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VISIONARY INSIGHTS INTO THE STRATEGIC INQUESTS OF NATIONS

## SVI FORESIGHT

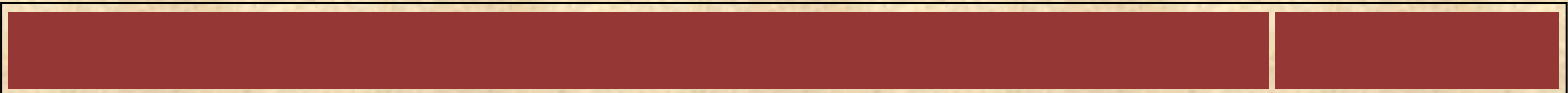
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 7  

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JULY 2017

Compiled & Edited by:  
S. Sadia Kazmi

**Strategic Vision Institute**  
**Islamabad**



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**Strategic Vision Institute (SVI)**

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## **Strategic Vision Institute (SVI)**

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Strategic Vision Institute (SVI) is an autonomous, multidisciplinary and non-partisan institution, established in January 2013. It is a non-governmental and non-commercial organization, administered by a Board of Governors (General Body) supervised under a Chairperson and administered by a Management Committee headed by a President/Executive Director.

SVI aims to project strategic foresight on issues of national and international import through dispassionate, impartial and independent research, analyses and studies. The current spotlight of the SVI is on the national security, regional and international peace and stability, strategic studies, nuclear non- proliferation, arms control, and strategic stability, nuclear safety and security and energy studies.

## **SVI Foresight**

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*SVI Foresight* is a monthly electronic journal. It has a multi-disciplinary perspective highlighting on the contemporary strategic and security studies. The Journal is envisioned to be a collection of policy-oriented articles written by its Research Associates, Visiting Faculty and professional experts. The objective is to provide the readership with a concise all-round and real-time policy oriented discourse on contemporary strategic regional and international developments, highlighting their relevance to Pakistan.



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## *Editor's Note*

*SVI Foresight* for the month of July covers a wide range of significant contemporary strategic and security issue. In this volume one can find a fitting response to the International biases against Pakistan regarding the NSG membership. The opinion article displays a step by step comparison of the nuclear credentials held by the two South Asian nuclear states and makes a strong case for Pakistan, supported by verifiable facts. The opinion highlights Pakistan's excellent track-record and commitment to the positive/peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. Not only is Pakistan justified in applying for the membership but is better qualified as per the merit criterion, if there was one. It is essential that the equal treatment should be given to all the aspirants of NSG cartel and an unbiased criterion should be worked upon at the earliest for the membership into the NSG. The readers will find the article helpful in understanding Pakistan's case for NSG.

Another article in this issue talks about India's inclusion into MTCR and prospects for non-proliferation. It has been established that India's MTCR membership is essentially against the Missile Technology Control Regime and is largely aiding India's military satellite and missile program. On the other hand, Pakistan is proactively pursuing its credentials for the non-proliferation regime. However, it is still important to take further voluntary steps to advance its non-proliferation credentials. It would assist the country in getting into the multilateral export control regimes.

The need for strategic restraint regime in South Asia has been highlighted in yet another opinion article. To address the regional security issues and negative impacts of arms race, Pakistan demands nuclear and conventional restraints. Hence if India accepts Pakistan's proposal, along with Nuclear Confidence Building Measures (NCBMs), economic progress and continued effective diplomacy, it can open the ways to a strategic restraint arrangements between India and Pakistan, eventually leading to maintaining deterrence stability in the region.

Another significant issue is the CPEC which is being constantly targeted by the elements which don't want it to succeed. In once such instance, an article by Christine Fair titled "Pakistan Can't Afford China's Friendship" is worth mentioning. At the same time it is important to clarify that



the issues she raised are not only inaccurate but her observation is marred by some personal vendetta. One of the articles in this issue offers an interesting read on the CPEC and how “unfair” Christine “Fair” had been in her article. It adequately addresses the allegations raised in her article and furnishes sound evidences against the unfound accusations. Along with that, the fact cannot be ignored that the fast development in Pakistan owing to CPEC is garnering a lot of attention. Gilgit-Baltistan region has acquired greater significance as the pivot of CPEC. An opinion in this issue elaborates on how the infrastructural development in that regions is going to bring immense benefit for the whole region.

Recently, Indian PM Modi visited Israel, which is not without implications for Pakistan. The fact that this is the first Indian PM to ever make a visit to Israel, holds significance from various perspectives. The whole episode can be summed up as transitioning of diplomatic ties between the two states into the defence and security sector. An apt analysis on how the growing relations are impacting the South Asian regional dynamics, specifically for Pakistan, can be found in this electronic issue. In this regard break down of five broad areas i.e. Defence, Agriculture, Trade, Diplomacy and Water Management, has been provided.

Some other articles included in this issue analyse the current standoff between China and India, the need for the culture of Peace in Pakistan, the prospects of Russia drawing closer to Pakistan etc.

It is hoped that the issue will help readers in staying updated with the current political environment and they will find the analyses useful. The SVI Foresight team invites and highly encourages the contributions from the security and strategic community in form of opinion based short commentaries on contemporary political, security and strategic issues. Any suggestions for further improvements are welcome at our [contact address](#). Please see [here](#) the copy of SVI Foresight electronic journal. You can find us on [Face book](#) and can also access the SVI [website](#).

Senior Research Associate  
Syedah Sadia Kazmi

## ***Modi's Visit to Israel: Implications for Pakistan***

### ***Asia Maqsood***

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Israel on Jan 29, 1992, no Indian Prime Minister visited Israel in these 25 years. Since then both emphasized on the need of stronger economic and security relations. Narendra Modi is the first Indian PM who broke the tradition and visited Israel on July 4 2017. He accentuated that the economic prosperity and combating terrorism should be ensured with the bilateral cooperation.

India's second largest defence supplier is Israel after Russia and during this visit there were 7 agreements signed between the two countries ranging from agriculture to space. Thus, this visit marked a palpable and new wave of strategic partnership. India-Israel nexus giving the expression to the international political environment that they have shared interests not only in the realm of agriculture and medicine but also in defence and against un-named enemies. The nature of this partnership is beyond techno-economic-military relations and now is political and ideological as Benjamin Netanyahu named sister democracies.

Now it is becoming a bit obvious from the most of India's foreign policy commentators that public has acknowledged both countries' commercial and bilateral relations. The previous decade had witnessed through the Indian media outlets' regular publication of signing new joint ventures particularly in defence field and covered several Indian Chief Minister's visits to Tel Aviv to seek the collaboration in agriculture and water technologies. Now it is pertinent to discuss the reasons behind this existing relationship. There are some domestic and international repercussions of a visit Israel specifically with reference to Pakistan as the history witnessed Israel's military support to India since Kargil War in 1999 along with the unnoticed assistance in agriculture and water technologies to some Indian states. Additionally, its policies are increasingly criticized by the western partners; eventually it has its own successful pivot to Asia by deepening its engagement with China and India.

It is also pertinent to discuss here that, on one side China-India security relations are not fully trustworthy, on the other side the developing China-Israel relations and Israel-India defence relations cementing India's privileged defence against China. India's pre-stance over Palestine cannot be completely de-hyphenated because India cannot afford to fall back into the zero-sum game what it had followed prior to 1992.

As Israel is believed to be the second largest source for arms imports for the Indian military, even according to some comments it is the first surpassing Russia as it is the reliable and value free supplier for arms to India over the years. Israel is getting immense praise for reliability and technological sophistication in defence sector which includes well-entrenched in the areas of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, air defence systems, Special Forces equipment and electronic warfare equipment. According to the available information presented in Parliament by Minister of State for Defence Subash Bhamre in March, that from 2015-16 and 2016- February 2017, 37 contracts have been signed with vendors of various countries for capital procurement of defence equipment, some of them are with Israel



second with the US with which mine contracts have been signed. India has been investing tens of billions in updating its old Soviet-era military hardware against long-standing tensions with regional countries China and Pakistan. In April, a state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) said that India would buy nearly \$2 billion worth of weapons technology leaving it the military exporting giant' largest ever defence contract. According to the deal IAI would provide India with an advanced defence system of medium range surface to air missiles, launchers and communication technology. Modi made this trip after his visit to Washington where he and Donald Trump embraced each other as friends vowed to work more closely in combating terrorism, war in Afghanistan and towards defence cooperation. As India is currently the world's emerging economy and Modi is expecting by drawing more foreign investment to cement its economic growth. Israel's defence deals have included those components which would be assembled in India.

The clear demonstration of their defence ties was the April, 2017 \$2 billion defence deal for advanced medium range surface to air missile system, eventually providing Indian army the capability to shoot down aircraft, missile and drones at a range of up to 70 Km. Previously in September 2016, tests were conducted of jointly developed long range surface to air missile destroyers of Indian Navy. Another successful test was conducted in May this year of Israeli made spyder quick reaction surface to air missile. Summing up there are five things which define India-Israel relations; (i) Defence, agriculture, trade, diplomacy and water management. During the recent visit, India and Israel signed agreements on science, agriculture and technology as part of Narendra Modi's visit to the Middle Eastern country, (ii) Defence had been a key driver of Indian-Israeli cooperation, (iii) The countries agreed to create a bilateral technology innovation fund worth \$40 million.

In nutshell both countries' partnership in respective fields specifically defence has serious implications for Pakistan and on South Asian region. One can say through enhanced defence cooperation is strengthening India's military might about that Pakistan has serious security concerns. If India leaves its traditional stance on Palestine by enhancing diplomatic ties with Israel it is sufficient to say that both Israel and India are going side by side for hegemonic roles in their respective regions. Countering India's hegemonic aspirations, Pakistan must seek to strengthen its diplomatic relations with other countries by strengthening specifically with Russia and China.

