



# ANNUAL REPORT- 2025

## **CISS Annual Report 2025**

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The Center for International Strategic Studies Islamabad conducts original policy research, analyses, and strategic outreach, and aims to highlight the evolving regional and global strategic issues to promote peace and stability.

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# FOREWORD

The Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS), Islamabad, is Pakistan's leading strategic think tank, located in the capital city. Through a dedicated team of research professionals and subject-matter experts, the Center remains committed to advancing evidence-based analysis and policy-relevant recommendations on evolving regional and global security dynamics, with the overarching objective of promoting stability and informed strategic discourse.

Since its establishment in 2010, CISS has developed into a recognized platform for thought leadership on issues of national and international significance. Its research spans security and defence policy, nuclear non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament, geopolitics, and regional and global strategic stability. Over the past decade and a half, the Center has strengthened its institutional profile and policy relevance, contributing consistently to Pakistan's strategic debates while engaging with international scholarly and practitioner communities.

A key component of the Center's intellectual output is CISS Insight: Journal of Strategic Studies, a high-impact, biannual, HEC-recognized publication. The Journal is supported by a distinguished editorial and advisory board, as well as a robust network of reviewers and contributors, including leading scholars and practitioners from Pakistan and abroad. This academic ecosystem reinforces the Journal's credibility and ensures rigorous standards of scholarship.

CISS also maintains an active strategic communications and outreach agenda. Through conferences, workshops, seminars, and roundtables, the Center convenes policymakers, diplomats, academics, and practitioners to facilitate structured dialogue on contemporary security challenges. CISS research is further disseminated through national and international publications, ensuring broader visibility and sustained engagement with relevant knowledge and policy communities. CISS is the only Pakistani Think Tank with a long term partnership with the UK based International Institute of Strategic Studies, London and has interactions with the other Think Tanks including the US, China, Kazakhstan, and Russia. Similar outreach with National Think Tanks and Institutions has also been developed.



An important feature of CISS programming is its emphasis on intellectual exchange through guest lectures and expert engagements. By inviting policy leaders, opinion-makers, and authors, the Center promotes high-quality debate, encourages critical thinking, and strengthens public understanding of strategic issues. These efforts contribute to identifying emerging challenges, refining policy options, and supporting the development of pragmatic and forward-looking perspectives.

As CISS moves forward, it remains focused on strengthening Pakistan's strategic scholarship, expanding international collaboration, and supporting informed decision-making through credible research, sustained dialogue, and meaningful capacity building. This Annual Report is the presentation of the many activities of CISS during the course of the year 2025.

# MISSION STATEMENT



**To conduct policy research, analysis, and advocacy and highlight the evolving regional and global strategic issues to promote peace and stability**

# OBJECTIVES

Promoting national perspective on key domestic, regional & international issues



Seeking collaborations with relevant national & International policy institutes & experts



Functioning as a reliable source of data & analysis



Building capacity through mentorship, training & internship programs



Providing a conducive research environment to visiting scholars aimed at building perceptions & connecting shared knowledge-based interests



# RESEARCH AREAS



Geopolitics



Strategic Stability



Nuclear Diplomacy



Arms Control & Disarmament



Nuclear Non-proliferation



Deterrence



Nuclear Safety & Security



Strategic Export  
Control Regimes



Emerging Technologies



Cyberspace



Astropolitics

# THE IMPACT



Original Research & Analysis



Knowledge Generation & Dissemination



High Quality Research Products



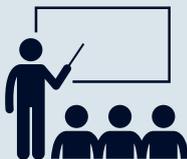
Domestic & International Strategic Outreach



Networking with Experts & Organizations



Capacity Building Initiatives



Training of the Trainers



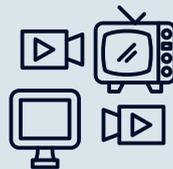
Conferences, Seminars, Roundtables, & Workshops



Lectures by Thought Leaders & Public Intellectuals



Study Tours



Media Appearances



Social Media Influence

## MESSAGE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As the Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) reflects on its accomplishments in 2025, the year stands out for institutional consolidation, expanded international engagement, and sustained intellectual output.

Building on earlier momentum, the Center continued to advance its mandate through rigorous research, policy-relevant dialogue, and strategic analysis on key national and international security issues.

Throughout 2025, CISS implemented a broad portfolio of high-impact initiatives that further strengthened its standing as a leading strategic think tank. Major flagship engagements included the 10th CISS-IISS Workshop on Nuclear Deterrence and Strategic Stability in Europe and South Asia: Lessons, Opportunities and Ways Forward and the CISS International Conference on Nuclear Deterrence in the Age of Emerging Technologies. These platforms enabled substantive discussions on deterrence dynamics and stability challenges emerging from rapid technological change. In addition, the CISS-KIU National Seminar on the Strategic Landscape of South Asia: Post-Pahalgam offered timely and focused analysis of evolving regional security trends.

Capacity building remained a central pillar of the Center's work. The 6th CISS Workshop for Trainers on Strategic Matters and the CISS-MCE Joint Workshop on Strategic Matters strengthened analytical and pedagogical capacities among academics and practitioners. These initiatives complemented the Center's broader efforts to cultivate informed strategic communities and support the development of policy-relevant expertise within Pakistan.

CISS also expanded its international Track-II engagements to promote structured dialogue with key stakeholders. The Center convened a CISS Roundtable with a CICIR Delegation from China and a CISS Round Table with Australian Scholars and Officials, facilitating candid and constructive exchanges on regional and global security developments.

International outreach was further advanced through a visit to China, where the CISS–CACDA Track-II Strategic Dialogue in Beijing and engagements with the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) contributed to strengthening China–Pakistan academic cooperation and deepening institutional linkages.

National commemorations remained an important component of CISS’s annual agenda. Youm-e-Takbeer Special activities included the CISS Seminar on Youm-e-Takbeer, “Pakistan’s Nuclear Weapon Program – Guarantor of Peace and Stability in South Asia,” which highlighted Pakistan’s strategic milestones while reinforcing informed discourse on deterrence and regional stability.

Institutional partnerships also expanded during the year. CISS signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies (KazISS), formalizing collaboration in research, dialogue, and capacity building, and strengthening the Center’s engagement with Central Asian counterparts.

Research and outreach activities continued alongside these major initiatives. CISS publications and expert engagements across traditional and digital media enhanced the reach of the Center’s work, strengthened its analytical visibility, and contributed to evidence-based public discourse on strategic issues.

As the year conclude, CISS recognized the dedication of its research and administrative teams, the continued support of its partners, and the valuable contributions of national and international collaborators. Looking ahead, the Center remains committed to advancing strategic understanding, strengthening cooperative security thinking, and supporting peace and stability at both regional and global levels.

**Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi**

# CISS TEAM





**Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi**  
Executive Director



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Director Research



**Dr Rahat Iqbal**  
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**Dr Muhammadi**  
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Admin & Accounts



**Shahid Wasim**  
IT Administrator



**Shamsa Kanwal**  
HR Assistant



**Afsheen Ghaffar**  
Front Desk Officer



**Shujah Masood**  
Accountant



**Muhammad Arif**  
Admin Supervisor



**CISS  
STRATEGIC  
OUTREACH**

## CISS International Conference on Nuclear Deterrence in the Age of Emerging Technologies



CISS Islamabad organized a two-day international conference on “Nuclear Deterrence in the Age of Emerging Technologies” on 22–23 April 2025 at the Islamabad Marriott Hotel. The conference examined how emerging technologies are reshaping deterrence dynamics, crisis stability, and arms control frameworks at both regional and global levels.

Speaking at the opening session, Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, Center for International Strategic Studies, emphasized that advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities, and autonomous systems have the potential to destabilize the global strategic order. He cautioned that the integration of these technologies into military doctrines in the absence of consensus-based regulatory frameworks poses serious risks to crisis stability and arms control efforts.

Ambassador Naqvi further noted that the growing reliance on unmanned systems and AI-enabled surveillance, particularly in asymmetric warfare, is generating new ethical, legal, and humanitarian challenges, while gradually eroding long-standing deterrence frameworks.

The conference brought together scholars, policymakers, former military officials, diplomats, and think tank experts from Australia, Canada, China, Russia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. CISS convened 16 foreign speakers, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to sustained international dialogue and cooperation on emerging security challenges.

The first day of the conference featured presentations by Dr Han Hua (Peking University, China), Dr Xia Liping (Center for Polar and Oceanic Studies, China), Dr Naeem Salik (Strategic Vision Institute, Islamabad), Mr Anton Khlopkov (Center for Energy and Security Studies, Russia), Mr Dmitry Stefanovich (IMEMO RAS, Russia), Dr Alexander Evans OBE (LSE School of Public Policy, UK), Dr Petr Topychkanov (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia), Ms Alice Saltini (James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies / Institute for Security and Technology), Dr Jean-Marc Rickli (Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Switzerland), Dr Zafar Khan (Balochistan Think Tank Network, Quetta), Dr Robert B. Hayes (North Carolina State University, USA), and Dr Tariq Rauf (Austria). Discussions focused on how emerging technologies are compressing decision-making timelines and increasing risks of miscalculation, particularly in nuclear-armed regions.

