

South Asian Studies

A Research Journal of South Asian Studies

Vol. 38, No. 1, January – June, 2023, pp. 21 – 36

Pakistan's Response to Indian Naval Strategic Vision

M Usman Askari

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations,
University of Central Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

Email: usman.askari@ucp.edu.pk

Mudassar Ali Iqbal

Undergraduate Student in International Relations, University of Central Punjab,
Lahore, Pakistan.

Received:
May 8, 2023

Revised:
June 19,
2023

Published:
June 23, 2023

ABSTRACT

Pakistan's naval modernization efforts and response to India's naval strategy demonstrate a commitment to regional security and stability. Indian naval strategic vision is expansionist in nature. Indian is race for hegemony and dominance in the Indian Ocean Region has direct implications on the security of Pakistan. This study will include an examination of the modernization of Pakistan's naval fleet, the development of new naval bases, and the cooperation with other countries to enhance Pakistan's naval capabilities. The article tries to explore Pakistan's naval strategy and its response to India's naval capabilities. To measure the behaviors involved in this study, two theoretical frameworks have been used. To highlight the geo-politics of Indian Ocean, Sea Power theory of Alfred Mahan has been used. To explore the essence behind the conducts of actors, broader framework of realism has been employed. The research methodology adopted for this study is qualitative in nature. Being an important state actor and due to its strategic location Pakistan's response carry far reaching impacts on the peace and stability of the Indian Ocean Region. The article concludes with the finding that Indian frantic efforts for domination in the IOR is disturbing balance of power in the region.

Key Words: Defense, Deterrence, Strategic Vision, Cooperation, Hegemony, IOR.

Introduction

The strategic vision of Indian Navy is outlined in an official document of Indian navy termed as Indian Maritime Doctrine (*INDIAN MARITIME DOCTRINE*, 2016). According to which India Naval strategic vision focuses on the protection of India's maritime interests and to make Indian navy a "blue water navy" (which is just an aim and a great claim yet, reality is that India is far away from this aim). The Indian Navy's strategic vision is focused on safeguarding India's maritime interests, promoting India's interest in region, regional security, and projecting India's maritime power. The Navy's approach is committed to enhancing its

capabilities, promoting regional cooperation, and building maritime partnerships to achieve its objectives.

Pakistan has been closely monitoring and responding to India's naval strategic vision, which it perceives as a challenge to its own maritime interests. Indian Navy's focus on projecting its maritime power beyond its immediate neighborhood has raised concerns in Pakistan, which sees this as a potential threat to its national security.

Pakistan has been investing in modernizing its naval fleet and acquiring new technologies to enhance its naval capabilities. Pakistan has been developing its own indigenous submarine program and has also acquired several new naval vessels to bolster its naval force (Habibic, 2022). It has been working to promote regional security cooperation, especially among the countries in the Indian Ocean region. Pakistan is a member of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (Pakistan | Indian Ocean Naval Symposium) and has participated in several joint naval exercises with other countries in the region. Moreover, Pakistan has been building maritime partnerships with other nations, including China, Turkey, and Iran. These partnerships are aimed at enhancing Pakistan's maritime capabilities and expanding its naval reach.

Due to certain actions of Indian navy such as intrusions and projects depicting the Indian naval expansion beyond the immediate neighborhood, in Indian Ocean, Pakistan has been raising its concerns about India's naval strategic vision at international forums, including the United Nations. Pakistan has argued that India's focus on projecting its maritime power beyond its immediate neighborhood could destabilize the region and lead to an arm race (Latif & Gilani, 2022).

Research Gap

There is a significant body of literature on the India-Pakistan rivalry and the naval dynamics between the two countries however there remains a notable gap in understanding Pakistan's specific responses to India's naval strategy. While some studies have touched on this issue, few have thoroughly examined the specific tactics, capabilities, and the doctrine that Pakistan has developed in response to India's naval modernization. A deeper exploration of this topic would not only enhance understanding of the ongoing naval arms race between India and Pakistan but also shed light on the broader strategic competition between these two nuclear-armed neighbors.

