Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) organized one-day national conference titled “Pakistan-India Relations: Post-Congress Era” on August 4, 2015 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Lieutenant General (R) Asif Yasin Malik, former Secretary Defence, was the chief guest while Ambassador Khalid Mehmood, Chairman, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), chaired the academic session of the conference. Following three speakers were invited to speak at the conference: Brig. Said Nazeer, Defence Analyst, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad; Dr. Arsh Saleem Hashmi, Assistant Professor, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, National Defense University (NDU), Islamabad; and Dr. Muhammad Khan, Head of the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Contemporary Studies (FCS), National Defense University (NDU), Islamabad.

The conference comprised of one working session, in addition to an inaugural and a concluding session. The presentations delivered by the speakers gave an overview of Bharatiya Janata Party’s (BJP) policies, the party’s internal political dynamics and the likely impact of these policies on Pakistan-India relations. The salient points highlighted by the speakers during the conference are:

- The issues ranging from cancellation of Foreign Secretary level talks, skirmishes along the Line of Control (LoC) and the Indian opposition to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) coupled with the provocative statements of Indian leadership have strained the bilateral ties.
- Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s initiative to attend Modi’s swearing-in ceremony was not reciprocated. Moreover, subsequent events proved that the initiative taken by Mr. Nawaz Sharif to visit India had little relevance to the agenda set by the BJP government.
- India’s trend of focusing on issues of its choice while ignoring the core issue of Kashmir is a flawed strategy.
- India opposes China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- The victory of Narendra Modi was primarily due to his own popularity, corruption in Congress government and harsh anti-Muslim and hardened anti-Pakistan stance of the BJP.
- Modi tries to deflect his shortcomings on the domestic front by heating up the borders. Moreover, he exploits Pakistan’s position of not to retaliate massively in response to LoC violations from Indian side so as to avoid civilian casualties in Indian Held Kashmir (IHK), where mostly Muslim population is residing.

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Pakistan-India Relations: Post-Congress Era

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- The positive turn in Pak-Afghan relations is a major setback to Indian policymakers.
- Modi’s ambitious domestic reform agenda includes political, economic as well as social programmes whereas on foreign policy front, he desires to secure a permanent seat for India at United Nations Security Council (UNSC), membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group, rebalancing in Asia Pacific, dominance in Indian Ocean, hegemony in the SAARC region, competition with China as well as confrontation with Pakistan.
- Hindutva’s strategy is to Hinduisate communities and exploit divisions among the marginalized people.
- BJP’s intent to replicate the Gujarat experience of terrorism and campaign against Pakistan will continue to dominate its agenda. With Modi in power, an all-out war may not become a probability, but chances of peace are not bright either. The hard-liners rhetoric in BJP may lead South Asia into another crisis through a calculated brinkmanship and endangering regional stability and international security.
- During BJP’s tenure, it appears to be a distant reality for Pakistan to improve trade ties, energy cooperation and expand comprehensive dialogue on water and environmental issues with India.
- There is no likelihood that bilateralism would help resolve the outstanding issues between Pakistan and India. India views Pakistan’s acceptance of bilateralism as its victory because it does not allow interference of third party and wants to maintain the status-quo. Moreover, India wants bilateralism at its own terms and on issues that are of its own interest.
- The BJP wants to do away with the Kashmiri identity of Kashmiriyat. It is dividing the people on communal and ethnic lines and is contemplating to bring Kashmir at par with other states by abrogating Article 370 of Indian Constitution. Thus, India permanently denies their right of self-determination.

