

Who has nuclear weapons?

Both Pakistan and India are nuclear powers.

India tested three types of nuclear bombs in May 1998. As of the end of 1995, India had a total inventory of 315 to 345 kilograms of weapons-grade plutonium, according to one study, enough for 20 to 60 weapons. Pakistan also detonated nuclear weapons in May 1998 and is reported to have up to 10 nuclear weapons.

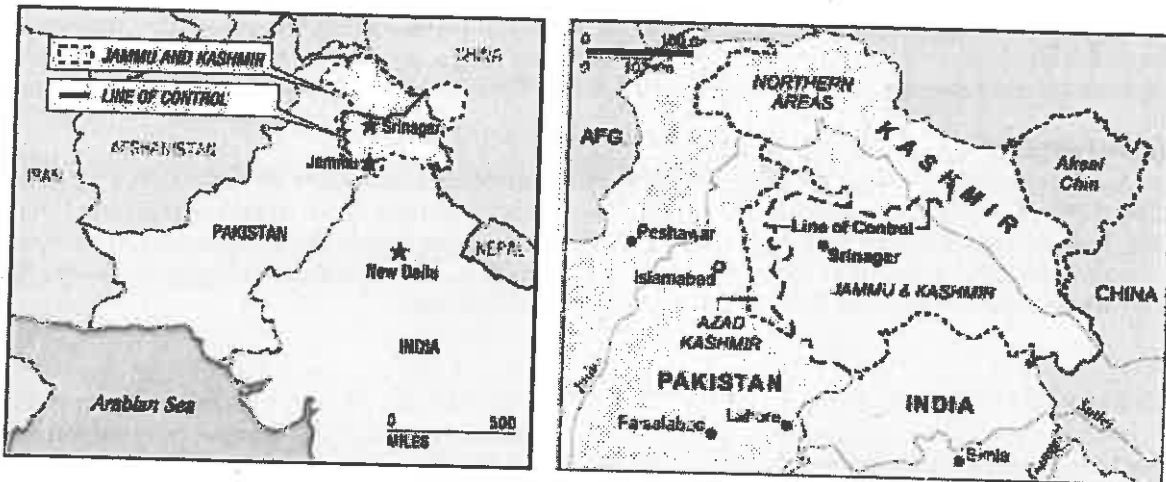
Both countries have fighter jets and ballistic missiles that could be armed with nuclear warheads.

What Does India Want?

India regards Kashmir as an integral part of the Indian nation. It describes the Pakistani occupation of portions of the region as illegal. It wants Pakistan to cease support for cross-border terrorism launched by groups that want to unite Kashmir with Pakistan.

What does Pakistan want?

Pakistan favors a plebiscite, as called for in a 1949 U.N. resolution, in which the residents of Jammu and Kashmir would vote on which country they want to join. India refuses to consider a plebiscite.



Since 1948 the border between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir has constantly shifted, with both sides claiming various territories in military exchanges along that border. This is why the line dividing Indian-administered Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is known as the "Line of Control". It has never been agreed to as the official border by the two countries.

Jammu and Kashmir is India's only Muslim-majority state and over the past 12 years more than 33,000 people have been killed as nearly a dozen rebel groups have fought rule from the central government in New Delhi.

Nearly one million troops backed by tanks, warplanes and missiles have been mobilized on both sides of the border between India and Pakistan, which have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

