

**PRESS COVERAGE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**“Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia- Incentives and Constraints”**  
**DAY ONE: 22 November, 2016, Serena Hotel, Islamabad**

## INTERNATIONAL

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 *The Indian* **EXPRESS**

# **Credible minimum deterrence needed for regional stability: Sartaj Aziz**

Aziz claimed that Pakistan is maintaining 'minimum nuclear deterrence' for peace and stability in the region

By: **PTI** | Islamabad | Published: November 22, 2016 5:41 pm



Pakistan's foreign affairs adviser to prime minister Sartaj Aziz addresses a news conference in Islamabad, Pakistan. (AP Photo)

Amid rising Indo-Pak tensions, Pakistan on Tuesday said ‘credible minimum deterrence’ was needed for regional stability and warned that instability has consequences with ‘far more dangers’.

Pakistan Prime Minister’s Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said the imperative of strategic stability was an important dimension of Pakistan-India relations.

“There is need for credible minimum deterrence as instability has consequences with far more dangers,” he said while addressing an international conference on ‘Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints’ organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute.

Aziz claimed that Pakistan is maintaining “minimum nuclear deterrence” for peace and stability in the region and called upon the international community to desist from policies and actions that undermine strategic stability in South Asia.

He stated that supply of weapon systems widens the existing conventional capabilities in the region.

Aziz regretted that the world has not fully recognised the dangers posed to the peace and stability in the region.

On the Kashmir issue, Aziz was quoted as saying by Radio Pakistan that, “India was responding to indigenous struggle of Kashmiris for their right of self-determination by denial and illusion.”

He criticised India for terming the “Kashmiri struggle” as terrorism and declaring Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part.

“India must understand ground realities and recognise the indigenous nature of right to self-determination movement” in Kashmir, he was quoted as saying.

Aziz said during negotiations with India, Pakistan would continue to seek normalisation of relationship and promoting steps that would pave the way for settlement of all lingering disputes including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the NSG issue, Aziz called for criteria-based and non-discriminatory approach for the membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), asserting that otherwise it will affect the strategic stability in the region.

He said Pakistan's application for NSG membership should be evaluated on the basis of fair criterion. Aziz regretted India's opposition to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor project, saying it is based on "no apparent reason".

Aziz alleged that India is doing so to obstruct Pakistan's path towards progress and development. He claimed that the "Indian hegemonic temptations" and aggressive posture undermine regional cooperation.

Aziz said Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it cannot remain aloof from the prevailing situation in the region.

He accused India of "sponsoring and fomenting" terrorism in Pakistan. Aziz also alleged that India had increased violations along the Line of Control to put constraints on Pakistan's ability to deploy more troops on the western border.

# FIRSTPOST.

## Sartaj Aziz says 'credible minimum deterrence' needed for stability in Indo-Pak relations

Nov 22, 2016 17:27 IST

[#China](#) [#China Pakistan Economic Corridor project](#) [#India](#) [#Indo-Pak tensions](#) [#Islamabad](#) [#Jammu and Kashmir](#) [#Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) [#NSG](#) [#Pakistan](#) [#Sartaj Aziz](#) [#South Asia](#)

By [PTI](#)

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First Published On : Nov 22, 2016 17:27 IST

# THE HINDU

INTERNATIONAL

## Credible minimum deterrence needed for regional stability: Aziz



PTI

ISLAMABAD: NOVEMBER 22, 2016 17:06 IST

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“India must understand ground realities and recognise the indigenous nature of right to self-determination movement” in Kashmir, he was quoted as saying.

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# THE ECONOMIC TIMES

## **Solution to Kashmir issue vital for regional peace: Sartaj Aziz**

By IANS | Updated: Nov 22, 2016, 03.46 PM IST

[Post a Comment](#)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's foreign policy chief Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday said that solution to the Kashmir issue was vital for peace in South Asia.

Speaking at a conference on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints', Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Foreign Policy Advisor Aziz also spoke about "possible threats" due to "Indian brutality" in the area, [Dunya News](#) reported.

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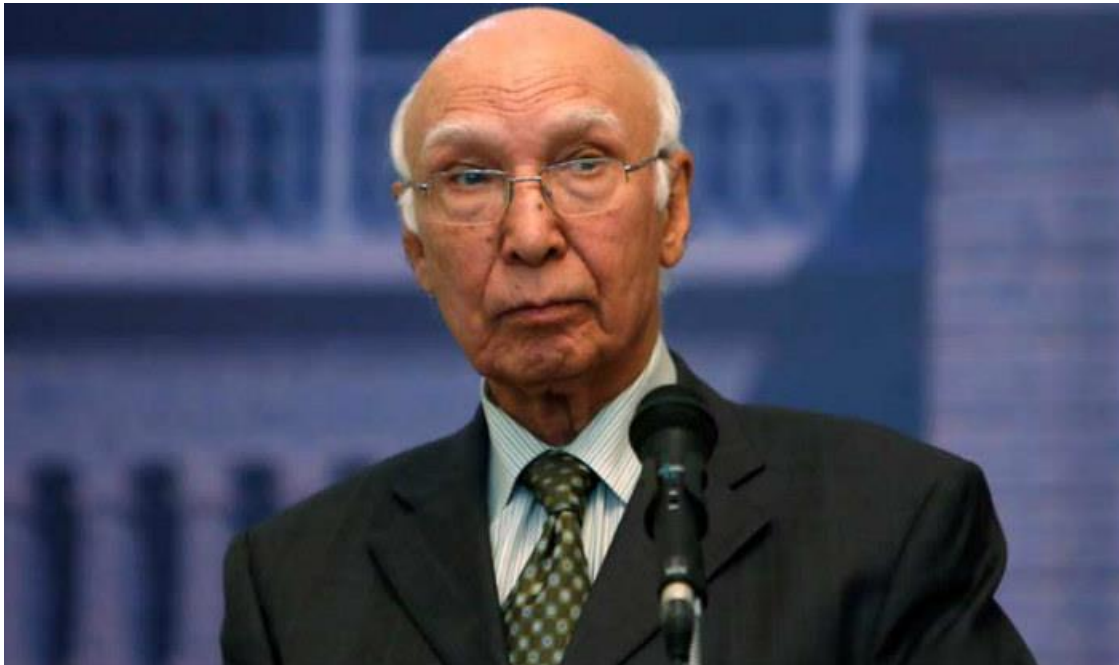
## **Solution to Kashmir issue vital for regional peace: Sartaj Aziz**

He accused India of continuously "violating" ceasefire on the Line of Control despite peace initiatives by Pakistan and committing "atrocities" in Jammu and Kashmir. Aziz said both countries should sort out issues through mutual negotiation and cooperation.

By [Indo-Asian News Service](#) | Published: November 22, 2016 3:00 PM IST  
Solution to Kashmir issue vital for regional peace: Sartaj Aziz

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mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it can not remain aloof from the prevailing situation in the region”.



## **Solution to Kashmir issue vital for regional peace: Aziz**

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# **Business Standard**

## **Credible minimum deterrence needed for regional stability:Aziz**

Press Trust of India | Islamabad November 22, 2016 Last Updated at 17:02 IST

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Institute.

Aziz claimed that [Pakistan](#) is maintaining "minimum nuclear deterrence" for peace and stability in the region and called upon the international community to desist from policies and actions that undermine strategic stability in South Asia.

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He criticised [India](#) for terming the "Kashmiri struggle" as terrorism and declaring Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part.

"[India](#) must understand ground realities and recognise the indigenous nature of right to self-determination movement" in Kashmir, he was quoted as saying.

Aziz said during negotiations with India, [Pakistan](#) would continue to seek normalisation of relationship and promoting steps that would pave the way for settlement of all lingering disputes including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the NSG issue, Aziz called for criteria-based and non-discriminatory approach for the membership of the [Nuclear Suppliers Group](#) (NSG), asserting that otherwise it will affect the strategic stability in the region.

He said Pakistan's application for NSG membership should be evaluated on the basis of fair criterion. (Reopens FGN 27)

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Aziz alleged that [India](#) is doing so to obstruct Pakistan's path towards progress and development.

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Aziz said [Pakistan](#) believes in peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it cannot remain aloof from the prevailing situation in the region.

He accused [India](#) of "sponsoring and fomenting" terrorism in Pakistan. Aziz also alleged that [India](#) had increased violations along the Line of Control to put constraints on Pakistan's ability to deploy more troops on the western border.

## Defense News

Defense News , Get Latest  
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# India obstructing CPEC through terrorism: Sartaj

[Defense Alert](#) [Defence Update](#), [IFTTT](#)

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday has said India is involved in carrying out terrorism in order to obstruct the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Sartaj Aziz regretted India's opposition to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which, he said, was aimed at obstructing Pakistan's path towards progress and development. He said Pakistan sacrificed around 70,000 lives in fight against terrorism.



Addressing as chief guest at the International Conference on Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia Incentives and Constraints organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) the adviser said mutual conflicts among countries were a hurdle to progress and stability and had

disturbed global peace for last one decade.

He said that Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity however, would not remain aloof to the risks of strategic imbalance in the region.

Sartaj Aziz called upon the international community to desist from policies and actions that undermine strategic stability in South Asia. He said India was also promoting arms race in the region however mentioned that Pakistan was maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region.

He said inclusion of India in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) would disturb balance of power in the region adding that Pakistan was advocating a non-discriminatory and criteria based approach by the NSG member countries.

Sartaj said Indian activism was a severe threat to region's one billion population and said India was involved in carrying out terrorist and subversive activities in Pakistan. He mentioned that besides committing violations at the Line of Control India was also using heavy weaponry at border with Pakistan.

