

# Simulation IV

## Jammu and Kashmir Timeline from 1846—2007

**1846** – Jammu and Kashmir State is created under the Treaty of Amritsar between the East India Company and Raja Gulab Singh, a Hindu Dogra of Jammu, who buys Kashmir Valley, a Muslim majority area, from the East India Company for Rs.7500000 and adds it to Jammu and Ladakh already under his rule. The state formed has a Muslim majority (in the valley and other parts of the state), substantial number of Hindus (in Jammu and the Valley), Buddhists (in Ladakh) along with other smaller religious communities.

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**1925** – Maharaja Hari Singh succeeds to the throne of the princely state of Kashmir.

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**1927** – Hereditary State Subject law passed. The law forbids employment of non-state subjects in public services and from purchasing land. The predominantly Muslim population is not adequately represented in the State's services.

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**1932** – Sheikh Abdullah becomes president of the Muslim Conference, fighting for Kashmiri freedom from the Maharaja's rule. Abdullah's position is secular, leading to some division in the movement.

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**1939** – The Muslim Conference changes its name to the National Conference, and moves closer to the Indian Nationalist movement against colonialism and the Indian Congress Party organization.

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**1940** – In India, the Muslim League adopts the Lahore Resolution that Muslim majority areas become independent, sovereign states. One proposal is that Punjab, Northwest Frontier Province, Kashmir, Sind, and Baluchistan should together make Pakistan. Congress foresees a united, federal India.

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**1941** – The Muslim Conference is revived as a rival to Abdullah's National Conference, and takes the position of the Muslim League, seeking Kashmir's accession to Pakistan.

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**1944** – The National Conference adopts the 'Naya Kashmir' manifesto: a constitution featuring secularism, women's equality, and socialist programs. This is opposed by right wing Hindus and Muslims.

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**1946** – National Conference launches the Quit Kashmir movement demanding abrogation of the Treaty of Amritsar and restoration of sovereignty to the people of Kashmir. The state is placed under martial law. Abdullah is imprisoned.

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**1947** –

**Spring** – An internal revolt begins in the Poonch region, a predominantly Muslim area. The Maharaja suppresses it ruthlessly. A number of men from Poonch cross over to Pakistan and return with arms. In the last week of August, a condition of unrest and spasmodic violence turns into an organized rebellion resulting in killings of Hindus and Sikhs and a number of refugees fleeing to Jammu by 13

September. The rebellion spreads to adjacent Mirpur and Muzaffarabad. The Poonch rebels declare an independent government of "Azad" Kashmir on 24 October.

**August** – the Indian subcontinent becomes independent. Kashmir signs Standstill Agreement with Pakistan. Rulers of Princely States are encouraged to accede their States to either Dominion—India or Pakistan, taking into account factors such as geographical contiguity and the wishes of their people. The Maharaja of Kashmir delays his decision in an effort to remain independent.<sup>1</sup>

**September** – Muslims are massacred in Jammu by armed bands of Hindus and Sikhs with active support from the State forces. Thousands of Muslims flee Jammu. There is no communal violence in the Kashmir Valley.

While in prison, Sheikh Abdullah writes a letter to a friend in Jammu, which is published in the Congress press, in favor of accession of Kashmir to India. Abdullah is released from prison on 29 September, under pressure from India. After his release, he speaks in favor of Kashmir's freedom before accession.<sup>2</sup>

**22 October** – Pathan tribesmen from Pakistan invade Kashmir along with the Poonch rebels, allegedly incensed by the atrocities against fellow Muslims in Poonch and Jammu. Pathan tribesmen engage in looting and killing a large number of people on the way resulting in the exodus of over 10,000 residents. Pakistan unofficially supports the tribesmen and the Poonch rebels. India accuses Pakistan of violating the Standstill Agreement with Kashmir by disrupting the supply links and of engaging in aggression by sending in the tribesmen. Pakistan refutes the charges.

**26 October** – Maharaja of J&K signs the Instrument of Accession acceding to the Indian Union, following invasion by the tribesmen from Pakistan. According to the 1948 Indian White Paper, India accepts the accession, regarding it provisional until such a time as the will of the people can be ascertained by a plebiscite, since Kashmir was recognized as a disputed territory.

