THE IMPERATIVE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DIGITAL DIPLOMACY: NAVIGATING INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS AMIDST GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Muhammad TABISH

THE IMPERATIVE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DIGITAL DIPLOMACY: NAVIGATING INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS AMIDST GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Muhammad TABISH
University of Lahore

Abstract

Given Pakistan and India's long-standing animosity towards one another and their distinct nuclear arsenals, this study explores the significance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Pakistan and India's diplomatic endeavors. The study investigates how artificial intelligence technology could assist India and Pakistan in managing crises, communicating with one another, and resolving conflicts. India and Pakistan are two countries that have a long history of hostility and threats of nuclear war. There has been a history of hostile diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan, which frequently resulted in conflict. Given that both countries possess nuclear weapons, the current position is far more precarious than it was before. It is necessary to develop novel approaches to enhance both safety and tranquility. The use of artificial intelligence could allow diplomats to evaluate data in real-time, forecast future events, and make choices on their own. Politicians and diplomats can employ algorithms powered by artificial intelligence to better analyze problems, discover strategies for de-escalation, and enhance communication. This prevents misunderstandings and recklessness, both of which could lead to the outbreak of a nuclear war. The use of fast reaction systems, scenario simulations, and risk assessment tools that are enabled by artificial intelligence can be beneficial to crisis management. By utilizing solutions that are powered by artificial intelligence, policymakers can prevent the escalation of a crisis. The prevention of catastrophic events that pose a danger to global and regional security will be achieved through this. A discussion of the urgent necessity to include AI in the political strategy of India and Pakistan, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of doing so, is presented in this study. The recommendations contained in this study are intended to be used by policymakers and stakeholders to improve peace and stability in the India-Pakistan region, as well as to lessen the risk of nuclear conflict. It will be able to accomplish this with the assistance of case studies and experts in the field.

Introduction

Robert McNamara, former US Secretary of Defense said *"The indefinite combination of human fallibility and nuclear weapons will lead to destruction"* while reminiscing the events of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, during which the United States of America and the Soviet Union came close to a nuclear war (13 Days: An Insiders Perspective, 2002). History repeated itself during the Kargil War of 1999, which was a limited war between India and Pakistan (Dixit, 2002). But the war is significant in history as it was between two new nuclear powers that have had decades of animosity and generations of warfare.

Both India and Pakistan have been involved in several conflicts, each of which has distinct military and strategic aspects. They fought in the Indo-Pakistan War between the years 1947 and 1948. The traditional military strategies and confrontations that were used to establish control were the beginning of the first generation of warfare. The second phase of the warfare, which centered on organizational conventional warfare and land capture, lasted between the wars fought in 1965 and 1971. The increasing complexity of military operations was demonstrated by these changing tactics.

The Kargil War of 1999 marked the beginning of the third generation of warfare, which proceeded to spread throughout the 20th century. This generation of modern warfare in a nuclear-capable zone is made more difficult by the strategic employment of nuclear weapons, as well as by irregular forces and restricted territorial ambitions. The 2000s saw the emergence of the fourth generation of warfare, which employed unconventional strategies consisting of both conventional and nonconventional components. Prime examples include cyber warfare and proxy wars.

Both Pakistan and India have revised their theories of strategic defense to account for emerging dangers, technological advancements, and military strategies. They are now using nuclear deterrence as a strategy. They are also trying to address a wide range of security challenges through the utilization of conventional military weapons and counterinsurgency. However, relations between Pakistan and India are complicated and dangerous, as evidenced by the occurrence of recurrent armed confrontations, disputes over the border, and incidents such as Uri and Pulwama.

The fact that both India and Pakistan possess nuclear weapons creates a situation that is both complicated and dangerous. The fact that they have developed nuclear delivery systems and weapons demonstrates that they have shifted their focus from conventional warfare to unconventional and hybrid weapons. Post-Pulwama 2019 demonstrated the diplomatic efforts that the United States is making to prevent nuclear war. There are still questions, even though they adhere to the no-first-use criteria. The former Secretary of State of the United States, Mike Pompeo, asserts that the international community fails to recognize the intensity of the competition between India and Pakistan and the nuclear threat that would be there in February 2019. In 2019, Pompeo (2023) said that a nuclear war between Pakistan and India would have most certainly broken out if the USA had failed to intervene (India, Pakistan came close to a nuclear war in 2019: Pompeo, 2023).

