

AI INTEGRATION IN INDIAN MILITARY: APPRAISAL OF SECURITY APPREHENSIONS FOR SOUTH ASIA

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Abstract

The expeditious development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in recent decades has changed the strategic dynamics and nature of warfare. Military organisations are working on multifaceted dimensions to ensure security, as AI is one of the most significant technologies changing the character of conflict. This trend is also apparent in South Asia, as the Indian military has actively integrated AI into its defence sector. India's militarisation of artificial intelligence vividly impacts South Asia's security dynamics. By applying the security dilemma framework of realism, the paper expounds on the implications of Indian AI militarisation on South Asia's strategic stability, specifically Pakistan. Qualitative research methodology is employed to delineate the repercussions of Indian AI militarisation on the security framework of South Asia - a region historically signified by intense security dilemma, stability-instability paradox and multiple wars. Thus, by examining the critical domains of India's incorporation of AI in its defence sector, this paper unveils the challenges to the security and stability of the South Asian region and puts forth the recommendation that Pakistan should take concrete steps towards the integration of AI in its defence sector by contemplating the discernible security concerns due to Indian AI militarisation.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Military Strategy, Modern Weapon System, Security Dilemma

Introduction

The world has advanced rapidly with improved forms of technology, modern weapon systems, and rapidly changing warfare strategies. AI technology has grown in the contemporary world and has significantly impacted states' military strategy and long-term objectives.¹ States' military manoeuvring has changed from using conventional weapons to employing AI to thwart and strike adversaries. The South Asian region has also seen advancements in the AI domain, where India has been investing significantly in modern technology, particularly AI, to have leverage against other regional states, particularly China and Pakistan.² Being the fifth largest economy in the world, India has the economic advantage of boosting its AI advancement in the military and, therefore, India can be seen as an emerging market for venture capital investment in AI-related technologies. Since 1998, Pakistan has consistently endeavoured to uphold deterrence stability in the region by enhancing

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the quality of its strategic capabilities compared to India. However, scholars talk about the paradox of deterrence.³ Nevertheless, the advent of advanced technologies, particularly AI and India's substantial investments in this domain pose challenges for Pakistan, given its constrained resources.⁴ Consequently, Pakistan may find itself compelled to allocate resources toward AI development. In the inaugural address of "The Centre of AI and Computing", Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, mentioning it as a landmark initiative, said this would "lead to the AI research and development in both civil and military spheres".⁵ Highlighting that the nature of warfare has changed in the 21st century due to technology, he explained the vision to "harness the potential of AI and integrate it in PAF's Operation domain"⁶. Failing to do so could shift the balance of power in favour of India, consequently impacting deterrence stability across the entire region.

The realist view of the security dilemma best describes the situation of the South Asian region when it comes to AI advancements. The concept of the security dilemma in realism was initially introduced by the German political scientist John H. Herz in his 1950 article titled "Idealist Internationalism and the Security Dilemma."⁷ The security dilemma is a central concept in international relations theory, particularly in the realist school of thought. It refers to the situation where one state's efforts to increase its security by enhancing military capabilities or alliances can be perceived as a threat by other states, leading them to respond with similar measures to safeguard their security. However, this reciprocal action can create a cycle of suspicion and tension, potentially escalating into conflict, even though the original intentions of each state might have been defensive. The security dilemma highlights the complexities and challenges in maintaining security and stability in an anarchic international system⁸, as each state's pursuit of its security can inadvertently lead to increased insecurity and instability for others, as the case study of Indian AI militarisation will depict.

The Synergy of AI and Military Strategy

AI is the ability granted by humans to machines to carry out tasks and make decisions on their own. This enables the machines to function freely and by their logic.⁹ In the last few decades, technological revolution, especially developments in AI, have discernibly impacted every central field, including the military and defence sectors. With technological advancements and the development of various avenues, more than focusing on traditional means is required. Now, the strategic goals of states have changed with the development of AI technology and military organisations have to work on various dimensions to ensure their security.¹⁰

