



# ISSI Next-Generation International Security Experts Conference 2024

Thursday, March 7, 2024

1015 Hrs

ISSI, Ataturk Ave, F-5, Islamabad

## CONFERENCE BOOKLET



## Table of Contents

<b>Organizing Team</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Concept Note</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Themes</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Timeline</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Programme</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Speakers' Bio and Abstracts</b>	<b>8</b>

# Organizing Team



**Ambassador Sohail Mahmood**  
*Director General,  
ISSI*



**Dr Khurram Abbas**  
*Director India Study Centre,  
ISSI*



**Mahwish Hafeez**  
*Research Fellow,  
India Study Centre,  
ISSI*



**Maheen Shafeeq**  
*Research Associate,  
India Study Centre,  
ISSI*



**Muhammad Ahmad Khan**  
*Research Associate,  
India Study Centre,  
ISSI*

# Concept Note

To promote and give voice to the Next Generation of experts, ISSI has hosted a conference where young researchers and students have been invited to **write, present and publish** their research papers.

## Themes

Evolving Nature of Terrorism in South Asia, Nuclear Diplomacy, Strategic Stability, Artificial Intelligence, Drones, Emerging Technologies, India's Astro-Politics, Non-Traditional Security Challenges, Water Conflict, Maritime Security Policy, and Jammu & Kashmir Dispute.

## Timeline

**October 2023**

***Call for Abstracts***

The NextGen opened Call for Abstracts from October 15, 2023, till November 5, 2023, and we received an overwhelming response. About 130 abstracts were submitted from which we shortlisted about 25 and invited them to submit their full papers.



**January 2024**

***Write → Paper Submission Deadline***

The NextGen authors submitted their full papers by January 10, 2024. About 11 papers were shortlisted and sent for external peer review after an internal review.



**February 2024**

***External Review and Call for Registrations***

The NextGen authors, organizers and external reviewers worked rigorously to review the papers before they are ready to be presented at the conference.

We also opened the Call for Registrations on February 14, 2024, to give the remaining NextGen students and researchers to be part of the conference. We received an overwhelming response again and within 3 days over 350 young researchers and students registered for the conference.



**March 2024**

***Present →***

**ISSI Next-Generation International Security Experts Conference 2024**



**June 2024**

***Publish → Book Launch***

We expect to launch the book carrying the research papers by NextGen authors on the ISSI Foundation Day.



# Programme

Inaugural Session 10:30	
10: 30	Opening Remarks – <b>Dr Khurram Abbas</b> , <i>Director India Study Centre, ISSI</i>
10: 35	Welcome Remarks – <b>Ambassador Sohail Mahmood</b> , <i>Director General, ISSI</i>
10: 45	Special Remarks – <b>Ambassador Imran Ahmad Siddiqui</b> , <i>Additional Secretary Asia Pacific, MoFA</i>
10: 55	Remarks by Chief Guest – <b>Senator Sherry Rehman</b> , <i>Former Federal Minister for Climate Change and Founding Chair of Jinnah Institute</i>
11:10	Group Photo

Session 1 Evolving Nature of Terrorism in South Asia 11: 30		
Time	Name	Paper Title
11: 30	Moderator: <b>Dr Khurram Abbas</b> , <i>Director India Study Centre, ISSI</i>	
11: 35	<b>Muhammad Faizan Fakhar</b> , <i>Researcher Infer</i>	<b>Evaluating the Possible Use of Commercial Drones (Unmanned Aircraft System) for Terrorism in Pakistan and Way Forward</b>
11: 45	<b>Gökhan Umut</b> , <i>PhD Student Ankara Social Sciences University, Turkiye</i>	<b>Territoriality Perspective of Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP)</b>
11: 55	<b>Izaz Ullah</b> , <i>MPhil IR, NDU</i> and <b>Muhammad Imad Abbas</b> , <i>Researcher, The Khorasan Diary</i>	<b>Media Manipulation and Radicalization: Unravelling Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Online Propaganda Ecosystem</b>
12:05	<b>Dr. Muhammad Khan</b> , Chairman Social Sciences Department, IIUI	<b>Remarks by Mentor</b>
12:15	Open Discussion /Q&A	