The security strategies of India and Pakistan are greatly affected by artificial intelligence. To avoid unanticipated problems, systems that are powered by the hard use of artificial intelligence can detect and intercept hostile missiles such as the BrahMos missile. Since a BrahMos missile was dropped in Pakistan by accident in 2022 (Rajagopalan, 2022), this is extremely important. By enhancing response times and early warning systems, artificial intelligence in defense systems helps to prevent disasters.

Soft power is bolstered by the capacity of artificial intelligence to evaluate narratives and alter trends. To assist in diplomatic engagements and decision-making, artificial intelligence can monitor public sentiment, media attention, and diplomatic responses. This can manage the nuances of the core conflict. AI can comprehend subtleties and simplify communications in the context of the volatile relationship between India and Pakistan. This enables individuals to engage in constructive conversations and resolve difficulties.

Historical Relations

The origins of tensions between Pakistan and India can be traced back to the partition of British India in 1947. The partition led to the creation of two independent states, Pakistan and India, but it also sparked conflicts, especially over disputed territories like Kashmir. The dispute over Kashmir, with its Muslim-majority population ruled by a Hindu maharaja, became a flashpoint for the first major conflict between Pakistan and India. This conflict set the tone for future confrontations and laid the groundwork for a long struggle over Kashmir's sovereignty (Raghavan, 2018).

The first war between Pakistan and India, known as the Indo-Pak War of 1947-1948 or the First Kashmir War, was primarily centered on Kashmir's accession to either Pakistan or India. The war began with an uprising in Kashmir against the rule of Maharaja Hari Singh, leading to Pakistan's intervention to support the Kashmiri rebels. India responded by sending its military, and the conflict escalated into a full-scale war. The United Nations intervened to broker a ceasefire, establishing a Line of Control (LoC) that divided Kashmir into Indian-administered and Pakistan-administered regions. However, the ceasefire did not resolve the underlying territorial disputes, laying the groundwork for future conflicts (Raghavan, 2018).

Subsequent years saw a series of conflicts and tensions, including the second war between Pakistan and India in 1965 over Kashmir and border skirmishes in regions like the Rann of Kutch (Mirza, 2009). These conflicts highlighted the deep-seated animosity and mistrust between the two nations, characterized by a zero-sum mentality where gains for one were seen as losses for the other. The unresolved Kashmir issue continued to be a major source of friction, contributing to a cycle of confrontation and occasional attempts at peace.

The 1971 war marked a significant chapter in Pakistan-India relations, leading to the creation of Bangladesh and altering the geopolitical landscape of South Asia (Mirza, 2009). The war, triggered by political unrest in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), resulted in India's military intervention on behalf of Bengali nationalists. Pakistan suffered a decisive defeat, leading to the secession of East Pakistan and the birth of Bangladesh. The war underscored the challenges of managing internal diversity and ethnic tensions within both Pakistan and India, shaping their respective approaches to regional security and stability.

The 1990s were marked by recurring tensions, especially in the context of Kashmir, where political grievances and allegations of human rights violations fueled unrest. Efforts at peace, such as the Composite Dialogue Process initiated in the mid-1990s, aimed to address bilateral issues and promote confidence-building measures. However, progress remained elusive as sporadic violence and diplomatic setbacks continued to overshadow peace initiatives.

The turn of the century brought new challenges and opportunities for Pakistan-India relations. The Kargil War in 1999, a limited but intense conflict over disputed territories in Kashmir, highlighted the risks of escalation and the potential for regional instability. The war, followed by nuclear tests by both countries in 1998, underscored the dangerous dynamics of nuclear deterrence in South Asia. Diplomatic engagements, including shuttle diplomacy by international mediators, helped defuse immediate crises but did little to address the underlying causes of conflict (Sridharan, 2007).

The early 2000s witnessed a series of violent events that strained relations between Pakistan and India. The 9/11 Attacks in US brought another global war in the region also known as 'The Global War on Terror', it allowed India to taint the Kashmir conflict in the same color to gather global support against Pakistan's support to armed struggle in Jammu and Kashmir, which was followed by an attack on the Indian Parliament in 2001. A cycle of violence continued but also allowing windows of opportunity for peace and resolution during the Agra Summit. The subsequent military standoff in 2002, marked by mobilizations along the borders and heightened rhetoric, underscored the fragility of peace and the risks of miscalculation (Stolar, 2008). The Mumbai attacks in 2008 were watershed moments that escalated tensions and triggered diplomatic crises (Ghosh, 2022).

The killing of Burhan Wani in July 2016 sparked a significant surge in protests and violence in Indian-administered Kashmir. Wani, a leader of the armed group Hizbul Mujahedin, was killed by security forces, leading to widespread unrest and discontent in the region (Raghavan, 2018). This event marked a turning point, fueling existing grievances and contributing to heightened tensions between different groups and authorities in Kashmir.

