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. Pakistan got re-elected to the Board of Governors of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in recognition of its contributions to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and adherence to IAEA safety and security guidelines. On the other hand, India’s pursuit of advanced nuclear technologies as INS Arihant and S-400 have adversely affected strategic stability in South Asia. From technical standpoint, deployment of nuclear weapons under the surface require that warheads are kept in close proximity to the missiles. Indian submarine commanders will now have the freedom to launch nuclear weapons, whenever they desire. How India would manage to ensure the safety and security of nuclear weapons at sea, is the question that needs the attention of the policy makers in New Delhi and Washington.

In the Middle East, Syrian war is winding down and Bashar ul Assad has apparently won. But, Turkey’s conflict with PKK and the leftover Al-Qaeda and Daesh fighters in Idlib province, remains a challenge in the Middle East. Mr. Riaz Khokhar has assessed the situation. He suggests the policy direction that Pakistan’s foreign policy may take with regard to its relations with the Middle Eastern countries. The CISS team has analyzed all of these important international developments in greater detail.

Happy reading!

Editor Newsletter
Syed Sadam Hussain Shah
**Roundtables**

**CISS Round table with Mr. Tariq Rauf on overview and current developments in nuclear non-proliferation and Disarmament issues on October 19, 2018.**


**CISS roundtable with Ms. Lavinia Moiceanu on strategic connectivity of the China Pakistan Economic (CPEC) corridor in BRI on December 5, 2018.**


**CISS roundtable with the Institute for political and international studies (IPIS) delegation on December 12, 2018.**

A delegation from the Institute of Political and International Studies, (IPIS) Tehran visited Center for International Strategic Studies, Islamabad on December 12, 2018. The Iranian delegation comprised of four-members led by Dr. Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sajjadpour, DG-IPIS, Dr. Bahador Aminian, IPIS, Dr. Mehdi Sobhani, IPIS and Mr. Zamani a representative from Iranian Embassy in Pakistan. For complete press release visit the link [https://ciiss.org.pk/center-for-international-strategic-studies-ciiss-institute-for-political-and-international-studiesipis-meeting-december-12-2018/](https://ciiss.org.pk/center-for-international-strategic-studies-ciiss-institute-for-political-and-international-studiesipis-meeting-december-12-2018/)
Pakistan’s credentials on nuclear safety and security
Riaz Khokhar (October 4, 2018)

Pakistan got re-elected to the Board of Governors of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the previous month owing to its contributions to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The board has an important role in considering membership in the IAEA, approving safeguard agreements, publishing nuclear safety standards and appointing the Director General of the IAEA. The re-election of Pakistan to the Board reflects the acknowledgement of the country’s nuclear safety and security credentials in accordance with the international standards. For complete article visit https://ciss.org.pk/pakists-credentials-on-nuclear-safety-and-security/

S-400: A half-baked deal
Riaz Khokhar (October 8, 2018)

On Oct. 5, India signed a $5 billion deal with Russia to purchase the “S400 Long Range Surface to Air Missile System,” defying U.S. threats of sanctions on nations involved in large-scale defense and intelligence cooperation with Moscow. The U.S.’s grand strategy is containment of Russia, and the proliferation of the S-400 systems—already purchased by China—is against its strategic priorities. Will, then, the United States sacrifice its strategic interests and offer a sanctions-waiver to India? For complete article visit https://ciss.org.pk/s-400-a-half-baked-deal/ 

Pakistan’s Foreign Policy Trouble Spots
Samran Ali (October 11, 2018)

Foreign policy is closely linked with a state’s national power. The national power potential of a state can be realised by the quality of its government and prudence of policies. If the governance structure of a country is weak and inefficient, the foreign policy may not run well. Pakistan’s foreign relations have been uneven, sometimes we have had a well-formulated policy, and sometimes an incoherent pursuit of policy objectives. The country has historically enjoyed cordial relations with states like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, China, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and Iran. But, at the same time, it had to change course at various crossroads of global politics. For complete article please visit https://ciss.org.pk/pakistan-foreign-policy-trouble-spots/