<b>Session 2</b> <b>Strategic Stability in South Asia</b> <b>12: 30</b>		
Time	Name	Paper Title
<b>12: 30</b>	Moderator: <b>Maheen Shafeeq</b> , <i>Research Associate, India Study Centre, ISSI</i>	
<b>12: 35</b>	<b>Ms. Mubeen Ashraf</b> , <i>Non-resident Researcher at Global Foundation for Cyber Studies and Research, Washington DC, USA (GFCyber, USA)</i>	<b>South Asian Nuclear Diplomacy in the Age of Emerging Technologies</b>
<b>12: 45</b>	<b>Shayan Jamy</b> , <i>Research Officer, Strategic Vision Institute (SVI)</i>	<b>Artificial Intelligence and South Asian Strategic Stability</b>
<b>12: 55</b>	<b>Tayyaba Khurshid</b> , <i>Associate Research Officer, Center for International Strategic Studies AJK (CISS AJK)</i>	<b>The New Great Game and South Asian Dilemma: Analyzing the Implications of US Integrated Deterrence on South Asian Strategic Environment</b>
<b>13:05</b>	<b>Areesha Manzoor</b> , <i>BS International Relations, NUML</i>	<b>India's Astro-Politics: A Security Dilemma for Pakistan</b>
<b>13:15</b>	<b>Dr. Adil Sultan</b> , Dean Faculty of Aerospace and Strategic Studies (FASS), Air University	<b>Remarks by the Mentor</b>
<b>13:20</b>	Discussion /Q&A	
<b>13:30 – 14:15</b>	Lunch Break	

<b>Session 3</b> <b>Non-Traditional Security Threats in South Asia</b> <b>14:15</b>		
Time	Name	Paper Title
<b>14: 15</b>	Moderator: <b>Dr. Neelum Nigar</b> , <i>Director, Centre for Strategic Perspectives, ISSI</i>	
<b>14: 20</b>	<b>Hira Sarwar</b> , <i>Masters International Relations, University of Karachi</i>	<b>Cultural Bridges to Shared Security: A Soft Power Approach to Non-Traditional Threat Management between India and Pakistan</b>
<b>14: 30</b>	<b>Zohran Baig</b> , <i>Bachelors in Strategic Studies, NDU</i>	<b>The prospects of Water Conflict between India and Pakistan: Critical Analysis of Bhartiya Janata Party' policies</b>
<b>14: 40</b>	<b>Mohammad Umar Bhat</b> , <i>MPhil in Mass Communication, Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad</i>	<b>Disempowering Kashmir: Delimitation, Demographic Change, and Electoral Politics in Occupied Kashmir</b>
<b>14: 50</b>	<b>Muneeb Salman</b> , <i>Research Associate, China Study Centre, ISSI</i>	<b>Strategic Subcultures in Decision-Making Process: A Case Study of Maritime Security Policy in Pakistan</b>

<b>15: 00</b>	<b>Professor Dr. Adam Saud</b> , Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University	<b>Remarks by Mentor</b>
<b>15: 10</b>	Discussion /Q&A	
<b>15: 20</b>	Concluding Remarks – <b>Ambassador Khalid Mahmood</b> , <i>Chairman Board of Governors</i> <i>(BoG), ISSI</i>	
<b>15: 30</b>	Certificate Distribution by the Chairman BOG and Group Photo	



# Speakers' Bio and Abstracts





**Muhammad Faizan Fakhar**  
*Senior Producer & Researcher,  
Infer Digital*

Muhammad Faizan Fakhar has an MPhil in Strategic Studies and has worked with various reputable research and academic institutes of the country. His areas of interest include impact of emerging technologies on human society, religion and politics and regional security issues.

e [faizan.fakhar@yahoo.com](mailto:faizan.fakhar@yahoo.com)  
X [@FaizanFakhar6](#)  
Ln [Muhammad Faizan Fakhar](#)

## **Evaluating the Possible Use of Commercial Drones (Unmanned Aircraft System) for Terrorism in Pakistan and Way Forward**

