2.2.2. Relations with India

During the reporting period, relations between Pakistan and India remained adversarial and security-focused.148 Formal bilateral dialogue mechanisms remained suspended, and no comprehensive talks were resumed.149 Both states reiterated long-standing and opposing positions on Kashmir.150 India maintained that Pakistan facilitated or tolerated cross-border infiltration by militant groups, particularly in the context of attacks in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, while Pakistan rejected these allegations and denied any support for cross-border militancy.151 The Pakistani government, for its part accused India of supporting Baloch insurgent groups,152 officially labelling all terrorist groups operating in Balochistan 'Fitna al Hindustan', claiming that this denomination reflected the groups' links to India.153

In April 2025, following a fatal armed attack targeting tourists in India-administered Kashmir, India announced a series of diplomatic measures against Pakistan, including the suspension of a key water-sharing treaty, the cessation of bilateral trade and the suspension of most visas154, resulting in the deportation of hundreds of Pakistani nationals from India.155 In response, Pakistan announced reciprocal measures, including the suspension of visas for Indian nationals, the closure of its airspace to Indian flights and a trade ban. The measures were followed by four days of heavy cross-border shelling and aerial operations. These were halted by a ceasefire,156 which the International Crisis Group assessed in September 2025 as fragile, referring to continued mutual accusations and entrenched mistrust between the parties.157 Despite the ceasefire, exchanges of small-arms fire between Pakistani and Indian forces were reported during the remainder of the reporting period.158 Both states also conducted military exercises 159 and missile tests,160 and accused each other of mismanaging their nuclear weapons.161 For more information, see section 4.1.2. Border security, including incidents along the Durand Line (Afghanistan), the Line of Control (India), and the Pakistan–Iran border.

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