

MEDIA COVERAGE

National Dialogue Series Roundtable (Session-I)

**“Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD),
formerly FATA, into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions”**

&

“Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Concerns, Reservations and Aspirations: Mainstreaming GB”

1 March 2019

INTERNATIONAL

KashmirWatch

1.

IPRI National Dialogue: Mainstreaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts and Gilgit-Baltistan

February 28, 2019 Editor

**“Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD),
formerly FATA, into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions”&
“Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Concerns, Reservations and Aspirations: Mainstreaming GB”**

- The biggest issue in mainstreaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD) into the national/political architecture is implementation on the ground. Rebuilding of damaged infrastructure needs to be completed on priority basis.
- Awareness among policy-makers regarding local sensitivities and culture are need of the hour, as well as exhaustive consultations with the local population.
- Majority of FATA inhabitants are dependent on farming, therefore, channelizing water for agriculture in the form of small dams, is needed.
- More than cross-border trade, strict border management over the short- to medium term is more pressing in order to deny cross-border movement of terrorists as the ongoing period of consolidation in FATA, does not warrant any new phenomena of terrorist incursions from Afghanistan. After strict border management mechanism is fully operational, the available trade corridors through Khyber and Wana may be optimally utilized for trade diversification.
- The Western route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), joining Gwadar-Quetta-Zhob-Ol Khan-Peshawar- Islamabad is ideal for integrating FATA areas. Therefore, FATA should be integrated into this project for speedy development.
- Special Economic Zones (SEZs) must cater to the development needs of FATA and planned in a way to benefit this region through special incentives.

These were a few of the recommendations put forward by speakers during the first part of the IPRI National Dialogue Series roundtable on “Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal

Districts (KPTD), formerly FATA, into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions” organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), here in Islamabad today.

Delivering his keynote address to diplomats, bureaucrats, students and journalists, former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan **Mr Owais Ahmed Ghani** provided a detailed overview of the FATA region from the international national and local dimensions. He said that the international dimension has remained dominated by the geopolitical interests of competing nation-states turning the Hindukush into a geopolitical faultline. ‘US-China competition for dominance in 21st Century is the latest phase of the Great Game with Pakistan forced to play the same game by the same rules. Policies and actions of the US, the world’s biggest hegemon, will decide the future course of South Asia geopolitics’, he said. Mr Ghani remarked that the unstated US objectives are to ‘keep the region in chaos and acquire permanent bases on the pretext of terrorism; destabilize/weaken/de-nuclearise Pakistan (on USSR pattern)’. He predicted that due to such a US policy, ‘Fifth Generation/hybrid war under the US-India axis against Pakistan will continue; and FATA, GB & Balochistan regions will be main targets of subversion by hostile external powers & their agencies.’ He lamented that such policies have had and will continue to have deep impacts on Pakistan, particularly in the tribal regions with societal polarization between Westernised liberal-secularists and religious-conservative elements; rise of Shia-Sunni sectarian militancy spillover into Pakistan of warlord-ism, Jihadi Tanzeems, terrorism, and rise of mafia-like gangs’. He pointed out that while national cohesion has improved and tribal populations progressively integrated into Pakistani society with significant economic interests throughout the country, ‘there remain significant administrative systems anomalies and so-called Special Areas need urgent attention.’ He recommended that instead of doing things in haste, incremental step-by-step approach is needed which consists of continuous & extensive consultation with FATA residents. He called for implementing improved administrative & judicial systems to eliminate their current shortcomings; close coordination between administrative, political & military set-up; and detailed homework on administration & judicial systems, as well as targeting easier areas for reforms first, followed by difficult ones.

In the session ‘Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD), formerly FATA, into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions’ moderated by Ambassador (R) Inamul Haq, Dr Sohail Shehzad, Professor, Khyber Law College, University of Peshawar discussed ‘Tribalism and Rewaj and Proposed Rule of Law Reforms in KPTD: Challenges in Transforming Traditional Institutions into Formal Justice Institutions.’ He said given the practice of Rewaj over decades, the tribal areas are not attuned to formal state structures, especially legal systems of justice. ‘Implementing formal legal systems will be a challenge for the state. Transition will also be critical, especially in terms of past decisions taken under Rewaj vis-a-vis women’s rights, land rights and inheritance etc. that will need to be respected and upheld.

Dr Waseem Ishaque, Assistant Professor from the National Defence University pointed out that security and development are complimentary and both have to be pursued concurrently. He was of the view that the internal and external security environments of FATA are very important and need to be stabilized at all cost before any meaningful socioeconomic undertakings. He

recommended that a comprehensive security architecture has to be evolved by merging loose security components of Levies, Khasadars and Frontier constabulary, which are efficient; but need to be converted into a formidable policing force, by regroupings and reorganization-capitalizing upon their strengths and capacity building. Similarly, a separate package for capacity building of Frontier Corps is needed, if mainstreaming has to become a reality within envisaged timeframe of five years.’ Dr Ishaque also stressed that while remaining within the bounds of tribal culture, comprehensive land reforms must be undertaken with complete concurrence of locals. Special allocation in the National Finance Commission for FATA development should also be made, and allied countries approached for enhanced developmental activities in sectors like health, education and infrastructure development. ‘Just as the entire nation was united in rooting out the menace of terrorism on war footings, in similar fashion, the whole government and whole-of-nation approach is required for fulfilling FATA’s developmental needs’, he concluded.

