



# Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies



## REGIONAL OPINIONS AND TRENDS

Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies

Opinions and Trends

51/25

Neighbourhood Insights Series

NOVEMBER 2025

### Renewed US-Pakistan Relations Stand on Shaky Ground

*Dalbir Ahlawat | 10 November 2025*

“Pakistan’s realigned foreign policy conceals deep domestic fragilities. While Islamabad’s agreements with Washington and Riyadh may project Pakistan’s renewed relevance, its structural weaknesses and shaky regional relationships expose the country to the risk of repeating its historical pattern of fleeting diplomatic highs followed by extended periods of isolation.”

**Read More:** <https://eastasiaforum.org/2025/11/10/renewed-us-pakistan-relations-stand-on-shaky-ground/>

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### The Price of ‘Brotherhood’

*Shahzeb Amin | 20 November 2025*

“Our country has not abandoned Afghanistan. Nor does it aim for animosity. Our nation continues to desire a secure, peaceful, and successful Afghanistan, since instability in the neighbouring country inevitably affects our own economy, society, and sense of national identity. And with Pakistan having made more investments in Afghan stability than any other country, it still holds a desire to have a stable, secure neighbour sharing a border with it.”

**Read More:** <https://www.nation.com.pk/20-Nov-2025/price-brotherhood>

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## **Saudi–Pakistan Defence Ties Enter a New Phase of Strategic Maturity**

*Farah Adeel | 24 November 2025*

“Islamabad maintains open channels with all key actors in the Middle East, including Iran, Turkey, and Qatar. Its cooperation with Riyadh has never prevented it from pursuing balanced regional relations. Rather, the stability that results from closer security alignment with Saudi Arabia strengthens Pakistan’s ability to play a moderating role in regional affairs.”

**Read More:** <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/11/24/saudi-pakistan-defence-ties-enter-a-new-phase-of-strategic-maturity/>

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## **The Terrorism Trend**

*Dr. Tehmina Aslam Ranjha | 26 November 2025*

“On the one hand, negotiations with Afghanistan over curtailing the activities of the TTP are failing, whereas on the other hand, Pakistan believes that Kabul still enjoys the requisite sway over the TTP to stop terrorism in Pakistan. Hitherto, there is no formal declaration portending a divide between the TTP and the JUA. It is expected that Pakistan is alert to this change of dynamics.”

**Read More:** <https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Nov-2025/terrorism-trend>

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## **Afghanistan Dilemma**

*Touqir Hussain | 27 November 2025*

“We are stuck with the Taliban, having to ‘protect’ them and ‘protect’ ourselves from them. Pakistan needs patience and negotiations mixed with varying degrees of pressure relating to border control, refugees, and trade. There is no military solution to Pak-Afghan problems unless we’re prepared for a blowback.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1957653/afghanistan-dilemma>

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## **Pakistan’s Twin Emergencies**

*Wali Khan | 11 November 2025*

“Pakistan’s resilience must rest on a unified national framework that links demographic policy, climate adaptation, and sustainable development. That framework should rest on four pillars: empowering women through rights-based family planning; investing in education and green skills to harness the youth bulge; steering cities toward climate-smart urbanisation; and restoring ecosystems through stronger water governance and environmental revival.”

**Read More:** <https://www.nation.com.pk/11-Nov-2025/pakistan-s-twin-emergencies>

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## **How Pakistan's New Constitutional Amendment Pushes the Country on The Brink**

*Lt Gen Philip Campose | 19 November 2025*

“Pakistan has experienced coups, constitutional crises, and military takeovers before. But the 27th Constitutional Amendment represents something deeper: the legal reinvention of Pakistan as a military-led state. Field Marshal Asim “Mullah” Munir now wields more entrenched power than any army chief in decades—power insulated from judicial review, political challenge, or institutional restraints.”

**Read More:** <https://www.theweek.in/news/defence/2025/11/19/opinion-how-pakistan-s-new-constitutional-amendment-pushes-the-country-to-the-brink.html>

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## **Provincial Autonomy**

*Ahmed Bilal Mehboob | 22 November 2025*

“It is now an open secret that the logic behind selecting a weak CM was that there would be no resistance to running the province from the federal capital through the prime minister’s principal secretary. A similar scenario was seen in the case of KP after the 2024 election, when a rather weak and indecisive candidate for the CM’s position was nominated so that the province could be run by the PM’s secretariat.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1956668/provincial-autonomy>

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## **Guardians or Gated In?**

*Noor Zafar | 23 November 2025*

“Numerous petitions have been filed challenging the amendments, invoking Pakistan’s implicit Basic Structure Doctrine. While Pakistan’s courts have historically been inconsistent in articulating this doctrine, judicial independence, federalism, and constitutional supremacy have long been recognized as core structural features.”

