

## Emerging Challenges to Traditional Security: Pakistan's Future Prospects

**Abstract:** *As of late, Pakistan has seen new rushes of fierce traditional challenges to its security. Regardless of whether in light of ethnic or fanatic ideologies, Pakistan is at crossroads of security between its eastern and western borders. This presents two particular challenges related to difficulties for contemporary, traditional security orders: the ascent of armed conflict with any state and the governance of a progressively complex internal security vacuum. This paper aims to understand emerging challenges to traditional security, mainly focusing on the threat to Indian Ocean Region (IOR) through the lens of technological advancement in armed conflict. By using a qualitative secondary data approach, the author will conduct an in-depth review of the secondary data in the area of traditional security flux and Pakistan's future prospects. The paper will also analyse Pakistan's deterrence and the biggest traditional security challenge from India with a lens of the development of weapon frameworks as far as disastrous capacities and expansion in range, drones, satellite monitoring and more. Finally, the paper will conclude with the possible ways to curb the emerging challenges to traditional security.*

**Key Words:** Pakistan-India, Artificial Intelligence, Drones, Security, Weapon System, Indian Ocean, Submarines

### Introduction

When it comes to national security and development, security is a highly contested but fundamental premise that persists in exemplifying the socialist economy that defines contemporary global affairs in the context of national security and development. The most significant trends that have an impact on national security issues can be identified after conducting a thorough evaluation of multiple variables. Today South Asia, despite having been independent for more than a century, is one of the world's poorest and most backward regions. The primary goal of the country is

to adequately protect and safeguard its boundaries.

Primarily for Pakistan, the rise of violent non-state actors committed to the use of radical mythologies for political purposes is increasing the difficulty of achieving national security objectives. These powers are putting the security of states to the test in a variety of ways through their combined impact. The development of Pakistan's flanks means that the country is particularly vulnerable to the effects of these external factors. Taking a look into the future, it may appear that politics in our neighbouring countries is compromising the national

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security and development of the region as a whole. [\(Khokhar, 2015\)](#)

For this reason, a long-term national security policy that is supported by both parties and always implemented as a state is required. Multiethnic and diverse Pakistan is attempting to become a modern, progressive, and inclusive homogeneous nation-state in the process. From the West and the East, Pakistan's borders were threatened; especially the situation in the East kept the country physically guarding its borders. [\(Khan, 2019\)](#) After disagreements over the distribution of military hardware, the newly formed Army was left in a dismal state. The conflict in Kashmir in 1948 left no doubt about the future of relations between the neighbours. Afghanistan was the only country in the West to oppose Pakistan's UN membership, despite the fact that both countries are Muslim and share long-standing ethnic and commercial ties. The country had to make a decision on how best to protect its borders. [\(Khan, 2019b\)](#)

Based on the history of nuclear neighbours where Pakistan took birth from the womb of India, still internal rather than external threats pose the greatest danger to the two countries. Domestic violence, on the other hand, has the potential to reawaken old wounds. There is still a significant impact on the subcontinent from events in Iran, Afghanistan, and China. [\(Stolar, 2007\)](#) It makes this region and, certainly, adversaries Pakistan and India more fragile and in a continuous state of evolving and enhancing their defence and military might enhance their own traditional security framework.

### **Technological Advancement in South Asia**

South Asia has become a cauldron of economic and international change. Almost half of the world economy is backed by China and the US. They are now striving for their own influence in South Asia. Both

countries have their own distinct systems of economy, geo-political and geostrategic scenarios. Maritime Silk Road, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor are striking and successful models in the region with the forefront of Pakistan specifically. On the other hand, the US-India partnership is no less a show of cards. History is remembered with the friends of benefits tale.

It was not long ago when Pakistan was the darling of the US, and all technologically advanced fighter jets, machines and other military equipment were provided to Pakistan during the cold war. This technological advancement in the region between Pakistan and India; Pakistan playing the deterrent game and India playing the aggressor game can spark a competition between China and US which might have consequences, maybe as populating the region with advanced nuclear technology imports in both Pakistan and India.

