

Islamabad Policy Research Institute



NEWSLETTER

ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

December 2016, Vol. 4, No. 12

Civilian Uses of Nuclear Energy in Pakistan: Opportunities and Prospects

A one-day workshop titled "Civilian Uses of Nuclear Energy in Pakistan: Opportunities and Prospects" was organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on December 27, 2016 at Islamabad Hotel, Islamabad. The workshop discussed various facets of Pakistan's civilian nuclear program and the associated challenges. The aim was to discuss the problems faced by Pakistan for civil nuclear program, especially power generation and to provide policy recommendations. To facilitate discussions, the following themes were covered by eminent panelists:-

- Pakistan's Peaceful Nuclear Energy Program and Expansion Policy: A Critical Analysis
 - International Perspectives on Pakistan's Civilian Nuclear Program
 - Politics of Nonproliferation and Pakistan's Civilian Nuclear Program
- Dr. Samar Mubarakmand, Former Founding Chairman, National Engineering and Scientific Commission (NESCOM), Islamabad delivered the key note address, whereas Mr. Khalid Banuri, Director General, Arms Control Disarmament Affairs, Strategic Plans Division, moderated the session. Following are the salient points of the workshop.

- International politics is a struggle for power and for some states like Pakistan; it is primarily a struggle for power as well as "security". Pakistan's comprehensive safety and security measures have earned it a good reputation. It is thus in a position to assist other states to improve their nuclear safety and security mechanisms through capacity building at its Center of Excellence.
- There exists a consensus among Pakistani policy makers that civilian nuclear energy could become a "game changer" for the economic development of Pakistan. Large-sized, cost-effective, and highly efficient plants are necessary to generate economically viable, sustainable and cleaner electricity for socio economic growth in Pakistan.
- According to IAEA estimates, the world capacity of nuclear energy was 332.5 GWe in 2014, with 33 reactors. The total number of nuclear power plants under construction in the world is 68 with the capacity of 65.4 GWe. Pakistan has three operating nuclear power reactors, i.e. KANUPP-I, Chasma-I, and Chashma-II. Construction of units, i.e. Chashma-III and IV, each with capacity of 320 MWe, was started in 2011.

IN THIS ISSUE

- IPRI ENGAGEMENTS**
- 03 Gansu International Fellowship Programme (GIFP) 2016
- INTERACTION WITH FOREIGN DELEGATIONS**
- 04 Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) Delegation Visits IPRI
- RECENT IPRI PUBLICATION**
- 04 Emerging Security Order in Asia Pacific: Impact on South Asia

- IPRI REVIEW MEETINGS**
- 06 Positive Developments in Balochistan: Political, Economic and Social Dimensions
 - 07 Rejuvenating Pakistan-Iran Relations
- 



- Pakistan has been using the same type of equipment for electricity generation, transmission, and distribution as being used in any developed country. It is only the management system that differs.
- Furthermore, Hydro power generation as well as renewables such as wind and solar are cyclic and they largely depend upon seasons while coal, thermal, and nuclear options are human-controlled sources of energy

Continued on p. 2

Civilian Uses of Nuclear Energy in Pakistan: Opportunities and Prospects

Continued from p. 1

that can be availed on demand.

- The nuclear energy also offers a great capacity factor, has lower costs, and is an environmentally safe source for Pakistan than any other energy resources. Hence, nuclear power plants can help mitigate Pakistan's power starvation and insufficiency, at sustainable levels.
- Continued reliance on fossil fuels can generate irreversible challenges such as global warming, air, water, land and thermal pollution and would also have a direct bearing on Pakistan's national security. The world is moving away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy resources. In 2015, more nuclear and solar power plants were built in the world as compared to non-renewable power plants relating to fossil fuels.
- In the context of nuclear security, it was mentioned that Pakistan is voluntarily adhering to the IAEA rules and guidelines for safety and security of its nuclear programme. In this regard, the IAEA has praised Pakistan's impressive nuclear safety and security measures. The measures, put in place by Pakistan, are consistent with the Articles I, III, and VI of the NPT as well as the objectives that the NSG has sought to promote over the years.



