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Indian Hyper-Militarization under Modi Regime: A Threat for Pakistan

Abstract: *Over the years Pakistan has faced many internal and external threats. India always considered Pakistan as rival and made all out contributions to exacerbate the problems for Pakistan in all the domains of Politics and security. This paper will analyze the Indian militarization program involving huge weapons acquisition and signing different arms deals to unsettle Pakistan. Under the Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have seen the rise in the procurement of Military weapons coupled with Hindutva nationalistic propaganda and the threats hurled at the security and national integrity of Pakistan. This process of militarization has significantly shifted the balance of power in India's favor, resulting in increasing aggressiveness on India's part, as seen by the 29 February 2019 Balakot strike. These all actions will bring more instability and destruction in South Asia which is already under severe economic crises especially post covid-19.*

Key Words: Militarization, Balance of Power, Arms Race, Bulwark

Introduction

Since assuming power in 2014, Mr. Narendra Modi has initiated a plan for the modernization and the expansion of the Indian Military. This hyper modernization and expansion has disturbed the balance of power and tilted it in the favor of India. Over the years when ever BJP government has come to power in India, it had started rampant programs for increasing the military might of India. If we look at the main agenda of Bhartiya Janata Party of the last many years it revolved along the Emancipation of the Notion of Akhand

Bahrat which simply means to subdue other neighboring countries and make India Strong. In 1998 India exploded its nuclear devices to claim the hegemonic status in South Asia and to pressurize Pakistan. This event ushered a new era of the arms race which is still going on. After coming to power in 2014 Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi practically manifested the ideology of the Bhartiya Janata party by starting an unnecessary of program Military expansion which again unsettled the balance of power in the region.

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It is worth mentioning that since 2014 India Under the Leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi doubled its budget from 38.35 Billion Dollars to 76.6 Billion Dollars in the year 2022 (Miglani, [2014](#)) The aspirations of becoming the regional hegemon is creating problems for the peace loving nations of South Asia. There was a massive increase in the Indian Military budgets in recent years by 2022 India became the third largest military spender on Military with a budget of 76.6 Billion Dollars. (World Military Expenditure Passes \$2 Trillion for the First Time | SIPRI, [2022](#)) The notions of cross border raids and surgical strikes have made this region prone to the notion of power keg of the world in the 21st century the term which was used for the Balkan regions due to continuous conflicts took place in the 19th Century and early 20th century. Indian aggressive posture towards is still evident the way Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi acknowledged the role of India in the dismemberment of Pakistan while delivering a Speech at Dhaka University (Ranjan , [2016](#)).

Keeping in view the current trends in world politics, this world is moving away from conflict to cooperation and we have seen the Chinese initiated projects of OBOR (One belt one road) and MSR (MARITIME Silk Route) which are joining and uniting the world on the economic lines. The rampant race has been initiated by Mr Narendra Modi to increase the fighting capacity and capability of the Indian Military which is already at its current strength is more than the match to the combined military strength of all the countries of South Asia.

Hyper-Militarization under Modi Regime

Arms race can be defined as a method to achieve superiority against your enemy by acquiring different types of weapon end to increase the present inventory of both

conventional and unconventional weapons. Human history is evident that an arms race leads to instability and violence. Over the decades we have seen this that the majority of the wars which took place were preceded by the arms race. We have the example of World War I and World War II, the European states were involved in arms race prior to the start of these wars (Glaser, [2000](#)).

The cold war between United States of America and the Union of Soviet socialist republics also preceded by massive weapon accumulation. Similarly, this Indian Arms race can lead towards war and Instability in South Asia. Especially Pakistan always feel threatened due to the Indian arms race which was evident from the debacle of 1971 and the subsequent India actions of threat and intimidation against Pakistan. This thing is of great concern for the State of Pakistani is this that Prior to the 1965 and 1971 wars increased its defense budgets to better prepared for the war against Pakistan (Oren, [1994](#)). This arms race will ultimately leads towards militarization in which brings the whole of the nation into the mood of war mongering against their perceived enemies.