Recent news of an Indian supersonic missile landing in Mian Chunnu is evident in the fact that it may take an inch to radicalise the region between two already nuclear adversaries in the backyard of the already-fueled Russia-Ukraine conflict. Weakness or compromise in the Indian system was demonstrated by this missile incident. [\(Missile misadventure, 2022\)](#) The incident serves as a cautionary tale for both India and Pakistan regarding the safety of a nuclear-armed South Asia. As a serious matter, it should not be viewed as a minor accident that is kept out of the public eye. Both Pakistan and India should ensure that communication channels are always open in order to prevent future infractions like this one. On the other hand, Pakistan is buying the J-10 latest fighter jets to deter the threat from India and balancing acts against India's Rafael jets in another example of advancement in military and security technology; of not very rich nuclear states.

## **Traditional and Non-Traditional Security**

The modern favourite definition of national security is John M. Collins, which explains the advantages of national security as follows: An old-fashioned lifestyle. The fundamental system, values, and honours have not changed. [\(Corsi, 2004\)](#) In terms of national security, it is possible to divide it into two categories: internal and external: The internal is concerned with the issues that affect citizens at home, while the external is concerned with global issues. National security has traditionally relied heavily on military and political decisions. A state's security objectives can be best served and protected from both internal and external threats by a well-balanced combination. States can have varying levels of state protection. As of 1945, armed forces and nuclear weapons have served as the primary means of achieving their goals.

## **Regional Factors in Traditional Security**

Pakistan's regional efforts to exert control are a source of anxiety and a path to concern. Both strategic objectives and military relations between South Asia's largest nations, i-e, Pakistan and India, are sources of instability and a desire to rule and strengthen each other and each other's traditional security framework because of asymmetries. Which sometimes results in attempts to maintain control are inherently unstable and extremely hazardous. [\(Lodhi, 2002\)](#)

India and Pakistan's long-term rivalry stems from three issues: border disputes, particularly in Kashmir; common issues made worse by population growth rivalry between the BJP and the militarisation of missiles, technological advancement and nuclear weapons. This poses a serious threat to the region. The Mian Chunnu incident is an evident example of it. There were numerous border clashes between the two

armies over the course of the year. The insurgents in Kashmir, on the Siachen Glacier, and in the mountains of Siachen continued to official and unofficial support in Pakistan, connecting them to the country's engagements with Afghan Mujahedeens.

Over half a century, India defended its claim to Kashmir. Millions of its soldiers, as well as its efforts to repress local insurgents, were lost in the haze of many border incidents and cross-border gunfights with Pakistani forces have occurred. Political rivalry between Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif in the early 1990s was a major factor, and Nawaz Sharif's anti-Indian rhetoric over Kashmir fueled competitive anti-Indian rhetoric. Mutual accusations of interfering in each other's internal affairs issues pertaining to one's own country. Politically, Pakistan benefited greatly from the various incidents.

Within India, there are Hindu-Muslim conflicts. All of this helped to create a virtual reality. Between 1994 and 2000, diplomatic ties between the two countries were broken. Due to the liberal Gujral doctrine, and despite India's diplomatic initiative, both sides engaged in a brief border conflict in Kashmir's Kargil region during the summer of 1999 and again in the spring of 2002 when India responded to a series of terrorist attacks it blamed on Pakistan, which result in the form of confrontation from Pakistan. There was no end in sight to the long-running conflict. It was short of an all-out war. On the other hand, there were high-level exchanges of hostility and dialogue between a steadier ability to work together on issues like the environment of Indus water sharing. As early as the 1980s, the general consensus was that both countries had nuclear weapons that were ready for use, possessed or had the ability to acquire operational nuclear weapons in a short period of time. [\(Walker, 1998\)](#)

## **Nuclearisation Expansion By India**

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The term nuclearisation, a birth by India, is blamed for approaching a threat to regional peace. The militarisation of space, waters and land, increasing missile capabilities, production of weapons of mass destruction, and power projection by the foreign military are the main components or challenges to peace in the region. Yet, the game has begun, which tends to move in a horrific side. (Mishra, 2017) Geo-strategically, the Indian Ocean is one of the most delegated areas to the world's eye. It is the third biggest maritime division, with strategic sea lanes of communication (SLOCs) connecting the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia to Europe, East Asia, and the United States. Around 80% of the world's energy trade pass via this region's choke points.

