



VISION

VISIONARY INSIGHTS INTO THE STRATEGIC INQUESTS OF NATIONS

SVI FORESIGHT

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2018

Compiled & Edited by:
S. Sadia Kazmi

Strategic Vision Institute
Islamabad

SVI FORESIGHT

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 8
AUGUST 2018

Compiled & Edited by:
S. Sadia Kazmi



Strategic Vision Institute (SVI)

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this edition are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Strategic Vision Institute.

Strategic Vision Institute (SVI)

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

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.

Contents

Editor's Note	1
Possible Challenges for Newly Elected Government and Way Forward	
Fateh Najeeb	3
India's Probable Move towards Space Weaponization	
Ahyousha Khan	6
US Courts India While Ditches Pakistan	
Beenish Altaf	8
Road to Naya Pakistan and Impact on CPEC	
Qura tul Ain Hafeez	10
Pakistan's Nuclear Safety and Security	
Sonia Naz	11
India's STA-1 Status: Implications for Indo-US Ties and Regional Dynamics	
Asma Khalid	13
Elections 2018 — Addressing US Concerns	
Hareem Aqdas	15
Pakistan Not a Threat For Israel: Clearing Misconceptions	
Uzge Amer Saleem	17
US Policy and the Turkish Economic Crisis – Lessons for Pakistan	
Waqas Jan	19
Where Does Pakistan Lie In Recent Spat Between U.S and Turkey?	
Fateh Najeeb	22
INS Arihant Accidents: Question Mark On The Sustainability Of India's Naval Force	
Sonia Naz	24
Call for Naval Nuclear CBM's between South Asian Nuclear Rivals	
Ahyousha Khan	26
India's Secret Nuclear City: Truth behind the Curtains	
Beenish Altaf	28
Why the Negative Vibe around 'First Use' Policy?	
Uzge Amer Saleem	30

Trends in Space Militarization: Implication for South Asia	
Asma Khalid.....	32
SCO Space Mission 2018: Prospects for Peace in the Region	
Sadia Kazmi	34
TAPI Pipeline Project: A Way Forward	
Hareem Aqdas.....	36
Agriculture: A Boon for Pakistan’s Economy and CPEC	
Qura tul Ain Hafeez.....	38
Gwadar: A Linchpin of CPEC	
Sadia Kazmi	40

Editor's Note

This issue of monthly electronic journal primarily sheds light on two significant developments which became more pronounced in the recent times. First is the weaponization of the space which is fast becoming a growing trend among the major powers. India too is ambitiously venturing into this domain by acquiring dual use space technology. India's attempts to weaponize space raise serious concerns for Pakistan as it has serious implications for regional peace and stability. Some articles included in this electronic journal highlight the fact that if India went further ahead with this ambitiousness while Pakistan is also sending its own satellites in space, security situation will only deteriorate due to existing security dilemma between both regional counterparts.

After careful analysis of the facts makes it evident that India is aiming for weaponizing the space. With the recent launch of its indigenous satellites through its own launch vehicle not only for domestic use but also for commercial use, India is becoming confident enough of its space program capabilities.

Readers will find several convincing arguments maintaining that the threats of space weaponization arise from the Indian side owing to its rapid developments in Ballistic Missile Defenses (BMDs) and Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM). Both of these technologies, BMDs and ICBMs, hand in hand, could be used to destroy space based assets.

Second important development is the granting of STA-1 status to India by the US. The analysis presented in this issue particularly deliberates upon the impact of this decision by the US on the security and stability of the South Asian region and the advantages it would accrue for India. The US made yet another special exemption for India after amending its domestic laws and designated India to get into the list of its Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1). By tradition, the countries who are members of the four export control cartels namely Australia Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Wassenaar Arrangement and the NSG have been placed in the STA-1 list by the United States and at present India is the only country that does not fulfill this requirement and still manages to attain the STA-1 status. This move will actually pave the

way for India to get access to the high technology products in the domain of defence sector and civil space particularly. The authors in this issue maintain that recognizing India as a major defence and strategic partner in Asia is not just a symbolic gesture; it's a manifestation of the US strategic goals to counter China in the Indo-Pacific. In the midst of a growing US-China rivalry, the United States is keen to see India play a pivotal role to advance US interests in the region. By placing India on the STA-1 list, the US seems to be sending two strong political messages to China. First, the US is recognizing India's status as a special partner on a similar level to that of South Korea and Japan, which have both received STA-1 status. Second, the US has reiterated its support for India's bid to join the NSG, something which India has not been able to achieve due to China's objection.

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

Possible Challenges for Newly Elected Government and Way Forward

Fateh Najeeb

“The best example of democracy I can recall is five wolves sitting down to dinner with one sheep.”

Charles De Montesquieu once whispered this about the concept of good governance within the democratic governments which sets the first-rate rule for any government in any part of the world even in modern days.

After going through the process of elections, the majority of Pakistanis have given their consensus in the favor of PTI led by Imran Khan to make efforts for the future of Pakistan. Although, there have been allegations of pre-poll and post-poll rigging, but despite these factors PTI has emerged as a powerful political party with its schema of corruption free and educated Pakistan. For many years, PTI has been struggling hard to enter into power corridors with majority of youth, overseas diaspora and people backing it fed up with old-style political forces of country such as PML (N), PPP, ANP and few religious parties, though some might disagree.

This time PTI was able to attain the mandatory number of seats to form a government at federal level. PTI entered into the electoral process with the manifesto of leading change in almost every sphere of Pakistani society and government functioning. Along with a fortifying mandate it has inherited certain challenges on domestic and international fronts. People are expectant of drastic changes and hopes are very high for the newly elected government. But, the real mettle of PTI will be determined by how and whether it will be able to combat all these challenges.

The first and top most contest will be dealing with the issue of accusations of rigging. A transparent body without the involvement of the ECP and other alleged institutions should be setup to remove the grievances and resentment of disparate parties. Once the misgivings are cleared, this will boost the morale of PTI's rule in the general public, as well as among the opposition parties that lost in voting. PTI Chairperson Imran Khan while delivering his speech after the election victory has shown commitment to resolve all issues inside the country and foreign relations with a comprehensive approach, which ostensibly is a very good beginning. PM-elect Imran Khan has clearly identified areas that require leadership's special consideration as they have been lingering for years with no concrete improvement in the due course of history.

On the domestic front, the government has to tackle the issue of the failing economy. The National exchequer is out of balance currently. The rupee is suffering from degradation in comparison to the US dollar. Foreign reserves are extremely low and national debts are increasing at a rapid pace. And imbalance of exports and imports is further deteriorating the current state of affairs. GDP proportion is also not very decent, which is highlighting low productivity. Different sectors like agriculture, services and industrial segments are all showing alarming situations. Pakistan frequently relies on foreign aid and contributions even in making its annual budget to run the state. Karachi being the commercial hub of

Pakistan's economy needs special concentration because the situation there affects the entire country. These poor practices have to be stopped or else national prestige will be lost with no control over autonomously policy making.

Good governance is among other issues to be dealt with by the expert, knowledgeable and honest crew. The former government faced heavy criticism of corruption, malpractices, nepotism and lack of transparency in investing and distribution of development funds. The situation regarding domestic law and order is not very good. Crimes, terrorist attacks and the functioning of police and other law enforcement agencies has been dubious. Attacks on human rights are being unheeded e.g., child abuse, abduction, rape and the restraining freedom of expression have become routine perils of the society with no feeling of shame. Constitutional loopholes and patronage of miscreants by powerful elites add fuel to the fire in such cases. Moral standards of society need to be up stretched to curtail such malevolent activities. Rulers themselves set the examples for the masses to follow. These can only be rooted out via terminating discernment and safeguarding the supremacy of law.

The pursuit of national cohesion can only be attained by giving due consideration to the real problems, including the mainstreaming of neglected areas and attending to dispiriting ethnic conflicts. The terrains falling into the government jurisdiction must have national deliberation so that nobody should feel isolated and neglected in national growth. FATA and Baluchistan need special attention in the contemporary scenario as they have been habitually ignored by the preceding governments. Until the root causes of their glitches are understood, no effort to improve the situation will succeed. Conditions in the interior Sindh and Baluch belt of Baluchistan and South Punjab are not pleasing.

Sectarian violence is another major issue that needs to be synchronized on a priority basis. Dissimilar religious sects are involved in hate speeches thus invoking illiterate masses to use violent means to pursue their objectives. A board comprising of Ullamas of all sects can define an acceptable strategy to curb this hazard. Likewise, the rights of minorities especially Christians, Hindus and Ahmadis should not be allowed to be violated. They are all Pakistanis and they should be given full right to practice their religion according to the constitution. Instability and ferocity only occurs when the rights of certain communities or individuals are not rewarded accordingly.

Political stability is the dire need of Pakistan, along with eliminating the institutional tug of war to undermine each other. This government has to deal with this sensitive issue carefully to dislodge the institutional distrust and to be able to move on to the road of progress and prosperity with collective national wisdom.

In terms of external relations Pakistan should not compromise at any price on its national stature and sovereignty. Kashmir and Afghanistan issues have occupied a majority of our policies emphasis. The solution of these issues is very important for Pakistan's own stability and solidarity. In this context, ties with neighboring countries like India and Afghanistan should be addressed. In this nuclear age no country can afford war. This is an age of peaceful co-existence. The international community has not done enough to resolve these matters, and South Asian nations themselves have to reconcile to

accommodate each other. As a whole, this region is suffering from poverty, illiteracy and a low standard of life. Reducing arms expenditure can benefit the poor majority of both India and Pakistan.