Terrorism has been a persistent security challenge for Pakistan since decades. Terrorist group such as TTP, ISKP, and BLA continue to threaten the national security of Pakistan. One of the defining features of these groups is their tendency to adapt new strategies and tactic with the passage of time and advancement in technology. One such technologies that could be used by terrorist groups in the future is the aerial commercial drones that are readily available in Pakistan. These drones could patiently be used for terrorist activities including surveillance, reconnaissance and payload delivery. Drones have been used by terrorist organisations in the past for their activities around the globe. For example, in 2005, Pakistani security forces seized a drone in a raid on Al-Qaeda hideout, which was used for reconnaissance of Pakistan security forces prior to attacking them. This, this paper aims to conduct an in-depth analysis of possible adaptations of commercial drones for terrorist activities in Pakistan. Moreover, this paper will study the prevalent framework of regulations on sale/purchase and use of commercial drones in Pakistan. Furthermore, the study will also shed light on the ethical, legal, and human rights dilemmas associated with countering possible use of commercial drones for terrorism as it needs a balance between security imperatives and individual freedoms. Ultimately, this paper will provide valuable insights into types of drones available in Pakistan, the regulatory framework on sale/purchase and use of commercial drones and intricate challenges posed by the malicious use of commercial drones in Pakistan. An understanding of the evolving tactics of terrorists helps in implementing proactive measures that will be recommended in the paper.



**Gökhan Umut**  
*PhD Student  
Ankara Social Sciences  
University, Türkiye*

Gökhan Umut completed both his B.A and M.A in the Economics Department at Marmara University. Umut works in the OECD Development Assistant

## **Territoriality Perspective Of Tehrik-I Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**

As is known, territoriality understanding in international relations can trace back to The Peace Treaties of Westphalia (1648) which is accepted as a starting point of modern nation states. According to the notion that was stemmed from the Westphalian system, territoriality can be understood as fixed and pre-determined. Within this perspective, the concepts of sovereignty and territoriality are highly interlinked which means territorial claim of a nation state relates to its sovereignty claim as well. Territoriality understanding of Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is analyzed within the scope of this paper. Even though TTP' ideology and strategy are researched in the literature, there is a lack in analyzing the Territoriality understanding of Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP). In this study, territoriality concept which was used by Jabareen (2015) will be used. According to this approach, the scholar distinguishes territoriality as conceptions of territoriality and tactics of territoriality. It is discussed that conceptions of territoriality of TTP can be understood by moral focus as Legitimitor role of Islamic value and nationalistic and regional focus. In this concept, TTP use Islamic norms and discourse to provide legitimacy for their campaign. In a nationalistic and regional focus, TTP claims sovereignty over Pakistan's FATA region and it is understood that

Committee on behalf of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA).

E [gokhanumut58@gmail.com](mailto:gokhanumut58@gmail.com)  
X [@GokhanUmut4](https://twitter.com/GokhanUmut4)

territoriality understanding of the group is limited to FATA region. Besides, the group is using Pashtunwali, which is the norms of Pashtun traditions, as nationalistic focus.



**Izaz Ullah**  
*MPhil International Relations, National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad*

Izaz Ullah is an enthusiastic researcher with the distinction of publishing a book on “Fundamentals of IR” during his undergraduate studies at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad. He has written research papers and opinion articles. His research interests include nationalism, extremism & terrorism, with particular emphasis on the Khorasan Region – the Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas.

[izazkhattak321@gmail.com](mailto:izazkhattak321@gmail.com)

### **Media Manipulation and Radicalization: Unraveling Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Online Propaganda Ecosystem**

The Fall of Kabul and the emergence of Taliban 3.0 led to a new era of terrorism in Pakistan, mainly in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. The resurgence of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the intense wave of terrorism claimed hundreds of human lives, disrupted developmental progress, and led to other drastic consequences. Existing scholarship strives to evaluate the physical strength of the banned outfit and monitor the casualties caused by their attacks. Unlike the existing literature, this research paper delves into the TTP's ideological and information warfare capabilities and evaluates the TTP's information warfare strategies. This research paper concludes that TTP's propaganda campaign is more lethal and drastic with long-lasting implications than its physical assaults. In line with Thomas Rona's concept of Information Warfare, this article will analyze data gathered from primary sites of the banned outfit and expert opinions via semi-structured interviews. The article's key findings are based on assessing TTP's newly started podcasts, magazines, newspapers, and other media warfare tools. The exponential rise in media warfare tools of the banned outfit and enhancing content and discourse quality is a pre-eminent threat to Pakistan's security. Unlike the physical attacks of the TTP, the information warfare is going unnoticed, which is a matter of grave concern



