



NWIP FACT SHEET

South Asia

India

Key indicators of development

- * Life expectancy at birth: 63.3 years
- * Adult literacy rate: 58%
- * GDP per capita: 2,840\$
- * 34.7% of the population live on under 1\$ a day
- * Public health expenditure is 0.9% of the GDP
- * Under-five mortality rate is 67 per 1000 live births

South Asia and disarmament Treaties

Neither India nor Pakistan has signed the NPT, or the CTBT.

The CTBT will only enter-into-force if India, Pakistan and a number of other states signs and ratifies it.

Pakistan

Key indicators of development

- * Life expectancy at birth: 60.4 years
- * Adult literacy rate: 44%
- * GDP per capita: 1,890\$
- * 13.4% of the population live on under 1\$ a day
- * Public health expenditure is 0.9% of the GDP
- * Under-five mortality rate is 84 per 1000 live births

The Weapons

India conducted its first nuclear tests in May 1998 and Pakistan followed suit immediately after.

India is estimated to have a total of 60 nuclear warheads and enough plutonium to manufacture 30-50 more. They are based on short-range ballistic missiles and possibly bombers. The Range of the Indian ballistic missiles is currently 500-700 km, but they are developing missiles with a range up to 5000 km. The Indian nuclear program relies heavily on Russian expertise and components.

According to the Indian Nuclear Doctrine from 1999 India abides by a no-first-use policy and have ambitions to build their weapon on a sea-, air-, and land-based triad, but these ambitions are far from being a reality. Especially India has met technical problems developing submarine based missiles.

Pakistan is believed to have between 24 and 48 nuclear weapons and enough fissile material for 30-52 more.

The majority of Pakistan's nuclear weapons are land-based ballistic missiles, but it is believed that Pakistan has F-16's fitted for carrying nuclear weapons. The range of the Pakistani weapons is estimated to be 700-2,500 km. So far Pakistani weapons are based on highly enriched uranium, but they are developing the capacity to produce uranium.

Pakistan developed their weapons with the help of China and North Korea.

The Pakistani nuclear command and control system is believed to be badly secured and therefore very prone to terrorist attack or accidental launch.

Why?

The two primary reasons for India's nuclear program is the need to balance China's growing nuclear arsenal and the ongoing conflict with Pakistan over Kashmir. It has been said that another reason for India's nuclear ambitions is the wish to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council even though this has not happened yet, despite the fact that India has been a nuclear power for more than 6 years now. The major reason for Pakistan to have weapons is the need to balance their power with the Indian.

Kashmir

Many have said that the Kashmir conflict is the key to disarmament in the region. As long as Kashmir continues to be disputed, none of the two countries will be willing to disarm their nuclear programs.



South Asia

The conflict over the disputed region of Kashmir has been ongoing since independence from Britain in 1947. The UN Security Council has addressed the issue several times and many Security Council Resolutions exist that hasn't been followed yet. One solution that has been suggested again and again is to make Kashmir an autonomous region under protection of a UN peacekeeping force until the region has developed the necessary infrastructure to govern themselves. Pakistan supports this idea, but India refuses to follow the resolution from the Security Council and has pushed the demarcation line closer to Pakistani territory. Pakistan in return responds by state financed terrorism in Kashmir.

It has been suggested that the reason for India's reluctance to give Kashmir independence is a well-founded fear that struggles for independence in other regions of India will follow. A situation that would be very similar to what happened in the Balkans in the early 90s.

Nuclear Terrorism

For several reasons Pakistan is one of the key hot spots when discussing nuclear terrorism. The Pakistani nuclear arsenals are badly secured and therefore susceptible to theft or unauthorized launch. The former Taliban Regime in Afghanistan and Al Qaeda have many supporters in Pakistan and there is a genuine concern that the nuclear arsenals of Pakistan could fall into the hands of fundamentalists if the Musharraf administration of Pakistan was to be over-thrown. This could mean that the Pakistani nuclear weapons could fall under the control of groups willing to use them or to share them with terrorist groups.

Finally it is uncertain whether Pakistani scientists might already have shared nuclear technologies and know-how with Al Qaeda and other terror organisations.

Does Deterrence Work in South Asia?

The situation in South Asia is very different than the situation between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War, but the rhetoric in South Asia and the philosophy behind their nuclear policies are still based on Cold War thinking. Many examples exist of how deterrence philosophy cannot be applied to the region. Here are but a few of them.

The flying time between India and Pakistan is much shorter than between the US and the Russia. The chance for one of the countries to respond to a nuclear attack from the enemy by launching their own missiles is therefore limited and the time left for decision-making is miniscule which increases the risk of accidental nuclear war.

Many fear that an escalation of the Kashmir conflict might unintentionally lead to the use of nuclear weapons. When the crisis aggravated in 2002 top-leaders of the world saw a nuclear war in South Asia to be a realistic scenario.

Regional Disarmament

Experts from South Asia has pointed out that the nuclear programs in South Asia is straining the resources of the countries to such an extent that it necessitates the strong campaign for nuclear supremacy that both countries have embarked on. Ethnic and religious hatred is used to fuel the nuclear ambitions of the populations. The writer Arundhati Roy has used the expression "The Hindi Bomb" to describe India's nuclear ambitions because of the strong nationalistic feelings attached to India's identity as a nuclear power.

In the past Pakistan has been positive towards solving the Kashmir conflict through UN peacekeeping as well as towards regional disarmament, but this has only met limited understanding from India. Pakistan has a weaker economy and smaller conventional forces, which might be part of an explanation why they seem willing to negotiate disarmament in the region.