



PREVENTING WEAPONISATION OF SPACE – AN INDIAN VIEW

Maj Gen Dipankar Banerjee

Director & Head

Institute of Peace & Conflict Studies

New Delhi, India



THE EMERGING SPACE ENVIRONMENT

The rapid scaling up of military dependence

Burgeoning civilian applications

No effective move towards responsible, collective use of space exclusively for peace



THE EMERGING STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

- The beginnings of a New Cold War in Eurasia?**
- Continuing conflict and new tensions in West Asia & Afghanistan**
- The challenge of energy**
- Growth in energy routes and their protection**
- Competition over resources**
- Climate change and environmental issues**



OTHER TRENDS IN SPACE

- The abrogation of Anti Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty - 2002
- UN First Committee - November 2005 - historical vote against PAROS
- The linking of “Freedom of action in space” to “air power and sea power”
- “Policy of negation”
- Opposition to the development of new legal regimes
- The new US Space Policy 2006



These constitute a potent volatile mix, which might destroy the basic fabric of collective security. We are today moving away from a rule based approach to global security, to a unilateral, assertive and domineering approach to space.



The Immediate questions

Is weaponization inevitable?

Will space be the new scene of conflict?

**Are we inexorably moving in that
direction?**



THE FIRST SALVO?

Future historians may well see Beijing's use of a missile to destroy an old weather satellite as having more lasting global impact than the Iraq war.

IHT, January 21, 2007

In spite of a globalized, interdependent world – the potential for conflict remains unacceptably high



" we must be second to none in the application of advanced technologies to the real problems of man and society, which we find in our country. ...

- *Dr. Vikram A. Sarabhai*

- Frank Admission : Existence of abundant down-to-earth problems of development.
- Prudent assertion : Science & Technology being crucial apparatus for development.
- Commitment : Science & Technology for socio-economic benefits in preference to display of grandeur.

- Military Superiority
- Technological Dominance
- Display of Grandeur



INDIA'S POSITION – Nuclear Weapons

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

“Nuclear Disarmament remains a core concern of India's foreign policy. India is committed to a nuclear-weapon free world, to be realized in a systematic and progressive manner, through global, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament”

Indian Parliament, July 2005



INDIA'S POSITION - Space

“India has created a growing infrastructure, including deployment of several satellites in space for communications and remote- sensing and for the utilisation of space technology and assets in space for such diverse sectors as agriculture, health, education, natural resource management and disaster management. India is, therefore, committed to the peaceful pursuit of space technology and to preserve outer space, a common heritage of the mankind, exclusively for peaceful uses. We share the concerns about the dangers of deployment of weapons in the outer space and believe that this will not be in our collective interest.”

Amb Jayant Prasad, CD, Geneva, 2006



The Rule of Law

“... Indian delegation considers that the development of Space Law is crucial to the orderly and organised exploration of space for the peaceful purposes. ... We reaffirm that the five UN Space treaties – evolved through consensus and accepted by a large number of countries – constitute the cornerstones of the international space law.”



“We would like to reiterate the Indian commitment to the use of Outer Space for peaceful purposes in the common interest of mankind. We support development and continuous evolution of rule of law for the peaceful use and exploration of outer space so as to ensure benefits to all countries, in particular to the developing countries.”



INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO SPACE SECURITY

India recognises the vitality of space systems, ground segments, and the supporting link for the civil, commercial and other peaceful uses of outer space. The protection of these systems and unhindered uninterrupted continued operation of and services derived from these is its prime responsibility towards its own people and the entire humanity.



- **There is no alternative to international collective approach to space security. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 leaves no room for unilateralism of any kind.**



Current Developments

More resources are becoming available for space programs

Pressures developing from the military for dual use projects

Perceptions of asymmetric developments in China's military space capability

Greater move towards militarisation in space



CONCLUSION