



# Pakistan: Monitoring the Key Regional Powers

QUARTERLY MONITORING BRIEF



## Report No. 1

January 1 – April 7 2013

- ↓ • Unrest across the Line of Control takes its toll on Pakistan and India's relationship
- ↑ • Substantial progress made on the Pakistan Iran Pipeline

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## **CIDOB Sources of Tension in Afghanistan & Pakistan: A Regional Perspective (STAP RP)**

### **Quarterly Reports on “Monitoring the Key Regional Powers” Jinnah Institute, Islamabad**

#### **Introduction**

*The purpose of this series of quarterly monitoring reports (2013) is to monitor and track the actions, 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.*

## 1. The Context

### Governance

- March 1: Renewed energy crisis underlines the need [for energy reforms](#).
- [The Human Development Index report 2013](#), launched by UNDP, places Pakistan in 'low human development category' at number 146 out of 187 countries, highlighting the need for economic and educational reforms.

### Social & Economic Issues

- The monthly review on price indices by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics registers an increase in CPI Inflation for [February](#) and [March](#).
- January 23: An IMF mission gives a [frank assessment](#) of Pakistan's deteriorating economy, a perspective shared by [Pakistan's economic snapshot](#) of 2013.

### Conflict in Afghanistan

- January 15: News reports indicate that the Taliban have established a Doha bureau to [facilitate peace talks](#).
- January 18: Pakistan's Foreign Secretary states that Pakistan plans on releasing all Afghan Taliban prisoners in detention, with the aim of supporting reconciliation efforts in Afghanistan. [\[Read\]](#)
- February 6: British Prime Minister David Cameron hosts Pakistani and Afghan presidents Asif Zardari and Hamid Karzai at a trilateral summit at Chequers, where they agree to setting up the Doha office for talks with the Taliban and for conducting a joint Ulema conference, [among other issues](#). The Taliban dismiss [the outcome](#).
- February 9: Pakistan officially accepts the role of the [Afghan High Peace Council](#) in the release of Taliban detainees.
- February 22: A joint conference of Pakistani and Afghan religious scholars scheduled for early March is delayed due to disagreements about Taliban participation. [\[Read\]](#)
- March 4: Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar travels to Doha to meet senior Qatari leadership to work out a new mechanism for releasing Taliban detainees, as well as [other issues](#).
- March 7: [Release of Taliban prisoners](#) in Pakistan's custody is suspended due to renewed distrust between Islamabad and Kabul.
- March 25: Pakistani Foreign Ministry officials state that [Pakistan finds it difficult to work with Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai](#) due to mistrust and is reaching out to other allies to advance the peace process.

### Ethnicity & Sectarianism

- January 10: 86 persons among 92 killed in a car bomb in Quetta are from the Hazara Shi'a community. The Hazara community stages a sit in for four days, asking for protection against sectarian violence and for Governor's rule to be imposed in the province. [\[Read\]](#)
- Protests break out all over the country in solidarity with the Hazara community, as political parties, media and civil society openly condemn sectarian outfits and demand greater protection for the Shi'as all over the country. [\[Read\]](#)
- February 16: At least 169 people are injured in a massive explosion that rocks Quetta and destroys four market places and 100 shops. [\[Read\]](#)
- March 4: 45 people are killed and 135 injured in an [attack in Karachi's](#) predominantly Shi'a locality Abbas Town.

### Radicalisation

- Several news reports suggest that the current spate of attacks against Shi'as, and Hazaras in particular, may compel the Shi'a community to take up arms and protect themselves in the face of continued government apathy. [\[Read\]](#)

### Militancy

- January 15: A bomb blast kills 22 persons and wounds more than 80 at a religious congregation in Swat, fuelling fears of a Taliban comeback. [\[Read\]](#)
- March 1: Mainstream political parties, religious groups and civil society agree to negotiate peace with militant elements through a broadened tribal Jirga. [\[Read\]](#)
- March 19: Hundreds of fighters are [reported killed](#) in clashes among banned militant outfits Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Ansarul Islam and Lashkar-e-Islam in Tirah valley.
- March 25: Security forces suffer heavy losses in North Waziristan as the death toll from a [suicide attack on a military checkpoint](#) reaches 18.
- A Pakistani think tank issues a monitoring report on terrorist activities in [January](#), [February](#) and [March](#).