**27 October** – Indian army enters the state to repel the invaders. Sheikh Abdullah endorses the accession as ad-hoc since it would ultimately be decided by a plebiscite. He is appointed head of the emergency administration. Pakistan calls the accession illegal given the Maharaja acted under duress and had no right to sign an agreement with India when the standstill agreement with Pakistan is still in force.

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**1948** –

**January** – India and Pakistan go to war over Kashmir.

India takes the Kashmir problem to the United Nations (UN) Security Council on 1 January.

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<sup>1</sup> In theory, rulers were allowed to accede their States to either Dominion, irrespective of the wishes of their people; but as a practical matter, they were encouraged to accede to the geographically contiguous Dominion, taking into account the wishes of their people.

<sup>2</sup> Throughout his career, he would thus continue to oscillate between a pro-India stance and demanding self-determination for Kashmiris.

Abdullah becomes prime minister of Kashmir. Problems ensue between him and the Maharaja. Abdullah contemplates independence and talks about it with foreign powers. Kashmir is given a special status in the Indian constitution.

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**1949** –

**1 January** – a ceasefire imposed, brokered by the United Nations. The parties (India and Pakistan) agree to a plebiscite, and withdraw all troops behind a mutually agreed ceasefire line. The ceasefire leaves India in control of most of the valley, as well as Jammu and Ladakh, while Pakistan gains control of what Pakistan calls "Azad" Kashmir and Northern territories.

**5 January** – UNCIP (United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan) resolution states that the question of the accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan will be decided through a free and impartial plebiscite. As per the 1948 and 1949 UNCIP resolutions, both countries accept the principle that Pakistan secures the withdrawal of Pakistani intruders followed by withdrawal of Pakistani and Indian forces, as a basis for the formulation of a Truce agreement whose details are to be arrived in future, followed by a plebiscite. However, both countries fail to arrive at a Truce agreement due to differences in interpretation of the procedure for and extent of demilitarization.

**17 October** – the Indian Constituent Assembly adopts Article 370 of the Constitution, ensuring a special status and internal autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir with Indian jurisdiction in Kashmir limited to the three areas agreed in the IOA, namely, defense, foreign affairs and communications.

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**1951** – First post-independence elections. Abdullah wins, mostly unopposed.

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**1947-1952** – Sheikh Abdullah drifts from a position of endorsing accession to India in 1947 to insisting on the self-determination of Kashmiris in 1952. In July 1952, he signs Delhi Agreement with the Central government on Center-State relationships, providing for autonomy of the State within India and of regions within the State; Article 370 is confirmed and the State is allowed to have its own flag. Agreement also touched on issues of citizenship (Kashmiris are citizens of India), and some special issues (the governor was to be called the *sadar-i-riyasat* and was to be elected by the state legislature, not nominated by Delhi as in other states).

The domination of Kashmir Valley and Abdullah's land reforms create discontent in Jammu and Ladakh. The Praja Parishad demonstrates in Jammu for union with India and the result is street violence.

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**1953** – Abdullah procrastinates in confirming the accession of Kashmir to India. He is dismissed as prime minister and arrested. India claims he's collaborating with the US and planning independence that he's corrupt and nepotistic, and is running a one party state.

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**1953-54** – Abdullah is replaced by Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed, who gets the accession formally ratified in 1954. Bakshi is repressive and widely seen as running corrupt administration.

The customs barrier between Kashmir and India is lifted.

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**1956** – J&K approves its constitution.

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**1958** – Abdullah is released from prison. He gives speeches favoring independence. 4 months later, he is jailed again for 6 years.

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**1959** – Permit system for entry to the State is abolished. State Constitution is amended to extend jurisdiction of the Union Election Commission to the State and bring its High Court at par with those in the rest of India.

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**1962** – Elections, which are likely rigged, put Bakshi back in power.

China attacks India in a border dispute in the Northeast Frontier and Ladakh.

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**1962-3** - Talks between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. Proposals include internationalization of the valley and partition of the state. No agreement is reached.

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**1964** – Abdullah released. The ailing Prime Minister Nehru sends Abdullah to Pakistan on 25 May, in an effort to resolve the Kashmir problem, taking into account the wishes of Kashmiris; Nehru passes away on 27 May and the talks get stranded.

Protest demonstrations occur in Kashmir valley in December against Articles 356 and 357 of the Indian Constitution being extended to the state, by virtue of which the Center can assume the government of the State and exercise its legislative powers. The special status accorded to the State under Article 370 is diluted.