He said Pakistan was making efforts for peace in Afghanistan in its own interest. Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz Tuesday said in the Senate that dossier on the activities of Kulbhushan Yadev, a serving Indian naval officer, caught red-handed while spying in Pakistan, will be presented to world fora shortly.

Aziz, while briefing the House over a report of the Senate's committee of the whole that had made certain recommendations over the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, said that almost all the recommendations made the by Senate panel, had been implemented.

He reiterated that Pakistan was ready for resumption of meaningful dialogue with India for resolution of all outstanding issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He said a full-time foreign minister would be appointed in future.

Aziz said in addition to intensity in Indian firing across the Line of Control (LoC), which had claimed 30 lives, including women and girls recently, Indian sub-marine had also violated Pakistan's territorial waters, trampling international laws.

“The prime minister presented a dossier on Indian atrocities in Indian Occupied Kashmir to UN Secretary General in September in New York. This dossier has been shared with other key countries and international organisations. Another dossier on the activities of Kulbhushan Yadev will also be finalised in near future”, he added.

On a proposal to hiring international lobbyists and strategic communication firms and reactivate Pakistani community living abroad to change global narrative, he said that action was being taken, adding the role of international lobbyists had indeed become crucial to project our position and pursue foreign policy objectives.

“The missions are also keeping close liaison with the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora. Our missions abroad including in New Delhi are making outreach efforts to highlight the extremist Indian policies,” Aziz added.

About countering India’s initiatives to demoralize/isolate Pakistan particularly amongst neighbours of Pakistan, Saarc members and members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), he said that all out efforts were being made to counter the nefarious motives of India, and it would not succeed in its motives. “The efforts to cultivate Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Iran and the Central Asian republics plus Russia are being redoubled, for which parliamentarians and parliamentary committees playing important roles,” he added.

He said that Pakistan was making all outreach efforts to engage the international community including regional countries, adding we would continue to rely on support of our parliament and parliamentarians.

The adviser said that Pakistan was continuing to support all initiatives taken for peace and stability in the region, adding under the guidance of the prime minister, the government has pursued a policy of peaceful neighborhood since June 2013. “Pakistan remains actively involved in the Heart of Asia (Istanbul Process) as well as the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG). The Heart of Asia Ministerial meeting held in Islamabad in December 2015 was a success. Pakistan’s commitment to regional peace and stability is evident from our decision to participate in the upcoming Heart of Asia Ministerial in Amritsar, India despite the postponement of Saarc Summit which was to be held in Islamabad at India’s behest”, he added.

About appointing a full-time foreign minister, he said that the adviser to the prime minister was a position equal to the foreign minister, and the adviser was treated as de facto foreign minister abroad. “But, a full time foreign minister will also be appointed in future”, he added.

Aziz said that Pakistan was ready to resume meaningful dialogue with India to resolve all outstanding issues including the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir through comprehensive and composite talks.

He said Pakistan had also welcomed UN Secretary General's offer to use his good offices to resume dialogue between the two countries. He said Pakistan was committed to respect the understanding reached between the two countries in 2003 to observe ceasefire on LoC.

Aziz said that Pakistan wanted peace in the region and was fighting terrorism and there was no room for non-state actors on Pakistan's soil, adding India could not revoke Indus Water Treaty unilaterally.

The Senate passed a unanimous resolution, condemning missile attack on Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah by launching a long-range ballistic missile from 500km over the border last month.

The resolution was moved by leader of the house Raja Muhammad Zafarul Haq in the Senate, which stated that the Senate strongly condemns launching of ballistic missile towards Makkah on October 27, 2016 which was luckily intercepted by air defence forces of Saudi Arabia and destroyed.

The resolution called upon the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) and UN Security Council to take serious notice of 'flouting of inviolability of holy places which amounts to encroaching upon religious sanctity of one billion Muslims across the world as stipulated in international convention.'

"Representing the sentiments of Pakistanis and Muslim world as a whole, Senate strongly condemns such actions which amount to provoking the sentiments and feelings of Muslims," it added.

It called upon the government to reassure its full support to Saudi Arabia towards protection of sanctity of the holy places which ties together the Muslims throughout the world.

The Senate passed four bills unanimously, which included: The Pakistan Engineering Council (Amendment) Bill 2016 The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill 2016, The Central law Officer (Amendment) Bill 2016 and The Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill 2016.

Source:- THE NEWS PK



India obstructing CPEC through terrorism: Sartaj Published November 23, 2016  
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including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He said a full-time foreign minister would be appointed in future. Aziz said in addition to intensity in Indian firing across the Line of Control (LoC), which had claimed 30 lives, including women and girls recently, Indian sub-marine had also violated Pakistan's territorial waters, trampling international laws. "The prime minister presented a dossier on Indian atrocities in Indian Occupied Kashmir to UN Secretary General in September in New York. This dossier has been shared with other key countries and international organisations. Another dossier on the activities of Kulbushan Yadev will also be finalised in near future", he added. On a proposal to hiring international lobbyists and strategic communication firms and reactivate Pakistani community living abroad to change global narrative, he said that action was being taken, adding the role of international lobbyists had indeed become crucial to project our position and pursue foreign policy objectives. "The missions are also keeping close liaison with the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora. Our missions abroad including in New Delhi are making outreach efforts to highlight the extremist Indian policies," Aziz added. About countering India's initiatives to demoralize/isolate Pakistan particularly amongst neighbours of Pakistan, Saarc members and members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), he said that all out efforts were being made to counter the nefarious motives of India, and it would not succeed in its motives. "The efforts to cultivate Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Iran and the Central Asian republics plus Russia are being redoubled, for which parliamentarians and parliamentary committees playing important roles," he added. He said that Pakistan was making all outreach efforts to engage the international community including regional countries, adding we would continue to rely on support of our parliament and parliamentarians. The adviser said that Pakistan was continuing to support all initiatives taken for peace and stability in the region, adding under the guidance of the prime minister, the government has pursued a policy of peaceful neighborhood since June 2013. "Pakistan remains actively involved in the Heart of Asia (Istanbul Process) as well as the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG). The Heart of Asia Ministerial meeting held in Islamabad in December 2015 was a success. Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and stability is evident from our decision to participate in the upcoming Heart of Asia Ministerial in Amritsar, India despite the postponement of Saarc Summit which was to be held in Islamabad at India's behest", he added. About appointing a full-time foreign minister, he said that the adviser to the prime minister was a position equal to the foreign minister, and the adviser was treated as de facto foreign minister abroad. "But, a full time foreign minister will also be appointed in future", he added. Aziz said that Pakistan was ready to resume meaningful dialogue with India to resolve all outstanding issues including the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir through comprehensive and composite talks. He said Pakistan had also welcomed UN Secretary General's offer to use his good offices to resume dialogue between the two countries. He said Pakistan was committed to respect the



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Posted in India

### *Minimum N-deterrence only for peace: Sartaj*

Home / Today's Paper / National / Minimum N-deterrence only for peace: Sartaj

November 23, 2016

Print : [National](#)

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday said Pakistan was maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region.

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He pointed out that supply of weapons system widened the existing conventional capabilities. He regretted that the world had not fully recognised the dangers posed to the peace and stability in the region.

Sartaj also called for criteria-based and non-discriminatory approach for membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), saying otherwise it would affect the strategic stability in the region. "Our application for the membership of the NSG should be evaluated on the basis of fair criterion," he added.

Sartaj regretted that India was responding to indigenous struggle of Kashmiris for their right of self-determination by denial and illusion. He referred to India's propaganda to term Kashmiri struggle as terrorism and declare Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part. He said India must understand ground realities and recognise the indigenous nature of right to self-determination movement in Occupied Kashmir.

The adviser on foreign affairs said during negotiations with India, Pakistan would continue to seek normalisation of relationship and promoting steps that would pave the way for settlement of all lingering disputes, including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said another important dimension of Pakistan-India relations was the imperative of strategic stability. "There is a need for credible minimum deterrence as instability has consequences with far more dangers."

Sartaj also regretted India's opposition to China Pakistan Economic Corridor, saying it was based on no apparent reason. He said India was doing so to obstruct Pakistan's path towards progress and development. He said Indian hegemonic temptations and aggressive posture undermined regional cooperation.

Sartaj said, "Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it cannot remain aloof to the prevailing situation in the region."

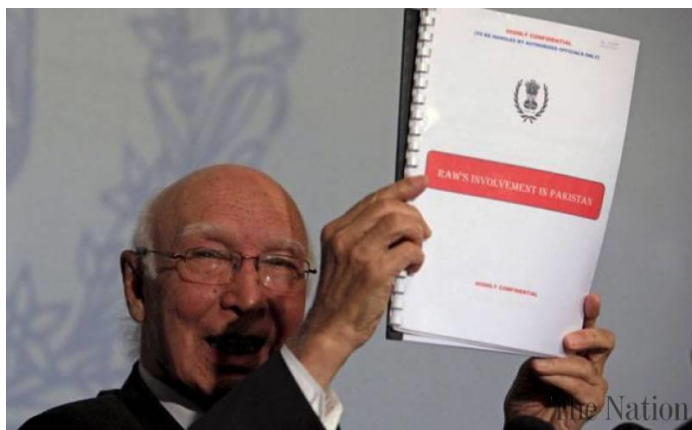
He said India continued to sponsor and foment terrorism in Pakistan and had also increased violations at the Line of Control "to put constraints to our ability to deploy more troops on the western border". Referring to the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan in the war on terror, the adviser on foreign affairs said that "the country remains the major victim of the menace".