Some of the recommendations made by the speakers are as follows:

- Pakistan should not adopt policy of appeasement. It should rather deal with India on equal terms.
- BJP government should come out of its RSS mindset.
- For Pakistan, reconciliation with Modi can only be possible if the BJP abandons anti-Pakistan rhetoric and reciprocates Pakistan’s desire for peaceful relations.
- India’s adamant stance towards Pakistan should be met with firm and consistent policy.
- Pakistan needs to review its policies towards India keeping in view the hard-line approach of Indian rulers, and their involvement in activities to destabilize Pakistan.
- Pakistan should decisively pursue the case of Indian involvement in terrorism in Pakistan.
- Pakistan has to adopt consistent stance on all issues vis-a-vis India.
- Pakistan needs to give up responding to India’s innovative pre-conditions calling for return to calm, and instead it ought to adopt a pro-active diplomatic manoeuvring at regional and international levels.
- Frustrated with the failure of strategies of “cold start” doctrine and limited war, India is following a sub-conventional strategy to destabilize Pakistan by exploiting its internal vulnerabilities. To thwart the Indian sinister designs, Pakistan needs to further build up its Armed Forces and strengthen its economic muscle.

Recently Published by IPRI

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Foreign Visits

First Trans-himalaya Developmental Forum

During August 2015, President IPRI Ambassador (r) Sohail Amin visited Mangshi in the Dehong Prefecture of China on the invitation of Prof. Ji Zhiya, President of the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations as a speaker at the First Trans-Himalaya Development Forum. It was the first ever conference to project the prospects of Trans-Himalaya connectivity through Bangladesh, China India, Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM). Being a Trans Himalayan project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) also remained in focus. Delegates from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives attended the Forum.

In his presentation, President IPRI said that the trans-Himalayan countries acquire greater significance due to their location on the confluence of West, East and Central Asia and along the shores of the Indian Ocean. These countries are blessed with enormous untapped economic potential. Yet they face the daunting challenges of poverty and underdevelopment. Majority of the Trans Himalayan countries and their near neighbours have planned to either join the Maritime Silk Road (MSR) or the Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB). They believe that the One Road One Belt (OBOR) will open up new opportunities in trade, tourism, transportation and pipelines and will bring with it prosperity in the region.

8th International Conference on Inculcating Professionalism for National Development

President IPRI attended the 8th International Research Conference organised by Sir John Kotelawala Defence University in Colombo during August 2015. Ambassador (r) Sohail Amin presented a paper on ‘Inculcating Professionalism in Defence for National Development: South Asian Perspective’. He also chaired the technical session of the conference during which the Panelists spoke about nuclear terrorism, threat of Tamil Diaspora, analysis of the effects of integration of ex-combatants and an appraisal of foreign involvement in Sri Lanka during the conflict era. President IPRI also held a meeting with the Vice Chancellor of the University and, inter alia, agreed to conclude an agreement between IPRI and the University for collaboration in research activities.

 Addition to Our Library

Pakistan: Moving the Economy Forward

The contributors to this volume seek to answer is how to reverse the current prolonged period of low growth and high inflation that Pakistan has experienced, and to suggest and implement measures that would decisively move the economy onto a more sustainable growth path.

The book draws on the wide experience of the authors at the highest level of policy-making to put forward realistic and concrete policies for Pakistan, keeping in mind what works and does not work in the current socio-economic-political milieu.

Content that might be of interest to you:
- Failed economic promise
- Economic management under IMF tutelage
- Accountry and an economy in transition
- Tackling the energy crisis
- Exports: lessons from the past and the way forward
- The future path of tax reforms in Pakistan
- Pakistan’s Indus basin water strategic: past, present and future
- Economic governance and institutional reforms
- An analysis of the remittances market in Pakistan
- The prospects for Indo-Pakistan trade
- An multidimensional analysis of poverty in Pakistan
- Can the new intergovernmental structure work in Pakistan? Learning from China
Guest Lecture

Balochistan Unrest and its Possible Solutions

Professor Dr. Masoom Yasinzai
Rector International Islamic University, Islamabad
Graded as productive scientist of Pakistan by Council for Science and Technology
Author of about 100 publications

Professor Dr. Masoom Yasinzai, Rector International Islamic University, Islamabad visited IPRI on August 7, 2015 to deliver lecture on the topic, “Balochistan Unrest and its Possible Solutions.” Following are the salient points of his lecture:

- The Balochistan of 2015 is far better than the Balochistan of 2013. Positive outcomes have been yielded from initiatives taken by the federal government such as provincial reforms under 18th amendment, NFC award and Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e Balochistan package for the socio-economic development and for the restoration of peace in the province.
- Balochistan is the gateway to warm waters of the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- Balochistan has suffered 78 billion dollars economic loss since 9/11. Around 50,000 civilians and 5000 servicemen have lost their lives in terrorist attacks. Moreover, the public administrative system was badly affected. The provincial resources were also burdened with the influx of IDPs. The tourism industry had witnessed decline.
- The instability in the province led to low literacy rate, unemployment and lack of business opportunities.
- Foreign involvement in the province has reinforced insurgency in Balochistan. Mr. Yasinzai mentioned that according to some intelligence reports, India is supporting Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), a separatist militant group based in Balochistan.
- Pakistan Army’s efforts to restore peace in Balochistan have been praiseworthy.
- Highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the province, Mr. Yasinzai mentioned that Balochistan is a trade corridor between Central Asia and South Asia. Gwadar port and presence of natural resources make the province economically significant. Balochistan’s low cost manpower, huge land resources, livestock and agricultural opportunities need to be utilized. Forty precious metals could be mined and mineral resources of Reko Dig could be exploited. The Mirani Dam located in the Kech District on Central Makran Range of Balochistan holds the capacity to irrigate 4,000 acres of land for cultivation.

About Balochistan

Geographically, Balochistan has Afghanistan to its north and northwest, Iran to the southwest, the Arabian Sea to the south, Punjab and Sindh to the east and Khyber Pakhtunkhawa and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) to the northeast. Balochistan comprises of 29 districts, covering an area of 147,000 square miles (45% territory of Pakistan). It has population of 6.8 million. It is a multi-ethnic province. Baloch constitute majority in the south and east of the province. Pashtoons are second to Baloch in number. A Brahvi ethnic group is located in the Kalat region.

The recommendations made by Professor Masoom Yasinzai are given below:

- There is an indispensable need to introduce genuine reforms at political, economic and social levels in Balochistan.
- Universities in other provinces of Pakistan should initiate training programs for Baloch students.
- Students in Balochistan should also be trained in specialized fields at Chinese Universities that may enable them to become part of the CPEC project. This would not only enhance Pak-China cooperation in the educational sector but also improve their bilateral relations.
- Gwadar port holds the potential to create jobs, attract foreign investment and boost tourism in the country. Balochistan must benefit from the opportunities that would accompany CPEC project, as they would address problems related to social development and economic prosperity of the province.
- The law and order situation should be restored by empowering the police and levies.
- The positive role and the image of Pakistan Army should be promoted among local masses.
- The provincial government should take steps to improve the infrastructure and education system. The access to education, quality of curriculum and female literacy are the areas that need special attention.
Security and Cyber Warfare: Implications and Challenges

Dr. Tughral Yamin, Associate Dean, NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies visited IPRI on August 11, 2015 to deliver lecture on the topic, “Security and Cyber Warfare: Implications and Challenges.” Following are the salient points of his lecture:

- Cyber-attacks could have adverse impact on national security as attackers may access government’s secret information sources; cripple a nation’s critical infrastructure e.g., banking, stock exchange etc. that may cause panic among the masses.
- Examples of various states that underwent cyber-attacks were cited by the guest speaker. For instance a series of cyber-attacks were launched against Estonia in April 2007 targeting websites of organizations, including the parliament, banks, ministries, newspapers and broadcast stations that led to the denial of services against the general public. Georgia experienced cyber-attack in 2008 when website of Georgian President was overloaded and taken down for twenty four hours as well as news agencies, television stations and other important websites were hacked.