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**1965** – A branch of the Congress Party is established in Kashmir and the National Conference is dissolved. Abdullah is arrested upon his return from Haj. Protests ensue.

Armed infiltrators from Pakistan cross the cease-fire line and incidents of violence increase in Kashmir valley. Indo-Pakistani war breaks out which ends in a ceasefire on 23 September. In January 1966, Tashkent Declaration is signed by both countries agreeing to revert to pre-1965 position, under Russian mediation.

Kashmiri nationalists Amanullah Khan and Maqbool Butt form another Plebiscite Front with an armed wing called the Jammu and Kashmir National Liberation Front (NLF) in Azad Kashmir, with the objective of freeing Kashmir from Indian occupation. Butt crosses into the Valley in June 1966 and engages in clashes with the Indian army. He is arrested and sentenced to death in 1968 but escapes to Azad Kashmir with help from the local people.

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**1967** – Jammu Autonomy Forum is formed with the objective of regional autonomy. In November 1968, Gajendragadkar Commission recommends statutory regional development boards.

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**1971** – Another war between India and Pakistan. East Pakistan becomes independent Bangladesh. The ceasefire line in Kashmir becomes 'the line of control'.

Plebiscite Front is banned. Abdullah is ex-terminated from the state. Elections occur in this context, and the J&K Congress Party wins.

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**1972** – Abdullah is allowed to return.

India and Pakistan sign the Simla Agreement in July, which has a clause that the final settlement of Kashmir will be decided bilaterally and that both the sides shall respect the LOC. [Simla Agreement](#)

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**1974-75** – Accord between Abdullah and Indira Gandhi, then prime minister of India. India sees it as firming the union. Abdullah sees it as protecting Kashmir's special status. He returns to power. Indira Gandhi rules under Emergency powers at the national level.

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**1976** – Maqbool Butt is arrested on his return to the Valley; Amanullah Khan moves to England and NLF becomes Jammu and Kashmir liberation Front (JKLF).

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**1977** – Indira Gandhi loses to a coalition in Indian elections. Abdullah wins in Kashmir. He's accused of favoring the valley over Jammu and Ladakh.

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**1979** – The USSR invades Afghanistan. The US and Pakistan, with some other other states, are involved in training and unleashing the mujahadeen on Afghanistan. The mujahadeen so recruited immediately take on their own agenda—one aspect of this is establishing Islamic rule in Kashmir.

The Sikri Commission is appointed to inquire into regional grievances in J&K.

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**1980** – Indira Gandhi comes back to power at the center.

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**1982** – Sheikh Abdullah dies. Sheikh Abdullah's son, Farooq Abdullah, takes over office.

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**1983** – Farooq schedules elections. Indira Gandhi seeks a deal where he allies with her Congress Party. Farooq refuses. Gandhi is upset. The ensuing campaign is dirty and personal. Farooq wins. Indira campaigns against Farooq, alleging rigging.

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**1984** – Farooq is dismissed. The dismissal is engineered by the center. Protest ensues. G.M. Shah, who is an unpopular ruler, replaces Farooq.

Indian and Pakistani armies engage in clashes in Siachen Glacier, a no-man's land at an altitude of 20,000ft with extreme weather conditions, where the cease-fire line had been left undefined by 1972 Simla Agreement.<sup>3</sup>

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**1986** – Communal riots occur. G.M. Shah is dismissed. Farooq is re-installed as chief minister by Rajiv Gandhi's government (Indira is assassinated by Punjabi militants) pending elections in 1987. Farooq loses his popularity in Kashmir because of his collaboration with the central government.

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**1987** – Elections held. National Conference fights the election in alliance with the Congress, and wins the elections. The Muslim United Front (MUF) alleges rigging. The MUF candidate Mohammad Yousuf Shah is imprisoned and he would later become Syed Salahuddin, chief of militant outfit Hizb-ul-Mujahedin. His election

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<sup>3</sup> Siachen is perceived to be of strategic importance for access to the Northern Areas and the spasmodic clashes would continue through later years, costing thousands of lives and billions of dollars.

aides (known as the HAJY group) - Abdul Hamid Shaikh, Ashfaq Majid Wani, Javed Ahmed Mir and Mohammed Yasin Malik - would join the JKLF.

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**1988** – Protests begin in the Valley along with anti-India demonstrations, followed by police firing and curfew.<sup>4</sup>

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**1989** – Militancy increases with bomb blasts. On 8 December, Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of the Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed is kidnapped by the JKLF. She is released safely on 13 December in exchange for the release of five JKLF leaders.

