



VISION

VISIONARY INSIGHTS INTO THE STRATEGIC INQUESTS OF NATIONS

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OCTOBER 2018

Compiled & Edited by:

S. Sadia Kazmi

Strategic Vision Institute
Islamabad

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STRATEGIC VISION
I N S T I T U T E

Strategic Vision Institute (SVI)

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Strategic Vision Institute (SVI)

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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.

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Editor's Note

October issue of the SVI electronic journal offers to its readers a collection of short analytical commentaries on important subjects pertaining to the strategic and security issues impacting regional landscape of South Asia and beyond. The S-400 acquisition by India has been a significant development in this month which not only received much hype but raised certain regional and global concerns. One of the articles included in this volume deals with the regional impact of this deal specifically on the state of nuclear deterrence in South Asia and possible options for Pakistan. Every year, the month of October also brings with it the bitter memories of 27th Oct 1947, remembered as the Black Day by Kashmiri people. An article exclusively looks at the state of affairs in Kashmir and in solidarity with the Kashmiri brothers highlights the grave Indian human rights abuses in IOK. It is discussed at length how on this unfortunate day Indian troops landed in Jammu and Kashmir and claimed entitlement to the region in complete violation of the partition plan. The writer maintains that the day is rightly remembered by the Kashmiris as Black Day every year, where they refuse to be subjugated under Indian illegal occupation. This oppression is a sheer abuse and disregard of 1947 Indian Independence Act and Partition Plan.

Pakistan has been particularly in the positive light at the international political front recently as it was yet again selected in the IAEA Board of Governors. However, one of the scholastic writings included in this issue critically examines the prospects and limitations that Pakistan might have to deal with despite being chosen 19 times on the Board. It has been suggested emphatically in the article that Pakistan must exploit the position in its best interest, not only to further validate its own nuclear credentials but should also pursue its case of NSG membership with more active diplomatic vigour.

Another article talks at length about the energy crisis in Pakistan and how the peaceful nuclear power can ensure long term energy security. It is one of the 'energy deficient' states that focuses on energy security to fulfill its socio-economic requirements. Pakistan has a modest Nuclear Power Program (NPP), which is increasingly being viewed as a gap filler in the energy calculus and can mitigate energy crisis. To address the ongoing energy crisis, issues of power

shortage and load shedding, which have adversely affected the economic growth potential of the state; it is important for Pakistan to extend its NPP.

Other articles included in this volume are: Druzhba III: A Positive Trajectory in Pak-Russia Bilateral Relations, Rapprochement Quest Over Denuclearization, Future of ISR Capabilities in South Asia, and Answering the CPEC Challenges and second article on CPEC and Cultural Convergence. 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](#).

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Energy Crisis, Nuclear Safety and Security of Pakistan

Asma Khalid

Speaking in favour of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, on 8 December 1953, President Eisenhower highlighted the significance of nuclear energy to the world by maintaining that, “It is not enough to take this weapon out of the hands of soldiers. It must be put into the hands of those who will know how to strip its military casing and adapt it to the arts of peace.” Subsequently, in the middle of the twentieth century, nuclear energy and technology became popular as an alternate energy source to fossil fuel. Nuclear power is considered as one of the most reliable, efficient and environment friendly sources of energy. Every state has the right to utilise nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes which include: medical diagnostics, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and industrial use, etc.

In the twenty-first century, states are unanimously planning and shifting towards peaceful nuclear power to ensure long-term energy security. Pakistan is also one of the ‘energy deficient’ states that focus on energy security to fulfill its socio-economic requirements. It has a modest Nuclear Power Program (NPP), which is increasingly being viewed as gap filler in the energy calculus and can mitigate energy crisis. To address the ongoing energy crisis, issues of power shortage and load shedding, which have adversely affected the economic growth potential of the state; it is important for Pakistan to extend its NPP.

Pakistan’s other five nuclear power plants Chashma-I, Chashma-II, Chashma-III, Chashma-IV and KANUPP-1 contribute 1,370 megawatts of clean energy to the national grid. Pakistan has planned to develop two additional nuclear power stations KANUPP-II (K-II) and KANUPP-III (K-III) in Karachi and expected to be operational in 2020 and 2021 respectively. The increased dependence of the country on nuclear energy is for two reasons, firstly, to manage the increasing power demands and to address the dire energy deficit of the country. Secondly, it is a clean source of energy and can fulfill the country’s commitment towards environmental protection. Pakistan’s nuclear power plants are under safeguarded by IAEA.

At national level, Pakistan has established a robust mechanism to ensure nuclear safety and security by developing a rigorous export control regime. Pakistan has also established a National Action Plan (NAP) that deals with the export control as well as the safety and security of nuclear facilities and associated material. PNRA is another independent, viable and legal safety organisation and system, for enforcing national laws and international standards on nuclear safety. The PNRA, works with the Strategic Plans Division (SPD), to ensures the security of these facilities against any threat.

At international level, Pakistan is an active player in the global nuclear order to promote non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. Pakistan is engaged with the international community to promote nuclear safety and security. In this vein, Pakistan is state party to IAEA code of conduct on safety and security of radioactive sources, it has taken the practical initiative to carry out the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540), Pakistan has been an important and constructive participant in the two Nuclear Security Summits conferences, and ratified the 2005m Amendment to the

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). Therefore, Pakistan's participation in international arrangements is a demonstration of Pakistan's commitment to the objective of nuclear security

Pakistan's nuclear program has been facing subjective criticism. Pakistan's efforts encompass onsite physical protection of nuclear facilities and material, prevention of illicit trafficking, transportation security, control and accounting procedure. The criticism on Pakistan's nuclear installations has failed to stop the positive trajectory of its nuclear program. It is challenging to measure or verify how effective nuclear security is unless theft, sabotage or a nuclear accident is reported. Since the inception of nuclear power program, not a single such incident has ever been reported in Pakistan, this factor negates the negative misleading agenda about the safety and security of the it's nuclear sector. Pakistan has repeatedly stated its stance that "we have revisited our safety parameters, emergency preparedness and response, and operators' training". Christopher Clary also expressed that "threats to Pakistan's nuclear arsenal have been exaggerated".

To conclude, nuclear energy is a clean and environment friendly source to reduce Pakistan's energy deficit. Pakistan is facing a serious energy crisis yet, it is logical that an expanded civilian nuclear energy sector and international arrangements (IAEA and NSG) would facilitate the peaceful use of nuclear technology to overcome this crippling energy deficit. Therefore, Pakistan's creation of a national mechanism and participation in international arrangements for the safety and security of its nuclear sector manifest that any external power is not capable to seize its nuclear installments. Moreover, physical-protection systems in the Pakistani nuclear facilities are well-built. The induction of nuclear energy as an efficient and secure source based on 'comprehensive nuclear safety measures' is to prevent nuclear accidents from happening. It is a positive step to address Pakistan's energy crisis.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/305934/energy-crisis-nuclear-safety-and-the-security-of-pakistan/>

Rapprochement Quest Over Denuclearization

Beenish Altaf

Mike Pompeo, the US Secretary of State, visit to Asian countries includes Japan, South Korea, China and North Korea. However, his visit to Pyongyang was with the explicit agenda of discussing denuclearisation talks with Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader. The plan to visit Pyongyang was made during a meeting with Ri Yong-ho, North Korean Foreign Minister during the UNGA sessions. This trip marked the fourth visit to the country this year, for the same cause.