## 2. The Regional Powers



### INDIA

Who?

The Source

#### 1. Kashmir: Unrest across the Line of Control

##### Actions Taken

7/01/2013 – 16/01/2013

[Hostility between Pakistan and India](#) across the LoC leads to the killing of two ([allegedly beheaded](#)) Indian and three Pakistani soldiers, concluding with a [ceasefire](#).

23/01/2013

Pakistan and India spar at the [United Nations Security Council](#) over the role of UNMOGIP, which Pakistan considers relevant and India terms invalid.

##### Public Statements

Pakistan terms Indian allegations of attacks as “[baseless and unfounded](#)”, accusing India of [warmongering](#) and states [dialogue should be unaffected](#).

Indian [Air Chief Marshal](#) and [Army Chief](#) warn Pakistan of retaliation, while the Indian Prime Minister states that it cannot be “[business as usual](#)” with Pakistan.

23/1/2013

Pakistan emphasises the need to “stay the course of peace”, but Indian Defence Minister observes that it is “too early” for India to normalise relations. [Read](#)

13/3/2013

[Pakistan’s Foreign Office dismisses the “knee jerk”](#) reactions of Indian officials who alleged that Pakistani militants killed Indian soldiers in Srinagar.

##### Media Commentary

A newspaper reports that Pakistan, in [protests to UNMOGIP](#), has accused Indian soldiers of torture and decapitation of at least 12 Pakistani soldiers.

**Staff Reporter; Ahmed Ali Fayyaz** is a Senior Assistant editor

**Masood Haider** is a U.N. correspondent for The Dawn

**News Desk**

**News Desk; Vinay Kumar** writes on politics, and corporate governance

**Anita Joshua** is a correspondent of the Hindu

**Staff Reporter**

**Praveen Swami** is the former Associate Editor of The Hindu

**Dawn** is Pakistan’s oldest and one of the most widely read English language newspapers; **The Hindu** is an English language Indian daily newspaper founded and published from Chennai

**Dawn**

**Dawn**

**Dawn; The Hindu**

**The Hindu**

**Dawn**

**The Hindu**

#### 2. Kashmir: Afzal Guru Case Verdict

##### Actions Taken

9/02/2013

[Afzal Guru](#), convicted in the 2001 attack on the Indian parliament is hanged in India. This creates uproar in Indian held Kashmir and in Pakistan.

Pakistan’s National Assembly passes a resolution condemning the execution, followed by the [Indian parliament condemning](#) that resolution.

**Matthias Williams** is a Delhi-based journalist working for Reuters

**Correspondent**

**Reuters** is an international news agency headquartered in London

**Times of India** is an Indian English language newspaper

#### 3. Status of Confidence Building Measures

##### Actions Taken

1/01/2013

Pakistan and India exchange lists of nuclear facilities as part of an annual CBM. Lists of prisoners are also exchanged. [Read](#)

10/01/2013

Pakistan [suspends cross-LoC travel and trade](#), resuming [both after 18 days](#).

**Correspondent**

**News Desk**

**Express Tribune** is a leading newspaper in Pakistan

**The Indian Express** is a daily English Newspaper published by the Indian Express Group; **The News** is a leading English newspaper in Pakistan

16/01/2013 India suspends the <a href="#">visa regime</a> which granted visas to senior citizens at the border.	<b>Staff Reporter</b>	<b>Dawn</b>
30/01/2013 In separate events, <a href="#">Pakistan women's cricket team</a> is forced to stay inside the stadium and <a href="#">Pakistani hockey players</a> are sent home as demonstrators protest against their presence in India.	<b>Pradip Kumar Das</b> is a correspondent of the Hindu; <b>Special correspondent</b>	<b>The Hindu</b>
<b>Public Statements</b> 10/1/2013 Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs <a href="#">states</a> that the government was committed to granting MFN status to India, <a href="#">regardless of delay</a> .	<b>News Desk</b>	<b>Dawn;</b> <b>Business Recorder</b> is the biggest financial daily in Pakistan

