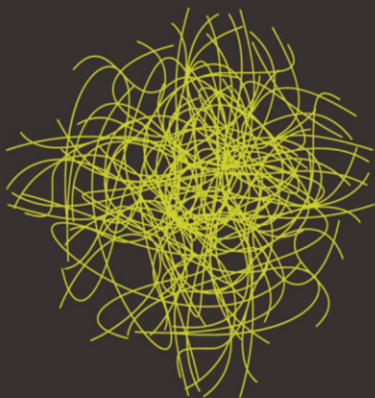


**Sources of  
Tension in  
Afghanistan  
and Pakistan**

A Regional  
Perspective



# Pakistan: Monitoring the Key Regional Powers

Quarterly Monitoring Brief

**Report No. 4:**

**October 1 to December 16, 2014**



Increased border skirmishes and mutual blame game continued to strain Indo-Pak ties



Russia and Pakistan signed a military cooperation agreement in November



High level bilateral exchanges and visits helped Pakistan and Afghanistan reduce bilateral mistrust



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**CIDOB Sources of Tension in Afghanistan & Pakistan: A Regional Perspective (STAP RP)****Quarterly Reports on “Monitoring the Key Regional Powers”****Pak Institute for Peace Studies, Islamabad****INTRODUCTION**

*The purpose of this series of quarterly monitoring reports (2014) is to monitor and track the actions as well as public statements of five key STAP RP regional actors (India, Iran, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia) on Pakistan; the development of, and their participation in relevant international and regional discussion meetings, including the Istanbul Process, Heart of Asia, RECCA, SCO; the five key regional actors' economic decisions and agreements, including, but not limited to, the energy and infrastructure sectors, which have implications for the identified sources of tension in Pakistan with regional implications (see CIDOB STAP RP Mapping Document at [www.cidobafpakproject.com](http://www.cidobafpakproject.com)).*

*The Sources of Tension (SoTs) identified in the Mapping Document are used as reference points to determine relevance and are specifically monitored in Section 1.*

*The content includes short summaries by topic and by country, on actions taken, public statements made, regional meetings held and how these develop as mechanisms for dialogue, and the participation of the key regional powers in relevant regional and international events, as well as in subgroups of international fora, such as the Heart of Asia. Economic activity and investments by the key regional powers in Pakistan are also monitored, together with progress on, and shifting alliances in planned or actual economic projects. A short subsection on commentary from the media (in English) is included in each section.*

*Section 2 focuses on the key regional powers. Section 3 looks at regional dynamics and cross-cutting issues; and conclusions on the events of the past quarter are presented in Section 4. Section 5 presents publications by think tanks and research institutions in the region.*

## 1. THE CONTEXT

### Governance

- October 9, 2014: Prime Minister [Nawaz Sharif visited North Waziristan Agency, expressed satisfaction over the progress of the ongoing military operation](#) there, and lauded the sacrifices rendered by military personnel in their fight against terrorism.
- October 17, 2014: [Pakistan military launched 'Operation Khyber 1' against militants](#) of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and their local associate banned Lashkar-e-Islam in Khyber Agency of FATA.
- November 16, 2014: [Pakistan army said it had killed nearly 1,200 militants since the operation Zarb-e-Azb began](#), arrested another 230 and recovered around 132 tons of explosive so far.
- November 18, 2014: [Balochistan chief minister said he will resist the efforts being made by Islamabad to take control of the curriculum being taught in Balochistan](#) as education has become a provincial subject after the 18th Amendment.
- December 6, 2014: [Justice Sardar Muhammad Raza was appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan](#); the post was vacant for the last one year.
- December 8, 2014: [Violent clashes erupted between supporters of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf \(PTI\) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz \(PML-N\) in Faisalabad](#) during the former's protests.
- December 15, 2014: [Prime minister appointed Dr Maleeha Lodhi as Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations](#); she will assume her responsibilities in February 2015.

### Social & Economic Issues

- October 3, 2014: According to the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), [rural wages have risen sharply across Asia but have declined in Pakistan alarmingly](#).
- October 15, 2014: A report by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan said [more than 300,000 people including Hazaras and Hindus have fled Balochistan](#) over the past 10 years due to unrest.
- November 9, 2014: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) [gave the go-ahead to the release of the fifth tranche of \\$1.1bn to Pakistan](#), possibly before December 15.
- November 17, 2014: [The drought in Tharparkar, Sindh claimed the lives of 11 more children taking the toll to 83](#) over the last 48 days in the drought-affected desert region.
- December 1, 2014: [Towards the end of November, more than 5, 80,000 people had been displaced from different locations of the Khyber Agency](#) since the launch of 'Operation Khyber-1' there.
- December 8, 2014: [Pakistan army has given the go-ahead to civilian authorities to start the phased return of over one million internally displaced persons](#) from North Waziristan, initially to the areas which have been cleared of terrorists.
- December 11, 2014: [State Bank of Pakistan said in its annual report that although most of the targets set for the year could not be achieved, the fiscal year 2013-14 was a better year for macro-economy](#).

### Conflict in Afghanistan

- October 1, 2014: US Ambassador to Pakistan [Richard Olson assured Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that Pakistan's reservations will be paid adequate attention after the signing of Border Security Agreement between US and Afghanistan](#).
- October 30, 2014: The [spokesman for Pakistani military Major General Asim Bajwa said that the chief of the anti-Pakistan militant group TTP was 'operating freely' from across the border](#) in the Afghan provinces of Kunar and Nuristan.
- November 6, 2014: [Pakistani army chief visited Kabul](#) and assured Afghan leaders that Pakistan's ongoing military operation was against all terrorist groups including anti-Afghanistan Haqqanis.