There are still mixed views regarding the status on nuclear talks from both sides. Although there are limited moves from both sides (the US and North Korean leadership) towards the accomplishment of their goal, but they lag behind on any substantial outcome in this regard. There are critiques that the US is still not realistic about keeping up its promises. By the way, Pompeo's previously scheduled visit in August, for this purpose was called off by President Trump indicating that "Chinese interference was undermining the nuclear talks."

Paradoxically, the Northern side is demanding that the US should join both North and South Korea to halt the long standing Korean War. The US, as of now, should play an effective and an operational role, as an initial 'confidence building concession' in the Korean Peninsula, for the reason that the peace treaty is still not signed between North and South Korea; even though the war was halted after reaching a truce back in 1953.

Formerly, the relationship between the US and North Korea remained on edge and grew tense after harsh and threatening statements were exchanged by the two, at the state level. It was followed by several missile tests from the North Korean side, who up till now have conducted six nuclear tests (the latest was in September 2017). North Korea offered a frightening and alarming demonstration in the preceding months by highlighting their capability to deliver warheads, using missiles that could easily strike South Korea, Japan and the United States territories. It was actually to exasperate the US' plan of installing an anti-missile defence system in South, which resulted in further aggravating North Korea. However, the two sides have been slowly trying to flesh out Kim's (though vague) commitment to denuclearization that was made when he met President Trump in June 2018.

On one hand, the analysts maintain that North Korea has not taken any meaningful step to show it is serious about abandoning its nuclear weapons. Kim has committed to give up his country's nuclear weapons; though his actions have fallen short of Washington's demands for a complete inventory of North Korea's weapon program and the irreversible steps to give up on nuclear arsenal that could be a potential threat to the United States. On the other hand, recently, at a rally in West Virginia, President Trump said, "He and Kim fell in love" during their June summit. Along with that he also spoke quite cordially regarding the "beautiful letters" the North Korean leader sent him. He said "I was really tough and so was he, and we went back and forth and then we fell in love, Okay? No, really, he wrote me beautiful letters, and they're great letters. We fell in love."

Ironically, Pompeo is helping to plan for a second summit between Kim and President Donald Trump. The world will observe a rapid shift in the US-Korea relations if the previously announced denuclearization timeline works. The US Secretary of State told in the aftermath of the inter-Korea summit (September 2018): the process of rapid denuclearisation of North Korea, is to be completed by January 2021, as committed by Chairman Kim, and to construct a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula. Nevertheless, later he felt reluctant and said that “my comment about 2021 was not mine. I repeated it but it was a comment that had been made by the leaders who had their inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang. They talked about 2021 when they were gathered there. So I was reiterating this as a timeline that they were potentially prepared to agree to.”

Lastly, it is desired very righteously, that all the countries in the region including North and South Korea, Japan, China and the US, manage the situation diplomatically with utmost responsibility. Evidently, there were plenty of opportunities in the past when North Korean leadership expressed its willingness to talk to the world about its nuclear program and to lift sanctions and the provision of necessary economic assistance. This collaborative approach would have been effective, but regrettably the United States preferred to hurl threats at North Korea aggravating the situation further. Nevertheless, one must be optimistic with regards to the efforts made by the US Secretary of State to reinvigorate nuclear talks between the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/309557/rapprochement-quest-over-denuclearization/>

'America First' Vs. Global Financial Stability

Waqas Jan

The recently concluded annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank group, held in Indonesia last weekend, has highlighted a series of concerning trends with regard to the global economy. It has subsequently left many considering the impacts of a possible global recession that may be looming ahead in the next of couple of years to come. These fears were evident in the worldwide sell-off in global equities last Thursday that has been widely attributed to the the IMF revising down its global growth forecast in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report. The report highlighted growth in a number of developed economies as having plateaued, with rising trade tensions and policy uncertainty greatly contributing to the slow-down. This includes the ongoing trade war between the US and China, as well as the numerous uncertainties pervading within the Euro-Zone.

All of this has had a significant knock-on effect on emerging markets, including Pakistan which has already been struggling with massive fiscal and current account deficits amid rampant inflationary pressures. With tensions between the United States and China still on the rise, Pakistan presents a notable example of how deteriorating global macro-economic conditions have been exacerbated by rising geo-political tensions between these two global powers.

For instance, it took Imran Khan's fledgling government months to accept the reality of another IMF bailout (Pakistan's 13th in the last 30 years) despite its \$68 billion investment commitment with China. This is because the US, being the largest contributor of funds to the IMF has increasingly politicized this bailout in light of its own deteriorating relations with China. In fact, the US has directly blamed China for Pakistan's recent debt woes referring to what has been come to known as China's 'Debt Trap Diplomacy'. The argument being that the massive loans being doled out by China to developing countries under its Belt & Road Initiative are leading to unsustainable debt levels, eroding their sovereignty while expanding China's hold over them. Pakistan's loan obligations to China as part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor are presented as a case in point.

Despite both Pakistan's and China's protests to the contrary, it is widely expected that some of the IMF's conditions attached to Pakistan's requested bailout are thus likely to include greater scrutiny and revisions regarding the CPEC initiative. This is likely to form part of the US's overall objective of limiting and constraining China's influence over Pakistan and the wider region. The impact this would have on Pakistan however is likely to prove critical considering its precarious economic as well as geo-political position. Not only would the IMF's conditions limit the new government's ability to maneuver its economy around an increasingly unstable world financial system; it would also delay the much needed infrastructure projects being planned and implemented under CPEC with Chinese assistance. Therefore, the very purpose of the IMF bailout which is to provide some semblance of stability to Pakistan's ailing economy, would embroil it deeper in uncertainty as a direct result of the US's unilateral push against China.

It is worth noting here that during its annual meeting, the IMF clearly voiced its concerns regarding escalating trade tensions between the US and China. While calling for increased dialogue and a careful examination of debt induced risks across the world, the IMF seems to be warning both sides over the fragility of prevailing global economic conditions. At the same meeting, China too echoed these concerns and called for increased dialogue with the US to promote open trade and growth. As a country that has for the last few decades championed globalization, China's vision of shared global growth and win-win partnerships in emerging markets such as Pakistan, have however been directly challenged by the US. A US, that is in contrast aggressively willing to defend the prevailing status quo, as part of President Trump's mantra of 'America First'. Hence it was no surprise that US representatives, in response to these concerns brought up by the IMF and China, have continued to downplay the risks of their policies on global economic stability.

