China's space push in Pakistan poses strategic threats to India



On April 25, 2026, Pakistan launched its indigenous EO-3 (PRSC-EO3) satellite from China's Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre aboard a Long March-6 rocket. An electro-optical (EO) satellite is a type of Earth observation system that captures high-resolution images using sensors that can detect visible, near-infrared, and ultraviolet light.

This satellite is purportedly designed for enhanced Earth observation, including environmental monitoring and disaster management. Clearly, it will be a huge Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) asset. Pakistan's Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) comes under the Ministry of Defence. Mohammad Yousuf Khan, chairman of SUPARCO, said on February 28 that the country expects to launch four more earth observation satellites by the end of the year.

Nearly 85 per cent of the Pakistani armed forces are made up of Chinese hardware. China's deeper support in space further strengthens the nexus and collusiveness between the two. Time to look at the Pakistani space programme and the implications for India.

SUPARCO

SUPARCO, the Pakistani space agency, was formed in 1961 at Karachi as a committee by Pakistani physicist and Nobel laureate Abdus Salam eight years before the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which was officially founded on August 15, 1969.

On 7 July 1962, the commission launched the first rocket, known as "Rehbar-I", which reached the altitude of 128 kilometres (420,000 ft) in space. The United States publicly supported and hailed the programme as the beginning of "a programme of continuous cooperation in space research of mutual interest". Until 1972, the United States provided training on rocket engines at the Goddard Space Flight Center. The US funding and support diminished after 1972.

Following India's launch of its first satellite, Aryabhata, on a Soviet Kosmos-3M rocket in 1975, SUPARCO began lobbying for Pakistan's own satellite programme.

In 1981, the commission was reorganised as an independent federal agency. The Commission was tasked with learning the rocket engineering and contribution from France and the United States.

Gen Zia's decision to delay the PakSAT project in 1984, citing a lack of funds, led to a significant setback for SUPARCO. SUPARCO had begun constructing its first satellite, Badr-1, in 1983, and it was eventually launched by China in 1990 after negotiations with the United States failed. Badr-B was launched only in 2001 by Russia.

For long SUPARCO faced prolonged stagnation due to limited funding and shifting national priorities. That trajectory now appears to be changing.

SUPARCO also serves as the secretariat for the Pakistan Space Activities Regulatory Board (PSARB), which was established in February 2024 under the National Command Authority (NCA) to regulate all space-related activities in Pakistan.

The National Command Authority (NCA) is the ultimate authority responsible for command, control, and operational decisions regarding a nation's nuclear weapons. Headed by the Prime Minister, the composition includes top civilian and military officials, such as the Foreign, Defence, Interior, and Finance Ministers; Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee; Director General of the Strategic Plans Division (SPD); and services chiefs (Army, Navy, and Air Force). Effective control is with the Army Chief.

Pakistan-China Space Cooperation

The Pakistan-China space partnership involves joint satellite development, technology transfers, and training Pakistani astronauts to fly to China's Tiangong space station, reinforcing their "all-weather" strategic alliance.

Pakistan does not yet have its own launch facilities and has relied on Chinese rockets and infrastructure to deploy its satellites. China continues to play a vital role in launching Pakistan's satellites, including the PAKSAT-MM1 in May 2024 and the PRSC-EO3 in April 2026, which enhance Pakistan's Earth observation and remote sensing capabilities. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the scientists and engineers and also acknowledged China's continued support.

In February 2025, a formal agreement was signed for a Pakistani astronaut to visit the Chinese Tiangong space station. Two Pakistani nationals, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud, were selected for training to join a future Shenzhou mission as payload specialists, marking a historic first for Pakistan in space. Also in 2025, it launched three remote sensing satellites, including HS-1, the country's first hyperspectral imaging satellite. Pakistan sent its first lunar orbiter mission, called ICUBE-Q, along with China's Chang'e 6. SUPARCO will also launch a 35 kg lunar rover with the Chang'e 8 mission.