Mr Mohammad Amir Rana, Director of the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS) shared the perceptions of the people of FATA about the proposed reforms, merger, military operations and rehabilitation programs in their areas. He said that while the majority of the local population is in favor of the merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, there is growing resentment among many people about the pace of the rehabilitation and reconstruction activities; large number of security checkpoints, complete Internet blackout, and high cost of new infrastructure constructed etc. He was of the view that the government should have started the process of mainstreaming by focusing on the ‘softer’ issues first which deal with the day-to-day affairs of the people, rather than opting for the ‘hard’ security and judicial restructuring first.

Dr Syed Adnan Ali Shah Bukhari, Consultant at IPRI discussed ‘Security Sector Reforms in KPTDs: Internal & External Security Challenges’. His presentation looked at the law enforcement agencies and the various security institutions in former FATA; proposed Security Sector Reforms (SSR) in KPTDs; internal challenges & external threats; national and regional initiatives to overcome external challenges. He highlighted that internally, the terror threat remains high in spite of the military operations. He also pointed out lack of development funds and bureaucratic bottlenecks in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process. Regarding the external environment, he was of the view that Afghanistan remains a major source of concern for Pakistan’s tribal belt due to terrorist sanctuaries, hostile agencies, illegal migration, and criminal syndicates. ‘KPTDs are “soft underbelly” of Pakistan; and there is need for expeditious implementation of SSR to avoid a conflict trap. For this, it is important to create awareness about benefits of SSR among KPTD’s inhabitants,’ he concluded.

Earlier welcoming the speakers, Acting President IPRI Brig. (R) Mehboob Qadir outlined the vision behind IPRI’s National Dialogue Series, an initiative spread over two years to dilate upon matters of national importance and intended to come up with broad contours of a national narrative. He said that though FATA had largely remained peaceful since the inception of Pakistan in 1947, the ingredients of a less ungoverned space were inherently present in the shape of colonial-era administrative, constitutional, political and socioeconomic makeup of the region. ‘This coupled with external influences, most notably the chaos and anarchy in Afghanistan, had the evil effect of converting FATA into a “no-go” area for the Pakistani state and act as a source of instability for Pakistan and the region. Therefore, it was decided by the government a few years ago to introduce wide-ranging reforms in the realm of constitutional, administrative,

political, socio-economic and security, to ensure sustainability of state intervention, and remove the causes of violence and anarchy bedeviling the FATA region. A major step in this regard was taken in May 2018, when the government merged FATA with the adjoining Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP) and announced the extension of state institutions into the newly-merged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs). ‘This is proving to be easier said than done because FATA faces replacement of existing archaic institutions with modern state institutions.’

The session on FATA concluded that while the ongoing military operations have dislodged Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in most parts of FATA, bringing relative peace to the region, however, there is concern, that the militants could stage a comeback/once the military leaves the region. In this backdrop and despite all odds, the people of FATA have demonstrated utmost nationalism, by denying space and supporting the security forces in rooting out the terrorists at a very heavy cost. They all deserve the nation’s appreciation, unstinted support and continuous efforts in rehabilitation activities.

<<http://kashmirwatch.com/ipri-national-dialogue-mainstreaming-khyber-pakhtunkhwa-tribal-districts-and-gilgit-baltistan/>>

NATIONAL PRINT NEWSPAPERS

INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

1.

Moot calls for steps to bring FATA, GB into national mainstream

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March 1, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a one-day national dialogue here on Thursday stressed the need to launch concerted efforts for the mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's merged tribal districts as well as the Gilgit-Baltistan region and urged the government to expedite rehabilitation and reconstruction process in the region on priority basis to remove their sense of deprivation and bring a positive change in the life of the common man.

The sessions titled 'Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions' and 'Mainstreaming Gilgit-Baltistan: Concerns, Reservations and Aspirations' were organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) as part of its national dialogue series. Former governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces Owais Ahmed Ghani and Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman were chief guests at the two sessions.

Eminent speakers included Amir Rana, Director Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS), Ahmer Bilal Soofi, President and Founder of Research Society of International Law and Dr Saranjam Baig, Director of Center for Research on CPEC (CRC).

Welcome address was delivered by Acting President IPRI Brig (r) Mehboob Qadir. Former ambassador Inamul Haq moderated the first session titled: 'Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions'. Professor at Khyber Law College, University of Peshawar, Dr Sohail Shehzad gave a presentation on 'Tribalism and Rewaj and Proposed Rule of Law Reforms in KPTD: Challenges in Transforming Traditional Institutions into Formal Justice Institutions'. Dr Waseem Ishaque of the National Defence University, Islamabad, spoke on 'Internal Security Challenges and Socio-Economic Dynamics of KPTD: Land Ownership and Tribal Social Fabric and Implications of Mainstreaming'.