<http://pakobserver.net/modis-visit-israel-implications-pakistan/>

## *Legitimizing NSG Membership: Comparing India & Pakistan's Case*

*Dr. Shahid Bukhari*

Nuclear technology around the world is usually associated with the negative connotations in international politics. The devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki shook the world and taught the consequences of the harmful use of nuclear technology. But, apart from the destructive capacity of nuclear technology, it also has very constructive and positive use which could not be left unexplored and made redundant. Therefore, Eisenhower brought the 'Atoms for Peace' program to benefit from the positive use of nuclear technology. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was created under the auspices of United Nations to contain the negative use of technology provided for peaceful purposes and many countries around the world including India gained civilian nuclear technology and benefited. But this positive process got severely damaged for the first time by India when the so-called 'Smiling Budha' test was conducted in 1974 by India misusing the 'Atoms for Peace.' India diverted the civilian nuclear technology provided for peaceful uses by Canada to acquire nuclear weapon technology which not only undermined the 'Atoms for Peace' like initiatives for future but also ushered a series of new frameworks to strengthen non-proliferation and led to the creation of London Suppliers Group, currently known as Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Therefore, one can say that the NSG was actually 'Fathered' due to India's harmful misuse of nuclear technology provided for positive purposes. It is. Therefore, India can be attributed as 'Premier Architect of Proliferation (PAP).' The irony is that despite being the PAP as the foundational actor in the creation of NSG, same India was again given an opportunity to 'dent' the smoothly running NSG framework through the provision of state-specific waiver in 2008, marking discrimination on the face of NSG. The situation gets worse when such a state vows to have a so-called clean track-record regarding proliferation and aspires to become the echelon of NSG.

As part of the India-US strategic partnership, India is aspiring to make foothold in nuclear non-proliferation regime with the US support and therefore was able to procure discriminatory state-specific waivers from IAEA and NSG, while despite having fought at front line for the US endeavors throughout the Cold War as well as in the Global War on Terror (GWOT), Pakistan has not been considered for the Civilian Nuclear Cooperation like that of India-US Nuclear Deal. In this scenario, Pakistan launched its efforts to obtain membership in these regimes with the credential of non-discriminatory IAEA safeguards on its all civilian nuclear facilities with an excellent record regarding the implementation of safeguard arrangements in the country. Dedicated civilian nuclear facilities are also one of the significant credentials Pakistan owes to its credit. Pakistan needs not to design a 'Separation Plan' for nuclear cooperation agreements because its all civilian facilities are dedicated only for civilian purposes; while India had to provide an 'Ambiguous Separation Plan' for such cooperation, which itself is an evidence that all the Indian nuclear facilities have been contributing to the Indian nuclear Weapon Program; therefore, one can infer that India has a better capacity to produce larger quantity of fissile material. Since the IAEA safeguards are the cornerstone of nuclear cooperation with NSG countries, Pakistan has a better track record as compared to India. Pakistan applies non-discriminatory IAEA safeguards while India enjoys discrimination



through an India-specific agreement with IAEA which in itself is a manifestation of Indian intentions to divert dual-use technologies towards military purposes clandestinely. Reference history of nuclear program, Pakistan's nuclear program was started after the creation of significant non-proliferation regime like NPT while Indian nuclear program dates back before the creation of non-proliferation regime, therefore the later was able to obtain unhindered nuclear technology and clandestinely divert it into nuclear weapon technology while Pakistan had to face strict international scrutiny for development of its nuclear program either civilian or military because it started only after its dismemberment by India in 1971. It can, therefore, be inferred that Pakistan's nuclear program is based on indigenous efforts while Indian nuclear program is the beneficiary of foreign technologies. Taking these facts into account, one can argue that Pakistan has better credentials for NSG membership as compared to India.

It is a fundamental principle of international law that all states are equally sovereign and entitled to avail equal treatment when it comes to the application of international rules and regulations. There is no place for discrimination under the charter of UNO as well. Therefore, Pakistan has decided to convince the participating governments for equal treatment with all the states in conferring international obligations as well as privileges. Since the IAEA works under the auspices of UNO, it is Pakistan's legitimate right to urge the IAEA for equal treatment with all the states in conclusion and application of its safeguards agreements. Providing opportunities for a country-specific safeguard agreement to any country is not only damaging the original spirit of the IAEA but also a violation of the principle of equality under the UN Charter as well as of International Law.

In the same way, Pakistan's request for NSG membership also requires equal treatment when the cartel evaluates the Indian and Pakistani applications. Based on this principled stance, Pakistan is now looking towards NSG and seeking a criteria-based approach from the regime. Although Pakistan is pursuing its membership of NSG to obtain civilian nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in her national interest it is following the principle of equality. Pakistan has never sought any discriminatory treatment from any country or even any organization, which is the manifestation of Pakistan's commitment to the principles of international laws and obligations. Pakistan's request for consideration for membership of NSG is need-based while India's request is status-driven which aims at obtaining the great power status. Since India enjoys the country-specific waiver from NSG and IAEA, it is not facing a significant hurdle regarding its fissile material necessities, its efforts to obtain NSG membership has greater objective of gaining supremacy and power-bench in the regime that may enable India to exert her influence around the world in nuclear market contributing to the political strength of India. It is well known that such aspirations of India gained momentum after the India-US strategic partnership that enabled India to enjoy preferential treatment in various endeavors, yet it is not too late for the international community to understand Pakistan's perspective and let Pakistan join the nuclear regimes on equal footing. Equitable mainstreaming of Pakistan in the nuclear realm is the only choice that fulfills justice requirements.

<http://southasiajournal.net/legitimizing-nsg-membership-comparing-india-pakistans-case/>



## *In Defence of China-Pakistan Friendship and CPEC*

*Adil Sivia*

C. Christine Fair in her recent opinion article titled 'Pakistan Can't Afford China's 'Friendship' has tried to muddle the clarity of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) reflective of enduring mutually beneficial friendship between the two countries. Her analysis on Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC reflects the enormous loss of objectivity for venting opaque views. The concocted incidents cited from the history of Pakistan China bilateral relations shows the failed attempt by an intellectual mercenary who would sacrifice objectivity to vindicate her biased rhetorical disposition under the garb of analysis.

Her "analysis" shows the ignorance of the Chinese model of foreign assistance. Unlike the US that has historically used the foreign aid as a tool to corrupt the local elite for buying their loyalties to serve its interest, Chinese employ foreign economic assistance for capacity building of the recipient state. Such strategy has been highly effective and has helped China to connect and secure goodwill with the people of economic assistance recipient country. Non-interference and development projects instead of cash driven foreign economic assistance strategy by China has bought it huge approval for its enhanced role in developing countries in Asia and Africa.

Economic consensus between Pakistan and China reflected in CPEC is structured on decades old all-weather friendship that has lasted the testing times. As Chinese model, both for military and economic assistance is banked on developing domestic capabilities instead of building perpetual reliance on China, Pakistan has received immense assistance in this regard from all-weather friend. In Pakistan, the ongoing process of indigenization of military hardware technologies is achieved through sustained support from China.

Christine Fair argues that China failed to help Pakistan especially in 1971 war with India. When Indian proxy war by arming and training terrorist organization Mukti Bahni in East Pakistan reached its peak, to avert Indian aggression of direct war, the US foreign policy elite favored the idea that China's mobilization of forces along Indian border would dissuade India from starting a full-scale war with Pakistan. Christine Fair deliberately fails to mention the rift between USSR and China at that time and Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation signed between USSR and India on August 9, 1971, whereby USSR pledged to come to the rescue of India in the case of war against any state. It was this treaty that forced China not to play the role it wanted to help Pakistan.

Destabilization through terrorism sponsoring leading to Balkanization of other states in South Asia is Indian strategy for dominating the region as the largest state carving its sphere of influence riding on the economic rise. India has a long history of state sponsored terrorism for destabilizing the region through the use of non-state actors. In China, the territorial integrity is closely linked to the legitimacy of Chinese Community Party, which is reflected in its foreign policy as well. The BRI is aimed at creating a stable and economically prosperous neighborhood that will augment the dividends of Chinese economic rise at home.

Pakistan and China have offered India to join CPEC for regional connectivity and economic development. Christine Fair who has historically argued that India has the instrument of accession by the rule of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Hence Indian claim of sovereignty over the state is stronger than Pakistan. She blatantly ignores the fact that sovereignty belongs to the people of the land. The popular uprising against Maharaja Hari Singh before the signing of the instrument of accession with India meant that he had lost the legitimacy to conclude any agreement on behalf of people of Jammu and Kashmir. Maharaja Hari Singh had ceased to be legitimate ruler of princely state Jammu and Kashmir. The argument for Indian sovereignty over Jammu and Kashmir by such instrument of accession is in complete disregard of human rights covenants especially those dealing with civil and political rights. Kashmir is recognized as disputed territory between India and Pakistan under United Nations Security Council resolutions, hence opposition of CPEC by India on baseless claims of territorial sovereignty over Kashmir is not justified. Pakistan wants that the people of Jammu and Kashmir should be given the right to self-determination integral to the basic of human rights and promised by Indian leadership when they took this dispute to the UN.

CPEC will become the engine of peace and stability for Pakistan. The benefits of energy generation projects and communication network for mobility of goods and services will reinforce the efforts by Pakistan to counter terrorism and extremism through economic uplift of least developed areas of Pakistan. Often rhetorical, devoid of empirical evidence charge labeled by the detractors of CPEC is that the project is not commercially viable. Such argument ignores the fact that China initiated this project because China stands to gain massively through CPEC. Reducing the cost of importing and exporting goods through BRI connectivity projects, and securing access to markets, achieving the further competitive advantage that Chinese firms already enjoy will ensure that China becomes the driver of world trade and development in the near future.

