2019 marks twenty years since IPRI came into existence. Founded in 1999, IPRI has been the podium of choice for policymakers, thought-leaders and scholars working on security, international affairs, governance and socioeconomic issues that impact Pakistan.

There is certainly much to consider when preparing for such a landmark occasion. The age of an organisation says nothing about the strength of its origin, its vitality in terms of its mission and activities, or even its culture at any special moment in time. This is not only a time for celebration for the Institute, but also one of reflection, to consider the present challenges which Pakistan faces in the global community, and look ahead to the next twenty years of positive change. IPRI thanks all those who have supported our work over the years and helped bring us to where we are today.

The Islamabad Policy Research Institute hosted a 3-member media delegation from Maldives on 18 June 2019. The delegation included Mr Waheed Ibrahimm, Mr Farooq Mohamed Hassan and Ms Zihnath Hassan. Brig. (R) Mehboob Qadir, Director Research at IPRI led the briefing and welcomed the delegates.

At the outset, an overview was given about the Institute, its main goals, research publications and other activities.

This was followed by a presentation on ‘Pakistan’s Efforts in Combating Terrorism’ by Mr Khalid Hussain Chando, Research Fellow at IPRI.

Giving a brief historical context, he said that following 9/11, Pakistan joined hands with the international community in the fight against terrorism, and became a front line state and major non-NATO ally. Mr Chando pointed out that ‘In spite of limited resources, Pakistan continues to play an active role in combating extremism and terrorism for world peace.’

Focusing on counterterrorism efforts, he underscored that Pakistan has been following a multipronged strategy – first, through military operations writ of the state has been restored.

Other efforts include troop deployment on the western and eastern fronts and border management with Afghanistan. He said that the government’s soft approach includes development activities and de-radicalisation initiatives in conflict areas and formulation of a National Action Plan. Mr Chando noted that despite these efforts, there was selective acknowledgement by the free world, and worse, Pakistan was still being scapegoated for the crisis in Afghanistan, which is being used by India to sabotage the country’s efforts.

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Malé Media Delegation Visit

Terrorism should not be linked with any religion, country, nationality, or civilisation, rather it is a global phenomenon which requires international cooperation to counter the enabling environment that contributes to its spread. Pakistan is committed to fighting against terrorism, and to emerge as an economic pivot in the region.

Ms Maryam Nazir, Assistant Research Officer at the Institute gave a presentation on ‘Existing Regional Situation & Indian Atrocities in Jammu and Kashmir & LOC Violations.’ She highlighted that while efforts are needed to promote regional cooperation in South Asia as a means of fostering its development under Prime Minister Modi’s administration. She indicated that use of brutal force was being justified under various draconian laws. ‘More so, there have been attempts to abrogate or amend Articles 35A and 370 in a bid to change the demography and status of Kashmir,’ she warned. Ms Nazir pointed out that gross human rights violations have created a grave humanitarian and accelerating growth, there remain issues of discord primarily due to politics, historical legacies and territorial conflicts, such as the disputed region of Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). Ms Nazir said that this dispute has remained central to Pakistan’s foreign policy, while Indian atrocities have been the highest situation in IOK, including imposition of curfews and denial of basic facilities. She also informed the delegates that situation along the LoC and Working Boundary had worsened over the years under Modi with a steep increase in ceasefire violations.

Ceasefire violations have the potential to spark bilateral crises, like the recent Pulwama situation, between Pakistan and India.

The media delegation appreciated the work being done by IPRI, and pointed out that although Pakistan and Maldives share a strong cultural and historic relationship, yet the two lack close cooperation. For example, there is no direct flight between them which is a hindrance for developing business and commercial linkages. The delegation suggested that trade ties can be substantially improved, with Maldives being a lucrative market for Pakistani dry fruit, wheat and tourism. It was also highlighted that Maldives appreciates Pakistan’s strategic restraint against Indian hostility since they feel the pressure of New Delhi’s intrusiveness in their country and fear that a Sikkim-like condition may eventually arise.

