



CISS NEWSLETTER

Jan-March, 2021

Summary

Present issue of CISS Newsletter provides an overview of a host of activities undertaken by the Center for International Strategic Studies, Islamabad, during the past three months. These activities include research publications, round-tables and participation in webinars as well as discussions in other fora.

Despite the constraints posed by COVID-19 situation, CISS undertook the following activities:

- i. During this period, the Center held a virtual round-table discussion with Stimson Center, Washington DC on February 4, 2021. The topic of the discussion was “Re-set of Pakistan-US relations”. The Stimson Center is a well reputed think tank based in Washington DC, America. The purpose of the discussion was to assess Biden Administration's policies and approaches towards South Asia in general and Pakistan in particular.
- I. On the occasion of CISS 10th anniversary, the Center published a special issue covering all the activities conducted by the Center during the course of 10 years. A detailed research article on “Global Strategic Environment 2010-2020: Nuclear Order & South Asian Strategic Stability” was also included in it. The special issue contains congratulatory messages received from Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Former Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, Former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen. (R) Ehsan Ul Haq, Former DG SPD and current Advisor NCA Gen. (R) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, Prof. Dr. Syed Rifaat Hussain, Prof. Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, and the Senior Fellow at ISSI (London) Mr. Rahul Roy-Chaudhury.
- ii. A whole range of research articles and papers were written on various issues and major developments by the CISS researchers, during the last quarter. These included Shaheen 3 Ballistic Missile Test, non-traditional security threats, Pakistan's enhanced deterrence credibility, Afghan Peace Process under Biden Administration, India's growing strategic capabilities, Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Indian Farmers' Protest etc.
- iii. CISS researchers actively participated in various discussions and events organized by other think tanks within Pakistan and abroad, during this period besides those organized by CISS. ED CISS, Amb. Ali Sarwar Naqvi frequently appeared on various TV programs in discussions on current issues, both national and international.

Editor
Maryyum Masood

CISS Round-Tables

CISS Virtual Round-Table Discussion with Stimson Center, Washington DC (February 4, 2021)

A Round Table discussion was held between CISS and the Stimson Center Washington DC on Zoom app. The Stimson Center is a highly regarded America think tank which has had interaction with Pakistani scholars and experts for many years. This event was the first to be held between CISS and the Washington counter-part.

The subject was a re-set of Pakistan-US relations at a time when the new Biden Administration is formulating its policies and approaches in foreign affairs, especially towards South Asia and Pakistan, in particular.

In the Round Table, the Pakistani side was led by Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, while the US side was led by Dr. Sameer Lalwani, Senior Fellow for South Asia in the Stimson Center.

For further details, please visit the link <https://ciss.org.pk/round-table-between-ciss-and-stimson-center-washington-dc-on-zoom-on-february-4-2021/>

Participation in Webinars/Discussions

Dr. Naeem Salik gave comments on “Nuclear Prohibition Treaty Takes Effect” on Indus News (February 2, 2021)

Dr. Naeem Ahmed Salik, Senior Research Fellow CISS, gave comments on 'Nuclear Prohibition Treaty Takes Effect' in Indus News program 'In Focus South Asia' with Ejaz Haider on February 2, 2021. Other panelists were Dr. Rifaat Hussain Analyst, Asif Durrani Fmr. Amb. (Islamabad), Ravi Srivastav (Analyst, Delhi) and Gowhar Geelani (Journalist, Srinagar).

Follow the link for complete details <https://ciss.org.pk/dr-naeem-salik-gave-comments-on-nuclear-prohibition-treaty-takes-effect-on-indus-news/>

ED CISS spoke on “Foreign Relations of Pakistan and Current Diplomacy” on UMT Webinar (February 4, 2021)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave an interview to moderator Mr. Ahmad Sohail, on “Foreign Relations of Pakistan and Current Diplomacy” on an education program of the University of Management & Technology (UMT) Lahore webinar on February 04, 2021. Twenty-Five thousand students from the university and other institutions attended the webinar.

Recording of the webinar can be watched here:

<https://www.facebook.com/umtofficialtv/videos/1336637500003589>



ED CISS gave comments on Indian Hindutva Policy and Atrocities in Kashmir on PTV News (February 9, 2021)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, participated in the PTV News program 'Badalti Raey' hosted by Dr. Sajjad Bokhari and shared his views on Indian Hindutva Policy and Atrocities in Kashmir. Other panelists were Gen. Moinuddin Haider and Dr. Munawar Hussain.

The program can be watched at <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-gave-comments-on-indian-hindutva-policy-and-atrocities-in-kashmir-on-ptv-news/>



ED CISS talks about India's State-Sponsored Terrorism in Pakistan on Indus News (February 15, 2021)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, participated in the Indus News program 'In Focus South Asia' hosted by Ejaz Haider and shared his views on “India's State-Sponsored Terrorism in Pakistan”. Other panelists were Rajiv Desai (Analyst , Delhi), Ravi Shirivastava (Analyst, Delhi), Andrew Selepak (Analyst , Florida) and Asad Baig (Tech Journalist, Islamabad).

The program can be watched here <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-talks-about-indias-state-sponsored-terrorism-in-pakistan-on-indus-news/>



ED CISS gave comments on Afghan Peace Process on PTV World (February 15, 2021)

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The program can be watched here <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-talks-about-indias-state-sponsored-terrorism-in-pakistan-on-indus-news/>

ED CISS gave comments on 'FATF to Discuss Pakistan Case Today' in Faiz TV program Cross Fire (February 24, 2021)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, participated in the Faiz TV program Cross Fire hosted by Shazia Khan and shared his views on “FATF to Discuss Pakistan Case Today”.

Complete program can be watched at <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-gave-comments-on-fatf-to-discuss-pakistan-case-today-in-faiz-tv-program-cross-fire/>



ED CISS Spoke on Operation Swift Retort Special Program on Surprise Day with Danish Saeed (February 27, 2021)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave comments on Surprise Day Special Program on 27th February with Danish Saeed on Suno FM Digital Radio Pakistan.

The program can be watched at <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-spoke-on-operation-swift-retort-special-program-on-surprise-day-with-danish-saeed/>



ED CISS was interviewed by Channel Five on PM's Sri Lanka visit and Current regional & international developments (February 28, 2021)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave an exclusive one-to-one interview in Channel Five TV program Diplomatic Enclave, hosted by Malik Manzoor Ahmed, on February 28, 2021.

Following topics were discussed:

- Current regional and international developments
- Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Sri Lanka
- Pakistan-India, Afghanistan, ME, Iran and Pakistan-US Relations

Complete program can be watched at <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-was-interviewed-by-channel-five-on-pms-sri-lanka-visit-and-current-regional-international-developments/>



ED CISS gave comments on “Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” on PTV World (March 4, 2021)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, participated in the PTV World program 'Views on News' hosted by Omer Khalid Butt and shared his views on “International Criminal Court ruling on Israeli atrocities against Gaza in 2014.” Other panelists were Javed Siddiq (Senior Journalist) and Dr. Aqab Malik (Foreign Affairs Expert).

For further details, please visit <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-gave-comments-on-istaeli-palestinian-conflict-on-ptv-world/>



Dr. Naeem Salik spoke on Stimson Center's Webinar on “Quetta and Wellington: Attitudes and Threat Perceptions of the Indian and Pakistani Armies” (March 8, 2021)

Dr. Naeem Salik, Senior Research Fellow CISS, spoke on Stimson Center's Webinar on “Quetta and Wellington: Attitudes and Threat Perceptions of the Indian and Pakistani Armies.” Other speakers were Reshmi Kazi (Associate Professor, Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Jamia Millia Islamic University, New Delhi), Aditi Malhotra (Co-Editor, Journal for Intelligence, Propaganda and Security Studies, Graz), Col. David O. Smith (R) (Distinguished Fellow, South Asia Program, Stimson Center, Washington D.C.), Sadia Tasleem (Lecturer, Defense & Strategic Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad) and Akriti Vasudeva (Research Analyst, South Asia Program, Stimson Center, Washington D.C.).

The Webinar can be watched at <https://ciss.org.pk/dr-naeem-salik-spoke-on-stimson-centers-webinar-on-quetta-and-wellington-attitudes-and-threat-perceptions-of-the-indian-and-pakistani-armies/>

ED CISS talks about Indian Farmers' Protest and Afghan Peace Process on PTV News (March 10, 2021)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, shared his views on statements of British and EU parliamentarians against the Indian gov't's handling of farmers' protest, and the Secretary Blinken's letter to President Ashraf Ghani on the Afghan Peace Process on PTV News program Badalti Raey. The anchor was Dr. Sajjad Bokhari and other panelists were Gen. (R) Naeem Lodhi and Chaudhry Khadim Ali Mandla.

The program can be watched here <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-talks-about-indian-farmers-protest-and-afghan-peace-process-on-ptv-news/>



ED CISS gave comments on a Pak-India talk on Indus News (March 24, 2021)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, participated in a discussion on Islamabad Security Dialogue, a Pak-India talk on Indus News program 'In Focus South Asia' hosted by Ejaz Haider. Other participants were Suhasini Haider and Amb. Zamir Akram.

The program can be watched here <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-gave-comments-on-a-pak-india-talk-on-indus-news/>



Samran Ali is interviewed by a Turkish Think Tank on 'Pakistan's role in Conflict Resolution in Asia' (March 29, 2021)

Today the global competition shifting to the Asia-Pacific and Pakistan becomes an important ally for international actors. Islamabad, a key actor in relations with India, China, Russia, Turkey and US, has strengthened its position in the international competition with the growing geopolitical importance of South Asia. Taking a decisive position against the USA's containment policy to China in the region, Pakistan is also taking various steps to resolve the Kashmir crisis.

Complete interview can be read here: <https://unitedworldint.com/17218-pakistans-role-in-conflict-resolution-in-asia/>

PUBLICATIONS & ANALYSIS

CISS SPECIAL ISSUE ON TENTH ANNIVERSARY

(January, 2021)

Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) has published this special issue to commemorate Center's Tenth Anniversary as the Center was established way back in October 2010. CISS has, over the years, evolved its own persona, its unique identity and its place in the world of strategic studies. This Special Issue contains congratulatory messages from some prominent personalities such as Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Former Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, Former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen. (R) Ehsan Ul Haq, Former DG SPD and current Advisor NCA Gen. (R) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, Prof. Dr. Syed Rifaat Hussain, Prof. Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, and Senior Fellow at ISSI (London) Mr. Rahul Roy-Chaudhury.

For more details, please download Special Issue in the link given below

<https://ciss.org.pk/PDFs/CISS-AR2020-Special-Issue.pdf>

IMPORTANCE OF SHAHEEN EXERCISES FOR PAKISTAN AIR FORCE AND INDIAN CONCERNS

Samran Ali (January 5, 2021)

Military exercises are the highest form of military training and real-time application of theoretical knowledge. The objective of the military exercises is to increase the combat readiness, training, and learn from each other's tactics. They are also important to assess the state logistics, tactics, overall preparedness of the forces, and help the militaries enhance their joint fighting capabilities.

Complete article can be accessed at <https://cscr.pk/explore/themes/defense-security/importance-of-shaheen-exercises-for-pakistan-air-force-and-indian-concerns/>

Shaheen 3 Ballistic Missile Test: Enhancing the Deterrence Credibility

Samran Ali (January 25, 2021)

Pakistan has tested its Shaheen 3 ballistic missile on January 20, 2021. The test was aimed to validate the missile's various design and technical parameters, according to the press release issued by the ISPR. The strategic stability in the region has been under a constant threat due to various developments in the region including the political tensions and a series of weapons testing by India in recent months.

Follow the link for complete details <https://cscr.pk/explore/themes/defense-security/shaheen-3-ballistic-missile-test-enhancing-the-deterrence-credibility/>

THE WELLINGTON EXPERIENCE: AN APPRAISAL

Dr. Naeem Salik (February 24, 2021)

Colonel David O. Smith has adopted a unique methodology in writing his most recent book *The Wellington Experience: A Study of the Attitudes and Values Within the Indian Army* as he did for his earlier work, *The Quetta Experience: Attitudes and Values Within Pakistan's Army*. Using available end-of-tour reports submitted by U.S. military officers who attended the Indian Defense Services Staff College (DSSC) at Wellington between 1979 and 2017 as well as structured interviews, Colonel Smith evaluates how attitudes have evolved in the Indian armed forces.

