



Pakistan's New Map

 drishtias.com/printpdf/pakistan-s-new-map

Why in News

Recently, **Pakistan** has released a new political map that includes all of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Sir Creek and Junagadh.

The map has been released on the eve of the first anniversary of the **abrogation of special status** to **Jammu and Kashmir** under **Article 370**.

Key Points

- **The Map:**
 - The map **depicts entire Jammu & Kashmir** as a **disputed territory** and **does not show any borders in the east of Kashmir**.
It has also **renamed Kashmir Highway** in Islamabad as **Srinagar Highway**.
 - It claims the **Siachen, regions of Sir Creek** and the **erstwhile state of Junagadh in Gujarat** as part of Pakistan's territory.
This is not the first time Pakistan has tried to portray Junagadh as part of its territory. The 2012 Atlas of Pakistan also portrayed Junagadh as a Pakistan's territory.
 - The map also shows the **Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)** as being part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- **India's Response:**
 - India has called Pakistan's move as an **exercise in political absurdity**, which lays untenable claims to the Indian territories.
 - These assertions have neither legal validity nor international credibility and it only confirms the reality of Pakistan's obsession with territorial aggrandisement supported by cross-border terrorism.

- **Concerns for India:**

- This is the second time in the recent past where India's neighbouring country has published a new map claiming India's territories. Nepal was the first country to do so.

Nepal published its news map claiming the territories of the **Kalapani region**.

- Closeness of Nepal, Pakistan towards China.
- Recently, China also changed the status quo along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in the western sector in its favour.

Sir Creek

- It is a 96 km long strip of water disputed between India and Pakistan in the **Rann of Kutch marshlands**.
- The dispute lies in the **interpretation of the maritime boundary line between Kutch and Sindh**.

Pakistan claims the line to follow the eastern shore of the estuary while India claims a centerline (differing interpretations of paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Bombay Government Resolution of 1914 signed between the then Government of Sindh and Rao Maharaj of Kutch).

- India insists the Sir Creek should be divided between the two countries according to **thalweg principle**. Under international law, a thalweg is the middle of the primary navigable channel of a waterway that defines the boundary line between states.
- The International Boundary in the Sir Creek area and International Maritime Boundary line (IMBL) between India and Pakistan have not been demarcated.

Siachen Glacier

- The Siachen Glacier is part of **Ladakh** which has now been **converted into a Union Territory**. It is the **Second-Longest glacier in the World's Non-Polar areas**.
- It is **located in the Eastern Karakoram range** in the Himalayas, just northeast of Point NJ9842 where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends.
- It lies immediately south of the great drainage divide that separates the Eurasian Plate from the Indian subcontinent in the extensively glaciated portion of the Karakoram sometimes called the "**Third Pole**".
- It is the world's highest battlefield.

FATA

The **Federally Administered Tribal Areas** was a **semi-autonomous tribal region** in northwestern Pakistan that existed from 1947. In 2018 it was merged with the neighboring province of **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**.

Way Forward

- Over the last one year, Pakistan has made several attempts to raise the change in Jammu and Kashmir's status from a state to a union territory at several international fora but hasn't been able to get much traction. Further, with Pakistan, India continues to maintain that terror and talks cannot go hand-in-hand.
- With Nepal turning hostile, Sri Lanka tilted towards China, Bangladesh miffed over the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019** and **India out of Iran's Chabahar railway link project** (which India was to have constructed), there is a relative decline in India's sphere of influence, especially in its neighbourhood and the extended neighbourhood. This demands a deeper examination of the foreign policy.

Source: IE