The second day of the conference addressed the concept of multi-domain deterrence and its implications for global strategic stability. In his keynote address, former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, NI (M), highlighted that the emergence of multi-domain deterrence presents a complex challenge to the existing global security architecture.

He described India as the fastest-growing nuclear program in the world and noted its sustained status as the largest arms importer, arguing that these trends signal expanding military ambitions. He further observed that India's shift from "India" to "Bharat" represents more than a symbolic change, reflecting a deeper ideological transformation with implications for regional stability.

Speakers on the second day included Dr Laetitia Cesari (UNIDIR, online), Ms Almudena Azcárate Ortega (UNIDIR), Dr Christine M. Leah (National Institute for Deterrence Studies, Australia), Dr Olamide Samuel (Open Nuclear Network, Austria), Dr Jessica West (Project Ploughshares, Canada), Mr He Miao (China Arms Control and Disarmament Association), Brig (Retd) Dr Zahir Kazmi (Strategic Plans Division, Pakistan), Dr Rizwana Abbasi (CISS, Islamabad), Prof Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal (Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad), Prof Dr Andrey Pavlov (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia), and Mr Vladislav Chernavskikh (SIPRI).

The conference concluded with a shared understanding that emerging technologies are fundamentally transforming deterrence relationships and crisis dynamics. Participants emphasized the urgent need for dialogue, norm-building, and cooperative mechanisms to manage technological risks. The discussions reaffirmed Pakistan's position in favor of responsible conduct, arms control engagement, and sustained international cooperation to preserve regional and global strategic stability.







## 10th CISS-IISS Workshop on Nuclear Deterrence and Strategic Stability in Europe and South Asia: Lessons, Opportunities and Ways Forward



CISS Islamabad, in collaboration with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London, hosted the 10th CISS–IISS Joint Workshop titled “Nuclear Deterrence and Strategic Stability in Europe and South Asia: Lessons, Opportunities, and Ways Forward” on November 12, 2025 in Islamabad. The workshop brought together senior policymakers, former diplomats, retired military officials, scholars, and practitioners to examine contemporary challenges to global and regional strategic stability.

The workshop focused on the evolving strategic environment shaped by major geopolitical shifts. Discussions examined the resurgence of great power rivalry, the erosion of international arms control arrangements, and the re-emergence of nuclear competition amid declining international norms. Speakers also assessed lessons and trends emerging from the Russia–Ukraine conflict and the May 2025 India–Pakistan conflict, noting how both theatres are influencing deterrence postures and stability calculations. Participants highlighted the weakening of arms control regimes has contributed to heightened insecurity, particularly uncertainty surrounding the future of

the New START Treaty and the continued fragility of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) norm. Speakers underscored that record global defence spending, combined with rapid advances in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, hypersonic systems, and autonomous platforms, is compressing decision-making timelines and increasing risks of miscalculation and inadvertent escalation. The discussions further emphasized that nuclear weapons have again become central to the national strategies of nuclear-armed states. The modernization of nuclear arsenals, greater flexibility in doctrinal thresholds, and renewed rhetoric regarding the potential resumption of nuclear testing were identified as destabilizing trends that could reverse decades of progress toward restraint and weaken non-proliferation norms.

The workshop also examined how these global dynamics resonate in South Asia. Speakers noted that strategic stability in the region remains significantly affected by India's military modernization, doctrinal ambiguity, and expanding strategic partnerships with Western states. Pakistani participants emphasized that Pakistan's policy of Full Spectrum Deterrence remains central to sustaining regional stability by deterring aggression and preventing the pursuit of limited war under the nuclear overhang.

The workshop concluded with a shared understanding that, in an era characterized by renewed great power competition, technological disruption, and strategic uncertainty, there is an urgent need to sustain dialogue, strengthen arms control frameworks, and develop credible crisis management mechanisms. Participants agreed that credible deterrence, alongside responsible conduct and sustained diplomatic engagement, remains essential for preserving regional and global stability.

The IISS delegation was led by Antoine Levesques, with contributions from Nigel Gould-Davies, Paul Fraioli, Meia Nouwens, Daniel Salisbury, Ben Barry, Desmond Bowen, and Karl Dewey. Pakistani speakers included Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi (Retd), Ambassador Zamir Akram (Retd), Ambassador Qazi Khalilullah (Retd), Lt Gen Amer Riaz (Retd), Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Dr. Zafar Khan, Brig Dr. Naeem Salik (Retd), Air Cdre Khalid Banuri (Retd), Air Cdre Dr. Adil Sultan (Retd), and Brig Dr. Zahir Kazmi (Retd). The keynote address was delivered by Lt Gen Nadeem Zaki Manj (Retd), Advisor to the National Command Authority and former Director General of the Strategic Plans Division (SPD), who emphasized that Pakistan's Full Spectrum Deterrence and disciplined approach reflect a sustained commitment to stability.



# in Europe and South Asia: Lessons, Opportunities and Ways Forward

Wednesday, 12 November 2025  
Nazara Lounge, Serena Hotel, Islamabad







## CISS-KIU National Seminar on Strategic Landscape of South Asia: Post Pahalgam



The Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS), Islamabad, organized a national seminar in collaboration with the CISS–KIU Research Center, Gilgit-Baltistan, on 26 June 2025, titled “Strategic Landscape of South Asia: Post Pahalgam.” The seminar examined contemporary strategic issues with a focused lens on South Asia and assessed how recent developments are shaping the region’s evolving security environment.

Speakers noted that South Asia’s strategic landscape is increasingly defined by a complex interplay of military, political, and economic drivers, influenced by the competing interests of major powers, including China, the United States, and Russia. The discussions highlighted that regional instability has been exacerbated by the unresolved India–Pakistan conflict and India’s rapid expansion of conventional and nuclear capabilities. Participants also underscored that the transfer of advanced military technologies from Western states to India has contributed to an imbalance in the regional security equation, intensified tensions, and accelerated competitive military modernization across the region.





## 6th CISS Workshop for Trainers on Strategic Matters



CISS Islamabad consistently pursues the objective of strengthening strategic awareness and informed discourse within Pakistan’s knowledge community. Through sustained engagement with academia and policy practitioners, the Center promotes structured understanding of strategic stability, deterrence dynamics, and emerging technologies, while contributing to the indigenization of strategic studies in Pakistan. Since 2019, CISS has institutionalized this effort through its Workshop for Trainers series, designed to build analytical capacity among academics and think tank professionals.

Keeping this objective in view, the 6th Workshop for Trainers on Strategic Matters was organized from 21–23 October 2025. The three-day workshop featured focused discussions on strategic stability, deterrence, emerging technologies, and Pakistan’s evolving strategic discourse. As part of the program, participants also visited the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (PINSTECH), where they received briefings on Pakistan’s achievements in civil nuclear energy and scientific advancement.

Participants engaged in discussions on a wide range of topics, including:

- Pakistan's relations with major powers such as the US, China, and Russia
- The Nuclear Non-proliferation Regime and Pakistan's strategic environment
- A comparison of Pakistan and India's nuclear doctrines
- The impact of emerging technologies on strategic stability in South Asia
- The nuclearization of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and its effects on regional stability
- Strategic export control regimes
- The peaceful uses of nuclear technology in Pakistan
- An introduction to CWC and BWC, including Pakistan's obligations, implementation measures, and recent trends.

The event also featured a study visit to PINSTECH, providing participants with valuable insights on Pakistan's nuclear capabilities and the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing a strong interest in seeing this initiative to continue and grow. This workshop reflects CISS's dedication to excellence in policy research, analysis, and strategic outreach.



## CISS-MCE Joint Workshop on Strategic Matters



The CISS–MCE Workshop on Strategic Matters, organized by the Maritime Centre of Excellence (MCE) in collaboration with CISS Islamabad on July 29, 2025, brought together subject-matter experts and practitioners to examine evolving maritime security challenges. The workshop focused on emerging maritime threats, technological disruption, and their implications for South Asia’s strategic and security dynamics.



## 3rd CISS Summer Workshop for Learners on Strategic Matters



The CISS Workshop for Learners was organized from 2–4 August 2025 to familiarize young students with contemporary strategic issues and to provide structured exposure to Pakistan’s security environment and technological landscape. The workshop aimed to strengthen students’ understanding of the international security order, Pakistan’s national security challenges, the imperatives of Pakistan’s nuclear program, and the strategic relevance of advanced technologies and national innovation initiatives.