# The Nation

## RAW behind terrorism in Pakistan: Sartaj Aziz

November 22, 2016, 2:57 pm

**Islamabad:** Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz has said that the Indian spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) is behind terrorism in Pakistan.



While addressing International Conference on "Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia in Islamabad He pointed out that supply of weapons system widens the existing conventional capabilities in the region. He regretted that the world has not fully recognized the dangers posed to the peace and stability in the region.

He also called for criteria-based and non-discriminatory approach for membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, otherwise it will affect the strategic stability in the region. He said our application for the membership of the NSG should be evaluated on the basis of fair criterion.

He regretted that India was responding to indigenous struggle of Kashmiris for their right of self-determination by denial and illusion. He referred to India's propaganda to term Kashmiri struggle as terrorism and declare Jammu and Kashmir as integral part. He said India must understand ground realities and recognize the indigenous nature of right to self determination movement in occupied Kashmir.

The Advisor on Foreign Affairs said during negotiations with India, Pakistan would continue to seek normalization of relationship and promoting steps that would pave the way for settlement of all lingering dispute including the core dispute of Jammu and

Kashmir.

He said another important dimension of Pakistan-India relations is the imperative of strategic stability. There is need for credible minimum deterrence as instability has consequences with far more dangers. He said Pakistan is maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region.

The Adviser regretted India's opposition to China Pakistan Economic Corridor project saying it is based on no apparent reason. He said India is doing so to obstruct Pakistan's path towards progress and development. He said Indian hegemonic temptations and aggressive posture undermines regional cooperation.

Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it can not remain aloof from the prevailing situation in the region. He said India continues to sponsor and foment terrorism in Pakistan and has also increased violations on line of control to put constraints to our ability to deploy more troops on the western border.

Referring to the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan in the war on terror, the Adviser on Foreign Affairs said that the country remains the major victim of the menace.

**THE EXPRESS**  
**TRIBUNE**

## ‘India refused to take talks offer’

By Our Correspondent

Published: November 23, 2016

**ISLAMABAD:** Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani on Tuesday said that the Business Advisory Committee of the House has taken serious notice of India's ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC).

The Senate Committee of the Whole House, which had been constituted to formulate policy guidelines for the government on Pakistan-India relations with particular reference to Kashmir, also decided to meet again, and review and submit its recommendations again in light of the prevailing situation.

The committee had finalised 22 recommendations, including restoration of backchannel talks between the two countries during its in-camera meeting held in October and presided over by the Senate chairman.

### **Pakistan rejects India's 'mutilation of soldier's body' claim**

” Pakistan will participate in the forthcoming Heart of Asia Conference despite India not participating in the Saarc summit  
Adviser Sartaj Aziz

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, while briefing the upper house over the implementation of the committee's earlier recommendations, said: “The situation along the LoC has further



deteriorated as a result of unprovoked Indian shelling that has killed at least 30 people, including women and children, and another 110 were injured.”

“Pakistan condemns India's ceasefire violations,” Aziz said, adding, “Pakistan will participate in the forthcoming Heart of Asia Conference in Amritsar despite the fact that India did not participate in the Saarc summit, earlier scheduled for this November in Islamabad.”

The adviser said the country's armed forces have given a befitting response to India's violations along the LoC.

“The OIC is taking a deep interest in the Kashmir issue.”

He said a positive response from India to backchannel diplomacy was necessary for peace talks to progress. “However, the response was not positive.”

### **Govt to step up diplomatic drive on Kashmir issue**

Aziz said the IT ministry has been asked to highlight Indian aggression in Occupied Kashmir at the international level, adding that Pakistan has prepared a dossier of Indian interference in Pakistan with special reference to Kulbhushan Yadav.

“The dossier will be shared at international forums.”

He also told the upper house that a full-time foreign minister would be appointed at a suitable time with the approval of the Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, addressing a conference on ‘Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints’ organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), the adviser said Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

“However, it would not remain aloof to the risks of strategic imbalance in the region.”

Aziz called upon the international community to desist from policies and actions that undermine strategic stability in South Asia and pointed out that the supply of weapons system widens the existing conventional capabilities in the region. (TRANSLATION BY ARSHAD SHAHEEN WITH ADDITIONAL INPUT FROM APP)

*Published in The Express Tribune, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.*



## India behind terrorism in Pakistan, says Aziz



By Tarique Siyal

23-Nov-16

**ISLAMABAD:** Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz has said that India is directly involved in sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan and also trying to destabilise the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

Speaking at the inaugural of two days international conference on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints' organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute and the Hanns Seidel Foundation here on Tuesday, Aziz said the India's bid to isolate Pakistan was only a myopic thinking and a futile attempt to assuage the local populace. "Pakistan cannot remain aloof to the imbalance of strategic stability created in the region due to the lopsided western policies."

In an indirect reference to India, the adviser said the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) had fallen prey to hegemonic designs of one the regional countries. He; however, said Pakistan believed that SAARC had the potential

to promote peace, development and stability in South Asia. India, he said, had increased ceasefire violations at the LoC to constrain Pakistan Army's ability to deploy more resources on the western borders with Afghanistan. Aziz said India's opposing of the CPEC was tantamount to obstruct economic development of Pakistan. He said Pakistan was exercising maximum restraint in the wake of region's growing geo-strategic imbalance. He urged international community to adopt a balanced approach rather than taking sides.

He said the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) should adopt a non-discriminatory approach for membership of the countries, which had never been a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Former foreign minister Inamul Haq demanded dialogue between Pakistan and India without any conditions attached. He said terrorism was not in interest of any country.

Dr Moonis Ahmar, dean Faculty of Social Sciences University of Karachi, said economic dividends of peace would substantially improve quality of life of more than one billion people in terms of better education, health, housing and transport facilities. Dr Huang Ying, associate researcher from the Institute of World Economic Relations, China, said the 'One Belt One Road' initiative and The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) had the potential to help South Asia, a region considered the least connected in terms of infrastructure, trade and investments, to prosper economically.

Dayani Pomogoda from Sri Lanka stressed the need of economic cooperation, bilateral and regional trade and people to people contact for regional development. Brigadier General (r) Dharma Bahadur Baniya from Nepal said South Asia was going through a phase of economic transformation from low to high growth, but persistent shortage of energy had been a major factor in restricting the region's rapid upward trajectory.

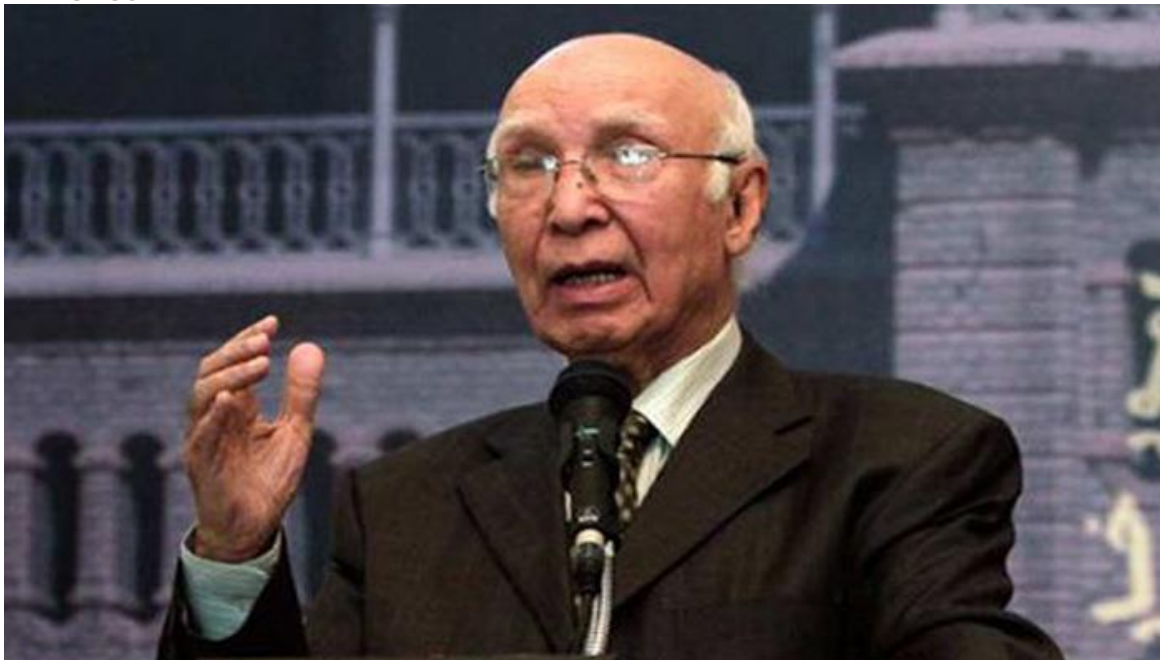




## Pakistan maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace in region: Sartaj

• National

2 DAYS AGO BY INP



Pakistan has called upon the international community to desist from policies and actions that undermine strategic stability in South Asia.

The call came from Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz while addressing International Conference on “Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints”, organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute in the capital today.

He pointed out that supply of weapons system widens the existing conventional capabilities in the region. He regretted that the world has not fully recognised the dangers posed to the peace and stability in the region.

The Advisor also called for a criteria-based and non-discriminatory approach for membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group; otherwise, it will affect the strategic stability in the region. He said our application for the membership of the NSG should be evaluated on the basis of fair criterion.

Sartaj Aziz regretted that India was responding to the indigenous struggle of Kashmiris for their right of self-determination by denial and illusion. He referred to India's propaganda to term Kashmiri struggle as terrorism and declare Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part.

