

# ***Regional Security Threats to Pakistan: A Critical Review***

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Pakistan is encircled in different types of regional security threats. This paper focuses the threats to the security of Pakistan which emerged from Afghanistan with special focus on India. Long standing issues between India and Pakistan and anti-Pakistan activities of RAW and NDS in the context of their nexus for sponsoring terrorism created law and order situation in the country between 2000 and 2016. Moreover, the infiltration of terrorists into Pakistan, Indian water terrorism as well as subversive activities of different organisations are cause of concern for Islamabad. The increasing gap of Pakistan with its neighbouring countries except China has developed the possible isolation of Pakistan regionally. Regional environment is posing new challenges in the form of competition between regional countries which leads to hostility amongst them.*

## **Introduction**

Pakistan has been facing regional security threats in different spheres since its creation. There were several

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grounds behind the insecure (threatened) status of the State which did not only cause concerns for leadership but also construct the environment of fear among people and even yet Pakistani State is facing stern challenges. Protracted conflicts among the States of South Asia are another reason of insecurity of Pakistan. On one hand, Pak-India historical enmity and India's power projection in the region makes Pakistan vulnerable and on other hand Sino-Indian rivalry makes Pakistan a battleground. India is continuously planning conspiracies and intervening in Pakistan for creating the instability so that it can fulfil its objective by declaring Pakistan as a terrorist and a failed State. India's patronage to Baloch insurgents is to keep away China from deep sea via Gwadar Port. The support of Afghan intelligence agency to the non-State actors in Pakistan has created these elements powerful to such an extent that they can attack anytime and at any place in Pakistan.

The stated security threats demand comprehensive strategies to encounter them. At the international level, diplomatic norms should be persuaded to stop continuous interventions of India. In a nutshell, Pakistan's security matrix is stretching to the point of no return.

National security then is the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institutions, and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its borders.<sup>1</sup>

### **Available Battleground**

Pakistan had become the battleground a long time ago when United States with the assistance of Pakistan created Mujahedeen to push out the Soviet Union from Afghanistan. Although both countries succeeded in their mission but they forgot the consequences of their creation. Later, almost both countries forgot their creation while America also ignored Pakistan which gradually developed Taliban into full power in

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<sup>1</sup> Harold Brown, *Thinking about National Security: Defence and Foreign Policy in a Dangerous World* (Boulder, Colo: Westview Press, 1983), 4.

Afghanistan as well as established their influence in tribal areas of Pakistan. It is an irony of fate that the creation created problems for its creators whose fighting has been continuing since the attack on World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001. Responsibility was claimed by Osama Bin Laden—a onetime close friend of America. Thus, Pakistan once again became the battle ground where Americans kept themselves limited to their interests while its ally Pakistan became the land of bloodshed and faced defamation on the charges of being center and exporter of terrorism globally. Despite rendering sacrifices of civilian as well as uniformed persons and devastation to its economy Pakistan could not even convince international community about its sufferings and the victimization at the hands of its creation in which America is also equally responsible.

Both Washington and Islamabad went to extraordinary lengths to cover up their assistance to the Afghan Mujahideen. Between 1981 and 1985, annual US military aid to the Mujahideen, channeled through Pakistan grew from \$30 million to \$280 million, making it the biggest single CIA covert operation anywhere in the world.<sup>2</sup>

United States attacked Afghanistan to eliminate Taliban. Pakistan paid a heavy price for supporting the United States. After 15 years of war, America got tired of the expenses and continuous engagement in war without possible chances of winning although it succeeded in killing Osama bin Laden but failed to eradicate the roots of Taliban. Eventually, America requested Pakistan for arrangement of dialogue between Afghan government and the Taliban but drone strike on Mulla Mansur in Balochistan destroyed the efforts of Pakistan for holding the dialogue. Since 2001, India has found many opportunities to interfere in Pakistan by taking the advantage of ongoing standoff between security forces and terrorists, adding fuel to the worsening law and order situation, supporting Baloch insurgents, engaging forces at the Pak-Indian border, alleging Pakistan for inside attacks in

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2 Angelo Rasanayagam, *Afghanistan: A Modern History* (New York: I.B. Tauris, 2005), 105.

