

India-Pakistan CBMs Project

Siachen Proposal

There was further discussion on the proposal for the demilitarisation of the region and for stringent and cooperative monitoring and verification of this. After considerable discussion a suggestion achieved consensus which seeks to have these activities occur as part of an overall package. Recognising that both countries have a divergence of views, it was felt that such an approach is more likely to create forward movement.

Accordingly, as a part of the comprehensive resolution of the Siachen dispute, ***and notwithstanding the claims of each country***, both sides should agree to withdraw from the conflict area while retaining the option of punitive action should the other side renege on the commitments. The following clear package of integrated and inter-linked stipulations were laid down for the demilitarisation of the area and delineation of the line:

- Set up a joint commission to delineate the line beyond NJ 9842, consistent with existing Agreements;
- The present ground positions would be jointly recorded and the records exchanged;
- The determination of the places to which redeployment will be affected would be jointly agreed;
- Disengagement and demilitarization would occur in accordance with a mutually acceptable time frame to be agreed (see Annex 1);
- Prior to withdrawal, each side will undertake to remove munitions and other military equipment and waste from areas of its control; and
- Ongoing cooperative monitoring of these activities and the resulting demilitarized zone would be agreed to ensure/assure transparency (see Annex 2).

In keeping with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration both sides should undertake that resolution of this issue is a bilateral matter and that there will be no change in the status of the area and also that no personnel of any third country will be permitted within it unless cleared by the two countries jointly.

Annex 1

Suggested Time Frame for Demilitarisation

Schedule for Demilitarisation

Operational principles:

- Establish a Joint Working Group to recommend detailed re-deployment and oversee implementation of the process.
- Variability in process is likely due to frequently changing weather conditions.

Weather forces disengagement to be conducted during the summer season (May – September)

Determination of the place (s) to which redeployment will be effected and the time frame to be recommended by the Joint Working Group.

Mechanism for joint management of the demilitarized zone to be recommended by the Joint Working Group.

Possible Phases of Demilitarisation (with appropriate waste and munitions removal at each phase)

Phase 1: Withdraw medium artillery located near Base Camps (e.g., Dzingrulma, Gyari)

Phase 2: Withdraw troops and field artillery from Northern, Central, and Southern battalion sub-sectors

- Forward posts, including crew-served weapons posts
- Declare staging camps where troops from forward positions will transit through in the process of re-deployment
- Dismantle camps after withdrawal

Phase 3: Withdraw from forward logistics camps on or near the Glacier

Phase 4: Dismantle remaining logistics camps

Phase 5: Withdraw from base camps

Phase 6: Dismantle or convert base camps to scientific/civil use

Ongoing: Cooperative monitoring and verification of demilitarization (see Annex 3)

Annex 2

Monitoring and Verification of the Demilitarisation

Overall Concept

- Monitoring initially, by national technical means
- Phase 1: Monitoring and verification of disengagement during the establishment of the DMZ
 - Verify that posts, logistics centers, and base camps vacated
- Phase 2: Post-disengagement monitoring of the DMZ
 - Verify that military personnel and equipment do not re-enter the DMZ
- On an ongoing basis, the primary monitoring and verification mechanisms will be both bilateral and cooperative

Goal is to verify withdrawal and dismantlement of military facilities

- Visual: The withdrawal from Indian and Pakistani posts within line of sight of each other is to be coordinated so each side can observe the activities of the other. Ammunition and heavy weapons which cannot be moved immediately will be temporarily stored in-place and subject to joint verification and monitoring.
- Joint Aerial Reconnaissance: A pair of Indian and Pakistani helicopters will rendezvous at an agreed location and then fly together along the Forward Battle Positions in the agreed sector to visually verify and photographically record withdrawal and dismantlement of post or logistics camp.
- On-site inspection: Both sides have the right to request that its representative land by helicopter at a location to confirm withdrawal and dismantlement.
- Unilateral activities: Both sides should agree not to interfere with the other's national technical means

Goal of detecting illicit re-occupation of positions within the DMZ

- Monitoring and verification considerations:
 - Nothing happens quickly on Siachen; logistics and weather drive all
 - The possibility of a quick, stealthy reoccupation, without an air bridge, is remote
 - Aerial operations are obvious
 - Small-scale intrusions are neither significant nor sustainable
- Monitoring and verification should focus on logistics
 - All Indian logistics flows through Dzingrulma
 - Pakistan has multiple logistics routes through civilian villages