Soviet occupation of Afghanistan comes to an end. A large number of militant and weapons enter Kashmir through Pakistan, further fueling the discontent.

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**1990** – In January, Jagmohan is appointed as the Governor. Farooq Abdullah resigns. A large number of unarmed protesters are killed in firing by the Indian troops in separate incidents.

400,000 Kashmiris march to the UN Military Observer Group to demand implementation of the plebiscite. Numbers of protestors are killed after the police fires at them.

Number of prominent Kashmiris killed by militants, among whom Pandits form a substantial number.

Pandits flee the Kashmir valley feeling threatened by the rising mood against the Indian state. The rise of new militant groups, some warnings in anonymous posters and some unexplained killings of innocent members of the community contribute to an atmosphere of insecurity for the Kashmiri Pandits. Estimated 140,000 Hindus, including the entire Kashmiri Pandit community, flee the valley in March.

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**1989 - present** – Large numbers of security forces become a fixture in Jammu and Kashmir. The numbers vary according to the level of violence, but rarely dip below 350,000.

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**1990-2001** – An officially estimated 10,000 Kashmiri youth crossover to Pakistan for training and procurement of arms. The Hizb, which is backed by Pakistan, increases its strength dramatically. ISI favors the Hizb over the secular JKLF and cuts off financing to the JKLF and in some instances provides intelligence to India against JKLF. In April 1991, Kashmiris hold anti-Pakistan demonstrations in Srinagar following killing of a JKLF area commander by the Hizb. In 1992, Pakistan forces arrest 500 JKLF marchers led by Amanullah Khan in POK to prevent bid to cross the border. India also uses intelligence from captured militants. JKLF militancy declines. The JKLF faction led by Yasin Malik announces unilateral ceasefire in 1994 and pursues political agenda under the All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference (APHC) umbrella, followed by Amanullah Khan's JKLF faction's ceasefire in 1997. Since 1995, foreign militant outfits with Islamic agenda such as Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Harkat-ul-Mujahedin have dominated the militancy in Kashmir, besides the indigenous Hizb, all of them under the

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<sup>4</sup> Farooq blames unemployment, especially educated unemployment, with numbers of 40-50 000 unemployed graduates. Others blame the theft of the election as the closure of political space making a resort to armed struggle inevitable. India responds with repression.

umbrella United Jehadi Council (UJC). Other indigenous and foreign militant organizations proliferate.

Renegade militants supported by the Indian security forces are used for extrajudicial executions of militants.

Slowly militant action moves to other regions of the state like Doda and Poonch.

**1996** – Assembly elections held after a gap of 9 years. Very low turnout in the Kashmir Valley, higher turnout in Jammu and Ladakh.

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**1998** – India and Pakistan perform nuclear tests.

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**1999** – While the Pakistani Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, discusses peace with Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee, the Pakistani army sends several 1000s of militants, accompanied by Pakistani Army regulars and officers across the Kargil ridges in Kashmir. India carpet bombs, and the US and other nations pressurize Pakistan to retreat. An estimated 3000 soldiers die.

India and Pakistan sign Lahore Declaration, agreeing to 'intensify their efforts to resolve all issues, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.'

**October** – General Musharaff overthrows the democratically elected govt. of Nawaz Sharif. By 2001 he had declared himself the new Pakistani president and given himself boundless powers through a newly devised National Security Council.

Back channel talks begin between India and the new Pakistani leadership.

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**2000** –

**August** – India begins cease-fire talks with Hizbul Mujahedeen, in Srinagar, but the talks fail within a couple of weeks, as the Hizbul chief in Pakistan, Salahuddin, wrests leadership from the local Hizbul commander, Majid Dar, who began the talks. Salahuddin keeps upping the ante, and the talks fade away when militants kill over 100 pilgrims and laborers in 3 days.

**November** – Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee attempts a unilateral cease-fire and announces that security forces will suspend combat operations against militants in J&K during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. India puts a ceasefire into effect in Kashmir.

**December** – Pakistan-based guerrilla group, Lashkar-e-Taiba, claims responsibility for a deadly attack on New Delhi's historic Red Fort.