Key powers like the US, China and Russia cannot ignore this part of the world because of its geostrategic significance. Pakistan has to gain maximum results for its own national interest while engaging with these powerful nations. Pakistan's friendly states like Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran and China are vital countries from the Pakistani perspective. Especially the relationship with China should not be bargained for at any cost as only the efficacious completion of CPEC project will upsurge our national income. The foreign investment prone milieu is only possible to be dispensed with if long glooms of terrorism are rooted out. Pakistan's international image should be improved to shelter diplomatic accomplishments. The role of the US is crucial in this region and Pakistan has to deal with the US in its shifting regional alignments especially with regards to its growing intimacy with India.

In a nutshell, it can be avowed that the new government has to come up with high standards on both domestic and international levels, because people are expecting much more than they were from the earlier governments. The economy, law and order, education, health, individual rights and foreign policy are the core areas under spectrum. No development in the regional perspective should be permitted to undermine Pakistan's stature of equality with India at least to secure its endurance. Hopes are high and if unmet will disappoint the public despondently. However, let's stay optimistic and give this government a chance to demonstrate its value. The stalwarts of PTI must be mindful of it and expectedly work for certifying true essence of democracy.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/08082018-pakistan-possible-challenges-to-newly-elected-government-and-way-forward-oped/>

India's Probable Move towards Space Weaponization

Ahyousha Khan

The term Space Weaponization tends to raise alarm as it implies deployment of weapons in the outer space or on heavenly bodies like Sun and Moon or sending weapon from earth to the outer space to destroy satellite capabilities of other states. Thus, space weaponization refers to the actions taken by a state to use outer space as an actual battlefield.

Space militarization on the other hand is a rather less offensive term which stands for utilization of space for intelligence gathering, surveillance and reconnaissance missions through satellites to support forces on ground in the battle field. Space militarization is already in practice by many states. In South Asia, India is utilizing its upper hand in space technology for space militarization.

However, recent concern in this regard is India's attempts to weaponize space, which offers a bleak situation for regional peace and stability. Moreover, if India went further with this ambitiousness when Pakistan is also sending its own satellites in space, security situation will only deteriorate due to existing security dilemma between both regional counterparts.

Threats of space weaponization arise from the Indian side owing to its rapid developments in Ballistic Missile Defenses (BMDs) and Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM). Both of these technologies, BMDs and ICBMs, hand in hand, could be used to destroy space based assets. In theory, after slight changes in algorithms, BMDs are capable of detecting, tracking and homing in on a satellite and ICBM could be used to target the satellites for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Many international scholars agree on the point that BMD systems have not yet acquired sophistication to give hundred percent results in destroying all the incoming ballistic missile, but they sure have the capability to work as anti-satellite systems. The reason behind the BMD being an effective anti-sat system is that it is easier to locate, track and target the satellites because they are not convoyed with decoys unlike missiles which create confusions for the locating and tracking systems.

India possesses both of the above-mentioned technologies and its Defense Research and Development Organization has shown the intention to build anti-satellite weaponry. In 2012, India's then head of DRDO categorically said that India needs an arsenal in its system that could track the movement of enemy's satellite before destroying it, thus what India is aiming at is the credible deterrence capability.

One thing that comes in lime light after analyzing the statement is that India is in fact aiming for weaponizing the space. With the recent launch of its indigenous satellites through its own launch vehicle not only for domestic use but also for commercial use, India is becoming confident enough in its capabilities of space program. This confidence is also making India more ambitious in space program. It is true that treaties regarding outer space only stop states from putting weapons of mass destruction in

outer space. But, destruction of satellites will create debris in outer space that could cause destruction for other satellites in the outer space.

On top of it all the reality cannot be ignored that both Pakistan and India cannot turn every other arena into battlefield. Rivalry between both states has already turned glaciers and ocean into war zones, resultantly affecting the natural habitat of the region. By going for ballistic missile defences and intercontinental ballistic missiles India has not only developed missile technology but also has made significant contribution in anti-sat weaponry, which is alarming, as due to security dilemma, Pakistan will now be ever more compelled to develop capabilities for the security of its satellites.

So far both states are confined till space militarization to enhance the capabilities of their forces, but if that force multiplier in space goes under threat, Pakistan will resort to capability to counter Indian aggression in space as well, which will be the classic action-reaction paradigm. Thus, it is pertinent that India as front runner in space technology develop policy of restraint to control the new arms race in the region which has potential to change the skies and space as we know them.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/08082018-indias-probable-move-toward-space-weaponization-oped/>

US Courts India While Ditches Pakistan

Beenish Altaf

After amending its domestic laws, the US has now designated India to get into the list of its Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1). There was a tweet by Wilbur Ross, US Commerce Secretary that with this new status given to India the US companies and manufacturers seek to reap benefits by protecting the US national security concerns.

The decision of Trump Administration to grant Strategic Trade Authorization-1 status to India came in 2016 when the US announced India as its major defence partner. The step is taken quietly but perilously by the US critics because this move will actually pave the way for India to get access to the high technology products. These high technology sales would include products in defence sector and civil space, particularly.

In the contemporary international security environment, the NSG membership debate has emerged as an urgent issue for the states in Asia. The significance of extending India's stature in this regard is ironic, due to the fact that India is yet to gain the NSG membership.

However, the Indian aspiration of getting NSG membership could be benefitted by this step of the US. By tradition, the countries who are members of the four export control cartels namely Australia Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Wassenaar Arrangement and the NSG have been placed in the STA-1 list by the United States and at present India is the only country that does not fulfill this requirement and still manages to attain the STA-1 status.

With regards to number, India is the third Asian country after Japan and South Korea, and the first South Asian country to get into STA-1 list. Overall, India lands 37th among the states that have been added to the list, unconditionally. Before India, 36 countries enjoyed this status, which are mostly the NATO countries as well. Previously, India was designated as STA-2 countries along with seven others.

Analytically narrating, the Western mixture of incentives tries to bring-in India into the NSG club, making it difficult for Pakistan's candidature. If a fair criterion is adopted for membership of non-Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) states, the absconding credibility of the NSG would get a gasp. Paradoxically, the NSG plays an indispensable role that governs the set of provisions for both nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports. Gradually, the NSG makes sure that it keeps itself updated, effective and credible.

Currently, NSG confronts critical issues with regard to its long-lasting efforts for meeting the principles of non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear technology. However, an ironic incongruity is that the US and India have concluded a strategic partnership in economic, political and military domains. Also, the US is also encouraging the buildup of the Indian military and conniving nuclearization of the Indian Ocean. Since the US is having defense and nuclear cooperation deals with India, it has been the main force behind Delhi's NSG bid here.

Pragmatically the US tilts towards India has actually marked a paradigm shift in the US non-proliferation policy due to its own strategic considerations. Such a major paradigm shift in the US policy is the manifestation of the 'Realist Strategic Thinking' in the US. The US 'Realism' is focused on 'Countering China Policy'. Whereas, China's active role in denying NSG membership to India is a 'Chinese Realism' in response to the 'US Realism' regarding strategic interests in the region.

With regards to Pakistan's reaction to the recent US decision waiving individual licensing requirements for export of high technology products to India, was quite sharp terming the move as the continuation of policies of discrimination. Mohammad Faisal, Foreign Office (FO) spokesman described it as "a disturbing continuation of policies of discrimination and exceptionalism, further eroding the longstanding non-proliferation norms. Pakistan believes all states have the right to acquire and use advanced and dual-use technologies for socio-economic development under appropriate safeguards and without discrimination."

Like the 2005 Indo-US nuclear deal and the subsequent 2008 NSG waiver for India, the recent designation of India into the Strategic Trade Authorizaion-1 list, for that reason would have an adverse effect on the region in terms of destabilizing regional security and undermining the global non-proliferation regime. Last but not the least, the US decisions time-in and time-out with regards to India are a continuation of regional discrimination with disturbing strategic stability of South Asia. Such moves of the US would further erode the longstanding non-proliferation policies and norms.

<https://www.globalvillagespace.com/politics-of-the-west-by-misleading-global-norms/>

Road to Naya Pakistan and Impact on CPEC

Qura tul Ain Hafeez

With the dawn of a new administration in Pakistan after the general elections of July, 2018 the question on most minds is regarding the future of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The prime concern is whether ongoing projects will be carried out peacefully? Will there be any improvement in the CPEC projects and if the investment prospects in Pakistan are still safe and corruption free, will the new government be able to bring peace and prosperity with CPEC as a major constituent in Pakistan's economic growth.

Historically, since the establishment of Sino-Pakistan diplomatic relations-May 21, 1951, Pakistan has experienced a string of events which shattered its political stability and internal peace. Since then varying manifestos of different political parties have remained constant on one thing alone; that Pakistan and China are all weather friends. This notion rests within the core objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy, be it civilian or military rule. However, the hopeful and a positive change between the new government and the previous ones is that unlike its predecessors, the new government promises no deviation in CPEC policies. Being a national developmental policy project CPEC will continue its progress as an international agreement.

Continuing with the progress of the projects under CPEC there are also apprehensions about CPEC's role in economic development under the new political administration. Imran Khan in his speech stated that the new government will play its part to lower the trade deficit and bring trade facilities in Pakistan in terms of business opportunities, CPEC indeed serves as the biggest investment project in the history of Pakistan and holds a great potential to play an effective role in making the *naya* Pakistan a hub of trade and economic activity.

Moreover, along with trade facilitation the new government also claims to bring the overseas Pakistani investment back in the country. Contextualising Pakistan's importance as an agrarian economy, the CPEC Long Term Plan (LTP) envisages viable and effective improvements in the textile and garments industry while increasing the supply of high value-added products. With this new vision the overseas investment in the textile, agricultural and chemical industry can be a good option to promote CPEC and increase the foreign exchange of Pakistan.