While the Western Scholars presume that China is developing Gwadar port as redundancy in case of blockade of Malacca Strait, such narrative ignores the logic of economics. China is diversifying supply routes for reducing the cost of imported raw material especially petrochemicals. For China, the proximity of oil rich Middle East makes Gwadar port natural cost effective choice for imported energy.

Early harvest energy under CPEC are coming online and are helping Pakistan tackle the chronic shortage of electricity for the domestic and industrial purpose. In the past, the US announced plans for giving preferential access to industrial units established in militancy hit areas of Pakistan especially Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), the US came up short on its promise of helping Pakistan to counter terrorism through economic uplift of the society. Instead of giving meaningful market access to Pakistan's industry, the US has relied on misdirected, meager and inefficient foreign aid that is often squandered.

A Recent visit by a high-level delegation from Chinese National Development and Reform Commission for reviewing the progress on CPEC related projects especially Special Economic Zones (SEZs) shows that this project is driven by market considerations helping Pakistan and China achieve economic development. In Pakistan, the consensus at societal and state level about CPEC demonstrates the confidence that developing countries pose in China led BRI that is structured on geo-economics rather



geopolitics strategies of the US that have created nothing but destruction and destabilization around the world.

<http://southasiajournal.net/in-defence-of-china-pakistan-friendship-and-cpec/>



## *Significance of Strategic Restraint Regime in South Asia*

*Asma Khalid*

Regional competitive environment of South Asia has fueled the strategic tension and security anxieties between India and Pakistan. India and Pakistan share a history of hostile relations and bilateral relations of both nuclear states have been strained by a number of historical and political issues. Both states have fought number of wars and limited conflicts since partition. Due to prioritization of security concerns of regional states, South Asia is undergoing through nuclear and conventional arms modernization. However, the inception of nuclear weapons in the South Asia has not only maintained the deterrence stability in region but at the same time instigate the nuclear and missile arms race in the region. Thus under such circumstances, in the aftermath of Indian and Pakistan's nuclear tests in 1998, Pakistan proposed the establishment of Strategic Restraint Regime (SRR) to India for durable peace in South Asia. But unfortunately, India's Prime Minister "Atal Bihari Vajpyee" rejected the Pakistan's proposal of Strategic Restraint Regime.

In February 2016, in response to India's growing conventional and strategic weapons' development in the region, Pakistan's officials re-emphasized on its desire for establishing the Strategic Restraint Regime (SRR) in South Asia" due to its significance. So question arises why SRR is imperative in region??

Strategic restraint Regime is significant due to its three inter-connecting elements: First, nuclear restraint to maintain deterrence stability; second, conventional arms balance; third, for conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Primary objective of Strategic Restraint Regime was to prevent nuclear arms race on the region as India-Pakistan relations has been dominated by action-reaction syndrome. Strategic Restraint regime would be helpful in maintaining strategic and Deterrence stability and accelerating a peace process in the region. They can be employed to build trust between India and Pakistan, and resultantly avert the chances of conflict escalation. They may include any sign of peace initiative to a treaty. By effective implementation of strategic Restraints both states will be able to take their decisions more confidently in a less hostile and more stable environment.

It is unfortunate that, despite the Pakistan's efforts of establishment of Strategic restraints arrangement, India has emerged as largest arms imported of the world in 2017. According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report of 2016, with 14% global arms imports India is world's largest arms importer. Therefore, objective of SRR has not been achieved due to two factors: First: India's intention to emerge as regional power. Second: Due to the role of external powers like United States and Russia. India's co-operation in conventional and nuclear fields with United States and Russia especially India-US civil nuclear deal and 2008 waiver for Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) has undermined the objectives of SRR as well as disturbed the balance of power (BOP) in region.

Pakistan has been concerned over India's arms agreements, Nuclear Submarine, Ballistic Missile Development (BMD) system and Missile development as these capabilities are leading India towards higher war-fighting capabilities from its minimum deterrence posture. These capabilities will increase the

instability in region and forces the regional states to acquire these capabilities to maintain deterrence and Balance of Power in region. Additionally, Indian missile developments have dangerous implications. According to reports, India have fastest growing missile program of the world India have ability to produce 90 to 110 nuclear warheads and its fissile material production stock is increasing rapidly. Indian nuclear and nuclear related developments have direct implications on Pakistan and regional states because these developments are considered as threat to their security, regional stability and peace. Therefore in response to India's nuclear and missile developments, Pakistan is forced to limit its resources of national building and human development to maintain strategic balance with India.

Such factors are fueling the arms race in region, arms race is world-wide phenomena that instigate the Security dilemma and disturb the Balance of Power. It poses negative impact on security and strategic calculus of state and influences the political, economic progress, human development and other elements of state. Impacts of arms race are dangerous as it affects the state's security as well as pose the serious threats to human security of states as high military expenditures are resulting in fewer budgets for social development.

So, to address the regional security issues and negative impacts of arms race, Pakistan demands for nuclear and conventional restraints. In this regard: India's acceptance of Pakistan's proposal, Nuclear Confidence Building Measures (NCBMs), economic progress and continued effective diplomacy can open the ways to a strategic restraint arrangements between India and Pakistan to maintain deterrence stability in the region.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2017/07/15/significance-of-strategic-restraint-regime-in-south-asia/>



## *Parachinar: A Repressed Conflict*

*Huma Tariq*

On Friday 23rd June 2017 twin blasts hit the valley of Parachinar the main town of Kurram tribal agency, killing at least 70 people and injuring more than 125 others. The first blast took place around 5:00 p.m. in Turi Market, located on the edge of the recently-designated Red Zone, and the second explosion went off as rescuers and bystanders rushed to help the survivors of the first blast. After the high death rate, angry protesters ransacked the Parachinar Press Club and severely injured five journalists. The police resorted to aerial firing to disperse the protestors. People from all over the Parachinar joined the sit in against the twin blasts, which continued for eight days. Unfortunately, electronic media do not report the real severity of the issue and keep ignoring the Parachinar unrest. Thanks to social media that we come to know about this conflict. There is two principal point of views related to this issue; one is of the people of Parachinar who consider it as a 'sectarian conflict.' The other is the State's point of view that these blasts are the result of terrorism from the cross border.

Before discussing these point of opinion, let us first unfold some history of Parachinar. It is the capital of Kurram Agency and the largest city of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan. Parachinar is situated at the neck of Pakistani territory South of Peshawar that elongates into Paktia Province of Afghanistan. It is the next point in Pakistan to Kabul and borders on the Tora Bora region of Afghanistan. Turi, Bangash, Orakzai, Zazai, Mangal and Para Tsamkani are the major tribes in Parachinar, but there is dominant population of Turis who belong to Shia sect. This faction oriented conflict is somehow started thirty years ago when Russian Afghan war was going on, and this area was mostly used by U.S. lead jihadists, but the local Shia population was against their presence. Taliban belongs to the Wahabi sect which is very much against Shia sect of Muslims. After the American invasion of Afghanistan in 2004, it is a most easily reachable point for an entry in Pakistan. In 2007, Taliban started armed fighting in Kurram agency and tried to impose their self-styled Sharia like other tribal areas and kill hundreds of people. The main high way which connects Parachinar with all over the country known as Thal-Parachinar Road remains blocked. The Taliban's make their check-posts in the Lower Kurram Agency. Communication between Parachinar and rest of the country is almost abandoned as the locals take the dangerous alternative route through Afghanistan for travel to Peshawar.

In 2008, a political agreement signed in Murree and a limited military operation was done in the area has helped to reopen the Thall-Parachinar road but only limited traffic was allowed to move. That agreement seems hopeful for the peaceful resolution of thirty-year-old conflict because it talks about the return of displaced persons, some of whom have not returned home since the 1982 violence, to the payment of compensation for property damaged and destroyed, the agreement encompasses many sensible and pragmatic measures. Also, cell phone services should be restored in the area because presently, locals have to use Afghan SIMs and networks. Frontier Corp FC was deployed here since long, and mostly there is a curfew in the valley. So the basic stance of locals is that government and army are not seriously addressing the situation in Parachinar, there are no basic facilities of life present here, and



this area is far behind from the other parts of the country. According to them, the government is doing it deliberately just for the ethnic cleansing of Shia population.

While State's office said that it's not true and the recent bomb blasts were planned in Afghanistan, and there is no sectarian division in Pakistan, and it's our enemies who target our unity. As said by Chief of Army Staff General Bajwa: "Having failed to divide us through terrorism, our enemy is now trying to focus and fragment us along sectarian/ethnic lines which merit a unified national response. For us, every Shaheed/injured is equal, regardless of sect/ethnicity and indeed is a great loss. We all are Pakistanis and Muslims who fully respect the religious rights of our Pakistani minorities."

In conclusion, it can be suggested that it is not enough to give the condolences after blasts, to pay the compensations for people who died and got injured in explosions. It's not sufficient to put all responsibility on Afghanistan or India; it is the time that government officials should visit and analyze the present situation of Parachinar and address the concerns and complaints of locals. A political settlement should be established by the mutual consensus of all the concerned people. Clerics from both Shia and Sunni sects should take initiatives to create a religious harmony between people and society. The government should bring infrastructural reforms in all the tribal areas which will help to address the grievances of the local population. Other than a military operation, the intelligence based operation should be done to establish the long term peace in Parachinar.

