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IPRI Webinar Press Release

“The Contrast: Indian Hegemonistic Policies in South Asia and Pakistan’s Quest for Regional Peace and Stability”

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The Islamabad Policy Research Institute organized a special webinar on *“The Contrast: Indian Hegemonistic Policies in South Asia and Pakistan’s Quest for Regional Peace and Stability”* here in the capital today. The session included Keynote Address by Senator Sherry Rehman, followed by Dr Liu Zongyi and Ambassador (R) Ashraf Jehangir Qazi as the speakers.

In his Opening Remarks, Acting President IPRI, **Brig. (R) Raashid Wali Janjua** highlighted the jingoistic posturing of a Hindutva driven Indian government that has put the peace and security of South Asia in a confrontational limbo. He added that India has problems with every neighbor and has come a long way from its Nehruvian legacy of secular Indian nationalism. “The tactical strategy of BJP was straight out of the playbook of Nazis. Indian government has tried to marginalise and ostracize the muslim community through Citizen Amendment Act and National Register for Citizens”, he averred. The Acting President also mentioned that bilateral attempts for promoting neighbourly relations have been spurned by India. Instead of responding to peace, the Indians have been racking up tensions and even resorting to cross border attacks on LOC.”

Senator Sherry Rehman talked about how Pakistan is a particular thorn in Modi’s side because it notionally challenges and impedes Modi’s ascent as South Asia region's hegemon. She pointed out that India is using external threats to cover up its internal failures and like a Janus faced entity showing a different image to the world while acting as a misanthropic bully domestically and an implacable hegemon bilaterally. Pakistan’s foreign policy as per her needs

to be more nuanced and proactive based on a consistent approach backed by a domestic consensus.

Ambassador (R) Ashraf Jehangir Qazi stressed on the need for a two tracked policy. Track one should aim at employing diplomacy, lawfare and moral suasions whereas track two should focus on prevention of cultural genocide through all means at disposal of Pakistan.

Dr Liu Zongyi of Shanghai Institute for International Studies highlighted the change in Indian approach towards border dispute with China due to militant Hindutva ideology of Modi. He pointed out that India is stoking the fire of conflict in the region on the encouragement of another global power. India as per him was neither capable of winning a war against China nor making peace under the current Indian regime.