The Chief Guest, Dr. Samar Mubarakmand, Former Founding Chairman, National Engineering and Scientific Commission (NESCOM), Islamabad while receiving memento from President IPRI, Amb (R) Sohail Amin

Recommendations

- The NSG must not adopt a selective approach of promoting nuclear commerce for some countries. It must urgently address the question of "us" vs. "them" by creating balance between non-proliferation and peaceful uses of technology and find a gateway for new contenders. Pakistan must therefore pursue securing the NSG membership.
- Pakistan must make efforts in creating a friendly environment in nuclear diplomacy to counter the discriminatory approach. Moreover, it should be projected that Pakistan's quest for nuclear capability is to deter Indian aggressiveness, ensure the strategic balance of power at the regional as well as to address the country's socio-economic needs. Meanwhile, International community must understand and appreciate the efforts and resolve of Pakistan in safe-guarding its nuclear assets.
- Pakistan has developed the nuclear programme for peaceful coexistence in the region as well as for economic and energy needs. So, Pakistan must continue pursuing nuclear technology for not only economic factors/dividends but also for its security and survival with dignity in this complex region.
- There is a need to reduce the gap between policy and technology in Pakistan. Moreover, the use of nuclear technology must be enhanced in the fields of agriculture and medicine, biological analysis, food security, plant engineering and environmental protection.
- As nuclear technology has been helpful in analyzing and assessing the trends of climate change in the past and foreseeable future, similar effort must be made in agricultural sector as it is helpful in controlling soil degradation, pests, and general improvement in crops. Moreover, its use in nuclear medicines and radiology has proven to be

useful in diagnosing, treating, and preventing diseases more effectively as compared to conventional medicine.

- High level professionalism must be assured at all times in the nuclear field, as it could play a vital role in improving procedural mechanisms and their efficiency required for energy production.
- A bottoms to top approach must be adopted, to train own people in the energy sector to develop better expertise. This can be done by investing in Human Resource and Development (HR&D). Pakistani engineers and scientists must be made part of such projects in the energy sector.
- Nuclear power plants' performance has been above 80 percent in terms of energy production as compared to Hydro, Power Generation Companies (GENCOs), and the Independent Power Producers (IPPs). The cost of nuclear energy production as compared to other energy sectors is lower except GENCOs. So, the focus must increase on nuclear energy in Pakistan.
- Pakistan must also standardize one power generation design to maximize the energy production in the country. Public sector plants must also compete with the IPPs.
- Pakistan should establish efficient, cost

effective, base-load power parks.

- The country needs to expedite import of enough fuel including Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) alongside exploration and development of oil and gas reserves on-shore, off-shore, and in the continental shelf. Multi-unit large-sized power plants should be built as bigger the plants are, lower would be the cost of electricity.
- The fossil fuels are depleting at an enormous pace. Therefore, Pakistan cannot rely on fossil fuels for long time. The future of energy is in renewable resources. Therefore, Pakistan should pay full attention to this changing trend in the world and develop its nuclear energy capacity.
- Educational/technical exchange on nuclear with foreign countries should be encouraged.
- Significant opportunities exist in Pak China cooperation through Pakistan involvement in construction and design of new nuclear reactors. The aim for accelerated economic growth must be to ultimately become self-sufficient in complete construction of nuclear power plants in Pakistan.
- Thereafter, Pakistan must indigenize and industrialize its power plants.
- The civil nuclear cooperation with China, in particular the nuclear plants at Chashma, and Karachi, must be enhanced on immediate basis.

SESSION CHAIR & SPEAKERS



Session Chair
Mr. Khalid Banuri



Mr. Pervaz Butt



Ms. Rizwana Karim Abbasi



Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema

IPRI ENGAGEMENTS

Gansu International Fellowship Programme (GIFP) 2016



Mr. Khurram Abbas, from IPRI attended the Gansu International Fellowship Programme (GIFP) 2016 in China, from November 01, 2016 to November 30, 2016 in Gansu province, China.

The programme was sponsored by the Foreign Affairs Office of Gansu Provincial People's Government. In the Gansu International Fellowship Programme (GIFP) 2016, 22 delegates from 18 countries including Uruguay, United States, Mexico, Canada, Serbia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, South Korea, Switzerland, New Zealand, Namibia, Pakistan, Nepal, Moldova, Belarus, Israel and China participated. The aim of the programme is to open Gansu Province to the outside world, and to explore communication and cooperation abroad in the fields of economy, trade, science and technology, education and culture.