While active cooperation accelerated recently, the relationship began in the 1990s with Chinese support for Pakistan's first satellite, Badr-I. The collaboration is supported by initiatives like the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organisation, aiming to support Pakistan's development planning, climate monitoring, and the "Digital Pakistan" initiative.

Major Active Pakistani Satellites

As of April 2026, Pakistan operates multiple active satellites, heavily focused on Earth observation and communication, with recent additions including the PRSC-EO3 (April 2026), EO-2 (Feb 2026), and HS-1 (Oct 2025) launched from China. Major active satellites include PAKSAT MM1R (May 2024) for communications; ICECUBE-Q CubeSat (May 2024); PRSS-1 & PAKTES-1A (2018) for remote sensing; and PAKSAT 1R (2011) for communication. Mostly launched by China.

Pakistan Rocket Programme

Pakistan's rocket programme is divided into a civilian space agency (SUPARCO), which focuses on satellites, and a military programme focused on ballistic and cruise missiles.

In 1987, the military funded the commission's design study on rocket engines for Hatf-I, which was completed with the Khan Research Laboratories (KRL), the national defence laboratory of the Ministry of Defence. In 1995, the Commission designed the rocket engine for the Abdali

India's constructive mediation in West Asia can secure its interests and facilitate peace

According to some media reports, India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently said that India has consistently maintained a balanced diplomatic approach under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leaving open the possibility of a greater Indian role in resolving global conflicts, including the West Asia crisis. He also highlighted PM Modi's personal engagement with leaders of countries involved in major conflicts, aimed at encouraging dialogue and peaceful resolution.

India As A Stakeholder

India's stakes in the West Asia conflict are rooted in geographical proximity to the Gulf nations and the fact that its western maritime boundary abuts the Arabian Sea and the wider Indian Ocean region through which traverse critical trade and energy Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs). Geographical proximity makes instability in the Gulf, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, a matter of immediate concern for India. Disruptions impact Indian commerce, shipping insurance, and the security of its many supply chains. The welfare of the Indian diaspora of around 10 million people residing in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region is a matter of great priority for the government of India. A prolonged conflict in West Asia has direct consequences for remittances, employment, evacuation planning, and the safety of life and limb. This underscores the point that India is an intrinsic stakeholder in the region.

India's annual bilateral trade with the West Asia region is approximately $200 billion. The import of crude oil and LNG through the Strait of Hormuz is critical for India's energy security.

Leading Voice Of Global South

India is a leading voice of the Global South and an advocate of peace, security, and prosperity. It seeks to shape global governance. India's maritime strategy reinforces that outlook. India is the current chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), a governmental forum focused on trade, investment, the blue economy, tourism, fisheries, disaster risk management and maritime safety and security. Moreover, the naval pillar in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is led by the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), a navy-to-navy forum established by India.

The Indian Navy maintains a sizeable presence in the Western Indian Ocean. India has participated in the Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) mechanism to tackle piracy and has escorted



numerous merchant vessels through the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC). India has also established the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram. In recent years, India has coordinated with multinational maritime efforts, including those led by the Combined Maritime Forces, particularly in counter-piracy operations, while maintaining an independent operational posture. Notably, during the recent security crisis in the Red Sea around the Bab al-Mandab Strait, India deployed several warships independently.

India's Position

Prime Minister Modi's government has clearly underscored India's position on the West Asia crisis from the very outset. Its position is marked by expressions of deep concern, a consistent call for de-escalation, and firm opposition to attacks on civilians as well as on energy and transport infrastructure. Indian leaders have engaged with key West Asian leaders, urging them to reduce tensions and to bring the conflict to an end, while stressing that attacks on commercial ships and obstruction of international waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz are wholly unacceptable.

Mediation

The scale and ambit of the current West Asia conflict have wider regional implications. Traditionally, India has adopted a policy in favour of peaceful resolution of disputes. India has generally taken a non-aligned and neutral position on disputes around the world. Nonetheless, the Korean and Vietnam Wars are instances in which India took the initiative to play a role despite not being a direct stakeholder or a party to the conflict.