Research Questions

1. What is Indian Naval strategic vision and what are its implications for Pakistan?
2. How does Pakistan's naval strategy aim to counter India's dominant and hegemonic aims in the Indian Ocean?
3. What are specific capabilities and tactics on which Pakistan navy relies?

Theoretical Frameworks

This study is being conducted under the border frameworks of two theories i.e., Realism with more focus on its sub variants of Defensive Realism and offensive Realism, and the Sea Power Theory of Alfred Mahan.

Realism

The research is conducted under the broad spectrum of Realism with its main focus on its sub-variant the Defensive Realism and Offensive Realism. Pakistan naval strategy in response to India's naval strategy is Defensive in its nature. Pakistan is aimed at securing and safeguarding its maritime interests in the Indian Ocean by maintaining credible deterrence against India's naval buildup and actions. Pakistan is countering India's approach by making strategic partnerships with the other regional navies including China as well. Pakistan has always advocated the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean Region and worked for the peace and stability of the region.

Theory of Sea Power

Pakistan, with its strategic location at the mouth of the Arabian Sea, has sought to establish a naval presence in the region to safeguard its maritime interests and to counter India's naval dominance. To understand how Pakistan is countering India's naval strategy, we can apply the theory of sea power of (Maurer H John, 2022). This widely cited theory was given by Alfred T. Mahan in 1914 and it impacted the naval strategies of many strong navies of the 20th century including United States and British (Milestones: 1866–1898 - Office of the Historian).

According to Mahan's theory of sea power, a nation's naval power is derived from its ability to control key strategic points, such as ports, harbors, and chokepoints. It also emphasizes the importance of naval alliances and cooperation to enhance a nation's naval power. Based on this theory, we can identify several ways in which Pakistan is countering India's naval strategy in the Indian Ocean.

Pakistan has been strengthening its naval capabilities to project naval power in the region. It has been acquiring modern naval platforms, such as submarines, frigates, and corvettes, to enhance its ability to secure the sea lanes of communication and to counter any threats from India's naval forces. This is in line with Mahan's theory, which stresses the importance of projecting naval power beyond one's own shores to control key strategic points in the maritime domain.

Pakistan has been building alliances and partnerships with other navies in the region to enhance its naval capabilities and to counter India's naval dominance. For instance, Pakistan has deepened its strategic partnership with China, which is also seeking to establish itself as a naval power in the Indian Ocean. Pakistan is also building with Turkiye and Iran on naval grounds (United States Institute of Peace, 2023; PAK DEFENSE, 2022; Mehr News Agency, 2023). This is in line

with Mahan's theory, which emphasizes the importance of naval alliances and cooperation to enhance a nation's naval power.

Pakistan has been developing its naval infrastructure, including ports and naval bases, to establish a stronger presence in the region. The development of the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan, which is being developed with Chinese assistance, is a significant step in this regard. This is in line with Mahan's theory, which stresses the importance of controlling key strategic points, such as ports and harbors, to enhance a nation's naval power.

Research Methodology

This study is conducted using qualitative research methodology within the post positivist. An exploratory qualitative research approach is being used to gain insights into the phenomenon under study. Data is collected through both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources of data include official documents, reports, and doctrines, while secondary sources comprise journals, articles, newspapers, and press releases. Data analysis is performed using the document analysis. This method involves analyzing the content of primary and secondary sources, identifying themes, and categorizing the data into meaningful groups. To ensure the validity of the sources, the John Scott Model of data source validation is employed, which includes four steps: Authenticity, Credibility, Representativeness, and Meaning.

Pakistan's Response to Indian Naval Strategy

Pakistan Navy is one of the most important actors in the Indian Ocean region. Despite scarce resources, the Pakistan Navy is still performing its role at its best. The maritime activities of Pakistan Navy are not only defending Pakistan's maritime interests, also balancing the maritime power in the Indian Ocean and making it challenging for the opposing powers (Nawaz, 2020). The Naval Strategic vision and mission of Pakistan Navy mainly revolves around the following terms:

The strategic vision of Pakistan Navy says that its main aim is to focus on the protection of the maritime interests of Pakistan, and to contribute in the national security of Pakistan by deterring any aggression at the sea, on the sea and from the sea by any hostile force. In contrast to the hostilities shown by the Indian Navy, Pakistan Navy showed a mature approach to make it clear upon the world that despite having power and abilities, Pakistan is a peace-loving country (M. A. Khan, 2019). Pakistan Navy is also contributing in the economy of Pakistan by securing the maritime interests and providing the safe and secure environment to the people by participating in the development of coastal communities of Pakistan. It also provides disaster relief to the affected people by having proper disaster management system and training. Pakistan Navy is aspiring to participate in the naval exercises and activities to radiate an influence on region with a global

Pakistan's Response to Indian Naval Strategic Vision

outlook and to contribute in the global efforts to maintain good order at sea (Pakistan Navy Official Website, 2023).

Pakistan, in the past, almost neglected the waterfronts both militarily and economically (Shahzad & Gillani, 2022). The naval capabilities, and activities of the Pakistan Navy are commendable for the defensive Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) of Pakistan; and it is focused on balancing the power dynamics in the region (R. Shah, 2021).

Being a Navy with not a large fleet, the first and foremost objective of Pakistan Navy is to defend the coastline of Pakistan. But after the formation and initiation of projects like CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) the attention is now heading towards the naval security of SLOCs and other coastal fronts in Pakistan. Pakistan Navy being the responsible regional force has done several operations in the waters within and outside its boundaries (A. A. Shah, 2022). For Pakistan the importance of maritime security is extremely crucial as 96% of the country's trade occurs through sea. Further CPEC has opened the doors of Pakistan's "Blue economy" so, it has further increased the importance of Pakistan Naval forces (Askari, Tahir, & Shaheen, 2020). India considering itself as the only security provider of the IOR, backed by the western power such as the US, is trying to contain China and Pakistan but the common regional security approach of China and Pakistan is the biggest challenge to its claim (Khan, 2023).

Being the two important nuclear powers of South Asia, Pakistan and India are in a constant rivalry at all fronts. Naval Projects and plans are of billions of dollars on which India is working (Thapar, 2022). Like the production of aircraft carriers, acquisition of submarines or missile systems, aircrafts, however, in response to this offended realistic approach it is inevitable for Pakistan to defend its maritime interests and borders at sea fronts. Pakistan Navy is successful in challenging Indian Navy at all fronts and is countering India in IOR. Indian navy by following its offensive and hegemonic naval strategic vision is striving and is investing into its aim of having a blue water naval capabilities but there exist many constraints into its way of achieving that aim (Singh, 2023).

Pakistan is counterbalancing the Indian Navy by acquiring the state of the art technologies like Type 054 A/P frigates and P282/CM-401 anti-ship weapons of supersonic nature, by collaborating with China and Türkiye for the acquisition of the modern naval logistics and weapon systems, and also by initializing the projects for its modernization in the areas of both naval and surface warfare; these steps of Pakistan Navy are defining that how Pakistan Navy is trying and is successful to counterbalance the Indian navy.

India and Pakistan are important stakeholders of the important naval routes of the Indian Ocean. They have two of the strongest standing armies and now the acquisition of naval power in the region is the focus of both (Latif & Gilani, 2022). It seems like a zero-sum game for both India and Pakistan. The naval and strategic vision of Indian navy is focused in advancing towards the new and prototype technologies and this advancement is the direct threat to Pakistan. Meanwhile,

Pakistan is also working to get the up to date and modern naval and maritime technologies to counter rival firmly (Ahmed, 2023).

Indian Navy has been investing in modernizing its fleet and acquiring new technologies to enhance its capabilities. The Navy has also been expanding its operational reach by establishing new bases and increasing its presence in strategic locations. There exists a strategic competition for military basing in the IOR.

Pakistan's naval modernization efforts and response to India's naval strategy demonstrate the country's commitment to regional security and stability. Through the development of a modern and capable naval fleet, Pakistan is enhancing its ability to counter emerging security threats in the Arabian Sea and beyond (Nawaz, 2020).

In response to it and many other projects of Indian navy, Pakistan navy is also on its way to modernize and equip itself, despite all of the financial difficulties. Pakistan Navy has is ambitious for a complete renewal of fleet by the end of this decade (Ansari, 2023). The Induction of the Pakistan navy's most capable surface ships Type 054A/P frigates is a milestone in this regard. These are acquired by the Pakistan's iron brother China. More of them will be inducted soon (Xuanzun, 2023).