One of the core agendas of the administration is to bring peace and prosperity. Now the point to ponder is that how long lasting will that peace be? CPEC also focuses on provincial integration to make Pakistan a peaceful society. There are many security concerns to CPEC as well so it is important to focus on the steps the new government is going to take for the security of the CPEC projects so that it will integrate different parts of Pakistan with the aim to achieve economic development, peace, security, and stability. Last but not the least certain reservations prevail regarding the transparency of CPEC. There are hopes that in the *naya* Pakistan there will be a corruption free society. There seems to be great determination that the CPEC project doesn't fall prey to the menace of corruption.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/280818/road-to-naya-pakistan-and-impact-on-cpec/>

Pakistan's Nuclear Safety and Security

Sonia Naz

Wyn Bowen and Matthew Cottee discuss in their research entitled “Nuclear Security Briefing Book” that nuclear terrorism involves the acquisition and detonation of an intact nuclear weapon from a state arsenal. The world has not experienced any act of nuclear terrorism but terrorists expressed their desires to gain nuclear weapons. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has observed many incidents of lost, theft and unauthorized control of nuclear material. The increased use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes has intensified the threat that terrorist can target these places for acquiring nuclear materials. They cannot build a nuclear weapon because production of a nuclear weapon would require a technological infrastructure. Thus, it is the most difficult task that is nearly impossible because the required infrastructure and technological skills are very high which even a strong terrorist group could not bear easily, but they can build a dirty bomb.

A dirty bomb is not like a nuclear bomb. A nuclear bomb spreads radiation over hundreds of square miles while nuclear bomb could cause destruction only over a few square miles. A dirty bomb would not kill any more people than an ordinary bomb but it would create psychological terror. There is no viable security system for the prevention of nuclear terrorism, but the only possible solution is that there should be a stringent nuclear security system which can halt terrorists from obtaining nuclear materials.

The UN Security Council and the IAEA introduced multilateral nuclear security initiatives. Pakistan actively contributed in all international nuclear security efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism. For example, United States President Barak Obama introduced the process of Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in 2009 to mitigate the threat of nuclear terrorism. The objective of NSS was to secure the material throughout the world in four years.

Pakistan welcomed it and not only made commitments in NSS but also fulfilled it. Pakistan also established a Centre of Excellence (COEs) on nuclear security and hosted workshops on nuclear security. In addition to all this, Pakistan is a signatory of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 and affirms its strong support to the resolution. It has submitted regular reports to 1540 Committee which explain various measures taken by Pakistan on radiological security and control of sensitive materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) transfer. Pakistan is the first country which submitted a report to the UN establishing the fact that it is fulfilling its responsibilities. Pakistan ratified Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) in 2016. It is also the member of Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). It can be rightly inferred that Pakistan is not only contributing in all the international nuclear security instruments but has also taken multiple effective measures at the national level.

Pakistan created National Command Authority (NCA) to manage and safeguard nuclear assets and related infrastructures. The Strategic Plan Division (SPD) is playing a very important role in managing Pakistan's nuclear assets by collaborating with all strategic organizations. Establishment of Pakistan

Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) in 2001 is another development in this regard. The PNRA works under the IAEA advisory group on nuclear security and it is constantly improving and re-evaluating nuclear security architecture. National Institute of Safety and Security (NISAS) was established under PNRA in 2014. Pakistan has also adopted the Export Control Act to strengthen its nuclear export control system. It deals with the rules and regulations for nuclear export and licensing. The SPD has also formulated a standard functioning procedure to regulate the conduct of strategic organizations. Christopher Clary discusses in his research “Thinking about Pakistan’s Nuclear Security in Peacetime” that Pakistan’s nuclear arsenals are equipped with Permissive Action Links (PALs) for its stringent security. According to Pakistan’s former nuclear scientist Samar Mubarakmand, every Pakistani nuclear arsenal is now fitted with a code-lock device which needs a proper code to enable the arsenal to explode.

Nonetheless the nuclear terrorism is a global concern and reality because terrorist organizations can target civilian nuclear facility in order to steal nuclear material. The best way to eradicate the root of nuclear terrorism is to have a stringent nuclear security system.

Western media and outsiders often propagate that Pakistan’s nuclear arsenals can go into the wrong hands i.e. terrorists, but they do not highlight the efforts of Pakistan in nuclear security at the national and international level. The fact is that Pakistan has contributed more in international nuclear security efforts than India and it has stringent nuclear security system in place.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2018/08/14/pakistans-nuclear-safety-and-security/>

India's STA-1 Status: Implications for Indo-US Ties and Regional Dynamics

Asma Khalid

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Department of Commerce granted India the Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) status, a designation that paves the way for greater high-technology trade between the United States and India, particularly in the defense sector. Joining a group of 36 other countries, India is only the third Asian country (following South Korea and Japan) to achieve this status, which has generally only been granted to the United States' NATO allies. In the midst of a U.S.-India trade war and disputes over U.S. sanctions on Iran, India receiving STA-1 status is a noteworthy development. India's STA-1 authorization opens the door to closer defense ties between India and the United States, which is a clear component of the United States' Indo-Pacific strategy. This designation also seems to be sending a message to regional powers in Southern Asia.

What is STA-1?

The Strategic Trade Authorization (STA) license exception permits the export of controlled dual-use, sensitive U.S. technologies to certain countries under specific conditions. India joins 36 other countries that have received permission to acquire and import controlled technologies and items from the United States under the STA-1 status, the highest level of STA exception, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Canada, Turkey, Poland, and South Korea. Previously, India was designated as an STA-2 country, with the likes of South Africa, Israel, and Taiwan. Significantly, major regional powers such as China and Pakistan do not enjoy such an exception.

Significance for Indo-U.S. Relations

The provision of STA-1 status to India comes after the United States recognized India as a Major Defense Partner in 2016. Although their relationship has been somewhat strained in recent months due to an ongoing tariff war and the United States' decision to postpone its 2+2 dialogue with India citing "unavoidable reasons," India's inclusion in the STA-1 list is a manifestation of its strategic importance for the United States. According to the Trump administration's recent announcement regarding India's STA-1 status, India and the United States will continue to engage in bilateral efforts on export control cooperation in order to "recognize the full potential of the strategic partnership between the two countries." Both states reiterated their commitment to increase cooperation in defense, civil space, and other high-technology sectors.

However, there is an additional significance to India receiving STA-1 status. In order to acquire this status, states must meet certain criteria, namely becoming the signatories of the four global export control regimes: the Missile Technology Control Regime, Wassenaar Arrangement, Australia Group, and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). While India is a member of the first three regimes, its attempts to join the NSG have so far been unsuccessful, largely due to Chinese opposition. The Trump administration's decision to grant India STA-1 status is significant because, for the first time, the U.S.

government is permitting access and export control of high technology to a state that is not yet a member of the NSG. Though India received an NSG waiver in 2008, it has redoubled efforts in recent years to achieve full NSG membership. The Trump administration's STA-1 announcement notes the United States' commitment to "ultimately facilitate India's full membership in the four multilateral export control regimes," indicating that this step could benefit India's aspiration of receiving NSG membership.

Regional Implications

India's STA-1 status will further boost U.S.-India defense trade ties by allowing India to import a wider range of defense-related technology from U.S. companies. At the Indo-Pacific Business Forum, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross stated that "STA-1 provides India with greater supply chain efficiency, both for defense and for other high-tech products." This increasing Indo-U.S. strategic partnership is motivated by U.S. aspirations to use the "India Card" to pursue its foreign policy and strategic objectives, as well as India's aspiration to maintain military dominance in the South Asian region. Ultimately, providing defense technology to India under STA-1 will serve the United States' geopolitical goals.

Recognizing India as a major defense and strategic partner in Asia is not just a symbolic gesture; it's a manifestation of U.S. strategic goals to counter China in the Indo-Pacific. In the midst of a growing United States-China rivalry, the United States is keen to see India play a pivotal role to advance U.S. interests in the region. By placing India on the STA-1 list, the United States seems to be sending two strong political messages to China. First, the United States is announcing India's status as a special partner on a similar level to that of South Korea and Japan, which have both received STA-1 status. Second, the United States has reiterated its support for India's bid to join the NSG, something which India has not been able to achieve due to Chinese objection.

Because India's new STA-1 status is significant for India's defense industry, it also carries inevitable implications for South Asia, particularly Pakistan. The United States' support of India's regional policies and India's military modernization efforts is a matter of concern for regional states, particularly Pakistan, because such developments have the capacity to instigate security dilemma and an arms race among nuclear neighbors. Therefore, it is imperative for Pakistan to develop viable policies, such as to promote defense cooperation with Russia and a closer relationship with China, so it can further strengthen itself economically and militarily to balance against a growing Indo-U.S. strategic partnership.

<https://southasianvoices.org/indias-sta-1-implications-indo-us-regional-dynamics/>

Elections 2018 — Addressing US Concerns

Hareem Aqdas

General elections were held in Pakistan on July 25, 2018. The elections were held after the successful completion of a five year term by the outgoing government. In their aftermath, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, led by ex-cricket captain turned politician, Imran Khan turned out to be the single largest party at the national level.