**Muhammad Imad Abbas**  
*Bachelors in International Relations, National University of Modern Languages (NUML)*

Muhammad Imad Abbas is a research associate at the Khorasan Diary. He has published research papers and opinion articles. His interests include the security, conflict, and political economy of the Khorasan Region – Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran.

[imadedwardian@gmail.com](mailto:imadedwardian@gmail.com)  
x [@ImadAbb31611903](https://twitter.com/ImadAbb31611903)





**Mubeen Ashraf**

*Researcher,  
Global Foundation for Cyber  
Studies and Research, USA*

Mubeen Ashraf holds an M.Phil. degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. She has worked as a visiting lecturer, journalist, and has published research papers and opinion articles. Her research interests include gendered dimension of terrorism, international law, cyber warfare, nuclear issues, emerging technologies, and environmental warfare.

E [Mubeen.0727@gmail.com](mailto:Mubeen.0727@gmail.com)  
X [@mubeen\\_ashraf7](https://twitter.com/mubeen_ashraf7)  
Ln [Mubeen Ashraf](#)

## **South Asian Nuclear Diplomacy in the Age of Emerging Technologies**

South Asian nuclear diplomacy, shaped by the intricate India-Pakistan relationship, has long been a complex concern. This study delves into the intricate interplay of emerging technologies, nuclear diplomacy, and social media in the region. By analyzing disruptive capabilities like hypersonic weapons and AI, the research outlines both near and long-term arms control strategies. Additionally, the study investigates the impact of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and cyber capabilities, on the nuclear diplomacy realm. Lastly, the research dissects social media's transformative impact on nuclear diplomacy, emphasizing its role in public diplomacy and crisis management, exemplified by the BrahMos missile incident. This study provides policymakers, experts, and scholars with crucial insights for navigating the contemporary diplomatic landscape altered by emerging technologies in South Asia.



**Shayan Hassan Jamy**

*Research Officer,  
Strategic Vision Institute,  
Islamabad*

Shayan Hassan Jamy has completed his Masters in

## **Artificial Intelligence and South Asian Strategic Stability**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a revolutionary technology, and has tremendous transformative potential for the military domain. Within the past few years, major states have demonstrated the various applications of AI on the battlefield, ranging from decision-making systems, to Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), autonomous defence systems, and more. One region which will be affected tremendously by the military incorporation of AI is South Asia. India views AI as an important strategic technology, as stated in its 2017 Joint Doctrine of the Indian Armed Forces, 2018 Land Warfare Doctrine, and in various other policy documents and statements made by its political and military leadership. To achieve these objectives, India has greatly increased its investment in the research, development and innovation surrounding AI, and has already begun to deploy AI systems for military purposes. Additionally, with the US aiming to enhance India's technological capacity so that it may act as a counterweight to China, India will certainly become a major AI player

Strategic Studies from the Air University, Islamabad. His research focuses on emerging and disruptive technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence, and global power competition.

E [shjamy96@gmail.com](mailto:shjamy96@gmail.com)  
X [@shayanjamy](#)  
Ln [Shayan Jamy](#)

in the near future. This would, both in the short and long-term, further stress the already volatile strategic stability between India and Pakistan. Pakistan would have no option but to respond to these developments, in order to maintain strategic stability in the region. This study analyses how AI could affect South Asian strategic stability, both in the short and long-term. It also examines the current incorporation of AI within the respective militaries of India and Pakistan, and builds an understanding of the AI-related ambitions within both states. The study also suggests that if Pakistan hopes to maintain strategic parity with India, it must increase its focus on AI and ultimately head towards the military incorporation of AI.