India and attempting to sabotage the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

The deep-rooted hostility of Afghan intelligence agency the NDS against Pakistan also appeared in these years. But the most dangerous game which was being played against Pakistan was the nexus between Indian spy agency RAW and Afghan intelligence agency NDS which created serious security problems for Pakistan. They not only exploited the available battleground but also did their best to declare Pakistan a failed State. It is surprising for the public of Pakistan that Pakistan not only helped Afghanistan during the period of Soviet Union attack and hosted about 3 million Afghan refugees, but still the behavior of Afghan government and its spy agency NDS remain hostile against Pakistan. RAW and NDS provide financial and technical assistance to the terrorists to launch attacks inside Pakistan.

In current situation, Pakistan and China are the only countries which do not allow Indian hegemony in the region while they both demand friendly relations with neighbouring countries at equal level which is not acceptable to India.

India is investing in Afghanistan to secure its position by sidelining Pakistan. For that purpose, India has launched more than 100 companies for exploration of natural resources as well as strengthen its feet on Afghan soil. The basic purpose of huge investment of India in Afghanistan is to secure its economic interests, reduce the influence of Pakistan as well as use Afghan soil for its objectives to create instability in Pakistan. The response of Afghan government towards Pakistan is also not encouraging while there were bad relations between them during the regime of Hamid Karzai. Although Pakistan's role is mandatory for establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan despite that the said partners are not allowing Pakistan to play its role as being the prominent stakeholder in region. Indian investment has been increasing in Afghanistan since the end of Taliban regime in 2001 in Afghanistan. "After overthrow of Taliban, India established full diplomatic relations with the newly established democratic government and provided US\$ 650–

750 million in humanitarian and economic aid and became the largest regional provider of aid for Afghanistan's reconstruction and development."<sup>3</sup> Recently, Indian PM Modi inaugurated hydroelectric dam in Herat which cost India \$290 million, highlights the Indian penetration in Afghanistan. The 42 megawatt Salman Dam in western province is also called as 'India-Afghanistan friendship dam'.

### **Kashmir Issue**

Since independence of Pakistan in 1947, India occupied the jugular vein of Pakistan because Pakistan is an agricultural country and Kashmir is the water gate to Pakistan. Pakistan fought war in 1948 with India on her occupation of Kashmir. "India is done with its dam constructions that may seriously damage the agricultural industry for good, thus triggering the worst economic disaster in Pakistan."<sup>4</sup>

Indian brutality and barbarism could never be found in other corner of the world thus India converted a paradise into hell. The State of human rights violations in the Indian Occupied Kashmir can be imagined from this factual report, which says that, "there have been 93,274 deaths of the innocent Kashmiris from 1989 to June 30, 2010. Besides this alarming figure of open killings by its security forces, there have been 6,969 custodial killings, 117,345 arrests, destruction, and razing of 105,861 houses and other physical structures in the use of the community as a whole."<sup>5</sup> India is trumpeting its success in the Kashmir, which indeed, is the real cause of fresh uprisings. Especially the role of Indian media was observed as highly biased against Pakistan.

It is a reality that anti-Pakistan report on any issue aired by Indian news channels many times without any gap. Not only the Indian media but also their politicians blame Pakistan and its institutions without finding the truth and it happened

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3 Gulshan Bibi, *Genesis of Indian Ambitions in Afghanistan: Implications for Pakistan* (Islamabad: IPRI Review Meeting, 2014), 1.

4 "Water Wars: implications for Pakistan," *Dawn*, Jan 1, 2013.

5 Dr Raja Muhammad Khan, "Human Rights violations in IHK," *South Asia Research and Analysis Studies*, (Dec 20, 2012).

many times that Indian media and politicians accused Army and ISI whenever any minor incident happened in India. Even during the Mumbai attacks, Indian media and politicians blamed Pakistan. The anti-Pakistan propaganda is continuously seen on national channels across India. The representation of Indian media is highly irritating and possesses the high anti-Pakistan sentiments. The violation of Indian armed forces at Pak-India border had never been aired on Indian TV channels although the world media reported many times. But on the other hand, Pakistan's news channels remain always engaged to criticize their own government and institutions.

