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The First and Only **ISO 9001:2008 Certified** Defence and Security Magazine in India



THE ONLY MAGAZINE AVAILABLE ON THE
INTRANET OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE



NUCLEAR DOCTRINES AROUND THE WORLD





MISSION

We endeavour to sound **ALERTS** and create **AWARENESS** about the myriad dimensions and manifestations of **DEFENCE** and **SECURITY** in India and around the world.



The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because State is the only saviour of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the State.

- Chanakya



DSA IS AS MUCH YOURS, AS IT IS OURS!



Nuclear doctrines, the world over, are a direct reflection of a nations' sense of self, threat perceptions and the limitations of its scientific and technical expertise. Nations pursue nuclear weapons because of threats, real or imagined, a perceived role in global matters, and in the case of North Korea, simply to play spoiler in the order of things. Since nuclear weapons are regarded as the last resort of war, being the ultimate destructive capability built by mankind, it is vital to understand various doctrines around the world.

Breaking the atom became the ultimate goal of war once its infinite capabilities became apparent to the military machine. Both sides of the World War II pursued the goal, leaving the Americans as the successful side, and the sole users, before the war ended. Thankfully, they've been the only users since. But since there is no guarantee that another won't use such weapons, some nations pursue the development of nuclear capability as a mission.

India is surrounded by two such, and is in fact the only country

that has un-demarcated borders with nuclear capable neighbours. This is the prime mover of India's nuclear doctrine and a perfect reflection of its regionalistic approach to foreign, security and nuclear policies. Any larger vision would have seen India grow out of this approach long back, when there was an opportunity.

That opportunity, *alas*, was lost in the 1960s when India decided to stay away from developing nuclear weapons, even though the writing was on the wall that seats were booked on the table depending on capabilities. Despite its then backward programme, China detonated a device in 1964 only so as to be recorded as capable, and gain membership. Once the doors were closed, and which had been announced in advance, India joined the chorus of those claiming membership was discriminatory. Too little and too late.

So when India decided to bulldoze its way by a strangely named peaceful nuclear explosion, the pun wasn't lost on anyone. Sanctions were slapped and which stayed for decades. In 1998, it was finally decided to do

away with the hypocrisy, explode credible devices and claim them as such. Sanctions were still imposed, but by then India had entered a new era and couldn't be bulldozed anymore.

India is still in the new era and hence, its nuclear weapons doctrine must also reflect this reality. Baggage of the old, preachy and reactive, era must be jettisoned for a thoroughly contemporary model. There is no reason to stick by old principals, once they serve no purpose. One of the myths India needs to throw out is that security and foreign policies are bipartisan affairs. How can they be when the practitioners come from different perceptions of self and nation? This is true the world over too. So, the other hallowed theme of no first use must also be re-assessed. There is no reason to wait for destruction, in order to destroy later. Wishful thinking, for it may not be possible at all.

Manvendra Singh



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NUCLEAR WEAPONS: THE DARK FORBODING

The word 'nuclear' in itself has an ominous ring around it. The first and only use of atomic bombs was against the Japanese in World War II in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It has left an indelible stigma on the conscience of mankind that such a usage must never ever be allowed again. As I am writing this, the current scenario being created by North Korea on the usage of nuclear bombs is very disturbing for nations across the globe. Its bragging bravado and past instances of reckless behaviour have put the world on the edge.

The making of nuclear weapons and its presence in a State have had political ramifications. We all know about the US invasion of Iraq on the pretext that Baghdad was developing hostile and prohibited weapons of mass destruction programs. In India, the word has acquired an indepth familiarity largely because of the intense debate and far-reaching effect of the Indo-US deal on the civilian uses of the atom. One is not sure whether America and the rest of those who have acquired nuclear weapons technology are really serious about the Nuclear Non-proliferation they speak so glibly about but make no move towards nuclear disarmament that could rid the world of the threat of self-destruction.

The world might be witnessing a *déjà vu* of what happened in Iraq due to the US invasions as similar accusations have been concocted for Iran as it is being condemned for converting its nuclear power facilities to bomb-making factories.

But one thing is very evident: India is the only country with a proven record of using the atomic energy for peaceful purposes. India's first Atomic Energy Act was passed and Atomic Energy Commission was set up in 1948 and India's first nuclear reactor *Apsara* was commissioned in 1958. At present, we have 17 nuclear reactors in operation and six under construction.

The Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) is one of its kind which is dedicated to the usage of nuclear technology to cure many ailments and is continuously conducting research in the use of the atom and isotopes in the medical field.

India believes in peace and therefore, has always attempted to steer the world towards the peaceful usage of the atom in the interest of humanity.

Jai Hind!

Pawan Agrawal



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