During the one month stay at Lanzhou, the Foreign Affairs Office, Gansu Provincial People's Government had participants introduced to the cultural, political, administrative and economic sectors of the province. Some professors and provincial administrators of Communist Party of China (CPC) also delivered lectures on the strategic importance, cultural harmony, tourism prospects, and development plans for Gansu province. The Gansu Foreign Affairs Office also organized various outdoor activities such as visits to iron and steel industries, Chinese traditional medicine hospital, Library of Lanzhou University etc. Moreover, the Gansu Foreign Office officials organized visits outside the capital city of Gansu province including Tianshui, Dunhuang, and Jiayuguan.

Mr. Khurram Abbas delivered presentations to Gansu Investment Group, Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS) and Gansu Foreign Affairs Office on the topics including China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Regional Connectivity, CPEC: Its Role in Agricultural Cooperation with China and CPEC: Role of the US and India, respectively. In response, the Gansu

Investment Group showed their keen interest in promoting cooperation with Pakistani business community. The Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS) faculty also expressed their interest in developing cooperation with Faisalabad Agricultural University in agricultural research, faculty and student exchange programme etc. During his stay in Lanzhou, Mr. Khurram Abbas identified few areas of cooperation between



Pakistan and Gansu province in the larger picture of Pak-China relations. The four areas of cooperation identified including the agriculture sector, academics, trade and human resource development under Sister City project. For instance, agricultural products (particularly seeds), traditional Chinese medicines, wind and solar energy are the key areas for Pakistan to explore in the province.

Moreover, the Gansu province is known as the hub of research activities in solar and wind energy production.

Not only Pakistani stu-

dents can learn from the experiences of Chinese teachers in this regard but the government administrators can learn from the management of Chinese local government in Gansu. In this regard, government officials and university faculty of Gansu province would welcome Pakistani local administrators and students respectively. Moreover, Gansu vocational training institutes with advanced infrastructure and laboratories can be the best destination for Pakistani students, particularly in the mining industry. Besides, Gansu has a market for Pakistan's sea food, minerals, stones, furniture and handicraft which provides an opportunity to create space for its products. Lastly, the Gansu provincial management is interested to build relations with the outside world by establishing relationship under the banner of 'Sister-City' project. Such cooperation could help both sides in finding new avenues of investment, tourism and development in the field of infrastructure and education.

On a concluding note, the GIFP 2016 was a great learning opportunity. All delegates from 18 countries with diverse professional and cultural backgrounds had shared experiences of their professions. Such programmes could be helpful in establishing people to people contacts, in return strengthening the relations among participating countries.



INTERACTION WITH FOREIGN DELEGATIONS

Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) Delegation Visits IPRI



Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) delegation headed by Professor Han Zhen, Chairman, BFSU Council, China visited IPRI on December 12, 2016. Professor Han Zhen was accompanied by Professor Ke Jing, Director, International Exchange and Cooperation Office, BFSU, China and Ms. Zhou Yuan, Head of Urdu Department, School of Asian and African Studies, BFSU, China. The purpose of the visit was to discuss prospects of improving Pak-China relations through people to people contact and academic exchanges.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Fazal-ur-Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, IPRI said that the Pak-China friendship is consistently moving on an ascending trajectory, gaining strength with every passing moment. Bilateral trade has increased by \$1 billion per year between the countries since 2000. Both countries enjoy robust military relations, but people to people contact has been little, highlighting 'language' as a primary barrier in establishing and encouraging people to people exchanges.

In his opening remarks, Professor Han Zhen, Chairman, BFSU Council, China reiterated the solid relations both, Pakistan and China enjoy. He agreed that there has been very little people to people contact between the two countries, but the current Chinese government gives a lot of importance to cultural exchanges. He opined that the languages of countries that are the part of the entire OBOR initiative must be learned as it could play an instrumental role in making this vision a success.

A comprehensive presentation on CPEC was given by Mr. Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow, IPRI. As part of the presentation, he discussed the changing

nature of international politics from geo-strategic to geo-economics and CPEC being part of this reality. He reiterated that CPEC would act as a catalyst for economic integration by linking South, Central and Western Asia.