The incident that occurred in Pulwama in February 2019 resulted in the deaths of more than forty Indian soldiers. According to Pandaya (2019), this episode had a significant impact on the relations between Pakistan and India. As a form of retaliation against Pakistan, India utilized a military operation that was carefully planned using AI-controlled drones and executed to strike what were believed to be terrorist training sites near Balakot. Due to the severity of this military response, the entire international community was paying close attention to the increasing tensions that were occurring between the two nations that possessed nuclear weapons.

On the 5th of August 2019, the Indian Government made a sudden announcement to revoke Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted Jammu and Kashmir considerable political autonomy (Farooq & Gul, 2020). This decision was part of a broader strategy to fully integrate the region into India revoking the status of Jammu and Kashmir as an autonomous state of India. However, the move also sparked debates and controversies, both domestically and internationally, regarding its legality, impact on regional stability, and implications for the Kashmiri people.

Nuclearization of Pakistan-India Conflict

The nuclear escalation between India and Pakistan has a complex historical background and significant implications for their relations. India's journey towards becoming an overt nuclear weapons state began with the deteriorating security environment it faced since the late 1980s. This environment, coupled with restrictive international regimes and a desire for long-term defense capacity, prompted India's decision to conduct nuclear tests in 1974 and later in 1998 (Sridharan, 2007).

Pakistan's nuclear trajectory closely followed India's, with both countries engaging in a strategic race that culminated in Pakistan conducting its nuclear tests in response to India's tests in 1998. The nuclearization of both nations marked a shift in the regional security dynamics, introducing a new dimension of deterrence and stability but also raising concerns about nuclear proliferation and escalation risks (Mirza, 2009).

The Pulwama attack, Uri incident, and Kargil conflict are critical events in the history of India-Pakistan relations that have had significant implications for regional stability and the potential for a nuclear confrontation. These incidents, when viewed in the context of the nuclearization of both countries, underscore the delicate balance and the risks involved in their strategic calculations.

Efforts for Peace and Dialogue

Amidst these challenges, efforts at peace and dialogue have also emerged as a recurring theme in Pakistan-India relations. Various initiatives, such as Track II diplomacy, backchannel negotiations, and peace summits, have sought to bridge the trust deficit and address core issues, including human rights violations in Kashmir, its status, and cross-border terrorism. International interventions, notably by the United States, have played a role in mediating crises and encouraging dialogue between Islamabad and New Delhi. However, the path to sustained peace remains elusive, with entrenched narratives, security concerns, and domestic politics often overshadowing diplomatic overtures (Dixit, 2002).

According to Malik (2019), Pakistan and India, with the assistance of a neutral mediator, might be able to resolve their issues. The United States of America, the United Nations, and other organizations have been instrumental in maintaining peace and facilitating communication between the two governments in previous wars. However, a variety of factors, including conflicting interests, long-standing enmity, and intricate regional dynamics, might impede mediation efforts. In spite of these challenges, the use of third-party mediation to resolve international crises and advance peace continues to present an appealing option.

Changes in public sentiment and policies have been brought about by the media, politics, and history. Relations between Pakistan and India have become tense as a result of Pakistan's apparent support for terrorist activities in India, separatist movements, and India's opposition to Pakistan's nuclear project. Pakistan also takes a stance against India's Hindu nationalism and violence in Kashmir, arguing that these acts contribute to the escalation of communal tensions and violate human rights.

Understanding Digital Diplomacy

Introduction of new order of things is the most difficult challenge (Machiavelli, 2000). In the age of Digital disruption, a term that originates from Latin word 'disrumpere' meaning 'break apart, split, break into pieces', diplomacy is changing every day (Hoad, 2003). Digital Diplomacy explains how 'Disruption' applied to international relations. Digital Diplomacy refers to use of Digital Technologies such as Social Networks and other online platforms by Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFAs) and International Organizations (Ios) to advance their foreign policy goals and geopolitical ambitions. It is seen as a way to reach wider audience and shape their global image. Digital Technologies have the potential to create tensions, violence and disruption depending upon how diplomacy is conducted. Digital Diplomacy enables MFA's and IO's to communicate more efficiently and in real time to affect bilateral and multilateral relations. It becomes more important when the case of India and Pakistan is discussed given the nature of hostilities and history of conflicts in the South Asian region. Direct communication between parties can help in de-escalation and facilitation of conflict resolution (Cassidy and Manor, 2016). However, given the spread of disinformation digital disruption can also be a cause of escalation. Disinformation serves as the most urgent threat in 2024 (World Economic Forum, 2024). Social Media Platforms are shaping up diplomacy in South Asia, recently Pakistan saw Internet outage due to installation of a 'Firewall' system or a 'Web Management System' to thwart Cyberattacks and Deep inspection of Data Packets to enhance its national security and strengthen its critical infrastructure (Dawn, 2024). India on the other hand believes the uprising against Hasina Wajid by students leading to her ouster was based on disinformation by Pakistan (Hindustan Times, 2024). Recent Floods in Bangladesh in the backdrop of political situation were also blamed on India by some officials in Bangladesh and in the digital public sphere as well which was refuted by Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as 'Misplaced Narratives' (Times of India, 2024). This shows how digital disruption in the region is further deepening the conflicts between the countries and affecting public perception through misinformation of disinformation disseminating from Social Networks.