Numerous countries and organizations expressed their views about the elections. India, the perceived foe of Pakistan, had some good things to say. Prime Minister Narendra Modi contacted Khan and congratulated him on the success of his party. Modi expressed his hope that democracy would prevail in Pakistan, and that it was now the time for peace and development in South Asia. The spokesperson from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Mr Raveesh Kumar, expressed his hope for amiable bilateral relations with Pakistan and said, “India desires a prosperous and progressive Pakistan at peace with its neighbours. We hope that the new Government of Pakistan will work constructively to build a safe, stable, secure and developed South Asia, free of terror and violence”. According to the previous Indian Chief Election Commissioner, SY Quraishi, also a member of the international observers group in Pakistan, the election system was transparent, free and fair.

International organizations like the United Nations and European Union also expressed a positive view of the elections. UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric applauded the Election Commission for their efforts, observing positive energy related to training and hard work to improve the inclusion of women, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups, as well as first-time voters, in the electoral process.

A European Union delegation was present in Pakistan during the elections as observers. The EU’s observing delegate, Michael Gahler, stated that “The election results are credible”. The Free and Fair Election Network, an election watchdog, commented that “the 2018 polls were more transparent in certain aspects, compared to the previous elections. Significant improvements in the quality of critical electoral processes inspired greater public confidence”.

Even though the U.S. State Department had no observers in Pakistan during the elections, due to security concerns, they refused to confirm that the elections were free and fair. The State Department expressed concern over reports regarding limits on freedom of expression before the polls. It was said the US will look for opportunities to collaborate with the new government “to advance goals of security, stability, and prosperity in South Asia”. State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert congratulated Pakistan, prominently its women, for mustering up the courage to vote despite the violent circumstances surrounding the election.

It has to be pointed out that the US has always been a keen supporter of democracy in Pakistan. This is why; during this period of successful democratic transition in Pakistan, the US should have supported the country on this achievement, rather than rejecting the outcome completely. Pakistan-US

relations have not been cordial after the rise of the Trump administration, particularly after January 2018. The situation has been further aggravated with the new PTI government, who do not have a positive reputation in Washington.

It is suspected that the US has reservations over Khan's regime, alleging its anti-US and pro-Taliban. After the warning from US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to the new Pakistan government, the officials have said that Khan can complicate negotiations between American diplomats and the Taliban over the end of the war in Afghanistan, fraying an already tense relationship between the nuclear-armed Islamic nation, and the Trump administration. The US now wishes to conclude the war in Afghanistan by initiating talks with the Taliban, and they need Pakistan's help, with many expecting the group to rather listen to Imran, than the US.

If relations between the two countries are expected to improve then an effort has to be made by both sides. The US should be more accepting of the new Pakistan government and the election results, and lend a hand of cooperation for a stronger democracy in Pakistan. The US should take note that every other country and organisation had nothing but positive messages for the government elect and the US should also give Khan a chance to prove his worth, particularly in areas of mutual interest, such as Afghanistan.

On the other hand, Pakistan should try and alleviate the US' reservations over the new government and the Taliban issue. They should help the US in ending the costly war in Afghanistan, and restore relations between the two nations, as they have enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship for many years.

Pakistan needs a friend like the US for its own interests. It cannot expect to cut all ties with it and put all its eggs in one basket — China. It is to be taken into consideration by the new government to remove the US' reservations and work positively on something that can benefit both nations.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/283577/elections-2018-addressing-us-concerns/>

Pakistan Not a Threat For Israel: Clearing Misconceptions

Uzge Amer Saleem

Ever since 1998; the beginning of Pakistan's nuclear age, the state's self-defense mechanism has been a source of worry and unrest for India and the US. Both these states never really accepted that a small state like Pakistan could develop the prestigious asset and was now well capable of defending itself against external threats. US opposed the program on the grounds that it had been tested after the signing of NPT and that it is an "illegitimate" program. Their basic concern was Pakistan not being a party to NPT and US non-proliferation efforts failing. India, though very much against the program, could not openly oppose it on the same grounds because its own Nuclear Program had the same issue i.e. it was tested after the signing of NPT and they had also not signed the treaty.

There are a lot of ambiguities surrounding Pakistan's nuclear program which are there intentionally for the benefit and security of the program and state. However, there is one thing which has been kept very clear since day one and that is the Indo centric nature of Pakistan's nuclear program. The program was developed because the conventionally strong next door neighbor had developed their program. Pakistan, in an attempt to ensure territorial security, had to develop its own program as well. US, China, Russia, France or the UK were never a threat to Pakistan nor was Pakistan on their attack agenda. India on the other hand was in close territorial proximity, a historic enemy, conventionally stronger and now also a nuclear power. After evaluating all these factors any national strategist would suggest a nuclear program for Pakistan and that is exactly what the state did.

There have been news in an Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, that Pakistan is more of a threat to Israel than Iran. This was published on 20 May, 2018. The grounds for this allegation have been identified as Pakistan's growing arsenal and other similar reasons which have always been popular in the western policy circles. Iran, a conventional enemy, one with which there have been numerous conflicts, has been ruled out as a threat to Israel since they do not have a nuclear arsenal.

However, there are many concrete facts that have been ignored in this propagating debate. For instance Pakistan has had no wars with Israel. Both the states have never even been on the verge of an all-out war. The states have never even had a conflict that could've led to war. Although Iran does not have a nuclear arsenal at present but that did not stop the states from indulging into conflicts before and although initiating a nuclear war might not be a possibility for Iran but a conventional war is very much within their skill set.

Pakistan is already indulged in a two front defense strategy on its eastern and western borders. The Taliban threat from the west and the ever present Indian threat from the east, particularly along the line of control is already consuming most of the state's energy, attention and resources. Under such circumstances, jumping into any sort of venture as far as Israel without any apparent or direct conflict seems like an amateur move which is not expected from Pakistan whatsoever. If any linkages are being made based on the fact that Iran and Israel have cordial ties then they are weak to begin with. On the other hand India and Iran have more than friendly ties and India's nuclear arsenal is growing rapidly with

the US help. However, this does not mean that just because India is a nuclear state and a friend of Iran, it will be inclined to attack Israel.

Pakistan's nuclear program is solely for the safety and security of the nation against any external threat. The program is not for the state to pick and choose enemies and start non-existing conflicts. That is definitely not how Pakistan intends to use its resources and deviate from the real agenda which is to protect the state of Pakistan. The only condition under which Pakistan would use its nuclear weapons against any state would be if they choose to attack the territory of Pakistan in a nuclear or non-nuclear manner. The state has been absolutely clear about this from the very beginning of its nuclear era.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2018/08/15/pakistan-not-a-threat-for-israel-clearing-misconceptions/>

US Policy and the Turkish Economic Crisis – Lessons for Pakistan

Waqas Jan

Over the last week, the Turkish Lira dominated world headlines as the currency continues to plunge against US dollar. Currently, at the dead center of a series of verbal ripostes between Presidents Donald Trump and Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the rapidly depreciating Lira has taken center stage amidst deteriorating US-Turkey relations that is wreaking havoc across international financial markets. Considering Pakistan's current economic predicament, the events unfolding in Turkey offer important lessons to the dangers of unsustainable and unrealistic economic policies, within a dramatically changing international scenario. This holds particular importance for Pak-US relations within the context of the impending IMF bailout.

In his most recent statements, Mr. Erdogan has attributed his economy's dire state of affairs as an 'Economic War' being waged against it by the United States. President Trump too has made it evident that the latest rounds of US sanctions that have been placed on Turkey are directly linked to its dissatisfaction with Ankara for detaining American Pastor Andrew Brunson. Mr. Brunson along with dozens of others has been charged with terrorism and espionage for his purported links to the 2016 attempted coup against President Erdogan and his government. There is thus a modicum of truth to Mr. Erdogan's claims that the US sanctions are in fact, being used as leverage against the weakening Lira and the Turkish economy as part of a broader US policy.

However, to say that the latest US sanctions alone are the sole cause of Turkey's economic woes is a gross understatement. The Lira has for some time remained the worst performing currency in the world; losing half of its value in a year, and dropping by another 20% in just the last week. Just to put the scale of this loss in to perspective, the embattled currency was trading at about 2 Liras to the dollar in mid-2014. The day before yesterday, it was trading at about 7 Liras to the dollar.

While the Pakistani Rupee has also depreciated quite considerably over the last few months, its recent drop (-17% against the dollar over the past 12 months) pales in comparison to the sustained and exponential downfall of the Lira. Yet, both the Turkish and Pakistani economies are at a point where they are experiencing an alarming dearth of foreign exchange reserves that have in turn dramatically increased their international debt obligations.

The ongoing financial crises in both Turkey and Pakistan are similar to the extent that both countries have pursued unsustainable economic policies for the last few years. These have been centered on increased borrowing on the back of overvalued currencies. While this approach had allowed both governments to finance a series of government investments in various projects, the long term implications of this accumulating debt has now caught up with them dramatically. As a result, both countries may soon desperately require IMF assistance; assistance, that in recent times, has become even more overtly conditional on meeting certain US foreign policy requirements.

In the case of Pakistan, these objectives may coincide with recent US pressures to ‘do more’ regarding the Haqqani network; or a deeper examination of the scale and viability of the China- Pakistan Economic Corridor. With regards to the latter, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has clearly stated that American Dollars, in the form of IMF funds, to Pakistan should not be used to bailout Chinese investors. The rationale being that a cash-strapped Pakistan is more likely to adversely affect Chinese interests as opposed to US interests in the region at the present. The politics behind the ongoing US-China trade war add even further relevance to this argument.

In the case of Turkey however, which is a major NATO ally, an important emerging market, and a deeply integrated part of the European financial system, there is a lot more at stake in terms of US interests. Turkey’s main lenders comprise largely of Spanish, French and Italian banks whose exposure to the Lira has caused a drastic knock on effect on the Euro. The ensuing uncertainty and volatility that has arisen is likely to prove detrimental to the US’s allies in the EU as well as in key emerging markets across South America, Africa and Asia. This marks the latest example of the US’s departure from maintaining and ensuring the health of the global financial system, as a leading economic power.