The three-day workshop comprised a Learning Module and two-day Study Tours. The Learning Module was conducted at CISS Islamabad, featuring expert lectures by Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, CISS, on the international security order; Major General (Retd) Syed Shahab Shahid, Director General, Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs (ACDA), Strategic Plans Division, on the imperatives of Pakistan’s nuclear program; and Dr Bilal Zubair, Director Research, CISS, on challenges to Pakistan’s national security. The sessions enabled interactive discussion, group engagement, and focused exchange with participants.

The Study Tours included visits to SUPARCO, CASS, NASTP, and PINSTECH, where students received briefings on Pakistan’s advancements in space and aerospace development, innovation ecosystems, and civilian nuclear research capabilities. The participants appreciated the workshop as a valuable learning experience and it concluded with a formal closing ceremony at CISS.



## CISS Roundtable on Implications of Trump 2.0 for Pakistan



CISS Islamabad organized a roundtable discussion titled “Trump 2.0: Implications for Pakistan” on January 22, 2025, to assess the prospects of Pakistan–US relations under the new Trump administration and to explore potential areas of convergence between the two countries.

The roundtable brought together former envoys, academics, and researchers for an in-depth exchange on the evolving regional and global context shaping Pakistan–US ties. Speakers included Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan; Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, Pakistan’s former ambassador to the United States, India, and China; Ambassador Masood Khalid, Pakistan’s former ambassador to China; and Dr Qamar Cheema, Executive Director, Sanober Institute.

Participants observed that growing strategic convergence between India and the United States, alongside the intensification of US–China rivalry, is narrowing Pakistan’s foreign policy options. They noted, however, that maintaining mutual goodwill remains essential for meaningful engagement in the future. The discussion highlighted that the absence of sustained shared strategic convergences between Washington and Islamabad continues to limit the development of the relationship into an enduring and substantive partnership.



CANVA STORIES



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## CISS Roundtable on Revisiting Kashmir Conflict under Changing Indian Polity



CISS Islamabad organized a roundtable discussion titled “Revisiting the Kashmir Conflict under the Changing Indian Polity” on February 7, 2025. The session examined the evolving political and security dynamics surrounding the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, with particular attention to shifts in India’s domestic polity and their implications for regional stability.

The discussion underscored that Kashmir remains an internationally recognized dispute and highlighted the need for sustained diplomatic engagement to keep the issue prominent in international forums. It reaffirmed Pakistan’s continued political, diplomatic, and moral support for the Kashmiri people and emphasized the importance of a principled, rights-based approach to addressing the conflict.



# CISS Celebration of Youm-e-Takbeer 2025

Pakistan's Journey Towards Peace & Stability



## CISS Seminar on Commemorating Youm-e-Takbeer 2025



CISS Islamabad hosted a Youm-e-Takbeer commemorative seminar titled “Pakistan’s Nuclear Weapon Program – Guarantor of Peace and Stability in South Asia” on May 30, 2025, marking the 27th anniversary of Youm-e-Takbeer. The keynote address was delivered by Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, Advisor to the National Command Authority and former Director General of the Strategic Plans Division. The seminar featured remarks by Sohail Mahmood, Director General of Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad and former Foreign Secretary; Muhammad Naeem, former Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission; Adil Sultan, Dean at Air University Islamabad; and Zahir ul Haider Kazmi, Advisor on Arms Control, SPD.

The seminar reaffirmed that a credible and fully operational deterrent remains central to regional peace and strategic stability. Speakers highlighted the role of Pakistan’s scientists, engineers, and strategic planners in building an indigenous and resilient nuclear capability despite constraints, and framed Youm-e-Takbeer as a milestone of technological sovereignty and national security. The discussion also reflected on recent regional crisis dynamics, emphasizing the importance of restraint, credible deterrence, and clear signaling to prevent miscalculation, while reiterating Pakistan’s position that any aggression would be met with an appropriate response to preserve stability in South Asia.



## CISS Roundtable on Strategic Stability in a Fragmented World: The Discriminatory Nature of Global Non-proliferation and Disarmament Agenda



CISS Islamabad convened a roundtable discussion titled “Strategic Stability in a Fragmented World: The Discriminatory Nature of the Global Non-proliferation and Disarmament Agenda” on February 26, 2025. The session examined how shifting power politics, selective norm enforcement, and uneven application of arms control standards are affecting global and regional strategic stability.

The discussion emphasized that the non-proliferation and disarmament architecture is often implemented in a manner that privileges certain states while constraining others, undermining the credibility and legitimacy of the global regime. Participants highlighted that durable stability requires non-discriminatory approaches, equal security for all, and meaningful progress toward disarmament that does not ignore regional threat perceptions. The roundtable also underscored Pakistan’s consistent position in favor of responsible restraint, dialogue, and a balanced security framework that addresses legitimate security concerns.



## CISS Round Table on Post-Pahalgam Crisis: Policy Options for Pakistan



The Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS), Islamabad, organized a roundtable discussion titled “Post-Pahalgam Crisis: Policy Options for Pakistan” on May 7, 2025. The event brought together seasoned diplomats, defence analysts, and academicians to assess the evolving security situation in the aftermath of the Pahalgam incident and to examine a range of kinetic and non-kinetic policy options for Pakistan.

The discussion underscored concerns over India’s post-crisis measures, including rhetoric and actions framed as coercive, and emphasized the need to address disinformation and narrative escalation through credible, verifiable communication and responsible media conduct. Participants reiterated Pakistan’s position on safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity, while noting that de-escalation requires functional dialogue mechanisms and, in their absence, responsible international engagement to prevent further deterioration of regional stability.

The roundtable also highlighted the importance of sustaining diplomatic efforts, maintaining operational preparedness, and strengthening Pakistan’s external messaging to counter misinformation and manage crisis pressures effectively.



## CISS Roundtable with CICIR Delegation



CISS Islamabad hosted a roundtable discussion with a delegation from the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) on 11 November 2025. The delegation was led by Dr Hu Shisheng, Deputy Secretary-General of the Academic Committee, and included senior research representatives from CICIR's South Asia and counter-terrorism portfolios.

The roundtable provided a forum for candid exchange on Pakistan–China cooperation and key regional security dynamics. Both sides reaffirmed the distinctive character of Pakistan–China relations, rooted in mutual trust, expanding economic cooperation, and a shared commitment to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.



## CISS Round Table with Australian Scholars and Officials



CISS Islamabad hosted a Round Table with Australian scholars and officials on December 4, 2025 to exchange views on key regional developments and emerging security trends in South Asia.

During the dialogue, CISS scholars underscored that India’s “new normal” narrative and evolving military posture are destabilizing in a nuclearized environment. The discussion noted that the framing of unilateral strikes under a counterterrorism rubric risk normalizing the use of force, compressing crisis decision-making, and increasing the probability of miscalculation and escalation during future India–Pakistan crises.



