

Q Discuss major contours of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime and discuss prospects of their success/failure with reference to India-United States Strategic Partnership.

In the wake of ever-growing nuclear arsenals across the globe, there lays a grave concern posing an existential threat to global peace and security. Upon realizing this, world powers pursued a global peace policy in the form of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime (NNPR) including a key treaty of Nuclear weapons Non-Proliferation, Comprehensive Nuclear Test-ban treaty and a watchdog in the form of International Atomic Energy Agency. Despite its ephemeral success, the altering world order and rising Indo-US strategic partnership, the future remains in corridors to distrust and uncertainty.

⇒ Significant Contours of Nuclear

Non-Proliferation Regime:

1. Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT): (1968)

The NPT has been a defining feature of Non-Proliferation regime. The aims of this treaty include prevention of nuclear weapons spread, ensuring

peaceful usage for Nuclear energy and technology and disarmament.

Effectiveness:

Despite the backlash, the treaty has ensured the number of nuclear states remains eight. Furthermore, countries like South Africa and Ukraine did relinquish their nuclear weapons.

2- Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):

Adopted in 1996, the treaty prohibits all nuclear explosions for both civil and military purposes.

Defects:

The treaty lacks real impetus as key global players including India, Pakistan, and North Korea did not sign, while United States and China did not ratify it.

3- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

This global authority conducts visits, inspects and monitors nuclear sites to ensure standardization and compliance with nuclear safety protocols.

Impact:

The IAEA regularly visits nuclear sites and its strict measures ensure peaceful usage of nuclear for technology.

4- United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 2004):

The UNSC has been proactive towards nuclear containment. Particularly UNSCR 1540 (2004) obligates all states to prevent non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Besides, UNSC can also impose sanctions for violations e.g. Iran.

5- Other Advancements:

There have been some other key features including export control laws and Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs). Along with this, various global nuclear summits promote peace via diplomacy, trust-building measures and cooperation.

⇒ India - United States Strategic Partnership and Prospects of NMR:

To undermine the rising influence of China in Asia and across the globe, United States has developed a nexus with China's only potential competitor in the region. Here are the key developments in this regard particularly regarding Nuclear Security:

1- Indo-US Nuclear Deal (2008):

The deal granted access to India of civilian nuclear technology despite being a non-signatory of ^{UN}NPT.

Prospects:

The deal portrays an utter disregard to the universality and credibility of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime. This could well lead to reservations and may sow a seed for failure.

2- NSG Exception for India:

India also received a waiver from Nuclear Suppliers Group, hinting on preferential treatment and undermining credibility of global power i.e. United States.

Prospects:

• This precedent of selective treatment can grow reservations especially for Pakistan, which is a constant target of Indian aggression.

3- Geo-Political Coordination:

The rising geo-political support to refute China's economic rise has been a characteristic feature of this strategic partnership.

Prospects:

This reflects a geo-political bias ultimately leading to a reduction of trust in regime's fairness.

⇒ Global and Regional Implications on Regime's Success/Failure:

Regional:

While the proponents of the partnership claim, it's for technological integration with safeguards in place, the power tilt suggests otherwise.

The historical animosity and stiffness of Indo-PAK relations implies a threat to Pakistan. Further deteriorating the matter are fascist policies of Modi's regime including Hindutva ideology. So, this partnership will lead to a balance of power tilt in favour of India effectively rendering NPTR unfavourable for Pakistan.

Along with this, growing Indo-US nuclear cooperation will influence China and may result in China opting out of US-led Non-Proliferation treaties. This will be a serious setback to global peace.

Global:

The selective treatment to India while sanctions on countries like

North Korea and Iran will fuel a hatred of regime. The grievances will rise across the globe rendering all the non-proliferation measures ineffective.

Averting Failure and Ensuring Success:

The answer to bright prospects of Nuclear Non-Proliferation regime lies in a more balanced approach by world powers particularly, the United States. Keeping the nuclear arsenals in check is a global and common duty which can only survive and thrive with impartiality. The role of global community in ensuring effective governance, diplomacy and coordination will shape the world towards a flowing future.

⇒ Conclusion:

Nuclear weapons, since inception, pose a severe threat to humanity. Although, the regimes have their drawbacks, but they have ensured a rather smooth and peaceful era of nuclear technology. Having said that, the Indo-US partnership on strategic bases, is tilting the balance, raising questions on fairness and credibility of regime. The global family will have to unite to stand and rise.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand"

Abraham Lincoln