<http://southasiajournal.net/parachinar-a-repressed-conflict/>

## *Gifts of Waiver on the Basis of So-Called Non-Proliferation Record*

### *Beenish Altaf*

India still could not manage to get in to the cartel of civil nuclear trade (the NSG). This is due to the certain fact of India's poor non-proliferation credentials recognized internationally. However, Indian officials could not be bothered whatever by the decision on NSG membership. For instance, Indian External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Vikas Swarup said, "India is not seeking NSG membership as a gift and that India is seeking it on its non-proliferation record." But the very fact is quite opposite to that owing to the very basic aspect that India is a non-NPT state wherein NSG membership resides for states that are Party to the Treaty.

About India's first nuclear test a lot has been written with regard to the post-nuclear suppliers group's debate that it was actually a device derived from Canadian and US exports designated purely for peaceful purposes. It was this so called peaceful nuclear test that compelled the United States and numerous other countries to create the Nuclear Suppliers Group to restrict global nuclear trade more relentlessly.

The West is cracking down on some bona fide integer with regards to Indian nuclear security; especially India's potential of becoming a hefty fissile material proliferator in the South Asian region. Besides the Indo-US strategic partnership aiming at mutual outcomes, there are several reports in the print and social media by US think tanks and policy-making institutions expressing similar apprehensions.

There was a report by the Belfer Centre for Science and International Affairs of the Harvard Kennedy School titled "The Three Overlapping Streams of India's Nuclear Programmes". It actually identifies the problems in India's nuclear program arising from gaps in the commitments New Delhi had made after its nuclear deal with the US, and in its separation plan, its Safeguards Agreements and its Additional Protocols. The relationships and overlaps between its three streams of nuclear program — civilian safeguarded, civilian unsafeguarded, their civil and military programs — observed in the report are not transparent.

On the contrary, the international community is continually portraying India's nuclear track record as A grade — this could be to achieve their (big powers) self-centered goals by posing India as such. After the US, many other countries have followed suit by engaging India in similar kind of uranium deals (Indo-US Nuclear Deal) for a dual purpose. Consequently, it has worse and diverse implications for the South Asian nuclear region.

As a result of these nuclear / uranium deals, especially the Indo-US nuclear deal, India's Nuclear weapons will surely benefit without having any burden on its indigenous resources. This is because it will give India access to huge reserves of fissile material that would be more than enough for upgradation and enhancing its number of nuclear weapons. This will result in the vertical proliferation that could ultimately initiate an enhanced arms race in the South Asia region. Secondly, the move will also smash the entire emphasize of the non-proliferation regime.



So in actuality, admittedly, India has nothing to give in return to so many deals in the name of the so-called good proliferation record of India. Instead, the Indian nuclear program is unsafe, saying that India's civilian nuclear energy project, which is being expanded with the help of countries like the United States, can create new potential pathways to the acquisition of fissile material that could be diverted for military purposes.

It is also clear that India has a poor nuclear materials safety record. According to the NTI (Nuclear Materials Security Index), which assesses the security of nuclear materials around the world, India scores below Pakistan, and is ranked only above North Korea and Iran. Thus, assessing all of together, the picture depicts not only the poor state of export controls in the country but further shows the intricate associated concerns of nuclear proliferation and misuse.

For India, NSG membership could [may] boost its international standing as a responsible atomic power and also give it greater influence on issues related to global nuclear trade as many countries are already in line with similar kind of deals as of 2008. However, the country would be the only member of the body that has not signed the NPT; signaling an open discriminatory act towards Pakistan. Since, the NSG decisions as taken on consensus, first China has reaffirmed it is not going to happen, but if it does happens then India could always stand against any civil trade with Pakistan. Resultantly, this would lead to a regional nuclear arms race as India is and would remain out of the NPT and would not have to sign the treaty.

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/17072017-gifts-of-waivers-on-the-basis-of-so-called-non-proliferation-record-oped/>



## *Cold Water on Cold Start*

*Maimuna Ashraf*

NASR has put cold water on Cold Start” is the statement that buzzed the headlines recently after Pakistan successfully undertaken a series of training launches and test/trials of its short-range surface to surface ballistic missile. This development grabbed attention of critics on Nasr’s improved technical parameters to counterweight Indian Cold Start Doctrine and rekindled debate on India’s limited or proactive war strategy. India unveiled its offensive doctrine named “Cold Start” back in 2004, after the failure of Sundarji doctrine in operation Parakram, which took place in 2001-2002 in wake of terrorist attack on Indian Parliament. Sundarji doctrine failed due to dawdling Indian mobilization that permitted Pakistan to mount its reaction and beat Indian strategic designs.

The new Cold Start doctrine was resultantly aimed to mobilize quickly and to exterminate Pakistani armed forces before they could accumulate a response. Although the complete doctrine is classified but the declassified concept is to reconstitute the existing three Indian army’s strike corps into eight integrated battle groups that could be deployed quickly to strike the narrow pieces of Pakistan’s territory through limited incursion. It is believed that the doctrine was designed on the assumption that Pakistan would not resort to the use of nuclear weapons in response to limited incursion that does not cross its nuclear threshold. Resultantly, the policy circle in Pakistan argues that CSD would provide India the space for conventional or limited conflict in a nuclearised region. Thus for an appropriate reactionary response to CSD that excludes forceful nuclear retaliation, Pakistan developed the low-yield, short range, battlefield ‘Nasr nuclear missiles’.

Thus, India’s military doctrinal transformation and rapidly maturing ballistic missile capabilities indulged Pakistan in miniaturization of warheads in mid 2000s. The chronology of technological developments speaks volume that Pakistan has been exhibiting a reaction by building up its nuclear capabilities in response to India’s rising nuclear and conventional ambitions, to ensure the credibility of its nuclear deterrence. Nasr, the low-yield nuclear weapon, was revealed in 2011, to add deterrence value to Pakistan’s strategic weapons at short ranges, to deter India from pursuing Cold Start Doctrine and to provide a qualitative response to conventional threats and asymmetry perceived by India. The development of Nasr has also been stated as significant contribution to ‘full spectrum deterrence’ that Pakistan reiterated to maintain to deter all form of aggression.

The improved technical parameters for the Nasr system should not come as a surprise in the backdrop of 2001 official statement that mentioned ‘first flight test’ with an indication of more tests to validate designed parameters. The significant addition in new technical parameter is extended range from 60 kms to 70 kms. The improvement in range may not seem significant but it will certainly allow Pakistan to hit enemy’s target from a far afield into its land that will provide survivability to Nasr batteries by making the penetration more challenging for adversary.

The country’s official statement by ISPR also mentions ‘flight manoeuvrability’ which inflicts that manoeuvrability has been improved from the last tests took place in 2013 and 2014 that mentioned in-

flight manoeuvre capability specially designed to defeat anti tactical missile defence systems. The recent Nasr test was the first since 2014 when Pakistan successfully launched four missiles from a state of the art multi-tube launcher with Slava mode. The missile was also tested first time lately since India's COAS General Bipin Rawat publically confirms the existence of Cold Start Doctrine in an interview held last year. The missile also possesses 'shoot and scoot' attributes to target with accuracy and immediately relocate to another position to avoid counter-fire from enemy positions. The official statement also notes that this weapon system will augment credible deterrence against prevailing threat spectrum more effectively, including missile defences. Pakistan's recently tested medium range ballistic missile, Ababeel, capable to launch multiple warheads using multiple independent re-entry vehicle (MIRV) also aimed to defeat hostile radars with aim at ensuring survivability of Pakistan's ballistic missiles in the growing regional anti-ballistic missile defence environment.

Interestingly, India also conducted tests of its short range missiles recently. In start of this month, India tested Quick Reaction Surface to Air (QRSAM) short range missile with strike range of 20-30 km. The first test launch of same missile was conducted in this June while Prithvi-II with range 350 km was also test-fired in same month. A response from Pakistan seems evident and to ensure that Islamabad has the capabilities to counter the intimidating advancement. It is believed that the ballistic missile system developments of Islamabad is focused to respond Delhi's advancements which serves the purpose to ensure counter strike capability, maintains credible deterrence, readiness and robustness of Pakistan which reduces the threat of India's conventional limited war. Resultantly, while India is developing its short range ballistic missiles, inter-continental ballistic missiles and anti-missile program, Pakistan is focusing on its short-range and medium-range ballistic missiles with improved payloads, range, and reliability to consolidate Pakistan's strategic deterrence in evolving regional scenario.

<http://pakobserver.net/cold-water-cold-start/>



## ***Operation Khyber 4: Pakistan-Afghanistan Anti-Terrorism Cooperation***

***Adil Sivia***

Pakistan Army has launched Operation Khyber-4 under Radd-ul-Fasaad (RuF) to wipe out terrorists in the Rajgal Valley area of Khyber Agency. Pakistan under its sustained and phase by phase anti-terrorism strategy has been clearing areas of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) along Pakistan Afghanistan border. Pakistan has twice informed Afghan authorities verbally and in writing about launching military operation in advance so that Afghanistan can simultaneously launch military operation on its side of Durand Line to eliminate the fleeing terrorists. In the aftermath on military operations in past, Pakistan expected Afghanistan to launch military operation against Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists who fled to Afghanistan and found safe heavens there due to porous border between the two countries. TTP has found safe heavens in Afghanistan and uses Afghan soil to launch terrorist attacks on Pakistan.

