



NEWSLETTER

Seminar - "The Kashmir Dispute: An Unfulfilled Promise"

To mark Kashmir Solidarity Day, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan organized a Seminar titled, *"The Kashmir Dispute: An Unfulfilled Promise"* on February 4, 2020 at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi was the Chief Guest at the occasion. In his address, the President stated that, "Pakistan will continue the legal, moral and diplomatic battle for the Kashmiri people." Syed Fakhar Imam, Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir; Mr. Ali Amin Gandapur, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan; Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Convener, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC); and Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) also addressed the Seminar.



Roundtable - "The Role of Planning and Development in the Economy of Pakistan"

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable Discussion on *"The Role of Planning and Development in the Economy of Pakistan"* on March 11, 2020. Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Mr. Asad Umar addressed the Roundtable as Chief Guest and stated that, "Planning Commission (PC) has a very important role to play in the economic development of Pakistan." Mr. Umar further stressed that in the 60's, Planning Commission played a pivotal role in the development of the country and that evolution of technology has led to evolution in the workings of centralized economic systems. He opined that an overall devolution of economic systems needs to take place. The event was well-attended by members of academia, members of think tank community, media persons and students.



Inauguration of India Study Centre (ISC)

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) inaugurated its India Study Centre (ISC) on February 7, 2020. Former Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Sohail Aman, NI(M) was Chief Guest at the occasion. Other distinguished speakers at the inauguration included: Dr. Mujeeb Afzal, Associate Professor Quaid-e-Azam University, and Ambassador Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, Director General South Asia and SAARC at Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Air Marshal Sohail Aman, NI(M) stated that, "The ground for hybrid strategy is ripe and this centre would carry out pioneer work by looking into those strategies." The inauguration was well-attended by former Pakistani military officers and ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, academia, think tanks, students and the media.





Seminar - “Pakistan and the Kashmir Cause”

In a run-up to Kashmir Solidarity Day, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Seminar titled “Pakistan and the Kashmir Cause” on January 30, 2020. Syed Fakhar Imam, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir was the Chief Guest at the occasion, while Mr. Ali Amin Gandapur, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan was the Guest of Honor. Other speakers at the Seminar included former Foreign Secretary, Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani and Dr. Maria Sultan, Director General, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute University (SASSI).



Roundtable - “Self-Determination Day: Voices From Kashmir”

Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable Discussion in collaboration with the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan on January 10, 2020 on “Self-Determination Day: Voices From Kashmir”. President, State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Other guests included: Ambassador Faisal Tirmizi, Coordinator, Kashmir Cell, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations, Mr. Faiz Naqshbandi, Convener (APHC Mir Waiz) Mr. Khalid Rehman, Director General, Institute of Policy Studies, Syed Abdullah Gillani, Convener, All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mr. Ershad Mahmood, Executive Director, Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms (CPDR), Syed Nazir Gillani, Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights, Former Ambassador Arif Kamal and Mr. Tanvir Sultan from business community.



Launch of Report - “CPEC in Azad Jammu & Kashmir: A Gateway to Regional Connectivity & Beyond”

ISSI’s China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) collaboration with Center for Peace, Development & Reforms (CPDR) organized Launch of a Report titled “CPEC in Azad Jammu & Kashmir: A Gateway to Regional Connectivity & Beyond” on March 10, 2020. Authored by Sabur Ali Sayyid and published by CPDR, the report provides a comprehensive overview of the CPEC projects in AJ&K. Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider who was Chief Guest at the occasion stated that, “CPEC projects will unleash opportunities for socio-economic development for people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.” Mr. Sabur Ali Sayyid, author of the report also spoke on the occasion while Mr. Zulfqar Abbasi, President CPDR, Dr. Syed Asif Hussain, Additional Chief Secretary Government of AJ&K, and Mr. Hasan Daud Butt, Chief Executive KP Board of Investment & Trade reviewed the report and shared their thoughts.



Roundtable - “Changing Dynamics in Kashmir – A Challenge to the World Conscience”

A 14-member All-Party Parliamentary Kashmir Group (APPKG) delegation headed by Ms. Debbie Abraham visited Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) for a Roundtable Discussion on “Changing Dynamics in Kashmir – A Challenge to the World Conscience” on February 19, 2020. Other members of the delegation included Lord Qurban Hussain, Ms. Judith Cummins, Sara Britcliffe, Raja Najabat Hussain, Br. Imran Hussan, Mr. James Daly, Mr. Mark Eastwood, Mr. Tahir Ali, and Ms. Yasmine Dar.





Roundtable-“India’s Space Program: Global Implications”



Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable Discussion on “India’s Space Programme: Global Implications” on February 25, 2020. Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Kaleem Saadat, NI(M) was Chief Guest at the occasion. During his keynote address, he stated that, “The capability differential between the space programs of

India and Pakistan will increase the regional instability.” He further emphasized that the government of Pakistan should actively focus on maximum utilization of existing space capabilities to decrease the gap with India. The discussion mainly revolved around India’s modernization of dual-use space programme and its effects on global strategic landscape.

