

## Kashmir crisis halts flights to Pakistan

2nd March, 2019



Tensions are growing between India and Pakistan. Many people are worried that the two nuclear-armed countries are heading for war. Pakistan carried out air raids and shot down two Indian military jets on Wednesday. They captured an Indian fighter pilot. He is now being held by Pakistan's Army. This happened a day after Indian warplanes dropped bombs on Pakistani territory. India said it was bombing a terrorist base linked to the suicide car bombing on February 14 that killed at least 40 Indian police officers in Indian-controlled Kashmir. It is the first time Indian warplanes have struck inside Pakistan since a war in 1971. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has called for peace talks.

Pakistan closed its airspace on Wednesday because of the tensions. Several international airlines have suspended flights to Pakistan and to some parts of India. Airlines that fly over India and Pakistan to Europe, the Middle East, and Asia had to re-route flights to avoid the region. Aviation expert Mark Martin said about 800 flights a day use the India-Pakistan air corridor. He said it was "very critical" for airlines. He added: "You can't fly over China, so you have to fly over Pakistan and India and go to Southeast Asia and Australia. Most of the traffic destined for Bangkok and Singapore will have to fly over Iran and then possibly take a detour." Thousands of passengers were stranded by the crisis.

Sources: [aljazeera.com](http://aljazeera.com) / [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) / [thenational.ae](http://thenational.ae)

## Writing

The future of Kashmir will never be resolved. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

tensions / nuclear / war / air raids / warplanes / territory / terrorist / peace talks / airspace / international / flights / region / traffic / Singapore / passengers / crisis

## True / False

- a) People aren't so concerned about war between India and Pakistan. T / F
- b) Pakistan shot down three Indian military jets. T / F
- c) A suicide car bomb killed 40 or more Indian police officers. T / F
- d) The last time India bombed Pakistan was in 1949. T / F
- e) Pakistan opened its airspace on Wednesday. T / F
- f) Airlines that have to fly over Pakistan to Asia have been re-routed. T / F
- g) The India-Pakistan air corridor sees around 800 flights a day. T / F
- h) The crisis has stranded thousands of passengers. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>1. growing</b>   | a. shut           |
| <b>2. worried</b>   | b. connected      |
| <b>3. territory</b> | c. specialist     |
| <b>4. linked</b>    | d. concerned      |
| <b>5. talks</b>     | e. helpless       |
| <b>6. closed</b>    | f. increasing     |
| <b>7. avoid</b>     | g. land           |
| <b>8. expert</b>    | h. diversion      |
| <b>9. detour</b>    | i. discussions    |
| <b>10. stranded</b> | j. stay away from |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why has Pakistan closed its airspace?
- c) How will this crisis affect air travel?
- d) Which country would you prefer to travel to?
- e) Will Pakistan and India ever be friends?
- f) What would you do to end this crisis?
- g) What would you do if you were stranded?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Pakistan's Prime Minister?

## Phrase Match

- |                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Tensions are growing            | a. airspace on Wednesday       |
| 2. the two nuclear-                | b. detour                      |
| 3. Pakistan carried                | c. car bombing                 |
| 4. linked to the suicide           | d. India-Pakistan air corridor |
| 5. the first time Indian warplanes | e. armed countries             |
| 6. Pakistan closed its             | f. stranded by the crisis      |
| 7. Aviation                        | g. have struck inside Pakistan |
| 8. 800 flights a day use the       | h. between India and Pakistan  |
| 9. possibly take a                 | i. expert                      |
| 10. Thousands of passengers were   | j. out air raids               |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Kashmir?
- How worried are you by this crisis?
- What do you know about relations between India and Pakistan?
- Is it possible for war to break out between the two countries?
- Should Pakistan return the Indian fighter pilot?
- Was India right to bomb a terrorist base in Pakistan?
- Would peace talks be effective?
- What advice do you have for the leaders of India and Pakistan?

## Spelling

- the two ralnuec-armed countries
- two Indian atilyimr jets
- They trcpdae an Indian fighter pilot
- dropped bombs on Pakistani yirotertr
- the ucsdiei car bombing
- in Indian-rlInocteo Kashmir
- because of the sonntise
- airlines have ssdeupden flights
- re-route flights to vdai the region
- the India-Pakistan air rdrioorc
- the traffic dieendst for Bangkok
- Thousands of agersnpse were stranded

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. g	4. b	5. i
6. a	7. j	8. c	9. h	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Money

You think money is the thing that causes people the most tension. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't cause as much tension. Also, tell the others which is the least tension-causing of these (and why): global warming, one's job or sport.

### Role B – Global Warming

You think global warming is the thing that causes people the most tension. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't cause as much tension. Also, tell the others which is the least tension-causing of these (and why): money, one's job or sport.

### Role C – Job

You think one's job is the thing that causes people the most tension. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't cause as much tension. Also, tell the others which is the least tension-causing of these (and why): global warming, money or sport.

### Role D – Sport

You think sport is the thing that causes people the most tension. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't cause as much tension. Also, tell the others which is the least tension-causing of these (and why): global warming, one's job or money.

## Speaking – Tensions

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that most increase your tension at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| • your looks   | • money          |
| • job          | • global warming |
| • your English | • your weight    |
| • sport        | • neighbors      |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.