**Read More:** <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/11/23/guardians-or-gated-in/>

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## **Amnesty's Anti-Pakistan Bias and PTM's Foreign-Backed Agenda**

*Tariq Khan Tareen | 29 November 2025*

“Amnesty International’s biased reporting and PTM’s foreign-backed agenda represent two sides of the same coin. While Pakistan continues its relentless battle against terrorism, sacrificing citizens and soldiers alike, these entities weaponize human rights narratives to serve agendas far removed from reality.”

**Read More:** <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/11/29/amnestys-anti-pakistan-bias-and-ptms-foreign-backed-agenda/>

## **How Pakistan's Nuclear-Terror Nexus Enters its Most Dangerous Phase Under Munir's Dictatorship**

*Raja Muneeb | 29 November 2025*

“The world can no longer treat Pakistan’s internal politics as a domestic affair. With this amendment, Pakistan has entered a perilous era in which a single man wields constitutional, military, and nuclear authority, yet he is unbounded by any accountability, law, or restraint. The danger is not abstract, but it is structural and immediate for the entire globe.”

**Read More:** <https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/pakistan-nuclear-terror-munir-dictatorship-13955052.html>

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## **Silence Which Speaks**

*Muhammad Amir Rana | 30 November 2025*

“People complained, expressed anger in private and public, argued with fate, and then returned to life. What Quetta has lost in the past year is that rhythm. People no longer express outrage: they no longer protest against the tightening constraints around them. They simply stay quiet.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1958245/silence-which-speaks>

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## **Khan's Third Option**

*Fahd Husain | 30 November 2025*

“What does PTI then bring to the table that the present parties struggle to? It brings popularity. It brings legitimacy. It brings younger demographic. These three factors in of themselves are powerful ingredients to provide strength to the system – the kind of strength it would need if it intends to actualise its freshly acquired constitutional powers for outcome-oriented change.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1951922/state-religious-extremism>

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## **The Cryptocurrency Debate**

*Suleman Zia | 30 November 2025*

“Pakistan’s renewed institutional interest in cryptocurrency has been framed as an innovative step toward financial modernization. The establishment of a Ministry of Cryptocurrency has given the initiative a symbolic sense of direction. Yet the political momentum behind this portfolio often outpaces the economic logic required to sustain it.”

**Read More:** <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/11/30/the-cryptocurrency-debate/>

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## **Rebuilding Collective Power: Rethinking Uzbek Political Agency in Afghanistan**

*Abdullah Fayyaz | 16 November 2025*

“The return of an ideological and centralized form of governance, have once again exposed and accentuated ethnic fissures and the systematic exclusion of non-fundamentalist groups from the structures of power. Under such circumstances, the reconstruction of Uzbek collective action constitutes a theoretical response to the crisis of power, the problem of political representation, and the reproduction of structural discrimination in Afghanistan.”

**Read More:** <https://8am.media/eng/rebuilding-collective-power-rethinking-uzbek-political-agency-in-afghanistan/>

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## **The Taliban–Pakistan Dispute: A New Test for Iran’s Regional Diplomacy**

*Kiomars Samadi | 19 November 2025*

“For many regional actors, particularly China, Russia, and Iran, the dispute between the Taliban and Pakistan must be resolved through regional efforts, without direct or indirect involvement from the West. From the perspective of these states, if the crisis subsides through an American or Western initiative, the claim that Eastern powers are capable of managing security challenges in their own neighbourhood would be fundamentally undermined.”