### **RAW Involvement in Pakistan**

RAW was established in 1968 under the motivation none other than to strike against Pakistan which resulted in the disintegration of Pakistan and creation of Bangladesh in 1971. "Indian intelligence agencies were involved in erstwhile East Pakistan. Indian army officers and RAW officials used Bengali refugees to set up Mukti Bahini. Using this outfit as a cover, Indian military sneaked deep into East Pakistan...the story of Mukti Bahini and RAW's role in its creation and training is now well-known."<sup>6</sup> Indian agents near the border and inside East Pakistan prepared entire ground for the smooth penetration of Indian Army officials as well as established training camps where Bengalis were trained.

RAW tried to destabilize Pakistan and separate Balochistan from it. In the mid 1980's, RAW set up two covert groups, Counter Intelligence Team-X (CIT-X) and Counter Intelligence Team-J (CIT-J). The insurgent movement currently in progress within Gilgit called the Balwaristan movement was also actualized by RAW as was the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). RAW has been stealthily inciting Baloch people to gang up against the Pakistani Army which is in fact trying to restore law and order in the region by countering

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6 Asoka Raina, *Inside R. A. W: Story of India's Secret Service* (New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd, 1982), 158.

insurgent groups. The advice rendered by the RAW to Baloch civilians includes the use of guerrilla fighting to overpower the Armed Forces of Pakistan. To meet this goal each clannish leader within the region should make available 10,000 men for the combat zone. If they have 25,000 men altogether, they shall triumph over all rural communities located in Balochistan within a period of six months.

Then, RAW spread its agent in entire Pakistan especially in Karachi and in Balochistan. Saulat Mirza, MQM leader stated that "MQM had links with India's intelligence agency RAW."<sup>7</sup> Target killings that have been taking place in Karachi beginning from the year 2008 to date which urged the PPP and the ANP to establish independent combative groups to offset the MQM's reign of terror to completely dominate and run the city are also espoused by RAW wherein 3,500 civilians have been slain up till now. Another senior leader of the MQM Tariq Mir also confessed the support of India to MQM. "Tariq Mir, a senior leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), has been revealed as one of the senior leaders of the party who told UK authorities about the nexus between his party and the Indian government."<sup>8</sup> By involving the MQM, RAW managed to pit Urdu speaking people and Sindhis against each other by having whipped up complaints between the duo.

RAW's presence in Afghanistan is neither hidden from Pakistan nor from the world. RAW has built schools on a sensitive part of the border in Kunar across Bajaur. Kabul's motivations for encouraging these activities are as obvious as India's interest in engaging them. Even if by some act of miraculous diplomacy, the territorial issues were to be resolved, Pakistan would remain an insecure state. RAW is keenly interested in using the militants against Pakistan as their numbers and strength although not enough to engage

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7 "MQM funded by India's RAW agency, Saulat Mirza to JIT," *The News*, April 30, 2015.

8 "Indian funding report: MQM leader's statement to London police leaked," *The Express Tribune*, June 27, 2015.

Pakistan but these elements with the high financial supports can create disturbance in interior parts of the country.

### **Arrest of Serving Indian Naval Officer / RAW Spy in Pakistan**

The Security Agencies of Pakistan arrested Indian spy named Kulbhushan Yadav on March 3, 2016 at the time of illegitimate entry into Pakistan via Iran near the border of Chaman. Probably, the arrest of Yadav is of unique example in the history of the world as well as intelligence agencies that any serving officer of enemy State is apprehended. Kulbhushan Yadav in a video confessed about his anti-Pakistan activities. He also told about his background including joining Indian Navy and RAW. He confessed his activities in Karachi and Balochistan. He was tasked to arrange meetings with Baloch separatists, creating sectarian violence and anarchy in Pakistan. Besides, carrying out terror activities including targeting the major installations.

