



# Sir Creek to Karachi– Any aggression will be met with a befitting reply: Rajnath Singh

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## Why in the news?

### Key points:

- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh warned Pakistan in a statement on the occasion of Vijayadashami at the Bhuj military base on October 2, 2025.
- He stated that any aggression in the Sir Creek region would be met with a “befitting reply”—a response that would impact both history and geography.
- The minister also underlined that New Delhi has repeatedly attempted to resolve the dispute through dialogue, but Pakistan's intentions remain unclear.

### Weapon worship and message in Bhuj

- Weapon worship was performed at the Bhuj military station in the presence of senior officers, including General Upendra Dwivedi and the advanced L-70 air defense gun was unveiled.
- Rajnath Singh described systems like the L-70 as crucial during Operation Sindoor, which neutralized drones and ammunition launched by Pakistan.

### Referring to Operation Sindoor

- Referring to Operation Sindoor, the Minister said that Pakistan's attempts to breach India's security from Leh to Sir Creek were thwarted and the Indian Army delivered a befitting reply.
- He also said that the Indian Army sent a message to the world that it can inflict heavy losses on Pakistan whenever, wherever and however it wishes—despite India's restraint as the operation was against terrorism, not to promote terrorism.

## Sir Creek: Geographical, Strategic and Economic Importance

### Geographical Location

- Sir Creek is a 96-kilometer-long estuary located between India and Pakistan.
- It stretches between the Kutch region of Gujarat and the Sindh province of Pakistan and ultimately empties into the Arabian Sea.

### Natural Features

- This area is marshy and subject to tidal influences.
- The water level here constantly changes with the tides, making precise demarcation difficult.

### Strategic Importance

- Sir Creek is a sensitive and disputed area of the India-Pakistan border.
- Located on the Arabian Sea coast, it is extremely important from a strategic perspective.
- This area allows control over maritime trade routes, naval activities and maritime surveillance.
- This is why both India and Pakistan consider this area strategically important.

## Economic Importance

- Marine resources, especially fish, are abundant in the Sir Creek area.
- Potential oil and natural gas reserves are likely to be present here.
- This area is also crucial for determining the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which directly impacts fishing, mining and other marine economic activities.

## Sir Creek Dispute:

1908 – Dispute erupts between the rulers of Kutch and Sindh over firewood stacks along the Sir Creek creek.

1914 – The King of Kutch and the Sindh provincial government agree to a proposal from the Bombay Presidency. This proposal recognized the creek as part of Sindh, but did not specify the boundary.

1947 (After Independence) – Following the India-Pakistan partition, Pakistan claimed the entire Sir Creek and, citing the 1914 agreement, stated that the border lies on the eastern bank.

## India's Position –

India, relying on the Thalweg Principle, stated that the border line should be in the middle of Sir Creek. ("Thalweg Principle = the international legal principle of treating the deepest course of a river/creek as the border.")

1965 – Clashes broke out between India and Pakistan in the Rann of Kutch region. This conflict further deepened the Sir Creek dispute.

1968 – Both countries referred the Kutch dispute to an International Tribunal. The Tribunal awarded most of the area to India, but no decision was reached on Sir Creek.

1990–2000 – Several rounds of talks were held between India and Pakistan. A joint survey was also conducted, but no final solution was reached.

## Current Status –

Sir Creek remains a sensitive dispute between India and Pakistan. India advocates a peaceful resolution, while Pakistan has periodically engaged in provocative actions in the region.

## Creek

- A creek is a small, narrow and often marshy waterway connected to a river, lake, or sea.
- It is commonly found in tidal areas, where water levels fluctuate with the tides.

## Characteristics

1. Narrow and long – Creeks are typically long and narrow, unlike larger river courses.
2. Marshland – Their banks are often marshy and muddy.
3. Tidal influence – The water level in a creek fluctuates day and night due to ocean or river tides.
4. Fresh and salt water – It may contain both fresh river water and salt sea water.
5. Difficulty of demarcation – The nature of water and marshes is constantly changing, making boundary marking difficult.
6. Maritime and economic importance – Important for activities such as fishing, naval surveillance and potential oil and gas reserves.

