



CISS NEWSLETTER

Oct-Dec, 2020

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.** During this period, the Center held its fourth webinar on October 15, 2020, on 'India's Growing Strategic Capabilities: Dynamics and Consequences', to discuss and assess the status of India's growing strategic capabilities and the implications it posed for South Asian region. Apart from other speakers, it featured two international scholars i.e. Dr. Ali Ahmed, a well-known Indian analyst, and Dr. Petr Topychkanov, a Russian expert on Nonproliferation, Disarmament, Arms control, and impact of new technologies on the strategic stability.
- ii.** CISS held its fifth webinar on 'Two Decades of India-US Strategic Partnership: Impact on Strategic Stability in South Asia' on November 27, 2020. The purpose of the webinar was to discuss the background of India-US strategic partnership and its impact on the strategic stability in South Asia. The guest speakers included an Indian scholar, Dr. Rajesh Rajagopalan, besides two CISS Senior Research Fellows.
- iii.** A whole range of research articles and papers were written on various issues and major developments, during this period. These major strategic developments include India's growing strategic capabilities, India-US BECA agreement and Pakistan's steps towards peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- iv.** CISS researchers actively participated in various discussions and events organized by CISS as well as other think tanks within Pakistan and abroad, during this period.

Editor

Maryyum Masood

CISS Webinars

CISS held a total of 5 webinars during the lockdown period of corona virus. The webinars held in this quarter were as follows:

CISS Webinar on 'India's Growing Strategic Capabilities: Dynamics and Consequences'

(October 15, 2020)

A webinar on “India's Growing Strategic Capabilities: Dynamics and Consequences” was organized by the Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) on Thursday October 15, 2020. The purpose of the seminar was to assess the status of India's growing strategic capabilities and its implications for South Asia. There were four distinguished speakers in the webinar, Dr. Naeem Salik, Dr. Petr Topychkanov, Dr. Adil Sultan and Dr. Ali Ahmed. Complete webinar can be watched at <https://ciss.org.pk/ciss-webinar-on-indias-growing-strategic-capabilities-dynamics-and-consequences/>



CISS Webinar on “Two Decades of India-US Strategic Partnership: Impact on Strategic Stability in South Asia” (November 27, 2020)

The Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) organized a webinar on “Two Decades of Indo-US Strategic Partnership: Impact on Strategic Stability in South Asia” on November 27th, 2020.

Ambassador (R) Ali Sarwar Naqvi, the Executive Director of CISS, offered his opening remarks and welcomed the panelists and the audience.

The webinar can be watched at <https://ciss.org.pk/ciss-webinar-on-two-decades-of-india-us-strategic-partnership-impact-on-strategic-stability-in-south-asia/>



PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSIONS

DR. NAEEM SALIK GAVE COMMENTS ON INDIA'S MILITARY AMBITIONS ON INDUS NEWS

(October 6, 2020)

Dr. Naeem Ahmed Salik, Senior Research Fellow CISS, gave comments on 'India's military ambitions' in Indus News' program 'In Focus South Asia' with Ejaz Haider.

To watch the program, please visit <https://ciss.org.pk/dr-naeem-salik-gave-comments-on-indias-military-ambitions-on-indus-news/>

DR. NAEEM SALIK GAVE COMMENTS ON “POMPEO'S VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA” ON INDUS NEWS

(October 6, 2020)

Dr. Naeem Ahmed Salik, Senior Research Fellow CISS, gave comments on 'Pompeo's visit to South Asia' in Indus News' program 'In Focus South Asia' with Ejaz Haider on October 27, 2020.

For further details, please visit <https://ciss.org.pk/dr-naeem-salik-gave-comments-on-pompeos-visit-to-south-asia-on-indus-news/>

ED CISS GAVE COMMENTS ON AFGHAN PEACE PROCESS ON PTV WORLD WITH SANA MAQBOOL

(October 29, 2020)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave comments on Afghan Peace Process on the PTV World program “Views on News” with Sana Maqbool on 29th October 2020.

For complete details, please visit the link <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-gave-comments-on-afghan-peace-process-on-ptv-news-with-sana-maqbool/>

ED CISS GAVE COMMENTS ON US ELECTIONS ON PTV NEWS WITH MONA ALAM

(November 3, 2020)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave comments on US elections on PTV News program “Badalti Raey” with Mona Alam on 3rd November 2020.

For further details, please follow the link <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-gave-comments-on-us-elections-on-ptv-news-with-mona-alam/>

DR. NAEEM SALIK GAVE COMMENTS ON “INDIAN FORCES ON HIGH ALERT” ON INDUS NEWS

(November 4, 2020)

Dr. Naeem Ahmed Salik, Senior Research Fellow CISS, gave comments on 'Indian Forces on High Alert' in Indus News' program 'In Focus South Asia' with Ejaz Haider on November 4, 2020.

Follow the link for complete details <https://ciss.org.pk/dr-naeem-salik-gave-comments-on-indian-forces-on-high-alert/>

ED CISS GAVE COMMENTS ON PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN TO RECOGNISE ISRAEL ON GTV

(November 24, 2020)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave comments on pressure on Pakistan to recognise Israel on GTV program “live with Mujahid” on 24th November 2020.

For complete details, please visit <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-gave-comments-on-pressure-on-pakistan-to-recognise-israel-on-gtv/>

ED CISS GAVE COMMENTS ON PTV NEWS PROGRAM BADALTI RAEY

(December 10, 2020)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave comments on PTV News program 'Badalti Raey' with anchor Naheed Chaudhry on 10th December 2020. Other panelists were Lt. Gen. (R) Raza Muhammad Khan and Dr. Amna Mehmood.

For further details, please visit <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-gave-comments-on-ptv-news-program-badalti-raey/>

ED CISS participated in discussion on “India Chronicles and EU Disinfo Lab Findings” on Roze TV

(December 27, 2020)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave comments on “India

Chronicles and EU Disinfo Lab Findings” on Roze TV program 'Capital View' with anchor Asim Raza on 27th December 2020. Other panelists were Mr. Ejazul Haq, Brigadier (R) Amjad Ali and Mr. Zafar Ali Shah.

Complete program can be watched at <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-participated-in-discussion-on-india-chronicles-and-eu-disinfo-lab-findings-on-roze-tv/>

ED CISS gave comments on “Pakistan's Foreign Policy Challenges” on PTV World

(December 30, 2020)

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, gave comments on “Pakistan's Foreign Policy Challenges” on PTV World program 'Views on News' with anchor Faisal Rehman on 29th December 2020.

The program can be watched here <https://ciss.org.pk/ed-ciss-gave-comments-on-pakistans-foreign-policy-challenges-on-ptv-world/>

PUBLICATIONS & ANALYSIS

Given the importance of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, CISS researchers have written a number of articles on the subject, during this quarter.

NUCLEAR POWER: CLEAN, CHEAP, AND SUSTAINABLE SOURCE OF ENERGY FOR PAKISTAN

Tooba Ghaffar (October 8, 2020)

The great power of the atom is not limited to warfare. Nuclear technology can supply a clean, cheap, and sustainable source of energy to meet the energy needs of the burgeoning world economy.

Complete article can be accessed at <https://www.globalvillagespace.com/nuclear-power-and-energy-security-in-pakistan/>

PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM

Samran Ali (October 24, 2020)

When there is mention of Pakistan's nuclear program the first thought goes to nuclear weapons due to negative coverage in the western media and academia and in part due to over projection of strategic nuclear capabilities by media.

Complete article can be read here <https://strafasia.com/pakistans-nuclear-energy-program/>

PAKISTAN'S LAUDABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

Tooba Ghaffar (October 27, 2020)

Pakistan is aware of the myriad benefits that come from exploring nuclear technology for power generation and has demonstrated a commitment to gradually diversify its energy production from fossil to nuclear sources.

For further details, please visit <https://www.globalvillagespace.com/pakistans-laudable-achievements-in-nuclear-technology/>

A number of articles were written by CISS researchers to analyse the implications of India-US BECA agreement, for the strategic stability in South Asia.

WHITHER STRATEGIC AUTONOMY? INDIA SIGNS BECA

Samran Ali (October 28, 2020)

India has finally signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) with the US after years of discussion and US insistence. The BECA agreement is the last of the four foundational agreements the US signs with its allies to promote defence and military relations.