The Chinese scholars were of the opinion that the development of Gwadar could transform it into the next Hong Kong or Shenzhen. Pakistan will become a transit hub, ensuing immense economic activities. However, there is an urgent need for promoting people to people contact because that would be the base of the grand project of CPEC. It will also help in maintaining and sustaining the strong bond of mutual trust and friendship between China and Pakistan.

It was said that overall, the OBOR initiative would be a paradigm of regional co-existence. It will encourage development, prosperity and security through regional connectivity. Pakistan realizes the importance of this initiative and is committed to make CPEC a success.

It was recommended that cultural understanding amongst the younger generation in both countries must be enhanced. As soft power holds immense importance in today's world, cultural projects should be encouraged to shape opinions and views of the common people. Moreover, the academic exchanges and joint research ventures should also be proposed. The BFSU delegation suggested that scholars from both institutions should deliver guest lectures to better understand each others' perspectives on issues of mutual interest.



RECENT IPRI PUBLICATION

The Asia Pacific region has undergone fundamental changes in its organisation, security order, and power structure in the post-Cold War era. The region has become a powerhouse of global economic and geopolitical transformation as part of Asian ascendance in comparison to the West, which in general perception is no longer the world's centre of gravity. The accretion of military power that has inevitably followed this region's economic growth is altering the balance of power within and between Asia and the West. The union of ASEAN, the U.S. and China have major mutual, conflictual and even controversial stakes here. The papers and essays in this book untangle the security, historical, social, cultural, and even financial dynamics of this diverse area. Important themes covered include overview of the Asia Pacific region vis-à-vis security order; U.S. Re-engagement; rising China; regional connectivity; power politics and its implications for South Asia.



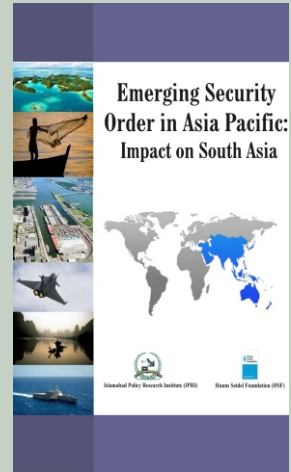
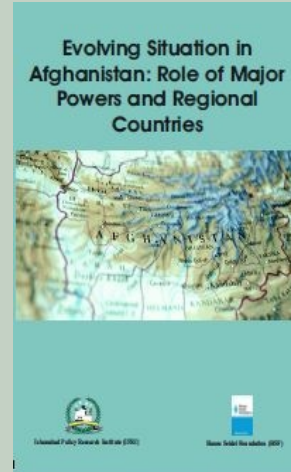
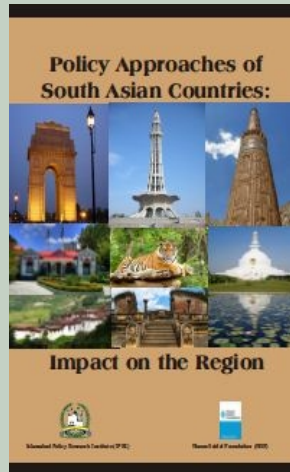
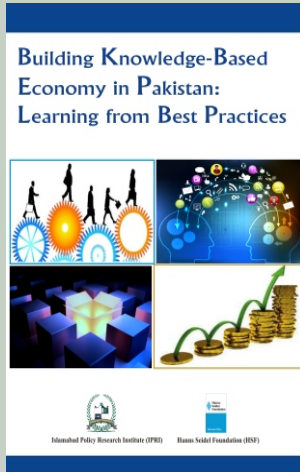
Book Contents

- Emerging Trends in the Security Architecture of Asia Pacific - Ambassador (ret.) Shamshad Ahmad
- The South China Sea in ASEAN-U.S.-China Relations - Bunn Nagara
- Rising China and Regional Stability: South Asian Perspective - Ameen Izzadeen
- Advancing Defence Cooperation in Asia Pacific and the U.S. Rebalancing Strategy: The Reality of an American-Indian 'Strategic Partnership' - Late Dr David Robert Jones
- Conflict and Cooperation in the Indo Pacific: Pakistani Perspective - Dr Rizwan Nasser
- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: An Opportunity for Regional Prosperity - Dr Liu Zongyi
- India as a Linchpin of U.S. Strategy in Asia Pacific and Policy Options for Pakistan - Majid Ali Noonari
- Geostrategic Competition in Asia Pacific and Security Implications for South Asia - Dr Sinderpal Singh
- U.S. Pivot/Rebalance Policy and Role for India - Riaz Mohammad Khan
- China's Constructive Role in Asia Pacific - Zhao Lijian
- Building a Co-operative Security Order for Asia Pacific: A Way Forward - Ambassador Margaret Adamson