**Tayyaba Khurshid**  
*Associate Research Officer,  
Center for International  
Strategic Studies AJK*

Tayyaba Khurshid graduated in International Relations from National Defense University, Islamabad and is MPhil Scholar of International Relations at Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad. She has written research articles, opinion pieces and has participated in international conferences. Her areas of interest include Politics of Asia Pacific, US China Competition in Asia-Pacific Region, Integrated Deterrence Strategy and Kashmir Conflict.

e [tayaba.khan127@gmail.com](mailto:tayaba.khan127@gmail.com)  
X [@TayyabaKhurshi1](#)  
Ln [Tayyaba Khurshid](#)

### **The New Great Game and South Asian Dilemma: Analyzing the Implications of US Integrated Deterrence on South Asian Strategic Environment**

The United States under President Biden has embarked on a strategic shift towards the policy of integrated deterrence in its 2022 National Defense Policy, refocusing its priorities on China and aiming to contain its ascendance as a global competitor. Integrated Deterrence Strategy strives to optimize the use of all instruments of national power from military, technology, economy as well as allies and partners abroad to deter the enemy. Central to this strategy is the role of India, a key strategic ally of the United States, which is expected to play a pivotal part in supporting US interests in its rivalry with China. This research paper delves into the intricate dynamics of this evolving geopolitical landscape, with a specific focus on the repercussions for Pakistan and the established deterrence and strategic stability within the broader South Asian region. The paper explores the potential adverse consequences that stem from the deepening US-India strategic partnership, driven by the integrated deterrence policy, and its spillover effects on Pakistan and South Asia. The core objectives of this study encompass an in-depth examination of how the United States' adoption of the integrated deterrence policy, a global-level strategic approach, could lead to detrimental outcomes for Pakistan's security and the overall strategic environment of South Asia. Furthermore, it undertakes a nuanced assessment of Pakistan's responses to this evolving strategic landscape, considering both official policies and regional dynamics. In this way by applying qualitative methodology analyzing key literature on issue, this study endeavors to advance the understanding of how the U.S. integrated deterrence policy and the deepening US-India strategic partnership may have far-reaching implications for the security of Pakistan and the broader stability of South Asia, emphasizing the need for careful analysis and measured policy responses in this evolving geopolitical landscape. The paper identifies the negative implications of this strategy in view of Indo-US strategic alliance on South Asian dynamics.



**Areesha Manzoor**  
*Bachelors in International  
 Relations*  
*National University of Modern  
 Languages, Islamabad*

Areesha Manzoor composed a book on “Fundamentals of IR” during her undergrad studies. Her research interests range from Politics of South Asia, Astro-politics and strategic studies with a special focus on India-Pakistan relations.

[Eareeshakhurram08@gmail.com](mailto:Eareeshakhurram08@gmail.com)  
 X [@Areeshaakhurram](https://twitter.com/Areeshaakhurram)

## **India’s Outer Space Politics: A Security Dilemma for Pakistan**

Cold war set the basis of competition in outer space, which eventually had spill over effect on other states as well. Indian ambitions of weaponization of space in 21st century are evident from its ASAT tests. Moreover, India has joined Artemis Accord in order to exploit space resources to increase its power. Extant literature has covered Indian space politics with respect to China and the transformation of Indian civilian space technologies into military power. However, the existing scholarships do not explore the implications of Indian Space politics for Pakistan. This study focuses on two aspects of outer space politics of India, the capability of Anti-Satellite Missile Test and signing of the Artemis Accord by India. Further this research aims to explore how these two factors trigger the new generation of security dilemma for Pakistan. Lastly, this paper tries to find Pakistan’s possible responses to space security situation. Qualitative research methods are used in this research paper, where data has been collected by primary sources like official websites and statements and secondary data is gathered from research articles, news, and magazines. The key findings of the article are that Indian military space-based capabilities especially ASAT capabilities threaten Pakistan’s security and disturbs the nuclear deterrence in South Asia. Artemis Accord provides India leverage of cooperation with established Space Powers that strengthens its international clout that eventually disturbs the delicate balance of power in South Asia. Pakistan responses these threats with its Vision 2047 for space.