Brokering peace in Nuclear Environments:
US crisis management in South Asia – Book review
Huma Rehman (October 15, 2018)

South Asia’s security environment has always been risky due to the volatile bilateral dynamics of India-Pakistan. The additional factor of nuclearization of both countries made it even more complex in world and regional politics. ‘Brokering Peace in Nuclear Environments: U.S. Crisis Management in South Asia,’ is a new and qualitative addition in the literature of South Asia’s security studies, written by Dr. Moeed Yusuf, Associate Vice President of the Asia Center at the U.S. Institute of Peace and published by Stanford University Press—California, U.S. in May 2018. For complete review visit https://ciss.org.pk/brokering-peace-in-nuclear-environments-u-s-crisis-management-in-south-asia-book-review/
Brokering peace in Nuclear South Asia: Crisis Management and Bargaining Frameworks
Saima Aman Sial (October 17, 2018)

Nuclear South Asia attracts frequent international attention owing to the rivalry between the nuclear armed states, unresolved disputes, porous borders, and recurrent crises. These crises have been a serious preoccupation of strategic studies analysts, who all too often frame these regional crises in terms of bilateral deterrence frameworks. The United States has tended to be involved in these crisis, pressing each side to step back from the brink. However, this involvement has not been theorized in a trilateral framework to understand the crisis decision-making process. Complete review can be accessed at https://ciss.org.pk/brokering-peace-in-nuclear-south-asia-crisis-management-and-bargaining-frameworks/

Pakistan’s Diplomatic challenges in the Middle East
Riaz Khokhar (October 18, 2018)

One of the key challenges to Pakistan’s foreign policy relates to how it navigates its policy in the volatile Middle East. In this regard, balancing its relations with Saudi Arabia and Iran would be thwarted by the bitter rivalry between the two bastions of the Muslim World. Saudi Arabia had offered $1.5 billion as a “friendly grant” to the former government when Nawaz Sharif became the premier in 2013. Return on that investment is all well-known. The question, however is, will KSA’s financial inducement of $1 billion for Imran Khan’s new government and its further pledge of $4 billion by the Islamic Development Bank demand a retune of Pakistan’s Middle East diplomacy in favour of Riyadh? For details visit https://ciss.org.pk/pakistans-diplomatic-challenges-in-the-middle-east/

Rationalizing Pakistan’s Quest for Sea-based Deterrent Force
Saima Aman Sial (October 18, 2018)

On 9th January, 2017, Pakistan test fired a sea-variant of Babur cruise missile, with a range of 450 km, from an underwater movable platform. The ISPR Press release stated in this regard that, “the successful attainment of a sea strike capability by Pakistan represents a major scientific milestone; it is manifestation of the strategy of measured response to nuclear strategies and postures being adopted in Pakistan’s neighbourhood.” One might ask whether the development of an under-sea nuclear capability by Pakistan is a reaction to India’s nuclearization of the Indian Ocean or a standalone development? What are Pakistan’s motivations that have led to this development? For details visit https://ciss.org.pk/rationalizing-pakistans-quest-for-a-sea-based-deterrent-force/

India-Russia Space Cooperation: The US response
Afeera Firdous (October 24, 2018)

The story of India-Russia space partnership is nothing new, but it is important to analyze this collaboration in the context of the US grant of status of a Major Defence Partner to India. In 1984, the phrase “saare jahan sy acha” made its way to the big news in USSR media because the first Indian astronaut, Rakesh Sharma, replied to then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi upon her asking as to how India looks from the outer space. For complete article, visit the link below: https://ciss.org.pk/india-russia-space-cooperation-the-us-response/
The United States and Pakistan needs each other for stability and peace in Afghanistan

Riaz Khokhar (October 31, 2018)

