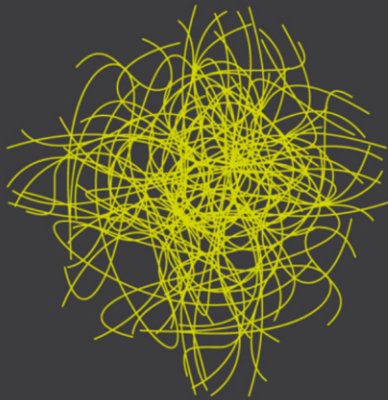


**Sources of
Tension in
Afghanistan
and Pakistan**

A Regional
Perspective



Pakistan: Monitoring the Key Regional Powers

Quarterly Monitoring Brief

Report No. 1:

December 15, 2013 to March 31, 2014



Militant groups operating in border regions continue to threaten regional security and cooperation



Pakistan and Saudi Arabia see renewed warmth in bilateral relations



Pakistan delays the granting of MFN status to India



With support of



CIDOB Sources of Tension in Afghanistan & Pakistan: A Regional Perspective (STAP RP)**Quarterly Reports on “Monitoring the Key Regional Powers”
Pakistan 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).

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 for a, 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

- December 15, 2013: [Pakistan's first national policy security draft constituted](#) to fight terrorism and maintain law and order.
- December 20, 2013: Aizaz Chaudhry appointed as the [new foreign secretary of Pakistan](#).
- February 7, 2014: The [government pushed two anti-terror bills through the National Assembly](#) in the first legislation of more than eight months of the life of the house.
- February 11, 2014: The government received approval from the four chief ministers to go ahead with [privatisation of the power sector](#).
- February 12, 2014: The Senate unanimously passed a resolution calling upon the government to [not compromise on the rights of women and minorities](#) in the negotiations with the Taliban.
- February 28, 2014: The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) [announced an end to its campaign to block the NATO supply to Afghanistan](#).
- March 02, 2014: The outlawed [Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan announced a month-long ceasefire](#).
- March 08, 2014: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif [agreed to increase the defence budget from 15 to 20 per cent for the coming fiscal year](#).
- March 11, 2014: Pakistan renewed its commitment to intensify collaboration with the [International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](#) as it seeks to expand its reliance on nuclear energy for civilian purposes.
- March 18, 2014: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif issued directions to immediately establish a National Intelligence Directorate under National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA) in a bid to [strengthen coordination between military and civilian agencies](#).
- March 29, 2014: The committees representing the government and the Taliban agreed to [extend the ceasefire and take measures to speed up the dialogue process](#).
- March 31, 2014: Former president Pervez Musharraf [was indicted in treason trial by a special court under Article 6 for suspending](#), subverting and abrogating the Constitution, imposing an emergency in the country in November 2007 and detaining judges of the superior courts.

Social & Economic Issues

- December 20, 2013: The International Monitoring Fund (IMF) approved the release of second tranche of [\\$550 million to Pakistan](#).
- January 27, 2013: A [rise in the inflation](#) has been seen from 7.9% to 9.2% from December 2012 to December 2013.
- February 1, 2014: Pakistan's major gas resources in Sui are fast [depleting](#) and the country is unable to find another source of the same size.
- February 28, 2014: The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by [five per cent](#) during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, says the State Bank of Pakistan.
- March 28, 2014: Pakistan received [the third installment of \\$550 million](#) from the IMF.
- March 28, 2014: The IMF said that Pakistan's key economic indicators were showing modest improvement but warned [militancy and crime could threaten growth and investment](#).
- March 29, 2014: The government cleared the Rs486 billion first phase of the *Dasu* Hydropower Project to pave the way for [approval of a \\$700 million loan](#) by the board of directors of the World Bank.
- March 30, 2014: The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has approved a loan of \$220 million for the [Jamshoro coal power plant](#).

Conflict in Afghanistan

- December 16, 2013: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz says [Afghan Taliban are not willing to talk](#).

- December 16, 2013: [NATO's ISAF Commander in Afghanistan meets Pakistani Army Chief](#) during his visit to Pakistan.
- January 6, 2014: Confirmation of the killing of [2 senior Afghan Taliban](#) leaders in Quetta received.
- February 4, 2014: Afghanistan's President [Hamid Karzai has been holding secret talks with Taliban](#) officials in the hope of persuading them to make peace with his government.
- February 13, 2014: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's strong and sincere commitment for peace and [reconciliation in Afghanistan](#) in a joint press conference with Hamid Karzai and Turkish leaders in Ankara after the 8th trilateral summit.
- February 18, 2014: A former minister of the [Afghan Taliban](#) who was in favor of peace talks with the Kabul government was gunned down in Peshawar.
- February 21, 2014: Pakistani government lodged a strong protest with Afghanistan over the [killing of 23 kidnapped Pakistani paramilitary soldiers reportedly in an Afghan area](#).
- February 24, 2014: Mr. Jan Kubis, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan, called on the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz to discuss matters related to [Afghanistan and Pakistan-Afghanistan relations](#).
- March 24, 2014: Afghanistan alleged [Pakistan to have a link to the attack on Kabul hotel](#) that left nine civilians dead.
- March 31, 2014: In a phone conversation with US Secretary of State John Kerry, [Hamid Karzai accused Pakistan](#) of being behind a recent series of attacks and of blocking his government from striking a peace deal with the Taliban.