# CISS READERS CLUB



## Pakistan–India Relations: Fractured Past, Uncertain Future

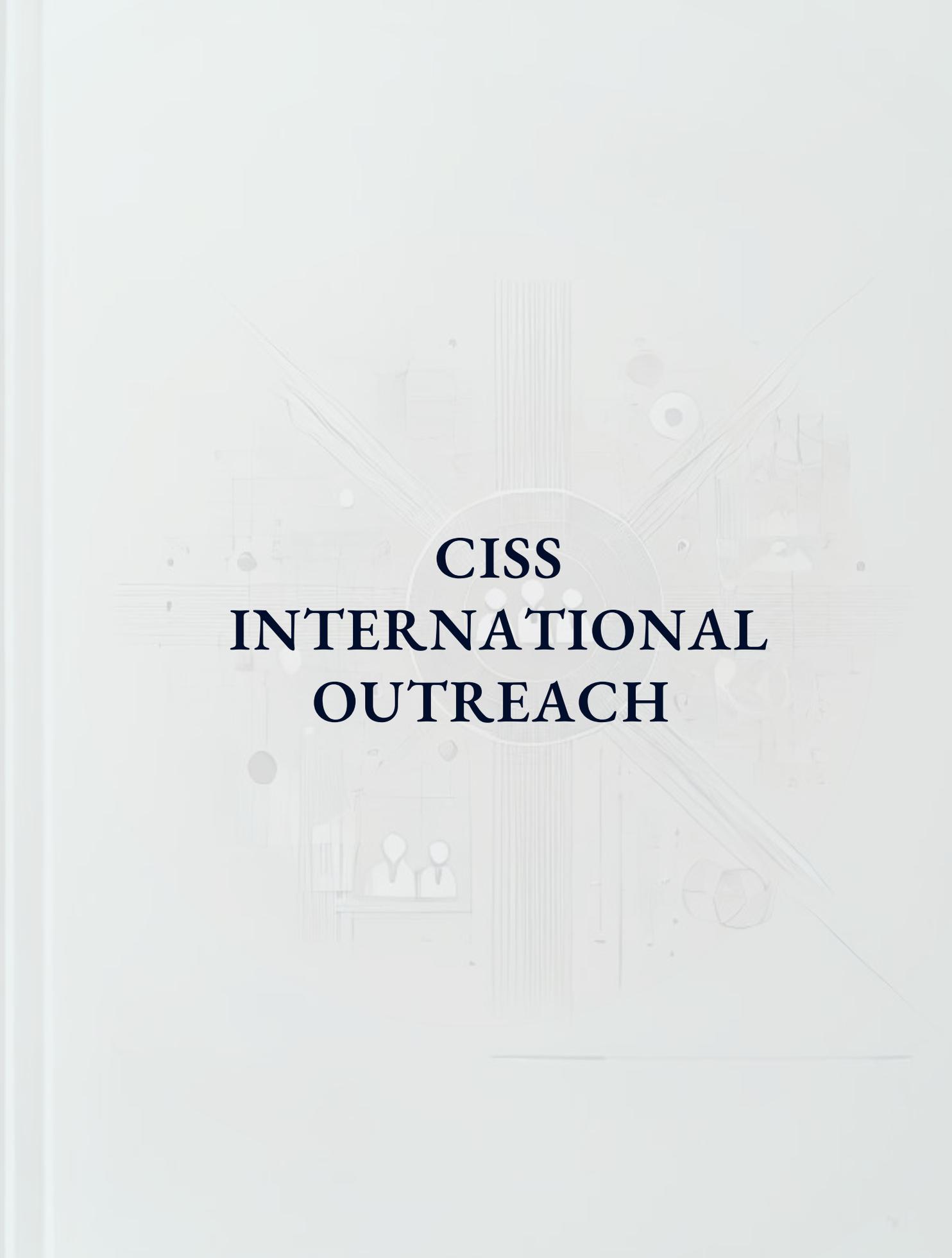


CISS Islamabad has launched the CISS Readers Club (CRC), a scholarly initiative for authors, scholars, and researchers to showcase their work and engage in a meaningful exchange of ideas and insights at CISS. In this regard, CISS Islamabad hosted a Book Talk on “Pakistan–India Relations: Fractured Past, Uncertain Future” on November 21, 2025. The session featured Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Chairman, Sanober Institute, who discussed the central themes and arguments of his book and engaged with participants on the trajectory of Pakistan–India relations.

## Nuclear Arms Control in South Asia: Politics, Postures, and Practices



CISS Islamabad hosted a Book Talk on “Nuclear Arms Control in South Asia: Politics, Postures, and Practices” on January 17, 2025, featuring Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal. The session examined the book’s core arguments on the evolution of nuclear postures, arms control politics, and stability dynamics in South Asia. The discussion highlighted enduring challenges to arms control in the region and global non-proliferation norms.



**CISS  
INTERNATIONAL  
OUTREACH**

## CISS-CACDA Track-II Strategic Dialogue in Beijing Strengthens Ties



The Center for International Strategic Studies held a full-day Track-II Strategic Dialogue in Beijing with the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, on September 23, 2025 led by Ali Sarwar Naqvi. The dialogue focused on global strategic stability and provided a structured platform for candid Pakistan–China exchanges on major international security challenges.

It featured four sessions covering: (I) global strategic stability assessment, (II) impact of regional alliances including AUKUS and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, (III) emerging technologies and stability risks, and (IV) conflict prevention and crisis management. The opening session was jointly inaugurated by Cheng Jingye and Ambassador Naqvi, both emphasizing sustained engagement and responsible approaches to arms control and stability.

The Pakistani side included senior representatives from the National Command Authority, Strategic Plans Division, and Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs, alongside CISS research leadership. The Chinese side included CACDA officials and experts from leading institutions, including China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations and the PLA National Defense University, as well as other premier academic and strategic studies bodies.

## CISS Delegation Engages with CICIR to Strengthen China-Pakistan Academic Cooperation



CISS Islamabad conducted an international outreach engagement with the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) in Beijing on September 24, 2025, aimed at strengthening China–Pakistan academic cooperation and deepening institutional linkages between the two think tanks. The CISS delegation was led by Executive Director Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi and was received by President Fu Xiaoqiang, along with experts from CICIR’s Institute of South Asian Studies and the Center for Arms Control Studies.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on regional and global developments and underscored the value of sustained Track-II and scholarly cooperation in an increasingly complex international environment. The engagement reaffirmed a shared commitment to expanding research collaboration and structured academic exchanges, with the objective of generating policy-relevant insights, strengthening dialogue between Chinese and Pakistani think tanks, and supporting the long-term trajectory of China–Pakistan cooperation and regional stability.

## CISS Delegation at Astana Think Tank Forum 2025



Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, CISS, spoke at the Astana Think Tank Forum 2025 on October 15, 2025 titled, “The Nuclear Challenge: Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in an Era of Strategic Rivalry.” He said South Asia’s nuclear stability remains under a persistent shadow, shaped by asymmetry, crises, and the absence of sustained dialogue.

He observed that South Asia’s nuclear equation is dyadic, asymmetric, and crisis-prone. India’s escalatory behaviour after incidents such as the 2001 Parliament attack, 2008 Mumbai, 2016 Uri, Pulwama–Balakot 2019, border tensions in 2022, and the May 2025 standoff has repeatedly tested deterrence stability and compressed decision time.

Amb. Naqvi emphasized that Pakistan is a responsible nuclear power, with robust command-and-control, strong export controls, and a safety culture aligned with international standards. He called for renewed arms-control dialogue, updated CBMs, and transparency between India and Pakistan to sustain deterrence stability.

## CISS-KazISS MOU



On the sidelines of the Astana Think Tank Forum 2025, CISS Islamabad held a meeting with the leadership of the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies (KazISS) in Astana on 16 October 2025. The meeting concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation, marking a formal step toward strengthening institutional partnership and expanding research collaboration between the two think tanks.

## Responsible AI, Security & Global Governance



CISS Islamabad continued its international outreach on emerging technology governance through participation in multilateral expert engagements on responsible AI. Ms Anum A. Khan, Associate Director Research, CISS, was invited by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to participate in the Roundtable for AI, Security and Ethics (RAISE-3) in Beijing, China, held in close partnership with Tsinghua University's Center for International Security and Strategy (CISS).

The third edition of RAISE convened policymakers, researchers, and industry experts from multiple regions to examine the implications of AI for international peace and security, including military applications. The programme included multi-stakeholder dialogue, closed-door expert sessions, and institutional engagements focused on AI safety and governance. As part of the UNIDIR delegation, Ms Khan also participated in visits and exchanges with Tsinghua University (CISS & I-AIIG), the China Foundation for International and Strategic Studies (CFISS), the Beijing AI Safety Institute (Beijing-AISI), Concordia AI, Zhipu AI, the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA), the ICRC East Asia Delegation, and ByteDance/Douyin.

The background is a light blue gradient with a collage of various icons related to media and communication. These include a globe, a television, a microphone, a camera, a document, a question mark, a speech bubble, a person at a desk, and various geometric shapes like circles and lines. The icons are rendered in a light, semi-transparent style.

# OUTREACH

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS,  
was interviewed by following channels



