

NEWSLETTER

April-June, 2022

Vol-II ISSUE 02

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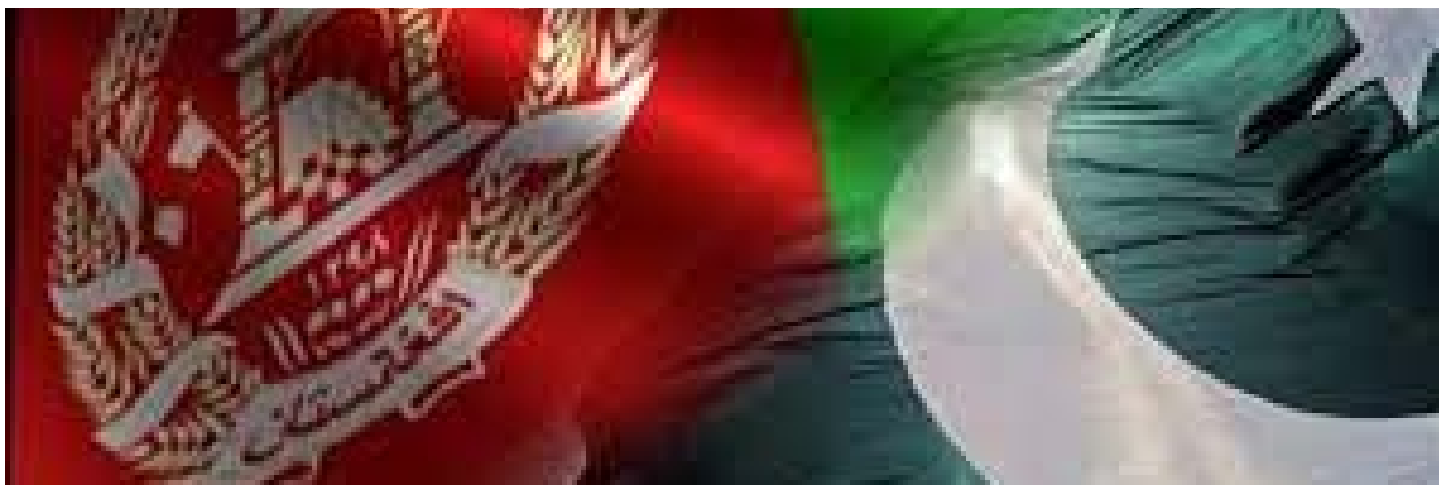
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- **The Legality of the Drone War: Drone Strikes under International Humanitarian Law**

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Pak-Afghan Relations & Islamic Ideology: Diplomacy, Existing Challenges & the Future Prospect

April 14, 2022

Pakistan needs to (re)activate Soft Diplomacy with Afghanistan

Soft Diplomacy was one of the approaches that was underutilized by Pakistan, said Dr Qibla Ayaz, Chairman Islamic Ideology Council. He was delivering a talk at a session titled 'PakAfghan Relations and Islamic Ideology: Diplomacy, Existing Challenges, and Future Prospects'. The session was jointly organised here by the Pak-Afghan Youth Forum (PAYF) and the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) under the former institute's series titled 'Stories We Live By'.



Saudi-Iran Standoff on Recent Peace Talks

April 21, 2022

The collapse of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and Iran-Saudi dialogue could forge a renewed set of tensions for both the countries, said Dr. Hamid Reza Azizi, Research Fellow, German Institute of International and Security Affairs. Dr. Azizi was delivering a talk at a webinar on 'Saudi-Iran stand-off on recent peace talks' organised here by Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). Dr Azizi pointed that in order to ensure constructive peace, it was imperative that both JCPOA and Iran-Saudi Dialogue must succeed.



Ban Culture: A Way to Create Akhand Bharat

April 25, 2022

Indian minorities must unite against repression

The Indian government had crossed all limits and had violated the fundamental human rights, especially in case of minorities, in particular Muslims, based in India, said Lieutenant General Raza Khan, Former President National Defense University. He was speaking at a webinar titled 'Ban Culture: A Way to Create Akhand Bharat'. The session was organized by the Institute of Regional Studies. Lieutenant General Khan was of the opinion that the plight of the Indian Muslims was a major concern in the present times and that it was imperative to chalk out distinct roles for the international community, and in particular, the OIC as the representative of the Muslim world to overcome such brazen abuse of power.



Pak-Afghan Storytelling Series

April 25, 2022

Educating Afghan children vital for positive image of Pakistan

Educating Afghan children was extremely important to send out a positive image of Pakistan across the world, said Ms. Fajer Rabia Pasha, Executive Director, Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education (PAGE).