Pakistan and Maldives, founding members of SAARC, have always supported each other at regional and international fora. Both share a common vision of global peace and regional stability. However, connectivity has to be enhanced since there is a lot of room for the governments of both countries to invest in this vital sector.
Upcoming Event

National Dialogue Series (Session II) Roundtable

Managing Hyphenated Climate and Water Challenge: A Case Study of Pakistan

Despite being endowed with ample natural resources, Pakistan faces a serious challenge of water security, aggravated by its inefficient use and a ballooning population. For instance, water usage by the agriculture sector is not proportionate to its GDP contribution. Economic losses, due to poor water management, are approximately 4 per cent of the GDP (or USD 12 billion). These losses do not include the economic impact of pollution and environmental degradation. As a consequence, Pakistan is unable to make optimal use of its water endowment.

Climate change is also going to change water availability and inflow patterns because of climate-change-induced floods and droughts.

**According to the World Bank, climate change, population and economic growth will result in increased water demand in Pakistan from 5 per cent to 15 per cent by 2047.**

Furthermore, water-dependent ecosystems, such as rivers, lakes, wetlands, and the Indus Delta, are declining, resulting in the loss of biodiversity. Faulty service delivery, poor domestic supply and weak sanitation services, along with lack of recognition of long-term water-related risks and hazards, are begetting water scarcity in Pakistan.

The country’s water sector needs inter alia plugging infrastructure gaps, modernisation of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, real-time water data, better management, utilisation and conservation efforts. There is also a need of investment in flood protection infrastructure.

**Pakistan’s 2018 National Water Policy is a positive step by the government, however, significant implementation is required at the national, provincial and local level.**

In this regard, IPRI is organising a roundtable under its second National Dialogue Series to discuss the following issues:

1. An Appraisal of Pakistan’s Water Resources
2. Exploring Pakistan’s Transboundary Water Relations with India and Afghanistan
4. Implications of Water Scarcity on Pakistan’s Economy: A Sectoral Analysis
5. Water Scarcity to Water Secure Pakistan: Recommendations for Action

Keynote Address:

Ms. Zartaj Gul Wazir
Minister of State for Climate Change, Government of Pakistan (TBC)

Mr Ali Tauqueer Sheikh
CEO, Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), Pakistan

Eminent Speakers:

Ms Simi Kamal
Head, Grants Operation, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund; and Voluntary Chair, Academic Committee, Hissar Foundation

Dr Imran Saqib Khalid
Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan
IPRI Scholars’ External Publications

Newspaper Articles

Muhammad Nawaz Khan
Research Officer
“New Trends in Defence Diplomacy”
Daily Times

Khurram Abbas
Assistant Research Officer
“Pie in the Sky”
The Nation

Adeel Mukhtar Mirza
Assistant Research Officer
“MMA is not involved in Pulwama Incident, A Win for Pakistan”
The Daily Metro

Upcoming Publication
Journal of Current Affairs
Vol. 3, No. 2

The biannual Journal welcomes original high-quality papers/studies, review articles and book reviews on themes such as:

- International Affairs
- Geopolitics
- Political Economy
- Diplomacy
- Terrorism
- Nuclear Issues
- Governance
- Security and Conflict
- Defence and Strategic Studies

Submission Process

Authors are required to submit manuscripts in MS Word format, along with their brief introduction, complete contact details and a letter certifying that the submission has not been previously published nor currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Authors of published articles are paid a modest honorarium.

The IPRI Journal has zero tolerance for plagiarism.

Editorial and Peer Review Process

All submissions are screened using Turnitin - a similarity detection software. Articles shortlisted by the Editorial Board undergo three double-blind peer reviews (one national and two international). During this stage, articles may not be approved for publication by the referees. However, if they are found suitable for the Journal, reviewers may recommend either major or minor changes in the manuscript. The revision process might comprise multiple rounds. Peer review timelines vary depending on reviewer availability and responsiveness.

Important Dates

- For the Summer issue: End of March
- For the Winter issue: End of September

Word Limit

- Articles: 5000-8000 words
- Book Reviews: 1000 words
- Referencing Style: Chicago Manual of Style 16th Ed. (PN)

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