In their speeches, the speakers declared that KP and erstwhile FATA were 'congenital twins' as their law and order and economy were intertwined. They stressed the need to overcome multiple challenges arising out of the merger and launch immediate initiatives to bring about a positive impact on the collective and individual life of the people of the new districts. The speakers emphasised that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan should also be brought in the national mainstream

on the pattern of the erstwhile FATA. They said the federal government should play its role in alleviating the sufferings and deprivations of the people of the region who had suffered a lot at the hands of successive governments over the years. They argued that the people of GB region, which is a natural defence line of Pakistan, be mainstreamed by giving them due rights and adequate opportunities to grow and prosper.

<<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/438135-moot-calls-for-steps-to-bring-fata-gb-into-national-mainstream>>

2.

Mainstreaming of ex-FATA, G-B to ‘counter foreign machinations’

By [Our Correspondent](#)

Published: March 1, 2019



Tribal areas. PHOTO: REUTERS

ISLAMABAD: There is an urgent need to bring the erstwhile tribal areas in line with the rest of the country by implementing the political desire and changing the culture towards these areas to instead of looking at them from a geopolitical lens, thereby countering the nefarious designs of other countries.

This was stated by speakers at a one-day roundtable on “Mainstreaming of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (K-PTDs) into national and political architecture: Challenges and solutions” and mainstreaming Gilgit-Baltistan: Concerns, reservations and aspirations”. The dialogue was organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in Islamabad on Thursday.

Former K-P governor Owais Ahmed Ghani said that the international dimension surrounding erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) has been dominated by the geopolitical interests of competing nation-states of turning the Hindukush into a geopolitical faultline.

“The US and China are competing for dominance in 21st Century and is the latest phase of the ‘Great Game’ with Pakistan forced to play the same game by the same rules. Policies and actions of the US, the world’s biggest hegemon, will decide the future course of South Asia geopolitics,” he said.

Ghani remarked that the unstated objectives of US are to ‘keep the region in chaos and acquire permanent bases on the pretext of terrorism; destabilise, weaken and de-nuclearise Pakistan (on the patterns of the USSR).’

He predicted that due to such a policy, a ‘fifth generation or hybrid war under the US-India axis against Pakistan will continue and that former Fata, Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) and Balochistan regions will be the main targets of subversion by hostile external powers and their agencies.’

He lamented that such policies have had and will continue to have deep impacts on Pakistan, particularly in the tribal regions with societal polarization between Westernised liberal-secularists and religious-conservative elements.

“There remain significant administrative system anomalies and so-called special areas which need urgent attention,” he said and recommended that instead of doing things in haste, incremental steps were needed in consultation with Fata residents.

Moreover, he called for implementing improved administrative and judicial systems to eliminate their current shortcomings; close coordination between administrative, political and military set-up apart from detailed homework on administration and judicial systems, as well as targeting easier areas for reforms first, followed by difficult ones.

In a session on ‘Mainstreaming of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (K-PTD), formerly Fata, into national and political architecture: Challenges and solutions’, Khyber Law College Professor Dr Sohail Shehzad discussed ‘Tribalism and Rewaj and Proposed Rule of Law Reforms in K-PTD: Challenges in Transforming Traditional Institutions into Formal Justice Institutions.’

He said that given the practice of Rewaj over the decades, the tribal areas are not attuned to formal state structures, especially legal systems of justice. “Implementing a formal legal system will be a challenge for the state,” he warned, adding that the transition will also be critical, especially in terms of past decisions taken under Rewaj vis-a-vis women’s rights, land rights and inheritance etc. that will need to be respected and upheld.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 1st, 2019.

<<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1920603/1-mainstreaming-ex-fata-g-b-counter-foreign-machinations/>>

Moot calls for steps to bring erstwhile FATA, GB into national mainstream

Staff Report

MARCH 1, 2019

Speakers at a one-day national dialogue here on Thursday maintained that the biggest issue in mainstreaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD) into the national and political architecture is implementation on the ground.

The sessions titled ‘Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions’ and ‘Mainstreaming Gilgit-Baltistan: Concerns, Reservations and Aspirations’ were organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) as part of its national dialogue series.

Former governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces Owais Ahmed Ghani and Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman were chief guests at the two sessions.

Eminent speakers included Amir Rana, Director Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS), Ahmer Bilal Soofi, President and Founder of Research Society of International Law and Dr Saranjam Baig, Director of Center for Research on CPEC (CRC).

Welcome address was delivered by Acting President IPRI Brig (r) Mehboob Qadir. Former ambassador Inamul Haq moderated the first session titled: ‘Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions’. Professor at Khyber Law College, University of Peshawar, Dr Sohail Shehzad gave a presentation on ‘Tribalism and Rewaj and Proposed Rule of Law Reforms in KPTD: Challenges in Transforming Traditional Institutions into Formal Justice Institutions’. Dr Waseem Ishaque of the National Defence University, Islamabad, spoke on ‘Internal Security Challenges and Socio-Economic Dynamics of KPTD: Land Ownership and Tribal Social Fabric and Implications of Mainstreaming’.