Seminar – “Emerging Technologies and their Impact on Strategic Stability in South Asia”

Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Seminar on “Emerging Technologies and their Impact on Strategic Stability in South Asia” on March 12, 2020. Professor Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman was the Chief Guest at the occasion. He stated that, “We live in a world where knowledge has become the key driver of socio-economic development. Those countries that have realized that their real wealth lies in their children through education, science and innovation, through unleashing the creative

potential that lies within are the ones marching forward, leaving others behind.” Other speakers at the Working Session of the Seminar was chaired by Major General Ausaf Ali (Retd), Advisor, Strategic Plans Division. Speakers at the session included: Dr. Adil Sultan, Director, Nuclear and Strategic Current Affairs at Center for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS); Mr. Husham Ahmed Cheema, Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ms. Aamna Rafiq, Research Associate ACDC-ISSI.



Public Talk - “41st Anniversary of Victory of Islamic Revolution and Pakistan-Iran Relations”

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad under its Ambassador’s Platform 2020 organized a Public Talk on “41st Anniversary of Victory of Islamic Revolution and Pakistan-Iran Relations” on February 4, 2020. The distinguished speaker at the event was H.E. Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Ambassador, Islamic Republic of Iran. Ambassador Hosseini stated that, “Iran will never allow its soil to be used against any of its neighboring countries especially Pakistan.” Policymakers, diplomats, academics and students were present on the occasion.



Roundtable-Interactive Discussion on Building Peace in Fragile States with Ms. Nancy Lindborg

An interactive roundtable discussion based on Chatham House rules was organized by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on “Building Peace in Fragile States” with Ms. Nancy Lindborg, President and CEO of the US Institute of Peace (USIP) on February 20, 2020. Ms. Lindborg was accompanied by Dr. Andrew Wilder, Vice President USIP and Mr. Adnan Rafiq, Country Representative USIP in Islamabad.





In-House Meeting- "Pakistan Standing in Solidarity with China: Coronavirus, A Common Global Challenge"

China Study Centre (CPSC), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad held an In-House Dialogue on, "*Pakistan Standing in Solidarity with China: Coronavirus, A Common Global Challenge*" as an expression of solidarity with people and government of China on February 20, 2020. H.E. Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan stated that, "At this difficult time, we deeply appreciate the support extended by the government and people of Pakistan since the outbreak of the deadly virus. The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad is working closely with the Government of Pakistan to look after Pakistani students in Wuhan."



In-House Meeting- OIC Special Envoy Mr. Yousef Aldobeay

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an In-House Meeting with Ambassador Yousef Aldobeay, Assistance Secretary General for Political Affairs and OIC Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir on March 3, 2020. Other members of the delegation included Mr. Ahmed Sareer (Director Asian Affairs, Political Affairs Department), Mr. Faisal Abro (Professional Officer, Political Affairs Department), Ms. Aida Toumi (Professional Officer, Political Affairs Department), Ms. Rana Al Deghtather (Professional Officer, Humanitarian Affairs Department), Mr. Inamullah Khan (Representative of IsDB in Pakistan). Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to OIC. Mr. Tariq Karim, Director General (EC & OIC) and Mr. Muhammad Moazzam Ali Sahito, Assistant Director (OIC) were also present at the occasion.



Roundtable – 6-Member Delegation from Guizhou Provincial Committee of CPPCC

The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable Discussion with a 6-member delegation from Guizhou Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) on January 1, 2020. The delegation was led by H.E Mr. Chen Jian, Vice-Chairman, Guizhou Provincial Committee of CPPCC. Other members of the delegation included: Mr. Wang Jinjiang, Deputy Secretary-General/Deputy Director General, Guizhou Provincial Committee of the CPPCC/General Office of Guizhou Provincial Committee of the CPPCC; Ms. Gong Ning, Associate Inspector, Guizhou Provincial Education Department; Mr. Li Jianjun, Party Secretary, Guizhou University; Mr. Zhang Xueli, Party Secretary, Guizhou Minzu University; Ms. Hong Yun, Division Chief, International Exchange and Cooperation Division of Guizhou University. Experts from outside ISSI also attended the Roundtable Discussion.



Roundtable-Dr. Haiyun Ma, Associate Professor of History, Frostburg State University

China-Pakistan Study Center (CPSC), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a Roundtable with Dr. Haiyun Ma, Associate Professor of History at the Frostburg State University, Maryland on January 13, 2020. The agenda for the session was to discuss Islamic-Chinese cultural dialogue in contemporary times. Dr. Nadeem Omer Tarar, Executive Director at the Center for Culture and Development, Islamabad also spoke on the occasion. Experts from academia, think tanks and media attended the Roundtable.