#### 4. Trans-boundary Water Sharing

<b>Actions Taken</b> 19/02/2013 In a partial award over the Kishenganga water dispute, the Court of Arbitration allows India to divert only a minimum flow of water among other issues. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>Mubarak Zeb Khan</b> is a senior journalist	<b>Dawn</b>
<b>Public Statements</b> 16/3/2013 Pakistan's Advisor to PM on water and agriculture states that " <a href="#">some believe India intends to use water as a weapon</a> ."	<b>Kalbe Ali</b> is a reporter working with the Daily Dawn	<b>Dawn</b>
<b>Media Commentary</b> 28/3/3013 A <a href="#">research report</a> states India and Pakistan will both benefit if they jointly share and conserve the Indus waters. Leading water experts have dissimilar <a href="#">opinions</a> .	<b>Anwar Iqbal</b> is a senior Dawn correspondent in Washington; <b>Jinnah Institute</b>	<b>Dawn;</b> <b>Jinnah Institute</b> is an independent policy research and public advocacy organisation

#### 5. Bilateral Relations

<b>Actions Taken</b> 15/3/2013 India places the <a href="#">proposed tourist visa facility</a> on hold for Pakistanis after a Srinagar suicide attack.	<b>Correspondent</b>	<b>Dawn</b>
<b>Public Statements</b> 6/02/2013 Indian Defense Minister expresses concern about China's role in operating the Gwadar Port in Balochistan. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>Anurag Kotoky</b> is a correspondent with Reuters and <b>Ananthalakshmi</b> is a journalist working the Hindustan Times	<b>Reuters</b>
13/02/2013 India protests against a nuclear test by North Korea, which it sees as evidence of a proliferation network originating from Pakistan. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>Indrani Bagchi</b> is a Senior Diplomatic Editor and <b>Sachin Parashar</b> is a reporter	<b>Times of India</b> is an Indian English language newspaper
23/02/2013 <a href="#">BJP national president</a> wants India to decrease diplomatic ties with Pakistan in the wake of bomb blasts in Hyderabad, alleging Pakistan's involvement.	<b>Special correspondent</b>	<b>The Hindu</b>
15/3/2013 Hina Rabbani Khar stresses the need to <a href="#">reduce Pak-India mistrust</a> .	<b>News Desk</b>	<b>Dawn</b>
<b>Track-Two Diplomacy</b> The <a href="#">Delhi Dialogue II</a> brings together senior interlocutors from India and Pakistan to talk about ways forward in the bilateral relationship.	<b>Jinnah Institute</b>	<b>Jinnah Institute</b>
Think tanks jointly hold a Track II conference on ' <a href="#">Diplomacy on Water</a> '.	<b>Sustainable Development Policy Institute</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Policy Institute</b> is a think tank based in Islamabad

# RUSSIA

	Who?	The Source
<b>1. Bilateral Trade</b>		
<p><b>Actions Taken</b> 3/1/2013 The Consul General of Russia at Karachi visits Sind Industrial and Trading Estates Association of Industry and discusses <a href="#">potential areas of cooperation</a> in trade.</p> <p>20/1/2013 Russian diplomat Yuri Kozlov meets with the Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce and discusses expanding bilateral trade. <a href="#">Read</a></p> <p>27/1/2013 Yuri Kozlov while speaking to businessmen in Multan says that Pakistan and Russia could be <a href="#">“good economic friends for changing conditions at the international level.”</a></p> <p>31/1/2013 <a href="#">President FPCCI</a> suggests holding a Joint Business Council meeting between the two national chambers of commerce, at a meeting in Karachi with Chairman Pakistan-Russia Business Council, and Consul General of Russia.</p>	<p>Staff Reporter</p> <p>Staff Reporter</p> <p>Staff Reporter</p> <p>News Desk</p>	<p><b>Pakistan Today</b> is a daily English newspaper in Pakistan</p> <p><b>The Nation</b> is a Lahore based English language newspaper in Pakistan</p> <p><b>Pakistan Today</b></p> <p><b>The Pakistani Observer</b> is an English daily newspaper published in Islamabad</p>

