Newsletter April-June 2019

Introduction

This issue of CISS newsletter provides a snapshot of the host of activities undertaken by the Center including research publications, and roundtable discussions during the past 3 months. In the Middle East, tensions have mounted between the US and Iran. The security environment in the region may even become more challenging. In the meanwhile, people gathered in Hong Kong protests against the extradition bill presented in the parliament. In addition, emerging technologies like hypersonic weapons, artificial intelligence are other evolving challenges to International security. In South Asia, India is first to test its surface-to-surface hypersonic missile, which will further destabilize strategic stability in the region. On the other hand, Pakistan apparently is unwilling to get into costly arms race.

Happy Reading!
Syed Sadam Hussain Shah
Editor

Maryyum Masood
Editorial Assistant

Editorial Assistant
Round Table on Afghan Peace Talks with Mr. Rupert Stone on April 30, 2019.
Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) Islamabad organized a round-table with Mr. Rupert Stone, a Berlin based independent journalist working on South Asia and the Middle East, on April 30, 2019 at CISS conference room. Mr. Rupert Stone delivered a lecture on ‘Afghan Peace Talks: Assessment of Perils and Prospects: An Assessment’. For complete press release visit the link: https://ciss.org.pk/round-table-on-ghan-peace-talks-with-mr-rupert-stone/
One day National Conference on Strategic Stability in South Asia: Emerging Challenges on April 10, 2019.

The foreign minister was speaking at the inaugural session of a conference titled ‘Strategic Stability in South Asia: Emerging Challenges’, which had been organized by Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS). The Conference was held to deliberate on the regional strategic environment in view of the factors straining deterrence stability.

India and Pakistan's Crisis Means a New Arms Race

**Dr. Mansoor & Ms. Maimuna Ashraf (April 2, 2019)**

The latest India-Pakistan crisis has contested longstanding narratives on South Asia’s crisis stability, conflict management and escalation control. The conventional wisdom on Pakistan’s force posture asserts that given Pakistan's relative conventional weakness and its first-use doctrine, it is “nuclear trigger happy.”


Address South Asia’s Fissile Material Conundrum

**Dr. Mansoor Ahmed (May 13, 2019)**

A book chapter entitled “Address South Asia’s Fissile Material Conundrum” by Dr. Mansoor Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow CISS, was published in Off Ramps from Confrontation in Southern Asia by the Stimson Center Washington D.C.

For complete book visit the link https://www.stimson.org/sites/default/files/file-attachments/OffRamps_Book_R5_WEB.pdf

We Can Tell You All of the Ways to Kill a Hypersonic Missile

**Samran Ali (June 2, 2019)**

At a time when existing missile defenses can’t guarantee success against the ballistic missiles, a whole new challenge has been posed by hypersonic vehicles. Many people believe that after a certain time period the effectiveness of ballistic missile defenses will grow. In that situation, hypersonic weapons' deployment is important. However, as of now, the Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGVs) and Hypersonic Cruise Missiles (HCMs) are solutions looking for a problem.

Complete article can be accessed at https://ciss.org.pk/we-can-tell-you-all-of-the-ways-to-kill-a-hypersonic-missile/
India’s Growing Counterforce Capabilities

Samran Ali (June 8, 2019)

India tested the Brahmos missile from its Su-30MKI aircraft in the Bay of Bengal on Wednesday, 22nd May this year. Brahmos is a supersonic cruise missile developed jointly by Russia and India. It can carry a 200-300kg warhead with a range of 290 km at 2.8 Mach speed. Since India’s inclusion in the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), it has been increasing the range of its missiles far beyond 400km.

For complete article visit https://ciss.org.pk/indias-growing-counterforce-capabilities/

Worrisome Nuclear Signaling: Recent Trends

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi & Saima Aman Sial (June 13, 2019)

Every time there are elections in India, a favourable theme is Pakistan-bashing. Over time, this tendency has grown. In the now concluded elections, the gratuitous attacks on Pakistan were at an all-time high. This time there were also allusions to nuclear weapons use. The danger is that election ploys may inadvertently lead to an irreversible escalation of tensions.

Complete article can be accessed at https://ciss.org.pk/worrisome-nuclear-signaling-recent-trends/
International Participation

CISS' researcher Syed Sadam presented his paper at Shanghai University in China

For further details please visit https://cliss.org.pk/cliss-researcher-syed-sadam-presented-his-paper-at-shanghai-university-in-china/
Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director meeting with Pakistan section headed by Professor Sotkinov, at the Russian Academy of Sciences, School of Oriental Studies.
Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, participated in 8th Moscow Conference on International Security (MCIS) in Moscow - Russia, April 23-25, 2019.

For more details please visit https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-russia-visit/
On 27th of June 2019, Riaz Khokhar participated in a seminar organized by the East-West Center in Washington D.C. on “U.S.-Pakistan Relations: Challenges to and Prospects of the Pivot from AFPAK to Indo-Pacific.

Riaz Khokhar participated in a workshop on escalation dynamics and consequence management in the subcontinent involving tabletop exercises at the Stimson Center on June 21, 2019.