Introduction

This issue of CISS newsletter provides a snapshot of the host of activities undertaken by the Center including research publications, holding of roundtable discussions, during the past 3 months. On 14th Feb 2019, forty Indian CRPF Personnel were killed in a suicide attack in Jammu and Kashmir, conducted by Adil Ahmed Dar, a Kashmiri freedom fighter. However, in the aftermath, a major crisis erupted between India and Pakistan. Indian jets penetrated inside Pakistan but offloaded their payloads in haste near Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Satellite imagery provided by key the US think tanks refuted Indian claims of any damage to property or killing alleged terrorists in Balakot, as acclaimed by the Indian leadership. The next day Pakistan Air force attacked targets in Indian held Kashmir and shot down an Indian Mig-21 and SU-30 MKI in retaliation. Indian pilot fell inside Pakistan, who was taken into custody. The entire Pulwama episode was set to electoral dynamics to support BJP and Modi in his election campaign.

Meanwhile, situation in Afghanistan has entered a pivotal and highly uncertain time. All the stakeholders now recognize that military solution is not achievable. Afghan Taliban have demanded a complete withdrawal of the US and NATO forces, and a new constitution for the country. However, Washington wanted assurances that non-state actors will not be allowed to use Afghan soil against the US or its allies. If withdrawal is partial, the risk for conflict will increase, as complete withdrawal will allow a single party to exercise its influence. There is a need for consolidating law and order situation within Afghanistan.

The CISS team has analyzed all of these important international developments in detail in the current issue of CISS Newsletter.

Happy Reading!

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Roundtables

CISS Roundtable on Review of Current Issues in Pakistan’s Foreign Policy on February 6, 2019.

A roundtable was organized by Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) on February 6th, 2019, with Ambassador (R) Riaz Muhammad Khan and Ambassador (R) Riaz Hussain Khokhar on the topic ‘Review of Current Issues in Pakistan’s Foreign Policy’.

Complete press release can be accessed at
Round-table with Ms. Wakana Mukai on Global Security Issues Relating to Arms Control and Disarmament on February 14, 2019.

A roundtable was organized by Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) on February 14, 2019, at CISS office Islamabad with Ms. Wakana Mukai, Ph.D. Assistant Professor Faculty of International Relations Asia University. The topic of roundtable discussion was ‘Global Security Issues Relating to Arms Control and Disarmament’.

For complete press release visit the link
Roundtables

Round-table on Climate Change and its Implications for Pakistan’s Security, Presentation by Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman HEC on February 19, 2019.

Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) Islamabad organized a round-table with Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman HEC, on February 19, 2019 at CISS conference room. Dr. Tariq Banuri delivered a lecture on Climate Change and its Implications for National Security.

Export Control of Cyber-security Software and Tools

Afeera Firdous (January 1, 2019)

Many computer security experts have celebrated the development of Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) in which it revised and added new export control rules for computer network intrusion software in its export control list. In the same plenary meeting in 2017, WA, a voluntary arrangement which governs the trade of conventional weapons and technologies for its group members, accepted India as its 42nd member of the arrangement.


Pakistan’s Conventional Military Deterrence is More Robust than Commonly Assumed

Maimuna Ashraf (January 22, 2019)

A US-based policy platform has analysed Pakistan’s conventional deterrence capability, and said it now has a range of non-nuclear response options.

For complete article visit [https://ciss.org.pk/pakistans-conventional-military-deterrence-is-more-robust-than-commonly-assumed/](https://ciss.org.pk/pakistans-conventional-military-deterrence-is-more-robust-than-commonly-assumed/)

What Pakistan Will Gain from Peace in Afghanistan?

Riaz Khokhar (February 10, 2019)

For starters, Pakistan expects that its sincere efforts in facilitating the Afghan reconciliation process will bridge the trust deficit with the Afghan government. To be sure, Pakistan’s intra-regional trade is constricted by the trust deficit with its neighbors.

Modi’s May Surprise

TANZEELA KHALIL (FEBRUARY 15, 2019)

The new government in Pakistan has extended well-meaning proposals to India, it is yet to be seen if Modi government uses this incident to gain support in the upcoming elections as it did in the Gujarat by-elections in 2017 by upping the anti-Pakistan rhetoric and violations of ceasefire across the Line of Control (LoC).

For complete article visit https://ciss.org.pk/modis-may-surprise/

AMAN Exercises 2019: Securing Peace in the Global Commons

SAIMA AMAN SIAL (FEBRUARY 15, 2019)

‘Thou know’st that all my fortunes are at sea’, says Antonio in Shakespeare’s famous play, ‘The Merchant of Venice’. The same dictum is equally applicable to Pakistan, a country whose major reliance for all trade, in fact more than 96 percent, is on sea.