Korean War

During the Korean War (1950–53), India deployed the 60th Indian Field Ambulance Unit and chaired the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (NNRC). The 3,000-strong Custodian Force of India (CFI) played a crucial role in the repatriation of prisoners of war. India also contributed to processes surrounding the armistice, particularly those relating to POW repatriation.

Indian armed forces have taken casualties not only in peace-keeping missions but also when inserted on peace missions during active combat situations such as the Korean War. India could perhaps take a fresh look at opportunities for the Indian armed forces to make positive contributions through non-combat medical missions even in conflict situations, should this humanitarian gesture be acceptable to the belligerents.

Indochina War

In 1954, Jawaharlal Nehru called for a ceasefire in Indochina and advocated a negotiated political settlement to end the conflict. India chaired the International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC), an international supervisory mechanism established following the Geneva Conference of 1954 to oversee the implementation of the agreements.

While both the Korean and the Indochina Wars demonstrate that India has been willing to act as a facilitator or bridgehead between belligerents, it has traditionally shied away from situations that involve mediation. Having burnt its fingers in the past, this flows from India's aversion to third-party mediation in conflicts involving itself. It is well-known that in 1947, India took the matter of Pakistani aggression in Kashmir to the UN, which eventually led to more intrusive aspects through the medium of UNCIP and UNMOGIP. Similarly, India accepted mediation by the World Bank in negotiations over the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), an issue which continued to remain contentious even after the treaty was concluded.

Following the Sino-Indian War of 1962, a group of non-aligned countries, through the Colombo Conference, attempted to mediate by proposing a compromise solution. The initiative failed to produce a settlement. The Tashkent Agreement of 1966, brokered by the Soviet Union, and the arbitration in the dispute in the Rann of Kutch are also illustrative examples.

In the recent past, India has accepted a ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) under UNCLOS to settle its maritime dispute with Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal.

West Asia Conflict: Facilitative Mediation

In the West Asian conflict, India enjoys working relations with key stakeholders, including the United States, Israel and Iran. It may be an opportune time for India to review its approach. International conflict mediation exists along a spectrum, ranging from neutral facilitative mediation to coercive arbitration. Facilitative mediation is low-profile and process-oriented, emphasising communication, trust-building, and the maintenance of dialogue without imposing outcomes. This can be done through shuttle diplomacy by ministers and senior government officials, especially those dealing with trade, energy and diaspora issues, or perhaps even through special envoys. Facilitative mediation is voluntary and non-binding and aligns with the established norms of peaceful dispute resolution under international frameworks. India's foreign policy has traditionally emphasised sovereign equality, non-interference, and the bilateral resolution of disputes. India continues to invoke the principle of bilateralism in the settlement of disputes. At first glance, the offer to mediate in any dispute may appear to conflict with these principles. However, facilitative mediation does not constitute interference. Rather, it represents a supportive role that enables dialogue with parties that see India's role in a positive light. India's potential mediatory role should be viewed not as a departure from its doctrine of bilateralism but as an evolutionary policy that adapts established principles to contemporary geopolitical realities. Such an approach would be in consonance with the core principles of strategic autonomy, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and Vishwa Bandhu/Mitra.

The Islamabad mediation circus: A fox guarding the henhouse

I have said it before, and I will say it again: it's deeply worrying how readily the United States has accepted Pakistan as some kind of honest broker in the high-stakes talks with Iran. Watching Islamabad slide from the sidelines straight into the spotlight of this so-called US-Iran "peace process" feels like watching a masterclass in diplomatic cynicism.

Pakistan isn't just carrying messages anymore — it's playing chief facilitator, venue host, and political guarantor for a ceasefire that neither Washington nor Tehran seems fully willing to stand behind in public. And while everyone pats themselves on the back for "de-escalation", one question keeps nagging: why is Iran so eager to use Pakistan as a shield while it buys time for its real agenda?

