



IPRI
Building Consensus



**Islamabad Policy
Research Institute**



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May 2014

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Pakistan's Strategic Environment: Post-2014

IPRI in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Pakistan office in Islamabad, organized a two-day international conference on "Pakistan's Strategic Environment: Post-2014". Ambassador Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs was the chief guest of the inaugural session. General (R) Ehsan ul Haq NI(M) former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was the chief guest at the concluding session. Former Ambassador to the US and UK, Dr. Maleeha Lodhi and

Former Federal Minister and Former Ambassador to US Ms. Sherry Rehman chaired the two respective sessions. IPRI invited seven scholars from China, Germany, France, India, Russia, Singapore and Sweden who presented their papers in the various sessions of the conference. Another seven prominent scholars, professionals and intellectuals from within Pakistan also spoke at the event. The conference came up with recommendations. Some of which are as follows:

- South Asian region is in a state of flux with

HEC Upgrades *IPRI Journal*

The HEC which is responsible for enhancing the quality of research and bringing it at par with international standards in Pakistan has upgraded the *IPRI Journal* to 'X' category. The *IPRI Journal* is the institute's prime research publication.



May Highlights

- Two-day International Conference
"Pakistan's Strategic Environment: Post-2014"
- IPRI Review Meeting
"Indian Election Results: Formation of New Government"
- IPRI Review Meeting
"Bangladesh Awami League Government's Propaganda against Pakistan"

competing economic visions being offered for its future. For Pakistan the critical choices were mostly internal. Focus should be on good governance and economy. All efforts should be directed towards achieving good governance and revival of the economy.

- The fall out of the drawdown was to be closely watched by Pakistan, particularly in the context of US strategic partnership with India and the talk of Asia pivot and China's Asia-centric policy, a climate in which Pakistan needed to adjust its strategic orientations.
- After withdrawal the increased Central Asian and Russian engagement will be to deal with threats concerning terrorism, drug trafficking, cross-border crime, and flow of refugees from

Afghanistan. If one major project like TAPI takes off, it will become a game changer and the whole discourse on Afghanistan will change.

- Peace and stability in Afghanistan is crucial for developing trade and investment related economic potential of Central Asia, South Asia, South West Asia, Middle East and Asia Pacific to its optimal capacity.
- Pakistan-Iran relations are moving in a Positive direction. The thaw in Iran-US relations is better for Pakistan, regional peace and Pakistan's internal security. It will also facilitate construction of IPI gas pipeline and attract Iranian investment in Pakistan.