With respect to China and numerous emerging markets such as Pakistan, the fact still remains that the world financial system is currently replete with risks and uncertainty as a direct result of US policy. All of this is occurring while the US President continues to boast about surging US equities and record employment figures as a direct outcome of these policies. While the US economy has experienced sustained growth since the 2008 financial crisis, markets and business cycles have a way of correcting themselves, especially when world leaders themselves point to overbought and overextended conditions.

If the US economy truly is on the cusp of a potential downturn, then present geo-political tensions are more than likely to exacerbate the impacts of an impending global recession. For Pakistan, with its precariously low foreign currency reserves and an unsustainable debt to GDP ratio, such a recession is likely to bring on even bigger problems than any of the potential cuts the IMF may propose on CPEC. Thus, while the US may limit China's rise as an economic power in the short-term, it does so at the expense of emerging markets and global economic stability in the long-run. This lack of foresight is likely to hurt the US more as it realizes how economies cannot exist within a vacuum in an increasingly interdependent world.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2018/10/16/america-first-vs-global-financial-stability/>

Pakistan's Membership in the IAEA Board of Governors, a Major Diplomatic Achievement?

Sonia Naz

The Board of Governors of the IAEA is one of its policy making organs. The BoG not only examines the financial statements, it also makes recommendations for the IAEA budget. It finalizes the membership applications, accepts safeguard agreements and contributes to the safety standard publications. The approval of the Director General of the IAEA with the approval of General Conference is also the responsibility of the Board. Pakistan has been chosen 19 times to be on the Board in the past and has played an important role in the formulation of the agency's policies and programmes. It also has the honour of chairing the Board thrice in 1962, 1986 and 2010.

A prominent Pakistani nuclear expert Dr. Naeem Salik in his book 'Nuclear Pakistan Seeking Security and Stability' wrote that Pakistan's cooperation with the agency has been reciprocal. In other words, it not only benefited from the agency but also Pakistan's nuclear expertise and its human resources proved to be an invaluable contribution to the agency. Pakistani scientists and engineers have contributed to the IAEA's work in numerous fields including in the area of nuclear safety and security. It also hosted nuclear safety and security workshops with the cooperation of IAEA, on the regional level. Pakistan is a beneficiary of the IAEA assistance and its nuclear establishment is fully committed to increasing this cooperation in various fields ranging from nuclear power development to that of agriculture, medicine and livestock. Pakistan's Country Program Framework (CPF) 2014-2019, provides assistance in a wide range of areas as nuclear safety and security, nuclear power development, industrial application, human health under the technical cooperation program of the IAEA.

Since the inception of Pakistan's nuclear weapons, it has faced allegations and hostilities which have not been faced by any other nuclear state in the world. Although, the formation of the NSG in 1974, was the result of Indian violation of the peaceful use of nuclear material for military purposes but the irony is that now the founders of NSG are advocating for India for a membership of the NSG. China is the only state which understands that India is not the only country and that Pakistan is also capable of producing highly enriched uranium and plutonium for civil and military purposes and it can easily assist developing states in advancing their nuclear infrastructures and technology. All nuclear power plants of Pakistan are under the IAEA safeguards while the US is showing a bias towards India by letting it keep its eight reactors out of IAEA safeguards that are producing fissile material in large quantities, and intentionally ignoring this.

In this regard, Pakistan advocates a non-discriminatory approach towards the non-NPT nuclear weapons states for their entry into the NSG. Nevertheless, it is the time for Pakistan to fight its case through the IAEA as it is going to formulate policies for IAEA's future. It should also try to introduce policies which treat all nuclear states equally because discriminatory behaviours and policies undermine the credibility of the non-proliferation regimes.

In a nutshell, Pakistan has been dealing with propaganda regarding its nuclear safety and security and the amount of literature projecting Pakistan's perspective is inadequate and small. Therefore, it's imperative that Pakistan projects its perspective concerning its nuclear safety and security. Pakistan has been in full compliance with the regime for over fifty years now. Pakistan's cooperative and positive behaviour towards the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology and non-proliferation regimes requires equal treatment. Keeping in view, the stringent nuclear safety and security record of Pakistan and its advanced nuclear fuel cycle capability, it should be considered eligible to be provided with the nuclear fuel cycle services under the IAEA safeguard. Pakistan can make its membership in BOG a major diplomatic achievement by advocating its perspective with full determination.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/311383/pakistans-membership-in-the-iaea-board-of-governors-a-major-diplomatic-achievement/>

Future of ISR Capabilities in South Asia

Ahyousha Khan

A number of problems faced by the inhabitants of the South Asian region include poverty, food scarcity, natural calamities, and mismanagement of the resources by the governments, corruption and so on and so forth. Cherry on the top is conflicting relationships regional nuclear neighbors leading to huge expenditures on military build-up. Thus, first priority of most of the regional states is to secure themselves from external and internal threats by spending of large sum of budget on military/ arms buildup.

The beginning of 21st century brought the information technology into play which changed the life as we know it. Developed world adopted this change much faster than the developing countries. However, because information technology eliminated the distances and was so cheap that even the developing states could not remain immune to it. Nonetheless, due to technological hurdles the journey is not as smooth as it was for developed countries.

It is a fact that every man-made technology has a flip side; same is the case with information technology. States started using the information technology for military purposes along with civilian purposes which blurs the lines of its use in peace time and war times. Previously information was just considered as integral component of warfare, but in present times information is the warfare.

States are flexing their muscles in technologies that help them to attain real time information on enemy to eliminate the element of surprise not only in war or crisis time but also in peace times. One significant technology which is making its mark to facilitate intelligence and information gathering is Unmanned Armed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) also known as Drones.

Being a developing region, the focus of South Asian states should have been on the elimination of poverty and facilitation of basic facilities to its population. However, security concerns and threat perceptions forced states to invest in their militaries to ensure their sovereignty and territorial integrity. Security situation of this particular region is complex because two arch nuclear rivals that are neighbours are involved in continuous arms race.

Till last decade the focus of security concerns in South Asia were related to conventional and nuclear issues, but with the information warfare knocking at the door, the situation is gradually yet surely changing. With the evolution and amalgamation of new technologies into warfare, South Asian security situation is becoming more volatile and fragile. These difficulties are not arising because new technologies are coming into being but because of the myopia of states to restrain themselves to not use technology against each other.

Recent in South Asia reveals that information warfare which would involve cyber warfare, space weaponisation and ISR technologies are making their way into South Asia. Both nuclear rivals do have

the capabilities for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), which also include the technologies like drones and satellites.