The Indian Ocean contains four out of six world gags: the Straits of Malacca, the Straits of Hormuz, the Strait of Mandeb, and the Mozambique Channel. (Ahmed, 2017) World forces had been attempting to rule the region with various systems. Whether it was France, Prussia and United Kingdom in the Medieval ages, USA and USSR in the cold war time or the US, or US and China in the post-cold conflict era. The Indian Ocean is a geostrategic route for China's economic and military ascent. Both China and US are advanced nuclear technological powers and worry in Washington that China's growing influence can destabilise the region. (Navy, 2015)

## **Role Of China In Technological Advancement**

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China, on the other hand, has had a significant impact on the nuclearisation of the region. One of China's most significant achievements is to turn a nuclear-armed Pakistan into a significant contributor to its interests and global trade. As well as providing Pakistan with nuclear material and weapon designs. China has also ensured the supply of missile technology to the country. China's billions of dollars

flowing through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor offer Gawadar the chance to become another Dubai. Sino-Middle East and South-West Asian maritime cooperation would be impossible without Gawadar port. Icing to the cake is the options of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Both fragile countries in the region are looking for more financial advantages, which has improved China's strength in the region and its ability to offer more on the table. (Alyson J. K. Bailes, 2017)

China has provided Pakistan with modern weapons such as battleships, military aircraft, short-range projectiles, and diesel submarines in order to control India's aspirations in the region. Pakistan also received Wing Loong II multirole drones from China. Those are capable of carrying air-based missiles along with the laser bomb. China has provided technical support to Pakistan's missile development projects in order to deter India's missile advancement. The monitoring system is a vital aspect allowing Pakistan's missile development program to proceed ahead. Pakistan also acquired optical tracking and measurement systems from China. China's support will accelerate Pakistan's missile production, posing a BoP with India, while also assisting Pakistan in monitoring India's space defence projects. In contrast to India's Indo-Pacific arrangement.

## **Import of Pakistan's IOR Nuclear Capabilities**

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For the balance of power, due to continuous support and technology transfer to Islamabad, Pakistan has already increased its nuclear naval capabilities. BABUR 3 SLCM, a nuclear-capable submarine-launched cruise missile, has been successfully tested by Pakistan. (Vipin Narang, 2017) With the help of the AGOSTA 90 B electric-diesel submarine, this missile has been proven to be operational. Pakistan's naval nuclear force structure has

grown as a result of these advancements. (Saima Aman Sial, 2017) As Pakistan develops a submarine-based nuclear deterrent, there are clear indications that Pakistan's navy will be under Pakistani command and control (C2). As a result, a number of questions about Pakistan's ability to conduct surveillance and monitoring (C4I2SR) operations safely and successfully have arisen. Prior to implementing restrictions on the negative development of weapons, it is necessary to determine whether the missile can engage the Agosta Submarine.

China has been seen as the emerging superpower within the last decade. The region is now capable of diesel-electric submarines along with nuclear-powered aircraft from which they enjoy an enormous position in the waters. The total amount of submarines is almost sixty, which are divided into various types. Diesel-electric attack submarines are counted as fifty, which rank the most. Following the SSNs, the nuclear-powered submarine is six in counting. Ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) are four on the count. AIP, known as Air independent propulsion, are being installed on 17/60.

The technological advancement in naval capabilities was done by the upgradation of the 3 Shang class (093B) in 2017. Improving the noise reduction, its launching system and its speed. The upgrade system includes the vessels that are being installed with the famous Yj-18, an anti-ballistic missile ship which has a range of almost 400 km for the target. The country is now aiming for the new design for the TYPE 093B submarine, which will enhance its capabilities regarding anti-surface and attacking ability. There is also construction done on the new design, likely to be named Type 096 (SSBNs) with the installation of JL-3 SLBM. (NTI, 2015)

China conducted a flight test of its JL-2. A long-range nuclear weapon in 2015. The JL-2 can target in continental India from

China, with a range of up to 7,200Km. Chinese nuclear submarines are still patrolling the Indian Ocean, demonstrating Beijing's determination to project power in the region. For piracy operations in the IOR, China employs advanced defence capacities such as attack submarines (SSNs). Among other capabilities, there stands another remarkable asset known as SSNs. Additionally, Indian authorities are concerned about Beijing's naval aggression in the South China Sea. Since they see a link between strong Chinese patrols in the SCS and increased deployments in the IOR, some fear that China may use its SCS outposts to project strength into the Indian Ocean. India fears transferring these Chinese advanced nuclear-capable naval technology to Pakistan.