**Conclusion**

- Seeing the threat cyber-security poses to states today, there is a need to create offices of the Cyber Security Coordinators, who may report directly to the President or the Prime Minister.
- Awareness programmes about cyber threats and security should be launched and implemented.
- The issue of regional cyber security should be incorporated into the agenda of SAARC to enhance cooperation in this domain.
Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations

Ms. Saman Zulfiqar, Assistant Research Officer in her presentation on “Pakistan-Afghanistan relations” discussed the current state of relations between the two states in the aftermath of transition process that Afghanistan underwent in 2014. The salient points highlighted during the presentation are:

- Being a neighbour, Pakistan gives paramount importance to its relations with Afghanistan as Pakistan’s peace and stability depends on Afghanistan’s peace and stability.
- Since the formation of national unity government in Afghanistan in September 2014, a paradigm shift has been noted in the approach of Afghan government vis-a-vis its engagement with Pakistan.

- At the Beijing Conference, President Ghani defined five circles manifesting Afghanistan’s future foreign policy. He placed Pakistan in the first circle and stated that partnership with Pakistan was an important pillar of Afghan foreign policy. He placed India in the fourth circle implying a shift in Afghan thinking. Afghan government declined Indian military aid and training assistance and asked Pakistan to train Afghan officers. As a result, for the first time, six Afghan cadets joined Pakistan Military Academy.
- Mr. Ghani has also assured that Afghan soil would not be used against neighbours. He invited Pakistan to host “Heart of Asia” conference that was earlier scheduled to be held in India.
- Pakistan remains the largest trading partner of Afghanistan. Bilateral trade between two states amounts to US$2 billion in 2014. Afghanistan is the third largest destination for Pakistan’s exports.
- Being a landlocked state, Afghanistan’s trade had been passing through Pakistan and has been regulated under 1965 Afghan Transit Trade Agreement that allowed transit to Afghan imports from all the countries through the port of Karachi. It was replaced by Afghan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) signed in 2010 that now regulates trade between Afghanistan-Pakistan and the rest of the world.
- Both the states also held negotiations to discuss Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) during President Ashraf Ghani’s visit to Pakistan. In this regard, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industries organized ‘Made in Pakistan’ exhibition in Kabul.
- Pakistan extended support to Afghanistan under technical assistance programme in 2003 for infrastructure development projects.
- Despite cooperative measures, some factors also negatively impact the relation between the two states that include issues of terrorism, the refugees’ problem and attacks from Afghan border.

Upcoming IPRI One Day Conference

Devolution of Power to Local Governments: Challenges and Reforms

Date: September 30, 2015
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Note: IPRI Journal is HEC recognized ‘X Category’ Local Journal for Social Sciences.
Water Management Strategy for Pakistan

Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Assistant Research Officer in his presentation on “Water Management Strategy for Pakistan” discussed the Practices related to water management in Pakistan. The salient points highlighted during the presentation are:

- Practices related to water management in Pakistan have been studied at two levels, i.e. surface water management and ground water management. Pakistan’s water management is carried out through construction of dams, canals, link canals and barrages, while, institutional structures have been established to streamline allocation of water resources amongst provinces.
- For sharing and distribution of surface water, two major agreements have been made; one at the international level with India known as the Indus Waters Treaty in 1960 and the other at the national level amongst the provinces known as Water Apportionment Accord in 1991.
- Water management is the biggest challenge of 21st century being confronted by Pakistan due to inadequate water management practices, insufficient storage capacity and Indian greediness for water.

Challenges to Water Management in Pakistan include:

- Population Explosion and Declining Per Capita Water Availability
- Water Logging and Salinity
- Unregulated Private Tube-Wells, Lowering Ground Water and Brackish in Quality
- Floods
- Weak Financial Viability
- Mismanagement of Water Recourses Projects
- Reduced Storage Capacity
- Polluted Water
- Environment-flows Concerns
- Variability and Seasonality
- Lack of Optimum use of Effective Rainfall
- Aging and Out-dated Irrigation Infrastructure
- Innovative Knowledge Based Management
- Global Warming
- Low Irrigation efficiencies
- Seawater Encroachment
- Food Security
- Energy Security

Government’s Major Steps and Polices for Water Management include:

- Vision 2025
- National Water Policy of Pakistan
- Preparation of 10 Years National Flood Protection Plan-IV (2015)
- National Climate Change Policy 2012
- National Drinking Water Policy 2009
- Implementation of future Storage Projects that include The Greater Thai project for Punjab (first phase completed), The Kachhi canal project for Balochistan, The Rainee canal project in Sindh, Sabakzai Dam, Kurram Tangi Dam, Dasu Dam, Tebella 4th, and Tebela 5th Ext.