From Message Boy to Power Broker

It started quietly enough. Back in March, Pakistani officials began shuttling between Tehran and Washington with what was billed as a 15-point American proposal. The demands were straightforward on paper: Iran must halt any nuclear weapons work, rein in its missile programme, stop choking the Strait of Hormuz, dial back support for its proxy militias, and, in return, get some phased sanctions relief. General Asim Munir, Pakistan's army chief, even made a surprise trip to Tehran to test the waters and deliver Washington's red lines in person. Pakistani diplomats spun this as noble "bridge-building". Let's be honest — this wasn't neutral diplomacy. It was Pakistan inserting itself as some sort of indispensable middleman at a moment when both sides needed someone to blame if things went south. As Trump's public ceasefire deadline loomed, Islamabad leaned hard on both capitals. Prime Minister Sharif and the military brass reportedly twisted arms in Washington for a limited pause and pressured Tehran to hold back its bigger strikes. Iran's foreign minister later publicly thanked Pakistan for its "tireless efforts". How convenient.

The Islamabad Circus

The whole thing reached peak theatre with the Islamabad talks of April 11-12



— Pakistan's biggest diplomatic coup in decades. A massive 300-person American delegation, including Vice President JD Vance and Trump insiders Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, sat across from a 70-member Iranian team led by parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. Pakistan's own heavy hitters — Sharif, General Munir, and Deputy PM Ishaq Dar — played hosts, making sure both the civilian government and the military got photo ops. They branded it the "Islamabad Process", pretending this was the start of some grand, ongoing diplomatic track rather than a one-off damage-control summit. In the end, they got a fragile two-week ceasefire, some vague de-escalation around the Strait of Hormuz, and an agreement to keep talking through Pakistani channels instead of immediately resuming hostilities. There was no final deal and no real breakthrough — just enough breathing room for everyone to regroup. Pakistan emerged looking like the hero of the hour.

Iran's Real Motives: Playing for Time

Here's where the story gets darker and where the media coverage has been far too polite. Iran's participation in this Pakistan-mediated dance isn't about genuine peace or compromise. It's about survival, manipulation, and buying time while the regime pursues its long-term goals. Tehran has zero interest in dismantling its nuclear weapons programme or curbing its missile arsenal. Those capabilities are the jewels of the Islamic Republic's strategy for regional dominance and deterrence against Israel and the United States. Every "concession" offered in Islamabad is almost certainly tactical — designed to ease immediate pressure, fracture international unity against the regime, and secure sanctions relief without giving up the core infrastructure.

The hardliners in Tehran have made it crystal clear: there are "no direct negotiations" with the Great Satan, only indirect messaging through convenient proxies like Pakistan. This allows them to maintain their revolutionary idealism at home while quietly advancing their agenda. Just look at Iran's track record. For years, the regime has perfected the art of diplomatic bad faith. It has signed deals only to cheat on them, funded terrorist proxies across the region while denying responsibility, and using every ceasefire or negotiation window to rearm and regroup. The Strait of Hormuz threats, the missile barrages, and the nuclear sabre-rattling — these aren't defensive moves by a cornered victim. They're calculated provocations meant to extract maximum leverage.By hiding behind Pakistan, Iran gets to portray itself as the reasonable party forced into talks by American aggression, all while its proxy network continues destabilising the Middle East. Pakistan's role enables this duplicity. Shared borders, Shia religious ties, and energy dependencies give Islamabad unique access to Tehran. Pakistani leaders are so desperate to rehabilitate their image with Trump — who once rightly slammed them for "lies and deceit" — that they're willing to overlook Iran's bad faith. Framing mediation as "reassuring Iran that Pakistan isn't a Saudi or American proxy" essentially means carrying water for a regime that exports revolution and chaos.

