



Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS)

Forum for National Security Studies (FNSS)

Title: Round Table Discussion on
CONTEMPORARY NUCLEAR ISSUES

Chairperson: Dr. Manpreet Sethi, Senior Fellow, CAPS

Speakers: Dr. Sitakanta Mishra, Assistant Professor, PDP
'Nuclear Safety and Security Issues'
Ms. Hina Pandey, Associate Fellow, CAPS
'Report Card on President Obama's Nuclear Performance'

Rapporteur: Ms Pooja Bhatt, Research Associate, CAPS

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Dr. Sitakanta Mishra- Nuclear Safety and Security Issues

1. Every technology has inherent risks. Countries do their own risk analysis to make choices including on nuclear technology. Confidence in nuclear safety and security are the key to public acceptance of nuclear power.
2. Post-Fukushima construction of 70 new nuclear reactors continues in several countries. Only few countries are planning to phase out their nuclear power programs.
3. Efforts are ongoing towards building next generation of nuclear energy reactors such as Molten Salt reactors, Sodium Fast reactors and so on.
4. Safety, Security and Safeguards (3S) of nuclear reactors overlap in their operational aspects but have a common objective, which is the safe exploitation of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
5. Nuclear Safety refers to steps taken to obviate possibility of accidents due to design, operations, systems and processes. Nuclear Security refers to steps taken to counteract possibility of malicious attempts such as theft, sabotage etc. to cause an accident.



6. Sometimes, philosophies of safety & security maybe in contradiction to one another. For instance, nuclear safety relies on transparency and open review of past mistakes whereas nuclear security relies on confidentiality of information.

Ms **Hina Pandey**- *Report Card on President Obama's Nuclear Performance*

1. President Obama's famous Prague speech in 2009 brought out a new vision towards nuclear non-proliferation& disarmament. However, not all aspects outlined by President Obama in the Prague agenda could be fulfilled in the 8 years of his presidency.
 2. His successes include arms reductions by US and Russia under New START treaty, the Nuclear Security Summit process, and the signing of JCPOA with Iran.
 3. On the other hand, his major failures include lack of progress on the FMCT that couldn't fructify due to absence of consensus in the Obama administration. He could not push for the ratification of the CTBT either.
 4. Hence, there are mixed results on President Obama's Prague agenda. He leaves behind US- Russia relations at a new low, a trillion dollar budget for the modernization of American nuclear arsenal over the next three decades, and a general sense of increased salience of nuclear weapons.
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