As Indian Navy carries the supersonic antiship technology of BrahMos and growing its supersonic technological capabilities ("BRAHMOS Supersonic Cruise Missile - BrahMos.Com," 2023), Pakistan Navy has acquired the P282/CM-401 supersonic anti-ship weapons which are able to counter the Indian naval BrahMos very finely (Ansari, 2023). Another important project for the production, design and modernization of Hangor Class submarines is progressing at a significant pace and is in various stages of development in Pakistan and China (Habibic, 2022). Pakistan navy is also working in collaboration with Turkish navy and working on the projects of most modern warships one of which is Jinnah class frigates. The specialty of the project is that, it will be the first ever PN's indigenously designed and built ship (Saeed, 2022). PN is also working to acquire MILGEM class corvettes from Türkiye which are having the average range of 3500 nautical miles (Ozberk, 2022).

The acquisition of ships is not only the sole aim of Pakistan navy to make herself strong. The air-defense system is also the area of development on which Pakistan Navy is working keenly. Pakistan navy is already operating advanced UAV's (Unmanned air vehicles) such as Scan Eagle and LUNA air defense system, and Shahpur AVs, they are used for the aerial surveillance of the AOR (area of responsibility) of Pakistan (2022). The induction of LRMPAs (long range maritime patrol aircrafts), (2021) and production of indigenous UAVs and RC aerial systems along with the strong submarine capabilities makes the surface, sub-surface, and aerial defense of Pakistan undisputed (Kadam, 2022).

Important ships of Pakistan navy are; **PNS Tariq** (First Type 21 frigate built by the Yarrow Ltd.), **PNS BABUR** (Front line destroyer of the fleet of Pak Navy), **PNS KHAIBAR** (F-183)(Equipped for modern AAW (anti-air warfare) and ASW

Pakistan's Response to Indian Naval Strategic Vision

(anti-submarine warfare) warfare and for limited anti-surface operations), and **PNS BADAR** (F-174), **PNS ZULFIQAR** (F-22) (Equipped for anti-air, anti-surface and antisubmarine warfare simultaneously), **PNS ALAMGIR** (FFG-8) (well equipped for national and multinational tasking and can carry two helicopters for the operational purposes), **PNS TUGHRIL** (Type-54-A/P frigate) (Equipped with modern sensors and armaments for long range SR2410C and Type 517/SUR17B air-surveillance radars with world class stealth capabilities) considered as one of the best assets of navy. Pakistan Navy is not oblivious to her defense and deterrence. Pakistan Navy is countering Indian Navy by inducting new naval ships, by acquiring missile systems, by induction of supersonic technologies, ships and boats with state-of-the-art sensors are signaling the reaction of Pakistan Navy towards it (Masood, 2020).

The Pakistan Navy has been increasing its strength in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) in recent years through a combination of new acquisitions and upgrades to existing assets. Some examples of these efforts include: Commissioning of new warships; such as Pakistan Navy has commissioned several new warships in recent years, including the PNS Yarmouk, a Damen-Built frigate (Bahtic, 2022), and the PNS Azmat, a missile-armed fast attack craft. These new assets are designed to enhance the Navy's ability to operate in the IOR. Pakistan Navy has also been upgrading its existing assets, such as the Agosta-90B class submarines, to improve their capabilities and extend their service life, which were commissioned in the late 1990s and 2000s and have been retrofitted with air-independent propulsion systems. (Navy Leaders, 2023). Pakistan Navy is also developing the hypersonic P-282 anti-missile land attack ballistic missiles and also P-3C Orion patrol aircraft (Ansari, 2023).