Mr Narendra Modi has global designs to make India a regional rather an International power. To achieve this dream India is acquiring more weapons under the illusion that this weapon acquisition will compel the neighboring states to bow in front of Indian hegemony. Over the years after becoming Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi has taken pride in starting an arms race under the guise of defending Indian against self-created enemies. India is far bigger in area and population in comparison to Pakistan and there is no question of Pakistan challenging this reality. Pakistan always wanted to live in a peaceful environment but cannot allow India to undermine the importance of Pakistan at the regional level.

Indian Aggressive Posture under the Modi regime

Pakistan being a responsible state always vowed to have cordial and friendly relations with its all neighbors including India and Afghanistan. Pakistan shares a 3,300 km border with India and since 1947 always tried to find peaceful options for the mutual issues of conflict like Kashmir and water sharing. This is not a hidden fact that India always tried to destabilize Pakistan both internally and externally. In the year 2009 Pakistan gave a dossier to the Indian head of state regarding Indian involvement in supporting terrorist and training them in Afghanistan. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi a well-coordinated International campaign has been started to prove Pakistan a failed state and a supporter of terrorism. European Union Dis Info lab in its report exposed the web of lies spun by the Modi Government since its inception. According to this report more than 265 media outlets were used to discredit Pakistan as a responsible state and fabricated stories were produced against the image of Pakistan (Jahangir, 2020). Pakistan is bracing the severe wave of terrorism and this wave of terrorism has turned into a whirlpool after the arrival of Prime Minister Modi.

Pakistan is a country which suffered the most at the hands of terrorism. Pakistan has lost countless innocent civilians and Law enforcing personals while making this world and the region of South Asia more safer place to live. On the other hand, India always helped these terrorist inside and outside Pakistan with the aim to malign Pakistan by creating instability. We all still remember the sad incident of APS Peshawar and an increase in similar activities becoming more profound under the ambit of the premiership of Mr. Modi. This is not a hidden fact that India with the connivance of the Former Afghan President, Ashraf Ghani government supported the Baloch

insurgents and the group's affiliated to the TTP and provided them with training and other logistical needs. The arrest of Indian Naval Officer Kulbushan Yadav is a prime example of how India used RAW to create internal disturbances in the province of Baluchistan. In his confessional statement he accepted to give monetary aid to Baloch insurgents and worked as an Indian representative for handling these terrorist. Since the end of the cold war the world has not witnessed any state stooping to such limits on inflicting harm to its neighboring state. Over the years Pakistan has exposed the Indian involvement in Pakistan through Afghanistan with International media as well as the increased role of Mr. Modi Government in creating internal strife Pakistan (Gul, 2020). The Government of Mr. Narendra Modi has invented a very shallow strategy of so-called Surgical Strike claims against Pakistan to portray herself as the regional hegemon in maintaining peace contrary to being a supporter of terrorism in Pakistan and the South Asian region. We all are known to the fact that the way India supported LTTE against Sri Lanka. Since coming to power Mr Narendra Modi, the Indian Government has claimed to conduct five cross border surgical strikes but without providing any credible proofs of the presence of terrorist in Pakistan or the carrying of these strikes. This all seems to be fabricated stories in which India claimed that dozens of terrorist were killed and Indian troops stayed inside Pakistan borders for hours. This all narrative is the creation of the belligerent mind set of the India government to create a false believes of controlling south Asia and to build her image as a force to reckon with.