These drones by both states were operated through existing ground control stations, which restricted the range, endurance and flexibility of these drones. From military point of view drones control through ground based control station is a short coming. The same short coming acted as the much desired restraint on the use of technology in South Asia. However, the recent chain of events reveal that drones will be used in South Asia by India through satellite control which will definitely boost the flexibility, range and endurance of the Indian Drones. India is all set to launch another satellite GSAT-7A which will be an advanced military communication satellite in geo-synchronous orbit; it would be especially designated to Indian Air Force.

India in its most recent Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) signed with the US is trying to procure armed Sea Guardian Drone or Predator-B drone for effective intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. Predator-B is not only capable of information gathering but can also fire “Hell Fire” missile and smart bombs. It is capable of flying at high altitude, with jamming proof systems like protected GPS, IFF (identification of friend or foe) receiver and has ability to re-arm as well.

Besides, Predator-B India is also in process to acquire missile armed Heron TP drones from Israel for \$ 400 million dollars. Fleet of Harpy UAVs is also part of Indian inventory. Harpy is also technology acquired from Israel but is not equipped with missile. India has already shown the intention to create tri-services for space, cyber and innovative technologies in military to develop and use them more effectively in future.

To counter India in drone of UAVs technology Pakistan has also made its indigenous drone named Burraq, which is also capable of firing laser guided missile. Moreover, after the COMCASA and S-400 deal, Pakistan is buying 48 armed Chinese Drones, Wing Long II.

However, in face of growing competition in ISR capabilities and Information warfare, at the moment Pakistan might also ventured into dual use remote sensing satellites and designated military satellites, to not only have real time intelligence but to increase the endurance and range of its drones as well.

Thus, in the light of current trends it would be safe to say that space, cyber and ISR technologies are becoming part of South Asian military environment. Acquiring armed ISR technology like drones reveals that currently both states are preparing themselves for modern and sub-conventional warfare. Moreover, continuity in conflicting relationship between both states will catalyse the competition in ISR technology and induce more lethality in it which would lead to more instability.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/312934/future-of-isr-capabilities-in-south-asia/>

Answering the CPEC Challenges

Qura tul Ain Hafeez

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will help sustain the economic growth of China and will highlight the strategic importance of Pakistan. It will offer Pakistan a chance to broaden the horizon of its economy and enlarge its foreign reserves. However, whilst venturing towards industrialization and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), CPEC in Pakistan faces certain challenges that have so far impeded the industries in realizing their full growth potential. Principal obstructions to investment in this regard are various security and political factors as well as the non-availability of infrastructure and power crises.

The answer to these challenges is that the FDI is necessary for raising capital. Eventually, once the high capital value is achieved it will help in developing infrastructure and for initiating large industries. Thus, through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) the dearth of capital will be decreased to a great extent. In order to set up competitive industries in this globalized world, one of the main priorities is the accessibility of productive and high tech transportation for manoeuvring of raw materials and finished goods. This is an understood observation that economic expansion strengthens infrastructure advancement and vis-à-vis.

The second most important aspect is, how is CPEC beneficial for Pakistani labourers and how industrial advancement will be creating Jobs through CPEC for Pakistani people? The youth surge is often named as an asset and the State should focus on it, because this strength has turned into a burden owing to unemployment. In this regard, CPEC could offer appropriate interference in the course of employment creation. The first phase of energy projects of CPEC will be effective in reducing the electricity shortfall. The inexpensive and unremitting power availability is indispensable for stimulating Pakistan's manufacturing sector. This will increase economic activity, create jobs and catch the attention of foreign investors to invest in the trade zones of Pakistan. Eventually all projects which are a part of CPEC, whether they are electricity production projects or infrastructural advancement projects, need man power – engineers; civil mechanical, electrical. Along with disciplines of engineering technicians: masons, welders, carpenters, surveyors, steel fixer, machine operators, etc are also required. Moreover not only the labour and technical workforce, there is also a need for professional economists, finance, accounting, management HR and interpreters of Chinese language, who will monitor and manage these projects. These projects will generate around two million jobs implicitly or explicitly till 2030.

Moreover, how will CPEC be profitable for Pakistani investors and local industrialists, if Chinese investors exempted from paying taxes whereas the local industries are not? In that case, CPEC Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will be a fruitful strategy for promoting trade, employment and economic growth. Consequently to upgrade the industries, through SEZs, one of the intended objectives of the CPEC is to best serve the private sector of Pakistan and to strengthen local industries through Free Trade Agreements (FTA). The proclaimed incentives which CPEC promises to offer the local enterprises include the promotion of Pakistan's industries from accumulating imported parts and components to localized production of parts by utilizing the available resources, offering employment opportunities to the

people and encourage bilateral connectivity between various Chinese and Pakistani enterprises. It will also expand trade volume and logistics, business-to-business (B2B) links, two-pronged trade arrangement, regional connectivity and encourage even handed trade maturity. Subsequently, in order to facilitate the local business sector, Board of Investment (BoI) established 'CPEC-SEZ Cell' in February 2017, in order to address the concerns of the stakeholders on matters related to CPEC and the Special Economic Zones. The prime function of this support cell is to attract, facilitate and promote both local and foreign investment in the country as per Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Act, 2016 of Pakistan.

Furthermore, in line with changing global economic structure CPEC will bring trade openness. For that Pakistan has prioritized the establishment of SEZs. So far 41 sites have been identified for SEZs and the Board of Investment (BoI) has mapped out nine exclusive Industrial Zones to be built under the umbrella of CPEC. It is also pertinent to mention that the CPEC project is not merely a route that connects Gwadar port with Kashgar, but an opportunity for both China and Pakistan to enjoy trade with Europe, Middle East, South and Central Asia as well. Thus the establishment of SEZs promises to bring Trade Openness through a massive socio-economic development in the country, specifically in the areas of energy, trade, agricultural, infrastructural development, connectivity, industries, poverty alleviation, tourism, cooperation between financial institutions and markets, and also financial cooperation between Free Trade Zones (FTZs).

Last but not the least, the difficulty of capital and capacity insufficiency can be alleviated through joint ventures between the Chinese and Pakistani business community under CPEC. It is necessary to enlarge the stakes of the domestic industry and to protect their interests under CPEC. Pakistani entrepreneur should be given incentives similar to Chinese investors to encourage investment in the CPEC projects.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/313439/answering-the-cpec-challenges/>

S-400 Deal: Nuclear Deterrence and Options for Pakistan

Ahyousha Khan

Recently, during the visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to India, a contract of selling S-400 to India was signed between both states. S-400 is the best available missile defense shield in the market, which is mobile and has the ability to engage UAVs, fighter planes, ballistic missiles as well as cruise missiles through surface to air attack and is worth nearly US \$5 billion. In the early variants of S-400 missile defense shield, hit to kill technology was missing but now Russia is developing and equipping S-400 technology coupled with hit to kill technology as well.

