



Institute of Regional Studies

Policy Paper

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Indo-China Border Confrontation: Challenges and Options for Pakistan

Executive Summary

The paper is written in the backdrop of Indo-China border confrontation at the Galwan Valley, purposely to analyze the emerging geo-political scenarios and possible foreign policy options for Pakistan. While doing so, paper argued that the recent clash is the outcome of decades-long geographical contestation in the Himalayan region. For china, Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai China in Ladakh are important to its sovereignty in the Tibetan Plateau. Moreover, CPEC has furthered its significance as the route passes through adjacent areas. India, since 1962 war with China, have been hunting for strategic advantage to deal with long-term geographical threats. Indian decision of dividing Kashmir into two union territories namely Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir was a step in that regard. In June 2020, India's infrastructure developments and troop advancement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the disputed territory was counter-checked by China. Clash in the disputed territory of Kashmir has generated a debate on the status of Kashmir and the regional geo-strategic shift in the larger context. Paper also observed that extra-regional powers vested interests in the region indeed playing a decisive role as the US tilt towards New Delhi and increasing US-China competition is reshaping the whole region. Pakistan is equally concerned with the changing scenario. After thorough study of the issue, the paper has determined the possible challenges and opportunities for Pakistan.