The arrest of Kulbhushan Yadav and his confession exposed the real face of India behind the destabilization of Pakistan. Indian act of promoting terrorism in Pakistan is no more deniable for India. This is the first time that a Commander level officer has been arrested which is unique in its nature. Despite many complaints of Pakistan about intentions of Indian government and RAW, World community was not ready to heed these complaints. International media closed its eyes on the Indian designs against Pakistan while Indian propaganda about Pakistan's interference in India widely highlighted. Yadav is the self-evident and India also confessed about his service record in Indian Forces while denied his serving period till 2022 for face saving in the world.

Indian hand in terrorism in Pakistan has been well-defined by national media though after the arrest of Kulbhushan Yadav. According to Yadav's revelations, the network of RAW in Pakistan regulates through the presence of its infiltrators and some anti-Pakistan Baloch separatists, terrorists, and criminals are also headed Raw's serving



members. It is believed that India is using its consulates nearby the Afghanistan and Iranian borders to penetrate spies and fanatics in Pakistan.

Pakistan's government should take serious note of such Indian bellicosity, repeated threats and the evidences of promoting terrorism in Pakistan. It should launch a counter diplomatic offensive against India and use all international forums to raise the issue of continuous Indian bigotry against Pakistan. Pakistan should revive its policy by preparing a comprehensive strategy in dealing with the Indian peril to the survival of the country.

### **Pakistan-India on the Brink of War**

Indian reaction was highly unwise and severe in which it tried to dictate Pakistan otherwise there would be war between both nuclear countries. Indian External Affairs Minister, Pranab Mukherjee did not rule out the option of military strikes against terrorist camps in Pakistan.”<sup>9</sup> Although the threats remained limited to the statements but these created the huge pressure on Pakistan while the world was also observing the situation due to the permanent rivalry between both countries with the background of major wars. Pakistan was well prepared to give India a matching response.

India postponed all the secretary levels talks on trade, Siachen and Sir Creek. It also cancelled the cricket tour of Pakistan, the meeting of Indian Pakistan Joint Commission on Environment tensed the visa issuance process for the Pakistani nationals. India opened all the option and highlighted its war alertness against Pakistan. Pakistan responded with the same preparedness, the Pakistani military and political authorities made it clear that they were ready to face the war consequence in order to defend their country. “Both countries put forces on high alert and

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9 “Military strike against Pak terror camps an option: India,” *CNN-IBN*, Dec 1, 2008.

Pakistani also pulled out troops from the insurgency-hit areas to deploy them along borders with India.<sup>10</sup>

A hoax caller pretending to be the Indian Foreign Minister threatened Pakistan's President Zardari with war, leading to the Pakistan military being put on high alert. Military aircraft with live ammunition were scrambled to patrol above Islamabad and Rawalpindi.<sup>11</sup> Indian officials gave several threatening statements on media and blamed Pakistan repeatedly. Even US was considering the possibility of war between both countries at that time Richard Lugar stated that "war was averted (between India and Pakistan), barely, thanks to intense, discreet diplomacy by the United States."<sup>12</sup> War was not occurred between both countries due to the sudden change in the Indian policy that was driven from internal policy shift and the western influence on 'no war between India-Pakistan due to their greater interests in Afghanistan'.

### **Border Skirmishes**

Firing incidents at Pak-India border are almost routine in the days of tension between both the countries while these incidents have also been reported in normal days. The Line of Control (LoC) and Working Boundary were reflecting the most intense border in the world in which either side was ready to take the responsibility of incident. India, without investigation, blames Pakistan while its media hypes the issue. It also affects the border situation where firing incidents mostly victimize the local population in the vicinity. Both sides level allegation on each other for starting the firing while there is no authentic source which can ensure that who really wants to engage and divert other one. It can be concluded that India dreams to suppress its neighbours in

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10 "2008 - Mumbai Attack 22/112"  
[http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/indo-pak\\_2008.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/indo-pak_2008.htm)

11 "Pakistan on full military alert after hoax call," *The Independent* (London) Dec 7, 2008.