One of the most important portions of the IOR (Indian Ocean Region) is the region of Arabian Sea which catches the attention of the world's great economies like China whose project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a clear-cut manifestation of the importance of Indian Ocean, even India and the US have inclinations towards it. As mentioned earlier, India and Pakistan are nuclear armed states, there the situation gets more critical due to the rivalry between the two. The naval confrontations between India and Pakistan, in 1948, 1965, 1971 and 1998 declared that a possibility of naval confrontation exists in the region. The reality on the ground is that both of them have fought 4 wars since their independence, border clashes and anti-state propaganda is a usual thing between the two. An event which happened recently when Pakistan Navy spotted the Nuclear Submarine of Indian Navy and stopped it from entering into the Pakistani waters events like these depict that Pakistan navy is not unaware of defense of its waters. The detection of Indian submarine is a sign of the incapability of the navigational and logistical strength of the Indian Navy. And it is evidence of the professionalism of Pakistan Navy (Siddiqui, 2022).

The strategic vision of Indian navy has also an immense focus on the presence of Indian navy at the strategic points of Indian Ocean and in order to pursue it,

Indian navy is building naval bases and coalition stations in the Indian Ocean. Such as in Djibouti and in Mauritius (Gupta, 2023). The intrusion of Indian navy in the waters of the neighboring countries illegally also depicts that India wants to pursue its strategic presence in Indian Ocean at the costs of other conflicts.

In response to it, Pakistan's investment in the development of new naval bases, such as the Gwadar port, is another positive step towards enhancing the country's naval capabilities. The Gwadar port has the potential to become a major hub for maritime trade and commerce in the region, which would not only benefit Pakistan's economy but also contribute to regional economic growth (Baloch, 2023).

Pakistan's naval approach towards the Indian Navy has traditionally been focusing on a strategy of asymmetric warfare, which involves using unconventional tactics and weapons to offset the Indian Navy's superior conventional capabilities (Saghir & Ejaz, 2020). One of the key elements of Pakistan's asymmetric naval strategy is the use of submarines. Pakistan has a small submarine fleet, but they are equipped with modern technology and can be used to launch surprise attacks on Indian ships. The story of the success of PNS Hangor is still fresh and alive in the hearts of Pakistan's rivals (Hali, 2022). Pakistan has a coastal defense system that includes anti-ship missiles and coastal artillery, which can be used to deter any potential Indian naval aggression. Pakistan also has a doctrine of "sea denial", which aims to deny the Indian navy the use of the Arabian sea and the Bay of Bengal, by effectively securing its maritime borders. It is considered as the counter strategy of the Anti-access and Area denial strategy of Indian navy (Ali, 2021).

In order to achieve this, Pakistan has developed a network of naval bases such as the base of Jaswani near Gawadar and radar systems along its coast, and has also acquired new submarines, frigates, and missile boats the details of which are aforementioned in the paper. Pakistan Navy is building Jiwani naval base near the Iranian border, which will serve as a hub for the Navy's operations in the region. which is designed to enhance the Navy's ability to monitor and protect the country's economic interests in the region (Gertz, 2018).

Another element of Pakistan's naval approach towards India is the use of naval diplomacy. Pakistan has been actively strengthening its naval ties with other countries in the region, including China, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, in order to counterbalance India's naval dominance. However, it is important to note that despite these efforts, the Indian Navy is still much larger and more powerful than the Pakistan Navy. The Indian Navy has far more ships, submarines, aircraft and a larger budget than Pakistan but Pak navy is not unaware of its defense and protection of its maritime interests (Saghir & Ejaz, 2020).

In short, Pakistan's naval approach towards the Indian Navy is of asymmetric warfare, which involves using unconventional tactics and weapons to offset India's superior conventional capabilities. Pakistan also has a doctrine of "sea denial" and

Pakistan's Response to Indian Naval Strategic Vision

has been actively strengthening its naval ties with other countries in the region to counterbalance India's naval dominance (Ali, 2021).

Pakistan's emphasis on diplomacy and engagement with other countries in the region demonstrates a commitment to peaceful coexistence and regional cooperation. By participating in multilateral forums and engaging with other countries, Pakistan is working to promote stability and security in the region. Furthermore, Pakistan's cooperation with other countries, such as China and Turkey, is contributing to the regional security architecture and enhancing maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean (Jamal, 2023).