Yet, what’s even more unsettling is the fact that while the US is wholly cognizant of these wide-ranging impacts, it remains unfazed in pursuing its unilateral objectives. This is perhaps most evident in the diminishing sanctity of the NATO alliance as a direct outcome of these actions. After the US, Turkey is the second biggest contributor of troops within the NATO framework. As relations between both members continue to deteriorate, Turkey has been more inclined to gravitate towards expanding Russian influence. In effect, contributing to the very anti-thesis of the NATO alliance. The recent dialogues between Presidents Erdogan and Putin, in the wake of US sanctions point markedly towards this dramatic shift.

Based on the above, it has become increasingly evident that US actions have come to stand in direct contrast to the Post-Cold War status quo, which it had itself help set up and maintain over the last three decades. It is rather, the US’s unilateral interests that have now taken increasing precedence over its commitments and leadership of major multilateral frameworks such as the NATO, and the Bretton Woods institutions. This approach while allowing greater flexibility to the US has however come at the cost of ceding space to a fast rising China and an increasingly assertive Russia. The acceleration of both Pak-China and Russo-Turkish cooperation present poignant examples of these developments.

However, while it remains unclear as to how much international influence US policy-makers are willing to cede to the likes of China and Russia over the long-term, their actions have made it clear that US policy and the pursuit of its unilateral objectives would no longer be made hostage to the Geo-Politics of key regions. These include key states at the cross-roads of the world’s potential flash-points such as Turkey and Pakistan.

Therefore, both Turkey and Pakistan would be well advised to factor in these reasons behind the US’s disinterest in their economic and financial predicaments. Especially since both Russia and China are still quite a way from being able to completely supplant the US’s financial and military influence across

the world; perhaps a greater modicum of self-sufficiency and sustainability is in order to weather through these shifting dynamics.

<https://www.voj.news/us-policy-and-the-turkish-economic-crisis-lessons-for-pakistan/>

Where Does Pakistan Lie In Recent Spat Between U.S and Turkey?

Fateh Najeeb

Old cronies Turkey and the US have recently come to the cross roads owing to the distrust arising out of the detention of the US pastor Andrew Brunson who has been accused of anti-Turkish state activities. This has resulted in harboring counter measures against Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkey. In response, the US authorities detained Turkish employees working in US embassy. The situation further worsened with the imposition of economic sanctions on Turkey by the US. Adding fuel to fire, the US president Donald Trump took a disastrous step of increasing tariffs on steel and aluminum trade with Turkey. Consequently, Turkish economy has come under turmoil. Turkish Lira has dropped down to a considerable level in comparison to the American dollar thus disturbing the balance of payments, increased exchange rates and mounting debts. According to the fact sheet the American pastor was involved in failed coup of 2016 against Erdogan's government. So far, there are no signs of improvement in bi-lateral relations.

Historically, Turkey and the US have relished a longer period of friendship starting from being the Cold-War associates to the NATO allies. Both nations have also been in harmony on numerous international issues. Whether it is the 'War on Terror' or situation in the Middle East, there has been mutual understanding on both sides. But, the sudden rift in their relations has astonished many analysts across the globe. Few link it to the unpredictable 'Trumpian' philosophy while others consider it as the deterioration of the U.S. and Turkey's earlier alliance significance in each other's eyes. Whatever the case may be, one thing is certain, that this indicates the shifting of the US focus from NATO allies. One example of this kind of trend in the US policies can be seen from Trump's statements about EU in which he said that the EU members have to lift their own burden. Another reason behind this changed behavior towards Turkey is the US hawkish perception about Recep Tayyip Erdogan's popularity within the Muslim world and in the international affairs, raising alarms for the US as it might be losing influence on Turkey. Resultantly, Turkey is being made to suffer heavy economic losses, inflation, and trade barriers caused by the U.S.

For Pakistan it is a high time to show solidarity and stand with Turkey. In the past, Turkey has always supported Pakistan in regional and global affairs. Whether it is the Kashmir issue or Afghanistan crisis, there has been a shared confidence on both sides. Both states share deep rooted cultural and religious bonds. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is an exemplary manifestation of economic ties. Militarily, both states have collaborated with each other in critical times. Also, Turkey and Pakistan are enduringly engaged in joint exercises, sharing of advance technology, equipment and training of their troops to combat enemy forces. It won't be beyond exaggeration to say that Turkey is the only Muslim country which supports Pakistan without pre-conditions.

Newly elected premier of Pakistan Imran Khan has openly assured Turkey its support through thick and thin in this contemporary unrealistic pressure of the US, which only aims at proving its hegemonic intent. Pakistan's foreign office has officially condemned the US policy of undermining

Turkey and interfering in its internal affairs. To what extent Pakistan would be able to consistently support Turkey morally, diplomatically and if possible economically is the point to consider. Currently, Pakistan is not on good terms with the super power US because of the unfounded suspicions about Pakistan's role in 'war against terror' and efforts for stability in Afghanistan. This ongoing trend of relations between the US and Pakistan doesn't present a hopeful picture as Pakistan cannot completely break off with the US. Considering the geo-strategic environment of South Asia, it wouldn't be a wise move by Pakistan to isolate itself from the US. But, the earlier "carrot and stick policy" adopted by the US cannot be tolerated by Pakistan anymore which Pakistan condemns in the context of Turkish-US dispute. Pakistan stands with the every state's intrinsic right to preserve its sovereignty and national prestige along with securing its interests. Even though there is a hope that Russia and China come forward in support of Turkey, Pakistan is yet to take any concrete steps in this rattle.

Although the US on one side and Turkey on the other present Pakistan with a tricky situation, nevertheless, it has to pick one as being neutral is not a choice anymore. It is in Pakistan's national interest to support Turkey which is setting an example for developing states denying unjust oppression in regional and global affairs. Pakistan's foreign policy formulation and principles resonate with the golden rule of helping Turkey like trustworthy friends in tough times. Although, the fears arising out of the international pressure under U.S. provocation may concern Pakistan in case of strongly supporting Turkey against the U.S., but this is the tangible test of Pakistani policy circles to follow the nation's aspirations.

The US under Trump administration is pursuing pragmatic tactic based on Republicans age old dogmatic policy of being hardliners in ascertaining its dominance via 'real politik'. But this time, it's not an easy task to bend Turkey by causing it economic suffering and holding its national interests at stake. Strong Turkish leadership has shown commitment to face this encounter and Turkish nation is right behind their headship. Friendly countries like Pakistan are supposed to aid it during this threatening period to strengthen Turkey and augment their relationship. Pakistan should also make diplomatic efforts to mediate between belligerents according to its capability. UNO, OIC and other international platforms can prove helpful in lessening the heat. Much counts on the novel leadership of Pakistan along with military establishment to disseminate one point agenda on this issue.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2018/08/27/where-does-pakistan-lie-in-recent-spat-between-u-s-and-turkey/>

INS Arihant Accidents: Question Mark On The Sustainability Of India's Naval Force

Sonia Naz

The Indian navy inducted first indigenously built nuclear-armed submarine, the INS Arihant in 2009. It was jointly developed by the Indian Navy, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) at the naval shipyard in Visakhapatnam. Russian engineers assisted in building the vessel.

India has leased 16 diesel-electric submarines from Germany and Russia. However, the weakness with diesel electric submarines is that they cannot stay under water for a long time. Conventional diesel-electric submarines have to ascend to the surface each day to discharge carbon dioxide produced by the generator. Nuclear-powered submarines can stay under water for long durations without being detected. Many observers claim that it is first operational Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear (SSBN) asset of India which can stay hidden deep underwater for a long period. According to them it would also play an increasing role in the country's nuclear deterrence because it is capable of launching ballistic missile carrying nuclear warheads from the depth of the ocean. It has four sea-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) tubes. Its four tubes have the capability to operate a short range SLBM (K-15 Sagarika) estimated at 750 km and future versions of the class will be capable of firing long range (estimated at 3,500 km) K-4s. Arihant is operated by 100 men with extensive training from the School for Advanced Underwater Warfare in Visakhapatnam. India now joins a small group of states that are capable of indigenously building nuclear submarines. Indian former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, professed that the indigenously built submarine would be used for self defence. The name Arihant originates from two words "Ari" meaning enemy and "Hant" meaning destroy.

Some observers also claim that the emergence of the INS Arihant raises India's status as a rising naval power because its deployment in the Indian Ocean will strengthen Indian naval force projection. The reality is that Arihant has faced many accidents, and if it could not save itself from those mishaps how could it possibly raise the status of India? INS Arihant, has suffered major damage and has been out of commission for more than nine months in 2018. The cause of the damage is the water that rushed in because a hatch on the left side remained open by mistake. India has never established a nuclear submarine before, has never operated an SSBN, and holds very limited experience. Not only now it possesses a damaged Arihant, but it also puts a question mark on the Indian \$2.9 billion project and naval force.

The Arihant case is not astonishing because Indian navy doesn't show a good record in recent years in handling its conventional and nuclear-powered submarine forces. Before, the damage of Arihant India faced an accident of INS Chakra which was leased from Russia. In 2013 INS Sindhurakshak after the Kilo-class submarine agonized a major detonation during berthing in Mumbai. This incident was caused by human error and has taken the lives of eighteen sailors. In 2014, INS Sindhuratna, an

Indian Kilo-class submarine, experienced a fire incident on board and two crewmen died in this incident due to asphyxiation. That incident did not occur due to human error, but because of the poor maintenance of the vessel.

