

GREAT DECISIONS

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India and Pakistan

Acronyms and abbreviations

BBC—British Broadcasting Corporation

BJP—Bharatiya Janata Party

ISIS—Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

PPE—Philosophy, politics and economics

RSS—Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

UAE—United Arab Emirates

UNMOGIP—United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan

Glossary

Asian Development Bank: established in 1966, the bank serves as the regional development bank for Asia by promoting social and economic development throughout the continent.

Bengali: refers to the ethnic and linguistic group of people that live in the Bengal region, which is made up of eastern-India and Bangladesh.

Bhimrao Ambedkar(1891–1956): also known as “Babasaheb Ambedkar, he was an Indian economist and politician who inspired the Dalit Buddhist movement during the 1930s. He was instrumental in the founding of the Republic of India by serving as Chairman of the Constitution of India drafting committee and by serving as India’s first law and justice minister.

Dalit: is the term used to define those outside the traditional caste system of India. Dalits, also known as “untouchables,” make up 16.6% of India’s population, according to the 2011 census.

Gujarat: an Indian state located on the Kathiawar peninsula in Western India. Gujarat is the birthplace of many famous Indians and Pakistanis, such as Mahatma Gandhi, Narendra Modi, and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Hindus: are people who are either culturally or religiously affiliated with Hinduism. Hinduism has existed in India since 500 B.C. and has more than a billion followers worldwide.

Hindutva: refers to Hindu nationalist movements in India. The term originated to refer to how well a Hindu was able to abide by the teachings of Hinduism. The modern use of the term refers to the ideology that wants to “define Indian culture in terms of Hindu values.”

Jammu and Kashmir: a region north of Punjab that was administered by India as a union territory until August 5, 2019. Jammu and Kashmir were given special provisions for limited autonomy under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution.

Lok Sabha: known as the “House of the People,” it is the lower house within India’s bicameral Parliament. Elections for the Lok Sabha take place every five years, unless the prime minister dissolves the government before the end of the five-year term.

National Democratic Alliance: refers to the coalition of right-leaning political parties organized around the BJP that has been in power since the 2014 election of Narendra Modi. As of 2019, the NDA has 384 seats in the Lok Sabha and 134 of the 245 seats in the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Indian Parliament.

Panama Papers: refers to the massive leak of some 11 million documents outlining financial information that was leaked from Panamanian law firm, Mossack Fonseca. The documents showed how many different politicians and public officials had been using Mossack Fonseca for tax evasion and fraud.

Partition: refers to the partition of India in 1947. The partition divided British India into the Union of India and Union of Pakistan. The partition attempted to divide the country along religious lines, between Hindus (India) and Muslims (Pakistan).

Pashtun: refers to the ethnic group that speaks the Pashto language. There are nearly 50 million Pashtuns worldwide, with some 46 million in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Pogrom: is a violent riot or uprising that is focused on persecuting a certain religious or ethnic group. The word has its origins in Russia, where it was used to describe a series of attacks against Jews and Jewish settlements in the Russian Empire during the 19th century.

Rahul Gandhi (1970–): is an Indian politician. A member of the Nehru-Gandhi political family, Rahul was president of the Indian National Congress party from 2016 until July 2019.

Tehreek-e-Insaf: translates as the “Pakistan Movement for Justice.” It is the party of Imran Khan and is the current ruling party of the Pakistan National Assembly. The party strives to remove corruption from the Pakistan government and promote religious freedom, education reform, and social equality.

Vedanta: refers to a school of Hindu philosophy that was introduced to the U.S. via a speech from Swami Vivekananda (1863–1902). The philosophy has many different schools of thought, but most Vedanta philosophy is based around the pursuit of knowledge of reality and the self (soul).