AI has significantly impacted military strategy in numerous ways.¹¹ Military AI focuses on various methods, including autonomous machines, data crunching and cyber-attacks on software. States collect a large amount of data via sensors, cyber-attacks and satellites that cover the entire planet. The information collected through these systems is analysed using learning logarithms that make data effective for commercial and warfare purposes. AI greatly helps in mass surveillance and counterinsurgency as AI can scan photos from satellites, CCTV cameras and drones and follow a variety of objects very quickly¹². Military forces employ Big Data and its surveillance for various counter-insurgency actions and intelligence purposes.¹³ This supports law enforcement authorities in identifying targets through raids, fast analysing data through that process, leading to additional raids and producing data that aids in achieving targets.¹⁴

An unarmed drone that gathers intelligence could replace human soldiers in war, saving human force by giving, receiving and carrying commands autonomously.¹⁵ When launched by scanning a target, autonomous drones used in air defence systems called kamikaze drones can fly to a target location, wait and linger there for hours¹⁶. Once the target is located, they fly directly into it to destroy it on contact rather than dropping a bomb. The U.S. report of the “National Security Commission on AI” highlights that AI enables a new paradigm in war-fighting and urges massive amounts of investment in the field.¹⁷ Besides autonomous weapons, many other military areas will be using AI. With the growth of deep learning and robotics technology, AI is opening up new paths that could potentially influence military tactics. The military uses this information to enhance nuclear capabilities, balance defence and offence and use AI for identification and surveillance. The states are constantly changing and reviewing their military strategies in the context of the contemporary development of AI and its applicability in the military domain.¹⁸ The escalating competition between the US and China within the AI sector has extended its reach across various regions. As China steadily progresses and integrates AI into its military framework, India, recognising its strategic significance, has embarked on a similar trajectory. This paradigm shift necessitates Pakistan recalibrating its approach and incorporating AI within its strategic frameworks. The global trend toward AI integration in military and strategic spheres, notably in the contexts of China and India, underscores the imperative for Pakistan to adapt and harness AI capabilities to remain aligned with evolving security dynamics in the South Asian region.

Role of AI in Indian Military Modernization

The integration of AI in the military and strategic domains has become significantly perceptible in recent decades. The vigorous integration of AI is palpable

in the US military, forcing China to stay at par and enhance its research and development in AI.¹⁹ This structure-level technological determinism impacts India's strategic culture, which must remain connected to these technological changes. India has a long history of conflict and distrust with China and increased Chinese investment in the field of AI and militarisation of AI is bound to create a security dilemma for India.²⁰ Consequently, India is compelled to heed these changes and propel research and development of AI to integrate it into its defence sector.

Additionally, the rise of right-wing radical Hindutva ideology in India since the election of Narendra Modi in 2014 has also precipitated the militarisation of AI in India. Narendra Modi's government has emphasised military modernisation to ascertain its regional hegemonic aspirations. Its intentions of establishing itself as the regional hegemon have become evident time and again. With its history of sham surgical strikes in Pakistan, penetrating terrorists like Kulbhushan Yadav to incite insurgency and instability, leveraging international platforms like FATF to assert international pressure on Pakistan²¹ to isolate and economically weaken the country and carrying out airstrikes in Balakot in 2019, Indian antagonistic designs towards Pakistan are not concealed.

These factors have hastened India's drive to invest in AI and incorporate it into its defence sector. The discussion below provides a detailed insight into India's AI militarisation, including its doctrinal basis, an organisational edifice, significant areas of AI militarisation and modern weapon systems reinforced by AI.

- **Doctrinal Basis for Indian AI Militarization**

The recent incorporation of AI in India's defence sector is driven by its doctrinal transformation. The multiple military doctrines unveiled in the Modi era exhibited ostensible offensive dimensions. Their paramount objective has been to establish the regional hegemonic status of India and relegate Pakistan to a subservient role. For this purpose, the military doctrines, including the Indian Maritime Doctrine, the Joint Doctrine of the Indian Armed Forces and The Indian Land Warfare Doctrine, have given an ideological basis for the militarization of AI²². The Indian Land Warfare Doctrine emphasises the incorporation of AI in the Indian defence sector.²³ Therefore, the integration of AI in the Indian military domain is driven by ideological impetus and doctrinal transformation, which delegates its role to ascertain Indian regional hegemony.