PIPS Director Amir Rana threw light on ‘Ensuring Security in KPTD’, while Consultant at IPRI Dr Syed Adnan Ali Shah Bukhari highlighted ‘External Security Challenges, Prospects of Cross-Border Security Cooperation and Role of Police and Military’.

The second session titled ‘Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Concerns, Reservations and Aspirations: Mainstreaming GB’ was moderated by Ahmer Bilal Soofi. During the session, Gilgit-based Social Scientist and Columnist Aziz Ali Dad spoke on ‘Mainstreaming Gilgit-Baltistan: Socio-Cultural Perceptions’. Research Society of International Law Islamabad Founder and President Ahmer Bilal Soofi threw light on ‘Constitutional Processes and GB Order 2018: Issues and Challenges’.

The third presentation titled ‘Political, Social and Economic Rights of the People of Gilgit Baltistan’ was delivered by Dr Raja Qaiser Ahmed of the Quaid-i- Azam University, Islamabad, followed by Dr Saranjam Baig, Director at Center for Research on CPEC (CRC), who spoke on ‘China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Prospects and Opportunities’.

The speakers maintained that rebuilding of damaged infrastructure in the tribal districts needs to be completed on priority basis. They said raising awareness among policy-makers regarding local sensitivities and culture is need of the hour. Majority of erstwhile FATA inhabitants are dependent on farming, therefore channelizing water for agriculture in the form of small dams is needed, they said, and added that strict border management to deny cross-border movement of terrorists especially during the period of consolidation in FATA is needed. After a strict border management mechanism is fully operational, the available trade corridors through Khyber and Wana may be optimally utilized for trade diversification, they suggested.

The speakers said that the western route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) – Gwadar-Quetta-Zhob-DI Khan-Peshawar-Islamabad – is ideal for integrating FATA areas. They said the special economic zones (SEZs) must cater to the development needs of FATA and planned in a way to benefit the region through special incentives.

Delivering his keynote address, former governor Owais Ahmed Ghani provided a detailed overview of the FATA region from the international, national and local perspectives. He said the international dimension has remained dominated by the geopolitical interests of competing nation-states turning the Hindukush into a geopolitical faultline. “US-China competition for dominance in 21st century is the latest phase of the great game with Pakistan forced to play the same game by the same rules. Policies and actions of the US, the world’s biggest hegemon, will decide the future course of South Asia geopolitics,” he said.

Published in Daily Times, March 1st 2019.

< <https://dailytimes.com.pk/360021/moot-calls-for-steps-to-bring-erstwhile-fata-gb-into-national-mainstream/>>

Pakistan OBSERVER

4.

Moot calls for steps to bring erstwhile FATA, GB into national mainstream

March 1, 2019
Staff Report

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Islamabad, followed by Dr Saranjam Baig, Director at Center for Research on CPEC (CRC), who spoke on 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Prospects and Opportunities. In their speeches, the speakers declared that KP and erstwhile FATA were 'congenital twins' as their law and order and economy were intertwined. They stressed the need to overcome multiple challenges arising out of the merger and launch immediate initiatives to bring about a positive impact on the collective and individual life of the people of the new districts. The speakers emphasised that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan should also be brought in the national mainstream on the pattern of the erstwhile FATA. They said the federal government should play its role in alleviating the sufferings and deprivations of the people of the region who had suffered a lot at the hands of successive governments over the years. They argued that the people of GB region, which is a natural defence line of Pakistan, be mainstreamed by giving them due rights and adequate opportunities to grow and prosper.

<<https://pakobserver.net/moot-calls-for-steps-to-bring-erstwhile-fata-gb-into-national-mainstream/>>

The Frontier Post

Moot calls for steps to bring erstwhile FATA, GB into national mainstream

F.P. Report

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The second session titled 'Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Concerns, Reservations and Aspirations: Mainstreaming GB' was moderated by Ahmer Bilal Soofi.

During the session, Gilgit-based Social Scientist and Columnist Aziz Ali Dad spoke on 'Mainstreaming Gilgit-Baltistan: Socio-Cultural Perceptions'. Research Society of International Law Islamabad Founder and President Ahmer Bilal Soofi threw light on 'Constitutional Processes and GB Order 2018: Issues and Challenges'.

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They said the federal government should play its role in alleviating the sufferings and deprivations of the people of the region who had suffered a lot at the hands of successive governments over the years.

They argued that the people of GB region, which is a natural defence line of Pakistan, be mainstreamed by giving them due rights and adequate opportunities to grow and prosper.

NEWS AGENCIES



Implementation on decided measures essential for mainstreaming of tribal areas: speakers at seminar

February 28, 2019

Islamabad Feb 28 (APP): The biggest issue in mainstreaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD) into the national/political architecture is implementation on the ground.

This was said by a panel of speakers at a National Dialogue Series round tables titling “Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD), formerly FATA, into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions” & “Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Concerns, Reservations and Aspirations: Mainstreaming GB”, held today. The seminar was organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

They were of the opinion that rebuilding of damaged infrastructure needs to be completed on priority basis and awareness among policy-makers regarding local sensitivities and culture is need of the hour, as well as exhaustive consultations with the local population. The speakers further suggested that Majority of FATA inhabitants are dependent on farming, therefore, channelizing water for agriculture in the form of small dams, is needed. More than cross-border trade, strict border management over the short- to medium term is more pressing in order to deny cross-border movement of terrorists as the ongoing period of consolidation in FATA, does not warrant any new phenomena of terrorist incursions from Afghanistan. It was suggested that after strict border management mechanism is fully operational, the available trade corridors through Khyber and Wana may be optimally utilized for trade diversification.