In terms of its implications for Pakistan, as the Indian Navy's focus on maintaining a strong presence in the IOR and on controlling and safeguarding SLOCs is a potential challenge to Pakistan's own maritime interests in the region, especially after the establishment of the Gawadar port and CPEC the security challenges for Pakistan have been increased. Additionally, the emphasis on cooperation with other countries in the region could be viewed as an attempt by India to build a coalition against Pakistan and its ally China such as QUAD (A. Smith, 2021). This could be seen as a potential threat to Pakistan, as the Indian Navy's doctrine also aims to make it a "blue water" navy, which would be capable of operating far from the Indian coastline (Qazi, 2023).

In response to it Pakistan Navy has also several agreements and collaborations. Pakistan Navy has naval agreement with the Turkiye which even includes the acquisition of the 5th generation weaponry from the Turkish Naval production facility (Naval Technology, 2022). Naval collaboration of Pakistan is of great significance in this regard. Most important naval agreement of Pakistan is with the China which includes the production of the submarines, frigates, corvettes and even joint naval drills in Indian Ocean (Pakistan Navy, 2022).

Recently the naval exercise hosted by Pakistan navy such as AMAN-23 in which Pakistan navy hosted navies of 50 countries including US, China, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Indonesia, Oman, Kuwait and others (Jamal, 2023). This exercise made a great impact of Pakistan navy in IOR. And the exercises of Pak-China together are also a part of this collaboration (Xuanzun & Yuandan, 2022). This collaboration of Pakistan and China in the IOR is one of the greatest threats posed to Indian Navy and to tackle it India went up; to collaborate with world's powerful navies, making naval agreements and joint ventures US-India collaboration can be seen as the answer to the Pak-China collaboration in the IOR, keeping in view the US-China tension (Siddiqui, 2022). Pakistan navy also have technology transfer deal with republic of Poland (Saeed, 2022).

It's important to note that these implications are based on how the Indian Navy's doctrine is perceived by Pakistan and the potential challenges that it might pose to Pakistan's maritime interests. The actual impact of the Indian Navy's doctrine on Pakistan will depend on a variety of factors, including the specific actions that the Indian Navy takes in the region and the response of Pakistan and other countries in the region.

Pakistan Navy has also been working closely with regional navies in the IOR, such as the navies of China and Turkey, to improve maritime security and cooperation in the region. The acquisition of new frigates, such as the Type 054A/P frigate from China and the MILGEM project from Turkey are its manifestation, the construction and upgradation of submarines, including the Agosta 90-B class and the new S-26T class submarines, the development of indigenously built ships, such as the Azmat-class missile boat and the Jinnah-class frigates, the establishment of naval bases and facilities, including the construction of a new naval base in Gwadar and the expansion of existing bases in Karachi and Ormara, the development of a coastal defense system, including the establishment of a missile defense system and the acquisition of new radar systems, all are the examples of the logistical development of Pak-Navy. It is also worth mentioning that Pakistan Navy also seems welcoming to work with modern warfare equipment and seems ambitious to get its own naval-air-craft-carrier (Xuanzun, 2023).

As, it was explained or mentioned in clear details that how much Indian Navy is working for its dominance in IOR. The implications for Pakistan against the Indian naval dominance are significant, as the Indian Navy is more in number than the Pakistan Navy and it is very much known to everyone. Some of the key implications included are described as; With a smaller fleet, Pakistan's ability to defend against potential Indian naval aggression is limited, but Pakistan is working like a proactive actor defending the maritime interests, routes and boundaries in IOR (Ghazala Yasmin Jalil, 2018). Such as the recent detection of Indian nuclear submarine in the Pakistan naval area is the proof of the awake and proactive navy. But an enemy is enemy and India's dominance can potentially put Pakistan's coastal cities, ports, and offshore assets at risk. Pakistan is working with the collaboration of China on the fate-changing project CPEC and the naval security for Pakistan has become more important and crucial. Further, if India dominates in IOR there will be and increased vulnerability for Pakistan to a naval blockade. India's naval dominance will make it easier for India to impose a naval blockade on Pakistan (as India did in 1971), it would disrupt trade and affect the country's economy. In that case there will be a great difficulty in protecting maritime resources for Pakistan; such as fish stocks, this industry is of great importance for Pakistan's developing economy as it puts almost 0.4 to 1 percent in the country's fragile economy but it is providing employment to the thousands of people and families residing on the coastal fronts of Pakistan and oil and gas reserves (*Pathways To A Sustainable Blue Economy*, 2022). India's naval dominance will also make it more difficult for Pakistan to maintain good relations with other countries in the region, as many of these countries which are west oriented in policies are inclined to India for cooperation in the areas of trade and security. The naval dominance of India can also lead to increased tensions between the two countries, and can make it more difficult to resolve disputes through diplomatic means.