He said, "India must understand ground realities and recognise the indigenous nature of the right to self-determination movement in occupied Kashmir."

The Advisor on Foreign Affairs said during negotiations with India, Pakistan would continue to seek normalisation of relationship and promoting steps that would pave the way for settlement of all lingering dispute including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Another important dimension of Pakistan-India relations is the imperative of strategic stability. There is a need for credible minimum deterrence as instability has consequences with far more dangers," Sartaj Aziz said.

"Pakistan is maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region," Aziz said.

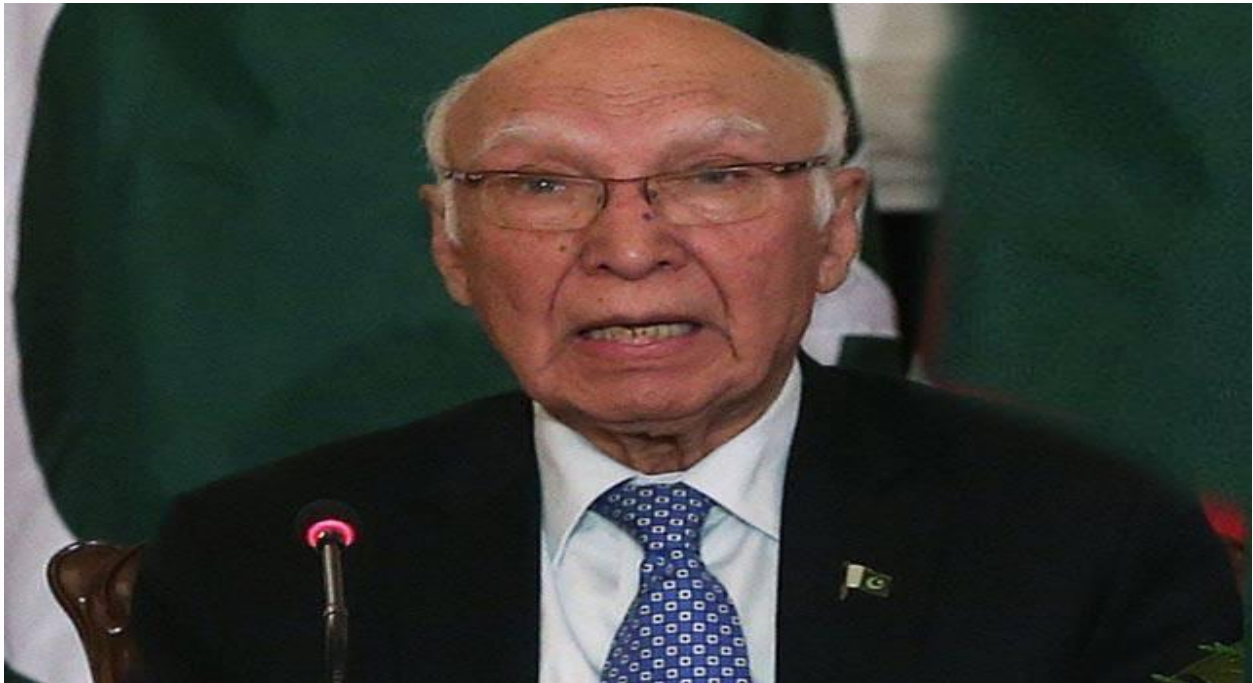
The Adviser regretted India's opposition to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project saying it is based on no apparent reason. He said India is doing so to obstruct Pakistan's path towards progress and development. He said Indian hegemonic temptations and aggressive posture undermines regional cooperation.

Sartaj Aziz said, "Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it cannot remain aloof from the prevailing situation in the region."

"India continues to sponsor and foment terrorism in Pakistan and has also increased violations on the line of control to put constraints on our ability to deploy more troops on the western border," he said.

Referring to the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan in the war on terror, the Adviser on Foreign Affairs said that the country remains the major victim of the menace

## **Solution to Kashmir issue vital for regional peace: Aziz**



BY AGENCIES|NOVEMBER 22, 2016, 03:55 PM

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan's foreign policy chief Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday said that solution to the Kashmir issue was vital for peace in South Asia.

Speaking at a conference on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints', Prime Minister Nawaz

Sharif's Foreign Policy Advisor Aziz also spoke about "possible threats" due to "Indian brutality" in the area, Dunya News reported.

He accused India of continuously "violating" ceasefire on the Line of Control despite peace initiatives by Pakistan and committing "atrocities" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Aziz said both countries should sort out issues through mutual negotiation and cooperation.

He said "Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it can not remain aloof from the prevailing situation in the region".



## 30 civilians killed in recent LoC violations by India: Sartaj

By admin -

November 22, 2016

129

ISLAMABAD: November 22 - Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz addressing to national conference titled Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints organized by IPRI.

**ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday said at least 30 civilians including women and children have been killed during recent Line of Control (LoC) violations by India.**



Addressing the Senate, he said Pakistani forces respond in a befitting manner to Indian LoC violations, saying an Indian submarine also violated Pakistan's territorial integrity.

Adviser on Foreign Affairs has said Pakistan is ready to resume meaningful dialogue with India to resolve all outstanding issues including the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir through comprehensive and composite talks.

He informed the House about the steps taken in light of the guidelines and recommendation sent by Senate Committee. He called for an urgent restoration of back channel talks with India.

Sartaj said Pakistan has also welcomed UN Secretary General's offer to use his good offices to resume dialogue between the two countries. He said Pakistan is committed to respect the understanding reached between the two countries in 2003 to observe the ceasefire on LoC.

He said India has committed over three hundred ceasefire violations in this year alone and our forces are giving befitting response. Sartaj Aziz said India is trying to divert world attention from the atrocities being committed in Occupied Kashmir by increasing escalation with Pakistan.

He said voices are also being raised from within the Indian society against Narendra Modi's extremist and anti-Pakistan policies. The adviser said the international community including the OIC is taking notice of grave human rights violations in the Occupied Kashmir.

Sartaj said OIC has also requested the Indian authorities to allow its fact-finding mission on human right violations in the held valley but New Delhi is not allowing that mission.

He said Pakistan wants peace in the region and fighting terrorism. He said there is no room for non-state actor using Pakistan's soil against any country. He said India cannot revoke Indus Water Treaty unilaterally.

The House will now meet again tomorrow at 2pm.

For nearly three months now, Indian forces have been violating the ceasefire agreement along the LoC and the Working Boundary. The aggressive posturing and continuing unprovoked fire by India has resulted in martyrdom of a number of Pakistani civilians and military troops.

Pakistan has repeatedly protested against the border violations on the diplomatic level, while the Pakistan Army and Rangers have also been responding to the Indian firing and shelling in a befitting manner.-Web Desk



# The Pioneer



## India cannot isolate Pakistan in the region: Sartaj

November 22, 2016 Monitoring Desk Top Stories0 Comments



The Indian design to try to isolate Pakistan in the region and the world is only myopic thinking and a futile attempt to assuage the local populace. Pakistan cannot remain aloof to the imbalance of strategic stability created in the region due to the lopsided western policies. We have always supported efforts to maintain strategic balance in the region and has exercised strategic restraint. Pakistan will continue to ensure that this strategic balance is maintained.' This was shared by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while delivering his inaugural address at the international conference on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia- Incentives and Constraints' organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute and Hanns Seidel Foundation. Reflecting on ways and means to establish peace and cooperation in South Asia, the Advisor shared that the region is faced with multi-dimensional threats warranting multi-pronged strategies. With all the ingredients for sustained conflict already in place, South Asia becomes an exceptional case where internal conflict and violence among States over resources can easily spill over, threatening regional peace and stability. Equally important are the political conflicts in South Asia that emanate from longstanding, unresolved disputes. It is a well-known fact that peace has remained elusive and alien to this region as a result of these

conflicts, he remarked. 'The only regional organization i.e. SAARC has fallen prey to the hegemonic designs of one of the countries in our region, ignoring the important lesson of history that in all successful experiments of regional cooperation like the EU and ASEAN, the bigger countries avoided hegemonic temptations. 'Pakistan believes that SAARC has the potential to promote peace, development and stability in South Asia. This requires positive engagement from all the Member Countries. In scuttling the SAARC Summit, India has damaged SAARC not Pakistan.' He expressed apprehension that India continues to pressure Pakistan, by sponsoring terrorism inside the country to foment separatism. India has increased ceasefire violations on the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir to constrain Pakistan Army's ability to deploy more resources on the western borders with Afghanistan, he highlighted.

Regrettably, India is also openly opposing China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for no apparent reason than to obstruct the economic development of Pakistan. He emphasised that Pakistan was exercising maximum restraint in the face of the region's growing geostrategic imbalance. The international community should pay attention and adopt a balanced approach rather than taking sides. Pakistan cannot remain aloof to the lopsided policies of the West, he said. Mr Aziz stressed the need for NSG to adopt a non-discriminatory criteria-based approach for NSG membership of countries which have never been party to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and highlighted the brutalities in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK) against innocent and defenceless civilians, who were peacefully protesting and struggling for the realization of their right to self-determination. He said that India is under the delusion that Kashmiri uprising is terrorism. Riding on this denial and delusions, it holds Pakistan responsible for the crisis in Indian-Occupied Kashmir and continues to perpetrate grave human rights violations. 'For peace in Kashmir, India must face the ground realities and recognize indigenous nature of the Kashmiri movement for the right to self determination. 'Pakistan will continue to seek normalisation of relations with India because as a responsible state, we realize the imperative of strategic stability and need for credible minimum deterrence,' he emphasised.