- **Organizational Edifice of Indian AI Militarization**

Given India's long democratic history and established bureaucratic structure, it maintains a comprehensive structure of institutions and

organisations concerned with technological advancement, research and development, emerging technologies and AI and AI militarisation. India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) is the oldest and most pivotal organisation that administers technological development and integration with the Indian military. The Organization has overviewed the advancement in technology and its incorporation into the country's defence sector for decades²⁴. DRDO has established the Centre for AI and Robotics (CAIR), primarily focused on robotics, AI and intelligent control systems. CAIR has made noteworthy progress in the fields above over the years. AI techniques for CAIR's Net-Centric Operations (AINCO) project – which focuses on building a knowledge base, information processing and reasoning – signifies the evolution of AI and intelligent control systems. Additionally, CAIR has been developing robots for specific intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance purposes to aid the Indian military on the battlefield. CAIR has also focused on diverse applications, including image recognition for target detection.

Alongside CAIR, Defense AI and Council (DAIC) is another significant recent addition to the Indian AI organisational paraphernalia. Established in February 2019, DAIC is entrusted with ascertaining military-industry collaboration, acquiring new technologies, sharing data and designing AI courses for the Indian military. The Indian leadership is contemplating DAIC to precipitate AI integration in the Indian army and catalyse the transition of AI projects from the experimental stage to the operational theatre. According to Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, DAIC will complete 25 defence-specific AI projects by 2024²⁵. In addition, India also established the Defense AI Project Agency (DARPA) and AI for Air Defense (AI4AD) to enhance AI militarisation in India's defence sector. India's Wargame Research and Development Centre (WARDEC) provides the Indian army with a simulation-based training centre for virtual reality wargames and AI. This plethora of interconnected and centralised organisations elevates India's AI advancement and incorporation into India's defence sector.

- **Major Areas of Indian AI Militarization**

Since the beginning of the Modi era, a particular emphasis has been placed on integrating AI into the Indian military. The incorporation of AI in the Indian defence sector can be recognised in a multitude of domains as the umbrella term of 'AI Militarization' encompasses numerous realms that have been the centre of focus of the Modi government. These spheres

mainly include Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Cybersecurity, Decision Support Systems, Battlefield Planning and Simulation, Autonomous Systems and Predictive Maintenance. India has maintained focus on all these domains conjunctively and has sustained synergy as it views them as vital to its military modernisation plans²⁶. As part of its surveillance and reconnaissance projects of AI militarisation, India has maintained a two-fold strategy by concentrating on locally manufactured drones and UAVs as well as collaborating with its foreign allies and procuring UAVs from Israel. Additionally, India has employed advanced analytics, facial recognition systems and autonomous surveillance devices to enhance its border security and monitoring. As mentioned, WARDEC enables the Indian army to train in simulation-based training centres for AI-supported virtual reality wargames. India has also allocated a copious amount of its defence budget to enhance its cybersecurity mechanism by incorporating AI. Predictive Maintenance systems using AI are in operation to detect the health and performance of military equipment and vehicles, including a project specifically designed for its fighter jet, HAL Tejas. These multifarious projects are viewed as ascertaining Indian AI militarisation plans and validating its status as the regional hegemon.²⁷

- **Integration of AI in the Indian Defense Sector through Public-Private Partnership**

In recent years, public-private partnerships have emerged as a significant facet of Indian AI militarisation plans. From the lens of technological determinism, the implications of AI and emerging technologies on the societal and commercial dynamics appear to be quite perceptible as the Indian private sector endeavours to collaborate with the public sector to integrate AI into the Indian military. A prime example of such a collaboration is the special task force that explores the potential avenues for Indian AI militarisation. This task force – which includes representatives from DRDO, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) – is headed by N. Chandrasekaran, the owner of Indian business Goliath Tata Sons.²⁸ This public-private partnership also indicates the emergence of the AI Military Industrial Complex. Such a collaboration – given the strategic dynamics of South Asia and the blemished history of the Military Industrial Complex of the US – raises serious concerns for the security milieu of the region.

