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# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY: EVOLUTION AND IMPACTS

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## Abstract
*Artificial intelligence, known as the "fourth industrial revolution," has transformed warfare and security paradigms. The integration of AI-based technologies into national security ensures safety and survival. AI introduced autonomous weapons, missiles, and cybersecurity mechanisms that raise concerns for developing countries like Pakistan, and they perceive this evolution as a threat to national security. This research seeks to evaluate the role of AI in enhancing Pakistan's military capabilities, examine the effectiveness of AI-driven devices, and identify ethical and legal challenges. May 2025 India-Pakistan -Operation Sindoor Vs Operation Bunyan Ul Marsoos- is an AI-based military conflict depicted a long list of the warfare shift. It is a qualitative interpretative research study that discusses securitization, cybersecurity, surveillance, and strategic determination as a theoretical framework. It also explores the geopolitical and geographical implications of AI adoption in Pakistan. Therefore, the research questions reveal how AI integration in Pakistan's national security compares with regional competitors and aims to maintain deterrence with India. To what extent does AI play a role in enhancing Pakistan's surveillance, intelligence, and national security architecture? It is imperative to highlight the importance of changing the dynamics of security frameworks globally to remain vigilant.*

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Weapons, Pakistan, National Security, Surveillance, Securitization Theory

## Introduction

International relations emphasize the rational behavior of states and social cohesion. Still, the anarchic nature of the global political system compels states to prioritize survival, expansion of security measures, leading to power competition and security dilemmas. This system encourages states to maintain the balance of power to ensure survival and security-seeking behavior. Offensive realists suggest that the aggressive behavior of states is to maximize power to achieve security (Mearsheimer, 2001; Waltz, 2010). Realistic philosophy and changing trends of IR advocate adopting modern and advanced means of national security. In this view, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force in national security and fundamentally alters the traditional security paradigms (Husain, 2021; Farid & Sarwar, 2024). Integrating AI technologies into military weapons, cybersecurity operations, and Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) is reshaping state response to conventional and non-conventional threats. AI has strengthened the state security dilemma, but on the contrary, for developing countries, it has disturbed the balance of power, changing it into 'balance of threat' by creating a humongous gap in security capabilities. Therefore, understanding global trends is critical for countries like Pakistan. Pakistan must navigate the promises and perils of AI adoption within a complex regional security environment. This research paper seeks to unveil the opportunities and risks associated with integrating AI into Pakistan's national security and the ethical implications of the AI arms race in South Asia, particularly between India and Pakistan. This research article argues

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that integrating AI into Pakistan's national security paradigm presents transformative opportunities by enhancing military capabilities and reveals critical risks, such as economic, strategic, and ethical vulnerabilities. Meanwhile, understanding the global trends in AI and national security requires a brief overview.

**Global Trends in AI and National Security**

AI technologies have revolutionized military strategies and the national security paradigm worldwide, with major powers investing in autonomous weapons. Here are some global trends in AI and national security:

- **Autonomous Warfare and Military**

Security is the end goal of a state, and to achieve it, global trends compel the state to shift from traditional to modern means of securitization. Major powers like the United States (US), China, and Russia are investing in AI-driven systems and developing autonomous weapon systems (AWS) such as autonomous drones, LAWS, robotic platforms, and missile guidance systems (Scharre,2018; Trzun, 2024). Including these AI-enabled systems in national security has become the state's top priority. China aims to become a superpower in the Indo-Pacific region under Xi Jinping's vision, 'Chinese Dreams', with military modernization and the development of LAWS, closing the technological gap, focusing on challenging the USA military with the help of AI (Warren & Hillas, 2022). China is utilizing AI technologies for future warfare. On the contrary, the US is eager to control AI, utilizing it to gain power and rule. The US is developing autonomous drones, investing in AI-driven decision-making systems. The US initiated the 'National Security Commission on AI' to integrate AI into military and weapons. Surprisingly, Russia aims to deploy military robotics by 2030 and leads in LAWS (Farid & Sarwar, 2024). However, AI raises concerns about the destabilization of the deterrence model and rapid escalation risks.