The deal was signed between both countries after India recently signed the COMCASA with the US and was also given the status of STA-1 by the US. It is pertinent to mention here that the US has approved the law known as CAATSA (Control on America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act) to restrict the arms exports of its adversaries, which also includes the import of S-400 missile defense shield. Recently, sanctions were slapped on China for buying S-400 technology.

Fact to reckon here is that India signed this deal with Russian despite the threats of sanctions from the US, which explicitly shows that India is willing to take risk regarding US strategic partnership amid its national interest and long withstanding arms partnership with India. Moreover, it also tells that the US is willing to make India an exception again and will probably grant the waiver. Reportedly India is offered to receive waiver on this particular deal if it is willing to buy F-16 from the US. India on the other hand has taken time to respond to that because of lack of interest in F-16 technology as it is already in use of Pakistan. But, these developments lead to the point that Trump administration is not willing to lose India as its strategic partner against China rather is willing to turn and twist its own national laws.

In this entire gambit the sufferer is the strategic stability of South Asia, owing to the fact that new arms race will start in the region. Though, S-400 technology is the state of the art defense shield but till this date not a single defense shield made is totally non-penetrable. Pakistan can penetrate the S-400 technology through two means, one by through the use of massive fire power which can overwhelm the system to detect all the targets but this method would be costly for a small nuclear state, which believes in minimum credible deterrence. Second is through the use of more swift, stealth technology that can fly at lower levels, and includes the hypersonic cruise missiles as well. Luckily for Pakistan, it has stepped into the cruise missile technology and is capable of firing them from both land and sea.

However, the question arises that if S-400 technology is penetrable and can be defeated then why the regional strategic stability is growing more and more vulnerable? Answer to this question is that it is because the missile defense shields induce the false sense of security, survivability and invincibility. Amid this false sense of invincibility, a state considers itself free from the threat of mutual vulnerability; which is a basic tenant of deterrence. Nuclear weapons are acquired by states to achieve deterrence, and if deterrence is eliminated one would be adventurous to attack first with a belief that its nuclear forces are safe, which would lead to states going for more offensive postures and lethal technologies.

It is important in a complex and volatile region like South Asia to develop initiatives like arms control, restraint, and nuclear confidence building measures to achieve strategic stability in order to divert its resources toward human development, millennium goals, and poverty alleviation. Moreover, both states should stay mindful of the words of Bernard Brody where he mentioned that nuclear weapons are to avert the war, not to fight the war. Measures that ensure the prevalence of deterrence should be taken to avoid a security dilemma. Lastly, the ultimate goal of regional security should be strategic stability, CBMs, and negotiations rather than just sitting in our fortified high mighty castles.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2018/10/30/s-400-deal-nuclear-deterrence-and-options-for-pakistan/>

27th October – Black Day Not Only for Kashmiris but for All Humanity

S. Sadia Kazmi

Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir since 1947 has brought immense sufferings to the people especially to the Muslims of Kashmir. Ironically this is not hidden from the international community, yet the world largely remains indifferent to the plight of Kashmiris when it comes to practically implementing the resolutions and deliberations reached at the international forums. Kashmiris on their part refuse to give up their right to freedom and protest against the illegal occupation by India since 27th October 1947. It was on this unfortunate day when Indian troops landed in Jammu and Kashmir and claimed its entitlement to the region in complete violation of the partition plan. The very same day is rightly remembered by the Kashmiris as Black Day every year, where they refuse to be subjugated under Indian illegal occupation. This oppression is a sheer abuse and disregard of 1947 Indian Independence Act and Partition Plan, which categorically stands for Indian British Colony to be divided into two sovereign states wherein the Muslim majority states would have the right to join Pakistan and Hindu majority areas could join India, if they so wanted. However, not only was this blatantly disregarded by India, it also sent its troops and invaded Kashmir.

Unfortunately, at that time this forcible occupation was aided by Cyril Radcliff, who is very much to be blamed for his support to India in this brutal venture. It was especially ruthless because soon after the occupation, India began with the mass massacre of the Muslim Kashmiri population with the main objective of transforming the demographic landscape. Radcliff was instrumental in providing India an access route to the valley of Jammu and Kashmir by handing over the Muslim majority area of Gurdaspur to India. Being the head of the Boundary Commission, his bias against the people of Kashmir especially the Muslims and his preference toward India is evident from his flawed demarcation policies at the time of partition of the Indian Subcontinent.

Despite the most brutal killings by Indian forces, the people of Kashmir have not given up and are struggling against the Indian oppression. India had to approach the UN Security Council which resulted in the passing of two resolutions; demarcations of ceasefire line and demilitarization of the state with free and fair plebiscite to be held, administered by the UN. However, despite the fact that both Pakistan and India agreed to these resolutions to resolve the issue of Kashmir, India continues to disregard the agreed upon resolutions and has not demilitarized the occupied territory, nor is it allowing the plebiscite to be held, only unless the demographics are essentially turned in its favour through mass killings of Muslims and eventually making it into a Hindu majority state. Making the situation even worse, the Indian forces face little or no prosecution for their barbaric acts under the brutal law of the Armed Forces Special Powers Acts (AFSPA), which gives legal protection to the Indian troops.

Today it has been 70 years that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are fighting off the Indian tyranny and state sponsored terrorism while the western world is quite at large. Only recently in June,

the UN human rights report for the first confirmed Indian atrocities in Kashmir. The United Nation's Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued its first-ever report on the situation in Kashmir on June 14. The report highlights the protests after the killing of Burhan Wani in 2016 and the brutal use of pellet guns against protesters among the human rights violations in Indian-held Kashmir. While this indeed brings some hope to the Kashmiris, a lot more is to be done for the just cause of Kashmiri freedom from the strangle hold of Indian brutality. Pakistan on its part has stood firm with its Kashmiri brethren and have been highlighting their plight at every international forum. Unless the human plight is felt across the globe, the inhumane and treacherous Indian rule will not be condemned and the sufferings of people of Kashmir will not be over. The International champions of human rights need to leave their policy of discrimination under the western influence and serve the real purpose of their existence; otherwise 27thOctober would have to be marked as the Black Day for whole Humanity and not just for the Kashmiris.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2018/10/30/27th-october-a-black-day-not-only-for-kashmiris-but-for-all-humanity/>

Security Dilemma: Arms Racing and Alliance Formation

Beenish Altaf

Security Dilemma

The term “Security dilemma” explains a condition where two or more countries are trapped into disputes and conflicts, primarily due to their national security that ultimately lead them to war. Basically, the situation of security dilemma takes place when two countries feel insecure vis-à-vis each other and simultaneously increase their respective defence and weapon systems. Involved states do not want to start war but they keep themselves busy in developing diplomatically, militarily and resort to weapon modernization to make them more safe, secure and protected.