Digital Diplomacy Between India and Pakistan

In recent times, India and Pakistan have decided to acknowledge the use of social media as a diplomatic tool. Comparative analysis reveals a variety of strategies and capacities of involvement. India was one of the first countries to use a variety of innovative technologies in order to enhance global communication and connection. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was one of the first Indian government agencies to use digital diplomacy. Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube are all under the company's control and have been authenticated. According to Ittefaq (2019), the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) uses its @IndianDiplomacy Twitter account to promote India as a brand and provide intriguing human-interest stories to develop worldwide connections. The proactive strategy taken by India demonstrates the country's desire to share its democratic values, cultural history, economic might, and technical advancements with other countries.

According to the website of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the country's digital diplomacy activities are highlighted. Despite having similar objectives, these initiatives lack organization and direction. It is imperative that Pakistan enhance its global connectivity through the use of technology to disseminate its democratic principles, culture, and talent (Ittefaq, 2019).

The function of language extends beyond speech. In addition to influencing narratives, different points of view, and the results of international events, it also influences digital diplomacy. The use of language as a weapon of aggression, in which rhetoric, communication strategies, and phrases shape diplomatic encounters, is a fascinating concept. In public or on social media, derogatory speech has the potential to incite anger and make it more difficult to be polite. According to Šimunjak and

Caliandro (2019), the use of Twitter by former United States President Donald Trump to engage with foreign leaders goes beyond the rules of traditional diplomatic communication. This demonstrates the revolutionary impact that social media has had on the discourse between diplomats.

Storytelling also plays a crucial role in digital diplomacy, as narratives crafted through digital platforms can influence public opinion and shape policy agendas. Governments often use storytelling to convey their perspectives, promote national interests, and counter negative narratives. India's digital diplomacy strategy includes showcasing its cultural richness, achievements, and contributions through engaging narratives and multimedia content while it also uses it to further its national interests through both covert and overt means (Suri, 2014). Such storytelling efforts aim to enhance India's soft power and influence global perceptions positively.

India's institutionalized digital diplomacy is evident in the active engagement of its digital diplomacy division and foreign office on social media platforms. The Indian MEA's robust social media presence, including verified accounts for missions worldwide, reflects a strategic effort to engage with diverse audiences and promote dialogue (Ittefaq, 2019). In contrast, Pakistan's digital diplomacy efforts, particularly through military public relations and press offices, show relatively higher activity levels compared to other government departments but lack comprehensive engagement strategies (Šimunjak & Caliandro, 2019).

The language used in digital diplomacy can significantly impact conflict dynamics and diplomatic interactions. Diplomatic signaling, through carefully crafted messages and communication strategies, plays a vital role in managing crises, mitigating tensions, and fostering cooperation. However, the misuse of language, such as issuing threats or provocative statements, can escalate conflicts and hinder diplomatic resolutions.

The EU DisinfoLab's investigative report titled Indian Chronicles revealed an extensive network of misinformation and propaganda against Pakistan, spanning over 15 years across 116 countries (Butt, 2021). This operation involved more than 500 fake media outlets and a dozen fake NGOs, aiming to promote a pro-India and anti-Pakistan narrative in the European Union and the United Nations. However, according to Butt (2021), the investigation also discovered that Asian News International (ANI) was responsible for spreading the network's misinformation.

The investigation did not provide evidence that the network was connected to the government of India; but, the size of the network suggests that it is. This fresh comprehension contributes to the ongoing information and narrative conflict between Pakistan and India. Furthermore, it demonstrates the complexities of their connection as well as the difficulties associated with preserving robust international partnerships in the face of propaganda.