- **India's Weapons of 'Smart' Destruction**
 - **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Drones**

India has emphasised acquiring new, modern UAVs equipped with AI technology in the last few years. Realising the importance of the air force domain and emerging technologies, India has adopted a bipartite strategy by focusing on indigenously developed UAVs and importing UAVs from its allies, especially Israel²⁹. Among the locally manufactured UAVs, Lakshya, Nishant and Rustom are the most prominent UAVs designed and developed by DRDO. In addition, DRDO, collaborating with IdeaForge, developed a surveillance and reconnaissance-specific mini-UAV quadcopter Netra equipped with autonomous navigation and guidance system. India is also developing Rustom-2 and Ghatak drones that would perform the functions of amassing intelligence, target identification and strike. Apart from that, India has been procuring Heron drones from Israel that have been operational in the border areas for surveillance and reconnaissance purposes. India also signed a memorandum with Israel regarding the transfer of technology of Heron drones to be indigenously developed in India. These AI-equipped drones have played a crucial role in the materialisation of India's AI militarisation plans and its designs of offensive defence.

- **AI Integrated Weapons of Land Warfare**

India launched its first unmanned tank, Muntra, in 2017, with the capability of surveillance and conducting operations in rugged terrains or regions of high risk. In the coming years, multiple tank variants were introduced, including Muntra S, Muntra N and Muntra M, signifying the enhancement of technology and capabilities. Additionally, 200 DAKSH robots are currently operational in the Indian Army, autonomous and equipped with the ability to diffuse bombs and mines and perilous terrains. Another feature of Indian AI militarisation in land warfare is MARF (Multi-Agent Robotic and Framework), which, upon operationalisation, would conduct a team of soldiers to assist the Indian Army on the battlefield. These developments are in congruence with the Indian Land Warfare Doctrine that proposes Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) that would operate swiftly against Pakistan and China in case of a conflict.³⁰

- **AI and Indian Navy**

In recent years, the Indian Navy has taken tangible steps to incorporate AI in its pivotal domains, including prescriptive maintenance, security and surveillance, maritime domain awareness, and inventory management³¹. According to Indian defence officials, 30 AI projects are being developed to materialise AI integration in the Indian Navy³². The actualisation of these plans will substantially ameliorate the Indian Navy's operational capabilities, thus certifying offensive Indian designs in the Arabian Sea and Indo-Pacific region.

- **Stationary Applications of AI in the Indian Military**

Stationary applications are as vital to the Indian military as its battlefield forces. India has taken significant measures to integrate AI in its Early Warning, Information, Predictive Maintenance and Control Systems.³³ DRDO developed an integrated electronic warfare system named 'Himshakti' that would perform the functions of interception, surveillance, analysis, position targeting, direction assessment, signal intelligence, and jamming of signals. CAIR is designing a Command Information and Decision Support System (CIDSS) to process and analyse tactical data to convey efficient decision support to high command.³⁴ CAIR has also designed and manufactured robots to identify any damage to the parts of its fighter jet HAL Tejas. This mechanism of predictive maintenance would facilitate incessant testing and maintenance framework for the Indian fighter jets.

Incorporation of AI in Pakistan's Defense Sector

In the last few years, Pakistan has taken visible steps towards technological development, emerging technologies and the integration of AI into its defence sector. Recognising the importance of AI for military advancement, Pakistan's civil and military leadership have been on the same page, initiating multiple projects to incorporate AI into military modus operandi. However, compared to its competitors – notably India – Pakistan's AI advancement and AI militarisation have not been up to par. Pakistan, despite commencing several projects and initiatives, has not achieved parity with India in AI militarisation.

Pakistan's slow pace regarding the AI policy framework was seen when the Ministry of Information and Technology released its first AI draft, "National AI Policy," this year³⁵. Moreover, Pakistan has not yet released a public or official

document underlining its strategy regarding integrating AI into its defence sector. Such a document, as released in the case of India, is immensely significant as it delineates the blueprints, approach and timeframe for such an endeavour. Pakistan has released no official policy or document deliberating the integration of AI in the defence sector, indicating that Pakistan falls behind its foes in this competition.

Furthermore, the country's leadership has yet to unveil all AI militarisation projects, citing national security concerns. Only a limited number of such projects have been disclosed in the media. This has been a palpable issue as analysts need more data to examine and relate to regional security dynamics. Among the disclosed AI projects linked with Pakistan's defence sector, the National Command Center (NCC) is the most prominent. NCC is equipped with a thoroughly automated Strategic Command and Control Support System (SCCSS), which allows the higher command at NCC to have incessant cognisance of all strategic assets³⁶. The National Centre for Cyber Security (NCCS) is delegated the task of ensuring development in the cyber security field through AI integration. Additionally, Pakistan has created the National Center of Artificial Intelligence (NCAI) located at the H-12 campus of the National University of Science and Technology (NUST). NCAI is entrusted with ensuring innovation, research, and advancement in AI. This organisation is expected to assist Pakistan's military in achieving its endeavours of AI militarisation.