In his address, Ambassador (Retd.) Sohail Amin welcomed the delegates from Nepal, China, Afghanistan, France and Sri Lanka. He said 'it is not military muscle which is a symbol of state status, rather it is their contribution towards meeting the common challenges of peace and prosperity, which is a real emblem of status.' According to Ambassador Amin, the traditional trend of projection of power is no more relevant in today's globalized world. There is now a clear distinction between states – which are enhancing their power for dominance and others which are making their contributions to meet the challenges of peace, prosperity, and environmental protection. India must realize this in the present day world, he stressed. Pakistan-India conflicting relationship due to their longstanding bilateral disputes, especially Kashmir, India's on-going military modernisation in nuclear and conventional arms, structural limitations of SAARC, lack of infrastructure and uncooperative policy approaches of some countries are causing divisions in South Asia, he shared. 'The postponement of the SAARC summit due to Indian attitude will have a direct bearing on peace and prosperity in South Asia. With



this kind of attitude, consolidation of cooperation in the region would remain an elusive idea', he remarked.

In the session on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Regional Perspectives' chaired by Ambassador InamulHaque, Former Foreign Minister, Ms. DayaniPanagoda, Policy Specialist at German Development Cooperation (GIZ), Colombo, gave the Sri Lankan perspective on the main theme. She said that with China emerging as a trading giant and the economic rise of India, North Korea and Japan, the global economy is shifting its center of gravity from the West to Asia. 'Politically, the unipolar world is in wane and multipolar world is in the making,' she highlighted. According to her, while the world is yet to experience the ideological shifts of global power blocks after the new president enters the White House and the Russian alignment with them, the strategic importance of South Asia has become more relevant, especially with the development of new infrastructure facilities in sea routes and the silk route project in the Indian Ocean. She stressed that South Asia should be poised to reap the harvest of these global shifts in a positive tone.

With increase of trading in the Indian Ocean, there will be opportunities in new economic activities such as shipping, financing, banking, insurance and information technology. But while there are incentives, there are also challenges especially those of terrorism, spread of conventional and non-conventional arms, human trafficking and narcotics smuggling. 'Unequal economic development and rising living standards lead to conflict and violence rather than peace and stability, hence, a regional approach and a joint master plan is required to address these challenges and move on a stable and competitive economic growth', she recommended. Sri Lanka believes that peace in the country is closely linked with peace in the region and in the world. 'Regionally, it is the conflict between India and Pakistan that takes the centre stage of South Asian regional politics and peace. Sri Lanka with its belief in Asia-centric middle-path foreign policy could provide the leadership for a committee represented by all the countries in the region. 'Sri Lanka's current experience in peace-building could be a valuable asset in creating a peaceful South Asian region', she proposed.

Dr. MoonisAhmar, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Meritorious Professor at the University of Karachi, outlined four major changes which will shape things in South Asia once the process of peace and cooperation is unleashed. First, economic dividends of peace will substantially improve the quality of life of more than one billion people in terms of better education, health, housing and transport facilities. Second, when the quality of life of people will improve the menace of intolerance, extremism, radicalization, militancy, violence and terrorism will also be controlled. 'When poverty, economic and social backwardness is deep rooted in a society, extremist and violent forces take advantage of the situation', he stressed. Third, the shift from conflict to cooperation in South Asia can only take place when youth are provided a better sense of direction about their future. Fourth, South Asia will gain prestige in the world only if it transforms from conflict and crisis ridden underdevelopment to peaceful, stable development. 'There is no point in reinventing the wheel, but with an innovative approach based on respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity, focus on human and

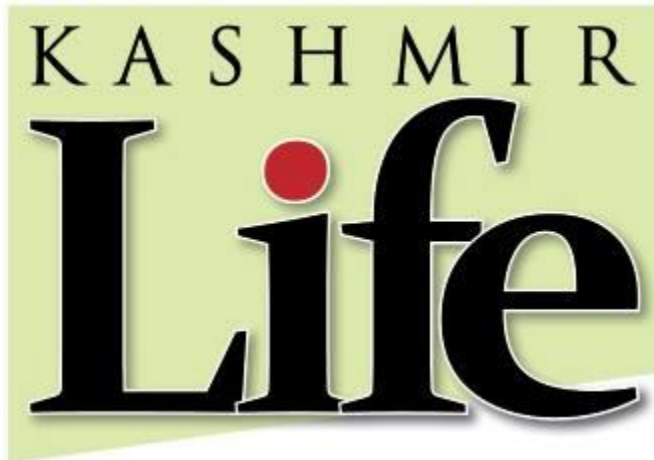
social development can go a long way in guaranteeing regional peace and augment the process of meaningful regional cooperation,' he recommended.

Discussing the 'Dividends of Energy Cooperation in South Asia', Brigadier General (Retd) Dharma Bahadur Baniya from Nepal said that South Asia is going through a phase of economic transformation from low to high growth, but persistent shortage of energy has been a major factor in restricting the region's rapid upward trajectory. In his presentation, he highlighted how existing energy shortages and growing import of fossil fuels impose a heavy cost in terms of energy insecurity. He shared various initiatives for regional energy sector integration by South Asian national governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies. He provided details of key drivers of regional energy cooperation such as the demand-supply gap; need for sustainable energy development; improved reliability of interconnected energy systems; and exploiting opportunities for electricity trade due to energy shortages and limited reserves in the national energy systems. 'Inter-connected power systems can reduce the costs of maintaining reserves across the region,' he pointed out. Regional energy cooperation provides an ideal platform to enable sustainable growth by synergizing the development of resources. Such cooperation in the energy sector will certainly help South Asian nations strengthen national energy security, reduce the costs, adopt clean energy sources and meet the energy requirement for peace, development and cooperation. In his perspective, energy diplomacy can lead to resolution of conflicts between countries. 'India and Pakistan have huge untapped reserves of energy. Collaboration can lend impetus to accelerated growth and development in both countries, which have a huge appetite for energy,' he said.

Summing up the session, Ambassador Inam shared that while there are numerous constraints, incentives for peace should be the region's main drivers towards sustainable development since issues like climate change, poverty, water stress and population explosion are foreboding transnational concerns which will overtake security concerns if they are not resolved, collectively.

'Political, economic and technological factors are exacerbating the challenges to strategic stability in South Asia,' said Syed Muhammad Ali from the Centre for International Strategic Studies. He was speaking on strategic stability and arms control in SA. 'The growing disparity in the land, air, sea, space, strategic and non-kinetic domains between India and Pakistan is a consequence of these geopolitical, geo-economic and technological factors,' he said. Dr Huang Ying, Associate Researcher from the Institute of World Economic Relations, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Beijing, China discussed 'Opportunities for Enhancing FDI in South Asia through OBOR and AIIB projects.' The OBOR initiative is China's response to the 2008 international crisis, to reduce its over-reliance on developed markets and to reduce the income gap between its coastal areas and inner provinces by redefining the importance of its neighboring countries to its economic development, she proclaimed. The OBOR initiative and AIIB have the potential to help South Asia, a region considered the least connected in terms of infrastructure, trade and investments, to prosper economically, she stressed. Professor Khalida Ghaus, Managing Director,

Social Policy and Development Centre, Karachi, emphasized the importance of human security and socioeconomic development. Social sector is the most neglected sector in the whole region, which further adds to the challenges of poverty, malnourishment, unemployment, economic interdependence, regional connectivity, she held



## Pakistan says, 'Resolution of Kashmir vital for regional peace'

### LATEST NEWS

Posted on: Tuesday, November 22nd, 2016

**KL News Network**

**Srinagar**



Sartaj Aziz

Pakistan PM's advisor on foreign affairs, Sartaj Aziz Tuesday said that the solution to the Kashmir issue was vital for peace in South Asia, media reports said.

*Dunya News* reported that Aziz also spoke about "possible threats" due to "Indian brutality" in the area.

Aziz was speaking at a conference on "Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints".

He, according to the report also accused India of continuously "violating" ceasefire on the Line of Control despite peace initiatives by Pakistan and committing "atrocities" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Aziz said both countries should sort out issues through mutual negotiation and cooperation, the report said, adding, "Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it cannot remain aloof from the prevailing situation in the region."



## PAK FORCES GIVING BEFITTING RESPONSE TO UNPROVOKED INDIAN FIRING: SARTAJ

Tuesday, 22 November 2016 19:49

Posted by Fawad Maqsood



35

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz Tuesday, while strongly condemning unprovoked Indian firing over Line of Control (LoC) and Working Boundary, apprised the Senate that the Pakistan's armed forces were giving a befitting response to the Indian shelling and firing.



By resorting to such tactics, India wanted to divert world attention from the atrocities being committed by its Indian forces in the Occupied Kashmir, he said.

Giving point-to-point implementation report on the 22 recommendations and policy guidelines given by the Senate's Committee of Whole about the latest Pak-India relations, the Advisor said the government took pragmatic steps and action was already underway on

most of the recommendations.

Sartaj said a committee headed by the Secretary Foreign Affairs had been constituted for formulating a double and sustainable India/Kashmir policy.



Another committee led by the Secretary Information had been formed for preparing a fact-sheet and counter-propaganda campaign against India, and design and promote a media strategy for continuously highlighting the Kashmiris' freedom struggle.

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# Pakistan not aloof of threats to S.Asia's strategic balance: Sartaj

November 22, 2016  
120



Pakistan not aloof of threats to S.Asia's strategic balance: Sartaj  
ISLAMABAD, Nov 22 (APP): Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday said Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, however would not remain aloof to the risks of strategic imbalance in the region.