She was delivering a talk at a session titled 'Challenges & Responses in the Field of Education: A Tale of Pak-Afghan Post-War Societies'. The session was jointly organized by the Pak-Afghan Youth Forum (PAYF) and the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) under the former institute's series titled 'Stories We Live By'.



How Sri Lanka Slid into its Worst Economic Crisis?

April 29, 2022

Institute of Regional Studies organised an Eminent speakers series on "How Sri-Lanka Slid into its worst economic crisis".



Afghanistan Then and Now: Challenges and Prospects of Successful International Diplomacy

May 13, 2022

Trust Deficit Equally Detrimental for both Pakistan and Afghanistan

Trust deficit toward Pakistan was still an issue among a certain segment of the Afghan society, said former Ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain. He was delivering a talk at a session titled 'Tales of Afghanistan's Diplomacy and Engagement with the World and with Pakistan'. The session was jointly organised here by the Pak-Afghan Youth Forum (PAYF) and the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) under the former institute's series titled 'Stories We Live By'

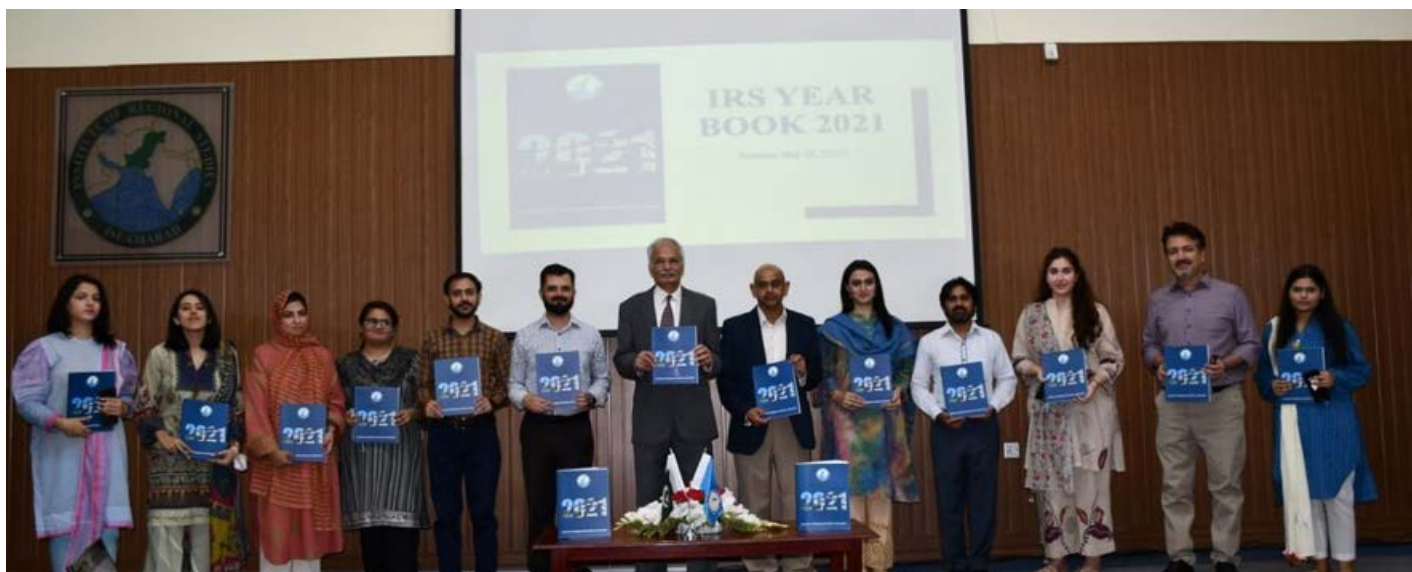


Ukraine Crisis and the Significance of Iranian Energy

May 25, 2022

Vienna Talks Vital For Global Energy Supplies

“Vienna talks are vital for global energy supplies”, said the experts speaking at an international webinar hosted by the Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad here on Tuesday. The webinar was conducted to analyse the alternatives to Russian gas in Europe and beyond as Ukraine Crisis persisted. While concluding the session, Mr. Fraz Naqvi, Assistant Research Officer at IRS said that politics and economy must be kept aside. While presenting the case idea of China and India, he argued that despite having tense political relations, the Sino-Indian bilateral trade surpassed \$100 billion mark annually. Such model of engagement must also be replicated elsewhere.



Launch of IRS Year Book 2021

May 31, 2022

Dr Rifaat was addressing a gathering at the book launch ceremony of “IRS Yearbook 2021” here Tuesday. Reflecting on the evolving dynamics of peace and security in the region, Dr Rifaat said that the IRS was producing noteworthy discourse(s) on South Asia. He added that the Yearbook was a commendable effort in putting together the chronology and reports of all events held by the Institute in the last year. Considering that this was the inaugural issue of the Yearbook, Dr Hussain said that we look forward to IRS Yearbook 2022. Nadeem Riyaz, President, IRS, said that the Year book was an initiative to document all the events held by at IRS.