In 2020, the Air Chief of Pakistan inaugurated the Center of AI and Computing (CENTRIC), a significant step towards incorporating AI into the Pakistan Air Force's operational milieu. CENTRIC will facilitate the development of sensory fusion technology for the Pakistan Air Force that would assimilate sensory data from several sources, including cameras and radars, thus enabling PAF to analyse large volumes of data speedily. CENTRIC will also conduct research in Machine Learning, Big Data, Predictive Analysis, Deep Learning and Natural Language Processing (NLP).³⁷ It is also expected to enhance the arsenal of the Pakistan Air Force by fostering the development of fifth-generation stealth fighter jets and medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) UAVs. Besides this organisational development, AI is already employed in almost all strategic assets for security objectives, including digital retina scans, thumb impressions and facial recognition software.

Pakistan has also procured AI-enabled military systems from China, including Wing Long II UAV and LY-80 surface-to-air missiles. Over the years, Pakistan has made significant strides in UAVs, including Shahpar, Ababeel, Mukhbar, Uqab and Buraaq, as it has indigenously developed UAVs³⁸. Carrying on the tradition of introducing new technological advancement, Pakistan launched the latest version of Shahpar – Shahpar II, a medium altitude long endurance (MALE) Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV)³⁹. In addition, Pakistan has also made

progress in incorporating AI into its missile program, which is signified by its recent missile system, namely Shaheen III and Ababeel ballistic missiles and Ra'ad cruise missiles. These missiles have noteworthy attributes such as Multiple Independently Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs) and terminal guidance systems.

This assortment of AI-supported weapon systems indicates Pakistan's advancement in AI and the integration of AI in the defence sector. With its limited resources, Pakistan has made tremendous achievements in AI militarisation over the past few years. However, this progress has not been realised at the required pace to ensure parity with India's strategic rival. Pakistan lags behind India and other major powers in this competition of integrating AI in the defence sector for many reasons. The meagre condition of Pakistan's economy has been a significant factor in impeding Pakistan's accelerated AI advancement and its assimilation into the military domain. The feeble culture of research and innovation has also obstructed the prospects of new developments in AI and AI militarisation. In addition, the country's leadership realised the importance of AI for the defence sector considerably later than its competitor, India, which already had the launching pad available for AI militarisation in the form of an established IT industry. The absence of an official policy document underlining Pakistan's strategy towards AI integration in the defence sector and limited disclosure of AI militarisation projects manifest the shortcomings in Pakistan's attempt to compete with India in the concerned race.

Indian AI Militarization – Looming Threat for South Asian Security Paradigm

Since the election of Narendra Modi as India's Prime Minister, India has barged on the mission of rampant military modernisation⁴⁰. The right-wing Hindutva ideology has been the paramount force behind this exorbitant arms accumulation. India has taken a keen interest in acquiring modern technologies, especially AI, as part of its military modernisation blueprint. The Indian government has taken significant steps in the last few years toward integrating AI into its defence paraphernalia. Given the precarious strategic dynamics of South Asia signified by intense security dilemmas, stability-instability paradox, and a history of multiple wars, India's unrestrained AI militarisation designs are expected to impact Pakistan's national security apprehensions severely. This, in turn, will critically jeopardise the security mechanism of South Asia, where maintaining long-term peace has always been an arduous challenge.⁴¹

Indian endeavours to integrate AI in its defence sector have set off a spontaneous arms race in the region. Indian AI militarisation has escalated warfare's operational intensity and perplexity, increasing security dilemmas. This has left

Pakistan with limited policy options as it must respond to India's accumulation of AI-endorsed arms. To keep up with India's technological advancement, Pakistan is compelled to undertake the quid-pro-quo policy since it cannot afford to delay the integration of AI in its defence sector. However, engaging in this arms race will pose a strenuous challenge for Pakistan's struggling economy. Pakistan faces a tremendous foreign exchange crunch that has intensified debt servicing, inflation and interest rates.⁴² Competing with Indian AI-backed weapon systems will require allocating copious resources to integrate AI into Pakistan's defence sector. Such endeavours under palpably distressed economic conditions are expected to protract economic hardships for the country, thus resulting in grave repercussions for Pakistan's national security.