Addressing as chief guest at the International Conference on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints' organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), the Adviser said mutual conflicts among countries were a hurdle to progress and stability and had disturbed global peace for last one decade.

Sartaj Aziz called upon the international community to desist from policies and actions that undermine strategic stability in South Asia.

He pointed out that supply of weapons system widens the existing conventional capabilities in the region, which the world had not fully realized.

He said India was also promoting arms race in the region, however mentioned that Pakistan was maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region.

He said inclusion of India in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) would disturb balance of power in the region, adding that Pakistan was advocating a non-discriminatory and criteria-based approach by the NSG member countries.

Sartaj Aziz said Indian activism was a severe threat to region's one billion population and said India was involved in carrying out terrorist and subversive activities in Pakistan.

He mentioned that besides committing violations at the Line of Control, India was also using heavy weaponry at border with Pakistan.

The adviser said Kashmir was the major hurdle in normalization of relations between Pakistan and India.

He said India was avoiding dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir issue and was continuing with its state-terrorism and oppression on innocent Kashmiris in the Occupied valley.

He said India after July 8 had increased its atrocities in IOK and was wrongly equating Kashmiris struggle for self-determination with terrorism.

He stressed that whenever Pakistan would hold a dialogue with India, it would include Kashmir as the main agenda.

Referring to India, the Adviser also pointed that irresponsible attitude of "a country" resulted in postponement of SAARC conference in Pakistan, earlier scheduled for this November.

Sartaj Aziz regretted India's opposition to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which he said was aimed at obstructing Pakistan's path towards progress and development.

He said Pakistan had sacrificed around 70,000 lives in fight against terrorism.

He said Pakistan was making efforts for peace in

## India cannot isolate Pakistan in the region: Sartaj

DNA News | November 22, 2016

The Indian design to try to isolate Pakistan in the region and the world is only myopic thinking and a futile attempt to assuage the local populace. Pakistan cannot remain aloof to the imbalance of strategic stability created in the region due to the lopsided western policies. We have always supported efforts to maintain strategic balance in the region and has exercised strategic restraint. Pakistan will continue to ensure that this strategic balance is maintained.' This was shared by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign



Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while delivering his inaugural address at the international conference on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia- Incentives and Constraints' organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute and Hanns Seidel Foundation. Reflecting on ways and means to establish peace and cooperation in South Asia, the Advisor shared that the region is faced with multi-dimensional threats warranting multi-pronged strategies. With all the ingredients for sustained conflict already in place, South Asia becomes an exceptional case where internal conflict and violence among States over resources can easily spill over, threatening regional peace and stability. Equally important are the political conflicts in South Asia that emanate from longstanding, unresolved disputes. It is a well-known fact that peace has remained elusive and alien to this region as a result of these conflicts, he remarked. 'The only regional organization i.e. SAARC has fallen prey to the hegemonic designs of one of the countries in our region, ignoring the important lesson of history that in all successful experiments of regional cooperation like the EU and ASEAN, the bigger countries avoided hegemonic temptations. 'Pakistan believes that SAARC has the potential to promote peace, development and stability in South Asia. This requires positive engagement from all the Member Countries. In scuttling the SAARC Summit, India has damaged SAARC not Pakistan.' He expressed apprehension that India

continues to pressure Pakistan, by sponsoring terrorism inside the country to foment separatism. India has increased ceasefire violations on the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir to constrain Pakistan Army's ability to deploy more resources on the western borders with Afghanistan, he highlighted.

Regrettably, India is also openly opposing China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for no apparent reason than to obstruct the economic development of Pakistan. He emphasised that Pakistan was exercising maximum restraint in the face of the region's growing geostrategic imbalance. The international community should pay attention and adopt a balanced approach rather than taking sides. Pakistan cannot remain aloof to the lopsided policies of the West, he said. Mr Aziz stressed the need for NSG to adopt a non-discriminatory criteria-based approach for NSG membership of countries which have never been party to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and highlighted the brutalities in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK) against innocent and defenceless civilians, who were peacefully protesting and struggling for the realization of their right to self-determination. He said that India is under the delusion that Kashmiri uprising is terrorism. Riding on this denial and delusions, it holds Pakistan responsible for the crisis in Indian-Occupied Kashmir and continues to perpetrate grave human rights violations. 'For peace in Kashmir, India must face the ground realities and recognize indigenous nature of the Kashmiri movement for the right to self determination. 'Pakistan will continue to seek normalisation of relations with India because as a responsible state, we realize the imperative of strategic stability and need for credible minimum deterrence,' he emphasised.

In his address, Ambassador (Retd.) Sohail Amin welcomed the delegates from Nepal, China, Afghanistan, France and Sri Lanka. He said 'it is not military muscle which is a symbol of state status, rather it is their contribution towards meeting the common challenges of peace and prosperity, which is a real emblem of status.' According to Ambassador Amin, the traditional trend of projection of power is no more relevant in today's globalized world. There is now a clear distinction between states – which are enhancing their power for dominance and others which are making their contributions to meet the challenges of peace, prosperity, and environmental protection. India must realize this in the present day world, he stressed. Pakistan-India conflicting relationship due to their longstanding bilateral disputes, especially Kashmir, India's on-going military modernisation in nuclear and conventional arms, structural limitations of SAARC, lack of infrastructure and uncooperative policy approaches of some countries are causing divisions in South Asia, he shared. 'The postponement of the SAARC summit due to Indian attitude will have a direct bearing on peace and prosperity in South Asia. With this kind of attitude, consolidation of cooperation in the region would remain an elusive idea', he remarked.

In the session on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Regional Perspectives' chaired by Ambassador Inamul Haque, Former Foreign Minister, Ms. Dayani Panagoda, Policy Specialist at German Development Cooperation (GIZ), Colombo, gave the Sri Lankan perspective on the main theme. She said that with China emerging as a trading giant and the economic rise of India, North Korea and Japan, the global economy is shifting its center of gravity from the West to Asia. 'Politically, the unipolar world is in wane and multipolar world is in the making,' she highlighted. According to her, while the world is yet to experience the ideological shifts of global power blocks after the new president enters the White House and the Russian alignment with them, the strategic importance of South Asia has become more relevant, especially with the development of new infrastructure facilities in sea routes and the silk route project in the Indian Ocean. She stressed that South Asia should be poised to reap the harvest of these global shifts in a positive tone.



With increase of trading in the Indian Ocean, there will be opportunities in new economic activities such as shipping, financing, banking, insurance and information technology. But while there are incentives, there are also challenges especially those of terrorism, spread of conventional and non-conventional arms, human trafficking and narcotics smuggling. 'Unequal economic development and rising living standards lead to conflict and violence rather than peace and stability, hence, a regional approach and a joint master plan is required to address these challenges and move on a stable and competitive economic growth', she recommended. Sri Lanka believes that peace in the country is closely linked with peace in the region and in the world. 'Regionally, it is the conflict between India and Pakistan that takes the centre stage of South Asian regional politics and peace. Sri Lanka with its belief in Asia-centric middle-path foreign policy could provide the leadership for a committee represented by all the countries in the region. 'Sri Lanka's current experience in peace-building could be a valuable asset in creating a peaceful South Asian region', she proposed.

Dr. MoonisAhmar, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Meritorious Professor at the University of Karachi, outlined four major changes which will shape things in South Asia once the process of peace and cooperation is unleashed. First, economic dividends of peace will substantially improve the quality of life of more than one billion people in terms of better education, health, housing and transport facilities. Second, when the quality of life of people will improve the menace of intolerance, extremism, radicalization, militancy, violence and terrorism will also be controlled. 'When poverty, economic and social backwardness is deep rooted in a society, extremist and violent forces take advantage of the situation', he stressed. Third, the shift from conflict to cooperation in South Asia can only take place when youth are provided a better sense of direction about their future. Fourth, South Asia will gain prestige in the world only if it transforms from conflict and crisis ridden underdevelopment to peaceful, stable development. 'There is no point in reinventing the wheel, but with an innovative approach based on respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity, focus on human and social development can go a long way in guaranteeing regional peace and augment the process of meaningful regional cooperation,' he recommended.

Discussing the 'Dividends of Energy Cooperation in South Asia', Brigadier General (Retd) Dharma BahadurBaniya from Nepal said that South Asia is going through a phase of economic transformation from low to high growth, but persistent shortage of energy has been a major factor in restricting the region's rapid upward trajectory. In his presentation, he highlighted how existing energy shortages and growing import of fossil fuels impose a heavy cost in terms of energy insecurity. He shared various initiatives for regional energy sector integration by South Asian national governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies. He provided details of key drivers of regional energy cooperation such as the demand-supply gap; need for sustainable energy development; improved reliability of interconnected energy systems; and exploiting opportunities for electricity trade due to energy shortages and limited reserves in the national energy systems. 'Inter-connected power systems can reduce the costs of maintaining reserves across the region,' he pointed out. Regional energy cooperation provides an ideal platform to enable sustainable growth by synergizing the development of resources. Such cooperation in the energy sector will certainly help South Asian nations strengthen national energy security, reduce the costs, adopt clean energy sources and meet the energy requirement for peace, development and cooperation. In his perspective, energy diplomacy can lead to resolution of conflicts between countries. 'India and Pakistan have huge untapped reserves of energy. Collaboration can lend impetus to accelerated growth and development in both countries, which have a huge appetite for energy,' he said.

Summing up the session, Ambassador Inam shared that while there are numerous constraints, incentives for peace should be the region's main drivers towards sustainable development since issues like climate change, poverty, water stress and population explosion are foreboding transnational concerns which will overtake security concerns if they are not resolved, collectively.