### **Role of the US in Technological Advancement**

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Pakistan shifting laps from Washington to Beijing is seen by India as a threat from both Pakistan and China, leading to closer ties with the United States. The security, peace and security approach could be scuppered by mutual interests. Nuclear weapons in the region already pose a serious threat to the region's security, and further advancing them can extract drastic results. Regional instability and conflict will be exacerbated by developing nuclear submarines and the K-4 SLBM, a nuclear-based technology that works in conjunction with nuclear submarines. (Panda, 2020) Strengthening sea-based precision, as well as enhancing operational capabilities, will be achieved by the Indian ballistic missile submarine (SSBN).

In addition to maintaining a reliable deterrent with China, it will destabilise the balance of power. (Navy, 2015) But on the other hand, this act will prove to be an unbalancing act for Pakistan. Pakistan act as a deterrent to India, and India acts as a deterrent to China in a region. All nuclear

states and adversaries are bluffing each other with a brisk nuclear-blundered war which can prove to be catastrophic.

The US doesn't consider India a danger. The Clinton and Bush administrations enrolled New Delhi in a "Show of Democracies," and they saw India as a key accomplice or partner. [\(Asselin, P. 2011\)](#). Sea participation has been subsumed in different issues. Its maritime doctrine showed up in 2004. However, a full-fledged sea military doctrine emerged in 2007. US direction to Southern Asia and the Indian Ocean is a growth of an Asia-Pacific methodology based on over seventy years of American aspiration forward and responsibility in East Asia. The Indo-Pacific Initiative, an unmistakable expansion of the rebuild toward Asia, started in 2011. It is the most recent.

### **Import of India's IOR Nuclear Capabilities**

There's been a diverse shift from the zone of peace to the main hotspot of nuclear threat among triangular nuclear states; China, Pakistan and India. Therefore India seeks collaboration with the US. This is done in exchange for weapon technology and advanced war crafts, which will provide a shield against China and Pakistan. Anti-submarine warfare (ASW), a critical field of weapons technology and strategies, will be transferred by the US to India to safeguard its interests in the IOR. The long-term navy partnership between India and the US will eventually lead to a joint ASW capability.

At a time when the Asia-Pacific is undergoing a substantial difference, the Indian Ocean region's integrity is dependent on India and the US, so either they want to maintain the ocean free and peaceful or turn it into another nuclear hotspot. [\(Hanif, S. F. 2004\)](#). The state is intensely cognizant that such non-traditional dangers as naval psychological warfare and weapons

expansion could disturb essential ocean paths. Purging Asian waters of these all-inclusive scourges have gotten an issue of genuine and developing concern. [\\_\(Vuori, 2014\)](#) According to the expansion of Delhi's nuclear aspirations along with the South China Sea and the Pacific Rim, India has taken the next step in their bid to make the region more nuclear-loaded by moving it forward.

The Indian security antraage has been involved in a number of cargo missions for the United States. Aside from that, India has established its naval command, which is currently stationed on the Andaman and Nicobar islands, which are only 60 miles away from Malacca. 2007 has seen a significant increase in joint military operations between the Indian and United States armies. MALABAR was one of the most popular exercises at the time. It was one of the largest exercises in the region, involving nearly 20,000 troops and 150 heavy aircraft, making it one of the largest in the world. [\\_\(Harsh V. Pant, 2015\)](#) It was primarily for this reason that these types of exercises were conducted in the region: to maintain the balance of power in the region from an Indian perspective, but from Pakistan's perspective, these activities and steps de-rail the balance of power in the region.

The Indian force in South Asia is the largest and overall 3<sup>rd</sup> largest, following Japan and China to become the strongest naval force in the region. It has also been making investments in the long-term potential and capabilities. INS Vikramaditya is the Indian navy's second-largest ship. Within the IOR and its surroundings, this ship can project force. Leaving behind land or air strength, India's capability in the context of a number of ships being built has also gone up. India's first indigenously designed aircraft INS Vikrant was put into service in 2013. INS VISHAL is a new concept which is in the early stages of development on paper.