<b>2. Bilateral Relations</b>		
<p><b>Public Statements</b> 28/2/2013 Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf welcomes a Russian delegation, states that Russia’s power is a source of global and regional stability. <a href="#">Read</a></p> <p><b>Official Visits</b> 27/2/2013 <a href="#">A Russian parliamentary delegation</a> meets with Pakistani government representatives to discuss bilateral relations. <a href="#">Read</a></p> <p>19/3/2013 <a href="#">Executive Director of Russian Business Council</a> for Cooperation with Pakistan says 2013 will be a turning point for cooperation between businessmen of Russia and Pakistan.</p>	<p>News Desk</p> <p>Staff Reporter</p> <p>Staff Reporter</p>	<p><b>Pakistan Today</b></p> <p><b>The Nation</b></p> <p><b>The Voice of Russia</b> is the Russian official radio broadcasting service</p>



	Who?	The Source
<b>SAUDI ARABIA</b>		
<b>1. Bilateral Relations</b>		
<b>Actions Taken</b>		
12/01/2013 Pakistan and Saudi Arabia jointly conduct the biennial maritime exercise, Naseem Al Bahr, from 12 to 22 <sup>nd</sup> January. <a href="#">Read</a>	Correspondent	The News
16/01/2013 Saudi Arabia beheads a Pakistani man convicted of <a href="#">drug trafficking</a> , followed by a similar incident a few weeks later. <a href="#">Read</a>	Staff reporter	Dawn
<b>Public Statements</b>		
30/01/2013 Pakistani Minister for Information speaks about the “historic brotherly relations” between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia at the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad. <a href="#">Read</a>	News Desk	The Nation
<b>Official Visit</b>		
2/1/2013 On a <a href="#">two day visit</a> to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan’s Foreign Minister meets with Saudi royalty, and says the meeting “focused on a range of bilateral and regional issues including Syria and Afghanistan.”	Ghazanfar Ali Khan is staff reporter	Arab News is an English-language daily newspaper published in Saudi Arabia. It is published from Jeddah, Riyadh, and Dammam
<b>Agreements</b>		
13/2/2013 Pakistani Federal Minister for Religious Affairs signs the <a href="#">Hajj Agreement 2013</a> with the Saudi Minister for Hajj in Jeddah.	Staff Reporter	The Express Tribune



## IRAN

	Who?	The Source
<b>1. Energy Cooperation: Iran - Pakistan Pipeline</b>		
<b>Actions Taken</b>		
30/01/2013 The Pakistani <a href="#">federal cabinet awards the contract</a> for the gas pipeline to an Iranian company, followed by talks on <a href="#">technicalities</a> and <a href="#">pricing</a> .	<b>News Desk;</b> <b>Khaleeq Kiani</b> is a staff reporter for Dawn	<b>Dawn;</b> <b>Iran Daily</b> is a daily English newspaper published in Iran
11/3/2013 Pakistani and Iranian presidents <a href="#">officially inaugurate</a> the laying down of the gas pipeline, amid criticism from the US State Department.	<b>News desk</b>	<b>Dawn</b>
<b>Public Statements</b>		
In separate events, <a href="#">Pakistan's Ambassador in Tehran, Prime Minister, Iran's Supreme Leader</a> and <a href="#">Senior Advisor to the Supreme Leader</a> state that both countries are keen to pursue the <a href="#">peace pipeline</a> project.	<b>News Desk;</b> <b>Muhammad Hussain Khan</b> is a staff reporter at Dawn	<b>Dawn;</b> <b>Iran Daily</b>
28/2/2013 MD of the National Iranian Gas Company says that the pipeline is expected to be complete in 22 months on Pakistan's side. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>Staff Reporter</b>	<b>Pakistan Today</b>
5/03/2013 US Ambassador to Pakistan says the IP project is a <a href="#">"breach of trust."</a>	<b>Special Reporter</b>	<b>Pakistan Today</b>
<b>Official Visits</b>		
14/02/2013 Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani meets Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari on his visit to Pakistan, stressing <a href="#">early completion</a> of the pipeline project.	<b>News Desk</b>	<b>Iran Daily</b>
19/02/2013 Pakistan's PM Advisor on Interior Rehman Malik meets President Mahmud Ahmedinejad on a visit to Iran and discusses matters of bilateral interest. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>Special Reporter</b>	<b>Dawn</b>
20/2/2013 An Iranian delegation headed by Iranian Petroleum Minister Rostam Qassemi visits Islamabad to discuss further cooperation in the energy sector. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>News Desk</b>	<b>Iran Daily</b>
27/02/2013 President Asif Ali Zardari undertakes a two-day official visit to Iran to finalise a deal for Iran to build an oil refinery in Pakistan. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>Special reporter</b>	<b>Press TV</b> is a 24-hour English news network owned by the state-owned media corporation of Islamic Republic of Iran
<b>Media Commentary</b>		
Washington to impose economic sanctions on Islamabad if it begins to buy gas from Iran, <a href="#">according to newspapers</a> .	<b>Masood Haider</b> is staff reporter at Dawn	<b>Dawn</b>
11/3/2013 <a href="#">Pakistan's stock market</a> plummets 400 points due to fear of US sanctions being imposed over the pipeline. <a href="#">Pakistani diplomatic sources said</a> the pipeline would only strain the relations of US and Pakistan.	<b>News Desk;</b> <b>Anwar Iqbal</b> is a staff reporter at Dawn	<b>Dawn;</b> <b>Dawn</b>