- November 14, 2014: [During his two-day visit to Pakistan, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani sought stronger security ties and bilateral cooperation in training and border management.](#)
- November 19, 2014: [Afghanistan has promised to take steps to repatriate over 1.3 million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan](#) by the end of next year.
- December 5, 2014: Addressing the London Conference on Afghanistan, [Pakistani prime minister reiterated Pakistan’s solidarity with the people of Afghanistan](#) and urged the international community to do more for the Afghans.
- December 7, 2014: [A US drone strike in eastern Kunar province of Afghanistan killed 10 Pakistani Taliban militants](#) including a key commander reportedly named as Ali.
- December 7, 2014: [Three Pakistani Taliban commanders held at US at Bagram airbase in Afghanistan including Latif Mehsud have reportedly been handed over to Pakistan by the US.](#)

### **Ethnicity & Sectarianism**

- October 4: [Six Hazara Shias were killed and 27 others injured in a suicide blast in Quetta.](#)
- October 24, 2014: [Nine people belonging to the Hazara Shia community were killed when their van was fired at](#) near Hazarganji vegetable market in Quetta.
- November 4, 2014: [Militants fired rockets on a procession taken out by Shia Muslims on 10th of Muharram](#) in Orakzai Agency killing two and wounding 28 people.
- November 29: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl ([JUI F](#)) Sindh’s Secretary-General and former senator [Dr. Khalid Mehmood Soomro was shot dead](#) in a targeted attack in Sukkur, Sindh.
- December 10, 2014: [Muttahida Qaumi Movement district vice president Bao Muhammad Anwar was shot dead in Sialkot](#), in Punjab province.

### **Militancy**

- October 14, 2014: [Six top commanders of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan \(TTP\) including the groups’ spokesman Shahidullah Shahid, announced their allegiance to Abu Bakar Al Baghdadi of the Islamic State.](#)
- October 20: [Baloch insurgents abducted 11 labourers from a poultry farm in Hub, blindfolded the nine workers belonging to Punjab province and shot them while setting free the two Baloch workers.](#)
- October 23, 2014: [JUI-F chief Fazlur Rehman narrowly escaped a suicide attack in Quetta.](#)
- November 2, 2014: [A suicide blast](#) at the entrance of the parade complex soon after the completion of the flag-lowering ceremony, which is a daily feature [at Wagah, Pakistan’s border with India, killed 60 and injured 110 others.](#)
- November 8, 2014: The Balochistan government conveyed a secret report to the federal government and law enforcement agencies warning of [increased footprints of the Islamic State \(IS\) in Pakistan.](#)
- November 12, 2014: A spokesman for TTP-associate Jundullah claimed that [a delegation from the Islamic State had visited the organisation's leaders in Balochistan](#) with a purpose to see how it could work to unite various Pakistani militant groups.
- December 6, 2014: [A key Al-Qaeda commander Adnan Shukrijumah – 39-year-old Saudi of Guyanese origin who was on the ‘US Most Wanted List’—was killed during a military raid](#) at a compound in South Waziristan Agency of Pakistani tribal areas.
- December 7, 2014: [A senior Al-Qaeda leader Omar Farooq was reportedly killed along with five others in a US drone strike](#) at a compound in Dattakhel (North Waziristan) near the Afghan border.
- December 16, 2014: [A group of five to six TTP militants stormed into an army-run school in Peshawar and killed more than 100 including 84 children.](#)

## 2. THE REGIONAL POWERS



	Who	The Source
<b>INDIA</b>		
<b>1. Bilateral Relations</b>		
<b>Public Statements</b>		
- October 11, 2014: Prime Minister <a href="#">Nawaz Sharif said that a war with India is not an option</a> but Pakistan would respond with full force to any attempt to challenge its sovereignty.	Muhammad Saleh Zaafir	The News
- October 14, 2014: “ <a href="#">All outstanding issues between India and Pakistan, including Kashmir, could be resolved only through dialogue</a> ,” says Indian president.	Staff Reporter	The News
- October 21, 2014: “ <a href="#">No evidence to suggest that India deliberately released water</a> , rather it was unusual and heavy rains in India-held Kashmir and Pakistan that caused the floods in rivers,” said Pakistan’s Water and Power Minister Khawaja Asif.	Amir Wasim	Dawn
- October 23, 2014: Former Pakistani president <a href="#">Pervez Musharraf said that Pakistan will never shy away from using nuclear weapons against India if the need arises</a> .	Staff Reporter	The News
- November 28, 2014: “ <a href="#">Pakistan wants meaningful dialogue with India</a> . India should not have cancelled the Foreign Secretary-level talks,” said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.	IANS	The Hindu
- December 4, 2014: Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson said <a href="#">India unilaterally cancelled the scheduled talks and the onus to resume composite dialogue now lies on India</a> .	Staff Reporter	The Nation
- December 9, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistan rejected a statement from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs that terrorists from Pakistan were behind the recent attacks</a> in the India-held Kashmir.	Mariana Baabar	The News
- December 14, 2014: Pakistan’s Foreign Office spokesperson said while responding to Indian defence minister’s cross-border terrorism allegations on Pakistan that <a href="#">there must not be any “miscalculation” about Pakistan’s resolve to thwart any aggression</a> .	Staff Reporter	The News
<b>Media Commentary</b>		
- October 28, 2014: An op-ed article questioned <a href="#">‘whether the Modi government will eventually accept the futility of an approach predicated on coercive diplomacy, which failed to work in the past and is even less likely to</a>	Dr Maleeha Lodhi	The News