12 Rizwan Zeb, "US Interests in South Asia in Post 9/11 Era: Effects on Pakistan," (Margalla Papers 2004, Islamabad: National Defense College) 73-89.

the context of its pride on its size and volume of its security forces. The engagement of Pakistan security forces in war on terror in form of operations in different portions of the country do not make senses that they would start another front in critical times. Although the agreements were also signed time to time between the forces of both countries yet such incidents never stop. One important agreement was signed in November 2003 while in the preceding year, both countries had witnessed 2,644 incidents of firing.<sup>13</sup>

Some Indian officials also accept their extreme behaviour against Pakistan. "There are powerful elements in Indian polity which are opposed to the development of good relations with Pakistan. The Indian Home Minister admitted that extremist outfits like Rashtriya Swaymsevak Sang (RSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have a free hand and their leaders spare no opportunity in spreading hatred against Pakistan, Islam and the Muslims."<sup>14</sup> The ratio of border skirmishes remained at high average while in some years the situation fear towards the possible war. The ceasefire pact signed by the two neighbouring countries in 2003 had been violated by Indian forces a total of 89 times in the last month of August alone."<sup>15</sup> The situation at Pak-India border remains uncertain where escalation in firing incidents can increase at any time. The security situation of Pakistan does not allow it to divert its attention to other front while the continuous Indian aggression on border create hurdles in Pakistan's ongoing operations against terrorists.

### **Pathankot Airbase Attack**

Four to six militants on January 2, 2016 attacked the air force base in Pathankot, India which is the part of Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force. On January 4, the United Jihad Council, an alliance of Kashmiri militants claimed responsibility of the attack. All attackers, seven

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13. Muhammad Munir, "Prospects of India-Pakistan Relations," *IPRI Insight* 1 no. 1(2013): 2.

14. Muhammad Munir, "Prospects of India-Pakistan Relations".

15. "India violated ceasefire 221 times in 2015," *The News*, Sep 11, 2015.

security personnel and one civilian killed in a two-day long gun fighting between the forces and attackers. This time the behaviour of Indian rulers remained a little bit balanced generally in comparison to earlier reactions after the incident in India but the fingers again raised towards Pakistan. The Indian security agencies and media once again maligned Pakistan right after the attack and without investigation. "Indian intelligence agencies accused Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Maulana Masood Azhar as the mastermind of the Pathankot attack, and shared the identity of four suspected attackers with Pakistan."<sup>16</sup>

In two days, directly or indirectly, the role of Pakistan was made doubtful and it was considered responsible for failure of dialogues between both countries although Pakistan strongly condemned the incident and carried out several pragmatic steps to show its sincerity towards peace. An investigation team was formed, Maulana Masood Azhar was taken into custody as well as offices of his organizations were sealed and Pakistan offered to send a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to India. Despite clear steps, Indian officials issued hostile statements against Pakistan. Pakistan International Airline (PIA) office in New Delhi was also attacked by Shiv Sena members in reaction of Pathankot incident. A senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Subramanian Swamy, also tweeted that "It is time to put in place a two-year strategic plan and teach Pakistan a lesson by breaking it into four."<sup>17</sup> Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar also threatened Pakistan indirectly that whoever hurts India should be given the same pain, but, how, when and where should be India's choice while just after three weeks the TTP attacked a university in Charsadda, KP.

Terrorists' attack on airbase left many questions which created doubts on the real perpetrators of the attack. Pathankot attack became controversial when media reported

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16 "Jaish Chief Masood Azhar identified as mastermind of Pathankot terror attack", *Times of India*, Jan 7, 2016.

17 "Pathankot Terror Attack: Strategic Plan Needed to Teach Pakistan a Lesson, says Subramanian Swamy," *Zee News*, Jan 3, 2016.

