

# NUKE POWERS ON BRINK

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WASHINGTON - Donald Trump called the burgeoning conflict between India and Pakistan a 'shame' as he learned of overnight exchanges between the two nuclear-armed States.

''It's a shame. We just heard about it,' he told reporters late on Tuesday. ''They've been fighting for a long time ... I just hope it ends very quickly.''

India and Pakistan were teetering on the brink of war this morning after New Delhi hit what it called 'terrorist camps' overnight, prompting stark threats from Islamabad.

Pakistan claimed to have shot down five Indian fighter jets as it condemned an 'act of war' from India, vowing to retaliate after missiles hit Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Both sides exchanged heavy artillery along their contested frontier into yesterday. Pakistan reported 26 killed by Indian shelling, and India reported eight the other way.

The Indian army said 'justice is served', with New Delhi adding that its actions 'have been focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature'.

But fears of a full-blown conflict between the two nuclear powers have escalated sharply in the last few hours.

India says it was attacking bases used by those it blames for an attack on the Indian-run side of Kashmir last month - the worst massacre of civilians in India since 2008.

It added that 'no Pakistani civilian, economic or military targets have been hit' in the missile attacks' - an assertion sharply rebuked by Pakistani officials. Fighter jets roared through the skies over the Himalayan territory this morning and explosions could be heard near the 'Line of Control' in a strike that lasted 25 minutes.

The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) warned Brits against all travel within six miles of the India-Pakistan border, 10 miles of the disputed Kashmir border and the Balochistan Province of Pakistan.