Moreover, the recommendations were made that Western route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), joining Gwadar-Quetta-Zhob-DI Khan-Peshawar- Islamabad is ideal for integrating FATA areas. Therefore, FATA should be integrated into this project for speedy development. Also, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) must cater to the development needs of FATA and planned in a way to benefit this region through special incentives.

Owais Ahmed Ghani, former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan was the chief guest in the occasion were as Ambassador (R) Inamul Haq, Dr Sohail Shehzad, Professor, Khyber Law College, University of Peshawar, Dr Waseem Ishaque, Assistant Professor from the National Defence University, Mohammad Amir Rana, Director of the Pakistan Institute of Peace

Studies (PIPS), Dr Syed Adnan Ali Shah Bukhari, Consultant at IPRI were among the main speakers during the dialogue.

Source VNS Islamabad

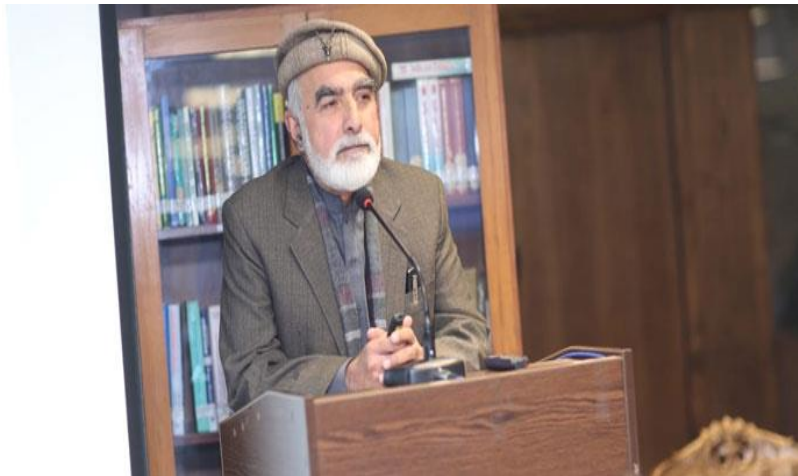
<<http://vid.app.com.pk/vid/2019/02/implementation-on-decided-measures-essential-for-mainstreaming-of-tribal-areas-speakers-at-seminar/>>

2.

“Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD), formerly FATA, into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions” & “Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Concerns, Reservations and Aspirations: Mainstreaming GB”

[Sabah News روری 28, 2019](#)

Islamabad, 28 Feb (SABAH):



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- Majority of FATA inhabitants are dependent on farming, therefore, channelizing water for agriculture in the form of small dams, is needed.
- More than cross-border trade, strict border management over the short- to medium term is more pressing in order to deny cross-border movement of terrorists as the ongoing period of consolidation in FATA, does not warrant any new phenomena of terrorist incursions from Afghanistan. After strict border management mechanism is fully operational, the available trade corridors through Khyber and Wana may be optimally utilized for trade diversification.

- The Western route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), joining Gwadar-Quetta-Zhob-Ol Khan-Peshawar- Islamabad is ideal for integrating FATA areas. Therefore, FATA should be integrated into this project for speedy development. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) must cater to the development needs of FATA and planned in a way to benefit this region through special incentives.

These were a few of the recommendations put forward by speakers during the first part of the IPRI National Dialogue Series roundtable on “Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD), formerly FATA, into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions” organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), here in Islamabad today.



Delivering his keynote address to diplomats, bureaucrats, students and journalists, former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Mr Owais Ahmed Ghani provided a detailed overview of the FATA region from the international national and local dimensions. He said that the international dimension has remained dominated by the geopolitical interests of competing nation-states turning the Hindukush into a geopolitical faultline. ‘US-China competition for dominance in 21st Century is the latest phase of the Great Game with Pakistan forced to play the same game by the same rules. Policies and actions of the US, the world’s biggest hegemon, will decide the future course of South Asia geopolitics’, he said. Mr Ghani remarked that the unstated US objectives are to ‘keep the region in chaos and acquire permanent bases on the pretext of terrorism; destabilize/weaken/de-nuclearise Pakistan (on USSR pattern)’. He predicted that due to such a US policy, ‘Fifth Generation/hybrid war under the US-India axis against Pakistan will continue; and FATA, GB & Balochistan regions will be main targets of subversion by hostile external powers & their agencies.’ He lamented that such policies have had and will continue to have deep impacts on Pakistan, particularly in the tribal regions with societal polarization between Westernised liberal-secularists and religious-conservative elements; rise of Shia-Sunni sectarian militancy spillover into Pakistan of warlord-ism, Jihadi Tanzeems, terrorism, and rise of mafia-like gangs’. He pointed out that while national cohesion has improved and tribal populations progressively integrated into Pakistani society with significant economic interests throughout the country, ‘there remain significant administrative systems anomalies and so-called Special Areas need urgent attention.’ He recommended that instead of doing things in haste, incremental step-by-step approach is needed which consists of continuous & extensive consultation with FATA residents. He called for implementing improved administrative & judicial systems to eliminate their current shortcomings; close coordination between

administrative, political & military set-up; and detailed homework on administration & judicial systems, as well as targeting easier areas for reforms first, followed by difficult ones.