Ethnicity & Sectarianism

- December 15, 2013: A [British Ahmadi doctor was sent to jail](#) reportedly for posing to be a Muslim.
- December 15, 2013: A prominent [Shi'a religious scholar Allama Nasir Abbas was shot dead](#) in Lahore.
- December 17, 2013: [Blast outside an imambargah](#) in Rawalpindi killed 3 and left 14 injured.
- December 20, 2013: At least [10 people were killed](#) in sectarian combat in Chiniot, in Punjab.
- January 1, 2013: [A powerful bomb blast targeted a passenger bus carrying Shi'a pilgrims](#) from Taftan, a town in Balochistan bordering Iran, killing 2 and leaving 31 injured.
- January 3, 2014: General Secretary of *Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat* (ASWJ) Islamabad chapter [Mufti Muneer Muawiya was shot dead](#) in I-8 sector of Islamabad. The ASWJ is a Sunni sectarian organisation, reportedly a reincarnation of banned *Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan*,
- January 21, 2014: [Blast on a bus killed 22 Shi'a pilgrims](#) in Mastung.
- January 25, 2014: Provincial authorities discovered [a mass grave](#) containing an unspecified number of bodies in Khuzdar district of Balochistan.
- February 4, 2014: Nine people were killed and 50 others injured when a powerful bomb blast ripped through a local hotel frequented mostly by [Shi'as](#) in the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- February 4, 2014: Head of the local branch of the *Tehrik Nafaz-i-Fiqah-i-Jafaria* (a *Shi'a* religious organization in Pakistan) and [a prominent Shi'a leader Haji Sardar Ali was shot dead](#) in Peshawar.
- March 25, 2014: [Supreme Court Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani](#) took notice of a potential threat to an old Hindu temple posed by construction of underpasses and flyovers in Karachi's Clifton area.
- March 26, 2014: The Larkana district and sessions judge, Syed Irshad Shah, issued notices to the Larkana deputy commissioner, SSP and Hindu Panchayat Committee district chairpersons Kalpna Devi asking them to record their statements and produce documentary evidence regarding the March 15 violence, [during which a dharamshala was set afire and a temple, situated within the same locality, was attacked and damaged](#).
- March 29, 2014: [Two main opposition parties in the National Assembly](#) protested against a death sentence passed by a Lahore court against a Christian man.
- March 29, 2014: A [Hindu deity statue was broken and a small temple was partially damaged](#) in arson attack in Hyderabad, Sindh.
- March 31, 2014: A shutdown was observed in several towns over theft of a statue and some other sacred objects from [a Hindu shrine in near Mithi, Sindh](#).

Militancy

- December 18, 2013: A [suicide bomber smashed his explosive-laden car](#) into a military checkpoint in North Waziristan agency of FATA killing at least 5 soldiers and leaving 34 wounded.
- December 19, 2013: [23 militants were killed](#) in North Waziristan by the Pakistani security forces.
- December 26, 2013: A U.S. development worker, [Warren Weinstein](#), who was kidnapped in Pakistan allegedly by Al-Qaeda two years ago, released a video for U.S. President Barack Obama appealing for negotiations to his release.
- January 9, 2014: Superintendent Police [Chaudhry Aslam and two other policemen were killed](#) in a vehicle-borne bomb blast in Karachi.
- January 11, 2014: Maqsood Bhatti, a [Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf \(PTI\) leader, was shot to death](#) in Kasur district, Punjab.
- January 12, 2014: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's senior aide [Amir Muqam escaped an attack](#) on his convoy in Shangla district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- January 12, 2014: A senior leader of Awami National Party (ANP) [Mian Mushtaq was target killed in his village Maso Khel](#), in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- January 16, 2014: [A centre of Tableeghi Jamaat in Peshawar was blasted](#) when at least 800 worshipers were offering their prayers there.
- January 19, 2014: [A bombing targeting a security forces convoy killed 20](#) people and injured 30 others near Razmak gate in cantonment area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district.
- January 20, 2014: Taliban [bombing near army's General Headquarters in Rawalpindi killed 13](#).
- February 10, 2014: The [Baloch Republican Army \(BLA\) blew up three major gas arteries in Yousafabad area](#).
- February 10, 2014: [Shrine of a popular Sufi poet of Balochistan](#), Mast Twakali, in Mawand area of Kohlu was set on fire.
- February 12, 2014: Militants stormed the house of anti-Taliban activists in Peshawar and [shot dead nine men](#).
- February 13, 2014: [A blast by the TTP targeted a police bus](#) near Razzaqabad police training college in Karachi's Shah Latif Town killing 13 policemen.
- February 16, 2014: Seven killed as a [blast hit Khushhal Khan Express in Jacobabad](#).
- February 17, 2014: The TTP's Mohmand Agency chapter claimed responsibility for [the killing of 23 Frontier Corps soldiers](#).
- February 23, 2014: An explosion on Hangu road near Police Lines area in [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohat](#) district killed at least 12 people and injured several others.
- February 24, 2014: A suicide [blast near the Iranian Consulate in Peshawar](#) killed two FC troops.
- March 03, 2014: At least 11 people were killed and 24 wounded in a gun and suicide bomb attack at a court complex in the [Pakistani capital Islamabad](#).
- March 04, 2014: Four [NATO containers were attacked in Jamrud](#), Khyber Agency.
- March 14, 2014: A [blast by militant group Ahrarul Hind killed 10](#) and injured 35 people in Quetta.
- March 14, 2014: A [suicide blast by Ahrarul Hind killed 11](#) people in suburbs of Peshawar.
- March 24: [Bullet-riddled and severely tortured body of a female polio vaccinator](#), Salma Farrooqi, was found in Peshawar. She was kidnapped by militants from her house in Gulozai village two days earlier.
- March 28, 2014: Journalist, author and television anchor [Raza Rumi escaped unhurt but his driver was killed](#) and a police guard was injured when his car came under gun attack in Garden Town area of Lahore.