Continued on p 4

IPRI Scholars' Publications in May

- "Back to Square One!" by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *The Frontier Post*, May 1, 2014, <http://thefrontierpost.com/article/92877/Back-to-square-one/>
- "Challenges to China's Peaceful Rise" by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, May 5, 2014, <http://www.nation.com.pk/columns/05-May-2014/challenges-to-china-s-peaceful-rise>
- "Rising China" by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *The Frontier Post*, May 7, 2014, <http://thefrontierpost.com/article/170141/Rising-China/>
- "A Watchful Judiciary in Pakistan" by Maria Syed, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *The Weekly Voice*, May 7, 2014, <http://www.weeklyvoice.com/community-news/watchful-judiciary-pakistan/>
- "BJP Victory Could Improve Pakistani ties Despite Modi's Harsh Rhetoric" by Aftab Hussain, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Global Times*, May 8, 2014, <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/859096.shtml>
- "Modi's Pakistan Policy" by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, May 12, 2014, <http://www.nation.com.pk/columns/12-May-2014/modi-s-pakistan-policy>
- "Afghanistan's Challenging Transition" by Saman Zulfqar, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Economic Affairs*, Monthly Magazine (May, 2014)
- "Pakistan: Psy-Ops, 'media trojan horses' & role of security forces in Balochistan" by Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *The London Post*, May 15, 2014, <http://thelondonpost.net/pakistan-psy-ops-media-trojan-horses-and-role-of-security-forces-in>
- "Integral Humanism and the BJP" by Gulshan Bibi, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, May 18, 2014, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=241886>
- "Emerging Contours of Gulf Politics" by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, May 19, 2014, <http://www.nation.com.pk/columns/19-May-2014/emerging-contours-of-gulf-politics>
- "Dissidents Misleading Baloch People" by Col (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, May 21, 2014, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=242147>
- "Balancing Saudi-Iran Bilateralism" by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, May 21, 2014, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=242144>
- "Indian Elections and Future Uncertainties" by Saman Zulfqar, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Daily Times*, May 23, 2014, <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/23-May-2014/indian-elections-and-future-uncertainties>
- "Regionalism: the dominant factor of Iranian foreign policy" by Khurram Abbas, Assistant Research Officer, IPRI was published in *Oped News*, May 23, 2014.
- "Thailand: Democracy In doldrums" by Gulshan Bibi, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, May 24, 2014, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=242412>
- "A Peaceful Neighbourhood" by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *The Nation*, May 26, 2014, <http://www.nation.com.pk/columns/26-May-2014/a-peaceful-neighbourhood>
- "Modi's Agenda And Kashmir dispute" by Col (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, May 26, 2014, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=242609>
- "US Withdrawal & Regional Dilemmas" by Amna Ejaz Rafi, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, May 26, 2014, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=242608>
- "Pakistan Vying For Cordial Ties" by Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Consultant IPRI was published in *Pakistan Observer*, May 28, 2014, <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=242816>
- "Emerging South Asian Security Complex For Expansion Of Regional institution" by Khurram Abbas, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Global Times*, May 29, 2014, <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/862957.shtml>
- "Kashmir-Mapping the Conflict between Pakistan and India" by Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Assistant Research Officer IPRI was published in *Oped News*, May 30, 2014, http://www.opednews.com/articles/Kashmir--Mapping-the-Conf-by-Muhammad-Nawaz-Kha-Conflict-Resolution_India-Elections_Resolution_Self-determination-140530-145.html?/

Third Moscow International Security Conference

On the invitation of the Assistant Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation Anatoly Antonov, President IPRI, Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin attended the Third Moscow International Security Conference (MISC) from May 23 to 24, 2014. More than 60 countries were represented at the conference by about 300 delegates at the 3rd MISC.

An official delegation of the government of Pakistan led by Defence Minister, Khawaja Asif, also attended the conference. Khawaja Asif made a statement at the plenary session on 'Global Security and Regional Stability'. Other delegates who spoke in this session included the Ministers of Defence of Belarus, Iran, Russia, Indian Deputy Minister of Defence and the Russian Foreign Minister. Messages of President Vladimir Putin and the UN Secretary General (UNSG) were also read out in the plenary session.

After the plenary session, a panel each on 'Afghanistan and Regional Stability' and 'Finding ways of Stabilization in the Middle East and North Africa' comprising seven experts presented their papers. President IPRI delivered a statement on 'Afghanistan and Regional Security'.

China Visit



Khalid Chandio, Research Officer, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) visited China as a member of delegation on the invitation of the Embassy of China in Pakistan from May 4-9, 2014. During the visit, the delegation held meetings with top think

tanks of China mostly based in Beijing, i.e., China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), China Center for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS), China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), and also held meeting/discussion at Nankai University, Tianjin and with officials of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beijing. During extensive meetings with the mentioned think tanks number of deliberations were made, some of which are as under:

- Current leadership of China believed in track-two diplomacy in the shape of people to people contacts for bringing youth of the region in realizing the concept of "common destiny." They believed that the age of direct wars is almost over and the only way forward was economic prosperity in the region. China had entered into comprehensive physical connectivity with its neighbours.
- Pakistan was on top priority of China's strategy of "common destiny." China was concerned about terrorism in both Pakistan and China.
- On Afghanistan, China wanted a peaceful, stable and developed Afghanistan. But there was uncertainty as to how the US presence would affect that outcome.
- The CICIR scholars said that there was a foreign hand inciting trouble in China, playing upon the ethnic and religious divides in Xinjiang.
- Asia-Pacific was going to be the testing ground for future China-US peaceful cooperation or otherwise.