In the session ‘Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD), formerly FATA, into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions’ moderated by Ambassador (R) Inamul Haq, Dr Sohail Shehzad, Professor, Khyber Law College, University of Peshawar discussed ‘Tribalism and Rewaj and Proposed Rule of Law Reforms in KPTD: Challenges in Transforming Traditional Institutions into Formal Justice Institutions.’ He said given the practice of Rewaj over decades, the tribal areas are not attuned to formal state structures, especially legal systems of justice. ‘Implementing formal legal systems will be a challenge for the state. Transition will also be critical, especially in terms of past decisions taken under Rewaj vis-a-vis women’s rights, land rights and inheritance etc. that will need to be respected and upheld.

Dr Waseem Ishaque, Assistant Professor from the National Defence University pointed out that security and development are complimentary and both have to be pursued concurrently. He was of the view that the internal and external security environments of FATA are very important and need to be stabilized at all cost before any meaningful socioeconomic undertakings. He recommended that a comprehensive security architecture has to be evolved by merging loose security components of Levies, Khasadars and Frontier constabulary, which are efficient; but need to be converted into a formidable policing force, by regroupings and reorganization-capitalizing upon their strengths and capacity building. Similarly, a separate package for capacity building of Frontier Corps is needed, if mainstreaming has to become a reality within envisaged timeframe of five years.’ Dr Ishaque also stressed that while remaining within the bounds of tribal culture, comprehensive land reforms must be undertaken with complete concurrence of locals. Special allocation in the National Finance Commission for FATA development should also be made, and allied countries approached for enhanced developmental activities in sectors like health, education and infrastructure development. ‘Just as the entire nation was united in rooting out the menace of terrorism on war footings, in similar fashion, the whole government and whole-of-nation approach is required for fulfilling FATA’s developmental needs’, he concluded.

Mr Mohammad Amir Rana, Director of the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS) shared the perceptions of the people of FATA about the proposed reforms, merger, military operations and rehabilitation programs in their areas. He said that while the majority of the local population is in favor of the merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, there is growing resentment among many people about the pace of the rehabilitation and reconstruction activities; large number of security checkpoints, complete Internet blackout, and high cost of new infrastructure constructed etc. He was of the view that the government should have started the process of mainstreaming by focusing on the ‘softer’ issues first which deal with the day-to-day affairs of the people, rather than opting for the ‘hard’ security and judicial restructuring first.

Dr Syed Adnan Ali Shah Bukhari, Consultant at IPRI discussed ‘Security Sector Reforms in KPTDs: Internal & External Security Challenges’. His presentation looked at the law enforcement agencies and the various security institutions in former FATA; proposed Security

Sector Reforms (SSR) in KPTDs; internal challenges & external threats; national and regional initiatives to overcome external challenges. He highlighted that internally, the terror threat remains high in spite of the military operations. He also pointed out lack of development funds and bureaucratic bottlenecks in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process. Regarding the external environment, he was of the view that Afghanistan remains a major source of concern for Pakistan's tribal belt due to terrorist sanctuaries, hostile agencies, illegal migration, and criminal syndicates. 'KPTDs are "soft underbelly" of Pakistan; and there is need for expeditious implementation of SSR to avoid a conflict trap. For this, it is important to create awareness about benefits of SSR among KPTD's inhabitants,' he concluded.

Earlier welcoming the speakers, Acting President IPRI Brig. (R) Mehboob Qadir outlined the vision behind IPRI's National Dialogue Series, an initiative spread over two years to dilate upon matters of national importance and intended to come up with broad contours of a national narrative. He said that though FATA had largely remained peaceful since the inception of Pakistan in 1947, the ingredients of a less ungoverned space were inherently present in the shape of colonial-era administrative, constitutional, political and socioeconomic makeup of the region. 'This coupled with external influences, most notably the chaos and anarchy in Afghanistan, had the evil effect of converting FATA into a "no-go" area for the Pakistani state and act as a source of instability for Pakistan and the region. Therefore, it was decided by the government a few years ago to introduce wide-ranging reforms in the realm of constitutional, administrative, political, socio-economic and security, to ensure sustainability of state intervention, and remove the causes of violence and anarchy bedeviling the FATA region. A major step in this regard was taken in May 2018, when the government merged FATA with the adjoining Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP) and announced the extension of state institutions into the newly-merged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs). 'This is proving to be easier said than done because FATA faces replacement of existing archaic institutions with modern state institutions.'

