



Editorial

This issue of *Artha* centres around the nuclear debate and has four articles and one book review. Nuclear debate is still a relevant topic in international security because regions like South Asia and Northeast Asia are embroiled by nuclear stalemate. Pakistan's security strategy is premised on its nuclear deterrence against India, while India follows 'no first use' policy and is adherent to global non-proliferation regimes. India faces nuclear threats at two levels: i) from Pakistan which doesn't have any clearly articulated doctrine and ii) from China which poses major challenges to India's security. Therefore, India's nuclear strategy is to counter both the threats simultaneously. In this regard, India has developed effective nuclear deterrence against both the threats based on second strike capability. This issue deals with some of these aspects.

The first article analyses nuclear challenges to India's security and its response strategy. It argues that India faces three kinds of nuclear threat; Pakistan, China and nuclear terrorism in detail. The article further explains the response strategies that India has adopted to meet the three kinds of threats. It argues that India's assured retaliation is effective to counter Pakistan's nuclear threat against India's conventional military superiority. For nuclear threat from China, India has acquired nuclear triad which will make the second strike more effective. To counter nuclear terrorism, India collaborates with international effort to counter such challenges.

The second article provides a conclusive explanation of nuclear imbroglio in the Korean peninsula and India's stakes in it. The article explains how the North Korean nuclear program affects regional security. It provides a clear picture of the evolution of the North Korean nuclear program and the adopted response mechanism of other countries, especially South Korea. The article argues that the regional countries have to acknowledge the presence of nuclear weapons in North Korea because it is the guarantee for regime survival. The article further argues that India's approach towards the Korean issues has been cautious and

pragmatic, wherein India has not joined the US bandwagoning on the nuclear issue and has condemned its sabre-rattle policy.

Vinod Kumar explains India's struggles in the formative period of norm construction in the Global Nuclear Order. He says that in the post-world war period, the US occupied a prime position in building norms and rules to create a world nuclear order. Initially, the US came up with 'atom for peace' plan with the aim of monopolising the nuclear weapon technology and restrict its access to others while encouraging them for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and convincing them to forego the right to develop a nuclear weapon for any technical assistance from the West. India was an active contributor to the atoms-for-peace debate and establishment of the IAEA, especially in representing the interests of the have-nots in its board of governors and raising concerns on the intrusive nature of safeguards. The author argues that India's position on norms building mechanism was based on India's calculations of threats and long terms security implications.

The last article deals with India's nuclear deterrence mechanism and the role of the Agni missile in facilitating the same. The author explains various stages of the development and the technical details of the missile. The article also explains the rationale behind developing such a long-range missile. The author asserts that the Agni provides effective nuclear deterrence for India and can target objects deep inside China.

Joshy M Paul
Issue Editor