**Read More:** <https://8am.media/eng/the-taliban-pakistan-dispute-a-new-test-for-irans-regional-diplomacy/>

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## **Bangladesh on Shaky Grounds**

*Arghya Protik Chowdhury | 21 November 2025*

“The eastern region of Bangladesh, especially around Chattogram and Cox’s Bazar, has shown increasing seismic activity during the last decade. A series of small to moderate earthquakes detected recently suggest that stress is shifting along the deeper segments of the subduction plates. Scientists describe this as a warning sign, because in many cases, a cluster of smaller quakes appears before a larger release of energy.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/396980/bangladesh-on-shaky-grounds>

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## **How Yunus Repeats Khomeini's Playbook to Bring Islamist Rule in Bangladesh**

*Michael Rubin | 28 November 2025*

“Yunus seeks support for forthcoming elections but bans the Awami League, the nation’s largest party and the Islamists’ chief competitor. If he really believed Bangladeshis blamed the Awami League for both the protests and any number of Bangladesh’s ills, then he would trust Bangladeshis to favour him and his allies at the ballot box. The fact that he bans the Awami League suggests he has no more intention to allow the Bangladeshis a free choice than Khomeini did with the Iranians.”

**Read More:** <https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/yunus-khomeini-playbook-islamist-rule-bangladesh-13954700.html>

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## **Beyond Apparel: How Bangladesh can Develop New Exports**

*Bidyut Kumar Saha and Chandan Sapkota | 30 November 2025*

“The country needs to diversify into new sectors and simultaneously strengthen the apparel industry through innovative products and access to new markets. The country can diversify its economy by replicating the apparel industry’s successful model of international partnerships, technical training, and targeted long-term planning.”

**Read More:** <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/beyond-apparel-how-bangladesh-can-develop-new-exports-4046591>

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## **The BBNJ & Sri Lanka's National Interests**

*R. Adm. (Retd.) Y.N. Jayarathna | 07 November 2025*

“The BBNJ can be utilised as a new awakening for our island nation, just as UNCLOS has awakened Sri Lanka’s maritime governance in the last decade. Let us look to the ocean and change our perceptions, to best evolve and utilise it in a sustainable manner to achieve our national interests.”

**Read More:** <https://www.themorning.lk/articles/9snSHb65jbGbM4ibWQqW>

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## **IMF Policy and the Poor**

*N.A. de S. Amaratunga | 19 November 2025*

“The IMF has said it will have to look at the budget for 2026 before it could release the next tranche of aid to Sri Lanka. This means the government has to act according to IMF policy and advice and abide by its conditions which so far have been bitter for the poor as could be seen from poverty statistics and voices of protest emanating from some sectors.”

**Read More:** <https://island.lk/imf-policy-and-the-poor/>

## **Commemorating JVP and LTTE ‘Heroes’: Lessons the North could Learn from Southern Reconciliation with the JVP**

*Ranga Jayasuriya | 26 November 2025*

“As the North celebrates Mahaveer week, the government should guarantee the right to mourn. Still, it should make sure it would not descend into glorifying suicide terrorists and two decades of nihilistic terrorism. There should be clear red lines, and crossing them should activate anti-terror laws. If the Northern reconciliation is to be successful, there is no other pathway than the one which reconciliation in the South has trodden.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Commemorating-JVP-and-LTTE-heroes-Lessons-the-North-could-learn-from-Southern-reconciliation-with-the-JVP/172-326036>

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## **Ditwah’s Fury Exposes...: Decades of Building Houses in Rain**

*KKS Perera | 02 December 2025*

“As Sri Lanka grapples with Cyclone Ditwah’s aftermath, the disaster underscores that vulnerability to natural hazards remains an existential challenge requiring sustained national commitment. Building genuine resilience demands improved early warning systems and emergency response capabilities while addressing underlying factors amplifying disaster impacts—deforestation, improper land use, inadequate infrastructure, and climate change adaptation.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Ditwahs-Fury-Exposes-Decades-of-Building-Houses-in-Rain/172-326681>

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## **Nepal’s Energy Landscape at a Crossroads: Solar and Storage: Untapped Giants**

*Dr. Sunil Prasad Lohani | 17 November 2025*

“Despite abundant renewable resources, especially solar and hydropower, the country remains heavily reliant on traditional biomass and imported fossil fuels. With per capita electricity consumption barely 0.4 MWh per year, it is one of the lowest in Asia. This figure highlights both the limitations of Nepal’s existing energy infrastructure and the enduring policy inertia that has kept Nepal to old energy paradigms.”

**Read More:** <https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/nepals-energy-landscape-at-a-crossroads-solar-and-storage-untapped-giants>

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## **Nepal's Gen Z Proved the Political Hive Mind is Real**

*Bimal Pratap Shah | 20 November 2025*

“Nepal’s Gen Z briefly demonstrated the power of a “political hive mind,” coordinating a leaderless, rapid, and intelligent mass movement that overwhelmed the state after the violent response to their protest. But the same decentralized force that fuels such uprisings remains fragile without institutions.”

