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## India Pakistan relation and proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia

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### Abstract

India and Pakistan, both the south Asian countries accepted that both have nuclear capability but this is only for maintaining the peace not for developing nuclear weapons. International bodies pressurized both the countries to open their nuclear installation for checking the activities as well as sign the NPT but both the countries denied for it due the security reasons. The lack of talk and confidence building measures between the two countries. India and Pakistan have not engaged in official or unofficial talks on nuclear issues for several years, and have no formal mechanisms to communicate or de-escalate during a crisis. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is a worldwide treaty which aims to avoid the increase of nuclear weapon and its technology, to encourage cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy as well as achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. India was the first country to openly oppose the NPT, which it saw as a tool to perpetuate the nuclear monopoly of the five recognized nuclear-weapon nations. India's decision was also influenced by its security environment, especially the threat posed by China, which had conducted its first nuclear test in 1964 and had fought a border war with India in 1962. India claimed that Pakistan always promoting terrorism which operates in Kashmir and rest of India, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed), Hizbul Mujahideen.

**Keywords:** Relation between India and Pakistan, proliferation of nuclear, weapons in South Asia

### Introductions

India and Pakistan have a long history of rivalry and conflict, which has been exacerbated by their possession of nuclear weapons. Both countries have developed and tested nuclear weapon without considered anything. Both the countries are still expanding their research and other testing continuously. India and Pakistan have similar type of culture, language, taboos, and traditional values since their separation in 1947. Due to several other reasons both the nations became enemy of each other and still there is conflicts on many issues. Recently there have been various wars between these two countries without reaching on any result. This pattern of war is continued since long decades. Nuclear weapons are another threat between these two countries as both are equipped with this weapon as proved in discussion on many debates. Now India and Pakistan, both the south Asian countries accepted that both have nuclear capability but this is only for maintaining the peace not for developing nuclear weapons. International bodies pressurized both the countries to open their nuclear installation for checking the activities as well as sign the NPT but both the countries denied for it due the security reasons.

The nuclear relationship between India and Pakistan is complex and fraught with challenges. Some of the issues that affect their nuclear stability include:

1. The asymmetry in their nuclear doctrines, capabilities, and postures. India has declared a policy of no first use (NFU) of nuclear weapons, while Pakistan has not. India has a larger and more diverse nuclear arsenal than Pakistan, but Pakistan has developed planned nuclear weapon to answer India's conventional dominance. India has also adopted a posture of de-mating its warheads from its delivery systems, while Pakistan has not.
2. The lack of dialogue and confidence-building measures between the two countries. India and Pakistan have not engaged in official or unofficial talks on nuclear issues for several years, and have no formal mechanisms to communicate or de-escalate during a crisis. They also have no agreements on nuclear risk reduction, arms control, or verification.

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3. The role of third parties, especially China and the United Nations. China is a strategic partner and a major supplier of nuclear technology and materials to Pakistan, while the United Nations is an ally and a security provider to India. Both China and the United Nations have interests and influence in South Asia, but their involvement can also complicate the regional dynamics and create mistrust among the nuclear actors.
4. The impact of emerging technologies and new domains of warfare. India and Pakistan are both pursuing the development of new technologies and capabilities that could affect their nuclear deterrence and stability, such as ballistic missile defence, hypersonic weapons, cyber warfare, and space-based assets. These technologies could introduce new uncertainties, vulnerabilities, and escalation risks in the region.

These are some of the main aspects of the nuclear situation in South Asia.

### **About Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is a worldwide treaty which aims to avoid the increase of nuclear weapon and its technology, to encourage cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy as well as achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. It was signed in 1968 by the United Kingdom, the United Nations, the Soviet Union, and 59 other nations, and entered into force in 1970. It is the most widely adhered to treaty in the field of nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear disarmament.

The NPT define nuclear-weapon nations as those which have made and experienced a nuclear explosion before 1 January 1967. These are the USA, Russia, the UK, France, and China. The other Nations s are considered non-nuclear-weapon nations and have committed themselves not to obtain or manufacture nuclear weapon or assist other in doing so. They are also requisite to end a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to enable the authentication of their observance with the treaty. The IAEA is not a party to the NPT, but it has a key role in implementing its verification and cooperation provisions.