Conventional and nuclear asymmetry between India and Pakistan will also aggravate due to overwhelming Indian AI militarisation. Pakistan relies on the concealment and agile manoeuvrability of its nuclear stockpile. However, incorporating AI in the Indian atomic weapon system will complicate Pakistan's second-strike capability. This will compel Pakistan to invest more in a potent air defence system or advanced mobile launch systems capable of evading detection. In addition, Pakistan faces unpredictability and uncertainty due to the extensive integration of AI into Indian defence systems. With the Indian acquisition of prompt and autonomous weapons systems, the response time has considerably declined, leaving Pakistan with limited time to react. This exacerbates the uncertainty and heightens the chances of miscalculations. Given the nature of closed proximity and mistrust, such miscalculations are expected to be accompanied by preemptive strikes leading to mutually assured destruction.⁴³

Furthermore, the excessive incorporation of AI into Indian weapon systems renders them susceptible to cyber-attacks by rogue elements and non-state actors. The autonomous nature of these weapons infers the most minor supervision by humans. However, like other major powers, India has employed significant measures to thwart cyber-attacks on its AI-endorsed weapon systems. However, they are not entirely immune to cyber-attacks and in such a scenario where human supervision is constrained, the likelihood of their misapplication increases manifold.⁴⁴ Such an outcome will have detrimental repercussions for Pakistan's national security. Rogue elements of Indian military or terrorist organisations can hack into Indian AI-integrated weapon systems and nuclear arsenals and employ them to carry out their nefarious plans against Pakistan.

A glimpse of such a catastrophe was observed when an Indian BrahMos Cruise Missile landed in Mian Channu, Pakistan, on 9th March 2022.⁴⁵ Indian government regarded this as a technical malfunction that led to the accidental firing

of the missile. Pakistan's government rejected this claim and demanded a thorough probe. Regardless of Indian justification, the intensity of such an accident is critical as it raises several questions. What if this accident had resulted in a massive number of casualties? What if this missile had hit vital infrastructure, military or nuclear installations in Pakistan? What will happen if Indian missiles or atomic warheads are hacked in the future to target crucial installations in Pakistan? These apprehensions point to significant threats that Pakistan faces due to the vigorous integration of AI into the Indian weapon systems and defence sector. South Asia is already one of the world's most unstable and imperilled regions. The threat of nuclear war persists like the Sword of Damocles. In such a precarious region, Indian AI militarisation is leading to an intense security dilemma and impending danger to the national security of Pakistan.⁴⁶

Conclusion

The twenty-first century has witnessed the vigorous introduction of AI in the military paraphernalia of the US, forcing China to respond. The augmented incorporation of AI into the Chinese military resulted in an aggravated threat perception of India as it embarked on rampant AI militarisation. The invasive integration of AI in India's defence sector is demonstrated in many domains, including Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Cyber- Security, Decision Support Systems, Battlefield Planning and Simulation, Autonomous Systems and Predictive Maintenance. Indigenous development and procurement of semi- and fully autonomous UAVs from Israel manifest India's determination to integrate AI into its defence sector. Pakistan faces an exacerbated security dilemma because of such bellicose Indian AI militarisation. Pakistan and India share a turbulent history marred by multiple wars, Indian support of terrorism in East Pakistan and Balochistan, and the looming threat of mutually assured destruction. Thus, the pugnacious Indian AI militarisation backed by radical right-wing Hindutva ideology compels Pakistan to adopt the policy of quid-pro-quo. Pakistan's AI militarisation, however, has been slow-paced due to economic constraints and other factors. This power disparity and asymmetry of AI militarisation pose severe threats to the security and stability of South Asia as it leads to aggravated arms race, conventional and nuclear asymmetry, unpredictability and uncertainty, heightened chances of miscalculations and cyberattacks. In such a scenario, Pakistan must increase the allocation of resources to incorporate AI into its military apparatus. Concrete measures for economic rejuvenation are vital to accomplishing research and development for the swift integration of AI in Pakistan's defence sector. The hostile Indian designs of AI militarisation amassing severe threats to the national

security of the country and Pakistan must address this dilemma as it cannot afford to delay the integration of AI in its defence sector.

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