Case Study: South Asia

In order to understand the basic fact that security dilemma creates fear and alliance formation, the article will focus on the case study of India and Pakistan’s adversarial relationship. It generates a model armed security dilemma including the production and development of nuclear technologies, enhanced sort of arms racing and the interchange of national objectives / policies for deterrence and deterrence. Here one can see that the security dilemma is operational in nuclear subcontinent. The arms race between India and Pakistan is deeply rooted in regional conflict phenomena. The fact lies in the ultimate development of their nuclear and conventional capabilities, which is the expression of their security concerns. Both countries are facing numerous security challenges which largely result in security dilemma.

Rationale for Stepping Ahead

India carried out its first nuclear test in 1974, which revealed its ominous intentions. It was apparently a civil nuclear test however it transformed into the next crucial step for Pakistan’s security. Pakistan rightly perceived it to be a big threat to its national security after which it was compelled to go nuclear by hook or crook. That was the only way out for Pakistan to develop nuclear weapons for deterrence perspective. So, in order to justify the threat posed by Indian arms buildup, Pakistan reacted and developed a policy of nuclear ambiguity. Both countries conducted their nuclear tests wherein after India’s nuclear test Pakistan’s government at that point in time highlighted that “Pakistan’s failure to respond in kind would have made it vulnerable to its aggressive neighbor”. Security dilemma is the situation in which state perceive the security of other state as its insecurity. Same is the situation of nuclear sub-continent. The speech of Sharif government has proven that for security, it was necessary for Pakistan to go for nuclear weapon capability. Resultantly, Pakistan’s verdict to go nuclear after the Indian so-called peaceful nuclear tests was the result of security dilemma.

Similarly, the nuclearization of Indian Ocean primarily by India, became a major concern for Pakistan as it has disturbed the strategic balance of power and increased the sense of insecurity. Both states are involved in conventional, missile and nuclear arms race to intensify their security concerns

and to create a deterrence impact on each other however these vice versa actions of developing more and more nukes has given birth to insecurity between both. So, both states are increasingly entangled in the web of security dilemma and disturbing balance of power.

Effecting States Decisions

Security dilemma plays a central role in arms race among the states, even those states that have fundamentally well-matched goals can still get involved in such a competition. Countries engage in arms race in order to achieve ultimate superiority. Arms races have both positive and negative impact and it usually occur come into play when internal and external factors cause a state's decision to arms race.

There are two Indian ambitions that coerce Pakistan to remain involved in its up-gradation of weaponry, one, to develop more and more along with maintaining a conventional gap between India and Pakistan's military build-up that would be asymmetric in nature, two, to sustain the Credible Minimum Deterrence (CMD). Such complementary objective increases security dilemma and propels an extensive arms race in the region further generating insecurity in the preservation and action of strategic equilibrium and the conventional military in the South Asia region. The Indo – Pak conventional asymmetry, missile race and nuclear arms race is among the most worrisome matters for the international politics today.

Implications for the Region

Indo-Pak arms race competition carries strong negative implications for the region that includes instability in region, risk to use nuclear weapon, disturbing balance of power, increasing security dilemma, economic deprivation, instability and civil wars, threat to human security etc.

Potential for arms race instabilities is always there, since both India and Pakistan are busy in building up their respective military capabilities, fissile material stocks and more sophisticated and enhanced missiles capabilities. India is also actively working on BMD systems, which would force Pakistan to introduce both quantitative as well as qualitative improvements in its arsenal. The India-US nuclear deal coupled with rapidly advancing fast breeder program has opened up vast new potential for India to substantially increase its fissile material stockpiles. It increased the security dilemma and has made Pakistan to follow action-reaction syndrome, which has historically determined the nature and direction of India-Pakistan relations. This factor has also been instrumental in the hardening of Pakistani position with regards to Fissile Material Cut- off Treaty (FMCT) negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) at Geneva.

Alliance Formation

Likewise, the security dilemma leads to alliance formation as Pakistan did in the time of War on Terror (WoT) which became a serious challenge for Pakistan at that time. Pakistan served as an important strategic partner of the US in its War on Terrorism which later became the global war on terror. Pakistan has been the US strategic partner before this incident too; it was not the first time where the two had been a close ally.. Simultaneously, Islamabad to attain either its own economic,

political and security requirements has always been voluntarily accessible to the US resulting into alliances and strategic partnership between them.

The security dilemma is evidently at play when one observes the case of Indian membership of the Nuclear Export Control Regimes. It is a fact that India got membership in Australia Group(AG), Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) and Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), while the only one left is its Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) membership from which it already got waiver through the Indo-US nuclear deal. Following suit, Pakistan applied for the NSG membership, which if it had not and if India had acquired the membership, Pakistan would have left outside the cartel, losing access to the civil nuclear trade as India would have definitely vetoed it. It is relevant to mention here that NSG decisions are based on consensus. An element of fear and alliance formation (diplomatic efforts for getting the NSG membership) is very clear from this example too. Summing it all up, it is very clear that how security dilemma of a state creates fear which ultimately leads to a never ending arms race and alliance formation.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2018/10/30/security-dilemma-arms-racing-and-alliance-formation/>

India's Inadequate Justifications and Pakistan's Statement on Indian Purchase of S-400 Missiles

Sonia Naz

The S-400 deal has almost been concluded between Moscow and New Delhi which was signed in late 2016. The most important thing to know about the S-400 is that it is the air defence system designed to protect the critical political, economic, and military facilities against air strikes, strategic cruise and tactical operational and ballistic missiles as well as medium range ballistic missiles under the condition of war. It is capable of tracking and destroying aircrafts and drones before entering into the airspace of the user state. It is also capable of hitting incoming cruise and ballistic missiles. It is designed like S-300 intentionally so that the enemy could not identify which system it faces. However, India's justification to acquire S-400 although is quite inadequate yet it claims it to be part of defensive measures against China which already possess this system.

Indo-Russia share long standing defence ties but the US is also enhancing its relationship with South Asian states, particularly with India to counter the perceived threat from China. The US sold \$15 billion worth of arms to India and recently renamed the US pacific command to the US Indo-pacific command. According to Jeff Smith, an expert on South Asian issues, the reason to conclude this deal with Russia is that the S-400 system is considered a more affordable and highly capable when compared to the competing US systems. It has also attracted interest of other US allies such as Saudi Arabia and Turkey. This is not the only reason, but in fact India also wants to sustain its strategic partnership with Russia despite signing so many deals with the US.

