

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 2020

ISSUE 02

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Big Brother Syndrome and Nepal's Security Dilemma

Syed Imran Sardar

The recent controversy between Nepal and India is triggered by the release of a new political map of India that placed the Kalapani region in the Uttarkhand state. New Delhi's burgeoning interest in the Kalapani region is worrisome. Indian forces have been controlling this strategically important area since 1962. According to the Sagauli Treaty of 1816, Nepal claimed that the aforementioned area of around 337 sq km belonged to it. Nepal's parliament, on its part, approved a new map showing Kalapani, Limpiadhura, and Lipulekh as its territory. With the constitutional amendment, this issue has become a permanent foreign policy irritant between the two states.



Conflicting Perspectives on Hong Kong's Rights Protests-2019

Nabila Jaffer

This paper focuses on the dichotomy in the perspectives on Hong Kong's protests in the light of ongoing power competition and propaganda war between China and the United States. It also attempts to present the authentic view on the actual problem through legal analysis of China's One Country, Two Systems. This paper adds a new dimension to the debate on how the flaws in Hong Kong's ruling document under One Country, Two Systems are responsible for the 2019 protests.





Human Rights Violations in IIOJK Need World Attention

October 27, 2020

October 27 marked the anniversary of the unfortunate illegal accession of the Muslim-majority princely state of Jammu and Kashmir with India. Participants at roundtable held at IRS observed that continuous silence of the international community over Indian unilateralism which was visible in 1947 is still seen today. They shared that according to the BBC, 3,000 people had sustained eye injuries to pellet guns. Referring to the figures provided by renowned Indian author Arundhati Roy, it was observed that 68,000 Kashmiris were killed, 10,000 disappeared, and 100,000 tortured since 1990.



Chinese Political System is Pluralistic

October 28, 2020

“Chinese political system is way more pluralistic than is generally perceived,” said Amb Naghmana Hashmi at a roundtable organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). Amb Hashmi stated that the Communist Party of China (CPC) has an elaborate process of soliciting feedback from party cadres and other relevant stakeholders on important national matters before a decision is taken at the top.



US policy towards South Asia to remain same

November 02, 2020

Michael Kugelman and Dr. Hassan Abbas from Washington and Dr. Nouman Sattar from Pakistan discussed the probable dimension of US policy in the post elections scenario. The speakers were of the view that US policy towards Pakistan is likely to remain the same in the next term of the new president.



Indian Atrocities in IIOJK are War Crimes: Banuri

November 05, 2020

"Indian atrocities in the occupied Kashmir amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity because they are being conducted in an international armed conflict in an internationally recognized disputed territory," said Air Cdre (Retd) Khalid Banuri. The former Director General of the Arms Control and Disarmament Branch at the Strategic Plans Division spoke at a roundtable organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS).



Indigenous Movements Based on Dissent Will Rise From India: IRS Researchers

November 06, 2020

A group of 19 probationers of the Foreign Service Academy, Islamabad visited the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) on 6th November. They were provided an in-depth briefing on the working of the IRS. They interacted freely with the researchers for over ninety minutes and engaged in discussion on subjects of regional and global importance including Kashmir and Afghanistan.



Dr. Ishrat Hussain visits IRS

November 09, 2020

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity Dr Ishrat Hussain visited the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) on Monday. President IRS Amb Nadeem Riyaz gave him a briefing about IRS. Amb Riyaz apprised the Advisor to the Prime Minister about the recent initiatives taken at the Institute for further enhancing its efficiency and role in giving policy inputs.



Diplomacy is More Successful Than Military Action

November 11, 2020

"Diplomacy has proved to be more successful than military action in recent times," said Amb Andreas Ferrarese. The Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan was speaking at an event organized by the Institute of Regional Studies. He added that Italy was a pacifist country since the World War II and focused on promoting positive trade and economic relations with all the countries of the world.