Truhome FINANCE

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APPENDIX-IV-A [SEE PROVISION TO RULE 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6)] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to Truhome Finance Limited (formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited), the Possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of Truhome Finance Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of the balance due to Truhome Finance Limited from the Borrowers And Guarantors, as mentioned in the table.
Details of Borrowers and Guarantors, amount due, Short Description of the immovable property, reserve price and earnest money deposit and date of Inspection are also given as:

Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagers	Amount of Recovery and date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person Details – (AO and Disposal team)
Lambariya Ashokbhai Rancchodbhai. Lambariya Sanjaybhai Rancchodbhai, Lambariya Rupaben Rancchodbhai,, Present, Permanent Address:- At – Memka, Tal-Wadhvan, Surendranagar – 363030 Business Address:-Bharvad vas, Opp. Pagi vas, At – Memka, Tal-Wadhvan, Surendranafgar – 363030 Property Address:-Bharvad vas, B/h Tovar, At – Memka,Tal-Wadhvan, Surendranafgar – 363030, Loan Account No. SMLHSDNR0000066 Encumbranches.Not known. **Date of Possession & Type** **08/04/2026 , Symbolic Possession** **Encumbranches known** **Not Known**	Rs.35,54,220/- (Rs. Thirty five lakh fifty four thousand two hundred twenty only) as on dated. 12/01/2026 under reference of Loan Account No. SMLHSDNR0000066. 13(2)Notice Date.13/01/2026	Rs.47,43,700/-(Rupees Forty seven lakh forty three thousand seven hundred only) **Bid Increment:** Rs. 10,000/- and in such multiples. **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)(Rs.)** Rs.4,74,370/- (Rupees Four lakh seventy four thousand three hundred seventy only) **Last date for submission of EMD : 6th June 2026, Time 10.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m.**	**08-JUNE-2026 & Auction Time: 11 AM to 1 PM.**	**Ashfaq Patka 9819415477 Dharmendrasinh Chauhan-76007 62777 Property inspection Date.06.06.2026, Time.11 AM to 1 PM**

Description of Property

Property No. 1 Residential plot on memka gamtal plot no. 12p western side land adm. 167.45 sq. mts. of within the limits of panchayat limits area, At- Memka in the dist. Surendranagar and belonging to Rupaben Ranchhodbhai Lambariya.
North - Mt.9.15 in this side road, South - Mt.9.15 in this side plot no. 11 land. East - Mt.18.30 in this side plot no. 12p land of Rupaben Ranchhodbhai lambariya.
West - Mt.18.30 in this side road,
Property No. 2 Residential plot on memka gamtal plot no. 12p eastern side land adm. 167.45 sq. mts. of within the limits of panchayat limits area, At- Memka in the dist. Surendranagar and belonging to Rupaben Ranchhodbhai Lambariya.
North - Mt.9.15 in this side road, South - Mt.9.15 in this side plot no. 11 land. East - Mt.18.30 in this side plot no. 4 West - Mt.18.30 in this side other land of this plot Ownership of Jamniben Govindbhai Lambariya

1) **For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer the website of Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) website.**
2) **The intending bidders have to submit their EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/NEFT to the account details mentioned herein below: BANK NAME: AXIS BANK LIMITED BRANCH: BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, MUMBAI BANK ACCOUNT NO. Current Account No. 911020045677633 IFSC CODE: UTIB0000230.**
3) **The mortgagors/borrowers are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest before auction, failing which secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.**
4) **The mortgagors/borrowers are requested to collect your all remaining movable items within period of 7 days without damages of the property. If you fail to take movable assets, then it would be deemed that you have no claim and no interest in taking back such items. In case you still prefer to ignore this notice, we shall be constrained to treat them as unclaimed and waste materials and shall not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever to such articles and also may sell all movable Items and adjust the amount against outstanding dues of your loan account. It will be also deemed that you have no claim and interest in taking back such items and also have no objection, if such items are disposed-off or sold by us as items are having negligible substantial value. Also note that by not taking the items within specified time, you will also relinquish any right or claim over such items in future.**

NB: Please note that the secured creditor is going to issue the sale notice to all the Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors by speed/ registered post. In case the same is not received by any of the parties, then this publication of sale notice may be treated as a substituted mode of service

Place : Surendranagar
Date : 05-05-2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer- Truhome Finance Limited
(Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited)