



Summary

This issue of CISS Newsletter provides an overview of the host of activities undertaken by the Center for International Strategic Studies, Islamabad. These activities include research publications, webinars and participation in discussions during the past three months. The CISS team has covered the important international developments that took place during this period through its various activities. Despite the constraints posed by COVID-19 situation, CISS continued its activities as follows:

i. It held its third webinar on August 25, 2020, on "India-China Face-off: Territorial or Strategic?", to discuss and analyze the face-off from the Indian and Chinese perspective in

order to assess whether the dispute was territorial or strategic in nature. It featured, apart from other speakers, the well-known Indian analyst Pravin Sawhney.

ii. A whole range of research articles and papers were written on various issues and major developments in the news, during this period. These major developments include Pak-India relations, India's military modernization, Pak-China Strategic Dialogue and Sino-Indian confrontation in Ladakh area.

iii. CISS team actively participated in various discussions and events organized by CISS and other think tanks within Pakistan and abroad during this period.

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Webinars/ Discussions

ED CISS Participated on Roz News' Program Capital View (July 19, 2020)

Amb. Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS participated in a discussion on Roz News' program Capital View anchored by Asim Raza on July 19 2020.

For further details please visit

<https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-participated-on-roz-news-program-capital-view-on-19th-july-2020/>



Dr. Naeem Salik gave comments on 'Propaganda against Pak-China Relations' on Indus News

(July 28, 2020)

Dr. Naeem Salik, Senior Research Fellow CISS, gave comments on 'Propaganda Against Pak-China Relations' on Indus News' program 'In Focus South Asia' with Ejaz Haider on July 28, 2020.

For further details please visit the link

<https://ciss.org.pk/dr-naeem-salik-gave-comments-on-propaganda-against-pak-china-relations-on-indus-news/>



CISS researcher, Mr. Riaz Khokhar spoke in a webinar hosted by Stimson Center on "A Post-Galwan Crossroads? Reviewing 70 Years of India-China Relations"

(July 22, 2020)

The Stimson Center's online magazine South Asian Voices organized the webinar with speakers from India, and Pakistan, on July 22, 2020.

For complete details please visit the link

<https://ciss.org.pk/riaz-khokhar-spoke-in-a-webinar-hosted-by-stimson-center-on-a-post-galwan-crossroads-reviewing-70-years-of-india-china-relations/>





Dr. Syed Javaid Khurshid Participated as an invited discussant in the Webinar on The Role of Science and Technology in National Progress, Growth and Competitiveness at NIPS, NUST, Islamabad (July 28, 2020)

Dr. Syed Javaid Khurshid, Senior Research Fellow CISS, participated as an invited discussant in the Webinar on 'The Role of Science and Technology in National Progress, Growth and Competitiveness', on 28th July, NIPS, NUST, Islamabad For complete details please visit the link

<https://ciss.org.pk/dr-syed-javaid-khurshid-participated-as-an-invited-discussant-in-the-webinar-on-the-role-of-science-and-technology-in-national-progress-growth-and-competitiveness-at-nips-nust-islamabad/>



ED CISS' Comments on Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir in PTV News' Program with Mona Alam (August 4, 2020)

Amb. Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave comments on Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir in PTV News' Program with Mona Alam on August 4, 2020.

The program can be watched at

<https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-comments-on-youm-e-istehsal-kashmir-in-ptv-news-program-with-mona-alam-on-4th-august/>

ED CISS participated in News One's program Mazrat Kay Saath (August 15, 2020)



Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, participated in a discussion in News One's program Mazrat Kay Saath on August 15, 2020.

You can watch the program at

<https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-participated-in-news-ones-program-mazrat-kay-saath/>



ED CISS gave interview on Foreign Policy Issues to Channel Five

(August 16, 2020)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave an interview to Channel Five on Foreign Policy Issues on August 16, 2020.

For further details please visit

<https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-gave-interview-on-foreign-policy-issues-to-channel-five/>



ED CISS participated in discussion on Foreign Policy of Pakistan at PTV World

(August 19, 2020)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, participated in PTV World's program 'Views on News' and gave comments on Foreign Policy of Pakistan at PTV World on August 19, 2020.

Complete details can be accessed at

<https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-participated-in-discussion-on-foreign-policy-of-pakistan-at-ptv-world/>



ED CISS participated in a discussion on Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue and Pakistan's Foreign Policy challenges on Roze TV (August 23, 2020)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, participated in a discussion in Roze TV program Capital View. The discussion was on the Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue and Pakistan's Foreign Policy challenges. It can be watched at

<https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-participated-in-a-discussion-on-pakistan-china-strategic-dialogue-and-pakistans-foreign-policy-challenges-on-roze-tv/>



ED CISS gave comments on PM Imran Khan's Speech at UNGA (September 28, 2020)

Amb. Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave comments on September 28, 2020.



A webinar on the recent face-off between the Indian and Chinese forces on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Himalayan region Ladakh was organized by Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) on Tuesday August 25, 2020 in Islamabad. The purpose of the webinar was to discuss and deliberate upon the face-off from the Indian and Chinese perspective with a view to assessing whether it was territorial or strategic in nature.

For complete press release please visit

<https://ciss.org.pk/press-release-ciss-webinar-on-india-china-face-off-territorial-or-strategic/>

CISS Webinar on India-China Face-off: Territorial or Strategic? (August 25, 2020)





**ED CISS Interviewed Prince Hassan bin Talal
in a Virtual Session Organized by
Mrs. Ameena Saiyid
(September 29, 2020)**

Amb. Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, interviewed His Royal Highness Prince Hassan bin Talal in a virtual session organized by Mrs. Ameena Saiyid, former Director of Oxford University Press, on September 29, 2020.

For further details please visit

<https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-interviewed-prince-hassan-bin-talal-in-a-virtual-session-organized-by-mrs-ameena-saiyid/>



Publications & Analysis



Credibility of Accountable Nuclear Deterrents?

Afeera Firdous (July 5, 2020)

Recently a new arms control paradigm was proposed. The tenets of this proposition center around two arguments. First, how much is too much? Second, what kind of changes in size of arsenal, types of warheads and nuclear doctrine could make this environmental and humanitarian disaster avoidable?

Complete article can be accessed at

<https://strafasia.com/credibility-of-accountable-nuclear-deterrents/>





Publications & Analysis

South Asian Voices Published an Urdu Version of Riaz Khokhar's Article Riaz Khokhar (July 12, 2020)

South Asian Voices (SAV) published an Urdu version of Mr. Riaz A. Khokhar's article on China-India relations.

It can be read here

<https://ciss.org.pk/PDFs/SAV-Urdu.pdf>



Indian Military Budget and Weapons Procurement Samran Ali (July 18, 2020)

CISS researcher, Samran Ali, writes on growing Indian military expenditures and latest weapons procurement deals for Hilal Urdu magazine.

This article was published in the Hilal Urdu Magazine June 2020 Edition.



India-China-Pakistan: Collusion or Collision? Samran Ali (July 18, 2020)

CISS researcher, Samran Ali contributes to Pakistan Politico's Strategic Bytes on India-China-Pakistan: Collusion or Collision?

This article was published in the Pakistan Politico.

Read it here
<http://pakistanpolitico.com/sb5/>



Publications & Analysis

Military Effectiveness amid COVID-19

Dr. Naeem Salik
(July 20, 2020)

While COVID-19, the deadly Pandemic has unraveled the socio-economic foundations and norms of the international community not much has been said about the complications it has created for the militaries around the world.

Complete article can be accessed at <https://strafasia.com/military-effectiveness-amid-covid-19/>



COVID-19 AND THE “GUNS VERSUS BUTTER” DEBATE IN SOUTH ASIA

Maimuna Ashraf (July 22, 2020)

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, analysts have been discussing the virus' far reaching impact on global healthcare systems, socioeconomic well-being, and existing national security priorities throughout the world. Even prior to the COVID-19 outbreak reminding the world of how quickly a virus can spread beyond borders, viruses, not war, were anticipated by some to be what would kill millions in the coming years.

Complete article can be read here <https://southasianvoices.org/covid-19-and-the-guns-versus-butter-debate-in-south-asia/>

Pakistan's Compliance with Biological Weapons Convention

Dr. Syed Javaid Khurshid (August 3, 2020)

Pakistan has a principled position regarding biological weapons and is fully committed to the objectives of the BWC, which is an important disarmament treaty that bans WMDs and recognizes

equal and undiminished security for all member states. Pakistan signed BWC in 1972 and ratified it in 1974 as one of 22 initial member states whose ratification was necessary for the entry into force of the convention. Since 1974, Pakistan has maintained a positive and constructive approach towards the BWC.

For complete article please visit

<https://strafasia.com/pakistans-compliance-with-biological-weapons-convention/>

CISS – Strategic Assessment 2019 and Forecast 2020 (July, 2020)

The CISS Strategic Assessment 2019 surveys major global and regional developments with a focus on South Asia. It includes Global and Regional Perspectives on Emerging Technologies; Trends in Global Arms Control, Disarmament and Nuclear Nonproliferation; Pakistan's Foreign Policy and Relations; and Developments Affecting Deterrence Stability in South Asia. This Assessment also offers a Forecast for 2020 that is based on the trends and trajectories in these four areas and is likely to affect the strategic outlook of South Asia.

Full report can be read here:
<https://ciss.org.pk/PDFs/SA2019-F2020-F.pdf>

Publications & Analysis



The Demise of US-Russia Bilateral Arms Control Architecture and China

Samran Ali (August 29, 2020)

NEW START remains the only arms control agreement verifiably reducing and capping the strategic nuclear arsenal of the United States and Russia. The agreement will expire in February 2021 unless extended by both the superpowers for another five years – an unlikely case. With no other treaty in place, the end of the agreement will make the Asia-Pacific region the focus of a geopolitical struggle. Intensifying an arms race between the US, Russia and China, it may also bring China and Russia closer to each other against the US.