Rise of Artificial Intelligence in Digital Diplomacy

AI in digital communication is causing a shift in the way nations interact with one another in the 21st century. Communication and politics on a worldwide scale have been altered as a result of the rapid pace of technological advancement. The COVID-19 outbreak brought to light the significance of the Internet for worldwide communication and collaboration. As a result, the pandemic boosted digital diplomacy with several countries relying on apps like Zoom for official interstate affairs. While artificial intelligence was utilized for pharmaceutical research and virus surveillance, data systems were utilized to assist in monitoring and forecasting pandemic patterns. These approaches also broadened the importance of AI-empowered systems (Joshi, 2021).

Digital diplomacy requires management of enormous volumes of data and assistance in decision-making. The examination of data from a variety of sources enables policymakers to have a better understanding of global concerns and to make decisions. The retrieval of information from reputable sources, social media, and news organizations can be handled by artificial intelligence. Diplomats can monitor ideas and trends in real-time.

Artificial intelligence in digital dialogues has both positive and negative aspects. According to Jafarova (2023), the technology known as Deepfake presents a challenge to the validity of digital material. Altering the visual and audio signals could potentially be detrimental to diplomatic relations. Due to the fact that hackers are able to penetrate digital systems easily with AI, strict cybersecurity measures are also required to safeguard diplomatic information.

When it comes to digital diplomacy, the use of artificial intelligence raises ethical concerns as well. There is a possibility that the decisions made by AI would be biased and discriminatory, which will undermine justice and inclusivity. To prevent unfair results, diplomats may have a responsibility to guarantee that artificial intelligence systems are trustworthy, transparent, and free of bias.

It is necessary to have regulatory norms in place to deploy artificial intelligence in digital diplomacy in a responsible manner. Recently, there has been a lot of interest in topics such as data privacy and security, ethical use of artificial intelligence, and new regulations such as Europe's General Data Privacy Regulation (GDPR) and AI laws (Mucci & Stryker, 2023). It is imperative that nations work together to build universal AI norms and principles for utilization in political contexts. The value of trust and collaboration between nations cannot be overstated.

Artificial intelligence is having an impact on digital propaganda. Because of the worldwide nature of their user base, social media platforms have the potential to disseminate traditional propaganda, that is usually orchestrated from the major headquarters of diplomatic missions, more effectively. As a result of the staggering number of people who use Facebook, the focus has shifted from propaganda to the platform's global reach. In order to mitigate the influence of artificial intelligence-driven algorithms and language translation tools on global propaganda, diplomats need to devise new methods (Vacarelu, 2021).

The advancement of communication technologies has made it possible for diplomatic engagements to take place in real-time and for information to be quickly shared across embassies. There are advantages to having easy access to everything; nevertheless, those in positions of influence at home possess the potential to overmanage foreign ambassadors, so restricting their authority. Because states are in a hurry to make decisions, diplomatic reporting runs the risk of becoming a repeat of official opinions instead of hearing the perspectives of ambassadors.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to oversee a wide variety of political operations in the future due to its dependability and cost-effectiveness in data processing and analysis. Through the use of artificial intelligence, virtual embassies can speed up diplomatic chores, distribute documents, provide information in multiple languages, and assist political or ethnic groupings in gaining statehood. However, in the context of virtual diplomacy, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and various mechanisms for state recognition have been called into doubt (Vacarelu, 2021).

The importance of artificial intelligence research and its application in politics has increased as a result of this. According to Abhivardhan (2023), artificial intelligence has the potential to enhance conflict resolution between Pakistan and India by enhancing communication, crisis management, and governance. Through the provision of real-time insights, strategic foresight, data analysis, predictive modeling, and decision-making, technology that is powered by artificial intelligence has the potential to enhance diplomatic operations.

The ability to communicate and reach an agreement can be enhanced by AI. Artificial intelligence systems can analyze vast volumes of data, identify areas of agreement and disagreement, and formulate intelligent diplomatic recommendations. In spite of persisting difficulties and growing disagreements, this level of research has the potential to assist politicians and officials in developing better plans and improving their ability to communicate.

Artificial Intelligence in India-Pakistan Conflict

According to Arif (2019), India's Land Warfare Doctrine of 2018, which emphasizes the integration of military artificial intelligence, has a significant impact on the geopolitik of the region, particularly Pakistan. India is modernizing its military to respond to challenges to regional security. AI for the military is being developed by India because it views China as a potential threat.

A conventional military advantage over Pakistan is thought to be included in India's ambition of integrating artificial intelligence, which extends beyond China. Artificial intelligence is seen as a means by which India can enhance its military and find solutions to problems related to armament. When it comes to cyber operations, border security, and surveillance, India might potentially gain autonomous weaponry applications through the use of AI. This could disrupt the balance of power in the region of South Asia.