Recommended Strategies for Water Management

- Enhancing Water Storage, building new infrastructure and renovating existing infrastructure
- Ensuring Water Conservation
- Adopting Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)
- Implementation of Policies & Legislative framework

Useful Information

- Water resources management covers a number of water sub-sectors including hydropower, water supply, sanitation, irrigation, drainage, and environment.
- The major reservoirs including Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma under the control of WAPDA, are operated on provincial demands as approved by the Indus River System Authority (IRSA).
- ISRA came into being in 1991, oversees the implementation of Water Apportionment Accord. IRSA ensures the existing usage of canal water in each province and allocates the excess river water, including flood surpluses and future storages, amongst the provinces.
- Pakistan heavily relies on two main sources of surface water, i.e. monsoon rains and melting glaciers, on which Pakistan heavily relies.
- The ground water potential is 56 MAF and around 48 MAF is pumped annually through more than 700,000 tube-wells without allowing for its full recharge. More than 90 per cent of the extracted ground water is used for irrigation purpose.
- The flow of Indus Rivers varies from year to year and with the year. The average annual flow is 154 MAF.
- The Indus Basin Irrigation System is one of the best networks in the world. Pakistan has a total of 77 million acres of land suitable for agriculture out of which 58 million acres is already cultivated.

Conclusion

In Pakistan, future water needs would be substantially greater than the total potential supply. Thus, a significant effort is needed to have a realistic assessment of available water resources. Only viable water management option can help address water related issues.
Publications by IPRI Scholars (August 2015)

Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Non Resident Consultant
“Minus Mullah Omar” (The Nation)
“Regional Implications of Iran Nuclear Deal” (The Nation)
“The Nightmare of Afghan Peace” (The Nation)
“Seesaw of NSA Dialogue” (The Nation)
“Modi’s Self-destruct Obsessions” (The Nation)

Col (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow
“Pak-India Talks in Perspective” (Pakistan Observer)

Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow
"Sikh Tehreek Nye Dour Mein” (Daily Pakistan)
“Economic Corridor---Bharati Sazeshen!” (Daily Pakistan)
"Samjhauta: Mujrim Ki Rehahi....Allmi Khamoshi" (Nawa-i-Waqt)

"Sartaj Aziz Ba-Muqabla Sushma Swaraj” (Daily Pakistan)
Jang September Bharti Dawon Ki Haqeqat (Nawa-i-Waqt)

Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow
"Pak-Kazakhstan Relations: A Welcome Initiative” (Pakistan Observer)

Khalid Hussain Chandio, Research Officer
"Security & Viability of NAP” (Pakistan Observer)

Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Assistant Research Officer
“Asia-Pacific’s Politics & Pakistan” (Pakistan Observer)

Khurram Abbas, Assistant Research Officer
"India: Imperialism won’t Work” (Pakistan Observer)

"Social Media and the Radicalisation Process” (Daily Times)

Saman Zulfqar, Assistant Research Officer
"Challenges for the Afghan Reconciliation Process” (Daily Times)

Amma Ejaz Rafi, Assistant Research Officer
"Beginning of New Silk Road” (Pakistan Observer)

Aymen Ijaz, Assistant Research Officer
“Significance of Gwadar Port” (Pakistan Observer)

Gulshan Bibi, Assistant Research Officer
"Pakistan’s Membership of CERN” (Pakistan Observer)

"Managing the Balochistan Issues” (Pakistan Observer)

Sharing the Joys of Eid-ul-Adha

May Your Sacrifices Be Appreciated & Your Prayers be Answered by The Almighty

IPRI Wishes you all a very Happy & Peaceful Eid

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