**Hira Sarwar**  
*Masters in International  
 Relations,*  
*University of Karachi*

Hira Sarwar has completed her master's degree in International Relations from the University of Karachi. She is an editor and a foreign affairs researcher for the diplomatic newsroom World Affairs Insider. Her research areas are Foreign Policy Analysis, Public and Cultural Diplomacy, Non-traditional

## **Cultural Bridges to Shared Security: A Soft Power Approach to Non-Traditional Threat Management between India and Pakistan**

Nuclear tensions, security issues, and historical disputes have long tarnished ties between India and Pakistan. Both countries are shadowed by non-traditional concerns, ranging from water scarcity and climate change to terrorism and nuclear proliferation. While conventional approaches to mitigating these challenges have focused on military and political solutions, this research paper takes a different approach: using Soft Power Theory to manage non-traditional threats and foster collaboration between these two South Asian neighbors. According to Joseph Nye's theory, soft power is the capacity to influence preferences without coercion by attraction and persuasion. This study contends that cultural diplomacy and social interactions can be valuable strategies for fostering confidence and facilitating partnership, particularly in transnational areas such as water security, environmental protection, and disaster management. This study examines prospects for collaboration in non-traditional security fields by evaluating India and Pakistan's cultural affinities, shared histories, and joint issues. This research paper demonstrates that a soft power approach can lead to a more stable and secure environment for both countries, reducing the risk of conflict and fostering regional peace through analyzing case studies and exploring

Security Threats, and Political Economy.

E [hirasjalees@gmail.com](mailto:hirasjalees@gmail.com)

X [@HiraSarwarJalis](https://twitter.com/HiraSarwarJalis)

Ln [Hira Sarwar](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hira-sarwar)

existing soft power initiatives in the region. The conclusions and suggestions made in this paper offer practitioners, academics, and policymakers' insightful information about novel approaches to advancing shared security in South Asia.



**Zohran Baig**

*Bachelors in Strategic Studies  
National Defence University  
(NDU), Islamabad*

Zohran Baig has recently completed his bachelor's degree. He regularly writes opinion articles. His thesis explored the political implications of Hindutva Ideology for Pakistan. His research interests include South Asian security political and security issues and domestic politics of India.

E [zabns85@gmail.com](mailto:zabns85@gmail.com)

X [@zohran6831](https://twitter.com/zohran6831)

### **The Prospects of Water War between India and Pakistan: Critical Analysis of Bhartiya Janata Party's policies**

This research explores the chances of water conflict between India and Pakistan. The study focuses on how the BJP government, led by Narendra Modi, will influence the prospects of water conflicts between India and Pakistan. The findings in this research elaborate on how the aggressive policies on the Indus Basin waged by the Indian government in recent years can become an existential threat to Pakistan and how it disrupts regional stability. Since Narendra Modi retained office in 2019, the nationalist character of the Indian government has evolved from an undercover factor behind Indian policies to explicitly involving the Sangh Parivar in formulating state policies. Due to restraining international relations, confrontation is outdated, so the Indian state has developed policies to wage an indirect and non-traditional war against Pakistan in the Indus River Basin. The Indian government has also demanded to modify the treaty through the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC), which will further render Pakistan's control over the Indus River System. These policies and actions of the Indian government make their offensive defence towards Pakistan patent. In the upcoming elections in 2024, the BJP also holds a strong position comparatively. Considering all these factors, the BJP has the capacity to critically impact the water sharing between India and Pakistan. Recently, India violated the Indus Water Treaty by initiating the Kishanganga hydroelectric project. This project is aimed at giving India's control over the flowing river that enters Pakistan by the route of Indian-Occupied Kashmir. According to the United Nations, Pakistan will transform into a water-scarce country by 2025. The essential backbone of the state's economy is also dependent on industries and agriculture, for which water is life. So, the paper explains the policies of BJP conflicting the Indus Water Treaty and highlights the prospect of water war between India and Pakistan, based on these aggressive policies.





