

SECURITY BRIEFING

Pakistan's Geopolitical and Military Security

A policy view of geography, escalation, water, internal threats, defence posture, partnerships and economic resilience.

Strategic assessment · 2025 crisis context

Pakistan's location creates leverage and exposure

Pakistan sits between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, western China and the Arabian Sea.

Strategic access

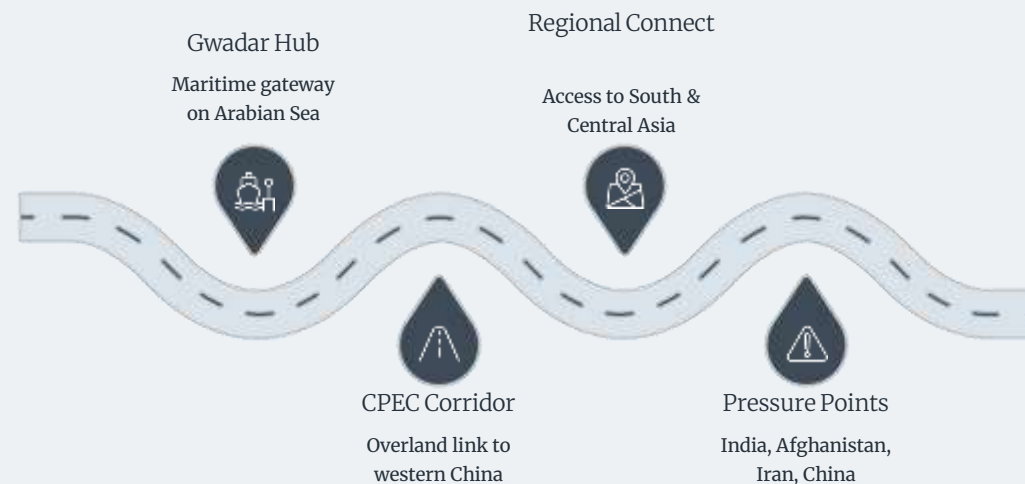
Its borders with India, Afghanistan, Iran and China create strategic access.

Recurring pressure points

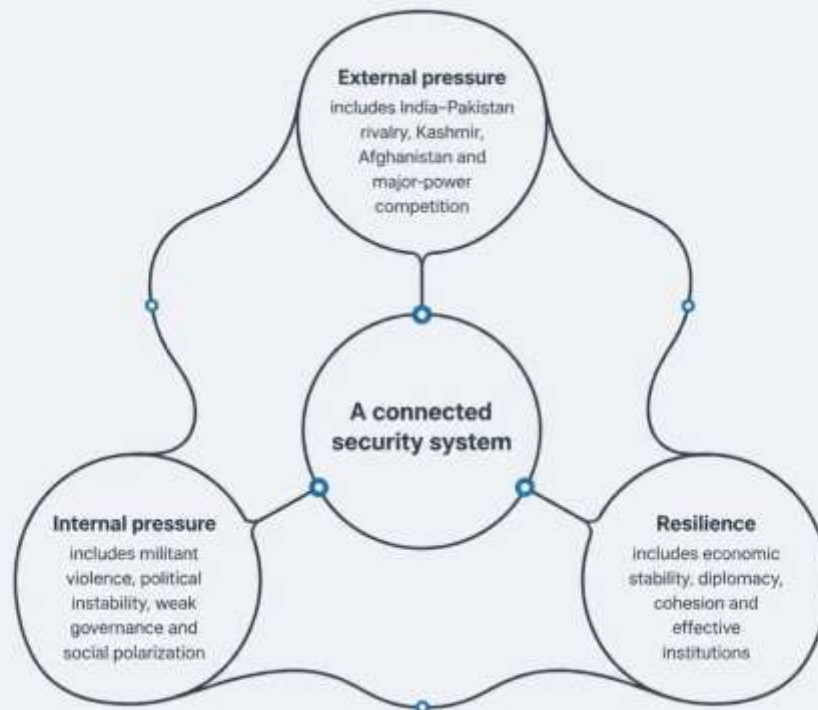
The same borders also create recurring pressure points.

Connectivity as security

Gwadar, CPEC and maritime routes make connectivity a security issue as much as an economic opportunity.



Security is a connected system, not a single military problem



Defence capability must be reinforced by economic stability, diplomacy, cohesion and effective institutions.

The India–Pakistan rivalry keeps escalation close

Kashmir remains central

Territorial claims, military deployment, political representation, water and identity combine in one dispute.

