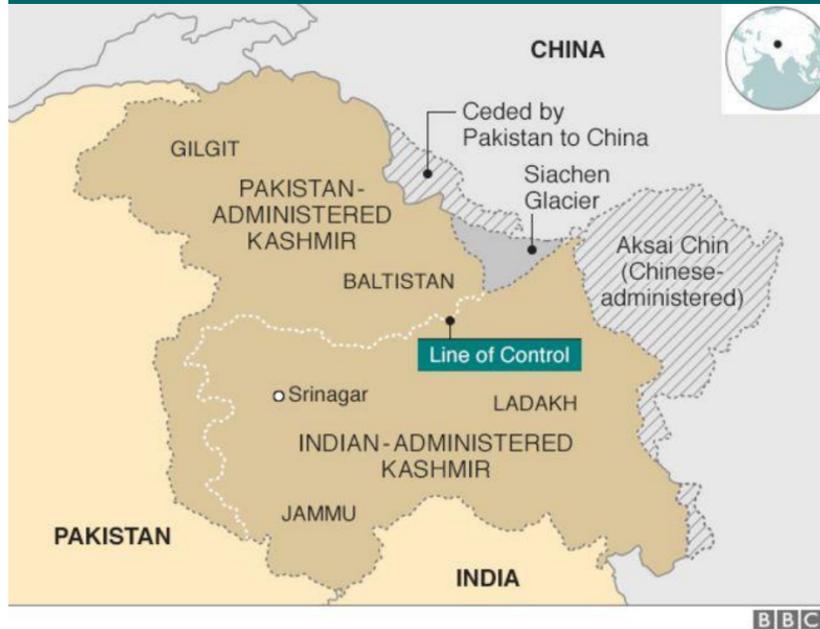


1. Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir is part of India,' says MEA



Date: 20 September, 2019



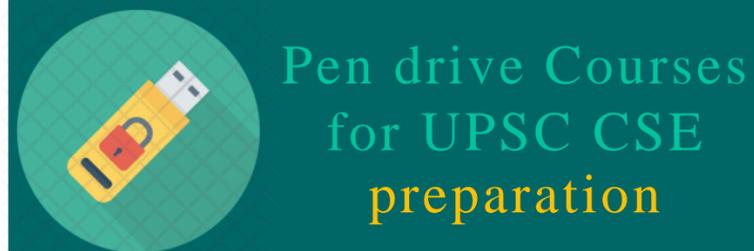
What lies across the LoC?

What is Gilgit Baltistan?

What is the administrative status in Gilgit Baltistan?

What is the political significance of PoK?

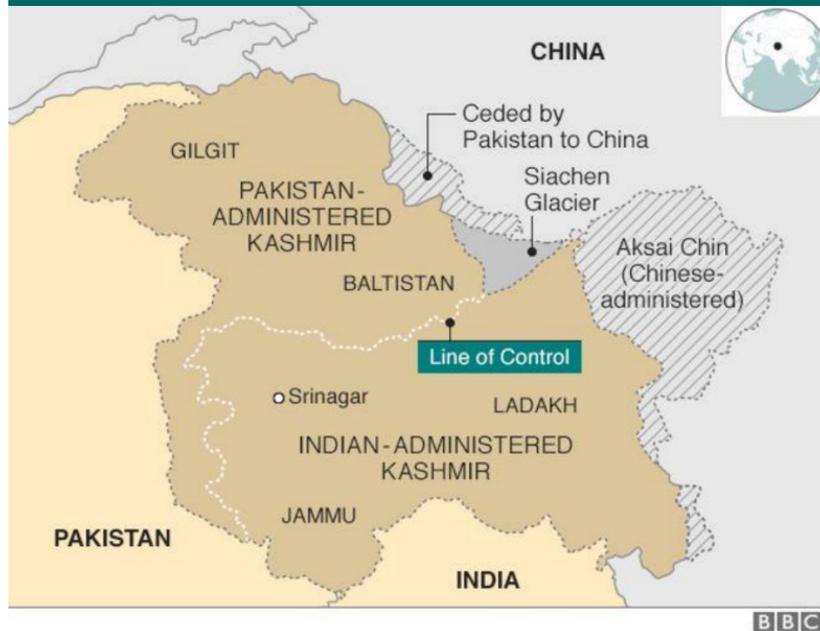
GS paper 2 (India and Its neighbourhood relations.)



In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.