Round Table Discussion with the US Delegation

A twenty-member delegation comprising of Generals and Flag officers of the United States (US) defence forces on their visit to Pakistan joined IPRI team and renowned analysts of Pakistan in a roundtable discussion on May 3rd, 2014 at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. During the discussion Pak-US Relations, Situation in Afghanistan, Pak-India Relations and Counter terrorism were discussed. The following points were highlighted during the discussion.

Pakistan-US Relations: Pakistan and the US operate at various levels and bad patch at any one tier does not derail the entire relationship. Trajectory of Pakistan-US bilateral has witnessed ups and downs, but the two countries have a future of long term cooperation. However, over the years Capitol Hill and public opinion in Pakistan have increasingly been casting negative shadows on Pak-US relations. It is important to acknowledge that the US provides exclusive benefits to Pakistan in bilateral relationship some of which are: America accounts for maximum Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Pakistan, America has always been generously helping Pakistan in disaster management, American financial aid accounts for 15-20 per cent of budgetary support, etc.

Afghanistan Situation: Peace and stability in Afghanistan is crucial for the economic potential of Central Asia, South Asia, South-west Asia and Asia Pacific. Afghanistan is undergoing three concurrent transitions i.e political, security and economic. This time, there should be no abrupt disengagement of

the international community from Afghanistan. Peace in Afghanistan would pave the way for Pakistan to start importing much needed gas from Turkmenistan under TAPI project. Pakistan has all along remained engaged with the international community at bilateral, trilateral, quadrilateral and multilateral fora for the establishment of durable peace.



Pak-India Relations: Number of concerns were shown vis-à-vis uncooperative strategy of India towards Pakistan. Some of which are: Kashmir dispute has been allowed to ferment by India. Regional security in South Asia will remain under threat until the issue is resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. There are never ending water distribution related irritants. Massive force modernization and conventional arms build-up by India is in

progress. Numerous strategic capabilities and force multipliers are on order. Indian Military capability put together on the pretext of China could be unleashed entirely against Pakistan, on as required basis. Over 80 per cent of Indian arsenal is Pakistan specific and nearly 90 per cent of its military command and control structures are Pakistan oriented. India is interfering in Balochistan by encouraging and facilitating separatist elements. India is using Afghan territory for creating trouble in Pakistan's tribal areas.

Counter Terrorism: Pakistan is currently addressing the challenge posed to its security by extremism and terrorism. This phenomenon was an unfortunate consequence of the mobilization of religious fervour by the US and the West to secure Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

After 9/11, Pakistan has stood by the international community to combat terrorism. Pakistan is in compliance with all UN resolutions pertaining to countering terrorism and is a part of counter terrorism effort launched under UNSC Resolution 1540.

Pakistan has carried out meaningful reforms in various sectors to create a hedge against facilitation of terrorism. Of special mentions are Banking sector reforms; a lot of effort has also gone into gradual reform of Madrassah system as well. Government of Pakistan has issued a comprehensive national security policy, with a special focus on internal security. It aims at creating a multi-disciplinary effort to eliminate terrorism.

IPRI REVIEW MEETING

Bangladesh Awami League Government's Propaganda against Pakistan: Role of India and Pakistan's Strategy

Ms. Aymen Ijaz, Assistant Documentation Officer IPRI, gave a presentation on "Bangladesh Awami League Government's Propaganda against Pakistan: Role of India and Pakistan's Strategy" on May 19th, 2014.