IPRI PUBLICATIONS (2016)

BOOKS

These books are based on the papers presented in various national/international conferences organized by IPRI.



RESEARCH JOURNALS



Alongside IPRI Journal, the institute has started its second biannual journal titled Journal of Current Affairs (JoCA) to encourage the scholarly work of young academics. The Journal will cover contemporary subject matters, providing policy-makers critical understanding of world politics, foreign affairs and international security vis-a-vis Pakistan.

Call for Papers IPRI Journal Summer 2017

The IPRI Journal is a biannual peer-reviewed publication of the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). It is an HEC recognised 'X' category Journal, which is Pakistan's second highest category for Social Science Journals. The objective of the Journal is to produce, foster and disseminate research, policies and ideas, primarily from Pakistan and the Global South, from the fields related to Social Sciences and International Affairs. Research scholars are invited to

submit **original, unpublished** articles and book reviews for the Summer 2017 Issue.

Submission Deadline: March 31, 2017

Papers/articles should be concise and not exceed 8,000 words, including an abstract of 150-200 words. Reviews of recent books by scholars of standing in their field should comprise of 1000 words. Guidelines for Contributors are available at: <www.ipripak.org>.

Authors are requested to submit soft copies in MS Word format, a brief bio-note as author of no more than 30 words, complete contact address (email as well as postal), telephone and fax numbers to the Editor at:

Email: ipri.editor@gmail.com

Printed copies should be sent to the Institute's postal address.

IPRI REVIEW MEETING

Positive Developments in Balochistan: Political, Economic and Social Dimensions

Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Research Officer, delivered a presentation on the topic of "Positive Developments in Balochistan: Political, Economic and Social Dimensions."

Following are the salient points of his review meeting:

- To address the socio-economic and political grievances of the province, the Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan package (2009), NFC

award and 18th amendment are important and positive steps taken by the Federal Government in meeting the demands of Baloch people for more political power and larger share in national funds alongside the development of basic infrastructure and provision of basic services to raise the living standard of people.

- The 18th amendment empowers the province to formulate the socio-economic policies and projects such as education and health policies etc. along with local body laws. Now the province is responsible for implementing and allocating the resources to these projects for providing the socio-economic equity to the people of the province.

- The provincial government has been able to overcome issues of insurgency in Balochistan as security has improved significantly. Compared to the 2014 year, there was a decrease of 36 per cent in terrorist attacks and of 31 per cent in fatalities in 2015. Likewise, sectarian-related terrorist attacks in the province fell by 20 per cent and, death toll, by 60 per cent. The fatalities from violence in Balochistan witnessed a further drop during the second quarter of this year (April-June, 2016). From 181 fatalities in the first quarter (January - March, 2016), the figure came down to 166, a near 10% reduction in the second quarter.

- The 7th NFC Award to Balochistan is beginning to have some positive impact on the economic growth rate. The growth rate of the province was 1.7% between 2007-08 to 2012-13, it has risen to above 2.7% in the last two years.

- The provincial government of Balochistan wants to utilize the natural resources for the well being of the masses. For achieving this goal, under the CPEC, the government proposed nine mineral economic processing zones in the province. The level and growth of employment in Balochistan have shown the sign of improvement from 1.74 million in 2001-02 to 2.48 million in 2015-16.

- The positive development in the communication sector is the construction of road infrastructure. The Frontier Works Organization (FWD) is constructing 632 roads in Balochistan. Moreover, the construction of road networks on the Western route of the CPEC has already started to positively impact the socio-economic landscape in Balochistan.

- The public sector investment is largely directed towards the creation and strengthening of the economic and social infrastructure of the province like health, education and other social facilities and eradication of poverty and increasing labour efficiency.