The NPT is based on a central bargain that the non-nuclear-weapon nations consent to renounce nuclear weapon in exchange for the nuclear weapon nations' commitment to share the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology and to follow nuclear disarmament aimed at the decisive abolition of their nuclear arsenals. The treaty also establishes a review process to monitor its implementation and address any challenges or issues that may arise.

The NPT has been widely recognized as a cornerstone of global security and stability, but it also faces some challenges and criticisms.

### **Some of these include**

1. The lack of universal adherence to the treaty. Four UN member nations have never joined the NPT: India, Israel, Pakistan, and South Sudan. North Korea withdrew from the treaty in 2003 and conducted several nuclear tests in violation of its obligations.
2. The slow progress of nuclear disarmament by the nuclear-weapon nations. Despite their pledge to pursue nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the NPT, the

nuclear-weapon nations still possess thousands of nuclear warheads and continue to modernize their nuclear forces and doctrines.

3. The risk of proliferation and terrorism. Some non-nuclear-weapon nations have pursued or been suspected of pursuing clandestine nuclear programs in violation of their commitments under the NPT, such as Iran and Syria. There is also a concern that non-state actors, such as terrorist groups, could acquire or use nuclear materials or weapons.
4. The imbalance between the rights and obligations of the parties. Some non-nuclear-weapon nations have complained that they are not receiving adequate access to peaceful nuclear technology and assistance from the nuclear-weapon nations, while facing discrimination and pressure from them on their legitimate nuclear activities. They have also called for more transparency and accountability from the nuclear-weapon nations on their disarmament efforts.

These are some of the main aspects of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

### **Why did India and Pakistan not sign the NPT?**

India and Pakistan did not sign the NPT for different reasons, but both of them were motivated by their security interests and their perception of the treaty as unfair and discriminatory. Here are some of the main factors that influenced their decisions:

1. India was the first country to openly oppose the NPT, which it saw as a tool to perpetuate the nuclear monopoly of the five recognized nuclear-weapon nations (the United Nations, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom) and to deny the right of other countries to develop nuclear weapons for self-defense. India also argued that the NPT did not address the issue of nuclear disarmament and that it created a double standard between the nuclear haves and have-nots.
2. India's decision was also influenced by its security environment, especially the threat posed by China, which had conducted its first nuclear test in 1964 and had fought a border war with India in 1962. India felt that it needed a credible nuclear deterrent to counter China's nuclear capability and to balance its conventional inferiority. India also faced hostility from Pakistan, which had fought three wars with India since their independence in 1947 and had aligned itself with China and the United Nations.
3. India conducted its first nuclear test in 1974, which it claimed was a peaceful nuclear explosion for civilian purposes. However, this test alarmed the international community and triggered sanctions and restrictions on India's access to nuclear technology and materials. It also prompted Pakistan to accelerate its own nuclear program, which it had started in the early 1970s with the help of China and other countries.
4. Pakistan did not sign the NPT because it saw India as a potential threat to its security and survival, with which it had fought three wars. India's superior conventional and nuclear power was considered to be the main driving force behind Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear capability<sup>3</sup>. Pakistan also felt that the NPT was biased and unjust, as it allowed India to develop nuclear

weapons outside the treaty while denying Pakistan the same right.

5. Pakistan conducted its first nuclear tests in 1998, shortly after India's second series of tests in the same year. This marked the emergence of both countries as de facto nuclear weapon nations, although they were not recognized as such by the NPT. Both countries have since developed and tested various types of nuclear weapons and delivery systems, including tactical nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

### Critical Analysis of India and Pakistan Relation

#### Following are some critical analysis on India and Pakistan relation

India and Pakistan have a long and complicated history of relations, marked by both cooperation and conflict. The two countries were part of British India until 1947, when they became independent and partitioned along religious lines. Since then, they have fought four wars, mainly over the disputed territory of Kashmir, and have faced several crises and tensions. They have also tried to improve their ties through dialogue and confidence-building measures, but the progress has been slow and often disrupted by violence.