- **Cybersecurity, Intelligence, and Surveillance**

AI-driven technologies detect potential threats through predictive algorithms. AI revolutionizes cybersecurity and intelligence operations by enabling real-time surveillance and is deployed to identify anomalies. AI plays a vital role in analyzing the malware, predicting intrusion attempts, and strengthening cyber offense and defense strategies (Feldstein, 2019; Taddeo, 2018; Tao et al, 2021). AI-based cybersecurity defenses enable states to improve against cyberattacks such as hacking, deepfakes, and propaganda. AI surveillance uses tools such as facial recognition, voice recognition, and social media monitoring to counter terrorism and extremism. The US cybersecurity agency is responsible for protecting against cyberattacks and detecting threats. Israel's counterterror algorithms based on AI aid security forces, and China initiated a surveillance program, "Sharp Eyes," to identify security threats (Bode & Huelss, 2022).

- **Geopolitical Stability and AI Arms Race**

Presently, the enormous advancement in technology has changed the lives of social and political interaction. The speedy adoption of AI in national security fuels an arms race between the US, Russia, and China (Horowitz et al., 2022). This competition has increased the risks of geopolitical tensions and harmony. The regional security seems to be compromised by the deployment of autonomous, opaque security systems. These competitors are investing to gain control of AI to rule the world political arena, including weapons, missiles, war machinery, and especially space satellites (Matsehora, 2024). This AI arms race has raised concerns among developing countries, seeing it as a security threat with the increase in automatic weapons. The AI arms race brings major changes in the strategy, stability, and engulfs multiple domains of

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international peace, bringing positive and negative impacts on states' defense and offense systems. The ethical considerations demand the formulation of systematic governance to overhaul the use of AI in the military and seek to promote friendly multilateral cooperation to keep peace (Yifan, 2023; Ahmad, 2023). The ethical notions suggest the use of AI for welfare, such as a global collective gain, and prioritize the economy next to security concerns (Schmid et al., 2025). In recent events, the European Union discusses a ban on LAW with the UN, reflecting efforts to regulate AI military weapons.

- **Legal and Ethical Considerations: AI Misuse and Arms Control**

A debate emerged on legal and ethical notions that raise significant questions about human oversight, civil liberties, and lethal autonomous operations. These concerns are calling for global frameworks and ethical guidelines to use AI within the ethical national security domain. This development poses unprecedented security threats to both state and non-state actorssuch as discrimination, data leakage, and labor displacement (Dexue, 2024). In 2024, the United Nations (UN) report on AI resolution 78/265 concludes that using secure and trustworthy AI systems for sustainable development and resolution 78/311 enhances cooperation in capacity building of AI. This report of the General Assembly remarks “Governing AI for Humanity” (Vercelli, 2024).

This overview holds great relevance to Pakistan and directly influences national security planning. These global trends encourage Pakistan to adopt surveillance technologies and develop cyber defense capabilities. India’s rivalry compels Pakistan to respond to India’s military tech-modernization and navigate the ethics of AI. On the contrary, Pakistan’s use of AI holds strategic relevance across multiple domains such as security, political stability, economic development, and education. AI offers opportunities to remain viable and competitive in the South Asian Region.

The objectives are to evaluate the role of AI in enhancing Pakistan’s military capabilities, examine the effectiveness of AI-driven devices, and identify ethical and legal challenges. It also explores the geopolitical and geographical implications of AI adoption in Pakistan. Therefore, the research questions reveal how AI integration in Pakistan’s national security compares with regional competitors and aims to maintain deterrence with India. To what extent does AI play a role in enhancing Pakistan’s surveillance, intelligence, and national security architecture? Although it is imperative to highlight the importance of changing the dynamics of security frameworks globally to remain vigilant. This research aims to fill the literature gap because existing literature overlooks Pakistan’s institutional capabilities and political environment. This study provides a comprehensive Pakistan-specific examination of AI’s role, implications in national security, and legal dimensions.

**Literature Review**

Artificial Intelligence has become central to modern national security and revolutionized the social, economic, strategic, and political structure of the world. Major powers- The US, China, and Russia- are leading the race to adopt these changing trends of military evolution. Scharre and Horowitz argue that AI has transformed the military doctrine and geopolitical competition (Horowitz, 2018; Scharre, 2021). Iqbal and Tabeer highlight AI strategies in the context of South Asia and reveal that AI’s integration is a multi-dimensional concept not limited to security but extends to digital strategic autonomy, governance, and the geopolitical arena that significantly ensures cyber sovereignty while enhancing security in digital domains (Iqbal & Tabeer, 2024).

