

War with India

Background of Conflicts

The wars between India and Pakistan mainly started because of the Kashmir issue. At the time of partition in 1947, Kashmir had a Muslim-majority population but its Hindu ruler decided to join India. This decision went against the wishes of the people. Pakistan believed Kashmir should have been allowed to join it. India, however, wanted to keep control. The United Nations asked for a plebiscite to let the Kashmiri people decide, but India did not agree. Because of this, mistrust and hostility grew, and this became the foundation of several wars between the two countries.

First War 1948

The first war happened soon after independence. The people of Kashmir rose against the Indian rule. Pakistan supported these fighters, but India sent in its army to control the situation. A war started between the two sides, with Pakistan also becoming directly involved. The United Nations intervened and demanded a ceasefire. As a result, Kashmir was divided into two parts: one part remained with India, while the other part, called Azad Jammu and Kashmir, came under Pakistan's control. But the core issue of Kashmir's future was never solved, leaving anger and mistrust alive.

Second War 1965

The second war broke out in 1965. Pakistan tried to help Kashmiris by launching Operation Gibraltar. India responded by attacking Pakistan on several fronts, including Lahore and Sialkot. The Pakistani army, with full support from the people, resisted bravely. One of the largest tank battles in history took place in Chawinda, where Pakistan stopped the Indian advance. Both countries suffered heavy losses in men and equipment. The war ended with the Tashkent Agreement, but once again the Kashmir issue remained unsolved, meaning the conflict could not end permanently.

Third War 1971

The third war was different from the earlier ones. It was mainly about East Pakistan, where political unrest was rising. India took advantage of the situation and supported the Mukti Bahini rebels against Pakistan. Later, the Indian army launched a full attack on both East and West Pakistan. Pakistani soldiers fought bravely, but in East Pakistan they were surrounded and cut off from reinforcements. On 16 December 1971, East Pakistan became Bangladesh. This was a great political and military loss for Pakistan and weakened the nation internally.

Later Tensions and Nuclear Factor

Even after 1971, the problems between India and Pakistan did not end. They fought again in the Kargil conflict of 1999. Kashmir continued to be the main cause of clashes across the Line of Control. In 1998, both countries tested nuclear weapons, which increased the risk of war on a bigger scale. Although the international community pressed both countries to talk about peace, the trust gap remained. The wars had caused massive losses of life, economic damage, and slowed down development. Pakistan still demands that the Kashmiri people be given the right of self-determination, but India's refusal has kept the issue unresolved.