INTRODUCTION

It is in the perspective of international balance of power, preserved precariously by the studious non-use of nuclear weapons that forms the backdrop of the present work. The material presented in the following pages deal with a wide range of issues concerning the power politics of states possessing nuclear weapons and the way non-nuclear weapon states are prevented from acquiring nuclear technology even for peaceful purposes. The study covers such relevant aspects as, the unending efforts of the United Nations to create a world free of nuclear weapons, through its agencies and agreements, notably; International Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC); the provisions of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, NPT and such other efforts. Attempt has also been made to find out the factors for India’s response to the CTBT; and the problem of nuclear weapons falling into wrong hands specially the so-called ‘rogue’ states.

The compilation draws from wide range of sources, both Indian and foreign, with the intention that it will be of much use and interest to all those interested in the dynamics and politics of nuclear weapons, students and researchers, political analysts and journalists.

The most talked about and pressing problem of today, undoubtedly, is to find a solution to the unending arms race by adopting measures for disarmament and arms control. The problem becomes even more difficult to solve when nations, which very well realise the gravity of the situation, which may culminate in the extinction of mankind.

An analysis of the world’s nuclear arsenal clearly indicates the sure destruction and extinction of mankind from the face of the earth, if we ever have a third world war. Survival of all living organisms rest on man’s success or failure in achieving genuine disarmament and ending arms race. It is becoming clearer by the day that the destinies of nations of the world
depend on how far nuclear weapons are in the hands of responsible control mechanisms controlled by responsible and how they conduct among themselves and with other countries.

This study is primarily aimed at India’s policy towards arms control and disarmament measures particularly, to the CTBT in the purview of its regional constraints and economic sanctions pursued by nuclear haves on those considered to be havenots. No nation or individual can claim immunity or afford the luxury of laziness to the problems created by arms race. In a world floating in the constant fear of an outbreak of nuclear war, that too with some nations having already dropped bombs on cities forcing surrender by enemy forces. In the community of nations, some want to dominate others by using instruments of spying and inspections and producing false evidences to find reason to interfere in the internal affairs by military aggression, where nations want to become guardians of other nations by providing protection, peace and harmony. It is in this context, the compilation is made.

The study consists of four chapters, tackling the problem in some detail, not only India’s stand on the issue but also the original problem itself. The first chapter aims at studying closely the problem of arms control and disarmament, its history and origin in particular. References are made of the rise in the use of nuclear weapons to threaten, their proliferation and their implications for the geopolitical setup especially, of Indian subcontinent. Reference is also made of the issue by providing some informative data on the geostrategic and domestic constraints.

The second chapter deals with South Asian crisis, which is related to ethnic conflicts, secessionist movements, territorial disputes among countries including their domestic problems. It also describes India’s prominent position in South Asia and its pursuit of bilateral and regional cooperation.
The third chapter deals with determinants of India’s nuclear policy and the extra-regional involvements in the nuclearization of South Asia and the bilateral and multilateral agreements in this field.

The fourth and the last chapter considers in considerable detail the efforts made by the United Nations and its members in order to achieve the goal of complete disarmament. It also mentions the Indian contribution and arguments advanced in achieving genuine disarmament goals, its policy regarding the measures adopted for disarmament and arms control in various international forums, and also India’s efforts in the field on bilateral basis. It also highlights some regional as well as global problems in reaching any general concensus on the issue.

Lastly the study contains the concluding remarks, an analysis of problems of disarmament and India’s role in attempts in that direction and her attitude towards global superpowers as well as regional nuclear tigers, their policies and designs within the framework of international nuclear scenario. India’s policy perspectives and position is also mentioned in the conclusion.

At the end of this work, an Appendix has been provided of CTBT draft treaty, important from the point of view of the subject of the study. It does not mean that other treaties are less important or are of little significance, but due to lack of space other texts have been excluded.