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According to Khurshid, AI has altered the warfare strategies and reshaped the nature of confrontation. She argues that India's proactive approach to assimilating AI into the defense sector and military framework influences Pakistan's assessment of potential threats. She also concludes that this integration impacts deterrence dynamics at both conventional and nuclear levels, disturbs the equilibrium, enhancing the chances of conflict between two states. she suggests that Pakistan should undertake the policy of Quid pro quo to keep peace with India's AI advancement, because it cannot afford to delay AI's integration in its defense domain (Khurshid, 2023).

Al-Suqri argues that AI can detect any propaganda through misinformation and cyberattacks that can destabilize the political structure (Al-Suqri, 2022). Montasari reveals that the negative use of AI, like deepfakes and misinformation, influences political opinion and polarizes public views to create unrest in the country (Montasari, 2024). On ethical considerations, Taddeo argues that the concerns raised with the progress of AI and efforts to develop an ethical framework of AI to guide the use remain unmatched. He identifies an ethical framework based on five principles: human moral responsibility, a transparent system, a reliable AI system, meaningful human control, and justified uses (Taddeo et al., 2022). Pakistan's geographical landscape emphasizes to adopt and execute security plans to defend itself from internal and external threats. Farid and Sarwar analyze the role of AI in future warfare and argue that Pakistan must adapt accordingly to compete with rival India and external threats. They reveal that it has the potential to disrupt the balance of power and regional peace (Farid & Sarwar, 2024).

According to Javed, AI-based technologies provide equal opportunities and challenges for national security, and explain how AI programs can uplift Pakistan's defense system against sophisticated cyberattacks and security breaches (Javed, 2022). Kalhoro explains Pakistan's lack of clarity and underscores the need for a more robust framework to integrate AI effectively (Kalhoro, 2025). Baig's study examines the role of AI in Pakistan's defense, which enhances operational efficiency, rapid threat response, and also addresses ethical security considerations (Baig, 2024). Rashid and Fatima argue that Pakistan, with the help of AI, can control crime and counter terror attacks with precision and significantly aid law enforcement bodies for a preemptive response (Rashid & Fatima, 2020). The above discussion explores the strategic utility of AI and its implications. This provides an opportunity for in-depth academic inquiry into how AI can be effective for national security.

## Research Methods

This qualitative interpretative research study explores Artificial Intelligence integration in Pakistan's national security and its evolutionary impacts. This analyzes the role of AI in maintaining the balance of power and explains conceptual and theoretical frameworks, consist surveillance, cybersecurity, autonomous weapons, realism, and securitization theory.

## Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

AI enables machines to perform tasks with the help of human intelligence, transforming traditional paradigms across various domains. This conceptual framework focuses on key domains such as surveillance, cybersecurity, and autonomous weapons for understanding the integration of AI into national security.

### 1. Surveillance

AI-driven surveillance improves defense capabilities, enables real-time threat detection and situational awareness through facial recognition, behavior analysis, and predictive

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monitoring (Upadhayay & Sharma, 2025). Surveillance applications help to track terrorist activities with precision.

2. **Cybersecurity**

AI-based applications identify cyber threats and respond more rapidly than traditional methods. These cyber applications offer an adaptive defense mechanism against gruesome attacks and data hacking.

3. **Autonomous Weapons**

AI revolutionized warfare tactics, enabling automation in weaponry systems that select and engage targets without human intervention. Pakistan military deploys AI-driven drones for cross-border counterterrorism. The implementation of LWS raises ethical and strategic concerns and accountability questions (Longpre et al., 2022).

- **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework discusses Realism, securitization theory, technological determination, and strategic culture.