Some of the main issues that affect India-Pakistan relations are:

1. **Kashmir:** The region of Kashmir is claimed by both India and Pakistan, and has been the main cause of conflict between them. India controls most of Kashmir, while Pakistan administers a smaller portion. Both countries also claim the Siachen Glacier, a strategic area in the northern part of Kashmir. The Line of Control (LoC) is the de facto border that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan, but it is not recognized by either side as the final boundary. The LoC is often violated by cross-border firing and infiltration by militants. Several attempts have been made to resolve the Kashmir dispute, such as the Shimla Agreement of 1972, the Lahore Declaration of 1999, and the Composite Dialogue process of 2004-2008, but none have yielded a lasting solution.
2. **Terrorism:** India claimed that Pakistan always promoting terrorism which operates in Kashmir and rest of India, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed), Hizbul Mujahideen. Pakistan denies this charge and says that it only provides moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination. India has suffered several major terrorist attacks that it blames on Pakistan-based groups, such as the 2001 Parliament attack, the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the 2016 Uri attack, and the 2019 Pulwama attack. Pakistan has also faced terrorist attacks from groups that target its security forces and civilians, such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which India claims has links with some elements in Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies.
3. **Nuclear weapons:** Both India and Pakistan are nuclear-armed nations that have not signed on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). They conducted their first nuclear tests in 1974 and 1998 respectively, triggering international sanctions and condemnation. They have also developed ballistic missiles and other delivery systems for their nuclear weapons. Both countries have declared a policy of no first use of

nuclear weapons, but there is no formal agreement or mechanism to verify this. There is also a risk of accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons due to technical or human errors. The nuclear factor adds to the complexity and danger of any conflict or crisis between India and Pakistan.

4. **Trade and economic cooperation:** Despite their political differences, India and Pakistan have some potential for trade and economic cooperation. They are both members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), which aim to promote regional integration and development. However, trade between India and Pakistan remains low due to various barriers, such as tariffs, non-tariff measures, visa restrictions, security concerns, and political hostility. According to the World Bank<sup>1</sup>, bilateral trade between India and Pakistan was only \$2.4 billion in 2018-19, which is far below its potential of \$37 billion. Some areas where trade can be enhanced are textiles, agriculture, energy, pharmaceuticals, tourism, and services.
5. **Cultural and people-to-people ties:** Despite their political animosity, India and Pakistan share many cultural similarities and affinities, such as language, religion, music, art, literature, cinema, sports, cuisine, etc. There are also many people who have family ties or ancestral roots across the border. There have been some initiatives to foster cultural and people-to-people exchanges between India and Pakistan, such as the Aman ki Asha campaign by media groups<sup>2</sup>, the Wagah-Attari border ceremony by border guards<sup>3</sup>, the Kartarpur corridor for Sikh pilgrims, etc. However, these efforts are often hampered by visa issues, security threats, political interference, or public sentiment.

### Conclusion

Both countries have developed and tested nuclear weapon without considered anything. Both the countries are still expanding their research and other testing continuously.

They are also increasing their stockpiles of fissile material, weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and related delivery mechanisms. India and Pakistan have engaged in several crises and conflicts since their overt nuclear tests in 1998, raising concerns about the risk of nuclear escalation or miscalculation. The most recent crisis occurred in February 2019, following a terrorist attack in Pulwama, Kashmir in which killed more than forty Indians. India and Pakistan have different nuclear doctrines and postures, which are creating by mutual distrust, existing and emerging military capabilities, and the prolonged absence of related dialogue mechanisms<sup>3</sup>. India has declared a policy of no first use (NFU) of nuclear weapons, while Pakistan has reserved the right to use nuclear weapons first in response to conventional aggression. India and Pakistan are also influenced by the nuclear policies and capabilities of China, which is a major strategic partner of Pakistan and a rival of India. China has also declared a policy of NFU, but its nuclear modernization and expansion have raised questions about its intentions and credibility. India and Pakistan face several challenges in enhancing nuclear deterrence and stability in South Asia, such as avoiding conventional and nuclear entanglement, managing escalation dynamics, addressing doctrinal ambiguities, developing confidence-

building measures, and engaging in dialogue on nuclear issues.

As the concluding remark it can say that proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia poses significant challenges for regional and global security. India and Pakistan should take steps to reduce the risk of nuclear conflict and promote strategic stability, such as by establishing crisis communication channels, clarifying their nuclear doctrines, adhering to existing agreements, and resuming dialogue on nuclear issues. The international community should also support these efforts and encourage responsible nuclear behavior by both the countries. C?

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