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**2001**

**February** – Prime Minister Vajpayee extends the unilateral ceasefire by three months.

**May** – India ends a six-month military ceasefire against Islamic guerillas in Kashmir while also inviting Pakistani military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf, to peace talks aimed at ending five decades of hostilities between the two countries.

Pakistan's military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf, formally accepts an Indian invitation for summit talks focused firmly on the Kashmir dispute.

**June** – Pakistan's military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf, announces a visit to India from July 14 to 16 for the first summit talks between the neighboring states in two years.

**July** – India says it is releasing more than 400 Pakistani prisoners from its jails as a goodwill gesture 10 days ahead of the India-Pakistan summit meeting in New Delhi.

Musharraf and Vajpayee meet in Agra for a summit. The talks fail to produce a joint statement on Kashmir, because Musharraf is not ready to announce Pakistan will not permit its soil to be used for terrorist attacks against India.

**13 December** – Attack on the Indian parliament by militants. India masses troops on the border, India and Pakistan are at the brink of war.

**December** – the Prevention of Terrorism Bill (POTB) is passed in the Indian parliament that gives armed forces powers to undertake action against suspected terrorists without following the usual legal-judicial process.

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**2002** –

**January** – President Musharraf announces Pakistani soil will not be used for terrorism against India, closed down mujahideen offices and arrests 2000 militants and their leaders.

Tensions ebbs but within a few months Pakistan releases most of them.

**Spring** – India and the APHC reach an agreement that India will encourage free and fair elections in Kashmir, and the APHC will not oppose them.

**Summer-Fall** – Elections, which are held by many international observers to be fair, are held in J&K. A new coalition of PDP and Congress come to power. Chief Minister Mufti Sayeed announces a “healing touch” policy.

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**2002-2003** – Levels of violence diminish somewhat, and there is hope in Kashmir, but India-Pakistan standoff remains.

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**2003** –

**November** – India and Pakistan declare a ceasefire along the LOC.

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**2004** –

Congress and coalition takes over at the center after the general elections.

New peace process begins between India and Pakistan, with a joint pledge by Indian PM Manmohan Singh and Pakistani President Musharraf to revive the composite dialogue and discuss Kashmir. Musharraf reaffirms pledge to stop support to terrorists from across the LOC.

Indian government-Hurriyat talks restart

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**2005 –**

**April** – Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus launched

**June** – Poonch-Rawalakot bus starts

**October** – Massive earthquake devastates “Azad Kashmir” and a small part of Jammu and Kashmir. Indian army is at forefront of relief in J&K, and gains some sorely needed credit.

India offers aid to Pakistan but is refused.

Nevertheless, under international, especially humanitarian NGO, pressure, Pakistan finally allows some crossing points to be opened for earthquake affected families to meet. First day of crossing point opening, Pakistani officials fire tear gas at AJK families surging across.

Pakistan based militant groups get new lease of life as they are the first to provide relief in AJK.

**November** – Infiltration, which had come down substantially in 2003-5, begins to rise.

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**2006**

**February** – PM Manmohan Singh expands New Delhi-Kashmir dialogue, hold a Round Table conference on Kashmiri political and community leaders. APHC and other separatists do not attend.

**May** – Second RT planned in Srinagar, hectic efforts to bring APHC and other separatist groups on board. PM-APHC meeting, at which APHC lays down conditions under which it will attend Srinagar RTC.

Escalation of terrorist attacks in the run up to the RTC.

RTC takes place in an atmosphere of violence. APHC and other separatists do not attend. RTC sets up 5 working groups that are asked to come up with ideas on how to further a peace process in and for Kashmir.

**May-July** – terrorist attacks escalate sharply, especially against tourists in Srinagar.

India sends a set of ideas on devolution/self-governance for Kashmir to Pakistan through its back channel.

Bye-elections held in J&K in which huge numbers come out to vote.

The state govt. announces the formation of eight new districts which is welcomed across the state.

The working groups set up at the RTC are formally constituted.

**July** – Bombay Blasts kill close to 200 people on commuter trains. India demands Pakistan fulfill its 2004 pledge to act against militant groups.

First RTC working groups meet – only the ones on widows and orphans, and on CBMs with Pakistan.

**December** – The Centre-State Working Group meets for the first time.

Musharraf moots a four-point proposal for the solution of the Jammu and Kashmir conflict in a television interview envisioning soft or porous borders; self-governance; phased demilitarization and a joint supervisory mechanism.

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**2007** –

**February** – The Centre-State Working Group meets again

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