The continuous technological advancement and precision-based presence in the region will be bolstered by the use of an advanced technology vessel. This is eventually forcing Pakistan to build on its naval strength, and if not, this can again disturb the balance of power equilibrium (Pattanik, 2016). The government of India has taken its time to strengthen ties with the United States and improve its security capabilities based on the tortuous multi-year experience of India's efforts to buy another warfighter. There is a preference for security over economic concerns in the minds of the two visionaries of the region. The US must keep a strategic eye on the Indo-Pacific as India's financial influence grows in the region.

### **Accessing the Traditional Challenge to Regional Security with the CNP Factor**

The majority of academics define power as the ability to influence the behaviour of other states in accordance with one's own objectives. (Morgenthau, 1978) The three levels of state power are "resources or capabilities, or power-in-being; how power is converted through the national process; and power in outcomes". National power has traditionally been associated with a country's military might, but modern theorists argue that "national power is contextual, as it can only be evaluated in terms of all elements of power in relation to another player. (Gregory F. Treverton, 2005) A country as large and diverse as India's is not an easy task when it comes to assessing its national power.

This paper looked at a variety of theories and models before settling on the Chinese concept of Comprehensive National Power (CNP), which takes into account a wide range of variables. (Jablonsky, 2012) Indian Power Potential has been quantified using a hypothesis of 65 tangible and intangible elements of national power. Out of these factors, military might and security are one them. This paper

focuses on it only; other elements can be used in the CNP factor for future research. CNP is a factor used to assess the positioning of a country by taking into consideration various factors and standings. The steps that led to the development of CNP were as follows: Factors, such as economics, had multiple sub-factors that contributed to their overall value World Development Indicators provided the data for this sub-factor. Quantifiable value was derived through index conversion.

Because the term "power potential" is subjective, evaluating India's power potential solely on the basis of its size is unsatisfactory. Because of this, a comparison between India's potential power with that of China and Pakistan has been made so that the true Indian position in the region can be determined. The only reason China is included in this comparison is to put India's power potential in perspective. In order to explain the relevance of CNP factors and sub-factors, an example of relevance is given. Human capital, technological innovation, and the ability to learn are just some of the benefits that will accrue as a result of increased economic activity. For the economy to grow, these factors must be in place. For example, security and human capital will ensure that economic growth will continue, while knowledge and information will contribute to economic development, which will eventually lead to technological advancement and added layer of security for a country. This factor is applicable to every country. The more a country becomes economically stable, the more its security, military and technology advances, which as a result, can create an unbalance in the region. A flux of China-India-Pakistan is a clear and vivid example in it. Whenever China advances in its technological, AI, and machine learning capabilities and applies them to its defence, India considers it a threat and tag China as an adversary. To counter the threat, India pushed for more advancement in its defence to act as a deterrence, which became inversely proportional, and Pakistan tagged India as an adversary in the region; as a result,

Pakistan started advancing its defence capabilities to deter India's adversarial act in the region.

### Comparative Analysis of Defense Index

With an anti-Pakistan mentality, as well as hegemonic ambitions and Hindu extremist ideology in mind, India is investing more in the defence sector. Over the last decade, Indian defence spending has increased by 6.3% annually on average. India has announced a 2022-23 defence budget of INR5. 25 trillion (USD70. 2 billion), an increase of almost 10% over the initial allocation in 2021-22. The allocation is equal to about 13% of the government's total expenditure for the year. (MacDonald, 2022)

Pakistan, which has a lower CNP index score, has also decided to maintain conventional deterrence in the face of economic hardship. On the other hand, the Pakistani government has announced a defence budget of PKR1. 37 trillion (USD8. 78 billion) for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22. The allocation is a 6.2% increase over the original 2020-21 defence expenditure. (Syed, 2021) Regardless of economic growth, both countries will continue to spend heavily on defence because of their perpetual rivalry and security-centric mindsets. Asymmetry in the conventional domain is expected to increase significantly in the midterm and significantly in the long term as India continues to spend more on defence each year.

