

## **CUJ organised webtalk on India-Nepal Relations**

The department of National Security Studies at the Central University of Jammu has found a unique way to engage with their students and scholars so that their academics do not get disrupted during the lockdown. It has launched a new initiative in the early April called "Web Talk Series. The talks are hosted and conducted by Dr.J.Jeganaathan, Assistant Professor of the department with the direction by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Aima.

On Monday, 25 May 2020, the department of National Security Studies at the Central University of Jammu has organised a web talk on India-Nepal Relations via Zoom. A distinguished panellists of experts discussed Kalapani, Lipulekh and domestic politics within Nepal from national and regional perspectives. Dr. Uddhab Pyakurel, from Kathmandu University emphasised that the India-Nepal special relationship should not be disturbed with such negative anti-India, or Pro-China political narratives. For Nepal, India and China are the unavoidable neighbours and its relationship is not zero sum game. Prof. Sangeetha Thapliyal from JNU argued the historical context of the territorial claims and demystified the false claims from Nepal over the years. She also questioned the timing of the crisis and domestic political issues in Nepal for raising this. Dr. Srinivasan Ramani, Deputy of National Editor of The Hindu argued that the people to people contact must be strengthened and there is a growing Chinese influence and clout within the Nepal political elites which is getting more assertive. He also argued for bilateral dialogues to address all outstanding issues at the same time India should not be over concerned about China's presence in Nepal. Mr. Jayadeva Ranade, a former member of National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) said that Chinese presence along India-Nepal borders are matter of serious concerns to India and the recent spate of aggressions along LAC by PLA is seen from the larger perspectives of China's growing military assertiveness in South Asia. Mr. Nitin Gokhle, Editor-in-Chief of StratNewsGlobal, highlighted the Chinese growing military build-ups along LAC and this would continue for some time just like the Doklam issue but it may de-escalate. He also emphasised that one need not be worried because India's defence preparedness and military capabilities to tackle Chinese aggression is robust.

Amb. G.Parthasarathy, the Chancellor of CUJ said that Nepal must realise that the border issues with India is a settled issue. Nepal also should understand that the cost of playing China card with India is high. He referred the status of Chinese investments in South Asian countries under BRI and how they were entrapped into debt.

While addressing the participants, the Vice Chancellor of Central University of Jammu, Prof. Ashok Aima reiterated the need to adapt to new situations and circumstances with innovative practices with positive attitude. One should not feel let down by the lock down rather CUJ is committed to engage its students and scholars whichever way possible so that academic activities should continue. He also emphasised that Nepal should learn a lesson from the case of CPEC, where Pakistan's economy was drowned and sovereignty was eroded by the Chinese investments.