1. **Realism Theory**

In international relations, realism theory argues that states act in their self-interest to ensure survival, leading to power competitions (Waltz, 1979). Realists argue that states seek power to secure national interests (Morgenthau, 1948; Mearsheimer, 2001). Presently, with the integration of AI into military capabilities seen as a pursuit of strategic advantage attempt to maintain the balance of power in the anarchic political system. Many believe that the US-China rivalry is an inevitable conflict due to power transition theory. In recent events, the Russian-Ukrainian war, realists believe that NATO expansion triggers concern for Russian national security (Berebon, 2023). Defensive realism believes that states seek to maintain security and preserve the status quo and argues that states are "security maximizers," not power maximizers (Waltz, 1979; Jervis, 1978). The US-China conflict is an attempt to maintain the balance of deterrence. On the contrary, offensive realism argues that states seek to "maximize power," and anarchy forces them to pursue aggressive policies to exploit hegemony (Mearsheimer, 2001). The expansion of China in the South China Sea is a bid for regional dominance. Therefore, the incorporation of AI-based systems into military and security paradigms is justifiable for both defensive and offensive security and interests. Realists argue that AI-driven frameworks enhance military capabilities, autonomous weapon systems, and surveillance, shifting the global balance of power, and provide strategic advantages in warfare (Craig, 2018). This competition urges states to invest, develop, and obtain automatic weapons to counter threats and invasions.

2. **Securitization Theory**

The securitization theory explores how technological advancements are portrayed as security concerns and how issues are framed as existential threats. The regional security complex theory (RSCT) discusses four levels of security: domestic, bilateral, regional, and global, to understand the security and peace dilemma in the region (Ullah et al., 2022). The incorporation of AI influences policy decisions. Buzan and Wæver believe that security dynamics have been transformed from military aspects to new concerns of security (Buzan & Wæver, 1998). Therefore, political leaders influence public opinion by presenting AI development as a threat to national security. The securitization of AI shapes discourse, supporting measures that prioritize security. The AI securitization perceives cyberattacks, mass disinformation, and LAWS as existential threats. Zwetsloot argues that AI is framed as a national security threat through a

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securitization lens (Zwetsloot, 2019). In a nutshell, the securitization of AI emphasizes the role of cultural norms and discourse in shaping security policies.

**3. Technological determination and Strategic culture**

Héder defines this theory that technological development drives social and political change in the domain of national security, suggesting that AI's evolution compels states to adapt their strategies and policies accordingly (Héder, 2021). Technological determinism theory argues that AI's latest technology changes national security policies and addresses emerging threats without direct human control. However, strategic culture is defined as a set of beliefs, norms, and practices that shape a state's security and military affairs. Therefore, the integration of AI into national security is influenced by state cultural factors and narratives (Lantis, 2002; Blagojević, 2019). These strategic norms guide the policy decisions and doctrines regarding the deployment and use of AI in military operations.

In sum, conceptually, the incorporation of an AI-based system into national security encompasses a wide range of applications that reshape the strategic and operational landscape. Theoretical perspectives of AI in international relations are critically examined through securitization and realism theory, and revealed that changing dynamics compel states to continuously adapt their security doctrines. These frameworks both provide a comprehensive understanding of AI's role in national security, especially for Pakistan. These insights highlight the strategic motivations to adapt AI for national defense in a complex global environment.

**Pakistan's National Security Landscape**

Pakistan has a deep history of national interests concerns due to the Kashmir dispute with India, and has fought many battles. Indo-Pak relations have been a securitizing factor in the South Asian region, witnessing a history of mistrust (Ullah et al., 2022). These concerns are not limited to external threats, but have tackled various internal factors, including political instability, terrorism, and inadequate law enforcement (Rehman et al., 2025). It is evident that international forces and internal political forces derailed the system and have created the security risk (Shahzad & Falki, 2024). However, Pakistan's national security landscape has traditional and non-traditional security threats.

- **Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Threats**

The longstanding rivalry with India compels Pakistan to develop its strategic doctrine and conduct military exercises to counter the Indian invasion. Pakistan's military has developed an AI-based program, "Threat Matrix," that categorizes threats into existential and non-existential. Internal threats, including political instability and economic turmoil are significantly undermine national security (Ashraf & Mustafa, 2024; Shahzad & Falki, 2024). National security is closely connected with political stability and good governance. The non-traditional security threats, such as terrorism, cybersecurity, and economic instability, have been a great risk to Pakistan's national security.

- **Pakistan's National Security Program Evolution**

National security policy is superior to all other policies, and Pakistan's policymakers remained connected to the formulation of the National Security Plans. The National Security Council (NSC) aimed to provide the framework for national security decision-making established in 1969. The components of the 2014 security policy are secret, strategic, and operational. Many short and long-term operations have been completed against terrorism and radicalization. In recent years, Pakistan launched the National Security Policy 2022-2026 (NSP) reflects a shit from traditional approach to comprehensive national security including human

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security, economic security, soft power, and cyber security (Shahzad & Folki, 2024). Pakistan has also integrated AI into national security and established autonomous weapons, drones, missiles, and cybersecurity frameworks. This integration reflects the attitude towards national interests, and AI has strengthened the security mechanism. Overall, Pakistan's security is characterized by a complex interplay of civil-political-military relations.