Date: 20 September, 2019



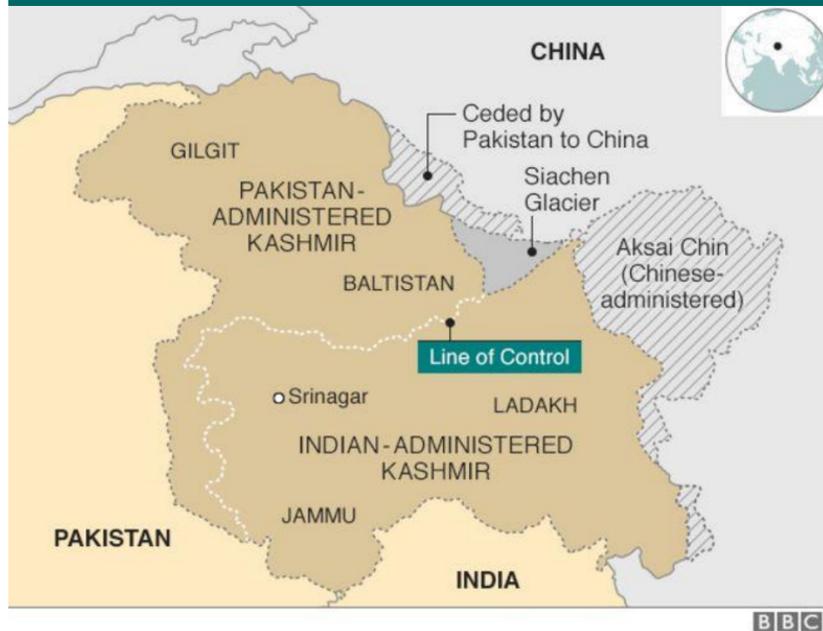
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What is the context about?



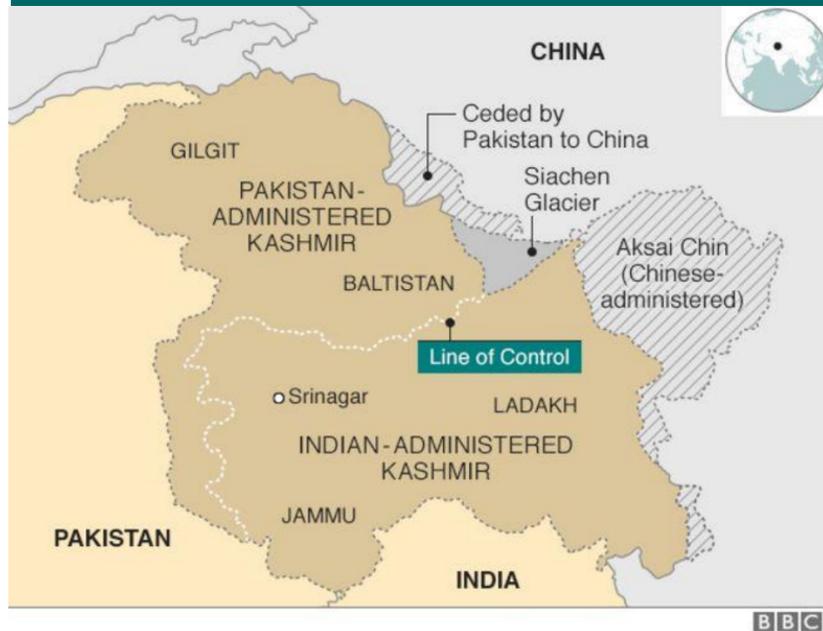
Amid rising rhetoric on Kashmir from both sides of the Line of Control, India on Tuesday said that Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) is a part of the country and New Delhi expects to have "physical jurisdiction" over the area "one day".



India's stand on Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir comes after Islamabad's attempt to internationalise the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after the Centre's abrogation of Article 370 in the now-Union Territory



Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, referred to as 'Azad Kashmir' in Pakistan, was carved out of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir after the conclusion of the first India-Pakistan war over the region



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What lies across the LoC?



Pakistan Occupied Kashmir is an area of 13,297 sq km, which was under the control of the Pakistani forces when the ceasefire line came into effect on January 1, 1949. That was after a 14-month period of hostilities between India and Pakistan, which began with an invasion of Kashmir by Pashtun tribesmen, and later its Army, to seize Kashmir.



PoK has a population of over 40 lakh, according to a census carried out in 2017. It is divided into 10 districts: Neelum, Muzaffarabad, Hattian Bala, Bagh, and Haveli bordering areas in Kashmir, and Rawlakot, Kotli, Mirpur, and Bhimber bordering areas in Jammu.



- ✓ The capital of PoK is Muzaffarabad, a town located in the valley of the Jhelum river and its tributary Neelum (which Indians call Kishanganga) to the west and slightly north of Srinagar.
- ✓ In 1963, through an agreement, Pakistan ceded to China over 5,000 sq km of J&K land under its control, in the Shaksgam area, in northern Kashmir, beyond the Karakoram.



What is Gilgit Baltistan?