<p><a href="#">succeed in the future</a>’.</p> <p><b>Actions Taken</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- October 16, 2014: <a href="#">Indian Coast Guards arrested 14 Pakistani fishermen along Gujrat coast.</a></li> <li>- November 21, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistani marine forces arrested more than 60 Indian fishermen</a> reportedly for violating territorial waters in the Arabian Sea.</li> <li>- November 11, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistani marine forces arrested 58 Indian fishermen</a> for allegedly violating territorial waters in the Arabian Sea.</li> </ul>	<p>Rahi Gaikwad      The Hindu</p> <p>AFP      Dawn</p> <p>AFP      Dawn</p>
<p><b>2. Status of Confidence Building Measures</b></p>	
<p><b>Public Statements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- October 25, 2014: Federal Minister for Commerce <a href="#">Khurram Dastgir Khan said that Pakistan will continue trade with its neighbours, including India,</a> despite border tensions.</li> <li>- December 12, 2014: During his meeting with prime minister of Pakistani administered Kashmir in Islamabad, <a href="#">Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan would give a positive response if India took the lead in resuming the stalled dialogue process.</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Actions Taken</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- October 15, 2014: <a href="#">Senior army officers from India and Pakistan spoke over the hotline in an effort to resolve the border tensions.</a></li> <li>- November 28, 2014: Pakistan freed <a href="#">40 Indian prisoners from the Malir prison in Karachi as a gesture of good will.</a></li> <li>- November 3, 2014: <a href="#">India handed over four Pakistani prisoners to Rangers personnel at Lahore’s Wagah Border.</a></li> <li>- December 13, 2014: A 12-member Pakistani parliamentary delegation visited India for the <a href="#">sixth round of Pakistan-India Parliamentary Dialogue, an initiative by the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency.</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Media Commentary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- October 10, 2014: An analysis published in a weekly newspaper argued that <a href="#">under the circumstances where Indian Prime Minister Modi appears in aggression mode and his Pakistani counterpart has seemingly lost</a></li> </ul>	<p>Mubarak Zeb Khan      Dawn</p> <p>Staff Reporter      The News</p> <p>PTI      The Hindu</p> <p>PTI      The Hindu</p> <p>Umair Rana      Dawn</p> <p>Dinakar Peri      The Hindu</p> <p>Najam Sethi      The Friday Times</p>

[credibility with his national security establishment, the prospects of resumption of Indo-Pak talks seem bleak.](#)

### 3. Kashmir, Violence along the Line of Control (LoC) and Working Boundary

#### Actions Taken

- |   |               |           |
|---|---------------|-----------|
| - October 6, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistan lodged a strong protest with the government of India through diplomatic channels to restrain its forces from constant ceasefire violations.</a>           | Mateen Haider | Dawn      |
| - October 13, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistan conveyed its concerns over Indian ceasefire violations across the LoC and the Working Boundary</a> to a visiting two-member US congressional delegation. | Mateen Haider | Dawn      |
| - October 13, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistan wrote to U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the security situation along the Line of Control</a> and sought the world body’s intervention.            | PTI           | The Hindu |
| - November 20, 2014: <a href="#">A Pakistan army soldier was killed by Indian troops’ firing at Pandu near Muzaffarabad.</a>  | Mateen Haider | Dawn      |

#### Public Statements

- |  |                       |          |
|--|-----------------------|----------|
| - October 9, 2014: <a href="#">UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon expressed concern about escalation of violence along the line of control between India and Pakistan.</a>   | Reuters               | Dawn     |
| - October 9, 2014: <a href="#">“If Pakistan persists with this [cross-border shelling in Kashmir], our forces will make cost of this adventurism unaffordable for it,”</a> said Indian Defence Minister Arun Jaitley. <sup>1</sup> | AFP                   | Dawn     |
| - October 10, 2014: Director General Rangers Punjab Major General Tahir Javaid Khan <a href="#">said Indian aggression along the border could be due to political influence rather than having a military agenda.</a>              | Staff Reporter        | Dawn     |
| - October 11, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistan said it had not escalated the situation at the LoC</a> and that its response had been strong but measured.  | Mariana Baabar        | The News |
| - October 19, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistan’s army chief said peace in the region was linked to a fair and just resolution of the Kashmir issue</a> in accordance to the will of the Kashmiri people.                                 | Muhammad Saleh Zaafir | The News |
| - October 24, 2014: Pakistan’s Foreign Office said <a href="#">India was violating the 2010 agreement between the two countries by constructing new bunkers on the Working</a>   | Mariana Baabar        | The News |

<sup>1</sup> Arun Jaitley is currently the Minister of Finance, Minister of Corporate Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting of India. He had an additional portfolio of Minister of Defence until November 9, 2014 before Manohar Parrikar assumed the office.



<u>Boundary.</u>		
- November 15, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistani military accused its Indian counterparts for carrying out unprovoked firing at Charwah sector.</a>	Imran Sadiq	Dawn
- November 19, 2014: Pakistan's army chief said <a href="#">Pakistan's operation against militants in the country's tribal region was affected by Indian troops' continuous violations of ceasefire</a> at the LoC.	BBC Urdu	Dawn
- November 21, 2014: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said <a href="#">Pakistan would take Kashmir's separatist leaders into confidence before engaging in peace talks with India.</a>	PTI	The Hindu
- December 6, 2014: Jamaatud Dawah chief <a href="#">Hafiz Saeed said at the congregation of his group in Lahore: "If India can send its troops to Afghanistan, it cannot say that 'Mujahedeen' cannot enter Kashmir."</a>	Staff Reporter	Dawn
- December 9, 2014: The UN Secretary General <a href="#">Ban Ki-moon expressed readiness to engage with India and Pakistan in resolving the Kashmir issue, if requested by both.</a>	Staff Reporter	The Nation
- December 14, 2014: Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said, <a href="#">"Pakistan is working on its unfinished agenda of separating the state of Jammu and Kashmir from India."</a>	Staff Reporter	Pakistan Today
<b>Media Commentary</b>		
- October 15, 2014: A report published in a Pakistani English daily said that <a href="#">a team of the UN Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan had visited the villages along the Working Boundary</a> to gather a firsthand account of the ceasefire violations.	Staff Reporter	The News
- October 24, 2014: An article claimed that <a href="#">India called on the British government to ban the British Kashmiris' million march but the British government refused to do so.</a>	Murtaza Ali Shah	The News
- October 27, 2014: A newspaper report said <a href="#">thousands of people took part in a march held in London to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir and support their decades-long struggle for the right to self-determination.</a>	Agencies	Dawn
- November 6, 2014: According to a media report <a href="#">Pakistan and India were involved in a verbal duel over Kashmir in a UN General Assembly's panel.</a>	Agencies	The News
- November 15, 2014: A seminar report published in a newspaper quoted the participating defence experts as saying that <a href="#">LoC tensions were unlikely to evolve into a bigger conflict.</a>	News Desk	Express Tribune



