

Country Summary: Pakistan

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- **Summary may be incomplete:** *The summary summarizes some, but not necessarily all, the intelligence information on this topic that is available to the Government of Canada's national security and intelligence community. For example, it only contains relevant information that can be appropriately sanitized for public release.*
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- **Summary does not indicate corroboration or lack of corroboration:** *The summary does not indicate whether other information exists that may corroborate the summarized information, or, alternatively, whether there is no such corroborating information.*
- **Summary does not analyze information:** *This document is a summary of intelligence; it is not an analysis of the overall import, meaning, or strength of intelligence.*

The Commission has been provided with all relevant intelligence and assessments, which indicates information on reliability and corroboration of the information contained therein.

WHAT

This summary has as its focus activities related to foreign interference related to elections and democratic institutions, per the mandate of the Commission. It does not address the full range of foreign interference activities observed in Canada, including transnational repression.

The Government of Pakistan (GoP) has conducted foreign interference (FI) against Canada primarily to promote political, security and economic stability in Pakistan and to counter India's growing global influence. The GoP was a limited FI actor during the 43rd and 44th General Elections.

WHY

Canada is an attractive FI target due to its significant South Asian community and presence of Canada-based groups and Canada-based individuals who can be leveraged as proxy agents¹ against India.

GoP FI activities abroad are influenced by its turbulent domestic political, economic and security situation, as well as its longstanding tensions with neighbouring India.

WHO

Various facets of Canadian society may be targeted by GoP FI actors, including all levels of government and electoral processes (e.g. federal, provincial, municipal), specific Canadian communities, as well as Canadian media entities.

HOW

GoP FI actors have previously engaged in interference activities in different levels of Canadian elections (provincial/federal) by, for example, attempting to clandestinely affect the selection of and increase support for politicians and candidates who are perceived to be more pro-Pakistan or anti-India. CSIS has undertaken a Threat Reduction Measure in order to reduce the GoP's FI activities related to Canada's democratic processes.

¹ Proxy agent: For the purpose of this summary, a proxy agent is a specific individual who takes explicit and/or implicit direction from a foreign state while obfuscating the link between influence activities and a foreign state. Proxy agents are witting participants in furthering the objective of the foreign state in specific circumstances. A proxy is a Canada-based individual (Canadian citizen, Canadian Permanent Resident, etc.) who may/may not belong to a specific diaspora community.