Complete article can be read here <https://southasianvoices.org/the-wellington-experience-an-appraisal/>

AMAN Exercises 2021 – Pakistan Navy Investing in Peace

The Indian Ocean is the new arena for geopolitical contestation between major powers. The US in its geopolitical contest with China has expanded the scope of its Indo-Pacific strategy to include the Western Indian Ocean and is investing heavily in India's maritime defence and security to make it assume the role of a 'net security provider' in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).

PHAL TEJAS: TIMELINES, CAPABILITIES, AND FUTURE

Samran Ali (March 2, 2021)

India has been developing the Tejas fighter aircraft for almost the last four decades under the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) program. The aircraft has seen many delays, and only two squadrons have been formed till now after the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) was given in 2013. Now with the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) clearing the purchase of 83 aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF), India's Tejas dream is turning into a reality.

For complete article, please visit the link <https://cscr.pk/explore/themes/defense-security/hal-tejas-timelines-capabilities-and-future/>

TURKISH N-BOMB: A NEW FAVOURITE OF PROPAGANDA MACHINERY

Samran Ali (March 5, 2021)

Developing a nuclear bomb has become a difficult task, thanks to the robust non-proliferation norms and international control measures. A case in point is Iran's nuclear

program. Despite this, news and commentaries on Turkey getting nuclear technology and bomb have increased in recent years.

Complete article can be read here <https://cscr.pk/explore/themes/defense-security/turkish-n-bomb-a-new-favourite-of-propaganda-machinery/>

NON-TRADITIONAL THREATS: PEACE AND SECURITY DYNAMICS IN SOUTH ASIA

Huma Rehman (March 5, 2021)

The contemporary milieu, characterized by a changing global strategic environment, interdependence, real-time connectivity and fast-paced technological advancements, has led to a spillover effect that goes far beyond the territory of any single continent. The advent of cyberspace is rapidly mounting the medium of virtual environment with growing dominance and influence of Social Media and Content Sharing Platforms which is also the element of hybrid warfare and elements of non-traditional threat to peace and security of the states.

For complete article, please visit <https://strafasia.com/non-traditional-threats-peace-and-security-dynamics-in-south-asia/>

THE GLOBAL POWER AMBITIONS BEHIND THE INDIAN BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM

Samran Ali (March 19, 2021)

Indian ballistic missile program is growing in terms of both range and launch platforms. The Agni family of ballistic missiles has grown from short-range Agni-I to intercontinental-range Agni-V. Similarly, the launch platform flexibility has also increased from land-based Agni family to submarine-launched capability, the Sagarika and Shaurya. The increase in missiles' coverage and diversity in terms of launch platforms are spearheading the Indian ambitions to become a global and hegemonic power.

For further details, please visit <https://cscr.pk/explore/themes/defense-security/the-global-power-ambitions-behind-the-indian-ballistic-missile-program/>

REVIEWING PAKISTAN-SRI LANKA RELATIONS

Riaz Khokhar (March 22, 2021)

Last month, Imran Khan made his first visit to Sri Lanka as Pakistan's Prime Minister. The two-day visit to Colombo, during which Imran Khan and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda

Rajapaksa discussed cooperation across a variety of strategic areas, signifies Islamabad's intention to work with Sri Lanka for expanded political, security, and economic partnerships in the Southern Asian region.

Complete article can be read here <https://southasianvoices.org/reviewing-pakistan-sri-lanka-relations/>

CISS MONOGRAPH – BIOLOGICAL WEAPON CONVENTION PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE BY DR. SYED JAVAID KHURSHID

Dr. Javaid Khurshid (March 31, 2021)

Biological Weapon Convention is the only legally binding treaty which controls the biological arms. Opened in April 1972 for signature and entered into force in March 1975. BWC currently has 183 states parties.

The world has recently seen the widespread of COVID–19 pandemic, disinformation, conspiracy theories regarding the nature of the virus. However, the fact remains that whatever the origin of the outbreak, whether natural, accidental, or deliberate by state or nonstate actors, the world needs to be better prepared to prevent, mitigate, and face any pandemic in the future.

Complete monograph can be accessed at <https://ciss.org.pk/biological-weapon-convention-past-present-and-future/>