Complete article can be accessed at

<https://strafasia.com/the-demise-of-us-russia-bilateral-arms-control-architecture-and-china/>

Rise of Digital Sovereignty

Afeera Firdous (September 5, 2020)

The term digital sovereignty, which interchangeably is also known as 'internet sovereignty' or 'cyber sovereignty', is starting to establish a strong foothold globally in the national politics, economics, and technological landscape.

For further details please visit

<http://forceindia.net/feature-report/rise-digital-sovereignty/>



Publications & Analysis

The Lure of Military Artificial Intelligence: Mapping the Global Strategic Landscape

Saima Aman Sial

(September 10, 2020)

How misleading is the world order, or in other words, how mala fide is it? While this fact is known to most serious observers of the system, there are few who talk or write about it. Most of those who do, term it as realpolitik: and the impact of this hypocritical world order is more evident in South Asia that is seen as the epicenter of a new Cold War.

To read the complete article, please visit <https://niice.org.np/archives/5952>



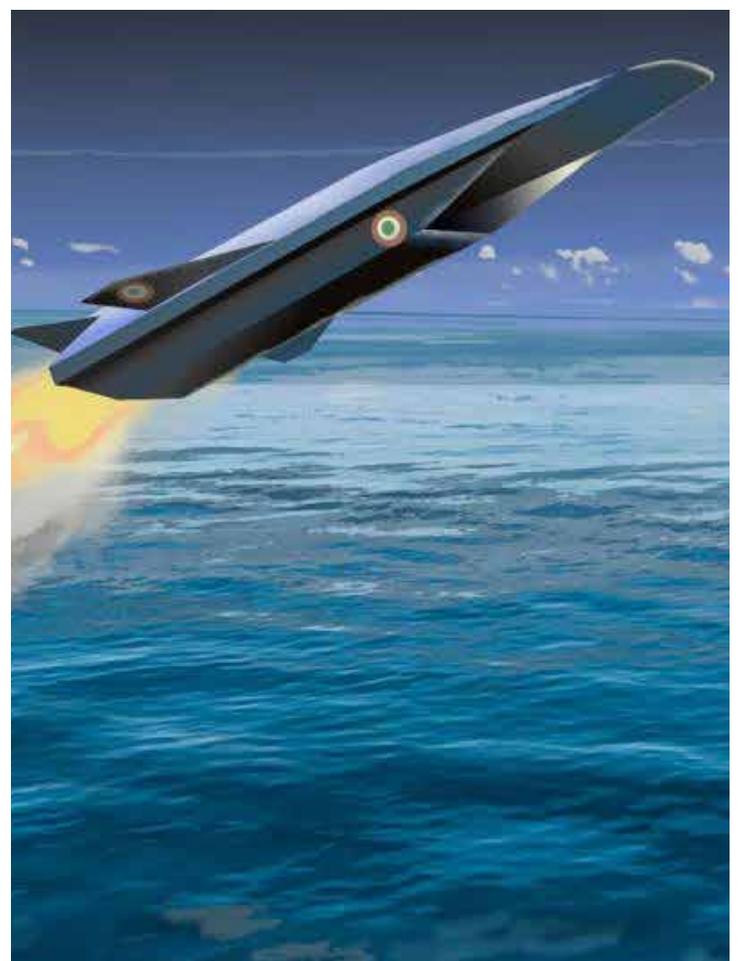
Assessing the Implications of India's Hypersonic Technology Test for Pakistan

Samran Ali (September 11, 2020)

After an unsuccessful test of Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in June last year, India for the first time has claimed to have successfully tested its hypersonic vehicle on September 7, 2020. With this, India joins the group of elite nations including the United States (US), China and Russia who are either developing or have developed hypersonic technologies for military purposes.

Complete article can be accessed at

<https://cscr.pk/explore/themes/defense-security/assessing-the-implications-of-indias-hypersonic-technology-test-for-pakistan/>





Publications & Analysis

President Trump: A hard hit to U.S.

Amna Saqib

(September 22, 2020)

The state of America has come into the failure zone very swiftly and carelessly under its 45th President, Donald Trump. US have already paid a heavy price including damage to its global reputation, loss of confidence of its traditional allies, global stability and security.

This article can be accessed at

<https://foreignpolicynews.org/2020/09/22/president-trump-a-hard-hit-to-u-s/>



Iran's Strategic Pragmatism in Afghanistan

Maryyum Masood and Sabeen Malik

(September 23, 2020)

On 29 February 2020, the United States and the Taliban reached a milestone agreement towards the path to peace in Afghanistan, by signing a historic peace deal in Doha. This deal brought along its share of uncertainty, punctuated by episodes of violence. Soon after signing the deal, Taliban intensified attacks in Afghanistan, leaving a question mark on the deal's credibility.

For further details kindly visit

<https://niice.org.np/archives/6000>