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## Strategic Myopia : Pakistan's Nuclear Strategy and its Effects on Regional Stability

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The paper argues that strategic stability in South Asia is threatened by the sub-conventional warfare and aggressive nuclear posture adopted by Pakistan. Pakistan, owing to its revisionist territorial ambitions, is focussing on two contradictory strategic goals in South Asia: Deterrence and Territorial revisionism. This contradiction in strategy is further complicated by its high policy priority of seeking parity with India and ensuring deterrence against India's superior conventional forces. To seek parity with India, it is investing heavily in its conventional and nuclear forces and using a low intensity conflict in Kashmir to weaken India. This is a major cause of instability which may escalate if India chose to respond decisively to destroy the militant infrastructure inside the Pakistan territory. Pakistan may end up provoking India into doing the very thing that it seeks to avoid. Both of these factors are directly weakening the prospect of deterrence stability in South Asia.

### Introduction

Pakistan's nuclear forces are unambiguously oriented towards India. The quickly evolving nuclear arsenal size of Pakistan, estimated to be fifth largest in the world by 2025, has put a lot of financial strain on the already weak economy (Kristensen & Norris, 2015). The diversification of nuclear forces, including costly procurements is increasing the defence budget allocations substantially. Pakistan's defence budget increased by a whopping 11 % from \$6.22 billion in 2014 to \$7.18bn dollars in 2015-16.

Unlike India, Pakistan has not adopted a single posture after weaponizing its nuclear arsenal. It started by adopting a catalytic posture due to the presence of a reliable third party patron in the form of the United States in 1980s. A catalytic posture is aimed at catalysing intervention from a third party to protect the state

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