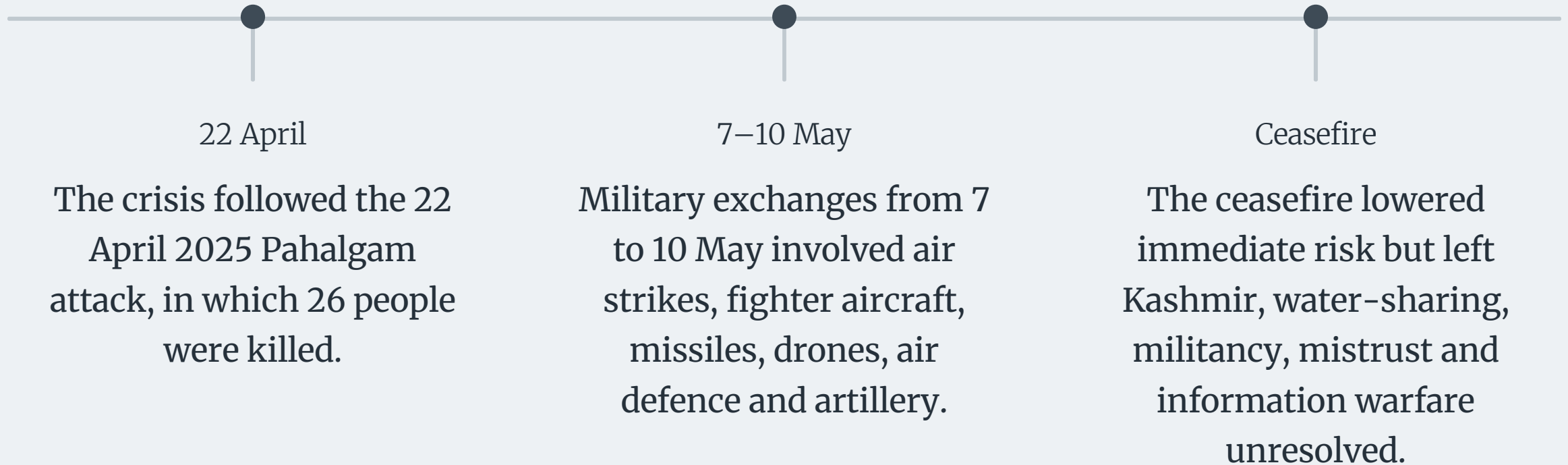
Escalation stays close

The Line of Control remains heavily militarized. Ceasefire violations, militant attacks and political decisions can rapidly raise tensions.

Deterrence is not certainty

Nuclear deterrence reduces the risk of total war, but does not remove limited conflict or miscalculation.

The May 2025 crisis showed how fast a nuclear rivalry can escalate

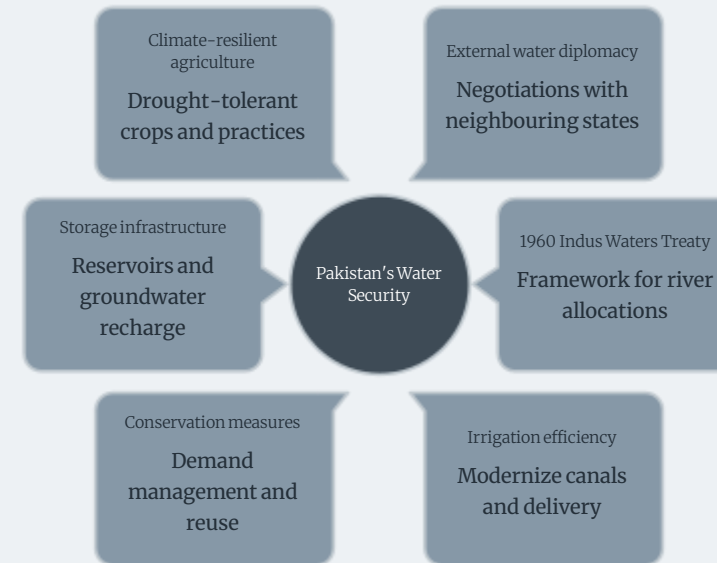


Water security has become strategic security

The Indus Basin is a strategic system

The 1960 Indus Waters Treaty allocated the eastern rivers primarily to India and the western rivers primarily to Pakistan, with defined cooperation and dispute mechanisms.

The basin underpins agriculture, irrigation, food security, hydropower, drinking water and industry.



Internal threats require different tools for different groups

TTP

Militant Islamist violence linked to attacks, cross-border movement and insecurity along the Afghanistan border.

BLA

Separatist militancy in Balochistan targeting security forces, infrastructure, foreign nationals and CPEC-related projects.

Durable stability

Operations matter, but stability also depends on political dialogue, public services, rights, local participation and trusted institutions.

Pakistan's defence posture spans deterrence, counterterrorism and the sea

Overlapping capabilities serve overlapping security roles.

01

Force architecture. The Army, Air Force, Navy, air-defence systems, missile forces and intelligence institutions serve overlapping defence and internal-security roles.

02

Modern battlefields. The 2025 crisis underlined the importance of airpower, surveillance, electronic warfare, drones and situational awareness.

03

Strategic restraint. Nuclear deterrence requires secure command and control, risk reduction, strategic communication and restraint.

Partnerships widen Pakistan's options, but do not replace self-reliance

China

Defence cooperation, CPEC, infrastructure, energy and technology links.

United States

A pragmatic partner across defence, counterterrorism, diplomacy, trade and development, despite recurring strategic disagreements.

Wider channels

Turkey, Iran and multilateral forums add defence, border, trade, energy and diplomatic channels.

Economic resilience sets the ceiling for military security

Military security depends on the fiscal, industrial and social capacity that sustains it.

01

Protect readiness

Fiscal pressure, debt, inflation, energy shortages and foreign-exchange constraints can limit procurement, modernization and readiness.

02

Protect investment

Ports, highways, energy projects, digital infrastructure, foreign workers and CPEC assets require protection.

03

Build resilience

Education, health, employment, exports and industrial capacity are security investments because they strengthen national resilience.