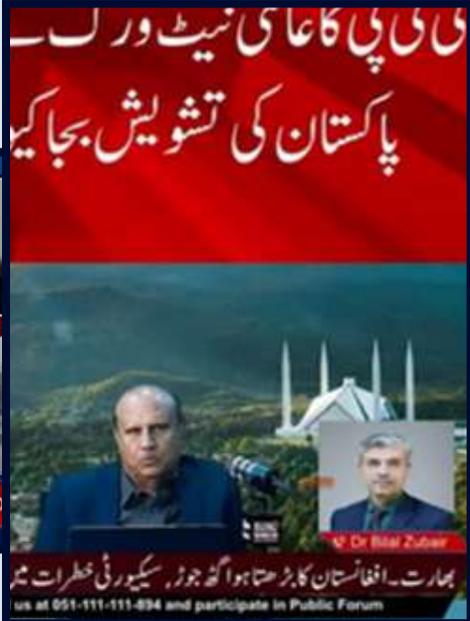
سبکی آواز







CISS Team Talks



## MEDIA APPEARANCES

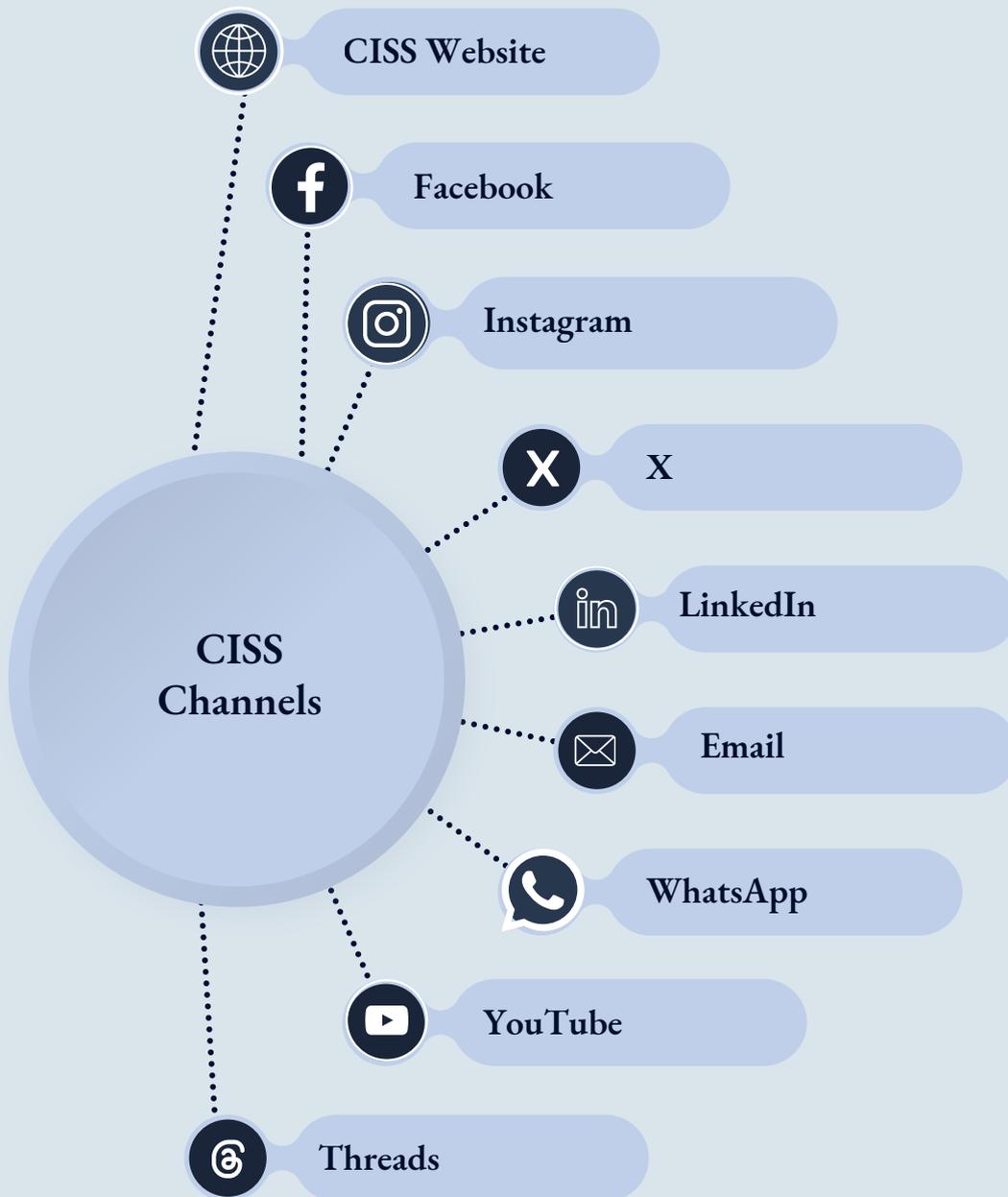
1	ED CISS gave comments on “Is Pakistan’s Growing Influence in the MENA Region Fueling Tensions in Afghanistan”, on SUCH News.
2	ED CISS shared His Views on “Gaza Peace Deal”, “Egypt Urges Pakistan to Intervene”, “US Suspends Afghan Visas”, on SUCH News.
3	ED CISS shared his views on the topic “US Greenland Plan”, on Pakistan Tv.
4	ED CISS gave comments on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to Turkmenistan, on Pakistan Tv.
5	ED CISS shared his views on the topic “How Can Iran Regime Change Affect Saudi Arabia and Pakistan?” on digital news channel Federal Post.
6	ED CISS shared his views on the topic “Pakistan, Kazakhstan Sign 37 Agreements to Boost Cooperation”, on Asia One News.
7	ED CISS shared his views on the topic “Will US-Iran Talks Solve Issues or Lead to Limited Strikes?”, on SUCH News.
8	Dr. Bilal Zubair, Director Research, CISS, appeared on Suno FM to discuss the India–TTA nexus.
9	Dr. Bilal Zubair, Director Research, CISS, spoke on “The Forum,” aired on Suno FM Network and Radio Pakistan, discussing the SCO Summit in China and its potential to translate symbolism into substantive outcomes.
10	Ms Anum A. Khan gave comments on If Israel Attacks Nuclear Plants In Iran, Can The Radiation Spread To Pakistan? on DAWN News

# SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT

- 01 Expert Analyses
- 02 Articles and Blogs
- 03 Professional Commentaries
- 04 Research Publications
- 05 Strategic Views
- 06 Infographics
- 07 CISS Explainers
- 08 CISS Conversations
- 09 CISS Audios

# DISSEMINATION

To effectively disseminate content and reach its target audience, CISS leverages the following digital platforms:



# CISS AUDIENCE

 International & National Knowledge Community

 Key Stakeholders of Strategic Community

 Policymakers

 Researchers & Analysts

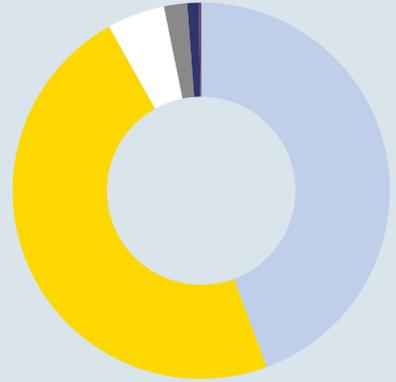
 Academia

 Students

 Journalists & Other Professionals

# TOP SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

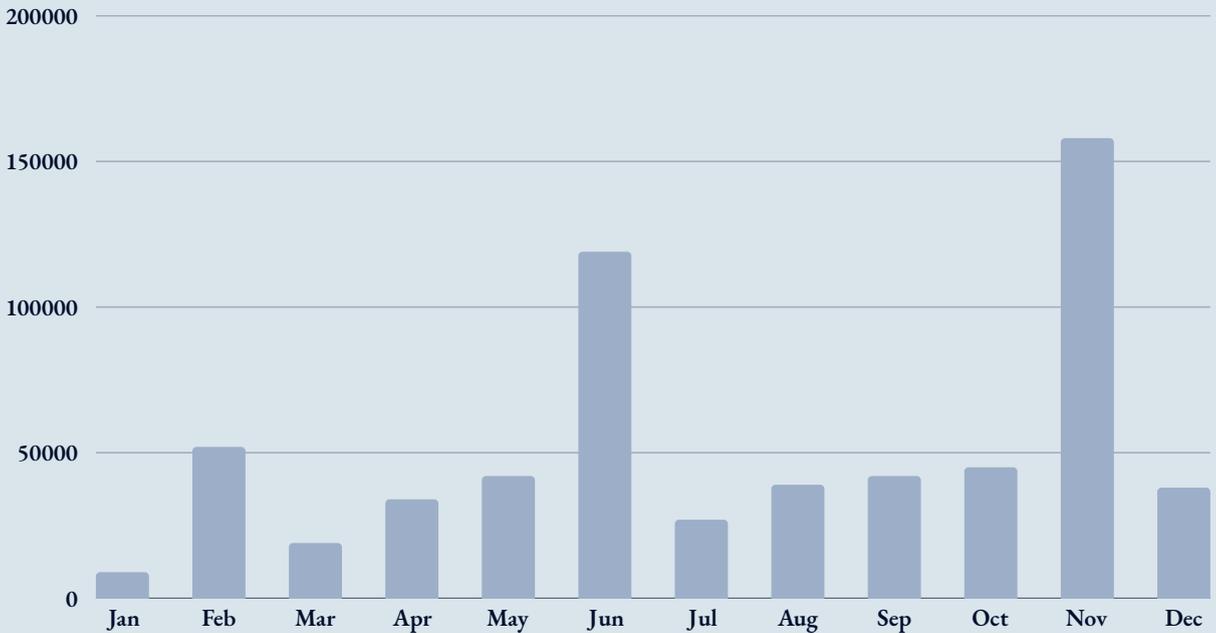
- ✕ X
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- 📷 Instagram
- 🌀 Threads



