

## **ABSTRACT**

Rivalry between Pakistan and India is as old as their formation is. The strands of their animosity run deep. Kashmir issue, Border skirmishes, Siachen dispute, arms race and terrorism have led the two adversaries time and again to lock their horns with each other. There are several other irritants as well, which have a tendency to disturb the peaceful relation between two states. For the resolution of these disputes, the two neighbors have gone to three wars, in 1948, 1965, and 1971 respectively. The last major clash was in Kargil in 1999.

Initially Pakistan involved the defense shield offered by the Western pacts SEATO and CENTO that proved futile in event of aggression by India. After dabbling with multilateral approach for conflict resolution, both states resorted to bilateralism by signing the Simla Agreement in 1972 where the involvement of third party was restricted and all the mutual issues were decided to be resolved mutually. With the passage of time, there were many apprehensions that clouded this diplomatic understanding on both sides. But in a nuclearized South Asia with huge defense budget; it has become imperative to adopt a strategy of conciliation and cooperation. Any miscalculation or irrational decision shall wipe out the whole sub-continent from the face of earth.

Super powers have declared the main dispute 'Kashmir' as the mutual issue of both Pakistan and India that is needed to be resolved through bilateral means and not with the involvement of any other country. The both states are at loggerheads with each other over their respective approaches to ensure peace. India pursues a policy of CBMs; Pakistan advocates an approach of conflict resolution. This clash of approaches has resulted in present stalemate.

The crux of material is, that the resolution of Indo-Pak conflicts will be auspicious not only for Pakistan and India but also for the other states in the region. Both countries share a need to improve their diplomatic relations by overcoming the misunderstandings to resolve conflicts. By means of fostering the mutual trust, through negotiations they can promote good neighborly relations. An enhanced focus on bilateral approach by two big actors of the region will herald a new era of peace and prosperity in south Asia.