<p>- November 24, 2014: A newspaper analysis said that <a href="#">keeping in view the rising tensions between India and Pakistan, the upcoming election and government in Srinagar have a role to play in stabilizing the region.</a></p>	<p>Ershad Mahmood</p> <p>The News</p>
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**IRAN**

**Who**

**The Source**

**1. Energy: Iran Pakistan (IP) Gas Pipeline**

**Public Statements**

- |   |                  |                  |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| - October 19, 2014: Iran’s oil minister announced that <a href="#">a Pakistani energy delegation will soon visit Iran to discuss expediting the implementation of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline.</a>   | FNA              | Fars News Agency |
| - November 27, 2014: <a href="#">“Iranian government will not suspend its gas contract with Pakistan.”</a> said Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh.   | Staff Reporter   | The News         |
| - December 7, 2014: Speaker of Pakistan’s National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that <a href="#">the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline is the shortest and safest route for transfer of energy to Pakistan.</a>   | Newsroom         | IRNA             |
| - December 9, 2014: <a href="#">“Pakistan has been unable to complete the Iran-Pakistan-related projects on its side due to international sanctions on Iran</a> as banks and international contractors were not ready to be involved in the project,” said Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. | Mubarak Zeb Khan | Dawn             |
| - December 10, 2014: Pakistan Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on the sidelines of the 19th Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission session in Islamabad that <a href="#">Pakistan is determined to complete IP gas pipeline in the shortest possible time.</a>  | Newsroom         | IRNA             |

**Actions Taken**

- |  |                     |                 |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| - October 30, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistan and Iran reached an understanding to look for a middle ground to implement the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project</a> amid threats of possible sanctions by the US. | Staff Correspondent | Express Tribune |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|

**2. Bilateral Relations**

**Actions Taken**

- |   |                                 |      |
|---|---------------------------------|------|
| - October 19, 2014: <a href="#">Foreign Office lodged a strong protest with Iran over the killing of a Pakistan security official</a> by Iranian border guards. | Mateen Haider and Syed Ali Shah | Dawn |
| - October 19, 2014: <a href="#">Iran summoned the Pakistani ambassador and demanded immediate steps to stop cross-border attacks</a> by terrorists inside Iran. | AFP                             | Dawn |

- October 28, 2014: Senior officials from Pakistan and Iran reviewed the recent border incidents and <a href="#">agreed to take a series of measures to maintain a ‘tranquil Pakistan-Iran border’</a> .	Kamran Yousaf	Express Tribune
- November 1, 2014: <a href="#">Iran’s border force closed Pak-Iran border at Taftan for five days over security concerns</a> in the wake of <i>Ashura</i> event in the holy month of Muharram.	Syed Ali Shah	Dawn
- November 1, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistani and Iranian officials agreed in Tehran to enhance cooperation to block cross-border attacks and terrorism</a> .	FNA	Fars News Agency
- November 9, 2014: The drug combat squads of <a href="#">Iran seized 1.7 tons of hashish in an operation in Mir Java region, reportedly being smuggled from Pakistan</a> .	FNA	Fars News Agency
- November 29, 2014: Iran invited <a href="#">former Pakistani president Asif Ali Zardari to participate in an international conference themed ‘World Against Violence and Extremism’</a> to be held in Tehran on December 9-10.	FNA	Fars News Agency
- December 4, 2014: Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani and his Pakistani counterpart Ayaz Sadiq <a href="#">signed a memorandum of understanding in Islamabad on parliamentary cooperation</a> .	Newsroom	IRNA
- December 9, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistan and Iran signed five agreements</a> including for establishment of Joint Investment Committee, cooperation between SMEDA and Iran’s Small Industries, and establishment of sister port relationship between the ports of Karachi and Chabahar.	Staff Reporter	Pakistan Today
<b>Public Statements</b>		
- October 10, 2014: Iran’s Police Chief Brigadier General Esmayeel Ahmadi Moqaddam said <a href="#">Pakistan should be held accountable for border insecurities and the presence of terrorist groups on its soil</a> .	FNA	Fars News Agency
- October 11, 2014: Pakistan’s Foreign Office spokesperson said <a href="#">it is in the interest of both Pakistan and Iran to share intelligence to combat terrorism in areas along the border</a> and remove bilateral mistrust.	Amir Wasim	Dawn
- October 18, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistan’s Foreign Office asked Iran not to externalize its problems, but focus on fighting militancy at home</a> .	Staff Reporter	Dawn
- October 21, 2014: <a href="#">“The recent border incident would not affect relations between Pakistan and Iran,”</a> said Advisor to Prime Minister on Foreign Policy.	Baqir Sajjad Syed	Dawn