## 2. Bilateral Trade

<b>Actions Taken</b>		
27/02/2013 <a href="#">Pakistan grain exporter Seatrade Group</a> is unable to ship one million tonnes of wheat to Iran due to disagreements.	<b>News Desk</b>	<b>Dawn</b>



14/01/2013 Iranian Customs Administration announces that Iran imported 897,000 tonnes of rice during the first nine months of 2012 from Pakistan. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>News Desk</b>	Sponsored by the Xinhua News Agency, <b>Xinhuanet</b> is an important central news service-oriented website
<b>Public Statements</b> 22/02/2013 “Iran and Pakistan must exploit business needed for the expansion of trade” says Consul General of Iran in Karachi, while <a href="#">meeting</a> the Sind Board of Investment (SBI) Chairman.	<b>Special Reporter</b>	<b>Pakistan Today</b>

### 3. Bilateral Relations

<b>Actions Taken</b> 18/2/2013 Iran’s official news agency reports that the Iranian navy plans to establish a new base near Pakistan’s border. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>Special Reporter</b>	<b>Dawn</b>
<b>Official Visits</b> 1/2/2013 Senior Advisor to the Supreme Leader Ali Akbar Velayati calls on the Chief Minister of Punjab. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>News Desk</b>	<b>The Nation</b>
<b>Agreements</b> 20/2/2013 In a meeting between an Iranian delegation led by Iranian Oil Minister and Pakistani Prime Minister, Iran agrees to set up a \$4 billion oil refinery. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>Khaleeq Kiani</b>	<b>Dawn</b>
19/2/2013 Pakistan and Iran’s interior ministers sign an agreement to enhance cooperation in security matters. <a href="#">Read</a>	<b>Special Reporter</b>	<b>Dawn</b>
<b>Public Statements</b> 21/02/2013 <a href="#">In a meeting</a> with Iranian Oil Minister Rostam Qassemi, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari underlines the need for enhanced Iran-Pakistan interaction.	<b>News Desk</b>	<b>Press TV</b>
<b>Media Commentary</b> 18/2/2013 An <a href="#">interview</a> with a Middle East expert suggests that Pakistan could assist Iran’s alleged atomic project.	<b>Palash R. Ghosh</b> has worked as a business journalist for 21 years	<b>International Business Times</b> is an online global business newspaper based in New York City
20/02/2013 An <a href="#">analysis of Pew’s Global Attitudes Projects</a> indicates that the only country where Iran’s favourability rating scores above 50% is Pakistan.	<b>Max Fisher</b> is a foreign affairs blogger	<b>The Washington Post</b> is a widely circulated American daily newspaper

 CHINA

### 1. Award of the Gwadar Port Contract

#### Actions Taken

18/2/2013

Pakistan awards a [multi-billion dollar contract](#) for the construction and operation of Gwadar Port to China, in a move that is appreciated [domestically](#).