Issues of Governance and Developments in South Asia with focus on Pakistan's Political and Social Developments

June 02, 2022

Institute of Regional Studies organised a roundtable talk on "Issues of Governance and developments in South Asia with focus on Pakistan's Political and Social developments".



Remarks about the Holy Prophet: Hatred towards Muslim in today's India

June 09, 2022

Institute of Regional Studies organised a roundtable talk on "Remarks about the Holy Prophet: Hatred towards Muslim in today's India".



Yasin Malik: Kashmiri Freedom Fighter or a Terrorist?

June 15, 2022

Yasin Malik's sentence condemned

Participants of a seminar condemned the life imprisonment sentence awarded to Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik by an Indian court. They were speaking at a seminar 'Yasin Malik: Kashmiri freedom fighter or a terrorist?' organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here Wednesday. Terming the charges against Malik fabricated and fictitious, the participants of the seminar called for his immediate release from prison. They reiterated that India could not silence Kashmiris through such tactics.



Understanding the Strategic Mindset of India

June 20, 2022

Institute of Regional Studies organised a brainstorming session on "Understanding the Strategic Mindsets of India".



Future of Afghanistan-India Relations

June 21, 2022

Convergence needed for regional connectivity

Quadrilateral convergence between countries including China, Russia, Iran and Pakistan on security issues in Afghanistan was imperative for regional connectivity, said Zamir Akram, former Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations. Akram was addressing an in-house session on “Future of Afghanistan-India relations” at Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here Tuesday.



Cyber Security Challenges: The Need for Regional Forums to Combat Cyber Threats

June 23, 2022

Pakistan actively needs to work towards digital diplomacy

Pakistan needed to actively work on developing its digital diplomacy frameworks, said Ammar Jaffri, former Director-General Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Jaffri was addressing a webinar on ‘Cyber Security challenges: the need for regional forums to combat cyber threats’ organised here by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS).



Terrorism and State Response

June 24, 2022

Concerted efforts required to fight terrorism

Former Inspector General of Police Dr Kaleem Imam has called for concerted efforts to fight terrorism in Pakistan. Dr Imam was speaking at an event on 'Terrorism and State response' organised here by the Institute of Regional Studies.



Russia-Ukraine Crisis

June 27, 2022

PM's adviser warns of wheat shortage

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi has said that the conflict in Ukraine was negatively affecting Pakistan's economy owing to supply chain blockages, rising oil prices, and an impending food crisis.

He gave these remarks while speaking at an eminent speaker series talk on the Russia-Ukraine crisis organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) on Monday.

FROM INSIGHTS

Threat of Resurging Terrorism: The Afghanistan Factor

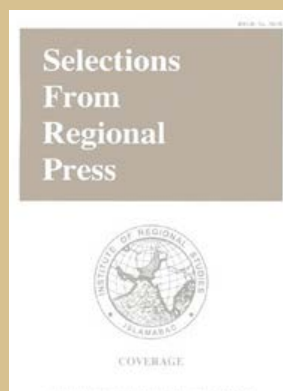
Zunaira Inam Khan (*Research Analyst, IRS*)

After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Taliban forming an interim government, regional countries, along with the world at large, are worried about the resurgence of terrorism. There are clear signs that Islamic State in Khorasan (ISIS-K) and Al-Qaeda are becoming stronger day by day. These organisations could pose a great threat beyond the borders of Afghanistan. A recent UN Security Council report stated that, "terrorist groups enjoy greater freedom in Afghanistan than at any time in recent history." Experts are of the opinion that the Al-Qaeda has transitioned from direct confrontation to enabling its proxies, which include the Afghan Taliban, the Pakistani Taliban, and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, amongst others.

Another UN report states that Afghanistan is again providing safe havens to Al-Qaeda along with an "increased freedom of action". This allows them the potential ability to launch attacks on longer distances in the future. The report assessed that after the US and NATO withdrawal, there is a risk that Afghanistan could once again be used as a base for terrorist attacks conducted regionally and internationally.

Full blog available at <http://irs.org.pk/Blog.php>

IRS PUBLICATIONS



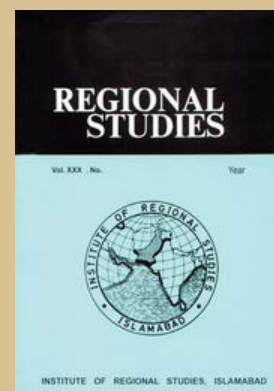
**Selection from
Regional Press**



Spotlight



Focus



Regional Studies