**Read More:** <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/nepals-gen-z-proved-the-political-hive-mind-is-real-69-93.html>

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## **The Future of Federalism in Nepal**

*Khim Lal Devkota | 26 November 2025*

“Federalism in Nepal is the outcome of decades of struggle, sacrifice and collective aspiration. Protecting and strengthening it is both a constitutional duty and a historic responsibility. Nepal’s path to stability, unity and prosperity lies not in retreating from federalism, but in deepening, institutionalising and improving it so that its benefits reach every citizen.”

**Read More:** <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2025/11/25/the-future-of-federalism-in-nepal>

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## **Nura–Sarysu: Why Water Stress in Central Kazakhstan can No Longer be Ignored**

*Aizhan Arshabeyeva | 17 November 2025*

“Discussions on water from the Irtysh basin, which feeds the Kanysh Satpayev Canal, intensified in 2025, driven by demand growth in all three neighboring countries. But that canal itself is overstretched. China, Russia and Kazakhstan all draw heavily from the Irtysh, and industrial demand is rising across the region.”

**Read More:** <https://astanatimes.com/2025/11/nura-sarysu-why-water-stress-in-central-kazakhstan-can-no-longer-be-ignored/>

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## **Central Asia is Considering its Role as a Full-Fledged Actor in Global Processes**

*Mavlon Bobokhonov | 20 November 2025*

“The strengthening of Trans-Caspian corridors, the advancement of the “China – Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan” railway, the Trans-Afghan corridor, and the alignment of Caspian Sea transport routes will significantly expand the region’s strategic and economic potential.”

**Read More:** <https://timesca.com/opinion-central-asia-is-consolidating-its-role-as-a-full-fledged-actor-in-global-processes/>

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## **Abraham Accords can Help Kazakhstan Reshape its Energy Future**

*Dr. Robert Cutler | 28 November 2025*

“For Tokayev personally, joining the Abraham Accords fits how he has governed since taking office. It is another incremental move that shifts Kazakhstan’s position in a changing world without breaking old relationships. In recent months, he has become more active in the C5+1 process and launched a targeted search for technological partners in fields that determine long-term competitiveness, all while preserving the formal language of multi-vectorism.”

**Read More:** <https://timesca.com/abraham-accords-can-help-kazakhstan-reshape-its-energy-future/>

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## **Khamenei’s Deadlock and the Urgent Need for International Support for Democratic Change in Iran**

*Fara Mahmoudi | 30 November 2025*

“Iran stands at a critical turning point in its contemporary history. Deep economic and social crises, repeated nationwide protests, and sustained international pressure have pushed the ruling theocratic regime into an existential crisis. Reliance on organized violence, corruption, and ideologically driven governance has made peaceful transitions of power impossible.”

**Read More:** <https://www.eurasiareview.com/30112025-khameneis-deadlock-and-the-urgent-need-for-international-support-for-democratic-change-in-iran-oped/>

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## REGION IN PICTURES

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets Industry and Commerce Minister of Afghanistan, Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, in New Delhi on 20 November 2025.



Pic Credits: The Hindu

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The Chief of General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh Bin Hameed Al Rowaili, paid an official visit to General Headquarters in Rawalpindi on 24 November 2025.



Pic Credits: Dunya News

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National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, with other countries' NSAs, including Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, at the 7th Meeting of National Security Advisers of the Colombo Security Conclave, in New Delhi, on November 20, 2025.



Pic Credits: ANI

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Saudi Arabia's Deputy Foreign Minister Saud bin Mohammed Al-Sati met with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi in Tehran on 30 November 2025.



Pic Credits: Tehran Times

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Centre for Aerospace Power  
and Strategic Studies

The Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies (CAPSS) is an independent, non-profit think tank that undertakes and promotes policy related research, study and discussion on defence and military issues, trends, and development in air power and space for civil and military purposes, as also related issues of national security. The Centre is headed by Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani (Retd).

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NOTE: **Regional Opinion and Trends** aims to capture prevailing opinions in South Asia and West Asia.

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The views expressed in this brief are those of the author and not necessarily of the Centre or any other organisation.