Malik (2020) asserts that India's surgical strikes, such as those carried out in response to the Uri incident in 2016 or the BrahMos Missile incident in 2022, demonstrated the country's determination to employ force against the nations that were specifically targeted. Artificial intelligence is being used by India to improve precision, data collection, and decision-making during surgical strikes. This has resulted in a reduction in civilian casualties while simultaneously accelerating and improving military operations. Artificial intelligence has resulted in a shift in India's war strategy. The effectiveness of regional deterrence has decreased as a result of this shift in dynamics, and peacekeeping and conflict resolution have become more difficult.

India's advancements in artificial intelligence demand a reevaluation of Pakistan's defense position, which is challenging due to financial constraints and an absence of innovative AI concepts. South Asia's stability is in jeopardy as a result of the increasing usage of artificial intelligence in Indian military strategy. There is a high probability of this happening due to the possibility of escalation in arms race, resource strain, and regional insecurity. These elements, when taken together, increase the likelihood of a nuclear conflict. All these developments prompt Pakistan to invest in the development of AI (Ashraf, 2023).

Artificial Intelligence in Navigating Complexities

Artificial intelligence might be able to assist in resolving the dispute between India and Pakistan. This technology is now being utilized to enhance military strategies and armaments; nevertheless, its application in diplomatic channels and conflict management has the potential to put a stop to this never-ending conflict.

Using artificial intelligence in policymaking has the potential to improve communication, understanding, and conflict resolution between India and Pakistan. Apps that are driven by artificial intelligence can assist in the management of emergencies and facilitate real-time communication with ambassadors. Back-channel communication is absolutely necessary in high-pressure situations such as the attack that took place in Pulwama in 2019, to prevent any further harm. Chatbots powered by artificial intelligence could facilitate private negotiations between authorities and diplomats, thereby reducing the level of public indignation and simplifying the process of crisis management.

By analyzing data and conducting risk assessments with the use of AI, conflict hotspots can be identified. During times of rage, there is typically an increase in hate speech and other violent content on social media. These patterns can be found in the data collected from social media platforms by using algorithms controlled by artificial intelligence. This assists legislators in identifying potential challenges and preventing them from occurring. Both the Uri incident in 2016 and the Pulwama incident in 2019 brought about an increase in the level of military tensions between Pakistan and India. These instances emphasize the importance of early problem detection and aggressive efforts to prevent the escalation of conflicts.

AI is capable of generating and replicating diplomatic scenarios, which enables policymakers to experiment with different approaches and more accurately forecast the outcomes. A military standoff between India and Pakistan originated as a result of an attack that took place in 2001 on the Indian Parliament. Everyone became aware of the necessity of crisis management as both nuclear powers came close to a war. The use of scenario modeling that is driven by artificial intelligence may assist lawmakers in evaluating diplomatic options and locating effective solutions, thereby reducing tensions and bringing an end to the issue before it can escalate to a conflict or war.

Conclusion

AI should be used to mitigate the effects of conflict, and Indian and Pakistani officials should collaborate on this endeavor. It would be a good idea to form a task team consisting of AI specialists from Pakistan and India. There is a possibility that the group can create crisis exercise models, communication tools driven by artificial intelligence, and data analysis frameworks for regional conflict trends. The training of diplomats and lawmakers is another key effort that can be undertaken to create capabilities in utilizing artificial intelligence in crisis management and conflict resolution.

This can be accomplished through the use of seminars and workshops. By taking the subsequent actions, India and Pakistan will be able to improve their diplomatic abilities and their capability to work together. Data analysis led by artificial intelligence can assist in determining the factors that lead to conflicts, enhancing crisis management, and enhancing communication, hence fostering trust. In order to guarantee the ethical application of artificial intelligence in diplomatic settings, it is necessary to address the issue of algorithmic bias and the lack of openness in decision-making processes involving AI.

Artificial intelligence presents a number of chances to enhance interpersonal skills. The use of technology that is powered by artificial intelligence can assist Pakistan and India in evaluating the sentiment of social media, monitoring global events in real-time, and making strategic decisions. Through the use of these tools, public mood can be determined, trends can be analyzed, and diplomatic communications can be personalized. Using cutting-edge technology and data analysis, digital communication powered by artificial intelligence has the potential to enhance relations between India and Pakistan. Both Countries can devise a framework of 'Digital Peace Initiatives' that uses AI to detect Disinformation that can lead to harmful consequences and sets a tone of peace-building and conflict resolution.