Balakot Airstrike

The India Government under Mr. Modi has a continuous reputation of acting callously and undermining the regional peace. India has to understand that maintenance of

regional peace is on the shoulders of India not on any other state in South Asia because of the Indian self-claimed role of the regional power. India should take responsibility of her wrong short-sighted policies instead of directing the blame game on other small states in the region. In the year 2019 Indian Government made a fabricated claim of surgical strikes against Pakistan and killing over 300 terrorist tantamount to the mockery of credibility. In the 21st-century satellite images can destroy the fabricated claims of any state or media account boasting their flimsy achievements. Both Pakistan and India are the countries having nuclear arsenal and any miss understating can lead to an all-out war or a nuclear showdown. This Indian Government under Mr. Modi has no respite for the maintenance of regional peace and tries to inflict damage on its neighbors especially Pakistan. The concocted Balakot surgical strike was celebrated as a new policy to deal with Pakistan for the achievement of Indian strategic goals against Pakistan. Even the different opposition parties in India Parliament question the credibility of these so called surgical strikes. Even the International media exposed the Indian lies by showing satellite images in which no building was hit or any dead bodies (Howell, Doyle, Scarr, 2019). The notion of new normal was claimed as a future strategy to bully and intimidate Pakistan. Pakistan showed restraint in escalating the tensions and politely gave its reply in the form of operation swift Retort in which Pakistan used precision guided missiles to hit important Indian military targets and shooting down two Indian fighter jets. Here we have to see that the new normal has been created by Pakistan by challenging the Indian dominance of the skies under the broad day sun light instead of making any move under the cloud of darkness. This was for the very first time when Pakistan broke the Indian conventional superiority by

challenging the Indian dominance of skies in broad day light. The whole world appreciated the way Pakistan handled the Indian aggression and retaliated in the most calculated and controlled manner. Pakistan returned the drowned Indian Pilot according to Geneva conventions on the status and the rights of Prisoner of wars.

The precarious Balance of Power in South Asia

The massive arms procurement by the Indian government since 2014 has disturbed the balance of power present in South Asia between Pakistan and India. Indian designs to de-stabilize Pakistan by both overt and covert strategies will only lead towards anarchy in the region. This region has already seen 4 wars which ended in death and destruction for both the countries. Unfortunately, this Indian Government under Mr. Modi has no emancipation for the realization of the fact that this region of South Asia has a population of approximately 1.9 Billion people. Any nuclear showdown will erase the humanity in this region and by peaceful coexistence this region can bring wonders for the socio economic progress of the world.

Massive Increase in the Indian Military Budgets

Over the years successive Indian Government has increased their defense budgets which ultimately led to the start of the environment of arms race in the region. The increase in military spending has a domino effect following which others countries also felt compelled to increase their military budgets. This vicious cycle contributes to the environment of militarization which ultimately leads towards chaos and conflict. Pakistan has avoided this arms race by always maintaining the stance of peaceful coexistence over competition and rivalry with its neighbors. By the year 2022 India

became the third highest country with respect to the defense budget. This whopping amount in the increase in the defense budget of Prime Minister Narendra Modi lead India has disturbed the balance of power in this region. According to a report by SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)from the year 2017 TO 2021, Indian remained the biggest importers of weapons which empirically proves the war mongering of Indian during the premiership of Mr Narendra Modi(Buchholz, 2016). There is no doubt that India has border rivalry with China but there are no chances of the escalation of tensions as these countries are cobbled together in the complex economic interdependence. Instead of conducting a surgical strike against Chinese troops along its borders, India prefers fist fights to show her military prowess. Currently Indian army is in a modernization program to modernize different weapons systems worth 18.4Billion dollars which includes new artillery systems, new missiles, integrating night vision with existing weapons, early warning system and drone technologies (Sabella, 2022).

Enhancing the Aerial Superiority over Pakistan

In the 21st century, air space will play a major part in defining the outcome of any war and this was manifested in the conflicts of the contemporary era like the American Invasion of Afghanistan, Iraq and the most current war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Drone technology has revolutionized both the surprise and the lethality aspect of the air war theory. Keeping in view of these developments Mr. Modi started the program of modernizing the Indian air force to achieve air dominance in the region of South Asia. In the year 2015 Mr. Modi finalized the deal with France for the procurement of state of art 26 Rafael fighter jets at the cost of 1.3 Billion Euros