Complete article can be accessed at <https://cscr.pk/explore/themes/defense-security/whither-strategic-autonomy-india-signs-beca/>

US AND INDIA SIGN BECA, PUTTING PAKISTAN IN A VULNERABLE POSITION

Tooba Ghaffar (October 29, 2020)

While BECA is a disaster for strategic stability, it is not good for arms race stability in the region as well. Such measures have usually led to arms race behavior in Pakistan, writes

For complete article, please visit <https://www.globalvillagespace.com/us-and-india-sign-beca-putting-pakistan-in-a-vulnerable-position/>

PAKISTAN COVID-19 UPDATE: CURRENT TRENDS AND FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Riaz Khokhar (October 9, 2020)

Since July 1st, the infection fatality and positivity rates of COVID-19 have started to decrease gradually in Pakistan, and the positive curve has more or less flattened since August. Data suggests that the number of positive cases depends on several important factors, including a government's uninterrupted intervention, the public's compliance with standard operating procedures (SOPs), and antibodies developed because of the exposure to the infectious diseases (seroprevalence).

For complete article, please visit the link <https://southasianvoices.org/pakistan-covid-19-update-current-trends-and-future-projections/>

PAKISTAN'S HUMAN POTENTIAL

Dr. Syed Javaid Khurshid (October 10, 2020)

The world population is around 7.8 billion out of which the youth population is about 1.4

billion, that makes it 17-24%, averaging around 19% of the total population, which will reach a peak of about 21% in the year 2035 and continue to grow in some countries till the year 2050.

Complete article can be read here <https://www.hilal.gov.pk/eng-article/pakistan%E2%80%99s-human-potential/NDUyMA==.html>

TYPE 054A FRIGATES: HOW THEY FACTOR IN FOR PAKISTAN NAVY

Samran Ali (October 21, 2020)

China's Hudong Zhonghua has launched the first Type 054A Frigate for Pakistan Navy (PN) on August 23, 2020. After systems and weapons integration and tests, it will be handed over to PN by March 2021. Pakistan will get a total of four ships of this type and the remaining three ships will be sent by the end of 2020.

For further details, please visit <https://cscr.pk/explore/themes/defense-security/type-054a-frigates-how-they-factor-in-for-pakistan-navy/>

STRATEGIC STABILITY AT THE COST OF CRISIS AND ARMS RACE STABILITY

Tooba Ghaffar (October 29, 2020)

The general impression, that has endured since the Cold War, is that the Ballistic Missile Submarines (SSBN) enhance strategic stability through providing the adversary with an assured second-strike capability – thus, removing the incentive for counterforce preemptive strikes in an event of crisis.

Complete article can be read here <https://strafasia.com/strategic-stability-at-the-cost-of-crisis-and-arms-race-stability/>

SHIFTING FOREIGN POLICY

Riaz Khokhar (November 3, 2020)

Pakistan has long been exploring ways to spotlight its geostrategic significance for the US and other Western powers for cooperation in areas beyond Afghanistan.

Follow the link for complete article <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/738157-shifting-foreign-policy>

EXERCISE MAVI BALINA AND PAKISTAN NAVY'S SUBMARINE WARFARE EXPERTISE

Samran Ali (November 13, 2020)

MULTINATIONAL military exercises enhance operational readiness and skills; promote mutual understanding and cooperation among the participating forces, and the ability to perform combined operations. One such exercise is Mavi Balina or Exercise Blue Whale.

Complete article can be accessed at <https://pakobserver.net/exercise-mavi-balina-and-pakistan-navys-submarine-warfare-expertise/>

INDO-US FOUNDATIONAL AGREEMENTS: CONTRIBUTING TO INDIA'S MILITARY CAPABILITIES

Samran Ali (December 4, 2020)

- India and the United States (US) have signed several bilateral agreements based on their shared interests, which greatly enhance India's military capabilities.
- For the US, countering China comes at the top of its Indo-Pacific agenda through all available means including strengthening and arming India.
- For India, the assistance coming from the US helps it in achieving its vision of regional dominance. Also, the US' investments and access to the Indian market proves beneficial for both countries.

Full paper can be read here <https://cscr.pk/pdf/perspectives/Indo-US-Foundational-Agreements-Contributing-to-India%E2%80%99s-Military-Capabilities.pdf>

MANAGING THE ECONOMY

Riaz Khokhar (December 4, 2020)

For successful economic diplomacy, Pakistan will have to work out its trade policies, domestic distribution of foreign economic assistance, product sophistication and diversification, and business environment.

Complete article can be read here <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/753255-managing-the-economy>