The session on FATA concluded that while the ongoing military operations have dislodged Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in most parts of FATA, bringing relative peace to the region, however, there is concern, that the militants could stage a comeback/once the military leaves the region. In this backdrop and despite all odds, the people of FATA have demonstrated utmost nationalism, by denying space and supporting the security forces in rooting out the terrorists at a very heavy cost. They all deserve the nation's appreciation, unstinted support and continuous efforts in rehabilitation activities.

<<http://www.sabahnews.net/english/?p=2774>>

“Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Concerns, Reservations and Aspirations: Mainstreaming GB”

DNA News | February 28, 2019



ISLAMABAD, FEB 28: Participants pose for a picture on the eve of National Dialogue

- The biggest issue in mainstreaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD) into the national/political architecture is implementation on the ground. Rebuilding of damaged infrastructure needs to be completed on priority basis.
- Awareness among policy-makers regarding local sensitivities and culture are need of the hour, as well as exhaustive consultations with the local population.
- Majority of FATA inhabitants are dependent on farming, therefore, channelizing water for agriculture in the form of small dams, is needed.
- More than cross-border trade, strict border management over the short- to medium term is more pressing in order to deny cross-border movement of terrorists as the ongoing period of consolidation in FATA, does not warrant any new phenomena of terrorist incursions from Afghanistan. After strict border management mechanism is fully operational, the available trade corridors through Khyber and Wana may be optimally utilized for trade diversification.
- The Western route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), joining Gwadar-Quetta-Zhob-Ol Khan-Peshawar- Islamabad is ideal for integrating FATA areas. Therefore, FATA should be integrated into this project for speedy development.
- Special Economic Zones (SEZs) must cater to the development needs of FATA and planned in a way to benefit this region through special incentives.

These were a few of the recommendations put forward by speakers during the first part of the IPRI National Dialogue Series roundtable on “Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD), formerly FATA, into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions” organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), here in Islamabad today.

Delivering his keynote address to diplomats, bureaucrats, students and journalists, former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Mr Owais Ahmed Ghani provided a detailed overview of the FATA region from the international national and local dimensions. He said that the international dimension has remained dominated by the geopolitical interests of competing nation-states turning the Hindukush into a geopolitical faultline.

‘US-China competition for dominance in 21st Century is the latest phase of the Great Game with Pakistan forced to play the same game by the same rules.

Policies and actions of the US, the world’s biggest hegemon, will decide the future course of South Asia geopolitics’, he said. Mr Ghani remarked that the unstated US objectives are to ‘keep the region in chaos and acquire permanent bases on the pretext of terrorism; destabilize/weaken/de-nuclearise Pakistan (on USSR pattern)’.

He predicted that due to such a US policy, ‘Fifth Generation/hybrid war under the US-India axis against Pakistan will continue; and FATA, GB & Balochistan regions will be main targets of subversion by hostile external powers & their agencies.’

He lamented that such policies have had and will continue to have deep impacts on Pakistan, particularly in the tribal regions with societal polarization between Westernised liberal-secularists and religious-conservative elements; rise of Shia-Sunni sectarian militancy spillover into Pakistan of warlord-ism, Jihadi Tanzeems, terrorism, and rise of mafia-like gangs’.

He pointed out that while national cohesion has improved and tribal populations progressively integrated into Pakistani society with significant economic interests throughout the country, ‘there remain significant administrative systems anomalies and so-called Special Areas need urgent attention.’

He recommended that instead of doing things in haste, incremental step-by-step approach is needed which consists of continuous & extensive consultation with FATA residents.

He called for implementing improved administrative & judicial systems to eliminate their current shortcomings; close coordination between administrative, political & military set-up; and detailed homework on administration & judicial systems, as well as targeting easier areas for reforms first, followed by difficult ones.

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Peshawar discussed ‘Tribalism and Rewaj and Proposed Rule of Law Reforms in KPTD: Challenges in Transforming Traditional Institutions into Formal Justice Institutions.’

He said given the practice of Rewaj over decades, the tribal areas are not attuned to formal state structures, especially legal systems of justice. ‘Implementing formal legal systems will be a challenge for the state. Transition will also be critical, especially in terms of past decisions taken under Rewaj vis-a-vis women’s rights, land rights and inheritance etc. that will need to be respected and upheld.

Dr Waseem Ishaque, Assistant Professor from the National Defence University pointed out that security and development are complimentary and both have to be pursued concurrently.

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'KPTDs are "soft underbelly" of Pakistan; and there is need for expeditious implementation of SSR to avoid a conflict trap. For this, it is important to create awareness about benefits of SSR among KPTD's inhabitants,' he concluded.

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'This coupled with external influences, most notably the chaos and anarchy in Afghanistan, had the evil effect of converting FATA into a "no-go" area for the Pakistani state and act as a source of instability for Pakistan and the region.

Therefore, it was decided by the government a few years ago to introduce wide-ranging reforms in the realm of constitutional, administrative, political, socio-economic and security, to ensure sustainability of state intervention, and remove the causes of violence and anarchy bedeviling the FATA region.

A major step in this regard was taken in May 2018, when the government merged FATA with the adjoining Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP) and announced the extension of state institutions into the newly-merged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs). 'This is proving to be easier said than done because FATA faces replacement of existing archaic institutions with modern state institutions.'

