

## **Imran's India Outlook**

### **What is the issue?**

\n\n

\n

- Emergence of Imran Khan as the lead contender for Pakistan's Prime Ministership is being seen as a setback to Indo-Pak ties.

\n

- Notably, neither he nor the Pakistani military establishment that backed him are serious about bettering relationship with India.

\n

\n\n

### **How have the ties been historically?**

\n\n

\n

- Several issues account for the dismal state of India-Pakistan relations.

\n

- Prominent among them are the wounds of Partition and the chronic Kashmir issue, four armed conflicts, and jihadi terrorism against India.

\n

- Increasing radicalisation in Pakistan, Indus water dispute, the military-civilian equation in Pakistan are other trouble points.

\n

- While Pakistan has experienced bouts of both civilian governments and direct military rule since its independence, ties with India have always been inimical.

\n

- Nonetheless, there have been periodic détones at the highest level with signing of agreements, declarations etc..., but nothing has been sustainable.

\n

\n\n

### **What is the context in which Mr. Khan's reaped victory?**

\n\n

\n

- The Pakistani military and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is said to have paved the way for Mr. Khan's victory.  
\n
- This was done by tacitly supporting Mr. Khan's street protests against former PM Nawaz Sharif on alleged corruption charges.  
\n
- Subsequently, the judiciary was visibly coerced to proceed swiftly against Mr. Sharif and his sentencing (10 years imprisonment) was secured.  
\n
- Further, the military worked to divide the conservative support base of Mr. Sharif by propping up several extremist religious groups in the electoral fray.  
\n
- More importantly, media houses were allegedly subjected to immense pressure to render a positive coverage for Khan.  
\n
- Despite all this, Mr. Khan couldn't secure a full majority, making him implicitly depended on the military for steering his government.  
\n

\n\n

### **What could India expect from Mr. Khan's rise?**

\n\n

- Pakistani military has almost always displayed an India bashing attitude, as that helps it sustain considerable public clout.  
\n
- Considering the extent of Mr. Khan's dependence on the Pakistani Military, there is little hope for any betterment in ties.  
\n
- Notably, even the former PM Sharif, who had a pro-India inclination, had to downplay it considerably to survive against the military's affront.  
\n
- In fact, Mr. Sharif even launched tirades against India on Kashmir, displayed a lack of will to investigate Pakistani jihadi attacks on against India.  
\n
- He even failed to crack down on extremist elements that were responsible for the Mumbai terror attacks and also didn't deliver on trade issues.  
\n

\n\n

### **What are Mr. Khan's assertions?**

\n\n

\n

- Mr. Khan has stated that his government would be proactive in wanting to solve the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions.

\n

- While what his actions in this regard would be is uncertain, India has set the crackdown on terrorist elements as a pre-condition for talks.

\n

- This is unlikely, as Mr. Khan is known for his association with extremist elements and anti-Indian fundamentalists for strategic reasons.

\n

- Mr. Khan's Afghan policy is also likely to be at odds with India's, as he seeks to usher in an economic model intertwined with an Islamic outlook.

\n

- Mr. Khan's swipes at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his belief that India favoured Mr. Sharif over him will only complicate matters further.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n\n

\n