**Mohammad Umar Bhat**  
*MPhil, Mass Communication,  
 Allama Iqbal Open University,  
 Islamabad*

Mohammad Umar Bhat has Masters in Earth Sciences with specialization in tunnelling and soil dynamics from University of Jammu, IIOJK and a Masters in Mass Communication from Department of Mass communication NUML, Islamabad. He works as media manager at All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Kashmir Chapter and as a sub-editor at Daily Country News Islamabad. He belongs to Indian occupied Kashmir, recently migrated to Pakistan after facing persecution from Indian authorities.

His research interests include decolonization and colonialism studies, political conflict and insurgencies.  
 E [mohdumarbhat01@gmail.com](mailto:mohdumarbhat01@gmail.com)  
 X [@UmarSopori](#)

## **Disempowering Kashmir: Delimitation, Demographic Change, and Electoral Politics in Occupied Kashmir**

In 2019, the Indian government abrogated Article 370 and Article 35A of the Indian Constitution. In the aftermath of this policy decision, the Indian government deployed tens of thousands of additional troops to the region, imposed curfews, and enforced a communication blackout, including a suspension of the internet. A series of new laws and policy changes were brought which led to fears of settler colonialism, further disenfranchisement of the local population and worsening of the human rights situation. Including the many policy changes brought by the Indian government post August 2019 is the controversial delimitation of electoral constituencies in Kashmir. The delimitation panel increased the number of seats in the Jammu province by six while only adding one seat to the Muslim-majority Kashmir region. This resulted in an imbalance where the average assembly seat population in Jammu is 1.2 lakh, while it stood at 1.4 lakh in the Kashmir province. This research article seeks to unravel the relationship between the delimitation commission and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), exploring how the new delimitation of Kashmir potentially serves the BJP's interests in securing electoral victories and marginalising the local pro-India parties. Through the alteration of the electoral landscape, I argue, the BJP could potentially enhance its electoral prospects, further solidifying its political influence in the region. By shedding light on this complex interplay between delimitation, the politics of its timing, and demographics, this paper aims to contribute to an understanding of the ongoing developments in the region. Methodologically, this analysis relies on a mixed method approach focusing especially on the electoral data to understand the potential impact of delimitation on the BJP's electoral gains in Kashmir.



**Muneeb Salman**  
*Research Associate,  
 China Pakistan Study Centre,  
 ISSI*

## **Strategic Subcultures in Decision-Making Process: A Case Study of Maritime Security Policy in Pakistan**

Security policy decision-making in South Asia influences and, in turn, is influenced by the imperatives of regional strategic stability. Strategic decision-making in any country involves different actors and interest groups having their own set of beliefs and objectives that constitute their respective cultures. But how do these differing groups interact and influence security policy decision-making? The answer to this question lies in how the differing groups employ their (sub)culture to try and shape the overall strategic culture of the country responsible for steering

Salman is an MPhil scholar at the National Defence University researching the role of epistemic communities in the national security policy process of Pakistan. He has previously worked at the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and Maritime Study Forum, Islamabad. His areas of interest include major power competition, maritime security in the Indian Ocean region, elitism and security policy in Pakistan.  
[Emunebsalman1999@gmail.com](mailto:Emunebsalman1999@gmail.com)  
X [@SalmanMMS](#)

the decision-making process. In Pakistan, this is evident in the case of maritime security policy. Maritime security in Pakistan is seen conservatively, with its primary concern being naval defence. Consequently, the Pakistan Navy is believed to be the primary actor in the maritime security policy process. However, a closer reading of the service's history suggests that maritime security policy has always been constrained at the national level due to policy differences, either with the federal government or other military services. This study shall examine three policy crises when the Navy sought greater resource allocation to bolster maritime security, i.e., during the early years after independence, in the aftermath of the 1971 war, and after India's acquisition of sea-based nuclear deterrent. It will consult primary and secondary sources from the Pakistan Navy, including official service history and autobiographies/memoirs of retired officers, and scholarly sources on Pakistan's strategic culture to investigate how the service fared in navigating the maritime security policy crises and which actors were responsible for influencing the policy options. The study shall inform how different subcultural groups behave during security policy crises to influence decision-making and how different contingencies may lead to different policy outcomes.