Crossing the Lines of Peace?

HUMA REHMAN (MARCH 3, 2019)

26 February 2019, initiated another stand-off between two nuclear neighbors (Pakistan and India). The trigger behind the current scenario is the tragedy that occurred in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir region. On 14 February 2019, a convoy of vehicles carrying Indian security personnel on the Jammu Srinagar National Highway was attacked by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber at Lethpora in the Pulwama district, in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, India.

For details visit https://ciss.org.pk/crossing-the-lines-of-peace/
Appraisal of Indian Army’s LWD – Would It Remain Relevant In the Post Pulwama Period?

Afeera Firdous (March 5, 2019)

Historically, Indian Armed Forces had been following flexible doctrinal guidelines in the form of General-Staff Pamphlets, for shared understanding of threat perception and response, but this was for restricted circulation within the military. The trend changed when Indian Air Force (IAF) published its first doctrine in 1995. Complete article can be accessed at https://ciss.org.pk/appraisal-of-indian-armys-lwd-would-it-remain-relevant-in-the-post-pulwama-period/

Offensive Cyber Operations and Nuclear Weapons

Syed Sadam Hussain Shah (March 14, 2019)

The potential use of offensive cyber operations against nuclear systems will increase the possibility of war in the future and pose an urgent risk due to the vulnerabilities that exist in nuclear infrastructure. From network attacks, man-in-the-middle attacks, packet sniffing, denial of service attacks (DDOS), Wi-Fi attacks, cyber-spoofing, supply chain attacks, radio attacks, crypto attacks, rubber ducky attacks, air-gapped network attacks, spyware attacks and more, malicious actors have a range of tools that can jeopardize the integrity of nuclear command, control, and communication (C3) systems.

Sensational Media Can Aggravate Indo-Pak Crisis

Samran Ali (March 14, 2019)

A wave of jingoism and war hysteria followed the February 14, 2019 suicide attack on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Pulwama district of Indian administered Kashmir by a young Kashmiri, Adil Ahmad Dar. A video of Adil Dar surfaced on the internet in which he claimed support from Pakistan based Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM). For complete article visit the link https://ciss.org.pk/sensational-media-can-aggravate-indo-pak-crisis/
A Skeptics Guide to Managing the India-Pakistan Conflict

Riaz Khokhar (March 24, 2019)

Washington’s and Beijing’s visions for the Indo-Pacific region are reflected in their reactions to the recent uptick in tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi. The United States and China have essentially different and indispensable partnerships with India and Pakistan, and this understanding shapes their view of the India-Pakistan conflict. For complete article visit https://ciss.org.pk/a-skeptics-guide-to-managing-the-india-pakistan-conflict/

Prospects for Civilian Plutonium Management in Pakistan and South Asia

Maimuna Ashraf (March 27, 2019)

Ms. Maimuna Ashraf, Research Officer CISS, analyzes the Pakistani perspective on the potential for voluntary nuclear information-sharing mechanism in South Asia, that appeared in the Stimson Center’s collection of essays, entitled “Multilateral Nuclear Information-Sharing: The View from South Asia”.

International Participation

CISS exhibits at Carnegie Nuclear Policy Conference 2019 at Washington D.C.

The Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference 2019 is being organized at Washington D.C. from March 11 to 12, 2019. Over 800 experts and officials from more than forty countries are participating in the conference this year. Center for International Strategic Studies, (CISS) Islamabad has set up a stall at the conference venue. CISS stall has exhibited publications including books, copies of research journals, and reports in the stall.

For more details please visit https://ciss.org.pk/ciss-exhibits-at-carnegie-nuclear-poli-
International Participation

Ms. Saima Sial Participated as a Panelist at Carnegie Nuclear Policy Conference, Washington D.C.

Ms. Saima Aman Sial, Senior Research Officer, CISS, participated as a panelist at Carnegie Nuclear Policy Conference, Washington D.C. on “Nuclear Crises in South Asia”. The discussion was moderated by Scott Sagan, other participants included Vipin Narang and Aparna Pande.

To watch the full event please visit the link https://ciss.org.pk/ms-saima-sial-participated-as-a-panelist-at-carnegie-nuclear-policy-conference-washington-d-c/
Review of Strategic Stability in South Asia: A Discussion with Pakistani Scholars

CISS Team led by Dr. Naeem Salik CISS Senior Research Fellow, participated in a round-table on Review of Strategic Stability in South Asia: A Discussion with Pakistani Scholars at the South Asia Center of Atlantic Council in Washington D.C, chaired by Dr. Bharath Gopalswamy, Director South Asia Program at Atlantic Council.

For more details please visit the link https://ciss.org.pk/review-of-strategic-stability-in-south-asia-a-discussion-with-pakistani-scholars/