Table 1.

Factor	China		India		Pakistan	
	Data	Index	Data	Index	Data	Index
Armed Forces (million)	2.993	100	2.748	91.27	0.948	27.17
Defence Budget % of GDP	2.1	3	2.4	6	3.4	16
Tanks (Main and Light)	8354	52.15	3384	18.38	2467	12.15
Armoured Fighting Vehicles	5298	10.23	1791	1.42	1625	1.01
Artillery SP, Towed and MLRS	12407	92.09	9682	71.48	4607	33.08
Aircrafts all types	2860	18.20	1905	11.12	914	3.77
Naval Crafts all types	673	61.20	202	14.10	74	1.30
Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Assets	51	53.41	12	9.09	10	6.82
Nuclear Warheads	250	3.12	110	1.3	120	1.55
Index	-	43.71	-	24.90	-	11.42

Source: World Bank Group Indicators

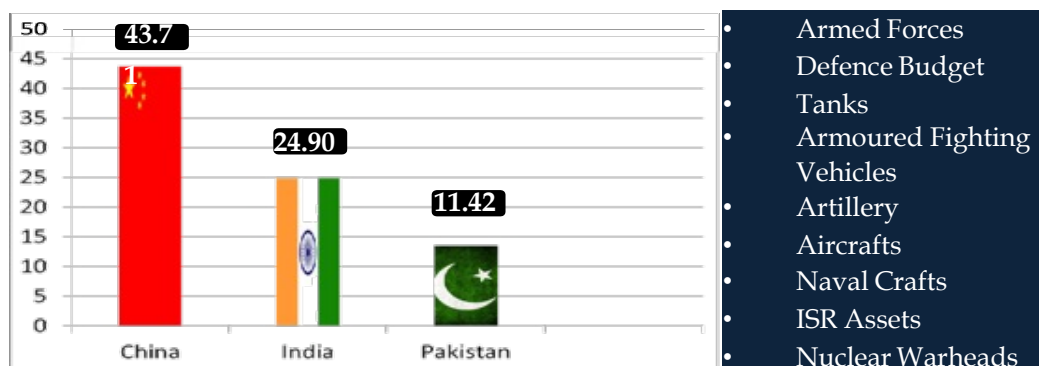


Figure 1:

Inferences drawn from the comparison of the defence index show that India and Pakistan have a clear asymmetry. Both countries' economies are expected to continue to grow, so the asymmetry in the economy will continue, but the gap will not widen in the near future. As India's economic standing grows, the asymmetry will likely widen and give the country greater leverage for both internal development and external influence projection, which as a result, can pose a serious threat as a traditional security challenge to Pakistan. In the long run, India's conventional defence capabilities will become increasingly asymmetric, especially with the acquisition of force multipliers and blue-water navy components. India is expected to continue to be dragged down by internal discord and fissiparous tendencies, while Pakistan's more cohesive state is expected to benefit from the current transformation in its internal security and social harmony. As long as India's diplomatic asymmetry persists, this gap is unlikely to widen significantly in the near to medium term, given Pakistan's bright prospects for the future. The current asymmetry in national power is expected to continue in short to medium term.

### **Threats Besides Possibilities: Traditional Security Challenges**

The headache for Pakistan on its security and defence structure up gradation and advancement is India's total concentration on anti-strategic management apparatuses, as contrasted to America's utilisation of the force to promote universal strategy goals. This can be a factor in coming years which would decide the outcome of the competing traditional security framework in the region. India's huge and developing economic structure along with military interest is reshaping the region. It has a pattern,

generally centred on an economical set of events. Adding icing to the cake is the fact that India also does not try to stay away from direct military showdowns and is willing to pick a selective huge force supporter. The most recent example of it is the Balakot incident. [\(Sakhuja, 2008\)](#)

Furthermore, India, as the leading market in the Indian Ocean area and the controller of corporate-sponsored routes by air and water, has the ability to overpower geographically. Again, this can act as an unbalancing factor and can disturb the balance of traditional power in the region, despite the fact that India's devotion to an area has steadily risen over the previous two centuries. It confronts significant obstacles in expanding further. It certainly has the economic means to compete freely in the region and against Pakistan but still is behind in competing on commercial collaborations terms with China. Its maritime and air development is plagued by flaws, destruction, and trying to compete with requirements. These strongly influence New Delhi to strategically coordinate its defences versus Pakistan and challenge Pakistan's fragile security framework. The U.S., India's close ally, is just becoming mutual cooperation furious, regionally disruptive, and internationally capricious. The instability and enormous amounts of a U.S.-China war have strengthened Indian alignments yet further. [\(Asselin, P. 2011\)](#).