2. THE REGIONAL POWERS



INDIA

1. Bilateral Relations

Public Statements

- December 15, 2013: [Pakistan warns India, Iran](#) against supporting 'select' Afghan group.

Shahbaz Rana Geo News

January 5, 2014: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said [a deal on Kashmir was close when Musharraf was in power](#) in Pakistan.

Staff Reporter The News

- January 30, 2014: India's Minister for External Affairs Salman Khurshid said that [India is considering rejoining the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project](#).

Staff Reporter Express Tribune

- February 21, 2014: Pakistani and Indian leaders agreed, on the sidelines of [SAARC Council of Ministers' meeting held in the Maldives](#), to normalise relations.

Kamran Yusuf Dawn

- February 28, 2014: Pakistan looks to open up trade with India by [granting Non-Discriminatory Market Access to her](#), a term coined after Most Favoured Nation (MFN) became controversial

Web desk Express Tribune

March 01, 2014: [Pakistan desires to resolve all issues with India through meaningful dialogue](#): Pakistan's Ambassador to U.S.

Shahbaz Rana Business Recorder

- March 15, 2014: India has reportedly agreed to Pakistan's demand of excluding 160 items from its [Pakistan-specific Sensitive List](#).

ANI Business Standard

- March 30, 2014: [Pakistan keen to maintain its deepening economic relations with India and Afghanistan](#) for a prosperous South Asian region, said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Shahbaz Rana Express Tribune

Media Commentary

- December 20, 2013: The construction of the Kishanganga project by India in Jammu and Kashmir will result in a [14% decrease of the flow of water for Pakistan's Neelum-Jhelum hydroelectric project](#).

ANI Business Standard

- February 5, 2014: Pakistan and India can bring about an [agriculture revolution in South Asia by following the US-Canadian cooperation model](#).

Staff Reporter Dawn

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 7, 2014: The upcoming elections in India will determine whether or not any forward movement is possible in promoting bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. 	Correspondent	Dawn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 7, 2014: The change in India-Pakistan relations is based on three important factors; travel, trade and technology. 	Staff Reporter	Dawn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 28, 2014: Pakistan may grant Most-Favoured Nation’s (MFN) status to India after receiving a final offer of substantial concessions in trade from New Delhi. 	Kalbe Ali	Dawn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 17, 2014: A renewed vigor is required towards resuming the stalled bilateral dialogue between Pakistan and India, participants agreed at the recently concluded Delhi Dialogue. 	Maleeha Hamid Siddiqui	The Nation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 30, 2014: India will get tougher on territorial disputes with its old rivalry with Pakistan if Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) leader Narendra Modi becomes the prime minister in May after a general election, two of his aides said. 	Reuters	Hindustan Times
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 31, 2014: The MQM Chief Altaf Hussain has lamented that people of Pakistan and India are not mentally close despite close proximity. 	Staff Reporter	The Nation
Actions Taken		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 17, 2014: Pakistan appointed Mr. Abdul Basit as Pakistan’s High Commissioner to India. 	Mubarak Zeb Khan	Dawn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 17, 2014: Pakistan lodged a protest with India over the capturing of 13 Pakistani fishermen. 	INP	The Nation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 31, 2014: Pakistan has released 1,801 Indian prisoners including 74 civil and 1727 fishermen during the last five years, following the successful negotiations. 	Pervaiz Jabri	Business Recorder
2. Status of Confidence Building Measures		
Public Statements		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 29: Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastgir Khan said that Pakistan will not give Most Favored Nation (MFN) status to any country, including India, without reciprocation. 	Staff Reporter	Frontier Post
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 7, 2014: Indian High Commissioner TCA Raghavan said that talks between the central banks of India and Pakistan are in an advanced stage for opening of scheduled bank branches in Karachi and Mumbai. 	Parvaiz Ishfaq Rana	Dawn

Actions Taken		
- December 28, 2013: Pakistan and India have agreed to resolve border related issues after a five days bi-annual meeting.	Web Desk	Express Tribune
- January 2, 2014: India and Pakistan exchanged lists of their nuclear facilities , as well as information regarding prisoners in each country’s custody in line with a tradition that began in December 1988.	Mariana Baabar	The News
- January 20, 2014: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Travel and Trade Authority suspended bus and truck services from Srinagar to Muzzaffarabad after 49 Pakistani truck drivers were arrested on the Indian side of the LoC on drug charges.	Correspondent	Express Tribune
- January 26, 2014: During recent trade talks, the Pakistani government offered Most Favored Nation status to India in exchange for lower duties on certain Pakistani goods.	Mubarak Zeb Khan	Dawn
Media Commentary		
- March 18, 2014: Pakistan will grant Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India with a condition of receiving substantial concessions in trade from New Delhi.	Mubarak Zeb Khan	Dawn
- March 24, 2014: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that the granting of MFN status to India had been postponed .	APP	Dawn
3. Kashmir: Violence along the Line of Control (LoC)		
Actions Taken		
- December 25, 2013: Pakistan and India pledged to maintain the 2003 LoC ceasefire accord that had been left in tatters by repeated violations this year.	Baqir Sajjad Syed	Dawn
- December 21, 2013: India violates the ceasefire across the Jammu & Kashmir border twice in 2 days.	Muhammad Saleh Zaafir	The News
- December 26, 2013: Officers from India and Pakistan’s border forces agreed to jointly patrol the border between India and Pakistan to stop illegal smuggling .	Web Desk	Express Tribune
January 13, 2014: Indian security forces killed three militants in Sopore, Baramulla district, Jammu and Kashmir.	Masood Hussain	The Economic Times
- February 5, 2014: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif extended an invitation to the Indian leadership to resolve the Kashmir issue through dialogue on Kashmir Solidarity Day .	Staff Reporter	Dawn

