



# India's Nuclear Doctrine

## Towards a Revision and an Alternative Blueprint

A draft of India's 'Nuclear Doctrine' was publicly released, one year after the Pokhran II nuclear tests on the 17 August 1999 and formally adopted on 4 January 2003. The official doctrine was meant to be a dynamic document periodically adapting to emerging threats and realities and therefore providing scope for review.

While Indian academia and strategic community continues to produce abundant literature scrutinising and criticising the doctrine, there seems to be no sign of an official review taking place to suit the transformations in India's strategic and security environment.

The Indian deterrent has been ineffective against terrorist and sub-conventional attacks which have increased in numbers and intensity since the end of the century. Since 1998, over 22,000 Indians, mostly civilian have died in such attacks masterminded, funded or directed by Pakistan compared to the 9000 Indians, mostly soldiers, who died in the four major India-Pakistan wars combined.

In South Asia, India's nuclear deterrent has an unintended effect vis-à-vis Pakistan; India's vast quantitative and qualitative conventional military superiority being made redundant and its basic parameters challenged by sub-conventional tactics. Besides there is a strong criticism, that the current strategy is leading towards a nuclear arms race in South Asia, which is certainly not in

India's interests.

The very definitions of nuclear deterrence, credible minimum deterrence and no-first-use in the Indian context await a thorough re-examination.

The economic feasibility and strategic necessity of a triad too merits close scrutiny in light of increasing focus over the issue of 'credible' and 'minimum' deterrence.

### Objectives

This project aims to critique the existing nuclear doctrine, and revise it to suit the new developments in the last decade; and more importantly, to present an alternative blueprint of what could India's nuclear doctrine .

Towards achieving the above, the Nuclear Security Programme (NSP) at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies plans to constitute a Working Group/ Task Force of experts from the academia, bureaucracy, military and strategic community.

Other objectives include the following:

- To assess the current Indian security environment and re-examine these in the context of India's present Nuclear Doctrine
- To assess the effects of Indo-US nuclear deal on China , Pakistan and growing Sino-Pak nuclear collusion.
- To take a fresh look at the fundamental assumptions underlying the current In-

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- dian position on nuclear deterrence.
- To explore doctrinal ideas that could safe guard the Indian position in a changing security and threat environment.
- To take into account the role of non-State actors in the region, and their actions leading to an inadvertent escalation.
- To put forward alternatives/ revisions to the Indian nuclear doctrine.

### **The Road Map/Methodology**

- A team of researchers with the IPCS Nuclear Security Programme (NSP) would produce a brief background paper on various issues relating to the existing doctrine.
- The Working Group/ Task Force of experts (consisting of eight to ten members representing different fields) will be constituted and led by Prof PR Chari.
- This Task Force would discuss the paper and carry out further deliberations in four to five meetings.
- Based on the meetings, the NSP research team will attempt a basic draft, in two to three pages (2000-2500 words).
- The Working Group/Task Force will finalise the draft and present as a revised or alternative blue print of India's nuclear doctrine.

### **Project Output**

The Institute aims to pursue the following:

- A two-page blue print on 'India's Nuclear Doctrine: An Alternative/Revised Blueprint' .
- Release of the report.

### **Tentative Programme/Timeline (To be confirmed)**

- June 2011: Setting up of the IPCS Task Force under the chairmanship of Prof PR Chari.

- Jul 2011: First Meeting of the Task Force to define the parameters of the report
- Jul-Aug 2011: Submission of the Draft Report by the IPCS team, on the basic parameters.
- Aug 2011: Second Meeting of the Task Force
- Sep 2011: First Draft by the Chairman to be circulated within the Task Force members
- Sep 2011: Third Meeting of the Task Force, to discuss Chairman's Draft Report.
- Oct-Nov 2011: Final Draft by the Chairman, to be circulated again within the Task Force members
- Nov-Dec: Release of the IPCS Task Force Report on "India's Nuclear Doctrine: A Revised Blue-print"

### **Task Force members**

The members of the Task Force have been carefully chosen, representing different fields – military, academic, bureaucracy and media.

The following have agreed to be a part of the Task Force:

1. Prof PR Chari (Chairman)
2. Maj Gen Dipankar Banerjee
3. Cmde Udhay Bhaskar
4. NS Sisodia
5. Brig Gurmeet Kanwal
6. Mr Arvind Gupta
7. AVM Kapil Kak
8. Onkar Marwah
9. Prof R Raja Raman
10. C. Raja Mohan
11. Amb Lalit Mansigh
12. Amb KC Singh
13. D. Suba Chandran
14. Mallika Joseph
15. Members of the NSP, IPCS