More modest states will arise as a result of the temptation of Chinese permissiveness and popular demand for US-led security infrastructure and rules-based framework. Despite the efforts of International organisations and corporations to get things in shape, the US pledged millions of dollars in non-military assistance for the Indo-Pacific strategy in 2018. In comparison, China has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the Maritime Silk Road for non-military and financial venture partners. Thus a shift by the US to emphasise

discretion and broader guidance via multilateral community talks and economic alliances may successfully exploit regional fears about strong influences.

### **The Traditional Security Balance of Power Equilibrium**

The main scene for the key contest in the region won't be in the tactical domain but in the blue waters of IOR, like regional security, nuclear naval warfare, technological advancement and innovation. China is exploiting geographical rifts, expanding its relationship with its neighbour Pakistan, and using its resources to acquire influence, putting the US Indo-Pacific policy backstage and less effective in the region. Despite concerns regarding China's objective, the expansion of its might and influence will reinforce India's long-standing preference for anti-arrangements. At the same time, the US is too concerned about its strategy owing to the disparity in assets between combat and non-military methods. In order to confront China, the US via India will focus on non-military measures and diplomatic activities and build a better approach that takes into account the whole area, from Southeast Asia to Iran and Pakistan, and then all the routes to the Coast of Africa and the Arabian peninsula. The world cannot afford another nuclear conflict; a nuclear Indian Ocean Region. A history of standpoints between India and Pakistan has already cost too much to the region in the form of low living standards, poverty and a hanging threat of nuclear stand-off, which both countries are continuously enhancing and making the threat riskier and bigger.

### **Conclusion**

Since Pakistan's nuclear tests in May 1998, the Pakistani-Indian traditional security framework and complex have led to its nuclear development and brought new, terrifying challenges, especially for

Pakistan. The Kashmir conflict is frequently and continuously referred to as a nuclear flashpoint. Both nuclear-armed countries may be forced to use nuclear weapons if a calculation is made incorrectly. The recent Mian Chuunu incident is an example of it; I-e an incident which can be a starting point of two nuclear rivalries stand-off due to a mistake.

Cooperative security is the only way to mitigate these threats. The conflict resolution process between Pakistan and India should include a strategy for resolving the Kashmir issue, which is at the heart of Pakistan's hostility. A century after becoming an independent state in South Asia, the region is the world's poorest and most backward. With the sincerity and courage that have finally returned to Indian and Pakistani leaders, it is past time for them to seize this rare window of opportunity for peace. In order to meet both internal and external challenges, Pakistan must alter its course and policy.

South Asian countries, after ages of conflicts and stand-offs, still continue to place a greater emphasis on traditional security frameworks rather than on the security that is centred on the needs of the people. In spite of sustained economic growth, the region has miserably failed to improve the lives of a significant number of people and remains one of the poorest regions in the world with significant inequalities. And the main and only reason behind it is abnormal defence technological advancement in the region despite huge human index poverty ratios. After land and air, the sea is the next hotspot where both countries will spend billions of dollars to get an edge over the other.

People in South Asia are more concerned about government inequity and their governments' preference for allocating scarce resources to their own interests than they are about a scarcity of resources in the region as a whole. In order to maximise human resources, make the most of them.

Regional governments must collaborate as human security threats spread across geographic boundaries. This is a critical time for regional cooperation.

South Asia as a whole will benefit greatly if these countries can resolve their differences peacefully. Students, diplomats, businesspeople, and academics from both

countries should engage in cross-border exchanges to build mutual trust. People from all walks of life: academics, diplomats, businesspeople, and the general public. People from all walks of life: academics, diplomats, businesspeople, and the general public. Or it's too early to call the odds? Here's too cautious optimism.

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