India and Pakistan have a relationship that is riddled with complexities. It is necessary to develop new strategies for both traditional and hybrid warfare to respond to current conflicts. Since AI has the potential to enhance cognition, communication, and conflict resolution, it can be crucial in this case. There is the potential for artificial intelligence to enhance communication, discover patterns, analyze data, and forecast conflicts, all of which might lead to an improvement in ties between the two countries. Training datasets and the application of AI technology that will define how effective AI is diplomatically in India and Pakistan. When it comes to applying artificial intelligence amid the complicated historical tensions and nuclear realities that exist between Pakistan and India, ethics, transparency, and accountability are incredibly important to create responsible and successful results.

Advancements in the field of AI especially like the recent language learning capabilities such as Chat GPT 4 Omni that can reason across audio visuals and text in real time. These capabilities can highly impact the hostilities between both India and Pakistan where tirades against each other are used during domestic political campaigns as seen in recent Indian elections.

The future dynamics and India's technological capacity poses a challenge to Pakistan that often sees use of cyberattacks, data theft and terrorism that has a technological angle to it as well, where remote access tools are used to hack mobile phones to gather critical information about potential targets. India also alleges Pakistan sponsored terrorist groups using similar tactics against Indian interests in the region and disputed territories of Kashmir. There hasn't been any diplomatic engagement between both countries since 2015 and recent actions taken by India in Pakistan targeting individuals allegedly involved in Kashmir insurgency has further increased tensions between both countries. Any, significant event can lead to a tirade of unprecedented propaganda from both sides leading to escalation of tensions and conflict.

This paper recommends 'Digital Peace Initiatives' between both countries where a joint mechanism should be devised to counter disinformation and fake news detection that can not only lead to violence on communal lines but also avert war and state level conflict. However, it is upon both governments to realize the risks involved in maintaining status-quo and hostile posture and the possibilities of peace and conflict resolution using the modern technological advancements in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Global Transformations around the world are taking place around the world, India and Pakistan, largely the South-Asian region should not remain behind.

References

13 Days: An Insiders Perspective. (2002, October 1). Retrieved from JFK Library: https://www.jfklibrary.org/events-and-awards/kennedy-library-forums/past-forums/transcripts/13-days-an-insiders-perspective

Abbas, S. S. (2016, September 26). *Army rubbishes Indian 'surgical strikes' claim as two Pakistani soldiers killed at LoC*. Retrieved from DAWN News: https://www.dawn.com/news/1286881/army-rubbishes-indian-surgical-strikes-claim-as-two-pakistani-soldiers-killed-at-loc

Abhivardhan. (2023). *Artificial Intelligence Ethics and International Law*: *Practical approaches to AI governance*. BPB Publications.

Arif, S. (2019). Emerging trends of artificial intelligence in South Asia and its implications for Pakistan. *NUST Journal of International Peace* & *Stability*, *2*(2), 55-66.

Ashraf, H. (2023). Digital diplomacy in Pakistan: prospects and challenges. *Global Political Review*, *8*(1), 8-18.

Butt, A. I. (2021, January 4). *Has a 'fifth generation war' started between India and Pakistan*? Retrieved from Al Jazeera: https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/1/4/are-india-and-pakistan-in-a-fifth-generation-war

Cassidy, J. and Manor, I. (2016). Crafting Strategic MFA Communication Policies During Times Of Political Crises: A Note to MFA Policy Makers. *Global Affairs*, *2*(3), 331-343.

Jahangir, R. (2024) What's happening with the internet in Pakistan. Available at https://www.dawn.com/news/1853742/whats-happening-with-the-internet-in-pakistan

Dixit, J. N. (2002). *India-Pakistan in War and Peace*. Routledge.

Farooq, S., & Gul, S. (2020). From Pulwama to Indian revocation of article 370 in Indian held Kashmir: Policy implications on the geopolitics of South Asia. *Global Legal Studies Review*, 8-14.

Ghosh, S. (2022). *Mumbai Terror Attacks*: *An Analysis*. Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies.

Hashmi, Z. (2017, October 31). *The Sorry State of Pakistan's Digital Diplomacy*. Retrieved from The Diplomat: https://thediplomat.com/2017/11/the-sorry-state-of-pakistans-digital-diplomacy/

Hindustan Times, (2024). Sheikh Hasina's son claims Pakistan's ISI behind Bangladesh unrest, Here's Why. Available at https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/sheikh-hasinas-son-claims-pakistan-isi-behind-bangladesh-unrest-heres-why-101723162272668.html

Hoad, T. (2003). *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*. Oxford University Press.