'Political, economic and technological factors are exacerbating the challenges to strategic stability in South Asia,' said Syed Muhammad Ali from the Centre for International Strategic Studies. He was speaking on strategic stability and arms control in SA. 'The growing disparity in the land, air, sea, space, strategic and non-kinetic domains between India and Pakistan is a consequence of these geopolitical, geo-economic and technological factors,' he said. Dr Huang Ying, Associate Researcher from the Institute of World Economic Relations, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Beijing, China discussed 'Opportunities for Enhancing FDI in South Asia through OBOR and AIIB projects.' The OBOR initiative is China's response to the 2008 international crisis, to reduce its over-reliance on developed markets and to reduce the income gap between its coastal areas and inner provinces by redefining the importance of its neighboring countries to its economic development, she proclaimed. The OBOR initiative and AIIB have the potential to help South Asia, a region considered the least connected in terms of infrastructure, trade and investments, to prosper economically, she stressed. Professor Khalida Ghaus, Managing Director, Social Policy and Development Centre, Karachi, emphasized the importance of human security and socioeconomic development. Social sector is the most neglected sector in the whole region, which further adds to the challenges of poverty, malnourishment, unemployment, economic interdependence, regional connectivity, she held



RADIO PAKISTAN

## PAKISTAN MAINTAINING MINIMUM NUCLEAR DETERRENCE FOR REGIONAL PEACE: SARTAJ



**Advisor on Foreign Affairs regretted India's opposition to China Pakistan Economic Corridor.**

12:23 PM, 22 Nov, 2016

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Pakistan has called upon the international community to desist from policies and actions that undermine strategic stability in South Asia.

The call came from Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz while addressing International Conference on "Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints", organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute in the capital today.

He pointed out that supply of weapons system widens the existing conventional capabilities in the region. He regretted that the world has not fully recognized the dangers posed to the peace and stability in the region.

The Adviser also called for criteria-based and non-discriminatory approach for membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, otherwise it will affect the strategic stability in the region. He said our application for the membership of the NSG should be evaluated on the basis of fair criterion.

Sartaj Aziz regretted that India was responding to indigenous struggle of Kashmiris for their right of self-determination by denial and illusion. He referred to India's propaganda to term Kashmiri struggle as terrorism and declare Jammu and Kashmir as integral part. He said India must understand ground realities and recognize the indigenous nature of right to self determination movement in occupied Kashmir.

The Adviser on Foreign Affairs said during negotiations with India, Pakistan would continue to seek normalization of relationship and promoting steps that would pave the way for settlement of all lingering dispute including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said another important dimension of Pakistan-India relations is the imperative of strategic stability. There is need for credible minimum deterrence as instability has consequences with far more dangers. He said Pakistan is maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region.

The Adviser regretted India's opposition to China Pakistan Economic Corridor project saying it is based on no apparent reason. He said India is doing so to obstruct Pakistan's path towards progress and development. He said Indian hegemonic temptations and aggressive posture undermines regional cooperation.

Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it can not remain aloof from the prevailing situation in the region.

He said India continues to sponsor and foment terrorism in Pakistan and has also increased violations on line of control to put constraints to our ability to deploy more troops on the western border.

Referring to the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan in the war on terror, the Adviser on Foreign Affairs said that the country remains the major victim of the menace.

# Pakistan State Times

ABC CERTIFIED

Published On: Wed, Nov 23rd, 2016

[Country](#) / [Main News](#) | By [admin](#)

## Solution To Kashmir Issue Vital For Regional Peace: Sartaj

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday has said that solution to Kashmir issue is vital for peace in the region.

Speaking at the conference on “Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints”, Sartaj Aziz alerted the international community about possible threats by Indian brutality in the area. He said India is continuously violating ceasefire at Line of Control despite several peace initiatives.–Agencies



# Pakistan not aloof of threats to South Asia's strategic balance: Sartaj

By  
DND

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November 22, 2016

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan: Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday said Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, however would not remain aloof to the risks of strategic imbalance in the region.**

Addressing as chief guest at the International Conference on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints' organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), the Adviser said mutual conflicts among countries were a hurdle to progress and stability and had disturbed global peace for last one decade.

Sartaj Aziz called upon the international community to desist from policies and actions that undermine strategic stability in South Asia.

He pointed out that supply of weapons system widens the existing conventional capabilities in the region, which the world had not fully realized.

He said India was also promoting arms race in the region, however mentioned that Pakistan was maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region.

He said inclusion of India in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) would disturb balance of power in the region, adding that Pakistan was advocating a non-discriminatory and criteria-based approach by the NSG member countries.

Sartaj Aziz said Indian activism was a severe threat to region's one billion population and said India was involved in carrying out terrorist and subversive activities in Pakistan.

He mentioned that besides committing violations at the Line of Control (LoC), India was also using heavy weaponry at border with Pakistan.

The adviser said Kashmir was the major hurdle in normalization of relations between Pakistan and India.

He said India was avoiding dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir issue and was continuing with its state-terrorism and oppression on innocent Kashmiris in the occupied valley.

He said India after July 8 had increased its atrocities in IOK and was wrongly equating Kashmiris struggle for self-determination with terrorism.

He stressed that whenever Pakistan would hold a dialogue with India, it would include Kashmir as the main agenda.

Referring to India, the Adviser also pointed that irresponsible attitude of "a country" resulted in postponement of SAARC conference in Pakistan, earlier scheduled for this November.

Sartaj Aziz regretted India's opposition to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which he said was aimed at obstructing Pakistan's path towards progress and development.

He said Pakistan had sacrificed around 70,000 lives in fight against terrorism.

He said Pakistan was making efforts for peace in Afghanistan in its own interest.



## **Solution to Kashmir issue vital for regional peace: Sartaj Aziz**

Last Updated On 22 November, 2016 03:37 pm

**India is continuously violating ceasefire at LoC despite several peace initiatives, Sartaj Aziz said**  
ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) - Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday has said that solution to Kashmir issue is vital for peace in the region.



Speaking at the conference on "Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints", Sartaj Aziz alerted the international community about possible threats by Indian brutality in the area.

He said India is continuously violating ceasefire at Line of Control despite several peace initiatives.

“Indian forces are trying to shut voices of innocent Kashmiris with atrocities”, he added.

He referred to India s propaganda to term Kashmiri struggle as terrorism and declare Jammu and Kashmir as integral part.

He said another important dimension of Pakistan-India relations is the imperative of strategic stability. He said Pakistan is maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region.

Foreign Affairs representative also expressed wish to sort out issues between both countries by mutual negotiation and cooperation.

Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it can not remain aloof from the prevailing situation in the region.

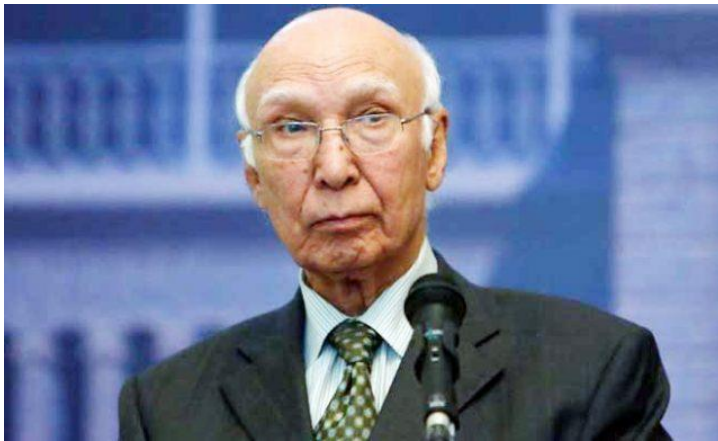
He said India continues to sponsor and foment terrorism in Pakistan and has also increased violations on line of control to put constraints to our ability to deploy more troops on the western border.





## Pakistan not aloof of threats to S.Asia's strategic balance: Sartaj

November 22, 2016



By: Samaa Web Desk

Published in [Pakistan](#)

**ISLAMABAD:** Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday said Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, however would not remain aloof to the risks of strategic imbalance in

the region.

Addressing as chief guest at the International Conference on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints' organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), the Adviser said mutual conflicts among countries were a hurdle to progress and stability and had disturbed global peace for last one decade.

Sartaj Aziz called upon the international community to desist from policies and actions that undermine strategic stability in South Asia.

He pointed out that supply of weapons system widens the existing conventional capabilities in the region, which the world had not fully realized.

He said India was also promoting arms race in the region, however mentioned that Pakistan was maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region.

He said inclusion of India in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) would disturb balance of power in the region, adding that Pakistan was advocating a non-discriminatory and criteria-based approach by the NSG member countries.

Sartaj Aziz said Indian activism was a severe threat to region's one billion population and said India was involved in carrying out terrorist and subversive activities in Pakistan.

He mentioned that besides committing violations at the Line of Control, India was also using heavy weaponry at border with Pakistan.

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He said India was avoiding dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir issue and was continuing with its state-terrorism and oppression on innocent Kashmiris in the Occupied valley.

He said India after July 8 had increased its atrocities in IOK and was wrongly equating Kashmiris struggle for self-determination with terrorism.

He stressed that whenever Pakistan would hold a dialogue with India, it would include Kashmir as the main agenda.

Referring to India, the Adviser also pointed that irresponsible attitude of "a country" resulted in postponement of SAARC conference in Pakistan, earlier scheduled for this November.

