

## Diplomacy in the Age of Information Warfare; Strategies and Challenges in South Asia

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Since the South Asian region is characterized by territorial disputes, potential nuclear threats and internal political instability, this research seeks to assess the correlation between information warfare and diplomacy. The general objective of this research is to provide insight into how cyber threats, the spreading of misinformation and propaganda interfere with diplomacy and regional security. Using a systematic literature review (SLR) methodology, this study synthesizes secondary qualitative data analysing peer reviewed articles, books, policy papers and reports while examining how state and non-state actors employ information warfare. The study shows that techniques like digital monitoring and social media deception significantly influence diplomacy therefore new strategies in cyber diplomacy are deemed necessary. It is crucial for South Asian nations to adopt better cybersecurity policies and measures for effective use of digital diplomacy to address these threats. The findings emphasize the transformative impact of information warfare on diplomatic strategies, the need of developing integrated regional approaches and multifaceted cybersecurity measures. The conclusion also highlights the importance of progress in digital diplomacy and ethical standards to maintain stability and build trust among South Asian nations. The study offers potential guidelines for policymakers and stakeholders aiming at mitigating the adverse effects of collateral consequences related to information warfare while fostering regional development.

**Keywords:** *information warfare, cyber diplomacy, South Asia, cybersecurity, regional cooperation*