**Pakistan's National Security and Integration of AI**

At present, AI's integration marks a profound transformation in addressing traditional and emerging threats and encompasses a wide range of applications. Pakistan's geographical location and rising tensions with bordering countries demand investment in AI-driven applications to enhance national security and intelligence capabilities. However, Pakistan is gradually integrating AI into its strategic security framework. The policymakers have broadened the framework and initiated the Pakistan Artificial Intelligence Policy 2022 that aims to empower in surveillance, cybersecurity, and military modernization. These developments are a strategic motive and a response to India's and the global AI race (Baig, 2024; Shahzad & Khan, 2024). Here are applications of AI in Pakistan's security sector:

- Military and Defense: Autonomous weapons, including drones, missiles, and munitions
- Cyber Warfare: Cybersecurity frameworks to counter cyberattacks

**Strategic Implications: Pakistan vs Regional Actors**

The integration of AI into Pakistan's national security and defense system carries significant strategic implications for regional stability, strategic autonomy, and military doctrine. It maintains the balance of power, credible minimum deterrence, and triggers a regional AI arms race. This incorporation shifts warfare doctrine from manpower to technology-driven. This doctrinal shift encourages regional states to act sharply in times of crisis. However, regional states like China and India have already shifted to AI-based frameworks, and Pakistan's path forward lies in balancing AI strategic stability because the AI arms race has shaken the regional peace. India is investing in high-tech AI systems to become a power in South Asia in collaboration with Israel and the US. In a nutshell, AI integration is benefiting Pakistan at the regional and international level (Khan et al., 2025; Iftikhar, 2025). India aims to maintain Chinese dominance in the region while staying ahead of Pakistan. On the contrary, Pakistan prioritizes AI as a force multiplier to compete with India, focusing on cruise missiles and a cyber defense system. This competition has significant implications because it aggravates the escalation risks in the region.

**Artificial Intelligence in the South Asian Region: Pakistan VS India**

The Indo-Pak rivalry, with its precarious implications for the region, has always been a concern for the world. The growing competition for regional dominance compels both India and Pakistan to adopt modern defense strategies and securitization approaches. With recent developments in technology, the balance of power and defense tactics have been affected. To ensure dominance and hegemony in the South Asian Region, India has introduced AI-based autonomous systems such as:

The Drishti-10 Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was introduced by the Indian Navy. Autonomous cutting-edge technology, including MQ-9B Reaper Drone, S-400 anti-ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system, demonstrates India's commitment to military modernization (Baig, 2024). India established the Defense Artificial Council (DAI) and the Defense AI Project Agency (DAIPA) to oversee defense-specific AI programs with 13.2$ M budget annually (Saeed, 2023). India's AI-based technology, known as

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IBMS (Integrated Battlefield Management System gives commands on the battlefield and facilitates quicker response to threats. Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&C) alerts users to potential hazards such as enemy aircraft and missiles in advance. For cybersecurity, India introduced the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) to anticipate cyberattacks and spot holes in Key infrastructure (Saeed, 2023; Ali, 2023; Hussain & Khan, 2025). India's UAV MQ-9B Predator and Harop/ Sky Striker used in ***Operation Sindoor,*** May 07, 2025, to neutralize Pakistan's air defense, which was successfully neutralized by Pakistan's military.

