

# Breaking News English.com

**Kashmir crisis halts flights to Pakistan – 2nd March, 2019**

## **Level 0**

There are tensions between India and Pakistan. People fear they will go to war. Pakistan shot down two Indian fighter jets and captured an Indian fighter pilot. This happened after Indian jets bombed Pakistan. India said it was bombing terrorists. It said the terrorists killed at least 40 Indian police officers in a car bombing.

Pakistan has closed its airspace. Airlines stopped flying over Pakistan and some parts of India. Airlines changed routes to avoid the region. Over 800 flights a day use the India-Pakistan air route. Most flights going to Bangkok and Singapore now have to fly over Iran. They might have to take a detour.

## **Level 1**

There are tensions between India and Pakistan. The two countries could be heading for war. Pakistan shot down two Indian fighter jets on Wednesday and captured an Indian fighter pilot. This happened after Indian jets bombed Pakistani territory. India said it was bombing a terrorist base linked to a suicide car bombing that killed at least 40 Indian police officers in Kashmir. It is the first time Indian jets hit Pakistan since a 1971 war.

Pakistan closed its airspace on Wednesday. Airlines suspended flights to Pakistan and some parts of India. Airlines had to re-route flights to avoid the region. An aviation expert said 800 flights a day use the "critical" India-Pakistan air route. He said: "You can't fly over China, so you have to fly over Pakistan and India....Most of the traffic destined for Bangkok and Singapore will have to fly over Iran and then possibly take a detour."

## **Level 2**

Tensions between India and Pakistan are growing. People are worried the two countries are heading for war. Pakistan shot down two Indian military jets on Wednesday. They captured an Indian fighter pilot. This happened after Indian jets dropped bombs on Pakistani territory. India said it was bombing a terrorist base linked to a suicide car bombing that killed at least 40 Indian police officers in Indian-controlled Kashmir. It is the first time Indian jets have hit Pakistan since a 1971 war. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has called for peace talks.

Pakistan closed its airspace on Wednesday. International airlines have suspended flights to Pakistan and some parts of India. Airlines that fly over India and Pakistan had to re-route flights to avoid the region. An aviation expert said about 800 flights a day use the India-Pakistan air route. He said it was "very critical". He added: "You can't fly over China, so you have to fly over Pakistan and India and go to Southeast Asia and Australia. Most of the traffic destined for Bangkok and Singapore will have to fly over Iran and then possibly take a detour."

## **Level 3**

Tensions are growing between India and Pakistan. Many people are worried that the two nuclear-armed countries are heading for war. Pakistan carried out air raids and shot down two Indian military jets on Wednesday. They captured an Indian fighter pilot. He is now being held by Pakistan's Army. This happened a day after Indian warplanes dropped bombs on Pakistani territory. India said it was bombing a terrorist base linked to the suicide car bombing on February 14 that killed at least 40 Indian police officers in Indian-controlled Kashmir. It is the first time Indian warplanes have struck inside Pakistan since a war in 1971. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has called for peace talks.

Pakistan closed its airspace on Wednesday because of the tensions. Several international airlines have suspended flights to Pakistan and to some parts of India. Airlines that fly over India and Pakistan to Europe, the Middle East, and Asia had to re-route flights to avoid the region. Aviation expert Mark Martin said about 800 flights a day use the India-Pakistan air corridor. He said it was "very critical" for airlines. He added: "You can't fly over China, so you have to fly over Pakistan and India and go to Southeast Asia and Australia. Most of the traffic destined for Bangkok and Singapore will have to fly over Iran and then possibly take a detour." Thousands of passengers were stranded by the crisis.