have a united policy on the conflict. For instance, Liberia has expressed its solidarity with India's actions, but countries in the Americas have shown support for India's actions. Colombia withdrew its statement that condemned deaths in Pakistan in a military conflict between India and Pakistan, and Panama fully supports India's stance against terrorism in Kashmir [24][25].

##### **Pro-Pakistani nations:**

These nations are members of the OIC(Organization of Islamic Cooperation), making their religious ideals align more with Pakistan compared to India. These nations support the OIC's stance of supporting Pakistan's claim of treating the Kashmir conflict as an international issue. The organization believes that the International community, including the UN, must actively intervene to resolve this issue [42]. The OIC also calls for a self-determination of Kashmir by residents [42]. They strongly resist India's revocation of Kashmir's autonomy and condemn the action as increasing tensions and violating previous UN resolutions[42]. However, some nations in the OIC show leniency towards India. Bahrain has been reported to have taken legal action against Pakistanis in Bahrain who protested against India's revocation, demonstrating that the faction is not completely hostile towards India [43].

## Potential Solutions

Members of the committee are encouraged to resolve the crisis in the Kashmir region through diplomatic or militaristic measures. They are also encouraged to find innovative and creative solutions while factoring in realistic aspects from a global perspective, aside from considering potential issues solutions may cause.

Possible solutions are indicated below:

- Cede the contested region to one of the three involved nations
- Recognize Kashmir as an independent country
- Recognize the current Line of Control(LOC) as the formal international border in the region
- Implement joint management of Kashmir by UN forces
- Enforce the 2007 "Four-Point Formula" Framework to facilitate gradual self-governance of Kashmiris
- Facilitate discourse between the belligerents through involvement of neutral nations

Let it be known that delegates are not confined to these suggestions and are free to come up with their own solution. Furthermore, members of the committee should consider the conflict from the perspective of all major parties involved in the crisis while creating any working papers, as to form a resolution that accounts for short and long term problems that may arise after the resolution is to be implemented.

## Questions to Consider

- 1.To what extent does the Kashmir conflict impact parts of the globe not directly involved?
- 2.How can neutral or unaffiliated countries involve themselves in the de-escalation of this conflict?
- 3.What is the risk of nuclear escalation in this conflict?
- 4.In what ways does possession over the Kashmir region impact involved countries?
- 5.What role can the Line of Control(LOC) play in resolving the dispute?
- 6.How has the revoking of Article 370 and 35A changed the status quo of the conflict?
- 7.To what extent does the militant attacks of the region affect trade?
- 8.How can questioning the validity of the Instrument of Accession affect the conflict?
- 9.To what extent does the Kashmir conflict challenge international law and UN Security Council resolutions?
- 10.What role should third-party mediation play in peace talks and negotiations?

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