It remains historical fact, and the US cannot absolve itself from responsibility for using proxy of Mujahedeen against Soviet Union in Afghanistan. The “terrorist producing incubators” created by the US proxy war in Afghanistan were left to be dealt by Pakistan. The US is reviewing its strategy in Afghanistan, but mantra from Washington under new administration is nothing but continuously blaming Pakistan for the Afghanistan and American failure to deal with Taliban. It’s preposterous to argue that Taliban are fighting war in Afghanistan due to alleged sanctuaries they have on Pakistani side of Durand Line. Militancy that Afghan and foreign forces are facing in Afghanistan from Taliban is indigenous in nature.

Pakistan has always shown willingness to launch coordinated military operations against terrorists along Pakistan Afghanistan border. While there is realization on part of Pakistan that simultaneous military operations launched against terrorists can root them out in effective manner. Such military operations are very important for multiplying and reinforcing individual gains. The response from Afghanistan so far has been negative, blaming Pakistan for its failure to win fight against Taliban. Prevailing chasm of mistrust between the two countries mars any meaningful military collaboration against terrorists.

There has been substantial decrease in terrorist attacks in Pakistan due to elimination of terrorists in FATA and other parts of the country. Intelligence based operations carried out by law enforcement agencies against banned and terrorist outfits have greatly enhanced security situation in the country. Pakistan is determined to continue fencing the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in different phases to stop illegal movement of Afghans to Pakistan.

While the US is reviewing its strategy in Afghanistan, foreign forces should convince the Afghan government to build fence on Afghan side of Durand Line. Fundamental realization missing on part of regime in Kabul is that Taliban were political force displaced by the US attack in Afghanistan. The coalition strategy of weakening the Taliban in battlefield before starting any meaningful negotiations has failed so far. Since Taliban in Afghanistan are people of the land, they will continue to resist the presence of foreign

forces in their country. The war economy of Afghanistan has created many vested interests that profit from continued conflict.

Prospects of coordinated military operations against terrorists along Durand Line are not encouraging. Pakistan has launched operations against terrorists because there is consensus in Pakistan for removal of terrorists on its soil and restoration of peace. The gains of military operation can really be reinforced with the timely completion of fencing of the border. Terrorists trained and equipped by hostile agencies like Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), and sent into Pakistan can be checked greatly if Pakistan fences its borders with Afghanistan and Iran.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2017/07/25/operation-khyber-4-pakistan-afghanistan-anti-terrorism-cooperation/>



## ***Nuclear Suppliers Group: A Power Play***

***Saman Rizwan***

Volatility happens to be the defining feature of the South Asian region due to the arch-rivals- India and Pakistan. The recent strategic developments and NSG's power play has stirred a continuous debate in the International politics. The reason mainly being India's entry into the club, highlighting the political dimension to it which seems quite cynical as this multinational body was created in response to India's peaceful nuclear tests named, 'Smiling Buddha' in the year 1974 whose sole purpose was to attain the objective of nuclear non-proliferation. It is an established condition that the membership into the NSG only takes place if the party has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and decisions about the change in the guidelines are made through consensus only. However, this precondition was evaded when a waiver was provided to India by the United States back in 2008. Since then, certain analysts have argued that provision of such partisanship has led India to proliferate vertically, undermining the group's credibility in the long run.

Looking at the outcomes of the last two plenary meetings, the inclusion of both India and Pakistan into the group has not drawn any conclusion yet. Several key parties objected the inclusion of non-NPT states, thereby raising questions regarding their admissibility. Other states have called for a criterion based approach whereas, China emphasizes towards the adoption of non-discriminatory approach for the inclusion of non-NPT countries. Nonetheless, India's optimistic stance regarding the latest meeting which was held in June suffered a setback, as discussions revolved around the technical issues with the primary focus on the implementation of Control Lists. Other issues that were discussed were related to Transparency, licensing and enforcement, outreach activities, export control systems, updating of the guidelines and civil nuclear cooperation with India.

Previously, Rafael Mariano Grossi- the former chairman of the NSG was provided with the task to design a formula for including the non-NPT members into the nuclear cartel. He came up with the nine - point formula, which was supposed to be a neutral design but kept India at an advantageous position and raised questions regarding Pakistan's credentials. Though the only point where India seems ahead of Pakistan is the signing of the IAEA's additional protocol to which Pakistan claims that it can accept the other protocol after internal appraisal process and negotiation with IAEA.

Series of protests have been lodged by Pakistan over the biased and discriminatory nature of NSG guidelines. Major Powers play a significant role in defining the International politics, and in the case of NSG, the stance of United States in favoring India is no secret. According to Mark Hibbs, "The US, close allies, and India collaborated toward the goal of admitting India into several multilateral export control regimes and important objective for India after years of being frozen out of the International nuclear trade. The plan called for India to first join the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), then the NSG and finally the control arrangements for a conventional and chemical weapon." This highlights that India is being given a preferential treatment whereas Pakistan is taken as an outlier. Moreover, such a biased approach would not yield any productive outcomes for the non-proliferation regime.

Any inequitable treatment regarding the membership will in return disrupt the South Asian strategic stability which will significantly undermine the nonproliferation agenda of the International community. Undoubtedly, the inclusion of both India and Pakistan simultaneously would strengthen the objectives of this nuclear cartel. Besides, the actions of NSG are consensus based, so once India is made part of the group it will be in the position to block Pakistan's entry into the nuclear cartel.

A sense of optimism is perceived by both the parties, as their applications were not rejected by the nuclear club. Also, India is pursuing a proactive approach and is steadily trying to convince opposing members of the group. The recent three-nation trip of Narendra Modi to US, Portugal, and Netherlands signifies the amount of effort India is putting in securing NSG's membership. Hence Pakistan needs to robustly work on its diplomatic front to ensure recognition from the International community. Politics and power are the essentials of the International arena; hence one cannot question the motives of other states as we all bid to win this power marathon.

<http://southasiajournal.net/nuclear-suppliers-group-a-power-play/>



## ***Building a Culture of Peace In Pakistan***

***Huma Tariq***

If a child being admitted in kindergarten and learn 'another way of fighting.' From first day of school he experiences an atmosphere in which differences are appreciated and accepted, and where peaceful conflict resolution is the norm. By the time that student reaches fifth grade, he will be selected as mediator by peers to settle disputes in class. Eventually this young person will have courage to be a hero for justice and peace for the rest of his life, whether he becomes a common man or a leader. This is the imagined scenario of a culture of peace, but unfortunately at present this culture of peace does not exist in most parts of the world. Because governments and militant groups which are fighting against governments, use 'law of force instead of using force of law' which gave nothing but the destruction and continues cycles of revenge.

As culture of peace helps people to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another and to unite their strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used and to employ international machinery for the promotion of peace. The transformation from a culture of war to a culture of peace represents a radical and historical change because everyone from the centers of power to the most remote villages may be engaged and transformed. A culture of peace is both a vision and a process; it needs a visionary leadership to make it happen. It needs clear understanding and strong dedication to build a culture of peace so that future generations would know that what is peace and how to solve conflicts peacefully both at domestic level as well as at international level.

On the other hand violence either it is in home or due to any armed conflict has drastic effects on children. Violence does not only affect physically but it has strong psychological impacts in later life. Whatever the type of violence children are the most affected population but are always neglected. Policy makers of our country should understand that children are our future they are the agents of change and facilitators of peace. To initiate this process, we can start it from our schools, the very basic level. Parents and educators have the power to foster principles and strategies of peace building in every child and to help them to build a more peaceful world. The children, who learn peace principles, would grow up to be the policy makers and leaders of this world, and if they are taught to think about peace at a young age they might take decisions that will lead to a more peaceful world. If we begin to teach peace education from an early age, these principles of peace become the part of their development, which they will carry with them as adults when they become the new global leaders and even if they are common people they will be able to build more peaceful societies. It is time to give our children a better and peaceful world to live, rather than a blood-drenched world with full of conflicts. Most of the time people said that a culture of peace cannot be developed in the world because conflicts are inevitable, yes, it is true but we can constructively deal with these conflicts with the help of preventive tools to turn back the tide of bigotry and violence.

The best way to foster the values of peace is through education at every level. Although education about peace is present in teaching of all the religions of the world but unfortunately most of followers of all religions do not give importance to it. Peace education as a significant field of education was accepted by all over the world in the last decades of twentieth century. But due to over negligence and false policies of different governments in Pakistan our education system remains far behind from other countries. Today Pakistan has faces an educational crisis of unthinkable proportions. Despite addressing these issues,

different governments tried to instill their own vision in school text books. There are lot of examples that how our school's curriculum especially of government schools based on governments policies, which foster nothing other than differences and intolerance. Poverty, lack of resources and trained teachers are other big issues. Education about peace principles and practices is necessary in our schools because in War on Terror Pakistan is front line country and our children are continuously suffering from it i.e. Taliban insurgency, military operations and displacements. There is an increase in level of intolerance and extremism in our youth. Therefore, it is the best time to address these issues to develop a culture of peace in our country.

In school's children, had been taught Math's, English, Science and other subjects of study but it has not been told to them that how to live peacefully while accepting and understanding the other's point of view. If children learn that how to share their things in classrooms, it helps them to learn the sharing of world resources, they learn that how to accept others despite of their different beliefs and how to respect one another especially respect for women and children and how to reason and debate instead of starting physical violence. Peace education should be accepted in all parts of the world, in all communities and states as an essential element for creating a culture of peace in the world. Children must learn a different type of education that does not only glorify war but promote peace and international cooperation, which helps them to meet effectively with the future challenges. They need to learn the values and skills of peace, non-violence and to create a peaceful environment not only for their own selves but for the world they belong to.