Address Climate Change for Food and Water Security

November 18, 2020

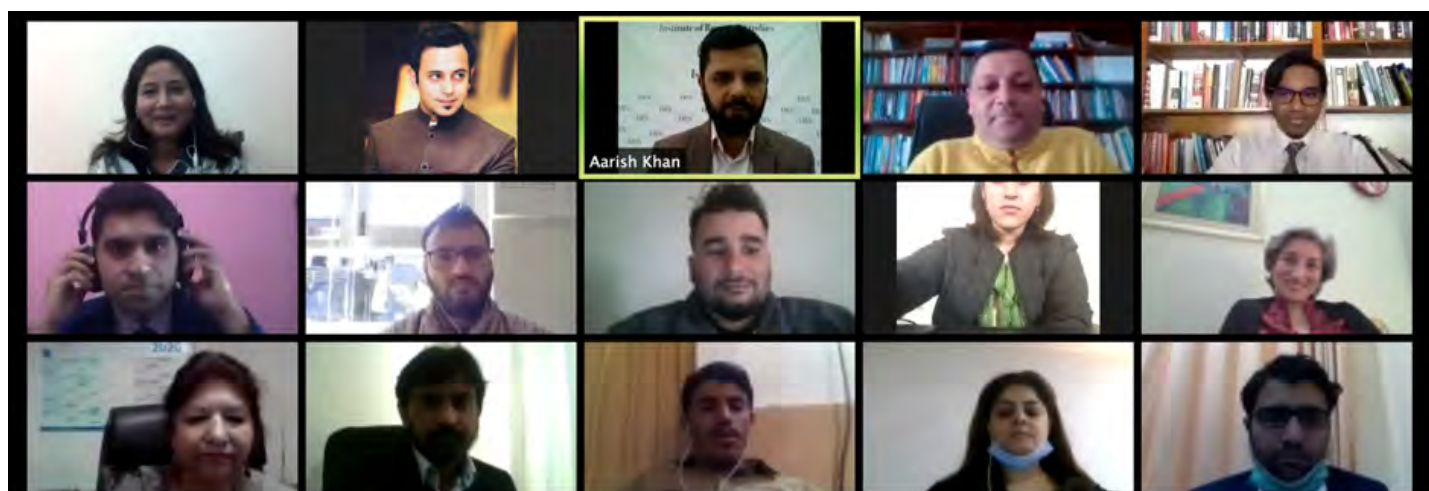
"It is very important to respond to climate change because it affects availability of water and food security, which are essential for life," said Ms Aisha Khan. The Founder and CEO of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC) and Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization (MGPO) spoke at an event on the impact of climate change on South Asia organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS).



Emerging Alliances are an Opportunity and a Challenge

December 02, 2020

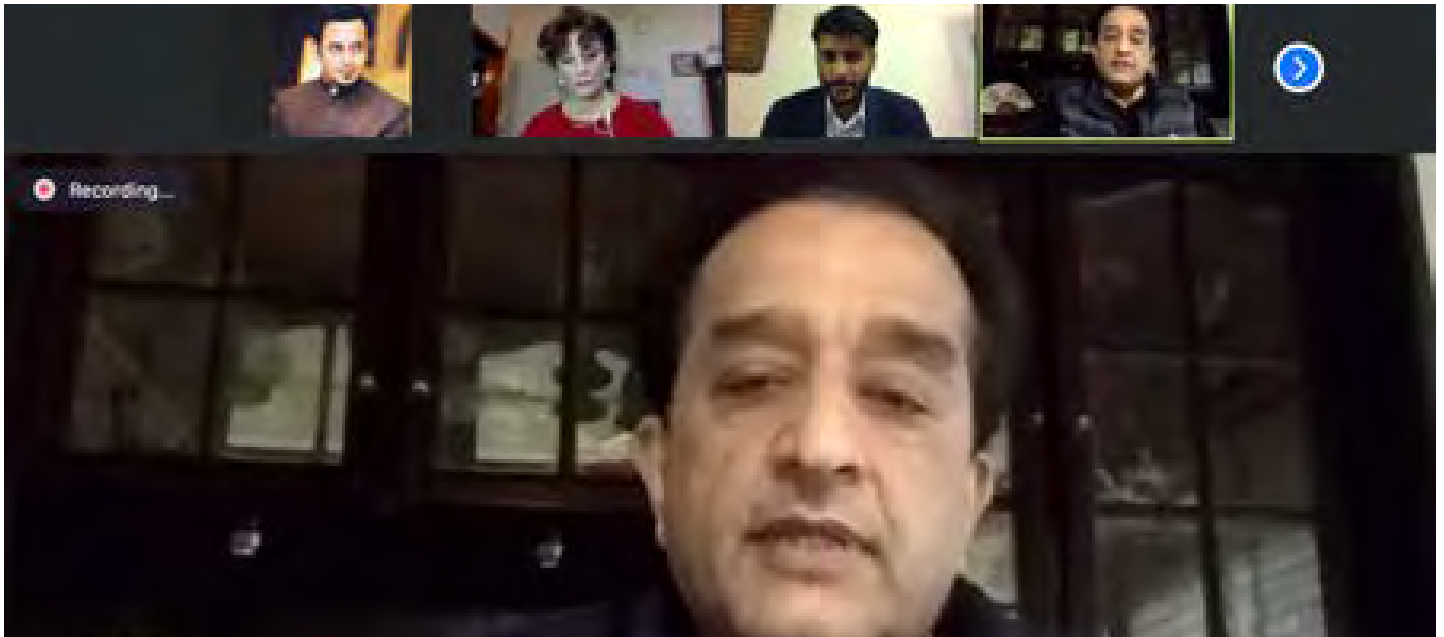
Speakers at a panel discussion were of the view that emerging geopolitical alliances in South Asia were presenting challenges as well as opportunities for regional states at the same time. The panel discussion titled “emerging geopolitical alliances and prospects of regional peace” was organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS).