On the contrary, Pakistan is comparatively behind India in AI-based systems, but has been putting more money into AI for military modernization. Pakistan introduced the National Centre for AI (NCAI) in 2018 to focus on AI and other cutting-edge technologies and advance research and development. Pakistan created a drone named "Burraq drone" that employed AI to find targets. For cybersecurity, Pakistan established the 'Information Warfare Wing' in 2019 to combat cyberattacks and improve its defense system. Pakistan's Air Force (PAF) introduced the CEW (Cognitive Electronic Warfare (CEW) program to improve the military sector and threat identification (Saeed, 2023; Ali, 2023). Pakistan's Unmanned Systems and Missiles are Shahpar-III, Mukhbar, Uqab, Burraq, Ababeel MRV, Ra'ad Cruise, and LY-80 SAM (TPMM, 2024). In a nutshell, India is leading in the AI industry with the help of the USA, France, and Russia. Although Pakistan has also made strategic progress with the help of China and Turkey. Recently, in May 2025, the world witnessed the large-scale UAV swarms and AI-based countermoves in Indo-Pak skirmishes. This conflict destabilizes the regional peace and has concerning implications. The violation of treaties by India jeopardizes the peace and harmony of the South Asian Region. Therefore, the pursuit of lethal technologies highlights the need for sustained dialogue and cooperation to mitigate the risk of escalation.

**Challenges and Limitations for Pakistan**

AI-based systems are heavily costly, and Pakistan faces multiple challenges that limit its effective integration. These challenges include

- Economic dependencies
- Political instability
- Restricted resources
- Data quality and quantity
- Lack of foresight policies
- technical and infrastructural gaps,
- Lack of AI-skilled individuals
- Absence of long-term plans
- human capital deficit in AI,
- geopolitical dependencies on foreign technology.

**Operation Sindoor VS Operation Bunyan Ul Marsoos**

India's habit of allegedly blaming Pakistan for its failure has deep roots historically. Recently, India violated Pakistan's territory by sending autonomous drones following the alleged terrorist attack at the Pahalgam Hill Station incident in the name of Operation Sindoor in May 2025. India suspended the Indus-Water treaty and later on attacked Pakistan. Pakistan's military neutralizes almost 400 Indian lethal drones. This conflict between two nuclear nations holding LSAW disturbed the peace. Pakistan's blatant response to India's rogue acts – Operation Bunyan

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Ul Marsoos- got the attention of the superpowers, and after four days of fighting, the US President Donald Trump mediated a ceasefire (Ali, 2025; Khan, 2025). During this short time, the world has seen a long list of important warfare shifts from traditional to modern infrastructure. PAF made retaliatory raids in a tit-for-tat manner to the aggressive Indian strikes in Pakistan, and Pakistan's Operation Bunyan Ul Marsoos targeted six Indian military air bases, shot down several French-based Rafale Fighter jets, and MiG-29 (Khan, 2025). This short span of offensive and defensive conflict compels the international players to intervene for peace and negotiations to resolve issues.

**Discussion and Analysis: May 2025 Clash between India and Pakistan**

Presently, Pakistan has defeated India using AI-based drones, missiles, and hacking their security bases in May 2025. India tried to attack Pakistan's military bases, civilians, and mosques with automatic Israeli-based drones. Pakistan's defensive response had shocked India and the world when Pakistan launched missiles and attacked India and destroying military bases, war jets, including 3 French Rafale, and a Russian S-400 security system. Pakistan's cyber warrior hacked the Indian power grid and military intelligence training center. Pakistan's Air Force (PAF) pilots invaded India and destroyed multiple sites, including the Brahmos Storage Site and Uri Field Supply depot (Dawn, 2025; Hussain, 2025, 2025; Choudhary, 2025; Nazer, 2025). This debacle depicts what AI can do in times of crisis. Pakistan won this war with China-made AI-drones and fighter jets. The world has witnessed the perfect execution of an AI-based defense system by the Pakistani Military that defeated India's pride and dream of a South Asian regional power. Although Pakistan has shown extraordinary skills in military conflict and with the help of AI integration, Pakistan will conquer the world for the better. Pakistan must initiate a long-term plan and invest in AI to achieve national security and stability.

**Conclusion**

Artificial intelligence, known as the "Fourth Industrial Revolution," has transformed the security infrastructure. AI introduces advanced autonomous weapons and cybersecurity systems based on programming and algorithms to ensure long-lasting security of the states. Realists believe in the expansion of state security. Therefore, AI's integration into national security ensures the balance of power in the region. Pakistan is gradually adopting AI-based frameworks to counter internal and external threats. The AI arms race has significant implications for the South Asian Region because China and India seek to dominate the region. This competition raises concerns for Pakistan's national security because India has developed AI for warfare. This research suggests that Pakistan needs to adapt AI, initiate national security programs to integrate AI, and develop Pakistani AI-based technology to mitigate the threats.

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