Sartaj Aziz regretted India's opposition to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which he said was aimed at obstructing Pakistan's path towards progress and development. He said Pakistan had sacrificed around 70,000 lives in fight against terrorism. He said Pakistan was making efforts for peace in Afghanistan in its own interest.



**Story first published:** 22nd November 2016



## India-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan condemned

By Web Desk November 22, 2016 16:28

**ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called upon the international community to desist from policies and actions that undermine strategic stability in South Asia.**

The call came from Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz while addressing International Conference on “Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints”, organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute in the capital today.



He pointed out that supply of weapons system widens the existing conventional capabilities in the region. He regretted that the world has not fully recognized the dangers posed to the peace and stability in the region.

Sartaj Aziz regretted that India was responding to indigenous struggle of Kashmiris for their right of self-determination by denial and illusion. He referred to India’s propaganda to term

Kashmiri struggle as terrorism and declare Jammu and Kashmir as integral part. He said India must understand ground realities and recognize the indigenous nature of right to self determination movement in occupied Kashmir.

He said another important dimension of Pakistan-India relations is the imperative of strategic stability. There is need for credible minimum deterrence as instability has consequences with far more dangers. He said Pakistan is maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region.

The Advisor also called for criteria-based and non-discriminatory approach for membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, otherwise it will affect the strategic stability in the region. He said our application for the membership of the NSG should be evaluated on the basis of fair criterion.

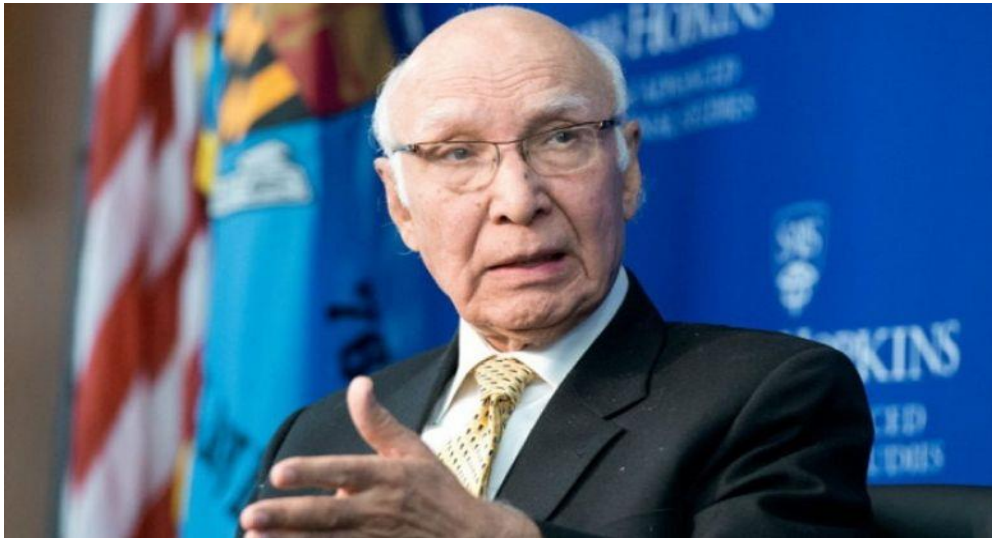
Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it can not remain aloof from the prevailing situation in the region.

He said India continues to sponsor and foment terrorism in Pakistan and has also increased violations on line of control to put constraints to our ability to deploy more troops on the western border.



# SOLUTION TO KASHMIR ISSUE VITAL FOR REGIONAL PEACE: SARTAJ AZIZ

- November 22, 2016
- Written by [News Desk](#)
- Published in [General](#)



**Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday has said that solution to Kashmir issue is vital for peace in the region.**

Speaking at the conference on "Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints", Sartaj Aziz alerted the international community about possible threats by Indian brutality in the area.

He said India is continuously violating ceasefire at Line of Control despite several peace initiatives.

“Indian forces are trying to shut voices of innocent Kashmiris with atrocities”, he added. He referred to India’s propaganda to term Kashmiri struggle as terrorism and declare Jammu and Kashmir as integral part.

He said another important dimension of Pakistan-India relations is the imperative of strategic stability. He said Pakistan is maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region.

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Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity but at the same time it can not remain aloof from the prevailing situation in the region.

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## India obstructing CPEC through terrorism: Sartaj

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23 of november 2016

**ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday has said India is involved in carrying out terrorism in order to obstruct the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).**

Sartaj Aziz regretted India’s opposition to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which, he said, was aimed at obstructing Pakistan’s path towards progress and development. He said Pakistan sacrificed around 70,000 lives in fight against terrorism.

Addressing as chief guest at the International Conference on Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia Incentives and Constraints organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) the adviser said mutual conflicts among countries were a hurdle to progress and stability and had disturbed global peace for last one decade.

He said that Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity however, would not remain aloof to the risks of strategic imbalance in the region.

Sartaj Aziz called upon the international community to desist from policies and actions that undermine strategic stability in South Asia. He said India was also promoting arms race in the region however mentioned that Pakistan was maintaining minimum nuclear deterrence for peace and stability in the region.

He said inclusion of India in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) would disturb balance of power in the region adding that Pakistan was advocating a non-discriminatory and criteria based approach by the NSG member countries.

Sartaj said Indian activism was a severe threat to region's one billion population and said India was involved in carrying out terrorist and subversive activities in Pakistan. He mentioned that besides committing violations at the Line of Control India was also using heavy weaponry at border with Pakistan.

He said Pakistan was making efforts for peace in Afghanistan in its own interest. Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz Tuesday said in the Senate that dossier on the activities of Kulbhushan Yadev, a serving Indian naval officer, caught red-handed while spying in Pakistan, will be presented to world fora shortly.

Aziz, while briefing the House over a report of the Senate's committee of the whole that had made certain recommendations over the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, said that almost all the recommendations made the by Senate panel, had been implemented.

He reiterated that Pakistan was ready for resumption of meaningful dialogue with India for resolution of all outstanding issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He said a full-time foreign minister would be appointed in future.

Aziz said in addition to intensity in Indian firing across the Line of Control (LoC), which had claimed 30 lives, including women and girls recently, Indian sub-marine had also violated Pakistan's territorial waters, trampling international laws.

"The prime minister presented a dossier on Indian atrocities in Indian Occupied Kashmir to UN Secretary General in September in New York. This dossier has been shared with other key countries and international organisations. Another dossier on the activities of Kulbushan Yadev will also be finalised in near future", he added.

On a proposal to hiring international lobbyists and strategic communication firms and reactivate Pakistani community living abroad to change global narrative, he said that action was being taken, adding the role of international lobbyists had indeed become crucial to project our position and pursue foreign policy objectives.

"The missions are also keeping close liaison with the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora. Our missions abroad including in New Delhi are making outreach efforts to highlight the extremist Indian policies," Aziz added.

About countering India's initiatives to demoralize/isolate Pakistan particularly amongst neighbours of Pakistan, Saarc members and members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), he said that all out efforts were being made to counter the nefarious

motives of India, and it would not succeed in its motives. "The efforts to cultivate Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Iran and the Central Asian republics plus Russia are being redoubled, for which parliamentarians and parliamentary committees playing important roles," he added.

He said that Pakistan was making all outreach efforts to engage the international community including regional countries, adding we would continue to rely on support of our parliament and parliamentarians.

The adviser said that Pakistan was continuing to support all initiatives taken for peace and stability in the region, adding under the guidance of the prime minister, the government has pursued a policy of peaceful neighborhood since June 2013. "Pakistan remains actively involved in the Heart of Asia (Istanbul Process) as well as the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG). The Heart of Asia Ministerial meeting held in Islamabad in December 2015 was a success. Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and stability is evident from our decision to participate in the upcoming Heart of Asia Ministerial in Amritsar, India despite the postponement of Saarc Summit which was to be held in Islamabad at India's behest", he added.

About appointing a full-time foreign minister, he said that the adviser to the prime minister was a position equal to the foreign minister, and the adviser was treated as de facto foreign minister abroad. "But, a full time foreign minister will also be appointed in future", he added.

Aziz said that Pakistan was ready to resume meaningful dialogue with India to resolve all outstanding issues including the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir through comprehensive and composite talks.

He said Pakistan had also welcomed UN Secretary General's offer to use his good offices to resume dialogue between the two countries. He said Pakistan was committed to respect the understanding reached between the two countries in 2003 to observe ceasefire on LoC.

Aziz said that Pakistan wanted peace in the region and was fighting terrorism and there was no room for non-state actors on Pakistan's soil, adding India could not revoke Indus Water Treaty unilaterally.

The Senate passed a unanimous resolution, condemning missile attack on Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah by launching a long-range ballistic missile from 500km over the border last month.

The resolution was moved by leader of the house Raja Muhammad Zafarul Haq in the Senate, which stated that the Senate strongly condemns launching of ballistic missile towards Makkah on October 27, 2016 which was luckily intercepted by air defence forces of Saudi Arabia and destroyed.



The resolution called upon the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) and UN Security Council to take serious notice of ‘flouting of inviolability of holy places which amounts to encroaching upon religious sanctity of one billion Muslims across the world as stipulated in international convention.’

“Representing the sentiments of Pakistanis and Muslim world as a whole, Senate strongly condemns such actions which amount to provoking the sentiments and feelings of Muslims,” it added.

It called upon the government to reassure its full support to Saudi Arabia towards protection of sanctity of the holy places which ties together the Muslims throughout the world.

The Senate passed four bills unanimously, which included: The Pakistan Engineering Council (Amendment) Bill 2016 The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill 2016, The Central law Officer (Amendment) Bill 2016 and The Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill 2016.