Most scholars claimed that the SSBN force may have serious effects on Pakistan and China with endangering arms race in the region. Simply it is not reality, because India's navy could not improve submarine operations and maintenance and it is facing technical difficulties. The first technical challenge is the successful integration of ballistic missiles with the nuclear submarine. India could not make considerable progress in developing underwater deterrence. It needs more efforts to overcome all these technical problems to launch a robust triad. It is not difficult to predict that a fully operational nuclear submarine would take 10 to 20 years. The first few submarines, including, INS Arihant is as a technology demonstrator rather than a vigorous deterrent projector. Arihant has faced many problems from the start and still experiencing repairs for damage. The performance of these vessels belongs to the first and second generation of SSBNs. For the sea based deterrence India needs S-5 vessel and a powerful reactor, which will take two decades more.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2018/08/27/ins-arihant-accidents-question-mark-on-the-sustainability-of-indias-naval-force/>

Call for Naval Nuclear CBM's between South Asian Nuclear Rivals

Ahyousha Khan

In complex and dynamic South Asian security structure, new security concerns are evolving without the previous ones being resolved, leading to further deterioration of regional security. Security dynamics of region are dominated by the power play between nuclear arch rivals of the region – India and Pakistan. Even before their nuclearization, both states went for an all-out war with each other and their animosity and mistrust eventually led to the nuclearization of the region. Since their overt nuclearization in 1998 both states have not ventured into an all-out war but that does not mean that all is well between both nuclear rivals.

According to recent trend of arms buildup and weaponization in the region one can easily predict that although fear of mutual vulnerability has stopped both sides to attack each other but it is failing in halting the arms race in the region. However, appalling aspect in this arms race is that it has no bounds and it is spreading into ocean, space and cyber space as well, which is causing destruction of natural and virtual habitat. Recently, both states are all rage about naval nuclearization to achieve credible second strike capability or to acquire deterrence at all levels of conflict. After witnessing India's rapid naval build-up which includes air-craft carrier, conventional submarines, naval fleets, ballistic and cruise missiles like (K4-K15, Sagarika, Brahmos and Dhanush), indigenously built fleets of SSBNs and SSNs, Pakistan also went ahead with achieving the second strike capability in order to extend deterrence at all levels of conflicts.

Making its borders secure is the inalienable right of every state and so is the protection of its interests. But, it is also the obligation on every state to reduce the chances of accidental conflicts, crisis or war, if there are any, for the peace, stability and welfare of the people. One thing that the Cold War should have taught the belligerent South Asia neighbors is that there is no end to arms race; once deterrence is acquired it should not be tested with new doctrinal thoughts or new technological innovations. States' policies, doctrines and technological innovations compel them to pie-up fancy weaponry by resorting to continuous arms build-up. This surely has repercussions. Similarly, weaponization in the sea while difficult is quite dangerous. It is managed through different mechanisms and requires a lot of time. Talking particularly about the Indian Ocean, it probably shouldn't have been nuclearized and militarized in the first place. The seas remain to be the main source proving line of communication. However, since the Indian Ocean is now already nuclearized, the need is for both India and Pakistan to work out the measures which would help avoid accidental conflicts as both parties are new to this arena and are eagerly flexing their muscles.

Thus, to avoid nuclear clash and accidental nuclear conflicts it is necessary that both states revive dialogue process as offensive attitudes will not help the either side in achieving their interests. Level of alertness, command, control systems and vessels with dual capabilities has further complicated the sea based operations and add an element of ambiguity to it. Both India and Pakistan are newbies in naval nuclear technology, thus, chances of accidents are highly likely. So, it is pertinent that both states

develop and keep the communication channels open through which any probable naval nuclear accident should be communicated to the other side. Establishment of Hotline between naval officers of both states could be one of the significant means of communication to avoid any confusion and ambiguity in the event of accident or crisis.

Both India and Pakistan are developing new missile technologies, especially cruise missiles and are tipping them with nuclear weapons to be used in naval ships and in naval submarines. Both states already have CBMs about pre-notification of ballistic missile tests, but it does not entail the cruise missiles. So considering latest developments it is necessary that both states sign certain CBMs regarding missile tests.

Although general perception is that CBMs in South Asia have not achieved much but in complex nuclear environment where animosity is at peak faith in these small initiatives to reflect goodwill can perform miracles and resultantly can reduce the distrust, animosity, tension and conflict.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2018/08/27/call-for-naval-nuclear-cbms-between-south-asian-nuclear-rivals/>

India's Secret Nuclear City: Truth behind the Curtains

Beenish Altaf

It is necessary to draw attention of the international arena towards Indian growing nuclear desires that would have serious implications for the regional security and strategic stability. Pakistan's former foreign office spokesman, Mr. Nafis Zakaria actually disclosed the secret of Indian clandestine involvement in the establishment of a huge nuclear city at Chellakere, Karnataka also called as 'Thermonuclear City'.

Although the information on the subject is kept under the wraps by Indian officials but the known facts/reports have been leaked by certain concerned groups. In this regard, the news got exposed in 2012 initially by independent researchers and retired Indian military analysts and scientists working on Indian growing nuclear facilities. There are two agencies involved in the project that are operating secretly. It is believed to be the largest military complex in the subcontinent involved in the weapons, technologies testing, atomic research laboratories aircraft testing facilities, and military-run complex of nuclear centrifuges. It would also expand the Indian government's nuclear research, to produce fuel for India's nuclear reactors, and to help power the country's fleet of new nuclear submarines.

The aim and objective behind Indian aspirations is to match a number to number nuclear weapons capability with China primarily but is equally implacable to Pakistan as well. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) 2018 report, released recently narrates about Indian stock of nuclear warheads that it is even more than a 100 warheads, which is quite an alarming ultimatum. Likewise, India has been reported to be on the top five countries that are involved in arms imports which altogether account for 35% of totals arms imports in the world.

The expansion of India's thermonuclear program would position the country alongside the United States, United Kingdom, China, Russia, France, and Israel, which already have significant stockpiles of such nuclear weapons.

Since India is already expanding its size of nuclear arsenals, the existence of India's secret nuclear city draws attention towards India's desire to become a global power. According to Indian media reports, the nuclear city close to Chellakere is ringed by a security perimeter of thousands of military and paramilitary guards. One should welcome India's overreaching nuclear ambitions but it should not be at the cost of betraying regional peace and stability. Ironically, its excuse of matching the nuclear arsenal of China and Pakistan does not cut ice, owing to the fact that number-game matters little while attaining a credible nuclear weapons capability.

However, due to above mentioned espousing weaponry expansion and military enlargement by India, it became compulsory for Pakistan to respond to these threats at the tactical level, the counter-force level, and the counter-value level. It needs to cover all levels of threat. Pakistan calls its weapons as Weapons of Peace that reduces the threat and probability of a full-fledge war. It should be taken into

account that the strategic stability in South Asia was not just about Pakistan and India; instead it involves China and the US into the sphere.

Paradoxically, despite bringing all the above issue into lime light, Western concerns are not up to the mark in bringing in India into the mainstream of nuclear safety and security culture. Contrarily, Pakistan's nuclear concerns remained on the US screens yet in the absence of any recognized security failure the Western think tanks continued to pressurize Pakistan in or the other way to move towards limiting its element of sovereignty. No matter what the verdicts were: either to roll back or cap off, or to normalize or limit the nuclear weapons. Well, conspicuously the US is not forcing India to take any precautionary and safety measures, the way that it should. The US administration is instead going to avoid any friction that might disrupt a planned expansion of US military sales to India.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2018/08/27/indias-secret-nuclear-city-truth-behind-the-curtains/>

Why the Negative Vibe around 'First Use' Policy?

Uzge Amer Saleem

A country's conventional, diplomatic, political or economic policy is important however is about the nuclear policy of any state it automatically becomes a highly sensitive and crucial matter. In a case like India and Pakistan, especially, when the rivals have been engaged in three major wars and one small-scale conflict along with everyday skirmishes along the border, the nuclear policy assumes great importance. In fact, the entire nuclear politics and its dynamics are of great interest not only for scholars of both states but also for the international experts. Starting from 1998, Pakistan's nuclear policy has been surrounded with ambiguity for the state's own strategic motives. India, on the other hand, has a De Jure open and clear nuclear policy but the De facto situation is not quite the same.

The scholars from the Indian side claim that the reason for their smooth terms with western states is due to the fact that they have a "No First Use" policy for their nuclear program. Yes, this is true that this term exists in the Indian Nuclear policy circles however, this term is attached to certain if's and but's i.e. there are some conditions attached to this infamous NFU policy. India claims to stick to NFU with an exception of a chemical or biological attack. This implies that in case of a chemical or biological attack NFU does not apply and the Indian army is very much likely to go ahead with a nuclear attack on the adversary regardless of the fact whether the adversary has resorted to a nuclear attack first or not. The second strategic loophole in India's official nuclear doctrine is that it claims to stand by NFU as long as its deterrence upholds. This simply implies that as soon as the factor of deterrence is lost India's choice would be of a nuclear attack. The key factor here is that where the threshold of deterrence ends is only to be determined by India and one can never be affirmative of where the threshold might end for it. Should India, at any point decide that its deterrence has failed its nuclear doctrine allows it to go ahead with a nuclear attack once again regardless of the fact whether the adversary has resorted to nuclear warfare or not.

From the above mentioned key facts about the loopholes or exceptions in the NFU policy of India one can gather that although India might be vocal about the NFU aspect of its nuclear doctrine, the exceptions of the policy are not clearly talked about. It will not be wrong to say that India's NFU is not entirely a No First Use policy, it is a mere case of propagating the right clause of an entire sentence.