<http://southasiajournal.net/building-a-culture-of-peace-in-pakistan/>



## ***Sino-Indian Standoff in Bhutan: Evaluating Third Party Intervention in Regional Affairs***

***Qurat-ul-Ain Hafeez***

The tri-junction disputes between China, India and Bhutan introduced a third party intervention in their regional affairs and bilateral territorial disputes. The Himalaya plateau is experiencing a new wave of abordement turning the dead cold giants of Himalayas into volcanos. China's earth movers strode Donglang for the construction of a road. In the past there have already been number of skirmishes between Bhutan and China on the disputed territory.

According to the Chinese official the peace of land is legitimately under Chinese's accusation as per 1980's act. Contrary to the past disputes and dialogs the situation differs this time because a third party intervened the conflict. As per request of Bhutanese arm troops India in the middle of June, 2017 deployed its troops in Doklam (a part of land which is tri-junction of Doklam plateau) in order to barricade and deter Chinese soldiers non-aggressively from building the road project. Bhutan claimed for the Doklam plateau articulating the deployment of Bhutanese and Indian troops as a justified act. The Timphu government justified this move of India claiming, that the Doklam plateau is under Bhutan's territory.

India's acidic involvement in the standoff confirms her uncertainties from China concerning Siligurri Corridor. Linking the north east isolated portion of land through the long gauge corridor, will set India at an ease to maneuver the tools (arms equipment's) and troops expeditiously in and outside the territory. Chinese construction of road will bring China more close to the "Chicken's Neck". It's useless for to blame china for building the road because China is not steamrolling insurgency in Sikkim. Rather India fear's that the northeast part can be easily separated because the inhabitants themselves dispose for separation.

India has reservation nearly with every neighboring country including Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China and Pakistan. With Nepal India have dispute on land of Kalapani and Susta. In Myanmar India have territorial disputes over a number of small patches of land near Hollenphai village. India-Sri Lanka dispute in 1974 has been solved recognizing Sri Lanka claim on Kachchatheevu . There was also indo Bangladesh dispute on South Talpatti Island which now has been resolved. The world is well aware of India's Imprudent tactics and hasty policies towards it's directs neighbors (China and Pakistan). India is using strong arms tactics with both China and Pakistan now a days once again on the common boarders.

India portray as if she is only acquitted state who has been the object of territorial subjects, everyone else is culprit. Except Bhutan India have disputes with almost every neighboring state. But this is for the first time when India intervened on some countries territory on the behalf of some third party. Behind this brotherhood of India and Bhutan India's own interests are disguised. Evaluating the third party intervention in regional affairs China said "A "third country's" Army could enter Kashmir at Pakistan's request, using the "same logic" the Indian Army used to stop the Chinese military from constructing a road in the Doklam area in the Sikkim sector on behalf of Bhutan".

Under the limelight of third party intervention in Kashmir, India already had apprehensions with the CPEC claiming that it is on the disputed territory of Gilgit Baltistan. India should recall her mind that even the chief Minister of Indian held Kashmir supported the CPEC, advising “Kashmir as a nucleus joining central Asia with south Asia”. Unpretentiously the Chinese’s statements esteeming Pakistan-Kashmir are indigestible by India. India would not allow any third party mediation. For all intents and purposes India doesn’t want to resolve the Kashmir issue.

Positioning forces in some other countries territory is against the international standards, so fourth India’s suspicions are? China is a sovereign state and India should not barricade in other states internal affairs. Exchange of harsh statements and anxiety from the officials of both sides may likely provoke war between the two nuclear powers. These circumstances will not only hamper strategic stability of the region but correspondingly it will also distract the international political environment

Following the structural realists paradigm, the first and vital priority of every state is security. China’s construction of road on her own territory is not an unauthorized act while the fears and insecurities of India are impartially fashioned by her own. But this does not mean at all that India has got the certification to impede neighboring countries affairs to disrupt their economic policies. India feels apprehensive from china’s economic expansion as a regional power. These impractical tactics of India are to exasperate China from extending economic developments in the region. This will isolate her in the region diplomatically. India should not play the role of diplomatic hegemon in the region and should respect the sovereignty of the neighboring states. This will encourage an atmosphere of peace and harmony in the Asian region.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2017/07/28/sino-indian-standoff-bhutan-evaluating-third-party-intervention-regional-affairs/>



## ***India's MTCR Membership: Scope of Non-Proliferation and Emerging Regional Challenges***

***Asma Khalid***

The concerns about nuclear proliferation have compelled the strategic thinkers to continuously strive for establishing multiple legal tools to prevent the nuclear proliferation. As a result of such efforts, various non-proliferation regimes have been established to counter the risk of proliferation of weapon of mass destruction (WMDs) and control the transfer of nuclear related material and technologies.

The significant non-proliferation regimes that aims to minimize the transfer of WMD includes Zangger committee (ZG), Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Australia group (AG) and Wassenaar arrangement. These regimes issues common guidelines for export of WMD related technology and their decisions are based on consensus. Though, these four Nuclear Non-Proliferation regimes have managed to expose many potential nuclear threats thereby providing a pathway for the international community to disassemble WMD-relevant catastrophic plan. However, despite some remarkable achievements the regimes has failed to achieve the anticipated goals of non-proliferation and cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The most striking issue is that, these regimes especially MTCR and NSG are subjected to manipulation by those in power for their own interest contrary to the purposes for the creation of such regimes.

Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) is voluntary, informal association of countries that shares common interests in the nonproliferation of missiles, unmanned air vehicles (UAV), complete rocket system and related technologies capable of carrying minimum 500 kg to the distance of at least 300 km. MTCR is west-dominated cartel of 35 member states. India gained the membership of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in 2016. The irony of issues is that United States has fully supported the India's entry into four export control regimes: NSG, MTCR, Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group.

Consequently, membership of the west-dominated cartel is proved significant for India's missile and space program as candidacy of the cartel has not only allowed the India to sell the missiles under certain specifications, but it can also import the high-tech technology without facing the sanctions.

Subsequently, India's entry to MTCR is highly valuable to India as it has improved the India's credentials, which could be helpful to get the membership of NSG. In this scenario a significant matter arises that now India is in position to bargain with china for its inclusion in NSG where it might offer the MTCR membership to China. Though China is trying hard to get the candidacy of MTCR but according to experts it will not bargain with India to get the membership of MTCR. Because China has maintained very clear stance regarding the India's membership of NSG and there is no room for compromise on China's position that is based on principles.

Joining the MTCR will benefit the India in three main areas. First, there will be no legal complications for India to purchase missile related equipment from United States, Russia, Israel, Germany and United Kingdom. Secondly it will allow the India to full fill its wish to acquire drones such as the Reaper, Avenger. Third India has also been aiming at Israel's Arrow II missile defence system.

Thus question arises that how India's membership of MTCR will affect the regional stability? India's aims of enhancing missile capabilities have ability to speed up missile proliferation in South Asia. Nonetheless, providing the waiver to India, major powers concessions and now providing access to sophisticated missile technologies proves the hawkish policies of western powers have always adhered to a state-centric approach in addressing proliferation challenge. These state-centric discriminatory policies encourage the India to create disparities in balance of power and enhance lethal arms race among South Asian nuclear adversaries. Though MTCR aims to control over the import, export and upgrading of missile related technologies but such developments are undermining the objectives of MTCR.

Moreover, some drawbacks of MTCR are also undermining its aim to curb the proliferation of WMD. First, non-offensive missiles and SLV can be converted into ballistic missiles and can be used for offensive purpose. Such as India development of Agni first stage missile through conversion of an SLV has proved the fact that interchangeable infrastructure, material and technology has severely undermined the scope of MTCR. Other striking issues are that decisions in MTCR are not binding and made on consensus, and lack mechanism to monitor the issues of compliance. MTCR have only partially succeeded in addressing the missile proliferation and allows member states to acquire sophisticated missile technologies under the umbrella of nuclear group.

To conclude, India's inclusion in MTCR is aiding the India's military satellite and missile program and it is against the aims of Missile Technology Control Regime. Therefore dynamics of Pakistan-China-India's triangular relations present that India's membership in the nuclear cartel will enhance Its missile capabilities in future which would further complicate the security equation, strategic balance and threat perception of regional states like China And Pakistan.

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/28072017-indias-mtcr-membership-scope-of-non-proliferation-and-emerging-regional-challenges-oped/>



## ***Pakistan's Case for Multilateral Export Control Regimes***

***Beenish Altaf***

Undoubtedly, Pakistan is proactively pursuing its credentials for the non-proliferation regime, but it is still important to take further voluntary steps to advance its non-proliferation credentials. It would assist the country in getting into the multilateral export control regimes. While reviewing the multilateral export control regimes, other than MTCR that works to prevent the proliferation of missile, all the other three, NSG, WA and Australia Group work to contribute to the non-proliferation regime directly.

Accounting very briefly, Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) deals with the strengthening of non-proliferation regime directly by several clauses in it. It is committed to limiting nuclear arms proliferation by overseeing the export, re-transfer and protection of sensitive materials that could foster nuclear weapons development. The aim of the NSG Guidelines is to ensure that nuclear trade for peaceful purposes does not pave way to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and that international trade and cooperation in the nuclear field is not hindered unjustly in the process.

Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) works to contribute to regional and international security and stability by promoting transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, thus preventing destabilising accumulations. Participating states seek, through their national policies, to ensure that transfers of these items do not contribute to the development or enhancement of military capabilities which undermine these goals, and are not diverted to support such capabilities.

The Australia Group is an informal group of countries (now joined by the European Commission) established in 1985 after the use of chemical weapons by Iraq in 1984, to help member countries identify exports which need to be controlled.