**Syed Irfan Raza** is a correspondent with Dawn News;  
**Ghulam Tahir** is a staff reporter at the Observer

**Dawn News;**

**The Pakistani Observer** is an English daily newspaper published in Islamabad

#### Public Statements

18/02/2013

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Liu Jian states that no third country should have reservations over the bilateral arrangement over Gwadar Port. [Read](#)

**Javed Siddiqi** is a reporter with the Nation

**The Nation**

#### Media Commentary

20/2/2013

An [article](#) evaluates the benefits of the new bilateral agreement.

**An Zheng** is a staff reporter at Jiefang Daily

**Jiefang Daily** is a Chinese newspaper first published in 1949

### 2. Bilateral Trade

#### Actions Taken

17/01/2013

[Chinese textile mills turn](#) to Pakistan and India to buy cotton yarn, later opting for [India instead of Pakistan](#).

**Niu Shuping and David Stanway** are reporters at Reuters

**Reuters**

6/03/2013

China invites Pakistan to participate in the Western China International and China-Sichuan Commodity Fairs. [Read](#)

**Amanullah Khan** is a staff reporter at the Observer

**Pakistan Observer**

#### Public Statement

7/02/2013

Pakistan Commerce Minister states that Pakistan's exports and imports to China increased by over 219% and 43% over the past four years. [Read](#)

**Staff reporter**

**Pakistan Observer**

#### Agreements

13/02/2013

Pakistan and a Chinese company finalise an agreement under which Pakistan would purchase 50 locomotives at a cost of Rs. 10.78 billion. [Read](#)

**Special Reporter**

**The News**

22/3/2013

Pakistani Ministry of Commerce official informs that a delegation will visit Beijing to discuss tariff removal and implementation of the second phase of the FTA. [Read](#)

**News Desk**

**Associated Press of Pakistan** is a government operated national news agency of Pakistan

#### Media Commentary

9/02/2013

Commerce Ministry statistics show Pakistan's bilateral trade deficit with China has surged over 53 per cent despite the existing FTA. [Read](#)

**Staff reporter**

**Dawn News**

4/03/2013

China becomes a major market for Pakistani non-basmati rice. [Read](#)

**Staff Reporter**

**The Nation**

### 3. Bilateral Relations

<p><b>Actions Taken</b> 24/01/2013 China and Pakistan launch the first round of bilateral consultations in Beijing on the regional security situation. <a href="#">Read</a></p>	News Desk	Business Recorder
<p>7/03/2013 The United States and China commence naval drills in the Arabian Sea with Pakistan and other countries. <a href="#">Read</a></p>	Special Reporter	Dawn
<p>25/3/2013 China and Pakistan reach an <a href="#">agreement</a> to install a nuclear reactor in Pakistan. China states this is <a href="#">in compliance</a> with the Nuclear Suppliers Group.</p>	Special reporter	The Nation; Pakistan Today
<p><b>Public Statements</b> 31/01/2013 <a href="#">Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman</a> says Chinese companies are actively involved trade and investment and China will continue to support economic development in Pakistan.</p>	Tang Danlu is a staff reporter	Xinhuanet
<p><b>Official Visits</b> 18/01/2013 <a href="#">Ambassador of China</a> calls on General Khalid Shameem Wynne, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) and discusses matters of bilateral interest.</p>	Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR)	Directorate of Inter Services Public Relations is an administrative military organisation
<p><b>Track Two Diplomacy</b> 14/3/2013 Parliamentarians and prominent experts address a conference in Islamabad on "<a href="#">Pakistan-China Economic Cooperation</a>" organised by a think tank.</p>	Staff reporter	Nation
<p><b>Media Commentary</b> 8/3/2013 China's growing presence in Pakistan is analysed. <a href="#">Read</a></p>	News Desk	Dawn
<p>18/3/2013 China becomes the world's fifth largest arms exporter with Pakistan as the main recipient, according to SIPRI's latest report. <a href="#">Read</a></p>	Special correspondent	Dawn

### 3. Regional Dynamics & Cross Cutting Issues

Multiple tracks of dialogue have been active over the last quarter, aiming to mitigate regional conflict, address governance deficits and create new avenues for bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

#### 1. Bilateral Talks & Track-2 diplomacy

- i. The **Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs** convened a dialogue in Dubai [on the Afghan reconciliation process](#). Participants discussed the likelihood and prevention of civil war, measures to strengthen peace and security, economic recovery and the role of neighbouring countries, among other issues. (January 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>)
- ii. **The Delhi Dialogue** was convened by Jinnah Institute and Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation, bringing together senior participants from India and Pakistan who discussed issues of bilateral trade, the outstanding issues of Kashmir, religious extremism across the border, etc. (January 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>)
- iii. Candid discussions in a [Track - II initiative between India and Iran](#) highlighted the importance of foreign policy independent of appeasing any one country.