The point, however, is, why there is a negative connotation attached to the idea of first use policy? Why has India not clearly declared that it will and it can resort to the nuclear weapons first if needed? Pakistan has and the state certainly faces the heat for the bold declaration. The otherwise undeclared and ambiguous nuclear doctrine of Pakistan is very clear about one fact and that is using the capability the state has acquired if and only if required by the in hand situation. States like the US and France have been very clear about this as well. The reason behind having a first use policy is first of all protecting national and territorial integrity and secondly not waiting to be attacked before attacking, in other words, a preemptive strike. The state of Pakistan is responsible about its nuclear capability beyond limits but at the same time, the state is also aware of the hostilities it is surrounded by. Under these

circumstances, it would be a rather childish move to deliberately not resort to the nuclear arsenal as a reflex action.

States must realize that playing the responsible state card is good to gain some benefits but just because one state is more concerned about the immediate and absolute safety of the territory does not make it any less responsible. Hence if a state deliberately keeps a first use policy it cannot be termed as aggressive, less responsible or a threat of any kind. If anything the policy of first use might be one of the best deterrents as it makes the adversary clear about the fact that nuclear attack might just be the first thing they face in case of an attack which definitely discourages any intentions of war from the enemy's side.

<http://southasiajournal.net/why-the-negative-vibe-around-first-use-policy/>

Trends in Space Militarization: Implication for South Asia

Asma Khalid

The military utilization of space is now increasing globally. Many European states, along with China, India and many other countries are committed to acquire space technology including dual-use satellites and military satellites.

Space technology is significant for scientific, commercial, surveillance, technical, navigational and economic activities. The human desire to voyage into the space began with the invention of rockets. As the Second World War ended, the US and the Soviet Union took great benefits from the German V2 rocket system and developed the V-2 rocket technology into their indigenous space programs, which initiated the world's first space race between the two superpowers; the US and USSR. Both started their programs for prestige and security, and continued their efforts to create hegemony at the high frontier. Similarly, China started its program for the social and scientific purposes; but with the limited military application of its satellites. The space exploration also inspired India and Pakistan to pursue their space program for military, socio-economic and commercial benefits.

The present global trends in the militarization of outer space highlight the importance of outer space for military purposes. Since the end of Cold War, the US reliance on space program and satellites has increased with the aim to fulfill its military and commercial objectives. Sophisticated space assets of the US have raised genuine concerns of other states including Russia and China. Additionally, many countries are enhancing cooperation with each other in space science but doubts related to the 'dual use' of the space technology cannot be ignored. Many security analysts believed that with the occurrence of militarization of space, the states may follow the policy of "space weaponization" which will cast a negative impact on deterrence and peace. On June 18, 2018, President Donald Trump announced the establishment of a new branch of the US military named as "Space Force". However, this objective of establishing Space Force and deploying weapons in space has instigated the fear arms race in the outer space. According to the analysts it will lead to a never ending arms proliferation in space and will initiate a global arms race among global as well as regional competitors including nuclear neighbors, India and Pakistan.

Trends in India's Space Program

The preliminary Indian space program was only meant for social and economic development of the country. The Indian space program got most of the technical expertise from NASA and France. In the beginning, the program resulted in the initiation of the national satellite for television, social development and remote sensing, and there were hardly any inclination toward employing it for the military purposes or to launch a military space program. However, with the passage of time, its space rationale has evolved, which led it to make its communication satellites for military reconnaissance. Additionally, India's missile program demonstrates strong link between missile technology and its space program. India's missile programs as well as its ICBM and BMD capabilities are based on space launch vehicle technology acquired from the US and Russia. Space launch vehicle technology is dual used which

is actually employed for peaceful scientific developments in space. This factor illustrates that under the umbrella of peaceful co-operation in space technology for commercial benefits, the major powers including US, Germany, France, UK and Russia have played key role in supporting the development of advance nuclear missile program in South Asia, which has direct implications on the regional security. Currently, the Indian BMD system, and its planning to install ABM system in South Asia has become a serious challenge for the security of other countries in the region. India has its own satellite launching system, and it is cooperating at the international level. The recent launch of Agni-V by India is an evidence of its ICBM capability. Similarly, the granting of Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) status to India by the US will pave the way for India to acquire dual used space technology.

Pakistan's Space Program and its objectives

Establishment of SUPARCO was the first step toward the exploration of space by Pakistan. Initially, SUPARCO dealt in R & D, to diversify its space program in the fields of space technology, space exploration, and its associated technologies. It focused on gaining knowledge in multidisciplinary remote sensing/ Geographic Information System (GIS), which seems to have very less military application. Pakistan space program was never meant for military purposes, as is evident from its lack of associated technologies and financial resources to acquire space technology for military purposes. In July 2018, Pakistan achieved a milestone in the field of space technology by launching PRSS-1 and Technology Evaluation Satellite-1A (PakTES-1A) with the cooperation of China. According to the foreign office of Pakistan, these satellites will help the country to fulfill its socio-economic needs. The launch of these satellites has also paved the way to further strengthen the co-operation between Pakistan and China in the space technology.

Implications for South Asia

Currently, ambition of India's space program is to establish reconnaissance, communication, and surveillance satellite system in the outer space, while the objective of space program of Pakistan is to gain economic development and scientific achievements. Therefore, India's mission for space militarization and weaponization will pose serious implications on the security and deterrence stability. It is due to a number of factors such as historical rivalry, growing arms race and fragile strategic stability, that South Asia has always remained a precarious region. In this regard, India's quest for space militarization has the ability to trigger an unnecessary arms race between nuclear neighbors, while aggravating the fragility of strategic stability in South Asia.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2018/08/29/trends-in-space-militarization-implication-for-south-asia/>

SCO Space Mission 2018: Prospects for Peace in the Region

Sadia Kazmi

It is for the first time ever that the militaries of two South Asian nuclear neighbours India and Pakistan participated in the six-day joint military exercises together under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Russia. Popularly known as “SCO Peace Mission 2018”, this exercise takes place every two years. This year the Central Military Commission of Russia conducted this exercise from 22-29 August at Chebarkul town in Chelyabinsk Oblast in Russia, initiated by the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO). Under the SCO charter, the exercises included tactical level operations employing counter-terrorism measures and devising effective counter-insurgency techniques to deal with the threats at the international level.

Around 3,000 soldiers from India, Pakistan, China, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan took part in the exercise. The Pakistan contingent comprised 110 members, while the strength of the Chinese contingent was 748 personnel. 167 Army personnel were from India, while ten representatives took part from Uzbekistan as observers. The drill followed the 18th SCO summit. The main objective behind this mega drill was to expand and enhance cooperation along with building better understanding about each others’ concerns among the member countries. Primarily the orientation has been towards dealing with the growing menace of extremism and terrorism.

While the SCO was founded in 2001 at a Shanghai Summit with the six initial member states as Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the latest two members added to this forum are India and Pakistan. The membership now has eight states. Not only is this being seen as a positive development but quite a feat considering the fact that the two new members share a long and most turbulent historical relations. In addition to this another important aspect is that with the inclusion of India and Pakistan, now the SCO outreach has expanded to the South Asian region as well. This particularly further makes the SCO’s role and the anti-terror drill more relevant as the South Asian region has also been replete with a long history of terrorism and extremism. India and Pakistan have been hostile to each other for many years. In the past decade, crossfire incidents occurred almost every week along Kashmir’s Line of Control. Therefore, as India and Pakistan’s first joint military exercise after their independence, this exercise will be of certain significance to the alleviation tension along the India-Pakistan border. It is very much due to the frictional relations that numerous exchange mechanisms between the two countries have been interrupted many times. The SCO military exercise can promote positive interactions between the two militaries and help to ease relations between the two countries.

By joining hands in this joint exercise, the states show the commitment and willingness towards rooting out this menace together. This presents a new high security high in the bilateral relations and indeed serves as Confidence Building Measure or CBM between the two South Asian nuclear rivals.

The last exercise was held in 2016 but without India and Pakistan since they were not the members of SCO back then, even though their militaries have worked side-by-side during several UN peacekeeping missions.

There are high hopes attached now that the Peace Mission 2018 and the future series will greatly improve the political and military trust between the disgruntled rivals of South Asia while providing them with a rare opportunity for military exchange. Ultimately this surely have regional implications by positively enhancing the possibility of peace and stability. Nonetheless, in order to maintain the constructive engagement going between India and Pakistan, the member states need to keep this momentum and simultaneously devise new tactics to be included in these drills with the ultimate aim to target terrorist groups in Central and specifically South Asia. A possibility should be worked out to include Afghanistan as well, which at the moment is the observer state. This will surely further enhance the impact and relevance of the SCO as a major platform for all these states to come together and make their contributions for the larger cause of regional peace and stability.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2018/08/30/sco-peace-mission-2018-prospects-for-peace-in-the-region/>

TAPI Pipeline Project: A Way Forward

Hareem Aqdas

Pakistan and Afghanistan share similarities in multiple dimensions of history, religion, civilization and culture. Despite this, the two countries have never been successful in establishing tension free relations. Since the creation of Pakistan for more than half a century a large part of their relations consisted of passive antagonism, mistrust and a blame game.

Tense bilateral relations with Afghanistan have emerged as a major security and stability issue for Pakistan, as it is caught between two hostile neighbours, from the East and the West.

Afghanistan has been an unstable country with multiple interest groups functioning within it, It is more like a tribal confederacy rather than a cohesive nation-state. Yet, the instability in Afghanistan affects no country as much as it does Pakistan.