Pakistan established a stringent command and control system soon after its nuclear tests. The other two thresholds crossed by Pakistan were passage of Pakistan Export Control Act of 2004 and notification of revised export control lists and in 2015, these revised lists cover the scope of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Australia Group (AG). Currently Pakistan's Export Control Lists are in complete harmony with the Control Lists maintained by the NSG, MTCR, and AG. SECDIV carries out a regular assessment of technological advancements and amendments done by international export control regimes and updates and amends Pakistan's export Control Lists accordingly. Pakistan has invested heavily in nuclear safety and security in the last decade or so. Further to the point, over 25000 trained personnel are working in the field to ensure the security of Pakistan's nuclear assets.

Like Wassenaar Arrangement's objective, it is also in the national policy of Pakistan to ensure that transfer of any such item does not contribute to the development or enhancement of military capabilities which undermine its credibility, and are not diverted to support such capabilities. Pakistan has already been separately operating civil and military facilities. Tasnim Aslam, head of the UN desk at the Foreign

Office once said, “Pakistan has the expertise, manpower, infrastructure and the ability to supply NSG controlled items, goods and services for a full range of nuclear applications for peaceful uses.”

Therefore, an entry into these groups can help strengthen Pakistan’s non-proliferation credentials that would ultimately build up a strong case for it as the country seeks an entry into the 48-member NSG. India has already managed to enter MTCR with the support of Russia mainly.

Pakistan is a state party to various international instruments including IAEA Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), and participates in the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB). It also actively participates in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and regularly submits reports to the UN Security Council 1540 Committee. Pakistan has streamlined and strengthened its export control regime and enhanced its engagement with multilateral export control regimes. So the country fully qualifies to get the membership of these export control regimes on fair terms. In this way, Pakistan would be able to contribute more meaningfully to the global non-proliferation regime as a full partner. Now it is time to engage with the diplomatic community more robustly.

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/28-Jul-17/pakistans-case-for-multilateral-export-control-regimes>



## *Afghan Peace Process: An Analysis*

*S. Sadia Kazmi*

Even though the efforts to bring Peace in Afghanistan have brought in a lot of international players from time to time, it remains a lingering problem. This provides for a convenient “justification” as to why eventually Afghan government took the initiative to take the matter exclusively in its own hands and kick started the “Kabul Process” early last month. The punchline again is the same but apparently with a renewed conviction for an “Afghan-led, Afghan owned” peace process. While the intention seems to be noble, i.e. for the cause of peace in Afghanistan and for the region, one can’t just ignore the blatant as well as subtle grievances reflected in various statements by Afghan leaders showing distrust against the other simultaneous peace efforts. What is precisely interesting is the fact that Pakistan has shamelessly been implicated not only in different instances of terrorist activity in Afghanistan, but has also been suspected of double-dealing. While the biggest part of blame has been put on Pakistan, the gripe is quite evident against other actors and their efforts too. The rationale and greater relevance of “Kabul Process” was highlighted in contrast to the Russia-China-Pakistan trilateral efforts. Such kind of trilateral efforts are seen as attempts to eliminate or sideline Afghanistan with some other interests of their own, most probably enhancing regional influence. Nonetheless it is a fact that the trust deficit has largely at play rendering most of the peace efforts redundant. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani conveyed that through Kabul process, the government will directly try to engage the Taliban to hold meaningful negotiations. Afghan government is already celebrating on achieving the first major milestone of making peace with Hezb-i-Islami led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. To their credit, it was made possible after 40 years only through the sincere efforts which presumably were lacking in the efforts invested by other stakeholders. Afghan President also pitched the International community to get united against the menace of Terrorism which is a mutual threat faced by all. However, here again the transnational financing and training of terrorists in Afghanistan has been blamed on Pakistan. President Ashraf Ghani has unabashedly stated that he soon after taking office as a President he offered an olive branch to Pakistan, but was snubbed. He even went to the extent of asking “What will it take to convince Pakistan that a stable Afghanistan helps them and helps our region?”

It is unfortunate that despite all the initiative that Pakistan has taken and the sufferings it had to bear and continues to face, the distrust has been allowed to tarnish all the hard work. It is not just the skepticism but skepticism that has been fueled by Indian sponsored propaganda coupled with proxy wars being waged in Baluchistan, again supported by India. This overdependence on India is also evident from the recent reports that India is planning to send 15,000 troops to Afghanistan. Before that, only last year, India gave four MI-25 helicopters to Afghanistan. It is only natural for Pakistan to feel concerned about the growing Indian security assistance to Afghanistan and their ever-increasing strategic partnership. The Afghan leaders fail to consider that such an approach is only going to further foil all the peace efforts and will raise insecurities among the stakeholders. Pakistan is in a perpetual state of fighting off the separatist elements in Baluchistan. The porous border that the two countries share, makes it easy for the terrorists from Afghanistan to pass into Pakistani territory and carry out their heinous activities. To keep this from

happening, Pakistan has employed various measures including closing of the border, laying of barbed wires. But every time there has been a huge hue and cry from the Afghan side against such measures. One fails to understand if Afghan government is sincere in curbing terrorism, why is it non-supportive of practical measures that Pakistan is taking. Time and again Pakistan has stated that it is open to any mechanism that may work for bringing peace in Afghanistan. It strongly backs the “Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process”. Afghan government should also realize that Pakistan acknowledges that peace in Afghanistan is pivotal to peace in Pakistan. If peace in Afghanistan becomes a reality, Pakistan would be the biggest beneficiary. Hence instead of suspecting and implicating Pakistan and shifting blame on Pakistan, the need of the hour is that both the countries should work together to defeat the common enemy i.e. terrorism.

Terrorism surely is not just a problem that is being faced by Pakistan and Afghanistan. It is rather a global issue and requires comprehensive global efforts. In this regard, China has been quite active. Even though it has always stood by the policy of non-intervention and non-interference in other’s internal affairs, but it is always committed to maintaining regional peace, enhancing stability with the aim of promoting shared security, development and prosperity. Recently the Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi visited Afghanistan and specifically expressed that his shuttle diplomacy was to not only revive effort to bring peace in Afghanistan but is predominantly aimed at mediating between Afghanistan and Pakistan and help the reconciliation process. Beyond any geo-political competition, China has never shied from lending a helping hand. Chinese foreign minister expressed satisfaction regarding the progress on reconciliation between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The visit resulted in the consensus on having a crisis management mechanism with an aim of maintaining timely and effective communication in case of emergencies. The three countries also agreed to establish China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Minister’s dialogue mechanism to cooperate on issues of mutual interest, especially the economic interests.

This positive development was further augmented by the fact that the Kabul Process has been appreciated and endorsed by all the three states collectively. Such a collective approach and trust in each other’s intentions is the need of time. Simultaneously it is important to contemplate as to why the previous efforts have not been successful and haven’t yielded the desired results. The renewed efforts with serious conviction is needed. Trust building is another area that continuously needs to be worked upon. Last but not the least, the blame game needs to be done away with. Now that the process has been resumed, it should be made to keep moving forward, addressing inevitable hurdles along the way.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2017/07/31/afghan-peace-process-analysis/>



## *Counterforce, Short-Range Missile and India: Implications for the Region*

*Maimuna Ashraf*

‘Splendid first-strike’ and ‘strategic ambiguity’ are lately being discussed as the twin strong emerging components of Indian nuclear policy. In previous few years, the BJP’s manifesto and views expressed by former Indian officials hinted towards the inside deliberations regarding India’s use of nuclear weapons.

The debate rekindled when the renowned strategist Vipin Narang, at a recently held Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference, cited excerpts from the book of India’s Former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon and claimed the “increasing evidence that India will not allow Pakistan to go first. And that India’s opening salvo may not be conventional strikes trying to pick off just Nasr batteries in the theater, but a full ‘comprehensive counterforce strike’ that attempts to completely disarm Pakistan of its nuclear weapons so that India does not have to engage in iterative tit-for-tat exchanges and expose its own cities to nuclear destruction.”

This stirred up a number of suspicions; First, India is moving from its No-First Use (NFU) policy. Although the stated stance in its official doctrine of 2003, that undertakes massive nuclear retaliation in response to a preemptive strike (by an adversary) to inflict unacceptable damage and nuclear use against chemical/ biological weapons, have had already questioned the sanctity of India’s NFU posture.

The NFU refers to a policy that state possessing nuclear weapon will not use them unless first attacked by an opponent’s nuclear strike. Second, the precept specifies that this strike by India would be ‘counterforce’ that refers to target enemy’s nuclear weapons and military infrastructure rather than existing counter-value strategy, which aims at targeting adversary’s civilians and cities.

In the words of Charles Bolton, Counterforce is “maintenance of superiority in nuclear weapons and their delivery systems sufficient to destroy the enemy’s nuclear striking power, with enough force left over to hold the enemy’s cities hostage against a threat of retaliation by any of his delivery systems that may have escaped the destruction.” Developing a variety of short-range/tactical missiles, having different ranges and yields, infer that a country is holding on to a war-fighting or war-winning strategy.

Analysts have different assessment on the number of weapons needed to implement such a strategy required to be in hundreds. However critics say that “as with tactical nuclear weapons, quality is more important for strategic weapons than quantity. If, as has been suggested already, these weapons should be used only in a counterforce mode, they should need to be extremely accurate. To be sure, not all counterforce strikes require the highest degree of accuracy. Airfields, naval bases, army bases and many military manufacturing facilities are large enough to make it possible for many present-day missiles to hit them with relative ease. But there are certain other military targets, such as missiles silos (those still loaded after the first strike), command headquarters, and communication facilities, that would challenge missile and warhead technology to the utmost.

Nonetheless, weapons capable of hitting these kinds of targets are required for maintaining a credible nuclear deterrent. No doubt, this means that expenditures on these weapons should not be diminished significantly in the future.”