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<<http://www.dnaneews.com.pk/mainstreaming-khyber-pakhtunkhwa-tribal-districts-kptd-formerly-fata-nationalpolitical-architecture-challenges-solutions/>>

ONLINE



Mainstreaming of ex-FATA, G-B to ‘counter foreign machinations’

Experts say these areas are a target for fifth-generation warfare to destabilise the region



Tribal areas. PHOTO: REUTERS

ISLAMABAD: There is an urgent need to bring the erstwhile tribal areas in line with the rest of the country by implementing the political desire and changing the culture towards these areas to instead of looking at them from a geopolitical lens, thereby countering the nefarious designs of other countries.

This was stated by speakers at a one-day roundtable on “Mainstreaming of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (K-PTDs) into national and political architecture: Challenges and solutions” and mainstreaming Gilgit-Baltistan: Concerns, reservations and aspirations”. The dialogue was organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in Islamabad on Thursday.

Former K-P governor Owais Ahmed Ghani said that the international dimension surrounding erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) has been dominated by the geopolitical interests of competing nation-states of turning the Hindukush into a geopolitical faultline.

“The US and China are competing for dominance in 21st Century and is the latest phase of the ‘Great Game’ with Pakistan forced to play the same game by the same rules. Policies and actions of the US, the world’s biggest hegemon, will decide the future course of South Asia geopolitics,” he said.

Ghani remarked that the unstated objectives of US are to ‘keep the region in chaos and acquire permanent bases on the pretext of terrorism; destabilise, weaken and de-nuclearise Pakistan (on the patterns of the USSR).’

He predicted that due to such a policy, a ‘fifth generation or hybrid war under the US-India axis against Pakistan will continue and that former Fata, Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) and Balochistan regions will be the main targets of subversion by hostile external powers and their agencies.”

He lamented that such policies have had and will continue to have deep impacts on Pakistan, particularly in the tribal regions with societal polarization between Westernised liberal-secularists and religious-conservative elements.

“There remain significant administrative system anomalies and so-called special areas which need urgent attention,” he said and recommended that instead of doing things in haste, incremental steps were needed in consultation with Fata residents.

Moreover, he called for implementing improved administrative and judicial systems to eliminate their current shortcomings; close coordination between administrative, political and military set-up apart from detailed homework on administration and judicial systems, as well as targeting easier areas for reforms first, followed by difficult ones.

In a session on ‘Mainstreaming of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (K-PTD), formerly Fata, into national and political architecture: Challenges and solutions’, Khyber Law College Professor Dr Sohail Shehzad discussed ‘Tribalism and Rewaj and Proposed Rule of Law Reforms in K-PTD: Challenges in Transforming Traditional Institutions into Formal Justice Institutions.’ He said that given the practice of Rewaj over the decades, the tribal areas are not attuned to formal state structures, especially legal systems of justice. “Implementing a formal legal system will be a challenge for the state,” he warned, adding that the transition will also be critical, especially in terms of past decisions taken under Rewaj vis-a-vis women’s rights, land rights and inheritance etc. that will need to be respected and upheld.

<https://theworldnews.net/pk-news/mainstreaming-of-ex-fata-g-b-to-counter-foreign-machinations>

Print Edition



1.

"Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD), formerly FATA, into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions"

ISLAMABAD, February 28: The biggest issue in mainstreaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD) into the national/political architecture is implementation on the ground. Rebuilding of damaged infrastructure needs to be completed

terrorist incursions from Afghanistan. After strict border management mechanism is fully operational, the available trade corridors through Khyber and Wana may be optimally utilized for trade diversification. The Western route of the China-Pakistan

(KPTD), formerly FATA, into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions" organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), here in Islamabad today. Delivering his keynote address to diplomats, bureaucrats, students



on priority basis. "Awareness among policy-makers regarding local sensitivities and culture are need of the hour, as well as exhaustive consultations with the local population. "Majority of FATA inhabitants are dependent on farming, therefore, channelizing water for agriculture in the form of small dams, is needed. "More than cross-border trade, strict border management over the short-to medium term is more pressing in order to deny cross-border movement of terrorists as the ongoing period of consolidation in FATA, does not warrant any new phenomena of ter-

Economic Corridor (CPEC), joining Gwadar-Quetta-Zhob-Oikhan-Peshawar- Islamabad is ideal for integrating FATA areas. Therefore, FATA should be integrated into this project for speedy development. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) must cater to the development needs of FATA and planned in a way to benefit this region through special incentives. These were a few of the recommendations put forward by speakers during the first part of the IPRI National Dialogue Series roundtable on "Mainstreaming of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts

and journalists, former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Mr Ovais Ahmed Ghani provided a detailed overview of the FATA region from the international national and local dimensions. He said that the international dimension has remained dominated by the geopolitical interests of competing nation-states turning the Hindukush into a geopolitical fault-line. "US-China competition for dominance in 21st Century is the latest phase of the Great Game with Pakistan forced to play the same game by the same rules. -PR

<<http://dailyiht.com/epaper/main.php?action=epaper&id=main&page=2&dt=01-03-2019>>