

India-Pakistan bus service resumes after 58 years (Fri 8 Apr, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about: India / Pakistan / wars between neighbours / buses / local dishes / President Musharraf / New Delhi / tight security / peace. For more conversation, change topics / partners frequently.

KASHMIR BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Kashmir. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

BUSES: In pairs / groups, talk about buses and bus journeys – the longest, the worst, the most boring, the most dangerous etc. What part do buses play in your life? Do you prefer them to trains?

2-MINUTE KASHMIR DEBATES: Students face each other in pairs and engage in the following (for-fun) 2-minute debates. Students A are assigned the first argument, students B the second. Rotate pairs to ensure a lively pace and noise level is kept:

- a. India is better. vs. Pakistan is better.
- b. Buses are better. vs. Trains are better.
- c. Peace will never be reached between India and Pakistan. vs. Yes it will.
- d. President Musharraf is more serious about peace. vs. Prime Minister Singh is.
- e. Both countries should destroy their nuclear weapons. vs. They maintain peace.
- f. Kashmir is mainly Muslim – it should be returned to Pakistan. vs. No way.
- g. President Musharraf deserves a Nobel Peace Prize. vs. Prime Minister Singh first.
- h. Pakistan is a dangerous country. vs. Since 9/11 it has fought terror non-stop.
- i. Kashmir is a beautiful place for a vacation. vs. Way too dangerous.
- j. I want to ride the Kashmir peace bus. vs. You are crazy.

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'bus' and 'service'.

TRUE FALSE: Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a) Buses traveled between India and Pakistan for the first time since 1947. T / F
- b) Both India and Pakistan has nuclear weapons. T / F
- c) Pakistan's President Musharraf waved off the India-bound bus. T / F
- d) The bus service was Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's idea. T / F
- e) Messrs. Musharraf and Singh will meet next week and ride the bus together. T / F
- f) There is tight security surrounding the bus service. T / F
- g) One of the buses was hit by a grenade. T / F
- h) Mr. Singh thanked Mr. Musharraf for making the bus journeys possible. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| (a) reconciling | showed |
| (b) waved off | starting |
| (c) initiating | sumptuously |
| (d) watershed | obvious |
| (e) lavishly | shooting |
| (f) resumption | landmark |
| (g) indicated | reuniting |
| (h) firing | continuation |
| (i) palpable | passengers |
| (j) commuters | seen off |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) reconciling | on the road to peace |
| (b) nuclear | palpable |
| (c) a small step | for the commuters |
| (d) lavishly | the historic bus service |
| (e) a feast of | threats from militants |
| (f) resumption of | local dishes |
| (g) indicated how | welcomed |
| (h) hope for peace is also | families |
| (i) despite | neighbours |
| (j) open the links | far apart the two sides still are |

GAP FILL

India-Pakistan bus service resumes after 58 years

BNE: Buses crossed between India and Pakistan early on March 7th for the first time in 58 years. As well as _____ families divided by almost six decades, and three wars between the two nuclear neighbours, the bus service also _____ a small step on the road to peace. The bus from Srinigar, in Indian-held Kashmir, was waved off by an _____ Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who said: “Brothers and sisters will hold hands again, parents will meet children.” The bus from Muzaffarabad, in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, was seen off by Sikandar Hayat Khan, who _____ Mr. Singh for initiating the watershed bus service. Passengers headed in both directions were lavishly welcomed on either side of the Line of Control dividing Kashmir by _____ involving local school children, music, garlands and a feast of local dishes.

emotional
ceremonies
represented
reconciling
praised

_____ of the historic bus service, suspended in 1947, comes a week before Pakistan’s President Musharraf travels to New Delhi for peace talks. The tight security _____ the two bus journeys indicated how far apart the two sides still are. Dangers are still very present, as shown by Islamic rebels throwing a grenade and firing at the Muzaffarabad-bound bus. Fortunately, the grenade and bullets missed their target. However, hope for peace is also _____ as passengers are _____ to use the bus service despite threats from militants to attack it. Prime Minister Singh said: “For us, to open the links for the commuters is only the first step....I am very thankful for the people who came together with us to make this _____, especially Pakistan and their leader Musharraf.”

surrounding
possible
determined
resumption
palpable

HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or search engine to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on Kashmir. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. ON THE BUS:** Imagine you were a passenger on the Srinigar-Muzaffarabad bus. Write your diary/journal entry describing your journey. Share this with your class next lesson.
- 4. MESSRS. SINGH & MUSHARRAF:** Write a letter to either Prime Minister Singh or President Musharraf explaining your thoughts on the historic bus service resuming.

DISCUSSION:

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Were you surprised by anything in this article?
- c. Were your hopes raised by anything in this article?
- d. What do you think of the resumption of this bus service?
- e. Would you have taken one of the bus journeys if you had had the chance?
- f. Does this bus service represent real hopes for peace between India and Pakistan?
- g. What do you know about Kashmir?
- h. What do you know about the Line of Control?
- i. What do you know about Indo-Pakistani relations?
- j. President Musharraf has fought terror non-stop since 9-11 and brought stability to his region. Do you think he deserves a Nobel Peace Prize?
- k. Are India and Pakistan dangerous countries?
- l. What do you think Gandhi would have thought about India having nuclear weapons?
- m. Should Kashmir, which is mainly Muslim, be handed to Pakistan?
- n. Is the conflict in Kashmir similar to those in Northern Ireland and between Israel and Palestine?
- o. Should India and Pakistan's nuclear weapons be dismantled ?
- p. Would you like to visit India and Pakistan or Kashmir?
- q. What is the first word that springs to mind when you hear the word "India"?
- r. What is the first word that springs to mind when you hear the word "Pakistan"?
- s. What adjective would you use to describe India and which for Pakistan?
- t. Did you like this discussion?
- u. Teacher / Student additional questions.

TEXT

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BNE: Buses crossed between India and Pakistan early on March 7th for the first time in 58 years. As well as **reconciling** families divided by almost six decades, and three wars between the two nuclear neighbours, the bus service also **represented** a small step on the road to peace. The bus from Srinagar, in Indian-held Kashmir, was waved off by an **emotional** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who said: "Brothers and sisters will hold hands again, parents will meet children." The bus from Muzaffarabad, in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, was seen off by Sikandar Hayat Khan, who **praised** Mr. Singh for initiating the watershed bus service. Passengers headed in both directions were lavishly welcomed on either side of the Line of Control dividing Kashmir by **ceremonies** involving local school children, music, garlands and a feast of local dishes.

Resumption of the historic bus service, suspended in 1947, comes a week before Pakistan's President Musharraf travels to New Delhi for peace talks. The tight security **surrounding** the two bus journeys indicated how far apart the two sides still are. Dangers are still very present, as shown by Islamic rebels throwing a grenade and firing at the Muzaffarabad-bound bus. Fortunately, the grenade and bullets missed their target. However, hope for peace is also **palpable** as passengers are **determined** to use the bus service despite threats from militants to attack it. Prime Minister Singh said: "For us, to open the links for the commuters is only the first step....I am very thankful for the people who came together with us to make this **possible**, especially Pakistan and their leader Musharraf."

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