speaks volumes about the war mongering of Mr. Narendra Modi led BJP Indian Government. The Indian strategy makers for a long time had realized the importance of air warfare in the 21st century. Since operation Swift Retort and Indian failure to retaliate back has exposed the preparedness of the Indian air force. India lacked the political will, military planning and capability to strike back against Pakistan. In the aftermath of operation Swift Retort the Indian state has planned to increase its aerial fighting capacity to new heights and tried to acquire new Aircrafts to maintain its aerial superiority over the skies of South Asia. India has already planned to retire MIG 21s and replace them with another modern aircrafts by the year 2025. To Increase the offensive capability India has procured the most modern gunship helicopters from the United States of America i.e. Apache gunships. These helicopters have very lethal armament to neutralize the enemy's armored attacks. These helicopters have a service ceiling of 20,000ft which makes it equally effective ton use at the Himalayan battle front. This simply speaks to Indian serious to have an aggressive and offensive posture to maintain its hegemonic position in South Asia.

Logistical Outreach towards Pakistan

India has learnt a bitter lesson form the Indian escalation with Pakistan in 2002 when her military took weeks to reach the border to mount pressure on Pakistan following the fake staged attack on the Indian parliament. India has continuously expanded its military installations near to Pakistan to have an advantage and to achieve a quick victory against Pakistan under the Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Recently India has built a an airfield in Gujarat just 130km away from Pakistan's border to have an advantage in case of war against Pakistan (Kadam, 2022). This is a part greater strategy to strangulate

Pakistan by achieving air dominance against Pakistan. In the recent past India also upgraded its fleet of aircraft to achieve mobilization of troops and armaments at the faster rate. India has learnt a lesson due to delays and the mobilization of troops during the 2002 escalation. India is the only south Asian country who is operating Chinook helicopters which are famous for record troops and wright carrying the the most hostile locations of the world. The United States of America has used Chinooks extensively in Afghanistan against the Taliban (Asthana, 2021). Currently India is operation a fleet of 15 Chinook helicopters which has given her an edge against Pakistan in the high altitude mountain warfare and quick deployment of troops at any war theatre. India is currently in talks with the United States of America to buy more Chinooks to enhance her military capabilities against China and Pakistan (Peri, 2022). Not only these aircrafts but India has also announced to procure more C130 Hercules in her fleet to meet her logistic needs. Indian is working on the full spectrum in which quick logistic support can play a big part in achieving quick victory. This C130 is one of the most reliable heavy lifting airplanes.

Militarization of the Arabian Sea

In the south Asia Arabian sea occupies a very important place due to its unique location. Arabian is a pivot between the Middle east and far east Asia. Its close proximity to the Suez Canal, the horn of Africa and the Strait of Hormuz increase its importance to many folds. Arabian Sea has become a very important place for the strategy makers to achieve different goals at the International level. India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken special interest in the importance of Arabian Sea and by her maritime policies made it clear that India wants to control the politics of Arabian Sea. Last year in September 2022

India launched indigenously built aircraft carrier Vikrant at the cost of 2.5 Billion Dollars. Only few countries have capability to manufacture aircraft carrier and India has achieved this goal under the Prime Minister ship of Mr. Narendra Modi.. Strong Indian Navy will not only put Pakistan's military under pressure but will have a impact on the success of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. In future China may have the economic and political issues due to closed waters and the presence of American allies near her territorial waters. Under these all circumstances India wants to off balance both China and Pakistan by posturing with a strong navy in the Arabian sea. The First Indian aircraft carrier Vikrant during the 1971 Pakistan Indo war played a pivotal role in ensuring the Indian air superiority and victory over East Pakistan. Recently India signed a deal of 3 Billion dollars for the lease of nuclear powered submarine to enhance her fighting and deterrence capacity in the Arabian sea.