#### 2. Multilateral Fora

- i. British Prime Minister hosted talks between Afghan President Karzai and Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari at [Chequers](#). The leaders agreed to reach a peace agreement on Afghanistan within 6 months and urged the Taliban to open an office in Doha that allowed negotiating with the High Peace Council of Afghanistan. (February 4<sup>th</sup>)
- ii. Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani [Khar invited the ambassadors of the 'Heart of Asia' group in Islamabad to brief them](#) about Pakistan's regional approach to peace in Afghanistan. She discussed the initiatives Pakistan had taken in consultation with the Afghan High Peace Council and emphasised the need for improved relations between Afghanistan's neighbours, Central Asian and Middle Eastern states, Russia and Turkey. (February 20<sup>th</sup>)
- iii. Afghan President Hamid Karzai visited Qatar [to hold meetings](#) with Qatari leadership regarding role of the Taliban in Afghanistan's peace process. [Sources close to the Doha-based Taliban representatives](#) revealed that despite a year since their arrival in Qatar, a formal office had yet to be established by the Taliban. (March 29<sup>th</sup>)
- iv. **The ECO** conducted its [third Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum](#) in Tehran, attended by official representatives from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Iran, as well as delegations from UNIDO, Norway and Sweden. The meeting assessed the implementation of the Plan of Action (2011-2015) and discussed new mechanisms for energy cooperation in ECO Region. (March 6<sup>th</sup>)
- v. Pakistan hosted the [first conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organisation \(PAECO\)](#), with the objective of promoting regional trade and investment to ensure sustainable socio-economic development in the region, in addition to urging governments signatory to the 1996 Izmir Treaty to activate similar forums. (February 13<sup>th</sup>)
- vi. The [12th OIC Summit](#) issued a communique that addressed issues of concern to Muslims around the world, reaffirmed support to the Kashmiri struggle for self-determination and to the people of war ravaged Afghanistan. The communique urged India to allow independent investigations by the United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan, OIC fact-finding mission, international human rights groups and humanitarian organisations on violations across the Line of Control. The Composite Dialogue between India and Pakistan was discussed, in addition to an Afghan-led reconciliation through the Istanbul Process. (February 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>)
- vii. Representatives from the **BRICS** countries conducted [two separate meetings in India](#) to discuss security, global terrorism, health and governance. It was acknowledged that Afghanistan was passing through a tumultuous phase in which the Taliban had emerged as a critical player. The BRICS countries agreed on the usefulness of a common framework that addresses terrorism and religious fundamentalism, which had regional and global repercussions. (January 11<sup>th</sup>)
- viii. The **United Nations Security Council** unanimously adopted a [resolution extending the mandate of UN assistance mission in Afghanistan \(UNAMA\)](#) until March 2014. The Security Council further tasked UNAMA with providing an enabling environment for fair and inclusive presidential elections, scheduled for April 2014. (March 19<sup>th</sup>)

- ix. [A meeting of senior officials](#) was held in Baku to prepare for the next **Heart of Asia** ministerial conference scheduled for April 26. CBMs on counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics and trade, commerce and investment opportunities were discussed as well as policy measures on education, disaster management, etc. (February 6<sup>th</sup>)
  
- x. **The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board**, established by the Afghan Government and the international community conducted its [19<sup>th</sup> meeting](#) in Kabul. The meeting was attended by senior Afghan officials, representatives of 37 countries and civil society. Participants noted the progress made through the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) and endorsed four National Priority Programs as well as an Aid Management Policy. (February 12<sup>th</sup>)

## 4. Conclusion

The first quarter of 2013 was characterised by the following developments:

- Violence and militancy flared all over the country targeting religious minorities;
- Relations were strained with India following an incident across the Line of Control (LoC) which threatened to derail two years of confidence building;
- Bold new strategic measures were taken that seek integration with Iran and allow China more leverage in the region.