India, Pakistan came close to a nuclear war in 2019: *Pompeo*. (2023, January 25). Retrieved from Al Jazeera: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/25/india-pakistan-came-close-to-a-nuclear-war-in-2019-pompeo

Ittefaq, M. (2019). Digital diplomacy via social networks: A cross-national analysis of governmental usage of Facebook and Twitter for digital engagement. *Journal of Contemporary Eastern Asia*, *18*(1), 49-69.

Jafarova, L. (2023, August 1). *Artificial Intelligence and Digital Diplomacy*. Retrieved from E-International Relations: https://www.e-ir.info/2023/08/01/artificial-intelligence-and-digital-diplomacy/

Joshi, N. (2021, December 12). *Digital Diplomacy*: *AI As A Tool To Strengthen International Relations*. Retrieved from Forbes: https://www.forbes.com/sites/naveenjoshi/2021/12/12/digital-diplomacy-ai-as-a-tool-to-strengthen-international-relations/?sh=6c5ae8076983

Machiavelli, N. (2000). *The Prince*. Infomotions, Inc.

Malik, D. (2020). Indian surgical strike: Implications and response by Pakistan. *IPRI Journal*, *20*(1), 72-104.

Malik, M. (2019). Pakistan-India relations: An analytical perspective of peace efforts. *Strategic Studies*, *39*(1), 59-76.

Mirza, D. (2009). *Pakistan-India Relations a Chronology, 1947-2008*. Nazaria-i-Pakistan Trust.

Moore, A. (2023, March 21). *How AI Could Revolutionize Diplomacy*. Retrieved from Foreign Policy: https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/03/21/ai-artificial-intelligence-diplomacy-negotiations-chatgpt-quantum-computing/

Mucci, T., & Stryker, C. (2023, November 28). *What is AI governance*? Retrieved from IBM: https://www.ibm.com/topics/ai-governance

Nolan, B. (2024, April 10). *OpenAI and Meta are on the verge of releasing AI models capable of reasoning like humans, report says*. Retrieved from Business Insider: https://www.businessinsider.com/openai-meta-agi-ai-models-reasoning-race-2024-4

Palit, P. S. (2018). India's use of social media in public diplomacy. *Public Diplomacy of Rising and Regional Powers*, *3*(3), 151-171.

Pandya, A. (2019). The future of Indo-Pak relations after the Pulwama attack. *Perspectives on Terrorism*, *13*(2), 65-68.

Raghavan, T. (2018). *The People Next Door: The Curious History of India-Pakistan Relations*. Harper Collins.

Saeed, A. (2023, April 7). *Artificial Intelligence and Modern Warfare: Comparative Analysis of India and Pakistan*. Retrieved from Modern Diplomacy: https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/04/07/artificial-intelligence-and-modern-warfare-comparative-analysis-of-india-and-pakistan/

Šimunjak, M., & Caliandro, A. (2019). Twiplomacy in the age of Donald Trump: Is the diplomatic code changing? *The Information Society*, *35*(1), 13-25.

Sridharan, E. (2007). *The India-Pakistan Nuclear Relationship*. Routledge.

Stolar, A. (2008, March 11). *To The Brink: Indian Decision-Making and the 2001-2002 Standoff*. Retrieved from Stimson: https://www.stimson.org/2008/brink-indian-decision-making-and-2001-2002-standoff-0/

Suri, N. (2014). India Is—Old & New. *Rising Soft Powers India*, 55-57.

TNN (2024). Dhaka Blames India for Flooding, Delhi hits back. Available at: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/dhaka-blames-india-for-flooding-delhi-hits-back/articleshow/112724501.cms

World Economic Forum, (2024). "*Global Risks 2024: Disinformation tops Global Risks 2024 as environmental threats intensify*" Available at: https://www.weforum.org/press/2024/01/global-risks-report-2024-press-release/

Vacarelu, M. (2021). Artifcial Intelligence: To Strengthen or to Replace Traditional Diplomacy. In F. Roumate (Ed.), *Artificial Intelligence and Digital Diplomacy* (pp. 1-24). Springer Nature.

About Author

Ph. D. Cand. Muhammad TABISH | University of Lahore
tabesch.phd[at]gmail.com | ORCID: 0009-0006-7456-6092

Muhammad Tabish is a PhD Candidate in International Relations at the School of Integrated Social Sciences, University of Lahore. He is studying Digital Diplomacy and Role of Artificial Intelligence in Crisis Communication. He has previously graduated from National Defence University, Islamabad in International Relations and also holds an MPhil in Political Science and studied Digital Platforms and their role in Political Systems. His areas of interests include Cyber Security, Counter Terrorism and Strategic Communications.