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 7, 2014: At least 66 Kashmiri students suspended for supporting Pakistani cricket team against India. <p>Public Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 16, 2014: Foreign Office spokeswoman criticized a statement by Indian army chief Bikram Singh in which he said India would not follow established ceasefire agreements in Kashmir if Pakistan also does not. - February 22, 2014: Pakistan has demanded of India to release on humanitarian grounds all such Pakistani prisoners who have completed their sentences. - March 28, 2014: Kashmir is not India’s internal matter: Pakistan 	Reporter	Daily Mail
	Staff Reporter	Dawn
	Mateen Haider	Dawn
	Meena Menon	The Hindu

Who

The Source

IRAN

1. Energy: Iran Pakistan Gas Pipeline

Public Statements

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - December 16, 2013: Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline is unlikely to be completed due to the American sanctions against Iran. - December 23, 2013: Pakistan and Iran are considering turning their gas pipeline project into a bilateral treaty, because they believe that this may allow Pakistan to continue involvement in the project while avoiding U.S. sanctions. - February 20, 2014: The foreign office rejected the notion that the recent border issue would affect the stalled Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline with its southwestern neighbor. - February 27, 2014: Iran’s oil ministry said that Pakistan is contractually obliged to complete a major pipeline project that would allow Tehran to export gas to its neighbor. - February 28, 2014: Pakistan said that the Iran-Pakistan 	Staff Reporter	The News
	Correspondent	Express Tribune
	Web Desk	Express Tribune
	AFP	Dawn
	Maqbool Malik	The Nation

<p>gas pipeline project would be undertaken after international sanctions against Iran are removed as result of settlement of its nuclear issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 15, 2014: Pakistan has said that it was considering some proposals to implement the Iran gas pipeline. <p>Actions Taken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - December 15: Iran claims to have cancelled a planned \$500 million loan to Pakistan for it to build a part of a pipeline to bring natural gas from Iran. - March 01, 2014: Tehran has cautioned Islamabad over falling behind schedule in fulfilling its obligations with regard to the IP pipeline project. <p>Media Commentary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 22, 2014: Pakistan wants to make some changes in an agreement with Iran on the gas pipeline project amid risk of US sanctions. - March 19, 2014: The fate of Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project will be decided during a meeting between the Iranian president and Pakistani prime minister to be held in Tehran soon. - March 30, 2014: Importing gas from Iran is the most reasonable solution for Pakistan to meet its domestic consumption. 	<p>Staff Reporter Bernama</p> <p>Staff Reporter Geo News</p> <p>Jaan Haider Pakistan Today</p> <p>Correspondent Express Tribune</p> <p>Correspondent Dawn</p> <p>Staff Reporter The Nation</p>
<p>2. Bilateral Relations</p>	
<p>Actions Taken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 21, 2014: Pakistan and Iran agreed to take joint steps to fight militant groups and curb the menace of cross-border terrorism. - February 22, 2014: The Pakistan-Iran joint border commission formed a committee to prepare a strategy for the recovery of kidnapped Iranian guards. - March 19, 2014: The Iranian government closed its borders with Pakistan in the run-up to Nauroze festivities. - March 27, 2014: Tehran issued a warning to Islamabad after reports emerged that an Iranian soldier abducted and taken across the border into Pakistan by extremists had been executed. - March 29, 2014: A scheduled meeting between border officials of Pakistan and Iran could not be held because 	<p>Syed Ali Shah Dawn</p> <p>Saleem Shahid Dawn</p> <p>Saleem Shahid Dawn</p> <p>AFP Arab News</p> <p>Correspondent Dawn</p>

<p>Iranians changed the venue of the meeting at the eleventh hour.</p>		
<p>- March 29, 2014: An Iranian lawmaker called on Pakistan to hand over to Iran the security of its common border with the Islamic Republic.</p>	Staff Reporter	Press TV
Public Statements		
<p>- January 30, 2014: Iranian Consulate in Karachi released a statement denying any Iranian involvement with sectarian violence in Pakistan.</p>	Correspondent	The News
<p>- February 10, 2014: Iran denounced what it called Pakistan’s inability to secure its own borders after five Iranian soldiers were kidnapped and taken into its eastern neighbor by extremists.</p>	AFP	Newsweek, Pakistan
<p>- February 17, 2014: Iran said it would send forces into Pakistan to free five border guards said to have been kidnapped by militants if Islamabad did not take measures to secure their release.</p>	Reuters	Arab News
<p>- February 18, 2014: Pakistan has noted with serious concern the statement by the Iranian Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli that Iran would send forces into Pakistan to free five border guards.</p>	Press Release	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Pakistan
<p>- March 05, 2014: Home Secretary Balochistan said Pakistan security forces would conduct operation for the recovery of Iranian soldiers if Iran provides information about their whereabouts.</p>	Syed Ali Shah	Dawn
<p>- March 26, 2014: Pakistan is deeply saddened over the reported killing of one of the five Iranian border guards, abducted in the Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran last month.</p>	Press Release	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Pakistan
Media Commentary		
<p>- March 12, 2014: Iran and Pakistan appear to be on a collision course that will in all likelihood leave relations severely strained in the years ahead.</p>	Zachery Keck	The Diplomat
Official Visits		
<p>- January 17, 2014: Petroleum Minister confirmed that a Pakistani delegation will leave for Iran to agree on a new timeline for the completion of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline.</p>	Khalid Mustafa	The News