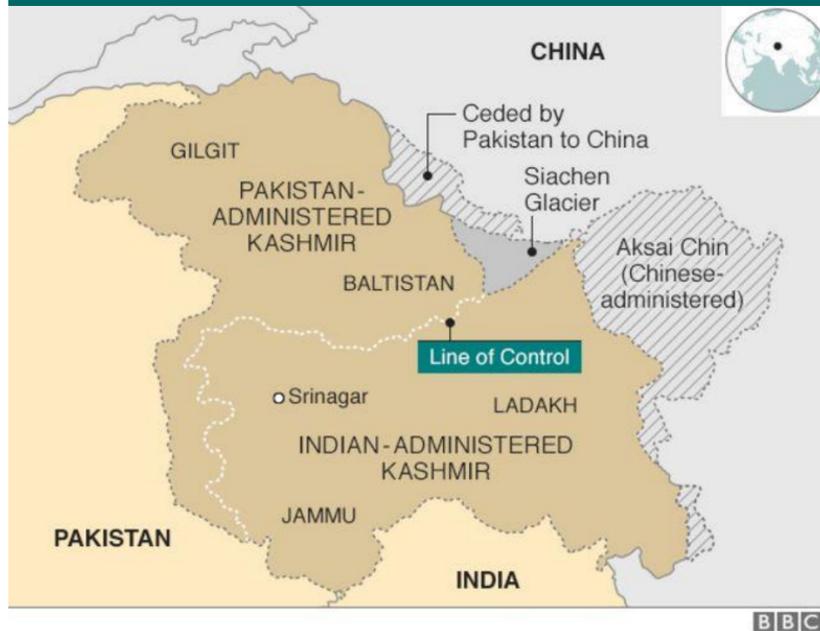
This is a picturesque, hilly region to the north of PoK and east of the Pakistani province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



The British sold it, along with the rest of Jammu and Kashmir, to the Dogra ruler of Jammu, Gulab Singh, after defeating the Sikh army in 1846, but retained control over the area through a lease extracted from the Maharaja.



- ✓ This lease was last renewed in 1935. In 1947, a British army officer of the rank of Colonel imprisoned Maharaja Hari Singh's governor in the region, and handed over the area for accession to Pakistan.
- ✓ Gilgit Baltistan (GB) is spread over 72,871 sq km, and is five-and-a-half times the size of PoK. But it is sparsely populated, with just under 20 lakh people.



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What is the administrative status in Gilgit Baltistan?



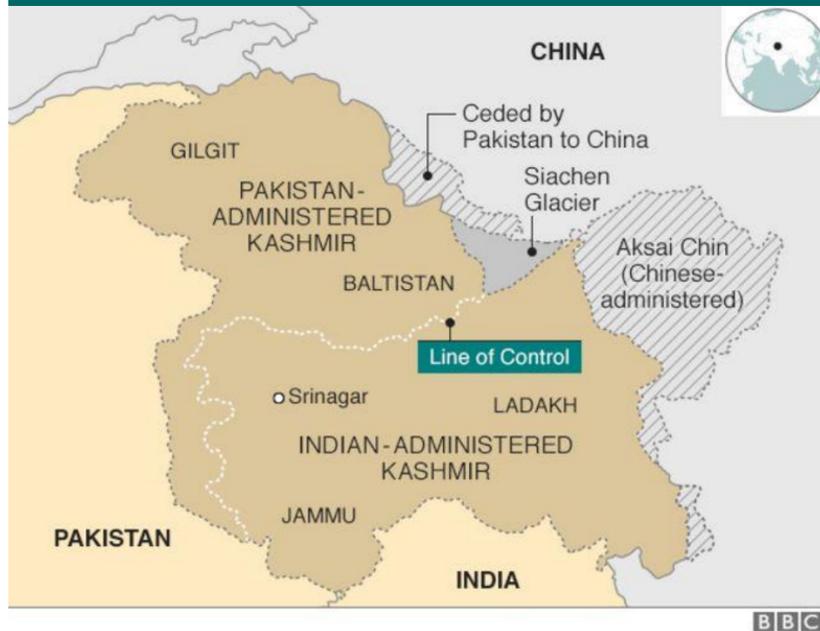
Though both PoK and GB are ruled directly from Islamabad, neither is officially listed as the territory of Pakistan, which has just four provinces: Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (which now includes the Federally Administered Tribal areas or FATA), Balochistan, and Sindh.



PoK and GB are both “autonomous territories”. Pakistan has kept this fiction going, as incorporating these areas into its map would damage its international position in the United Nations and elsewhere that the entire Jammu and Kashmir is “disputed”.



For India, on the other hand, as per the resolution passed by Parliament in 1994, PoK and GB are both part of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India by virtue of its accession to India in 1947.



In current times, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has largely affected the dynamics in the region. "Pakistan has already gifted a portion (about 5,000-8,000 square kilometres) of Gilgit-Baltistan in 1963, a year after the India-China war" to China, who is Islamabad's all-weather ally.



"Because of its location, PoK is of immense strategic importance. It shares borders with several countries — the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province provinces (now called Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa) in Pakistan to the west, the Wakhan Corridor of Afghanistan in the north-west, Xinjiang province of the People's Republic of China to the north and India's Jammu and Kashmir to the east,".