The incident across the Line of Control in January once again exposed the **fragility of peace process** between India and Pakistan, as well as how gains made through dialogue could well be reversed. The incident inflamed public opinion on both sides and Pakistan resorted to inviting third party intervention by UNMOGIP when hostilities did not cease for a fortnight. The new visa regime was suspended and Pakistan's decision to grant MFN status to India may not come through for several months.

January also saw new levels of **violence in major urban centres** Quetta and Karachi. Much of this was carried out by extremist outfits targeting Shi'as and religious minorities, and in other cases, schools, mosques, aid workers and political activists. The spike in violence coincides with a **deteriorating security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, FATA** and further beyond in neighbouring Afghan provinces.

Serious efforts were made towards **reconciliation in Afghanistan**, which Pakistan and other regional neighbours agree should be Afghan-owned and Afghan-led. Despite various multilateral forums dedicated to brokering peace in the country, the violence has not been contained and the **Taliban have conducted large scale attacks** on both sides of the border. Pakistan agreed to release Taliban prisoners in consultation with the High Peace Council to support the reconciliation process, however relations with Kabul have remained tense since January, exacerbated by sporadic exchanges of gunfire across the Durand Line.

The historic **Iran-Pakistan pipeline agreement**, signed by both governments in February, marks a significant **improvement in Pak-Iran relations**, drawing sharp criticism from the US but lauded domestically. The pipeline will generate an extra 4000MW to Pakistan's grid and save \$2.3 billion in energy imports. The installation of an oil refinery in Balochistan by Iran suggests long term bilateral collaboration, despite the threat of US sanctions. In a similar move, Pakistan has leveraged its geostrategic location by **giving China control of its seaport in Gwadar**. The decision elicited concern from New Delhi, but was viewed favourably at home. China may also become a partner in the Pak-Iran pipeline project.

During this quarter, the PPP-led coalition government completed its five-year term and an interim setup came into place. With the **general elections scheduled for May 2013**, the major political parties issued their manifestos and launched election campaigns. The Election Commission of Pakistan commenced scrutiny of candidates filing their papers for contesting the election. The voter turnout in this election is expected to be significantly larger than the previous election, as millions of young voters have been added to the official registration lists.

## 5. Publications from the Region

### Governance

- Jinnah Institute, '[Is democracy threatened by governor's rule in Balochistan?](#)', February 26
- Observer Research Foundation, '[Pakistan – to slither or slip?](#)', March 30
- Khawaja Izhar Ul Hassan, '[Population pressures](#)' in Express Tribune on April 2

### Social & Economic Issues

- Spearhead Research, '[Pakistan's economic snapshot](#)', March 6
- Jinnah Institute, '[Pak- India Trade : A regional Perspective](#)', March 16

### Ethnicity and Sectarianism

- Wajahat S. Khan, '[Narratives on Hazara pogroms](#)' for Spearhead Research on February 18

### Radicalisation

- FATA Research Centre, '[Extremism and Radicalisation: A study of governance in FATA](#)', January 23

### Militancy

- Spearhead Research, 'Pakistan Terror Incident Reports for [January](#), [February](#) and [March](#)'

### Regional Dynamics

- Jinnah Institute, '[Afghanistan: No cooperation, no stability](#)', March 20
- Observer Research Foundation, '[Emerging Geopolitical Trends and Security in the ASEAN, China and India \(ACI\) Region](#)'
- Observer Research Foundation, '[BRICS and mortar for India's global rule](#)' March 26
- Jaswant Singh, '[The pragmatics of a BRICS collaboration](#)' for Spearhead Research on March 22
- Kashinath Pandit, '[J&K: The Deep divide within](#)' for Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies on April 7

### Conflict in Afghanistan

- Observer Research Foundation, '[Is there an endgame in Afghanistan?](#)', March 21
- Spearhead Research, '[The way out of Afghanistan](#)', February 13