CHINA

Who

The Source

1. Bilateral Cooperation

Agreements Reached and Signed

- December 18, 2013: Officials from Pakistan and China agreed [to sign a Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\) to jointly manufacture more JF-17 Thunder](#) block II fighter jets.
- February 7, 2014: Sitara Chemicals has signed contract with [Chinese company](#) Shandong Yangkoan Engineering Design Co. Ltd. for 35MW coal based power plant.
- February 20, 2014: China and Pakistan signed [agreements for energy and infrastructure projects](#).
- February 21, 2014: Pakistan and China signed an agreement of [“early harvest projects”](#) in the economic corridor.
- March 15, 2014: [An MoU was been inked between Wah Nobel Group of Companies and Gezhoubu Explosives Co. Ltd, China](#) to set up an explosives factory through a joint venture for mining, energy engineering, infrastructure construction and urban control blasting.
- March 31, 2014: [Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry \(FCCI\) and Yantai Chamber of Commerce and Industry \(YCCI\)](#), China inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate their members to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries.

Staff Reporter	Dawn
Staff Reporter	The Nation
Li Xiaokun and Mo Jingxi	China Daily
Mehtab Haider	The News
Staff Reporter	The Nation
Staff Reporter	Pakistan Observer

Media Commentary

- January 24, 2014: The first meeting of the joint working group on planning of [the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor](#) concluded with signing of agreed minutes of the meeting by both sides.
- February 4, 2014: Peaceful regional [cooperation for use of nuclear energy between Pakistan and China](#) is a symbol of unwavered and timeless friendship.
- March 02, 2014: Pakistan strongly condemns the terrorist attack at a train station in [Yunnan province of China](#) in which 33 people were killed.
- March 26, 2014: [There is a vast scope of joint ventures between Pakistan and china](#) in the fields of agriculture, textile, pharmaceutical, automobile, leather, transport and

Reporter	Nihao-Salam (E-magazine of Pakistan China Institute)
Staff Reporter	The Peninsula
Press Release	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Pakistan.
Staff Reporter	The Nation

<p>construction.</p> <p>Public Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - December 23, 2013: A Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman said that China plans to continue its cooperation with Pakistan on civil nuclear power. - February 17, 2014: Beijing and Islamabad will strengthen energy cooperation and speed up development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. - February 18, 2014: The Chinese Vice-Minister of the International Cooperation Department of Communist Party of China (CPC) H.E. Mr. Ai Ping said Pakistan and China enjoy unique relations. - February 20, 2014: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor development project would prove to be a game changer in the region: President Mamnoon Hussain. - March 04, 2014: President Mamnoon Hussain said China would sell helicopters to Pakistan that would prove to be an effective tool in the war against terrorism. - March 29, 2014: Federal Defence, Water and Power Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif that Chinese investors were investing \$32 billion in power generation out of which \$6 billion would be used on dual power transmission lines in the country. <p>Actions Taken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 20, 2014: Pakistan and China are negotiating a deal for Pakistan to buy three nuclear reactors from China for \$13 billion. - January 20, 2014: China has offered to invest \$22 billion in Pakistan in exchange for several major power projects in Pakistan being given to Chinese companies outside of the regular bidding process. - March 27, 2014: Pakistan-China Yantai Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) has been established to boost bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and China. 	<p>Xinhua China Daily</p> <p>Pu Zhendong and Chen Peng China Daily</p> <p>Press Release Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Pakistan</p> <p>Agencies Express Tribune</p> <p>Print Edition The News</p> <p>Imamuddin Business Recorder</p>
<p>2. Bilateral Relations</p>	
<p>Public Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 27, 2014: Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan said China-Pakistan defence cooperation was a factor of peace and stability in the region. 	<p>Staff Reporter Dawn</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 29, 2014: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said the peaceful rise of China is a source of strength and security for the small and medium-sized countries in Asia. 	Asim Yasin	The News
Official Visits		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 18, 2014: Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain arrived in Beijing for a state visit at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. 	Reporter	Business Ghana
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 21, 2014: President Mamnoon Hussain during his state visit to China held talks with President Xi Jinping. 	Press Release	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gov. of Pakistan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 28, 2014: The Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan held meetings with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Asif Sandila in Islamabad. 	Reporter	Dawn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 02, 2014: A high powered 20-member delegation of China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) is visiting Pakistan from March 3 to 5, 2014, with new investment proposals. 	Staff Reporter	The Nation



RUSSIA

Who

The Source

1. Bilateral Relations

Actions Taken

- December 29, 2013: Senior diplomat Alaixy Gardonov appointed as the [new Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan](#).
- January 22, 2014: The governments of Russia and Pakistan signed a protocol for [facilitating export of orange, rice and potato](#) to Russia.
- January 29, 2014: Pakistan and Russia [agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation](#) and sharing of information to effectively counter threats to national and regional security.
- February 18, 2014: The [Russian Federal Service of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Service](#) lifted the ban on Pakistani citrus fruits from February 24, 2014.
- February 25, 2014: The government has decided to appoint former [Chief of Protocol \(CP\) Zaheer Aslam Janjua](#) as country's new ambassador to Russia.

