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### Introduction:

Except China, Pakistan's relations with almost all of its neighbours has remain unstable. With India, there is Kashmir issue and other cross-border terrorism issue. With Afghanistan, there is Durand line issue which time and again spark tensions. Similarly, with Iran there are also sectarian and border issues. Having such unstable relations in the past, now emerging realities are making the situation more complex and are causing tensions between Pakistan and its neighbours.

### Pakistan-India relations

Witnessing a bloody partition and three bloody wars, the relations between Pakistan and India have always been tense. The driver

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of this relation has been the Kashmir Issue. India claims that Pakistan is sponsoring militancy in Kashmir via line of Control; therefore, for every attack in India, it blames Pakistan to be its sponsor. Similarly, Pakistan's stance is also the same when any unpleasant incident of terror happens. However, the difference between Indian and Pakistan accusation is that Pakistan has always provided evidence for Indian involvement in attacks inside Pakistan. Case in point, on 14th March 2025 Jaffer-Express Train was attacked and hijacked by banned group Baluch Liberation Army (BLA). During the attack, the terrorists were continuously in contact with their handlers in Afghanistan and Pakistan got clear evidence that it was an attack sponsored by India from Afghanistan, thus, the relation between Pakistan and India remain fragile and the threats for Pak-

istan can double as India and Afghanistan are cementing their relationships.

## Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations

Pakistan's approach towards Afghanistan has always remain friendly and brotherly. Pakistan hosted 3 million Afghan refugees for decades and gave them every possible facility. Similarly, Pakistan also facilitated Afghan Peace Deal 2021 or Doha Peace deal that resulted in the withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan. However, no matter how friendly Pakistan's approach was, Afghanistan has always remained hostile towards Pakistan. For instance, Afghanistan was the only state that oppose Pakistan's admission to the UN. Similarly, almost every Afghan government had developed relations with India, and then Afghanistan

was used as a launch-pad to at launch attacks on Pakistan. Like previous regimes, the Taliban regime is doing the same. Taliban are hosting all the Anti-Pakistan militant groups inside Afghanistan and they are launching and monitoring attacks on Pakistan from Afghanistan. Thus, this issue of cross-border terrorism can worsen relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan and can pose greater security threats to Pakistan.

### Number of Serious Security Threats Can be foreseen from India and Afghanistan.

#### (1) India's growing assertiveness in the Eastern border of Pakistan.

With the rise of BJP party in India, it has adopted an assertive approach towards its perceived enemies.

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## (2) Abeyance of the Indus Water Treaty poses Security risks for Pakistan.

Following the Pathgam attack, India has suspended and put on the abeyance the Indus Water Treaty which was reached in 1960s between the two Countries under World Bank's Supervision. The Treaty is a legal framework for water distribution between the two. Now, when India suspended it unilaterally, it does not notify whenever floodwater goes down stream to Pakistan as it happened in Sept causing floods in Punjab and other parts. Another Concerning issue is that India can build large dams and redirect the flow of water as previously there was a regular monitoring mechanism to any such violation. That's why this poses an existential threat to Pakistan once again from its Eastern neighbour.

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Whenever, an incident of terror occurs, it blames Pakistan and attempts to harm Pakistan through direct attack and airstrikes. As witnessed recently on 28th Feb 2025, when pathan attack happened then India directly launch ~~ed~~ blamed Pakistan for harboring the attack. Following the blame, India launched **Operation Sindoor** on 7th May 2025 which was effectively responded by Pakistan by downing atleast 6 Indian jets. No doubt the war ended within 4 days, but as "Washington Post" reported "The US Intelligence Circle confirmed that there are valid grounds to believe that any time soon India can again start aggression via Eastern border." To confirm this, there are statements of BJP leaders claiming that Operation Sindoor 2 will be launched. Thus, this illustrates that there is a continued security challenge for Pakistan from its Eastern neighbour India.

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### (3) Threat of Proxy War sponsored by India handled via Afghanistan

Afghanistan has historically been used by India for destabilizing Pakistan. Following Taliban's take over of Kabul in 2021 attacks by the terrorist groups like TTP, Hefti Gul Bahar group and Baluch Militants have significantly rose. For instance, according to Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) the attacks rose to over 360% since Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan. This clearly shows that there is a deep link between Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan and the rise of Indian Sponsored attacks in Pakistan's KPK and Balochistan province. When one thinks logically, the relation between TTP and Afghan Taliban is understandable as they have struggled together to defeat NATO forces and at difficult times TTP even

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give its own men to fight side by side with Afghan Taliban, so this relationship is understandable. However, the relation between Secular Baluch militants and Taliban is understandable as they have no tribal, historical and ideological link, but the Afghan Taliban are also hosting Baluch militants. Thus, this clearly illustrates that Taliban are working on directions of the Afghan Taliban and sponsoring their proxies that are fighting against Pakistan.

## Conclusion

As mentioned above, the relations between Pakistan, India and Afghanistan have always remain forged. India had always capitalized friendly relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and used Afghanistan as a launching pad to attack on Pakistan. Today Afghanistan is hosting Anti-Pakistan Indian proxies that pose threat to Pakistan.