Modernization of Indian Army

Indian Army is the world second largest army with the active strength of 1.4 million soldiers secondly only to People Liberation Army of China with approximately 2 million soldiers. Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi has extensively used Indian Army to achieve his personal agendas like claiming the so called cross border raids to achieve popularity and fame at back home . Unfortunately Indian army remained in neglect due to Indian bureaucratic constraints in the process of procuring new weapons for Indian army. After the current skirmishes with Chinese army Mr. Modi took serious interest in the reformation and organization of India Army. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured the Indian army for providing them with best available weapons and other military hardware. Recently India has inked deal with United

States of America for the acquisition of Sig 716 assault rifle to replace the ageing INSAS rifles. These old assault rifles remained plagued with performance issues and soldiers complaint about the performance under harsh conditions. Aside from that, India has established a program to purchase modern artillery systems and combat tanks. After the border skirmishes with China, India is planning to acquire light battle tanks with enhanced cross country mobility. These new light tanks will give an edge to India to inflict a quick defeat to Pakistan by speed and mobility in unleashing a surprise defeat.

Conclusion

South Asia is the region with approximately 1.9 billion people but unfortunately this region failed flourish in the field of economics on the footsteps of European community. Except India other regional countries like Srilanka , Bangladesh , Afghanistan and India remained in internal instability in which India played a big role. The region of South Asia has a very close proximity to Middle East and Central Asia which enhances its geo political importance. This region can lead the world in the field of International Politics and Geo Economics if India realize her role seriously. India always remained a bulwark for the world powers in achieving their strategic goals and designs. During the cold war India remained puppet of Union of Soviet Socialist republics and created problems for Pakistan. India and Union of Soviet Socialist republics both played a very negative role in exploiting the political instability in East Pakistan and the dismemberment of Pakistan in 1971, Then India tried her level best to undermine the existence of Pakistan by pursuing and ultimately exploding her nuclear devices. Even during the global war on Terror the Mr

Atal Bihari Vajpayee led BJP government left no stone unturned in labelling Pakistan as a terror sponsoring state. Currently India considers herself as a regional power and claims to be a power at par with United States of America and China. In the last decade India has signed number of strategic partnership accords with India to undermine both China and Pakistan. In the contemporary era Mr. Narendra Modi also labelled Pakistan as a terrorist state and tried level best on the International level to declare Pakistan as a terrorist sponsoring state. India has to choose between rivalry or the peaceful solution of disputes with Pakistan. World is still battling with the menace of Corona and India is bent upon increasing its military power by acquitting more and more weapons. Majority of The world has shown negative growth of GDP due to aftershocks of Covid-19, this is a right time enhance economic cooperation at the regional level headed by India.

South Asia is seeing a new economic transformation in the form of China Pakistan Economic Corridor which is the main artery of One Belt One Road initiative taken by China to join different continents through modern and effective means of communications. China-Pakistan even offered to change the name of China Pakistan Economic Corridor to make India a partner in it (Mitra, 2017). India is arising economy and can benefit a lot by joining this grandiose project of economic integration. India needs easy and cost effective passage to sell her consumer goods to the markets of Europe and Africa and this initiative of OBOR is the best alternative for India. Similarly central Asia is full of energy resources and India can benefit from them to fuel her energy hungry industrial complexes. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has to think for the future discourse of

India. India can claim a respectable position of an ally of Pakistan and India other than a bulwark of the west against CPEC. Even the Russians have accepted Pakistan as close ally in the matters of International politics but India under PM Narendra Modi is still reeling with paradigm of Cold war. India has to set its orientation either of cooperation or rivalry. Pakistan always pursued the path of peaceful coexistence and always tried dialogue over conflict. Pakistan despite internal and external instability never allowed India to

undermine the existence and reality of her presence as important player in the regional politics. Pakistan always worked for the preservation of world peace and its Foreign Policy during cold war era and Post-Cold war era is the best manifestation of this reality. United States of America acknowledged Pakistan's assistance to USA in making the Global War on terror a success as the most important Non NATO ally. India has to rethink its foreign policy which is spun around the notion of interference in the internal matters of her neighboring states.

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