These shifts indicate India is aiming for high level of readiness and launch-on-warning mode of its nuclear arsenals. The trends are consistent to pre-emptive tendency and are paradoxical to Indian stated minimum deterrence posture and centralized command and control. Whereas, the development of shorter range ballistic missiles defy massive retaliation policy.

Previously, the retaliatory policy or NFU gave India a rationale to develop new capabilities and improve range and yield of its nuclear missiles to build defense against opponent. Resultantly, the introduction of Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) and sea-based capabilities in South Asia triggered an unnecessary arms race in the region. Now this latest ambiguous mixture of offensive defensive capabilities is treacherous and confuses the concept of deterrence stability in the region. However, India’s ‘ace in hole’, the flexibility of first use in no-first use policy, if exists, will adversely impact the region. The mounting strategic ambiguities will not only invigorate the ‘use them or lose them’ dilemma in crisis time but also perplex the deterrence posture, induce aggressive strategies, lead to war-fighting capabilities, lower the threshold and increase the alertness level in already murky South Asia.

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/31072017-counterforce-short-range-missiles-and-india-implications-for-region-oped/>



## ***Gilgit-Baltistan and the CPEC***

***S. Sadia Kazmi***

While CPEC is the flagship project of China's BRI initiative, Gilgit-Baltistan takes up the most significant place within CPEC. The crucial link Khunjrab Pass between China and Pakistan wouldn't be possible if the area of Gilgit-Baltistan is taken away from the picture. It would literally render the whole project null. It makes the element of "connection" between China and Pakistan, a reality. Not only that but also provides the economic, cultural and historical linkages between two neighbors. Hence the CPEC will not only be beneficial for the four provinces of Pakistan but will be able to bring in prosperity and further economic benefits to the Gilgit-Baltistan region too. The infrastructural and other projects will draw in more visitors and ultimately has the potential to increase the prospects of trade and tourism. Along with providing connectivity, it reduces distance by offering the shortest possible route up till Gwadar, cutting it down to only 5,000 km from 16,000 km. These factors collectively make Gilgit-Baltistan an important part of CPEC for both China and Pakistan.

However, there are certain hiccups which need to be addressed to make Gilgit-Baltistan most cost-effective. First and foremost, India wrongly yet stubbornly claims its territorial rights over Gilgit-Baltistan region, which as per their version was never part of Pakistan. At the same time the local population of Gilgit-Baltistan, even though is looking forward to all the advancement and infrastructural development promised by the CPEC, they are equally worried about the compensation for their displacement. Simultaneously the provincial rights for Gilgit-Baltistan is also an on-going debate.

The positive aspect is that the locals of the area are indeed in high spirits and are welcoming towards the promised development by the CPEC. The federal government has already provided Rs. 45 billion under Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for the construction of Express Way and to construct link roads between Gilgit and Baltistan region. The work is expected to be completed in three years. At the same time, another road project of 400 km will be constructed from Gilgit to Ghizer, Shandoor, Chitral, Dir and Peshawar. It is believed that the road structure will not only facilitate the proximity but will make it possible and a lot more convenient to deliver the local goods into the Chinese markets. The roads will also help promote tourism industry. The 73,000 sq km region is touted as the paradise for mountaineers and is home to five of the eight peaks that are above 8,000 meters and more than 50 mountains over 7,000 meters. It also has the world's second highest peak L-2 and the Nanga Parbat. The Pak-Army troops are planned to be deployed to make the area and Karakoram Highway safe for the visitors.

Telecommunication is another area where the attention is being focused into. The otherwise ill performing internet and telecommunication infrastructure is being replaced by the most advanced one. Only recently, PM Nawaz Shairf visited the area and laid down the foundation stone of a fibre optic project under CPEC. Laying down of fibre optic line is already underway, that would cover 820 km distance and run between Khujerab to Rawalpindi. This project is expected to be completed in two years at the cost of Rs. 4.4 billion. This virtual connection between the significant nodes of the country makes it a

groundbreaking initiative. Gilgit-Baltistan will surely emerge as a center for high speed internet hub of Pakistan. Its people will be the core beneficiary and will receive the 3G and 4G and other modern telecommunication facilities.

As per the reports, two hydropower projects are exclusively dedicated for this region. A 100 megawatt hydropower project in Gilgit and another 80 megawatt project in Fundar valley and in Ghizer district. The estimated cost of these projects is said to be approx. Rs. 50 billion each. Along with that, there is a plan to establish a regional grid too. This will pool in much needed energy resources for Gilgit. The financial resources, that almost cost up to Rs. 25 billion for this grid will be provided by the federal government.

Diamer Bhasha dam has also been included in CPEC. Since the people are facing shortage of electricity, the Diamer Bhasha dam will help in generating 4500 MW of electricity once completed.

The region is also set to get an economic zone. This will indeed boost trade and commerce. The economic zone will be spread over the area of 250 acres and will have designated industries for agriculture, livestock, minerals and handicrafts. This will generate extensive opportunities for vibrant economic activities.

Hence Gilgit-Baltistan is indeed going to draw maximum benefit from the multibillion dollar CPEC project. There will be immense upgradation in the living standards of the people. The strategic significance of the region has also been increased because of its pivotal position. However, the irritants should also be addressed in parallel to the developmental initiatives in the region. The issue of Kashmir looms large between Pakistan and India and hence increases the vulnerability of the region. Other concerns for the acquisition of community land and the constitutional right should also be given due consideration.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2017/07/31/gilgit-baltistan-cpec/>



## ***Pakistan is Winning India's Traditional Ally "Russia"***

### ***Asia Maqsood***

Since last 70 years, India and Russia remained friends supporting each other, signing lucrative military deals and deepening their bilateral relations on international diplomatic forums. Eventually, in 2016 their bilateral relations have not been on smooth keels. It is pertinent to discuss here that it is the global relations because of which Russia is losing interests in its long term ally and inclined towards Pakistan. According to many observers, Russia is very keen about foreign relations on a long-term basis.

As Russia is well aware of China-Pakistan long term relations and never intended to hurt its partners, so after the West's imposed sanctions after the Crimea's annexation, Russia was seeking strategic partners and the reproached towards China. Furthermore, India's new generation is more attractive for the US. According to a survey conducted by Pew Research Center, there are 70% Indians looking favorably the US and 43% were looking Russia who was supporting India both militarily and diplomatically since last 70 years. According to the same survey, there are 8% Indians look negatively the US and 16% were negative towards Russia. So it can be said that Russia is losing its trustworthiness in India despite the fact that Russia continues to be the key supplier of military weapons to India. However, Putin is the master mind of long term plans in relations with other countries. Eventually, he moved towards the favorable relations with Pakistan. The equation of Russia's relations with South Asian region reveals that where on one side Pakistan is India's traditional rival and trust worthy friend of China, and the rapprochement of Russia towards China with the bonus factor of China's opposition to the US and its global views gives Pakistan more strategic importance. Russia also supported Pakistan on the last BRIC's Summit in Goa in the matter of India's allegations of sponsored terrorism. Recent examples of Russia-Pakistan are three joint military drills since 2014; 2 naval drills (Arabian Monsoon 2014 and Arabian Monsoon 2015) and one is Druzbha 2016, and one is expected in 2017. Both Russia and Pakistan are reportedly holding negotiations on the purchase of Russian S-35 war- planes. Last year, Pakistan bought four Mi-35 helicopter gunships from Russia and in the 12 months, Pakistani army officials have visited Russia on a regular basis searching for new military deals. Resultantly Russian arms manufacturers are persistently increasing their reach to sell their military equipment.

Pakistan is 7th one importer of defense equipment. Regarding these developments, India has serious concerns as India's ambassador to Russia, Pankaj Saran, said, "Russia's military cooperation with Pakistan which is a State that sponsors and practices terrorism as a matter of State policy is a wrong approach, and it will only create further problems." Simultaneously India must be careful about such statements as India's deliberations for the purchase of Russian S-400, stealth frigates and second nuclear submarine from the latter. On the other side, India does not want to lose Russia's new military weapons as it is reportedly intended to pay a whopping \$5 billion to get Russia's revolutionary S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile system which is one of the most advanced anti-missile systems in the whole world. It is a true time to say that Pakistan is winning a lot having two allies Russia and China both simultaneously. However, Russia and China are giving some prospects to Pakistan of becoming a stronger nation. In the South Asia's geostrategic fulcrum China's is keen towards Russia's joining in the recent significant development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Li Xing has written that, "Russia's participation in the CPEC, including the use of the Gwadar Port, could give a boost to Sino-Russian cooperation and be a demonstration project of One Belt and One Road (OBOR) that will enhance future multinational cooperation." According to some observers, China's

eagerness for Russia's joining in CPEC is merely to appease or calm India which is openly opposing CPEC claiming that it passes through their held or occupied territories. As CPEC is part of China's vision for the next era of globalization and helps its export and investment engines run for years in coming future. On the international forum, China has openly opposed India's deliberations in getting participation in Nuclear Supplier Group. One could be optimistic that Russia could play a convincing role in smoothing India-Pakistan bilateral relations that would be the catalyst for the markets in the region.

In the recent developments Pakistan has approved a Russian interest for using the Gwadar Port, for its exports and on the other side, media reports were swirling that Russia planned to merge the Moscow-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) with the CPEC.

In nutshell, the contemporary international political scenario depicts that the whole realignment of global powers in South Asia is favorable for Pakistan if Pakistan would be well aware of its economic, military and fiscal policies in coming future to become the influential and integral part of the upcoming multi-polar new world order with all these developments otherwise it would be a catastrophe for Pakistan if it would be grasped in the major powers' power politics.

<http://southasiajournal.net/pakistan-is-winning-indias-traditional-ally-russia/>