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

The News

Staff Reporter

The Nation

Imran Mukhtar

The Nation

Web Desk

Express Tribune

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

The News

- February 25, 2014: First Russian Expo-2014 will be held in Karachi on June 11-12, 2014.	APP	Business Recorder
Media Commentary		
- January 28, 2014: The 5th meeting of Pakistan-Russia Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism was held in Islamabad.	Reporter	Nihao-Salam
- February 10, 2014: Pakistan can be a very important country for Russia because of its role in regional politics and its geo-strategic position in close vicinity of the CIS borders.	Zeeshan Hayat	The Frontier Post
- March 12, 2014: Cooperation with Russia: Pakistan’s envoy concerned at government's indifference.	Mushtaq Ghumman	Business Recorder
Public Statements		
- December 31, 2013: Pakistan strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack at the train station of Volgograd in the Russian Federation.	Reporter	Business Recorder
- January 7, 2014: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar emphasized on the importance of resolving 15-year-old trade related financial disputes with Russia.	Reporter	ARY News
- February 24, 2014: Trade between Russia and Pakistan should be much more than the present \$500 million , said the Russian Federation Consul General Oleg N. Avdeev.	NNI	The Nation
- March 14, 2014: Pakistan’s honorary consul to Russia expressed hope that Russia would play a vital role in assisting Pakistan in overcoming crisis of terrorism, energy shortage and economical stress.	Reporter	The Nation



SAUDI ARABIA

Who	The Source
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1. Bilateral Relations

Media Commentary		
- January 5, 2014: The visit of the Saudi Foreign Minister has nothing to do with former president Pervez Musharraf’s trial.	Ansar Abbasi	The News
- February 16, 2014: More than 4,000 Pakistani immigrant workers in Saudi Arabia are held in various detention centres.	Web Desk	Express Tribune
- February 19, 2014: Defense experts say Saudi Arabia’s close military ties with Pakistan have a new dimension – namely countering the threat of a nuclear-capable Iran.	Kokab Farshori	Voice of America

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 23, 2014: Saudi Arabia is in talks with Pakistan to provide anti-aircraft and anti-tank rockets to Syrian rebels. 	<p>AFP</p>	<p>Gulf News</p>
<p>Public Statements</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 20, 2014: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told Deputy Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia that two countries need to start a new era of strategic relationship. 	<p>APP</p>	<p>The Nation</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 25, 2014: The Foreign Office denied that Pakistan is considering a proposal to provide arms to Syrian rebels on prodding by Saudi Arabia. 	<p>Staff Reporter</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 7, 2014: Pakistani prime minister told Saudi Prince Sultan Bin Salman in Islamabad that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have always stood by each other in testing times. 	<p>Press Release</p>	<p>APP</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 16, 2014: The Minister of State of Saudi Arabia on Foreign Affairs was told that Pakistan accorded high priority to its relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. 	<p>Press Release</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Pakistan</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 20, 2014: Pakistan’s Foreign Office denied reports regarding large scale troops being sent to Saudi Arabia. 	<p>Reporter</p>	<p>The Nation</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 27, 2014: Pakistan strongly denied it had any plans to send weapons to Syrian rebels, following reports that Saudi Arabia was holding talks with it about arming the opposition. 	<p>AFP</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 17, 2014: Foreign Affairs Adviser Sartaj Aziz disclosed that Saudi Arabia had donated US\$1.5 billion to Pakistan without attaching any condition. 	<p>Staff Reporter</p>	<p>The Nation</p>
<p>Official Visits</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 7, 2014: Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal met with Pakistani prime minister and president in Islamabad to talk about energy, Afghanistan, Iran, and the Pakistani diaspora in Saudi Arabia. 	<p>Saqib Nasir</p>	<p>Express Tribune</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 5, 2014: Pakistan’s Chief of the Army Staff General Raheel Sharif called on Saudi Crown Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud on the first day of his official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. 	<p>Correspondent</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15 - 17 February, 2014: The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia visited Pakistan on the invitation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. 	<p>Press Release</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Pakistan</p>
<p>Actions Taken</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 14, 2014: Saudi authorities beheaded two Pakistanis for drug smuggling in the kingdom’s first 	<p>AFP</p>	<p>Gulf News</p>

<p>executions of the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 27, 2014: Saudi Arabia has inquired about the possibility of buying JF-17 Thunder fighter planes from Pakistan. - February 7, 2014: Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani took notice of the miserable condition of Pakistanis in detention in Saudi Arabia, ordering officials to submit a report within a week. - March 14, 2014: Saudi Arabia has given \$1.5bn to Pakistan to bolster the country’s falling foreign currency reserves and help cement security ties between the two countries. 	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="878 247 1024 279">Web Edition</td> <td data-bbox="1109 247 1219 279">The News</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="878 369 979 401">Reporter</td> <td data-bbox="1109 369 1175 401">Dawn</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="878 520 1052 552">Farhan Bokhari</td> <td data-bbox="1109 520 1284 552">Financial Times</td> </tr> </table>	Web Edition	The News	Reporter	Dawn	Farhan Bokhari	Financial Times
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Reporter	Dawn						
Farhan Bokhari	Financial Times						