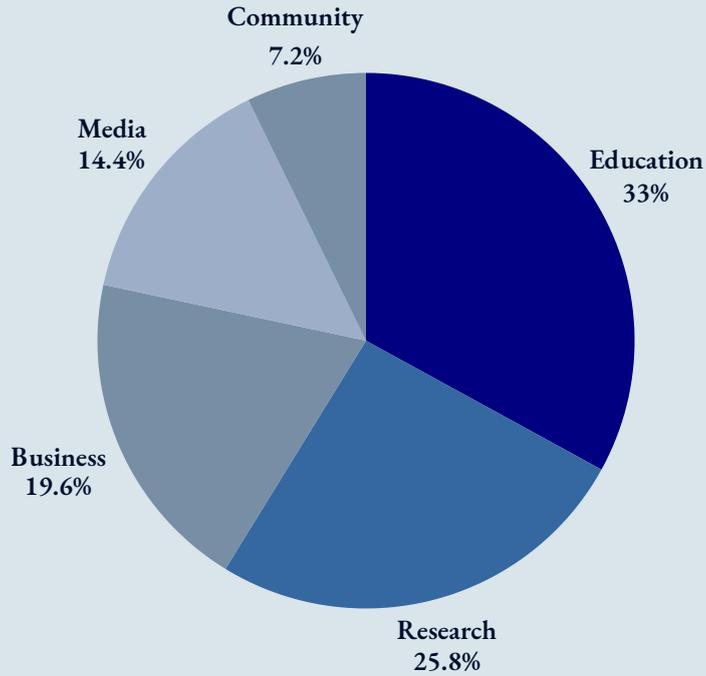
## IMPRESSIONS/YEAR 2025



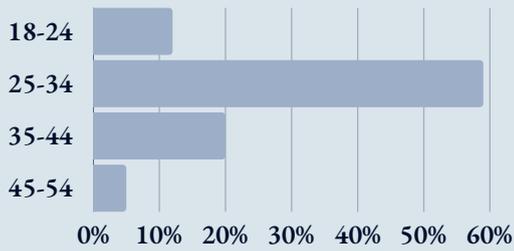
## IMPRESSIONS/MONTH



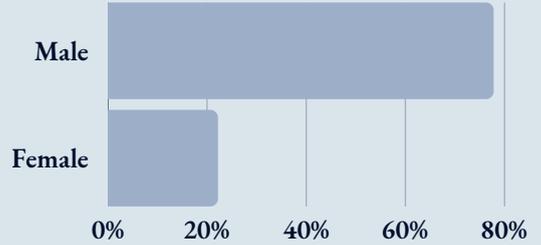
# VISITOR DEMOGRAPHICS



● Age



● Gender



## RESEARCH-BASED LINKAGES

1	Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, CISS, spoke at the Astana Think Tank Forum 2025 on “The Nuclear Challenge: Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in an Era of Strategic Rivalry.
2	Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, CISS Islamabad, delivered a talk on “Evolving Regional Security Dynamics: Pakistan’s Role.” at CISSS, Karachi.
3	Amb. Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director CISS, spoke on the Indian Ocean’s centrality in Pakistan’s long-term security calculus at MCE (PNWC), Lahore.
4	Dr. Bilal Zubair, Director Research, CISS, conducted a tabletop simulation on “Effective Strategic Communication Strategy” for participants of the 6th International Peace Symposium 2025 at the National Defence University
5	Dr. Bilal Zubair, Director Research, CISS, delivered a lecture on “Soft Power in the Age of Strategic Competition” at the Center for International Peace & Stability (CIPS), NUST.
6	Dr. Bilal Zubair, Director Research, CISS, spoke on “China’s Investment in Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence in Pakistan.” At Irs.
7	Dr. Bilal Zubair, Director Research, CISS, delivered a lecture to the interns at the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) on Strategic Communication (StratCom).
8	Dr. Bilal Zubair, Director Research, CISS, spoke at the Consortium for Asia Pacific Studies on Pakistan–Korea bilateral relations, highlighting people-to-people and business-to-business contacts.



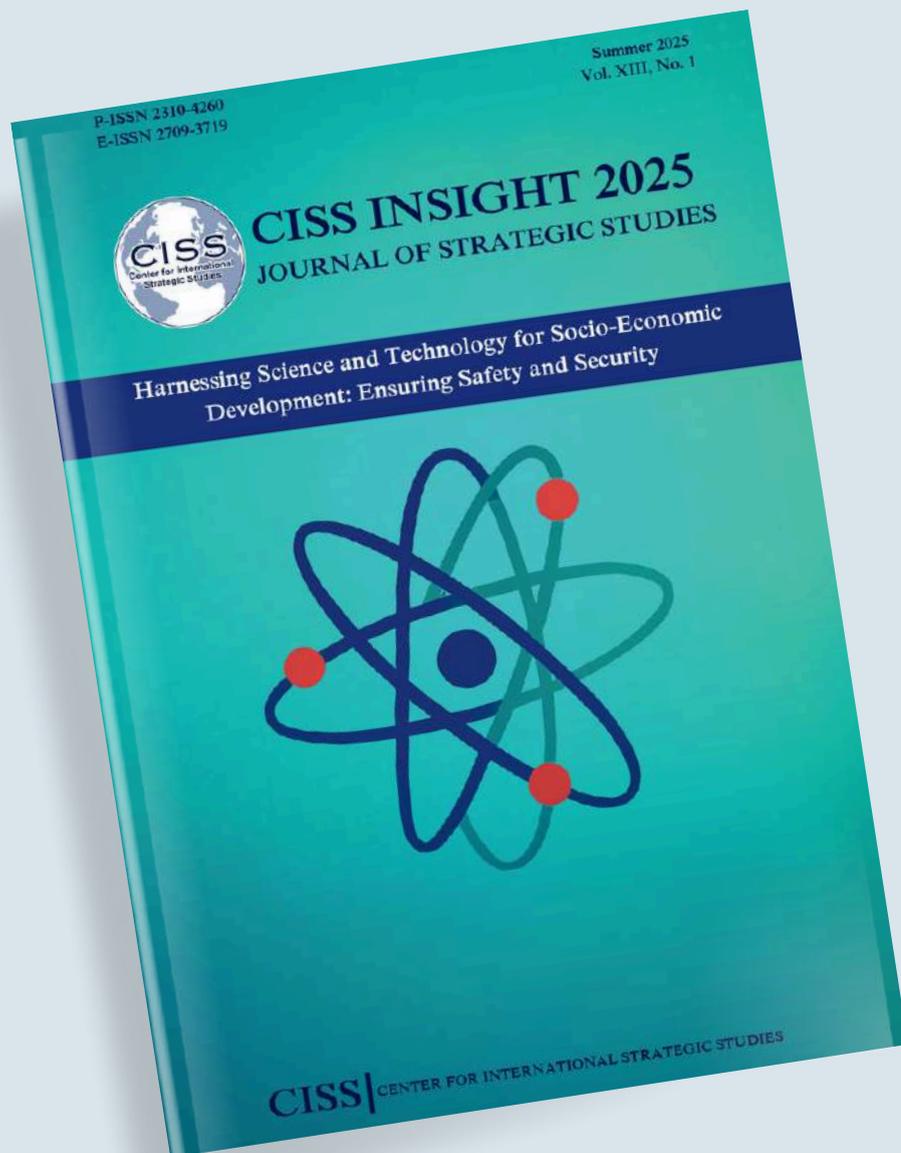


# RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

# J CISS INSIGHT JOURNAL

BIANNUAL HEC RECOGNIZED  
RESEARCH JOURNAL

JUNE 2025 (SUMMER EDITION)



## **Research Journal**

### **CISS Insight Journal of Strategic Studies**

The multidisciplinary, peer reviewed, HEC recognized biannual CISS Journal was established in 2013. It covers research articles on myriad issues including arms control and disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear technology, strategic trade management, nuclear safety and security, nuclear policy, strategic stability, emerging technologies, space-based systems, and international and regional security as well as political matters. Two issues were published in 2024, as follows:

#### **CISS Insight Vol. 13, No.1, June 2025 (Summer Edition)**

##### **Research Articles**

1. Transformative Role of Nuclear Technologies in the Healthcare System of Pakistan: Advancements and Impact - Shazia Fatima
2. Leveraging Space Science and Technology for Climate-Induced Disaster Management in Pakistan - Ibrar ul Hassan Akhtar, Maryam Mehboob
3. The Role of Nuclear Energy in Pakistan's Low-Carbon Future - Huma Rehman
4. Bridging the Gap: Women's Evolving Role in Nuclear Science - Sitara Noor
5. Collaboration in Nuclear Science and Technology: Prospects and Challenges for Pakistan's Regulator - Noreen Iftakhar, Hamid Saeed Raza
6. Assessment of Nuclear Safety and Security Regime of Pakistan - Tariq Majeed