The question arises, how this deal is problematic for Pakistan? The relations between India and Pakistan are not good and from time to time border exchange on the line of control in the disputed territory of Kashmir has been witnessed. Pakistan expresses concerns on this deal because it upsets the balance of conventional weapons between India and Pakistan. Indian purchase of S-400 is part its efforts to get Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) through different sources by following Pakistan's statement on S-400 released on 19 October, 2018. It would not only destabilize strategic stability, but would also increase arms race in the region. Pakistan had proposed a Strategic Restraint Regime in 1998 against the acquisition of BMD due to their destabilizing effect in the region. India rejected this proposal and thus compelled Pakistan to enhance its strategic capabilities which render any BMD system ineffective.

Nevertheless, Pakistan is not interested in an arms race with India, but it wants to maintain strategic equilibrium with India. India said that it has secured S-400 system because China possesses the S-400. Pakistan also can give these false justifications like India, but the reality is that Pakistan has never expressed interest in arms race with India. A prominent nuclear expert Dr.Zafar Nawaz Jaspal in his article "S-400: False sense of security" writes that Pakistan's response to Indian build up is very calculated and systematic. It relies on its nuclear weapons capabilities instead of indulging in the

conventional arms race with India. Pakistan has faced huge criticism due to its tactical nuclear weapons, not to mention the fact the US itself is also modernizing its tactical nuclear weapons.

The dilemma is that Pakistan is the only state in the world which faces Western criticism on every defence deal and development regarding its national security. India's Cold Start Doctrine and its defence deals with the US and Russia is supported by the West as the US embassy in New Delhi stated that it would not damage the capabilities of its allies by putting sanctions on them.

Notwithstanding India's hawkish policies and defence deals with Russia and the US, Pakistan repeated its commitments regarding national security and defence by following the Press Statement on Indian Purchase of S-400 Missiles that it believes in credible minimum deterrence and strategic stability in South Asia at present and in the future as well.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2018/10/30/indias-inadequate-justifications-and-pakistans-statement-on-indian-purchase-of-s-400-missiles/>

Druzhba III: A Positive Trajectory in Pak-Russia Bilateral Relations

S. Sadia Kazmi

October 21 witnesses the beginning of joint Anti-Terror Military Training Exercise between Russia and Pakistan namely Druzhba, a Slavic word translated into “Friendship”. This 15-day training is third in the series of anti-terror exercises between the two countries since 2016. Lasting till November 4, the location is the National Counter Terrorism Center in Pabbi, a Tehsil of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Nowshera District at the altitude of 1.4 thousand meters above sea level. It is believed that the exercises aim at the destruction of terrorists being termed as conditional fighters. These exercises are part of Pak-Russia bilateral training cooperation. This trend of joint exercises began after the two countries inked a defence agreement regarding the training of Pakistani troops in Russia. The “friendship” drills are indicative of the fact that the relations between the two countries have transcended beyond the Cold War frictional phase. Turn in the relations owes a to a number of factors specifically the deteriorating relations between the US and Pakistan, which caused Pakistan to move further closer to China and explore an option in Russia too.

While China has always remained Pakistan’s most time tested friend covering all spheres of bilateral relations: security, defence, economic, as well as diplomatic sectors, Russia is fast becoming a dependable country for Pakistan in the economic and defence sectors. Pakistan is specifically keen to build defence ties with Russia wherein the latter has over the past three years provided four Mi-35M combat and cargo helicopters to Pakistan. Last year also marked the success of 70 year diplomatic ties between the two states. Today the converging geopolitical and geostrategic interests are a driving force in bringing the two closer. Another reason for the thaw in relations is the growing strategic India-US partnership and converging interests regarding the peace process in Afghanistan.

Traditionally, Russia has enjoyed strong relations with India but on the heels of its diminishing strategic trade ties, opening came for Pak-Russia strategic relations in 2014 when Defence Cooperation Agreement was signed during the visit of the Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu. The agreement provided the exchange of information on politico-military issues; cooperation for promoting international security; intensification of counter terrorism and arms control activities; strengthening collaboration in various military fields, including education, medicine, history, topography, hydrography, culture; and sharing experiences in peacekeeping operations. Next year in 2015 Russia lifted self-imposed embargo on Pakistan and agreed to sell Mi-35M attack helicopters to Pakistan, and J-F 17 Thunder fighter planes. Pakistan has also shown interest in buying S-400 missile defense system. In addition, both states are also negotiating a deal on Su-35 and Su-37 fighter jets. Probable defence cooperation for procurement of sophisticated arms by Pakistan including T90 Tanks, air defence systems and fighter planes is also under pipeline. If these proposals are materialized, there is a hope that acquisition of military gear from Russia will open up new military avenues between the two states. Last year in February, Russian navy’s largest anti-submarine warfare ship Severomorsk also arrived in

Pakistan to take part in the Aman 2017 international naval exercises. In the wake of common views on countering threat of terrorism and extremism in the region both countries are specifically keen to enhance military to military relations and have now been conducting regular military exercises codenamed “Druzhba” for last three consecutive years.

The starting point for the joint military drills came about in the wake of terrorist activities by a branch of Islamic State (IS) known as Khorasan Province (ISK-P) in 2016. It was found to be operating from bases along the border districts of Afghanistan. Hence it became the much needed imperative for both Russia and Pakistan to collectively take measures against the common threat of ISK-P. Not only Pakistan has been facing terrorist attacks emanating from Afghanistan on its western border, but Russia also feels threatened with the volatile situation in Afghanistan and hence is especially interested in contributing to the Afghan Peace Process. Middle Eastern based terrorist groups are able to exploit the situation in Afghanistan, carrying out their terrorist activities in the adjacent countries including Central Asia, making Russia feel increasingly wary of its regional security interests. Hence Afghanistan offers a lot of common grounds for both Russia and Pakistan where they could join hands for mutual as well as larger regional and global interests.

Similarly the SCO is another platform through which both states can improve bi-lateral security and strategic ties, with special focus on terrorism, drug-trafficking and cyber security. According to Russian President Vladimir Putin, linking the SCO with the Eurasian Economic Union, the Belt and Road, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations could “build the foundation for a larger Eurasian partnership.” In addition to this, Russia being friends both with India and Pakistan can employ the platform of the SCO to act as a mediator between the two. Pakistan is also interested in signing a free trade agreement with the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). There is a huge untapped potential for bilateral cooperation in all spheres between Russia and Pakistan. The countries have a shared interest in collectively addressing some of these important challenges, including countering terrorism, drug trade and bringing stability in Afghanistan.

Although Pakistan-Russia strategic, military, and defence relations are in the nascent stage, in the wake of changing geopolitical environment, both countries can work out their past for greater cooperation, collaboration, security and peace. Specifically in this context, the joint military drills and Druzhba exercises hold great significance for both Pakistan and Moscow in enhancing cooperation in counter-terrorism operations, hostage liberation, and search and rescue operations.