about the comments of shopkeepers that they were ordered to close their shops at 7 P.M just day before the attack while usually they close do it around 10 P.M. Barriers which were used to protect the airbase were also removed from the site a day before the attack.<sup>18</sup> Most importantly, terrorists remained inside the airbase for three days but they did not target the defence machinery while the base was for MiG-21 Bison fighters and Mi-35 attack helicopters. Several other questions raised and probably there were more questions than the answers in this attack. "Questions are being raised: why was the first information of the armed infiltration that was given by a Punjab Police officer, who was abducted by the terrorists, ignored? What was the Border Security Force (BSF) doing? Where were surveillance equipment and night vision devices?"<sup>19</sup> Why entire area of Pathankot was sealed just one day before the attack? There were different opinions of Border Security Force and Punjab Police about the incident. The BSF claimed about no penetration of a single gunman through the border while Punjab Police claimed that militants came through the river located at border. Another important development which later occurred in India was the killing of the Muslim investigation officer who was investigating the Pathankot airbase attack.<sup>20</sup>

Initially, India was not willing to permit Pakistan's Joint Investigation Team to visit the site of attack. After few months, team was allowed but India did not allow it to visit the airbase.<sup>21</sup> Though the basic objective of investigation could not be understood then why team was allowed to visit the victim place? It was unfair attitude of Indian authorities which showed disrespect for their guests. JIT in its report said the attack was a drama staged to malign Pakistan, as there was no evidence found that the attackers entered from

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18 "Who Attacked Pathankot Air Base," *Asian Tribune*, Jan 7, 2016.

19 "Pathankot debacle," *Daily Times*, Jan 11, 2016.

20 "Muslim officer investigating Pathankot attack gunned down in India," *Geo News*, April 3, 2016.

21" Pathankot attack: Pakistan probe team denied permission to go near air base," *Indian Express*, March 29, 2016.

Pakistan. Indian authorities did not cooperate with Pakistan in investigation.<sup>22</sup>

All clues behind the Pathankot incident indicated the involvement of some hidden and powerful hands which even did not care about Indian government and that big power lies surely in the hands of RAW which did not want the restoration of dialogues between the two countries. RAW achieved its two major objectives with one shot by engineering the incident. One, to suppress the increasing motions of Kashmir in which Pakistan's flag was raised amidst slogans in favour of Pakistan and second, to derail the dialogue process which was in a position to take off.

### **Indian Water Terrorism**

The most important and persistent issue between the two nuclear states lies with the most crucial necessity of life, water. Pakistan is facing a grim situation regarding its fast depleting fresh water resources. For Pakistan, primarily an agrarian country, water becomes the most important of all the natural resources to be secured and managed. The source of irrigation for Pakistan agriculture is Indus River. Being a single-basin country Pakistan relies heavily on the Indus basin water to meet its domestic, agricultural and industrial needs. The water resources are getting short due to irregular flow of water in Indus River. India is aiming to destabilize Pakistan by creating artificial shortage of water in Pakistan which may lead to a chaotic situation in the country. Moreover, the international community has built an opinion on the basis of their perceptions that Indian efforts to dry up Pakistan can lead towards another war between the two constant rivals.<sup>23</sup>

There are projections that if this water issue remains unchecked, it would lead to devastating armed conflict

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22 "JIT report pokes holes in India's Pathankot theories," *Pakistan Today*, April 4, 2016.

23 Muhammad Nasrullah Mirza, *Hydropolitics: A Latent Dimensions of Kashmir Conflict* (Saarbruecken, Germany: LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing 2011), 77.

between the two nuclear rivals. According to certain media reports, India is planning to build 53 power projects and about seven dams which will disturb the flow of water to Pakistan. The main argument is that Pakistan's vulnerability to the trans-boundary impacts of India's ambitious hydro projects on the Western rivers goes unrecognized and underappreciated in India. It is not only the violation of the spirit of the Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960, but also ignoring the huge trans-boundary impacts on hydrology and ecology of the rivers. India intends to gain monopoly over all rivers flowing into Pakistan to coerce Pakistan economically and militarily while converting arid land of Punjab (Pakistan) into wasteland.<sup>24</sup>

The stoppage of river water by India is a practical evidence of India's nefarious, malicious and hegemonic designs against Pakistan. It is time for Pakistan to develop its own water reservoirs/ dams at priority.

