

## **India's Security Challenges: The Pakistan Factor**

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It is almost a unanimously held view that India is destined to emerge as a global player in the near future. Its vast financial and economic infrastructure and active and vast military force makes it a major player in the Asia-Pacific region. However, this rising India is facing a number of internal and external security threats and challenges. It has problematic relations with all of its South Asian neighbours especially Pakistan. Since 1947, both India and Pakistan have fought three major wars, one minor war and had several misses. Views are divided whether the acquisition of nuclear weapons by both countries in 1998 has stabilized or further destabilized the already shaky and instable bilateral relationship. India's Cold Start military doctrine and development of tactical nuclear weapons by Pakistan indicate that the risk of a future conflict cannot be ignored or overlooked. Non-state actors and more recent Afghanistan are emerging as new problem areas for India and Pakistan. This paper would analyse India's "Pakistan problem" by overviewing and perhaps questioning New Delhi's policy towards South Asia and particularly Pakistan and whether Pakistan poses a security challenge to India in mid to long term future.