Reviving SAARC is the only option

December 08, 2020

“Reviving SAARC is the only option because it is the lone regional cooperation organization that has all 8 South Asian countries as its members and we have already invested too much in the organization to let it go dormant,” said Dr Nischal Pandey, the Director of the Kathmandu-based Centre for South Asian Studies. He was speaking at a webinar titled “35 years of SAARC: the way forward” organized by the Institute of Regional Studies.



Link National Security with Human Security

December 09, 2020

Climate experts called for linking national security with human security in a virtual conference on climate change and its impacts on Pakistan. The conference titled “Framing Pakistan’s Climate Profile 2020-2030: Future Projections and Pathways to Resilience” was jointly organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) and Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC).



International Parliamentary Conference

December 09, 2020

Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi honored the institute by paying visit to it along with Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir to raise voice against human rights abuses in Kashmir on Human Rights Day. On the occasion, Chairman Shehryar Khan Afridi urged all parliamentarians of the world to play a proactive role in raising voices for Kashmiris and making India accountable for its crimes against humanity in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK).



Remembering the Martyrs of APS

December 16, 2020

Participants of a webinar that included Mr. Rahim Ullah Yousafzai, Col Qasim Shah, an eye witness of the incident and Ms Shumaila Zahoor, academican said that involvement of foreign hand in the incident cannot be dispelled. They however, expressed that the Nation cannot forget this tragedy.



Greek Ambassador Andreas Papastavrou Visits IRS

December 17, 2020

H.E Mr. Andreas Papastavrou paid a maiden visit to the Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad. President IRS Amb Nadeem Riyaz gave him detailed briefing on the functions of the Institute. Amb Riyaz apprised Mr. Papastavrou about the scope of IRS research. While elaborating, he shared that the institute primarily conduct in-depth research on the neighborhood of Pakistan that includes members of the SAARC countries and also on China and Iran.

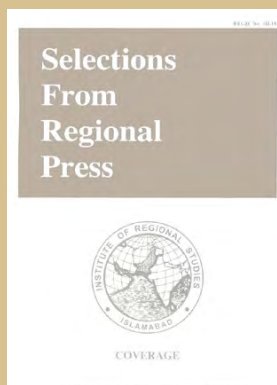


Dhaka-Beijing Relationship can serve as a model

December 29, 2020

Experts while speaking to the participants of the webinar organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) on 'Bangladesh-China Relations in the Changing Regional Dynamics', urged to dispel apprehensions attached with the growing Chinese investments in Bangladesh. Relations between the two countries are based on mutual interests.

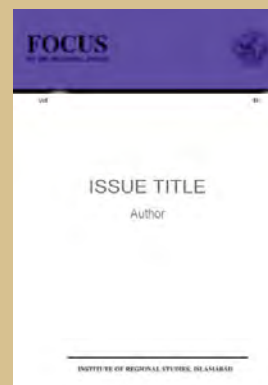
IRS Publications



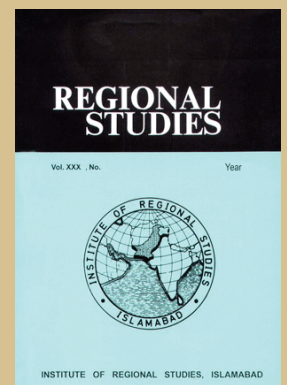
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Spotlight



Focus



Regional Studies