Keeping the aforementioned scenario in mind, it is extremely necessary for Pakistan to try and maintain cordial relations with its neighbour, for strategic benefits. It is essential for Pakistan to initiate a peace process with Afghanistan.

Many attempts have been made in the past to establish better terms but with little to no avail. In the current scenario, the most reliable possibility of a cordial relation with Afghanistan is the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline.

The planned pipeline is to be 1,814 kilometres in length: 214 km in Turkmenistan, 774 km in Afghanistan, and 826 km in Pakistan which will reach Fazilka on the India-Pakistan border. An estimate of \$9.9 billion in total is to be spent on the 30 year project. The pipeline would have the capability to supply 33 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas from the world's fourth-largest natural gas reserves in Daulatabad of Turkmenistan; with 16 percent going to Afghanistan while Pakistan and India would receive 42 percent each. In addition to receiving 5.22 bcm of gas annually, Afghanistan will also earn around \$400 million each year from transportation.

The pipeline will run from gas fields in Turkmenistan through Afghanistan and Pakistan, to India. It will start from the Galkynysh gas field, and will go on to be constructed alongside the Kandahar-Herat Highway in western Afghanistan, and then via Quetta and Multan, it will reach the Indian town of Fazilka.

The pipeline project is undoubtedly important for member countries, especially for Pakistan and India who face severe power shortages. The investment will provide a way to fulfill energy requirements of both nations. The transit revenue generated will be a startup towards the economic development of war-stricken Afghanistan. Moreover, Turkmenistan's economy is largely dependant on its gas reservoirs, this project will enable it to get a market in South Asia, after sustaining losses in Russia and Iran.

China has also vowed to join the project, as this can be used as an alternative to the much more costly line being transited from Turkmenistan through the Central Asian States. With the help of TAPI, the pipeline will cover a shorter distance as it reaches China through the Karakoram mountain range.

85 percent of the cost of the TAPI pipeline will be funded by Turkmenistan which is estimated at around \$10 billion. Afghanistan, Pakistan and India will each cover 5 percent. For the development of the region, the Asian Development Bank has also agreed to fund the project, which is expected to be completed by 2020 or sooner if all the member nations collaborate in a timely fashion.

The reliability of the project is dependent on the fact that it involves the consent of major pressure groups dwelling in Afghanistan, which are the Afghan government, the Taliban and the United States. It is a rare occurrence to see these groups agreeing to the same thing. The Afghan government, realizing the project's potential to better the economy of Afghanistan, has agreed to it. The Taliban have also consented to not interfere in the matter and so has the US.

The TAPI is a regional energy infrastructure project and will help in eradicating tensions between neighboring countries by creating interdependency. TAPI is very beneficial to strengthening Pak-Afghanistan ties. The new government should prioritize this project, as it will not only foster good relations but will also solve the energy crisis.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/289994/tapi-pipeline-project-a-way-forward/>

Agriculture: A Boon for Pakistan's Economy and CPEC

Qura tul Ain Hafeez

Agriculture comprises of a big chunk of Pakistan's economy, and a bulk of the country's population implicitly relies on this sector. According to Pakistan's Statistical Bureau, about 24 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is made up of contributions from the agricultural sector. It constitutes 43 percent of the labour force and is the largest source for foreign exchange earnings. But unfortunately, being an agrarian economy, the foreign reserves earned through this sector are not as high as they should be. A couple of months back, a report released by the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) states that "Pakistan's agricultural productivity ranges between 29 percent and 52 percent, far lower than the world's best averages for major commodities". Therefore, in order to be an agrarian economy in its true sense, there is a need for the advancement of agriculture in Pakistan.

Keeping this in mind, the Government of Pakistan, in collaboration with Chinese firms, has started different projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) aimed at restructuring the agriculture sector. The development of the agriculture sector has been an essential tenet of CPEC however, it wasn't addressed in the early harvest phase because priority was given to improving the infrastructure and energy network, both of which are essential for overall progress.

As a result, considering the importance of agriculture, the second phase of CPEC, under the Long Term Plan (LTP), explores in great detail how to grow and further develop this sector. Starting from production, processing, storage and transportation of agriculture goods, utilizing water assets, conservation and the production of food, as well as land development, the LTP has prioritized only agricultural reforms.

Agricultural growth is also another way for ensuring poverty alleviation. It is evident that the objective behind CPEC is to strengthen the weak economy of Pakistan. Pakistan's financial system largely relies on agriculture so, once it is developed, it will bring in more economic benefits and will raise exports of agricultural goods. It would also be worth mentioning here that China is the world's largest importer of agricultural products, with over \$100 billion of food products. But unfortunately, Pakistan only supplies one percent of food imports to China, which makes it an important part of CPEC to boost Pakistan-China bilateral trade, especially in the agriculture sector.

Consequently, in order to bring prosperity, new research in agricultural products, along with enhancing per-acre yield, producing high value-added products and linking farmers with CPEC are measures that are being undertaken by the LTP. The ministry of national food security and research has adopted certain procedural measures for the growth of the agriculture sector in Pakistan. Moreover the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) provides 30,000 solar systems to the agrarian communities for solar water pumping. Along with this, China will build a fertilizer plant that will produce 800,000 tons per year, a meat processing plant in Sukkur that will produce 200,000 tons per annum, as well as a

vegetable processing plant with an annual output of 20,000 tons and a plant to process fruit juice and jam of about 10,000 tons in capacity.

Focusing on the vision to upgrade the economy of Pakistan, CPEC should also focus on vegetable and fruit production, as well as value adding services, especially for our highest earning crops. CPEC will be an inspiration and a boon for the agricultural and trade community of Pakistan and will hopefully lead to favourable revenue incentives and significant improvements in life style.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/290539/agriculture-a-boon-for-pakistans-economy-and-cpec/>

Gwadar: A Linchpin of CPEC

Sadia Kazmi

China continues to invest unprecedentedly in Pakistan for the CPEC project. This financial assistance is aimed at developing the state's infrastructure and energy sector. This cooperation promises to bring progress through the construction of highways, railways, pipelines, power plants, communications and industrial zones, most of which has already taken off and are underway. The progress on CPEC makes it the fastest developing corridor among the six BRI corridors China plans to establish. For CPEC, the initial investment of US \$ 46 billion has now been increased to US \$ 57 billion. The overall efforts so far have yielded quite fruitful results, where many early harvest and midterm projects have been successfully completed. Out of 39 "early harvest" projects under CPEC, 19 have since been completed or are under construction with a Chinese investment of about US \$18.5 billion.

One of the main areas of focus for development is the Gwadar port. China is keen on fully developing this part under the ambit of CPEC project, which is estimated to be completed by the year 2030. This strategically located Arabian Sea port naturally gains huge significance owing to its location. First the very fact that it is deep water port, in addition to it being situated at an ideal position where the three most commercially significant regions of the world converge: South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East, makes it a highly valuable entity. While Central Asia and Middle East offer resource rich landscape, South Asia provides a huge potential market for these commodities. With CPEC fully functional, Gwadar port will be an important transit route offering world's largest transshipment cargo facilities.

Gwadar port not only holds importance and promises benefits for the South Asian region but the landlocked western China with a Muslim majority Xinjiang region will be able to be connected to the Gwadar port through Gwadar to Kashgar road link. For China itself it is an opportunity to access the sea through much shorter and convenient route, while at the same time the Central Asian states being landlocked get the much needed opening. It is expected that mostly fuel imports from China and other trading products will be loaded on the trucks and travel on the Gwadar-Kashgar road. China's link to Gwadar passes through its trusted friend Pakistan hence the chances of it being closed on China are hardly there as compared to the much riskier route for its goods through Malacca Straits.

The huge potential this single port holds within the CPEC compared with a number of other projects under its ambit is immense. It is believed that the port can easily become South Asia's most significant and biggest shipping hub by 2030 and would be capable of handling 400 million tons of cargo on annual basis. For now it is estimated to be capable of dealing with one million tons of cargo on yearly basis. It looks quite possible that in less than five years time it will have the additional capacity to handle thirteen million tons of cargo.

The city of Gwadar itself will be recipient of several benefits. The Gwadar hospital capacity is being increased to 300 beds from the existing 50-bed. Fisheries processing plant is being constructed which will help them develop on their natural capabilities as most of the town is dependent on the local

fishing for their daily survival. With the help of fisheries processing plant they will be able to export the local fish to China as well as to the other cities of Pakistan. This will also lead to the chance for better earning along with improvement in the quality of their living standards. One of the biggest problems and the point of friction between the federal government and the local baluch is their demand for control over their own resources. In addition to this the problem of electricity shortage and lack of clean drinking water further adds to their miseries. Pakistan and China have specifically aimed to bring improvement in these sectors by working on projects that deal with the construction of desalination plant, as well as 300-mega watts coal based power plant. These measures are definitely going to bring substantive respite to the locals of Baluchistan specifically to the people living in Gwadar city. The new international airport is also being built which will be connected to the rest of Pakistan through international standard six-lane expressway and will eventually connect to adjacent countries as well including Iran and Afghanistan. Other than this the port offers a number of employment opportunities to the locals as 65% of labour force and engineers comprises of local Pakistanis which are actively involved in various type of construction work.

Although security concerns are a reality but this aspect is essentially addressed through deployment of 15,000 troops and paramilitary forces for the security of CPEC project. Gwadar port with its multilayered and multidimensional benefits stands to improve economic conditions of the country while offering immense opportunity to connect and strengthen relation with China as well with other neighbouring countries.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2018/08/31/gwadar-a-linchpin-of-cpec/>