- October 25, 2014: <a href="#">Officials in Iran rejected media reports claiming that Iranian and Pakistani forces have exchanged fire at their common borders.</a>	FNA	Fars News Agency
- December 9, 2014: <a href="#">“Cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad will help resolve regional problems.” Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said</a> in his meeting with former Pakistani president Asif Zardari in Tehran.	Newsroom	IRNA
- December 10, 2014: Former Pakistani president Asif Ali Zardari said while addressing an international conference ‘World Against Violence and Extremism’ in Tehran that <a href="#">neighbours’ non-interference in Afghanistan would bear strategic dividends.</a>	Staff Reporter	Dawn
- December 14, 2014: Iran’s Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani said <a href="#">the agreements signed recently by senior Iranian and Pakistani officials will significantly boost security at the two countries’ shared borders</a> in the near future.	Staff Reporter	Pakistan Today
<b>Official Visits</b>		
- October 14, 2014: Pakistani Finance Minister <a href="#">Ishaq Dar met his Iranian counterpart in Tehran to discuss issues of mutual interest.</a>	Newsroom	IRNA
- October 22, 2014: <a href="#">Inspector General of FC Balochistan met with Iranian border force's chief in Tehran</a> and both agreed to boost intelligence cooperation with regard to border security.	Syed Ali Shah	Dawn
- October 27, 2014: <a href="#">Iranian Foreign Ministry Deputy for Asia and Pacific Affairs Ebrahim Rahimpour arrived in Islamabad</a> to discuss the recent clashes in joint border areas.	Newsroom	IRNA
- November 1, 2014: <a href="#">Adviser to Prime Minister Sartaj Aziz met with the Iranian Foreign Minister Javaid Zarif on the sidelines of the Heart-of-Asia-Istanbul Process conference hosted by China.</a>	Staff Reporter	The News
- December 3, 2014: <a href="#">An Iranian military delegation met Pakistani Air Force Commander General Tariq Butt in Karachi</a> and discussed prospects for cooperation in the field of air force training.	Newsroom	IRNA
- December 5, 2014: <a href="#">Iranian Parliament Speaker paid a two-day visit to Islamabad</a> (December 3-4) and met with his Pakistani counterpart Ayaz Sadiq, Chairman Senate Nayyer Bokhari and Pakistani president.	Newsroom	IRNA
- December 9, 2014: An <a href="#">Iranian delegation led by Finance Minister Dr Ali Taieb Nia visited Islamabad to participate in the 19th session of the Pakistan-Iran Joint</a>	Mubarak Zeb Khan	Dawn

<p><a href="#">Economic Commission.</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- December 11, 2014: Pakistan Commerce Minister <a href="#">Khurram Dastgir Khan will visit Iran next week to participate in the 7th joint trade commission session.</a></li> </ul>	<p>Newsroom</p>	<p>IRNA</p>
<p><b>Media Commentary</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- December 4, 2014: An AFP produced report said <a href="#">Iranian hackers had managed to penetrate into and steal information from governments and companies around the world including that of Pakistan.</a></li> </ul>	<p>AFP</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- December 12, 2014: An article highlighting the need to revisit Pak-Iran ties said <a href="#">there should be no embargo on Pakistan-Iran trade as some other countries including China, Russia and India are engaging in trade with Iran.</a></li> </ul>	<p>Khurram Minhas</p>	<p>Daily Times</p>


**CHINA**
**Who**
**The Source**
**1. Bilateral Cooperation**
**Agreements Reached and Signed**

- November 8, 2014: During Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Beijing [both countries signed 19 agreements and memorandums of understanding to further boost the bilateral ties in various fields including energy and basic infrastructure sectors.](#)

APP

Dawn

**Media Commentary**

- October 11, 2014: A newspaper report said [senators from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan were angry over the change in the route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor](#) as the new route excluded many areas of these two provinces unlike the original route planned earlier.

Staff Reporter

Dawn

- October 25, 2014: A media report said the [coal mining and power generation project in Thar \(Sindh\) could be delayed due to Chinese banks' reluctance to provide loans](#) and accept sovereign guarantees of the Pakistan government.

Zafar Bhutta

Express Tribune

- November 13, 2014: A report published in a Pakistan newspaper claimed that [a Chinese company was planning to pour an investment of \\$1 billion into setting up Pakistan's first deep-conversion oil refinery in Balochistan province.](#)

Zafar Bhutta

Express Tribune

- November 14, 2014: An Op-ed article in *Dawn* said [it is important that any civilian agreements signed up with Chinese government and companies are subject to greater transparency](#) and open to scrutiny.

Sakib Sherani

Dawn

- November 21, 2014: Based on the documents it saw, Reuters wrote that [the Chinese government and banks will fund \\$45.6bn worth of energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan over next 6 years.](#)

Reuters

Pak-China Institute

**Public Statements**

- October 4, 2014: A member of the ruling PML-N said that [to facilitate the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, preparations for constructing a state-of-the-art airport in Mansehra have been completed.](#)

Tahir Khalil

The News

- December 9, 2014: Members of the Senate standing committee on communications said [they would take the matter to the Senate and resign if China-Pakistan Economic Corridor revised route excluded Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.](#)