Celebration - “PIVOT: Pursuing Ideals of Shared Future”

To mark one successful year of PIVOT magazine launched by China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in January 2019, the Centre organized an event titled “PIVOT: Pursuing Ideals of Shared Future” on January 16, 2020. Ambassador Zahoor Ahmad, Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was the Chief Guest, and Ambassador Yao Jing, Ambassador of People’s Republic of China was Guest of Honor. Ambassador Zahoor Ahmad stated, “China has stood by Pakistan on its core interests, and Pakistan has supported China’s core interests, and now Pakistan – China relations are in a phase where economic and people to people contacts have increased manifolds.” Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Yao Jing, Ambassador of People’s Republic of China said, there is more analysis of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Belt and Road Initiative to counter doubts being raised by detractors, and PIVOT is playing an important role to advance it.” The event was widely attended by members of academia, think-tanks, diplomatic corps, government, media and civil society.



Public Talk - “Italian Perceptions of Regional Connectivity Under BRI & CPEC”

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Public Talk titled, “Italian Perceptions of Regional Connectivity Under BRI and CPEC” on January 28, 2020 under its Distinguished Lecture Series. Prof. Andrea Margelletti, Chairman of the Centre for International Studies (Ce.S.I.) in Rome, Italy, was the guest speaker at the occasion. Prof. Margelletti, during his speech stated, “Until few years ago, people only spoke about communication. Now, however, ‘connectivity’ is the most important word. If you have a connection, you exist, if you don’t, you can’t survive.” He called BRI, ‘an incredible world plan’ that is poised to change the face of Asia. Policy makers, diplomats, academics and students were present on the occasion.



Roundtable - Ms. Alice Wells, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable Discussion with Ms. Alice Wells, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia on January 21, 2020. The agenda of discussion was Development, Sovereignty, and Economic Growth in South Asia. Experts from outside ISSI also attended the discussion.





Public Talk - “Understanding Extremist Narratives and Their Impact on the Society”

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Public Talk on “Understanding Extremist Narratives and their Impact on the Society” on February 18, 2020 under its Distinguished Lecture Series. Professor Dr. Samina Yasmeen (AM), Director, Centre for Muslim States & Societies, University of Western Australia, was the guest speaker at the event. Dr. Yasmeen said that narratives on their own are neither violent nor bad. She further stated, “Narratives are all about stories that we hear and it makes us realize what is real and what is not.” Policymakers, diplomats, academics and students were present on the occasion.



Public Talk - “Pakistan-China Relations and Next Phase of CPEC”

China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Public Talk on “Pakistan-China Relations and Next Phase of CPEC” under its Ambassadors’ Platform Series on February 20, 2020. H.E. Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador of People’s Republic of China to Pakistan was Guest Speaker at the event. Acknowledging the closeness in ties between China and Pakistan; Ambassador Yao said, “Pakistan is our closest friend and most valuable partner.” He further stated that right now China is in a very difficult situation, but we deeply appreciate the support extended by the government and people of Pakistan since the outbreak of the deadly virus. Policy makers, diplomats, academics and students were present on the occasion.



Launch of ISSI Website

On January 13, 2020, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) launched its new website. Director General Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry congratulated the entire team of ISSI on the launching of the Institute's re-designed and up-upgraded website and appreciated the efforts of the team responsible for re-vamping of the website.





Meetings, Visitors & Guests



Meeting with Mr. Zahid Hussain, Author and Journalist - January 3, 2020



Meeting with Mr. Stefan Burkhardt, Head of South/Southeast Asia Division, (HSF) –January 14, 2020



Meeting with Mr. Mark Halle, Consultant & Advisor at International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) January 16, 2020



Meeting with H.E. Mr. Shankar Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary of Nepal and H.E. Ms. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal - February 25, 2020



Meeting with Mr. Raja M. Farooq Khan, Prominent community leader in Netherlands - February 27, 2020



Tuesday Dialogue – “India’s Continuing March for Military Modernization”



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held a Roundtable Discussion on “India’s Continuing March for Military Modernization” on February 11, 2020 under the 9th round of its Tuesday Dialogue series. The Dialogue was attended by Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman NI(M); Lt. Gen (R) Talat Masood; Dr. Rifaat Hussain, NUST; Ambassador Tariq Osman Hyder; Mr. Khalid Banuri and Brig. (R) Rashid WaliJanjua-IPRI. The discussion focused on how India’s continuing military modernization is going to impact regional peace and security, strategic stability and peaceful conflict resolution. The discussants also talked about the options that are available for Pakistan.

Tehran Dialogue Forum 2020

In January 2020, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) was represented at the “Tehran Dialogue Forum 2020” by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chahdhry, Director General ISSI and Arhama Siddiq, Research Fellow. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chahdhry addressed the forum on the subject, ‘Opening New Horizons.’



Quarterly Journal



ISSUE BRIEFS January-March 2020

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Howdy Modi’ to ‘Namaste Trump’
By Mahrukh Khan

Trump’s India Visit: Optics vs Substance
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Trump’s Peace Plan: Pathway to Privation
By Arhama Siddiq

Kashmir Finds a Voice at UNSC Once Again
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Trump’s Impeachment
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US-Taliban Talks: Hurdles in the Way of Peace
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Protests in Iraq: An Assessment
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India’s Massive Military Acquisitions
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Future of Muslims under India’s Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)
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Recent Iran-US Tensions: An Assessment
By Fatima Raza

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