Kashmir conflict is neither an emotional issue between the two rivals, nor purely an ideological tangle but equally, if not more so, an issue of real politic which is inherent in the nature of territory of Kashmir. The importance of the territory lies in its wealth of water resources of the world's mighty Indus River System comprising the Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers, serving as the 'Jugular vein' of Pakistan's agrarian economy.<sup>25</sup>

India is not prepared to lose the upper-riparian status and Pakistan is fearful of its vulnerabilities. Kashmir issue is also a question of control of the life-giving rivers in upstream originating from the territory of Kashmir. Hence, it would be right to say that water is one of the main causes of Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan.

### **NDS Involvement in Pakistan**

National Directorate of Security (NDS) is the intelligence agency of Afghanistan which separately as well as with the collaboration of RAW carries out terror activities, support militants and anti-State elements in Pakistan. It is also

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24 Mirza, *Hydropolitics: A Latent Dimensions of Kashmir Conflict*.

25 Mirza, *Hydropolitics: A Latent Dimensions of Kashmir Conflict*.

involved in creating the chaos in Balochistan besides support to the Baloch nationalists. Investigators on the trail of insurgency in Balochistan for years have found evidence showing India and Afghanistan facilitating the insurgent organizations thus triggering terrorism in Pakistan.

There are evidences with the intelligence agencies of Pakistan about the NDS involvement in terror attacks and providing facilities to the Baloch separatists especially Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) to carry out terrorist activities in Balochistan and other parts of the country.<sup>26</sup> Mengal was serving as a representative of Brahamdagh Bugti and had got training in India to handle remote-controlled devices while on return to Kabul, those items were cleared through customs by the NDS officials.

The cruellest incident ever in the history of Pakistan was of Army Public School, Peshawar. The involvement of NDS in that incident even could not be imagined that a Muslim and neighbour country whose people are being served on Pakistani land and whom Pakistan supported against Soviet Union aggression could launch such type of brutal incident.<sup>27</sup> The behaviour of Afghan government as well as Afghan intelligence cannot be ignored due to their constant allegations on Pakistan while Pakistan in return continue to support them in every aspect and also arranged the dialogues between Afghan government and Afghan Taliban.

NDS and RAW have especially targeted Balochistan and Karachi. RAW provides funds while NDS provides ground for training of militants, information and direction inside Pakistan due to the presence of lacs of Afghans on Pakistani soil.

### **Conclusion**

Pakistan has been facing grave security threats in contemporary environment which leads country towards internal and external pressure, disorder, eruption of tension

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26 "India, Afghanistan involved in Balochistan unrest: report," *Pakistan Today*, Sep 27, 2013.

27 "Major development in Peshawar attack: RAW's involvement found," *The News Tribe*, Dec 19, 2014.



and clashes. Pakistan needs to create a platform of unity. Unity brings order and progress; otherwise division will narrow the breathing space of nation. Pakistan's position in regional arena makes it vulnerable in the context of untoward behaviour of India and Afghanistan and now Iran which collectively created the situation of possible 'isolation. The implications of all these problems for national security are apparent and cannot be ignored which requires full devotion of the rulers. The change in policies of global power by reordering relationships will change the regional situation completely which makes the environment of competition rather than cooperation. This development has direct implications for Pakistan's security. America's assumption that India will or can play the role of regional counterweight to China's rising power and influence in Asia could prove to be another strategic miscalculation that may come to rival the mistakes the US has made elsewhere in the world.

Continuing tensions on the LoC and Working Boundary when the Pak Army is engaged on the western front and fighting militancy within its frontiers is the alarming security dilemma. Efforts of India to defame Pakistan globally behind the allegations of centre of terrorism and make Pakistan a barren field is not in the interest of India as well. The nexus of spy agencies of India and Afghanistan is adding more fuel to the existing problems and anarchy which will develop the reactionary environment. The danger posed by militants and their threat of seeking alliance with other militants including groups in Afghanistan besides possible assistance of India are dangers for Pakistan till the elimination of these elements. Pakistan wants to see secure India, peaceful and stable Afghanistan which is in its vital interest. International community and regional countries should provide the amicable external environment especially peaceful neighbourhood to Pakistan so that it can eliminate threat of terrorism which will not only be fatal for Pakistan but also for region and international community.