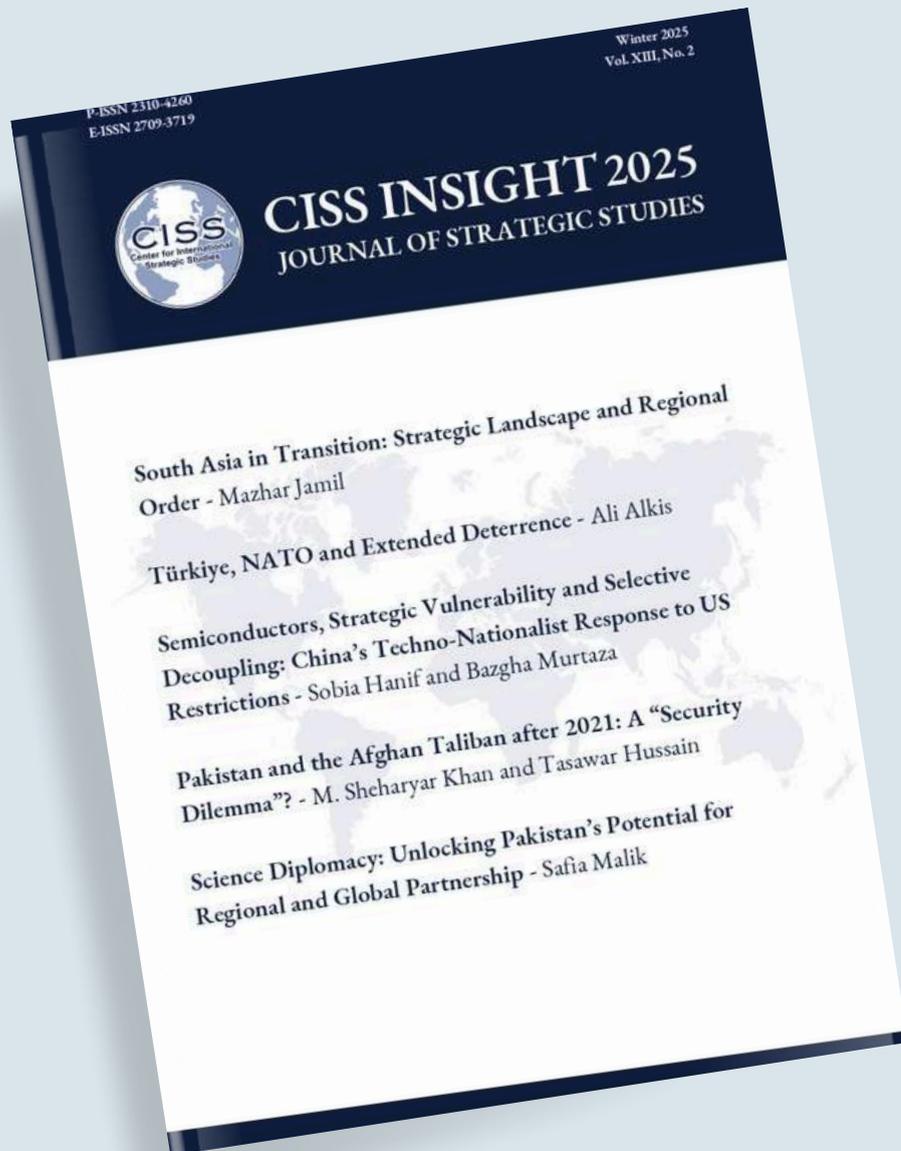
##### **Book Reviews**

1. Nuclear Law: The Global Debate - Maryam Siddiq Baba
2. The Technological and Economic Future of Nuclear Power - Khalil ur Rahman
3. Sabre Rattling in Space: A South Asian Perspective - Anum A. Khan
4. Nuclear Arms Control in South Asia: Politics, Postures, and Practices - Dr Anum Riaz

# J CISS INSIGHT JOURNAL

BIANNUAL HEC RECOGNIZED  
RESEARCH JOURNAL

DECEMBER 2025 (WINTER EDITION)



**Research Journal**  
**CISS Insight Journal of Strategic Studies**

**CISS Insight Vol. 13, No.2, December 2025 (Winter Edition)**

**Research Articles**

1. South Asia in Transition: Strategic Landscape and Regional Order - Mazhar Jamil
2. Türkiye, NATO and Extended Deterrence - Ali Alkis
3. Semiconductors, Strategic Vulnerability, and Selective Decoupling: China's Techno-Nationalist Response to US Restrictions - Sobia Hanif, Bazgha Murtaza
4. Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban after 2021: A "Security Dilemma"? - M. Sheharyar Khan, Tasawar Hussain
5. Science Diplomacy: Unlocking Pakistan's Potential for Regional and Global Partnership  
Safia Malik

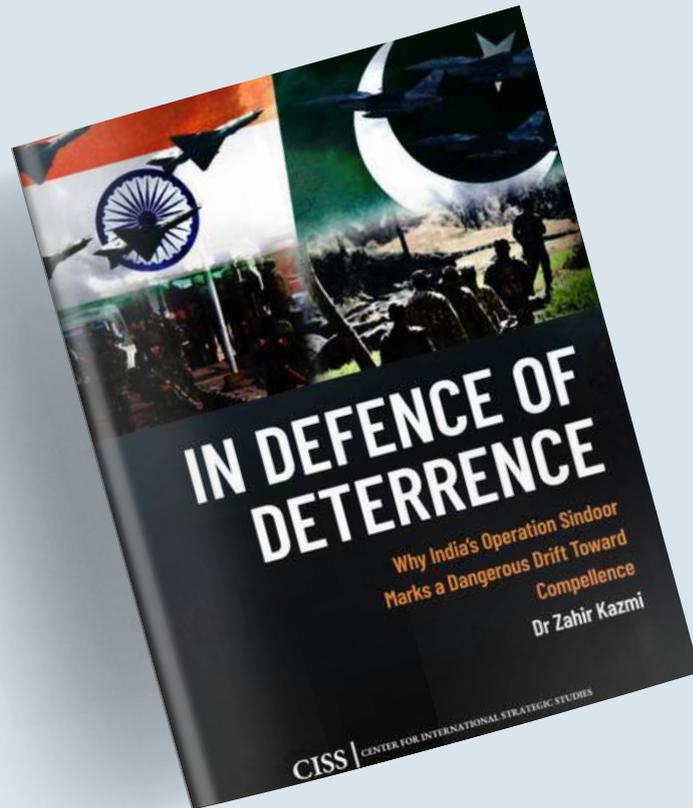
**Book Reviews**

Pakistan-India Relations: Fractured Past, Uncertain Future - Mobeen Jafar Mir

Going Nuclear: How the Atom Will Save the World - Anam Murad Khan

Weapons in Space: Technology, Politics, and the Rise and Fall of the Strategic Defense Initiative - Haseeb Ahmad

# CISS STRATEGIC VIEW



India's Operation Sindoor, conducted in May 2025, has been prematurely celebrated in Indian strategic literature as a doctrinal and strategic triumph, exemplifying an evolving posture of deterrence by punishment. The operation involved a series of stand-off strikes deep within Pakistani territory, purportedly targeting terrorist infrastructure. However, this narrative obscures a critical reality: Sindoor represents not a doctrinal success but a dangerous drift from deterrence towards compellence, thereby risking destabilization of the fragile nuclear equilibrium in South Asia, where India historically fails to achieve preferred outcomes.

To Read,

<https://ciss.org.pk/geopolitical-bias-and-the-differential-treatment-of-pakistan-ciss-strategic-view-vi/>

# CISS STRATEGIC VIEW

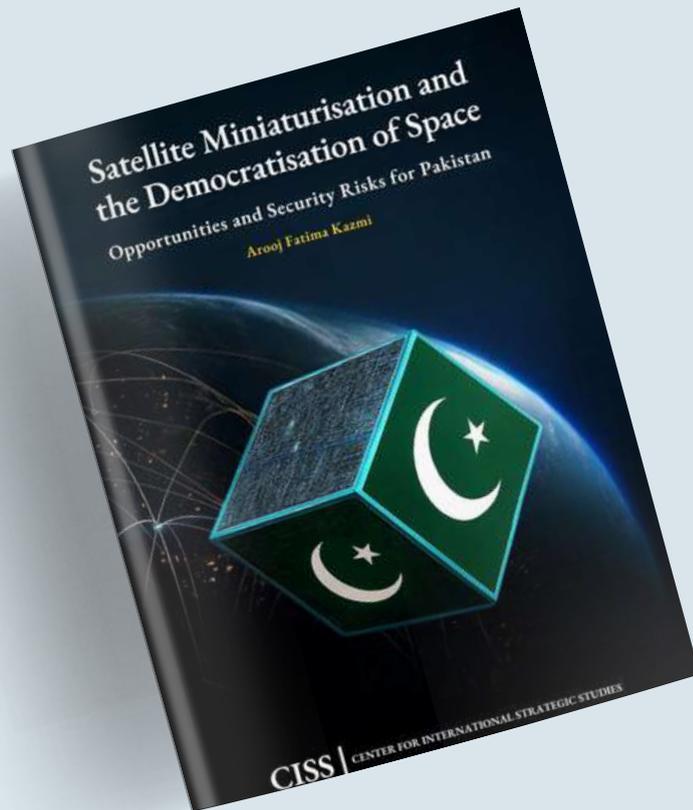


PMDA's end is a warning about tempo. As verification recedes, crisis management defaults to performance at algorithmic speed. The middle ground is not wishful trust but relying on the reworded Russian maxim: 'trust and verify.' In this decade, stability will depend less on grand treaties than on friction: mechanisms that slow kill chains, safeguard early-warning, and widen decision windows. If we cannot yet agree on how far to go, we should at least agree on how fast. Re-creating time is the most practical way to keep the offence-defence spiral from ending in catastrophe.