3. REGIONAL DYNAMICS AND CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

1. Bilateral Talks & Multi-Track Diplomacy

- i. **December 19, 2013:** Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister told a team of Xinjiang Television that both [Pakistan and China enjoy a strategic relationship](#) and the friendship with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. He reaffirmed the strong commitment of the Prime Minister to further deepen and fortify the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.
- ii. **January 23 - 24, 2014:** Key opinion makers from India and Pakistan, including parliamentarians, former diplomats, officers of the armed forces, academics, media persons and policy experts met at Bangkok for the [13th round of the Chaophraya Dialogue](#) from 23- 24 January, 2014.
- iii. **February 15, 2014:** A bilateral dialogue held at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) brought together scholars and diplomats from Pakistan and Iran to focus on areas of mutual cooperation and to explore avenues aimed at strengthening ties. The [11th ISSI-IPIS bilateral dialogue](#) between the ISSI and the Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS), Iran discussed regional problems and their solutions.
- iv. **February 24, 2014:** The [ninth session of Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Economic Commission \(JEC\)](#) concluded with vows to enhance bilateral economic cooperation to promote peace and stability in the two countries.
- v. **February 28, 2014:** [Secretary General, Shanghai Cooperation Organization \(SCO\), Mr. Dimitry Mezentsev](#), met the Foreign Secretary Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, [Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz](#) and [Mr. Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs](#), at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad.
- vi. **March 15, 2014:** An India-Pakistan Track II diplomacy initiative sent out a message to Islamabad and [New Delhi, pressing on the new Indian government which emerges in April elections, to continue the positive initiatives taken under previous governments.](#)
- vii. **March 26, 2014:** The inaugural session of the Pakistan-China Trade and Investment Conference organised by the [Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry \(PCJCCI\)](#) was held.

2. Multilateral Fora

- i. **December 17, 2013:** Ján Kubiš, [Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan \(UNAMA\)](#), while briefing the U.N. Security Council stated that they must resolutely continue working together to ensure a sovereign and sustainable state in Afghanistan that will never again become a haven for international terrorism and organized crime.
- ii. **December 20, 2014:** As energy politics is gaining momentum across the world, [Pakistan is going to become a member of the energy club of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)](#), an initiative taken by Russia for providing support to energy projects in different countries including Pakistan.
- iii. **January 15, 2014:** [The Shanghai Cooperation Organization has no plans to replace NATO](#) as a guarantor of security in Afghanistan following the planned withdrawal of the military alliance's contingent from the war-torn country this year, Russia's envoy to the SCO.
- iv. **January 19, 2014:** Indian Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh at Senior Official's Meeting (SOM), [Istanbul Process \(Heart of Asia\)](#) held in New Delhi stated that Afghanistan is going through critical juncture in its history and the war-battered country requires the constructive support of its neighbors.

- v. **January 22, 2014:** Representatives of foreign ministries of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey took part in the [consultations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization \(SCO\)](#) Member States, Observer States to the SCO and other interested parties on regional security issues that were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.
- vi. **January 7 - 8 2014:** [Secretary General of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation \(SAARC\)](#) paid a visit to Pakistan to discuss the troubles faced by the organization.
- vii. **December 17 - 19, 2013:** The foreign ministers and senior officials of member countries of [Developing Eight Organization convened the 16th meeting of the Council of Ministers](#) on 19th December 2013 in Islamabad. As the chair of the organization, Pakistan hosted the meeting, which was chaired by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs. It was preceded by 34th Session of the D-8 Commission on 17-18 December 2013.
- viii. **February 14, 2014:** Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey and Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan held their [eighth Trilateral Summit Meeting](#) in Ankara, on 13 February 2014.
- ix. **February 20, 2014:** The 35th Session of [SAARC Council of Ministers \(COM\)](#) Meeting was held in the Maldives on 20th February 2014. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, led Pakistan's delegation.
- x. **March 18, 2014:** [Turkey-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Political Consultations](#) at the Technical-level were held in Islamabad, in pursuance of the decision taken at the 8th Trilateral Summit held in Ankara on 13 February 2014.
- xi. **March 24 - 25, 2014:** [Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif](#) attends a two-day Nuclear Security Summit in [The Hague](#).
- xii. **March 27, 2014:** [The Quadrilateral Summit](#) of the presidents of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Tajikistan was convened in Kabul.

4. SUMMARY OF TRENDS FOR THE QUARTER

Militant and sectarian attacks continued unabated in Pakistan during the monitoring period under review, i.e. December 15, 2013 and March 31, 2014. According to statistics provided by Pak Institute for Peace Studies' digital database on conflict and security (<http://www.san-pips.com/app/database>), a total of 477 reported terrorist attacks during this period claimed the lives of 635 people and wounded another 1,239. Nonetheless, the government is striving hard to achieve peace and security in the country through engaging the Taliban militants in dialogue, a process that has not brought some considerable success thus far. Initially there were reports after the government's reconstituted negotiation committee met with the Taliban committee in last week of March that the militants have set very tough conditions for continuation of peace talks including the creation of a demilitarised peace zone in South Waziristan and release of some combatant and non-combatant detainees. Later it was reported in media that the negotiation committees representing the government and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) had agreed to extend the ceasefire beyond March 31.