A fundamental point underlies the US-Pakistan relationship: Washington seeks Islamabad’s support in the honorable exit from Afghanistan. After 17-years of war, the interests of the United States and Pakistan seem to have aligned in pursuing a negotiated settlement of the Afghan conundrum. This reality presents to the new government in Islamabad with what Michael Kugelman of the Wilson Center characterized as a golden opportunity to convince the Taliban to commit to the peace talks and become part of the political process in Afghanistan. Toward that end, the Pakistani government believes it will play a constructive role, including using its influence over the Taliban. Indeed, Islamabad considers peace and stability in Afghanistan as “vital for its own long-term stability and progress,” as emphasized by Pakistan Foreign Minister Qureshi. For complete article visit https://ciss.org.pk/the-united-states-and-pakistan-need-each-other-for-stability-and-peace-in-afghanistan/

Estimating India’s nuclear weapon producing capacity

Syed Sadam Hussain Shah and Dr. Syed Javaid Khurshid (November 2, 2018)

How many nuclear weapons India can make is an important question in South Asia, determining the foreign and military policies of a number of countries in the greater region, and a concern for the world at large. But coming up with a reliable answer is tricky. Most estimates, such as those of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, get the raw material for their reports on a given country—such as the endowment’s study, “A Normal Nuclear Pakistan”—by relying on a relative handful of sources, such as the yearbooks of the Nuclear Threat Initiative, the International Panel on Fissile Materials, and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, to name some common examples. Bearing in mind the relative paucity of original source material, a 2015 estimate by the Institute for Science and International Security concluded that India’s stockpile of fissile material was only sufficient to make approximately 75-to-125 nuclear weapons. For complete article visit the link below: https://ciss.org.pk/estimating-indias-nuclear-weapons-producing-capacity/

THAAD vs. S-400: A comparative analysis

Maryam Masood (November 7, 2018)

Missile defense systems are intended to safeguard a country against imminent ballistic missile attacks. Both THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) and S-400 are missile defense systems, developed by the United States and Russia respectively. THAAD is a relatively recent addition in America’s anti-ballistic missile defense system which has the capability to intercept and destroy short, medium and intermediate range ballistic missiles at the range of 200 Km and altitudes of up to 150 Km. For complete article visit https://ciss.org.pk/thaad-vs-s-400-a-comparative-analysis/
India China Relations: Competition and prospects for cooperation

Samran Ali (November 14, 2018)

The Chinese economy has already outgrown the U.S. economy. India has also replaced France and is now the sixth largest economy in the world. Both countries are also major political and military powers with growing regional and global stakes, respectively. However, they have opposite political systems and divergent views on most global issues. While India takes pride in being the world’s largest democracy, China adheres to the socialist values. India is strategically aligned with the United States, who sees India as a potential counter-weight to China. For complete article visit https://ciss.org.pk/india-china-relations-competition-and-prospects-for-cooperation/

S-400: An addition to India’s Ambitious Mosaic

Maimuna Ashraf (November 14, 2018)

India’s pursuit of advanced military technologies has enabled it to secure its place among the world’s top importers of conventional weapons over the past two decades. India has also been investing in developing missile defenses for a Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) shield coupled with an integrated, and multi-layered air defence network. After testing the Prithvi Air Defense (PAD) missile for high altitude interception in 2006 and Advanced Air Defense (AAD) missile for lower altitude interception in 2007, India and Russia concluded the much anticipated US $ 5.2 billion deal in October 2018 for the purchase of five regiments of Russian-made S-400 Triumph surface to air missile system. For complete article visit https://ciss.org.pk/s-400-an-addition-to-indias-ambitious-mosaic-of-offense-defense-capabilities/

Pakistan’s consolidating conventional deterrence: An assessment

Maimuna Ashraf (December 7, 2018)

Before the overt nuclearization of South Asia in 1998, three major wars between India and Pakistan highlighted the latter’s struggle to bridge the conventional imbalance. During this time, Pakistan’s latent nuclear capability provided an effective deterrent, which served to offset the conventional and nuclear threats from India. However, twenty years since India’s entrance into the nuclear club, followed by Pakistan, conventional deterrence remains integral to the maintenance of strategic stability in South Asia. In view of these developments, this article aims to analyze Pakistan’s strategic direction since the nuclear tests, particularly in terms of its conventional military capabilities. For complete article visit https://ciss.org.pk/pakistans-consolidating-conventional-deterrence-an-assessment/