Ms. Aymen highlighted the following points in connection with strained Pak-Bangladesh relations:

- From 1971 till 2008, successive Bangladeshi governments did not talk about holding trial of people who were alleged to have supported Pakistan. In fact after 1974 Tripartite Agreement, all Pakistani prisoners of war were repatriated to Pakistan. It is, therefore, surprising that AL government has now initiated trials of Bangladeshi persons and is propagating about conducting trials in absentia of some members of Pakistan's armed forces.
- The AL government is running a propaganda

campaign that some Pakistan army personnel suspected of war crimes in 1971 should also be tried in absentia by the ICT.

- AL government in Bangladesh is carrying out anti-Pakistan propaganda with the objective of distorting the image of Pakistan, its armed forces and intelligence agencies on the behest of India. It is pursuing such a policy to exploit sentiments of Bangladeshi voters to consolidate its political position vis-a-vis other political parties and to target its political opponents such as BNP and Bangladeshi JJ.
- Pakistan and Bangladesh should follow 1974 Tripartite Agreement to build a sustainable politico-economic relationship by resolving bilateral disputes, economic engagement, people to people contacts and cultural exchanges.



Indian Election Results: Formation of New Government



Mr. Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow IPRI, gave an analytical presentation on Indian election results, formation of government, Modi and BJP's politics and possible scenarios vis-à-vis Pak-India relations. Mr Asghar Ali Shad made following points as an analysis of Indian Election 2014 results and challenges for BJP:

Analysis

- Indian youth population preferred BJP.
- Schedule caste voted for BJP.
- Narendra Modi managed and used electronic, print and social media quite efficiently during election campaign.
- Modi raised the slogan of development and governance during election campaign.
- BJP launched party's manifesto just a few days before election in which main

highlighted points were uniform civil code, implementation of article 370 and construction of Ram Mandir.

- Modi stole the limelight on account of development of Gujarat during his tenure as chief minister. Gujarat is the only state where there is no load shedding and a huge dairy sector has been set up to manufacture dairy products.
 - However, according to analysts, the main difference between Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Modi is that Vajpayee used to give immense importance to senior leaders i.e. L.K Advani and Jaswant Singh while Modi has his own thinking and takes decision very often on his own.
 - For law making and constitutional amendments, BJP would have to wait for two to three years due to procedural steps.
 - It is being generally assessed that Pak-India relations would be better off as compared to the way these were during Congress regime.
- Challenges for BJP**
- Anti-minority image of BJP within India and outside is a very challenging issue for Modi's government.
 - However, Congress's biggest achievement is believed to create a soft image of India

worldwide through diplomatic decisions, vibrant and dynamic Bollywood industry and various other means. Now for BJP, given the anti-minority and extremist mind set, one of the main challenges is to retain the softer image of India.

- Danger of riots due to involvement of non-state actors is another issue which could be ignited to create chaos for the ruling government of BJP.
- As major chunk of youth population voted for BJP, so provision of employment to youth seems to be a crucial aspect where BJP's government has to perform to secure its position and the next election.
- Hindu extremism is on the rise in India to an alarming extent. To control this trend is another challenge for BJP which itself considered as an extremist organization.



Pakistan's Strategic Environment: Post-2014



Ambassador Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the PM on Foreign Affairs addressing the Conference



Amb (R) Sohail Amin, President IPRI presenting memento to Gen (R) Ehsan ul Haq, Former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee



Dr. Maleeha Lodhi chairing the session on the Concluding Day of Conference



Ms. Sherry Rehman giving comments as a session chair



Dr. Hafeez Chairing the Session on the Inaugural Day

Continued from p 1

- Moscow and Islamabad should hold a joint conference of related think-tanks and investment companies titled the "Strategic Investment Projects Album" for encouraging Russian investment in Pakistan.
- CASA-1000, TAPI and IP have great opportunity for regional prosperity. While all concerned states should invest in these projects for earlier initiation and completion the interested countries should also invest in the construction of railways for connecting Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and China through Kyrgyzstan.



Group Photo of the Concluding Day

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