Pakistan's Response to Indian Naval Strategic Vision

It is worth noting that both Pakistan and India are nuclear-armed states and any major naval conflict between the two countries could potentially escalate into a nuclear war, which would have devastating consequences for both countries and the region as a whole. Therefore, it is in the best interest of both countries to pursue peaceful means to resolve any disputes and to avoid any type of military confrontation.

Often a narrative arises with a question that if Pakistan carries the ability to counter the Indian power in IOR or not?

History gives us insight that how a country almost seven times weaker with small weaponry made an enemy run back to its barracks with a defeat. Pakistan Navy has had several notable successes throughout its history. Although it is important to note that they have a relatively small fleet compared to its neighbor India. Both countries have fought 3 full-fledged wars. In the 1965 Pakistan Navy conducted operation Dawarka, in which Pakistan navy was successful in destroying the Indian Naval station. The land of Indian Gujrat can still feel the destruction of operation Dawarka by Pak-Navy. In the 1971 war, Pakistan Navy's submarine PNS Hangor was able to sink the Indian frigate INS Khukri, causing heavy damage to the Indian Navy and boosting the morale of the Pakistani Navy (Hali, 2022; M. Z. Khan, 2022). During the Kargil War in 1999, Pakistan's Navy successfully prevented Indian naval ships from approaching towards Pakistani coast, effectively securing Pakistan's maritime borders. Pakistan Navy has been successful in protecting Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and its maritime trade routes. The Navy has been successful in preventing any major piracy incident in its waters. In this regards the role of Pakistan Navy is commendable as it is the part of the several task forces such as, 5th fleet of US navy, (Combined Task force) CTF-150 12-times commanded by Pakistan-navy (*USS Whirlwind (PC-11) Docks in Karachi - U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Pakistan*, 2022), CTF-151 which is also often commanded by Pakistan Navy for several anti-piracy operations in IOR especially Gulf of Aden (*Naval News*, 2022). Pakistan Navy has been actively involved in providing humanitarian assistance during natural disasters, such as floods and earthquakes, both within Pakistan and in other countries reported by Inter Services Public Relations. Pakistan Navy has been successful in building and maintaining strong relations with other navies in the region and around the world. The Navy has participated in various international exercises and has also sent its ships for goodwill visits to other countries. Pakistan Navy has also been involved in anti-terrorism operations in the coastal areas of Pakistan, especially in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman, which were used by terrorist organizations to smuggle weapons and fighters (A. A. Shah, 2022). Pakistan Navy has been successful in developing its cruise missile submarine capabilities, including the acquisition of new submarines, and in 2016 successfully test-fired a submarine-launched cruise missile. Hence, submarine capabilities of Pakistan Navy are worth noting (*Pakistan Submarine Capabilities*, 2022). It's worth noting that Pakistan Navy has been working on its capabilities

and modernizing its fleet, and despite the challenges and limitations, it has been successful in achieving its objectives and maintaining its readiness to defend the country's maritime interests.

Conclusion

Indian Naval doctrine is focusing on modernizing and creating regional hegemony in IOR and it is posing a direct threat to the naval and maritime interests of Pakistan. However, Pakistan navy is working firmly to counterbalance all the threats posed by Indian navy and also to defend the maritime, naval and regional interests of Pakistan. Pakistan Naval approach is Defensive in its nature. Instead of becoming a part of arms race Pakistan has always advocated a peaceful and stable sea environment and has always discouraged the militarization of the Indian Ocean region. Modernization of fleet, acquisition of Modern technologies, development of naval bases, credible deterrence are the key responses of Pakistan to the Indian naval strategic vision. In order to counter India's modern arm race and race of dominance Pakistan has to keep on working on all the areas of regional and maritime security development.

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Pakistan's Response to Indian Naval Strategic Vision

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