## Examples

- Sir Creek – A 96-kilometer-long tidal creek located between Gujarat and Sindh provinces on the India-Pakistan border. It has long been considered a disputed area between the two countries.
- Numerous smaller creeks are also found along India's western coast (Gujarat, Maharashtra) and eastern coast (West Bengal, Odisha).

## Warning

- The Defense Minister clarified that Pakistan's recent military buildup in the region raises questions about its intentions and that any aggression would be met with a decisive response.
- Addressing the troops, he expressed satisfaction with the success of the operation's military objectives and stated that the fight against terrorism continues.

## India-Pakistan Border Dispute:

1. The border dispute between India and Pakistan is one of the world's longest-standing and volatile geopolitical conflicts.
2. Its roots lie in the partition of British India in 1947. Even 75 years after independence, the dispute remains focused on areas such as Kashmir, Sir Creek and Siachen.

## Historical Background

- 1947 – British India was partitioned. Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir decided to accede to India to defend against Pakistan-backed invaders.
- 1947-48 – The first Indo-Pak war took place, followed by a ceasefire brokered by the United Nations.
- 1949 – The Line of Control (LoC) was established, but both sides do not consider it a permanent border.
- 1965 – Pakistan's Operation Gibraltar and a full-scale war.
- 1971 – The Bangladesh Liberation War and the Indo-Pak War, which resulted in Pakistan's defeat and the creation of Bangladesh.
- 1972 – The Shimla Agreement was signed.
- 1980s – The rise of militancy in Kashmir.
- 1999 – The Kargil War.
- 2008 Mumbai attacks and the 2019 abrogation of Article 370 – relations between the two countries deteriorated further.
- 2021 – A ceasefire along the LoC provided temporary relief.

## Major India-Pakistan Wars

1. 1947-48: First Kashmir War

Attack by Pakistan-backed tribesmen.

A ceasefire followed India's intervention, but the Kashmir issue remained unresolved.

2. 1965: Second War

Pakistan's Operation Gibraltar.

India retaliated and the war ended with the Tashkent Agreement.

### 3. 1971: Third War (Bangladesh Liberation War)

Repression and refugee crisis in East Pakistan.

India's intervention led to Pakistan's defeat and the creation of Bangladesh.

### 4. 1999: Kargil War

Pakistani forces infiltrated Kargil.

India's Operation Vijay was successful and Pakistan retreated under international pressure.

## Major Disputed Areas

<p><b>Jammu and Kashmir</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The largest dispute.</li> <li>• India – Control of Jammu, the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh.</li> <li>• Pakistan – Control of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.</li> <li>• The abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 further escalated tensions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sir Creek</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 96-km-long tidal estuary between Gujarat and Sindh.</li> <li>• India – considers the mid-channel as the border.</li> <li>• Pakistan – considers the east coast as the border.</li> <li>• Strategic importance due to EEZ, fishing and potential oil and gas reserves.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Siachen Region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glacier in the Karakoram Range.</li> <li>• India's Operation Meghdoot in 1984 – control of Siachen and Salto Ridge.</li> <li>• It is the world's highest battlefield.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Salto Ridge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The western part of Siachen.</li> <li>• India controls the peaks, Pakistan controls the valleys.</li> </ul>

## Recent Events (2021–2025)

- 2021 – Ceasefire along the LoC, but violations continue.
- 2023–24 – Violent incidents and attacks on civilians in Kashmir.
- April 22, 2025 – Pahalgam terror attack, 27 civilians killed.
- May 6–7, 2025: Operation Sindoor
- India launched massive missile and air strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK.
- Four days of intense drone and missile warfare ensued.
- Ceasefire effective May 10, 2025.

**Question:** Which theory does India rely on in the Sir Creek dispute?

- Eastern Bank Theory
- Thalweg Theory
- Maritime Waterway Theory
- Frontier Treaty Theory

**Question:** Sir Creek is located between which regions of India and Pakistan?

- Kashmir and Punjab
- Gujarat (Kutch) and Sindh
- Rajasthan and Balochistan
- Maharashtra and Sindh