Bakhtawar Mian

Dawn

<p>- December 9, 2014: Pakistani prime minister said <a href="#">China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is vital for regional security and stability</a>.</p> <p><b>Actions Taken</b></p> <p>- October 8, 2014: <a href="#">Chinese company Shandong Ruyi Science and Technology Group Co. Ltd pulled back from its offer to acquire 31.2m shares of Masood Textile Mills Limited</a>.</p> <p>- November 14, 2014: The Punjab higher education department has established <a href="#">a Centre of Excellence for China Studies at the Government College University, Lahore</a>.</p>	<p>Staff Reporter      The News</p> <p>Dilawar Hussain      Dawn</p> <p>Staff Reporter      Dawn</p>
<p><b>2. Bilateral Relations</b></p>	
<p><b>Public Statements</b></p> <p>- November 8, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistan will help China fight against extremists in Xinjiang</a>, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said during his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing.</p> <p><b>Official Visits</b></p> <p>- October 17, 2014: Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong called on Nawaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House and delivered an <a href="#">invitation to attend the host-partners dialogue to be held during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Informal Leaders' Meeting in Beijing</a>.</p> <p>- October 19, 2014: <a href="#">A 16-member Chinese business delegation visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry</a> and showed interest in investing in Pakistan with particular focus on hydro energy and construction sectors.</p> <p>- November 7, 2014: <a href="#">Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif left for a visit to China where is expected to sign projects of worth \$35 to \$40 billion</a>.</p> <p>- November 14, 2014: <a href="#">Pakistan's Chief of the Air Staff visited the Zhuhai Air Show held at Zhuhai, China</a>, at the invitation of the Peoples Liberation Army and Air Force.</p> <p>- November 14, 2014: <a href="#">Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan met with the visiting Pakistani Chief of Air Staff Marshall Tahir Rafique Butt to discuss bilateral ties, including cooperation between the countries' air forces</a>.</p> <p>- December 9, 2014: <a href="#">Chinese State Councillor and Minister of Public Security Guo Shengkun visited Pakistan from December 5-7</a> and met with Pakistani prime minister, president and other officials in relation to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.</p>	<p>APP &amp; Reuters      Dawn</p> <p>Mateen Haider      Dawn</p> <p>Saeed Ahmed      The News</p> <p>Mateen Haider      Dawn</p> <p>Staff Reporter      The News</p> <p>China Daily      Pak-China Institute</p> <p>Staff Reporter      The News</p>



**Media Commentary**

- November 17, 2014: An article in *Arab News* said that [China's 'signal' that it will not support any radical and unconstitutional measures to topple the democratically elected government in Pakistan has given a new lease on life to the troubled regime.](#)

Muhammad  
Waqas

Arab News



**RUSSIA**

**Who**

**The Source**

**1. Bilateral Relations**

**Actions Taken**

- October 22, 2014: [During 2nd Round of Bilateral Strategic Dialogue held in Islamabad, Pakistan and Russia agreed to take concrete steps to enhance their cooperation.](#)
- November 21, 2014: [Pakistan and Russia signed a military cooperation pact](#) during Russian Defence Minister General Sergey Shoygu’s Pakistan visit.
- November 22, 2014: Finance Minister [Ishaq Dar reviewed preparations for Pak-Russia Inter Governmental Commission meeting](#) to be held during his forthcoming visit to the Russia.
- November 24, 2014: [Defence authorities of Pakistan gave final go-ahead for purchase of Mi35M helicopters from Russia.](#)
- November 29: In a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the third meeting of Pak-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation in Moscow, [the two countries agreed to remove all impediments in the implementation of bilaterally agreed-upon plans and projects.](#)
- December 10, 2014: Federal Finance Minister [Ishaq Dar directed the relevant ministries to urgently come up with a plan for maximising export of agricultural products to Russia.](#)

Baqir Sajjad Syed

Dawn

Staff Reporter

The News

Correspondent

The News

Mateen Haider

Dawn

The Newspaper’s Reporter

Dawn

INP

Daily Times

**Media Commentary**

- November 21, 2014: A newspaper report quoted credible sources saying that [Russia has accepted Pakistan’s request for cooperation in combating terrorism](#) and has offered advanced counter-terrorism training to military and law enforcement agencies at its premier institutions.
- November 22, 2014: An editorial note in *Dawn* noted that [Pakistan would like to strike a deeper understanding with a Moscow that is mindful of the unmistakable shift in India’s foreign policy](#) and its warmer relationship with Washington.
- November 28, 2014: A newspaper analysis claimed that [the increasing defence cooperation between Pakistan and Russia, especially the lifting of the Russian embargo on](#)

Mateen Haider

Dawn

Editorial

Dawn

Amir Mir

The News

<p><a href="#">arms and supplies to Pakistan, has infuriated the Indian security establishment.</a></p>		
<p>- December 4, 2014: A media report said that <a href="#">it would not be easy for Pakistan to ignore the EU ‘call’ to condemn Russia’s actions in Ukraine</a> mainly due to former’s trade interests in the EU countries.</p>	<p>Staff Reporter</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>- December 10, 2014: Russian News Agency TASS reported that next year the <a href="#">Russian Technologies State Corporation will begin projects on construction of oil and gas infrastructures in Pakistan.</a></p>	<p>Russian News Agency</p>	<p>TAAS</p>
<p>- December 13, 2014: An editorial in <i>Pakistan Today</i> noted that an <a href="#">improved relationship between Pakistan and Russia meant Russia, China and Pakistan could adopt a common strategy to deal with the post-US departure scenario.</a></p>	<p>Editorial</p>	<p>Pakistan Today</p>
<p>- December 15, 2014: An op-ed article in <i>Dawn</i> said that despite an anxious Russia reaching out to Pakistan, <a href="#">a major foreign policy shift from the latter’s traditional orientation towards the West and Saudi Arabia is neither possible</a> nor desirable any time soon.</p>	<p>Moazzam Husain</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p><b>Public Statements</b></p>		
<p>- November 12, 2014: In an interview with Radio Pakistan, <a href="#">Russian envoy to Pakistan Alexey Dedov said the deal to sell Mi35 helicopters to Pakistan was “politically approved.”</a></p>	<p>Dawn.com</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>- November 22, 2014: <a href="#">“Pakistan terms Russia and China’s presence in the region as source of peace and stability,”</a> said Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.</p>	<p>Mateen Haider</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>- December 1, 2014: <a href="#">“Pakistan doubts viability of the oil pipeline construction from Russia to India</a> mainly due to insecurity in Afghanistan,” said Pakistan’s finance minister.</p>	<p>Russian News Agency</p>	<p>TASS</p>
<p>- December 10, 2014: Russian President Vladimir <a href="#">Putin said in New Delhi that Russia’s possible assistance to Pakistan in counter-terrorism and anti-drug operations, serves the long-term interests of the region</a> including India.</p>	<p>Staff Reporter</p>	<p>The Nation</p>



**SAUDI ARABIA**

**1. Bilateral Relations**

**Media Commentary**

- October 24, 2014: [Pakistani Shiites in Karachi staged a rally to protest against Riyadh’s verdict against the Saudi Shiite leader, Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr.](#)

FNA

Fars News Agency

- December 10, 2014: A media report said [Riyadh is considering Vice Admiral Abdullah Bin Saeed Al Ghamdi for the coveted slot of Saudi ambassador to Pakistan](#), which has been lying vacant for the last six months.