To Read,

<https://ciss.org.pk/drivers-of-indian-mirv-ciss-strategic-view-v/>

# CISS STRATEGIC VIEW

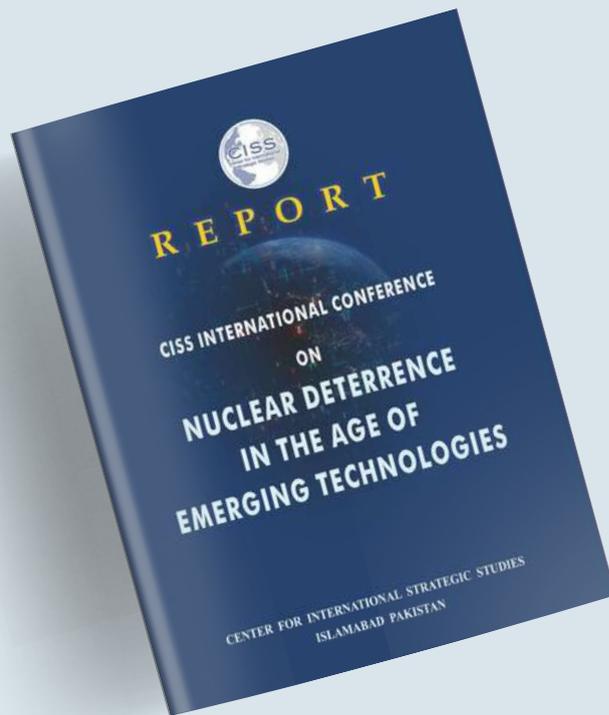


Previously outer space was once accessible only to a handful of states, satellite miniaturisation has opened it to new actors, including developing countries, universities, and private companies. Small satellites, built on miniaturisation technology, have shorter development timelines and lower costs than traditional, large satellites. This paper examines how satellite miniaturisation intersects with the broader dynamics of NewSpace and the democratisation of space, highlighting both opportunities and risks for Pakistan. While small satellites support diverse applications in communication, Earth observation, and scientific research, they also raise challenges related to orbital debris, dual-use functions, and dependency on foreign suppliers.

**To Read, Visit**

<https://ciss.org.pk/accidental-inadvertent-or-deliberate-launch/>

## REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR DETERRENCE IN THE AGE OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

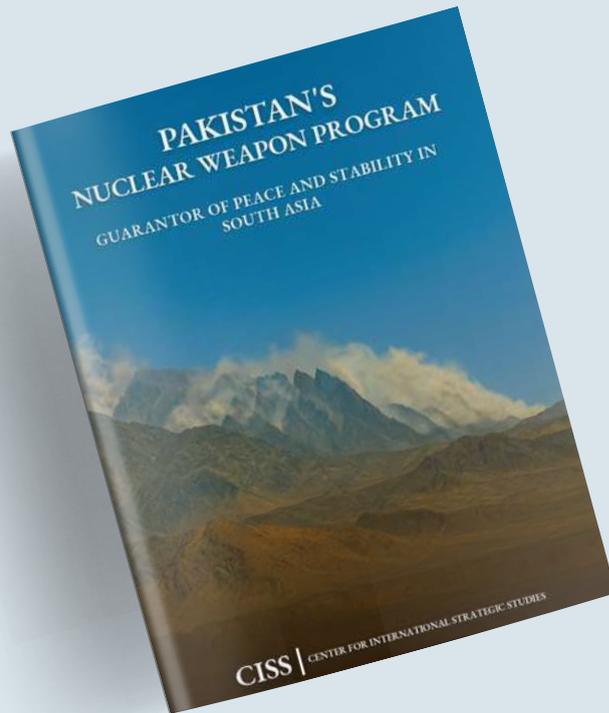


The Center for Strategic Studies (CISS), Islamabad, organized a two day International Conference, “Nuclear Deterrence in the Age of Emerging Technologies” on April 22-23, 2025, bringing together policy makers, practitioners, and eminent scholars from Pakistan and abroad. The conference highlighted Pakistan’s commitment to continued dialogue and collaboration in addressing the challenges posed by emerging technologies to international security and regional stability.

For more details, visit

[https://ciss.org.pk/PDFs/CISS\\_Roundtable\\_Report-Military\\_Dynamics\\_of\\_IOR-web.pdf](https://ciss.org.pk/PDFs/CISS_Roundtable_Report-Military_Dynamics_of_IOR-web.pdf)

**REPORT ON YOUM-E-TAKBEER 2025**  
**PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPON PROGRAM**  
**GUARANTOR OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA**



The Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS), Islamabad, organized a one-day seminar to commemorate Youm-e-Takbeer 2025 titled “Pakistan’s Nuclear Weapon Program: Guarantor of Peace and Stability in South Asia” at the CISS Conference Hall on, May 30, 2025. The seminar began with welcome remarks by Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, CISS, followed by a plenary session featuring a keynote address delivered by Lieutenant General (Retd) Khalid Ahmad Kidwai, advisor to the National Command Authority (NCA) and former Director General (DG), Strategic Plans Division (SPD).

**For more details, visit**

**<https://ciss.org.pk/ciss-report-on-youm-e-takbeer-2025-pakistans-nuclear-weapon-program-guarantor-of-peace-and-stability-in-south-asia/>**

# CISS VOICES

CISS Voices works as a forum to feature a variety of expert opinions and inspiring analyses on events and issues having national and international significance. We welcome well written shades of opinion covering a wide spectrum of strategic, geopolitical, diplomatic, and geoeconomics spheres.

For further details, visit: <https://blog.ciss.org.pk/>



**MODI 3.0 AND FUTURE OF PAKISTAN-INDIA RELATIONS**

**THE DIFFERENT PATHS TO PAKISTAN-INDIA RELATIONS UNDER MODI 3.0**

**RUSSIA-INDIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE COOPERATION**

**AVERTING NUCLEAR CATASTROPHE: MULTILATERAL PATHS TO PREVENTING WEAPONS TESTING**

**IS NUCLEAR HISTORY BEING REPEATED BY INDIA?**

**ASSESSING THE ROLE OF TWO INDIAN DISINFORMATION LABS IN INDIAN JAMMU AND KASHMIR ELECTIONS**

**US-CHINA ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS: GEOPOLITICAL REALITIES AND IMPLICATIONS**

**THE CASE OF PAKISTAN AND ECONOMIC TIME DOMAIN**

**STRIKING A BALANCE: PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS FOR PEACE AMIDST TERRORISM AND REFUGEE**

**INDIA'S MIRV DEVELOPMENT – A LATENT COUNTER-SPACE CAPABILITY**

**TRUMP'S 2.0 PRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR  
THE GLOBAL SOUTH COUNTRIES**

**ARE STATES PREPARED TO MANAGE DUAL  
IMPACT OF BIG DATA AND AI?**

**UNDER TRUMP 2.0  
NUCLEAR  
INDIA'S NUCLEAR SUBMARINE PROGRAM  
SECURITY CONCERNS FOR PAKISTAN**

**PROPOSING MARITIME CONFIDENCE-BUILDING  
MEASURES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN**

**NUCLEAR IRAN: WHY IS THE REVIVAL OF  
THE JCPOA MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER?  
SCOPE OF INDIAN POWER IN SOUTH ASIA**

**INDIA'S SHIFT TO THEATER COMMANDS: RESPONSE  
OPTIONS FOR PAKISTAN**

**PLANTS ARE OFF  
WARTIME: A LESSON FROM  
PAKISTAN-INDIA NON-ATTACK AGREEMENT**

**WHAT AUSTRALIA'S QUEST FOR  
POWERED SUBMARINES TELLS US  
SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND  
DETERRENCE STABILITY BETWEEN  
INDIA AND PAKISTAN**

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36	India’s Missile Program: A Threat to Regional and Global Peace and Stability by Dr Anum Riaz.

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38	Cybersecurity Framework for Maritime Port Management by Maryyum Masood and Dr Rizwana Abbasi.
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94	South Asia's Strategic Stability Under Systemic Overload by Brig Zahir Kazmi
95	The Evolution of India's Cold Start Doctrine: From Terrestrial to Aerial Domain by Murad Ali
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106	The Istanbul Talks and Pakistan's Afghan Dilemma: Between Peacekeeping and Border Security by Shahwana Binte Sohail
107	The Indian Air Force Quest for Modern Fighter Jets and Their Dilemma by Saad Riaz
108	The Emerging World Order in 2026: Fragmented, Militarised, and Unequal by Anum A Khan
109	Info Brief: Indian Naval Modernization by Malik Kashif and Saad Riaz
110	India's Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations: Implications for Crisis (In)Stability in South Asia by Fakhar Alam
111	PNRA Strengthening Pakistan's Nuclear Future by Maryyum Masood