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2018/10/31/druzhba-iii-a-positive-trajectory-in-pak-russia-bilateral-relations/>

US-India Nuclear Deal: Tale of Ten Years

Asma Khalid

The 2008 India-US civil nuclear deal is marked as one of the most significant event in the strategic landscape of South Asia in last 3 decades. This deal has been viewed as a beginning of special relationship between India and the US. However, after signing the nuclear deal, the first strategic dialogue between India and US took place on 2010 at Washington. It is unfortunate that since its inception, the strategic implications of the deal on the South Asian calculus has remained the most significant part of debate. This research aims to analyze various dimensions of Indo-US strategic cooperation which include nuclear politics in South Asia, arms race instability, Non-Proliferation and regional security and stability.

The aim of India-US partnership was to enhance India's strategic role in the South Asia, while ignoring the impact on the regional stability and states especially Pakistan. The civilian nuclear agreement between India and the US is a comprehensive framework contract, comprised of multiple agreements. The 2005 deal is considered as very facilitative in nuclear commerce and trade. Therefore, various agreements have been signed between both states after the operationalization of nuclear deal. Subsequently, in order to engage in nuclear commerce or trade various changes has been introduced by the US in its domestic laws, and most important step was provision of NSG(Nuclear Suppliers Group) waiver to India.

The intense and heated debate on the nuclear cooperation agreement between India and US has remained focused on the following three issues: First, impact of nuclear deal on Strategic Stability on South Asia; Second, implications of deal on arms race between India and Pakistan; Third: non-proliferation implications of the deal.

Strategic partnership is viewed as foundation to India-US nuclear deal comprised of rebalancing actor in region, pivot of Asia and key actor in "Indo-Pacific" policy of US. Pakistan's strategic analysts have showed their concerns on the India-US strategic cooperation as it has ability to disturb the Balance of power in region: which is dangerous for peace and security of regional states.

Under the Indo-US nuclear cooperation, India insisted that its own nuclear armament plans will not be affected by the nuclear cooperation with US. This factor has threatened the region with a new arms race because regional counterparts; Pakistan and China are likely to respond to India's nuclear weapons buildup to ensure the deterrence equilibrium in the region. This factor instigates arms race instability in the region.

Indo-US nuclear deal is question mark on the spirit of non-proliferation regime. As per article I of NPT states that, there shall be no transfer of the nuclear technology from the NWS to the NNWS, but it does not address the transfer of technology from the NWS to another NWS. Despite being Party to the NPT, the US has assisted India in nuclear technology since the early 1990s. Similarly, the Indo-US nuclear deal has provided special waiver to India for the NSG membership that aims to assist India in enhancing

its nuclear arms capability. The Indo-U.S. nuclear deal allows India poses a serious risk to regional and global security. This also permits other nuclear states like Russia and China to sell their nuclear technologies to other states. Such nuclear deal reveals about the discriminatory international system and the role of hegemonic powers in changing the global norms. Furthermore, under the nuclear agreement India has be granted the NSG Waiver that is against the norms of Non-proliferation regime. Therefore, such arrangements have definitely weakened the NPT and its mission of preventing nuclear proliferation.

Therefore, ten years of India-US strategic partnership has brought immense repercussions on strategic landscape of South Asia. Since 2008, the United States has been pursuing the policy of discrimination and nuclear exceptionalism towards India. This factor is posing dangerous impact on regional stability and security, arms control efforts, instigating arms race instabilities and weekend the Non-proliferation Treaty and multilateral export control regimes.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2018/10/31/the-u-s-india-nuclear-deal-tale-of-ten-years/>

CPEC and Cultural Convergence

Qura tul Ain Hafeez

Regional connectivity and Cultural convergence has always been helpful in making world a global village. In this regard CPEC – as a greater part of China’s BRI strategy is not only stirring this relationship through various economic and developmental integration projects, rather it is also playing the role of a gateway for cultural and educational connectivity between the two countries. Therefore, CPEC is promoting tourism industry of Pakistan and appreciating the student and teachers exchange programs between the two nations. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Cultural Communication Centre (CPEC CCC) is doing its job in a very well articulated manner under the manifestation of ‘Talent Corridor’. The Center will be offering scholarships to some 1,000 Pakistani students for the duration of one-year. It will also be channelizing the vocational training. The training classes are scheduled for November this year in China. The CPEC CCC is working in collaboration with the Chinese education ministry and is affiliated with various different vocational universities and institutes. Moreover according to the MoU inked between the CPEC CCC, Khayber Pakhtunkha (KPk) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) governments, cultural communication centers will be opened under the structure of CPEC. These cultural communication centers will be offering educational and communicational services as a chief organizing body

The youth of any country is a source of strength and Pakistan is lucky enough that it is full of enthusiastic and energetic youth which is eager to boost their horizons of wisdom. They are keen to explore the new ways and the immense magnificence of various cultures and norms. CPEC is playing a very important role in bringing cultural harmony including people to people exchanges, and tourism. Moreover its has also established Pakistan Academy of Social Sciences and China Pakistan Consortium of Business Schools. Whole Pakistani nation can benefit through these projects.

In broader terms, the traversing network of economic connections is about to pass through Pakistan by means of CPEC in one way or another. Eventually it will empower Islamabad to influence its vital geostrategic place in quest of its state wellbeing and vital objectives. The Chinese vision of BRI is manifested through CPEC and is leading towards union of different diverse culture and societies – Turkish, European, Arabs, Russians, Iranians, Chinese, and Africans. This economic and cultural convergence among the regions will provide Pakistan with an opportunity to promote its values and norms among different societies. This will likely convert Pakistan first into a regional leader because of its economic rise as it will be a hub of trade and development and then leading to economic Power within the coming decade

Moreover along with the transfer of social customs and languages the CPEC routes will also be facilitating Pakistan in bridging the gaps for transportation/ supply of goods and other equipment across the borders. Thereby it will enhance people to people contact. Meanwhile, one of the constructive sides of these joint ventures could be the diffusion of information, Research and Development (R&D) and latest advancements. This is unquestionably a sign of development and evolution. Inter-cultural and intra cultural communication bring out an augmentation in trade, technological expansion and

assistance. This knowledge based approach is further promoted through education institute both in Pakistan and in China. According to an estimate there are total of 15,625 students registered in different universities of China out of which 2,700 students are being funded by various Chinese scholarship programme provided by government of China. Moreover thousands of students are enrolled on other scholarships given by the Chinese universities.

So far Pakistan has scheduled to setup two universities in Baluchistan under CPEC umbrella. It would strengthen Pakistani society and familiarize the world with Pakistani traditional culture. Starting a university in an underdeveloped area like Balochistan will be facilitating the students of Balochistan. Moreover the students exchange program will also provide those students with the opportunities to study abroad and share their culture and values in the other way. Although this is a gradual process and will take time however, Pakistani students abroad are a source of presenting Pakistani culture abroad and vis a vis. So the cultural convergence under CPEC will promote Pakistani traditions and accelerate the economic development at large.

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