Sardar Sikander Shaheen

Daily Times

**Public Statements**

- October 1, 2014: Pakistan’s Foreign Office said [Saudi Arabia had endorsed the candidacy of the current Pakistani envoy to Riyadh for the post of Assistant Secretary General from the Asian region at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.](#)

Newsroom

IRNA

- November 8, 2014: Council of Saudi Chambers Chairman Abdulrahman A. Al-Zamil said [there is need for expanding Pak-Saudi bilateral economic and political relations as “they are not in commensurate with the actual potential.”](#)

Rashid Hassan

Arab News

**Official Visits**

- October 9, 2014: [Pakistan Federal Minister for Religious Affairs met Saudi minister of Hajj Bandar bin Mohammed in Jeddah](#) and expressed his gratitude for making excellent arrangements for the Hajj 2014.

Fouzia Khan

Arab News

- November 16, 2014: [A delegation of fourteen Pakistani companies participated in Foodex Saudi exhibition](#) organized by Reed Sunaidi Exhibitions at Jeddah Centre for Forums and Events.

Staff Reporter

Arab News

**Actions Taken**

- October 12, 2014: [Saudi Arabia withdrew nomination of Ali Saeed Awad Al Assiri as its ambassador designate to Pakistan.](#)

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

The News

- November 22, 2014: [The Royal Saudi Navy and Pakistan Navy conducted joint naval training exercise involving the participation of approximately 50 naval officers from both sides.](#)

Rashid Hassan

Arab News

### 3. REGIONAL DYNAMICS AND CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

#### 1. Bilateral Talks & Multi-Track Diplomacy

- i. October 17, 2014: [Senior diplomats of China and Pakistan agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and coordination on international and regional affairs.](#)
- ii. October 22, 2014: [The 2nd Round of Bilateral Strategic Dialogue between Pakistan and Russia was held in Islamabad](#) in which two sides agreed to take concrete steps to enhance bilateral cooperation.
- iii. November 8, 2014: During Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Beijing [both countries signed 19 agreements and memorandums of understanding to further boost the bilateral ties in various fields including energy and basic infrastructure sectors.](#)
- iv. November 14, 2014: [Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan met with Pakistani Air Chief Marshall Tahir Rafique Butt and discussed bilateral ties including cooperation between the air forces of the two nations.](#)
- v. November 18, 2014: [Afghan President Ashraf Ghani made his first visit to Pakistan after assuming power and claimed to have resolved 13 years of differences between the two states.](#)
- vi. November 25, 2014: [Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif asked U.S. President Barack Obama to raise Kashmir issue during his visit to India in January, 2015.](#)
- vii. December 9, 2014: [The 19th Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission session was held in Islamabad](#) where the two countries resolved to enhance bilateral cooperation.
- viii. December 13, 2014: A 12-member Pakistani Parliamentary delegation visited India for the [sixth round of Pakistan-India Parliamentary Dialogue, an initiative by the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency.](#)
- ix. December 15, 2014: [Afghanistan asked Pakistan to play a more 'visible' role in persuading the Afghan Taliban to come to the negotiation table.](#)

#### 2. Multilateral Fora

- i. October 20, 2014: Addressing the concluding session of [two-day China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Dialogue held in Islamabad](#), Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs & National Security Sartaj Aziz said there should be no repeat of 1990s in Afghanistan.
- ii. November 1, 2014: Adviser to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs [Sartaj Aziz said at the fourth ministerial conference on the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process held in Beijing that Pakistan fully supported China's supportive role for peace in Afghanistan.](#)
- iii. November 1, 2014: Chinese Prime Minister [Li Keqiang said at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan that neighbours should not interfere in Afghanistan.](#)
- iv. November 07, 2014: [Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif left for China to attend the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation \(APEC\) Leader's Meeting in Beijing.](#)

- v. November 26, 2014: [The 18th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation \(SAARC\) kicked off in Kathmandu with focus on regional security, trade and integration issues.](#)
- vi. December 5, 2014: Addressing the London Conference on Afghanistan, [Pakistani prime minister reiterated Pakistan's solidarity with the people of Afghanistan](#) and urged the international community to do more for the Afghans.

#### 4. SUMMARY OF TRENDS FOR THE QUARTER

Some large scale and horrendous terrorist attacks occurred in Pakistan during the quarter under review including an attack at Wagah border, Lahore that killed at least 60 people and militants' storming into a school in Peshawar which claimed the lives of more than 100 including 84 children. On the whole, the number of reported terrorist attacks in Pakistan decreased during the quarter under review, as compared to previous quarter. While security forces continued "Operation *Zarb-e-Azb*" in North Waziristan, they also launched an extensive military campaign against militants, codenamed "Operation Khyber-1," in Khyber Agency in October. Meanwhile the Balochistan government warned through a secret report that the IS is recruiting militants from Pakistan. Also, there were reports that a delegation from the Islamic State group had visited some Jundullah leaders in Balochistan. Graffiti or wall-chalking in support of the Islamic State, also known as *Da'esh*, was also seen in different parts of country during the quarter under review.

