



The India-Pakistan Standoff on the Kashmir Border

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In the last 24 hours, the climate between India and Pakistan has experienced a sudden escalation. On April 29, 2025, Pakistani Defense Minister Khawaja Asif stated that Islamabad has credible intelligence suggesting that India might launch a military incursion within 24-36 hours [Reuters](#). In response, Pakistan has deployed reinforcements along the Line of Control (LoC), increased artillery patrols, and raised the alert level of its air force [Reuters](#). Simultaneously, India has closed its airspace to Pakistani airlines until May 23, provoking diplomatic and commercial retaliations.

The confrontation in the Kashmir region is not new, but the combination of a recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam (April 22, 2025) – which claimed the lives of 26 tourists – and the harsh words of leaders from both countries has led many observers to fear a direct conflict between two nuclear powers. While maintaining diplomatic dialogue (military commanders hold routine weekly meetings), the signals on the ground indicate an acceleration of the conventional and

nuclear arms race.

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Forces and Capabilities Compared

A comparative analysis of the military capabilities of India and Pakistan, curated by the IISS and reported by Reuters, shows a clear Indian advantage in numerical and qualitative terms:

- **Active personnel:** 1.4 million vs 700,000
- **Main battle tanks:** 3,740 vs 2,537
- **Artillery:** 9,743 pieces vs 4,619
- **Combat aircraft:** 730 vs 452
- **Submarines:** 16 vs 8
- **Aircraft carriers:** 2 vs 0

Both countries possess nearly equal nuclear arsenals (172 warheads for India, 170 for Pakistan), making any conventional clash potentially very risky. The deterrent value of nuclear weapons has so far prevented a direct escalation, but strong nationalism and internal pressures push both governments to show firmness.

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Humanitarian Impact and Peace Prospects

An open conflict in Kashmir would have devastating consequences:

- **Civilians trapped:** thousands of families live in villages along the LoC, at risk of artillery fire and air raids. Humanitarian programs like those of the Red Crescent are already on alert.
- **Displaced and refugees:** the closure of borders and communication routes, such as at the Attari-Wagah crossing, has already created long lines of cars and families in transit.
- **Regional economy:** the blockade of trade and reciprocal sanctions between New Delhi and Islamabad harm agriculture, tourism, and local industries.

The international community, with appeals from the UN, USA, and UK, calls for calm and mediation. The president of the Pakistani region of Kashmir has called for the intervention of third countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar to facilitate peace negotiations. However, as long as mutual accusations of terrorism support and attempts to show strength persist, the risk of escalation remains high.

News link: https://www.reuters.com/world/pakistans-minister-tarar-says-india-may-launch-military-strike-within-next-24-36-2025-04-29/?utm_source=chatgpt.com