Pakistan's prime minister has once again reiterated that the country fully supports an Afghan-led reconciliation process in Afghanistan and that it is seriously concerned about the future of security and stability in Afghanistan. Since late 2012 Pakistan has released many detained Afghan Taliban leaders in the hope that they would play a role in political reconciliation, but without success thus far. However, a recent series of assassinations of Afghan Taliban leaders in Pakistan could make the peace process in Afghanistan more fragile. Furthermore, heightened violence by the Afghan Taliban during upcoming presidential elections in Afghanistan could negatively impact Pakistani-Afghan bilateral relations. Afghanistan has already started to blame Pakistan for some recently launched terrorist attacks on election-related targets there.

Serious tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi have been caused due to the violence across the Line of Control (LoC). These tensions have been high in the last quarter of 2013 resulting into many casualties on both sides. The much-anticipated meeting of Director General Military Operations (DGMO) of Pakistan Army with its Indian counterpart resulted into a reassurance of the maintenance of the LoC ceasefire accord. The lists of nuclear facilities and information regarding prisoners in each country's custody were also exchanged as per the tradition that began in December 1988. Nonetheless, it appears Pakistan has delayed the granting of MFN status to India. Some strategic analysts are of the view that the Pakistani government intends to revitalise the trade and other confidence building measures with India after a new government is formed there after the upcoming elections.

Pakistani government officials have stated difficulties in pursuing the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project due to the sanctions imposed by the U.S. However there has been a consideration between Iran and Pakistan of turning their gas pipeline project into a bilateral treaty, which may allow Pakistan to continue the project while avoiding the sanctions. Iran has also offered imports on electricity from Iran, which Pakistan is thinking of taking into consideration. On the other hand China has also offered to invest \$22 billion in Pakistan in exchange of several major power projects in Pakistan to be given to Chinese companies outside of the regular bidding process. Also, Pakistan is taking into account of buying three nuclear reactors from China for \$13 billion, which has concerned U.S. due to the involvement of exchange in nuclear technology. Saudi Arabia has also inquired about the possibility of buying JF-17 Thunder fighter planes from Pakistan and has given \$1.5bn to Pakistan as a gift to strengthen Pakistan's falling foreign currency reserves. Saudi Arabia believes this gift can help bolster security ties between the two countries.

The warming up of Pakistani-Saudi relations, which entailed some recently made high-level bilateral visits and a \$1.5 billion Saudi aid to Pakistan, was seen by some analysts as a possible irritant in Pakistan's relations with Iran. Others suggested it could have implications for the *Sunni-Shi'a* sectarian divide and violence that persist in the country. Meanwhile the issue of kidnapping of Iranian guards by a *Sunni* militant group—reportedly *Jaish-ul-Adl*, a splinter group of *Jundullah*—in Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran and taking them across the border in Pakistan has once again highlighted the threat the militant groups operating in border regions of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran could pose to regional security and bilateral relations among the countries in the region.

5. PUBLICATIONS FROM THE REGION

Governance:

- Wazir, A. Khan and Muhammad Zaheer Khan. 2014. “Mainstreaming FATA through legal and political reforms.” FATA Research Center. January. <<http://frc.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Research-Paper-2.pdf>>
- Deshmukh, Shreyas and Yaqoobul Hassan. 2014. “Pakistan news digest.” Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. January. <http://www.idsa.in/system/files/pnd_Jan2014.pdf>
- Khan, R. Rahman. 2014. “Local government system in FATA.” FATA Research Center. January. <<http://frc.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Research-Paper-7.pdf>>

Social & Economic Issues:

- Naseer, Enum. 2013. “Pakistan’s water crisis.” Spearhead Research. December. <http://spearheadresearch.org/SR_CMS/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Pakistan_Water_Crisis_part-1.pdf>
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- Pak Institute for Peace Study. 2014. “Pakistan security report 2014.” January. <<http://www.san-pips.com/download.php?f=222.pdf>>
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- Rao, Ammara Rabbani. 2014. “‘*Takfiri*’ a messianic ideology: ‘counter measures’ for radical insurgents in Waziristan.” FATA Research Center. January. <<http://frc.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Research-Paper-1.pdf>>

Regional Dynamics:

- Kapur, Vivek. 2014. “IAF equipment and force structure requirements to meet external threats, 2032.” *Journal of Defence Studies*, 8(1), January: 65–94. <http://idsa.in/system/files/8_1_2014_IAFEquipmentandForceStructureRequirementst.pdf>
- Cowshish, Amit. 2014. “Indo-Pak DGsMO meeting: one step forward, two steps back.” Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. January 2nd. <http://idsa.in/system/files/acowshish_020114.pdf>
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- Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies. 2014. India, Pakistan and the nuclear race.” February 27th. <<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Articles/Detail/?lng=en&id=176996>>

Conflict in Afghanistan:

- Rahmanullah. 2014. “US-NATO exit from Afghanistan: challenges and options beyond 2014.” FATA Research Centre January. <<http://frc.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Research-Paper-4.pdf>>
- Betkerur, Niharika. 2014. “Taliban making political gains without any commitment.” Observer Research Foundation. March 13th. <<http://orfonline.org/cms/sites/orfonline/modules/analysis/AnalysisDetail.html?cmaid=64167&mmacmaid=64168>>