Efforts were made by both Pakistan and Afghanistan to defuse persisting bilateral mistrust. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani made his first state visit to Pakistan in mid-November and during his two-day visit held important meetings with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Army Chief Raheel Sharif and other top Pakistani officials. Besides seeking stronger security ties, including cooperation in training and border management, he promised his country's cooperation to jointly curb the menace of terrorism. One week before Ghani's visit to Pakistan, Pakistani Army Chief Raheel Sharif along with other military officials had visited Kabul and assured Afghan leaders that Pakistan's ongoing military operation in North Waziristan Agency was against all terrorist groups including anti-Afghanistan Haqqani group of Afghan Taliban. These exchanges of visits were a step in right direction as analysts assert that with a new civilian establishment in power in Afghanistan, it is an opportunity for both the states to improve bilateral relations and jointly work for regional peace and stability.

Ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) and the Working Boundary continued with both Pakistan and India blaming each other for such violations. This also led to standoff between leaders of both states at the SAARC summit held in Nepal's capital Kathmandu in which the prime ministers of two countries only shook hands at the end of the conference. Pakistani army also claimed that India is affecting Pakistan's military operation against militants with constant ceasefire violations along the LoC forcing the Pakistani army to stay active in both eastern and western borders. Many however believed that although border violations further strained Indo-Pak ties, these were unlikely to evolve into a bigger conflict. Cross-border attacks at Pak-Iran border also created tensions at a certain point of time, but on the whole a status-quo prevailed in bilateral relations between Iran and Pakistan. During the 19th Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission session held in Islamabad, both countries reiterated to remove persisting irritants in the implementation of Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline.

Bilateral relations between Russia and Pakistan further warmed up during the quarter under review. Both countries held 2nd round of bilateral dialogue in Islamabad and decided to speed up implementation of agreed-upon plans and projects of bilateral cooperation. In November, both countries signed a military and defence pact, which was termed as 'milestone' by Pakistani media and government officials. The signed deal would allow Pakistan to buy Mi35 helicopters from Russia; a move that some said was seen as hostile by the Indians. However during his India visit in December, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in New Delhi that Russia's possible assistance to Pakistan in counter-terrorism and anti-drug operations, serves the long-term interests of the region including India. Also, there were reports that Russia has offered advanced counter-terrorism training to Pakistan's military and law enforcement agencies at its premier institutions.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in his visit to Beijing signed 19 agreements and MoUs to boost trade and economic cooperation between the two states. A number of Chinese companies also showed interest in investing in Pakistan's energy sector boosting the relations between the two states in a positive direction. Some statements issued by high Pakistani officials suggested that Pakistan wanted to see China's and Russia's enhanced role in bringing peace and stability in Afghanistan and wider region.



## 5. PUBLICATIONS FROM THE REGION

### Governance:

- Abbas, Kamran. 2014. “Balochistan: enhancing the pace of development and prosperity,” IPRI, December 3rd. <<http://www.ipripak.org/balochistan-enhancing-the-pace-of-development-and-prosperity>>
- Khan, Amir Ullah. 2014. “Liberating local democracy from subservience to bureaucracy in Pakistan: ramifications and recommendations.” *IPRI Journal*, 14(2): 63-78. <<http://www.ipripak.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/4-article-s14.pdf>>

### Social & Economic Issues:

- PIPS (Pak Institute for Peace Studies). 2014. “Minority rights in Pakistan: historic neglect or state complicity?” October 1st. <<http://www.san-pips.com/download.php?f=257.pdf>>
- Alif Ailaan. 2014. “25 million broken promises: the crisis of Pakistan’s out-of-school children.” November 17th. <[https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/alifailaan/pages/540/attachments/original/1415950873/25\\_Million\\_Broken\\_Promises\\_Report.pdf?1415950873](https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/alifailaan/pages/540/attachments/original/1415950873/25_Million_Broken_Promises_Report.pdf?1415950873)>

### Militancy:

- Rafiq, Arif. 2014. “Pakistan’s resurgent sectarian war.” United States Institute of Peace, November. <<http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PB180-Pakistan-Resurgent-Sectarian-War.pdf>>
- Fair, Christine. 2014. “Is Pakistan in ISIS’ crosshairs?” *Boston Review*, October 16th. <<http://bostonreview.net/world/c-christine-fair-isis-pakistan-militant-foreign-policy>>

### Regional Dynamics:

- ICG (International Crisis Group). 2014. “Resetting Pakistan’s relations with Afghanistan.” Asia Report No. 262, October 28th. <[http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-asia/pakistan/262-resetting-pakistan-s-relations-with-afghanistan.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/~/media/Files/asia/south-asia/pakistan/262-resetting-pakistan-s-relations-with-afghanistan.pdf)>
- Sarma, Chandrani. 2014. “Indi-Pak trade and political balance.” Institute of South Asian Studies, November 21st. <<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Publications/Detail/?ots591=0c54e3b3-1e9c-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&lng=en&id=186092>>
- Zaki, M. Akram. 2014. “The evolution in global power balance and Pak-China relations.” *Policy Perspectives*, 11(2). <<http://www.ips.org.pk/eventupdates/whatnew/newpublication/1832-policy-perspectives-vol-11-issue-2>>
- Joshi, Manoj. 2014. “Engaging Pakistan through the SAARC.” Observer Research Foundation, December 3rd. <<http://orfonline.org/cms/sites/orfonline/modules/analysis/AnalysisDetail.html?cmaid=75621&mmacmaid=75622>>

### Conflict in Afghanistan:

- ICG (International Crisis Group). 2014. “Afghanistan’s political transition.” Asia Report No. 260, October 16th. <<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/260-afghanistan-s-political-transition.pdf>>
- Bhatnagar, Aryaman. 2014. “Post-election challenges for the new government in Kabul.” ORF issue brief 82, November. <[http://orfonline.org/cms/export/orfonline/modules/issuebrief/attachments/ORF\\_Issue\\_brief\\_82\\_1417170950930.pdf](http://orfonline.org/cms/export/orfonline/modules/issuebrief/attachments/ORF_Issue_brief_82_1417170950930.pdf)>