- Institute



for Policy Reforms (IPR) has prepared a province-wise Human Development Index (HDI) in 2016. According to that study, Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) have the fastest growth rate for HDI (which has three equal components of health, education and income) at 1.78% each. Punjab grew at an average annual rate of 1.45 per cent while Sindh trailed at 1.11% for the period 2001-15.

- During 2004-15, the multidimensional poverty index has continuously declined in Balochistan because of better provision of social services. According to Pakistan's first ever official report on multidimensional poverty published in 2016 by the Planning Commission, which has been compiled with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford, 83.4 per cent of the people of Balochistan were living in multi-dimensional poverty during 2004. Balochistan experienced progress in the reduction of multidimensional poverty to 71 per cent in 2015, a 12.2 per cent reduction in 11 years.

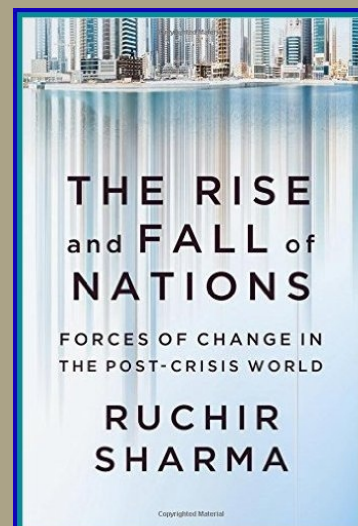
Conclusion

For providing social equity to the people of the province and removing backwardness in Balochistan, the provincial government needs to address the issues of governance and management. These steps will help enhance the capacity building of the institutions, which are responsible for preparing and implementing the social development projects so that the targets or developmental goals could be achieved on time for the greater benefit of people.

ADDITION TO IPRI LIBRARY

The Rise and Fall of Nations: Forces of Change in the Post-Crisis World 1st Edition
Author: Ruchir Sharma

Shaped by his twenty-five years traveling the world, and enlivened by encounters with villagers from Rio to Beijing, tycoons, and presidents, Ruchir Sharma's *The Rise and Fall of Nations* rethinks the "dismal science" of economics as a practical art. Narrowing the thousands of factors that can shape a country's fortunes to ten clear rules, Sharma explains how to spot political, economic, and social changes in real time. He shows how to read political headlines, black markets, the price of onions, and billionaire rankings as signals of booms, busts, and protests. Set in a post-crisis age that has turned the world upside down, replacing fast growth with slow growth and political calm with revolt, Sharma's pioneering book is an entertaining field guide to understanding change in this era or any era.



IPRI REVIEW MEETING

Rejuvenating Pakistan-Iran Relations

Mr. Khurram Abbas, Assistant Research Officer, delivered a presentation on the topic of "Rejuvenating Pakistan-Iran Relations."



Following are the salient points of his review meeting:

- Pakistan borders with Iran at its western flank and the two countries' relationship is characterized by common historical, linguistic, literary, cultural affinities and trade linkages. Both the neighboring lands are not only bound together because of their geographical proximity, but the deeper basis of relationship is provided by the shared values and

their common belief in the religion of Islam.

- In the last few decades, the bilateral relations between Iran and Pakistan had been through brief periods of ups and downs. Recent rapprochement with ambitions to rejuvenate the bilateral relations is visible through President Rouhani's visit to Pakistan in March 2016. Besides that, the Iranian Foreign Minister visited Pakistan twice in four months. At the special meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of National Assembly, Zarif had called for unity in the Muslim world and said no country can undermine the importance of Pakistan for Iran. Zarif expressed Iran's keen interest in developing energy linkages and cooperation with Pakistan.
- Among further developments, earlier this year, the Iranian state owned media depicted Burhan Wani as a freedom fighter, which represents Iranian policy shift towards South Asia. The Supreme Leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei listed Kashmir along with Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan as places where Muslims are brutalized by occupiers.
- Iran has become more active in seeking peace and stability in South Asia particularly after the signing of Iranian deal with P5+1. Iran desires to see South Asia as a stable region, immune from militant, radical and extremist tendencies.
- It is in Iran's interest to see stable South Asian region as instability often helps in breeding extremism, terrorism and nourishes non-state actors, which is a point of concern for Iran. In similar context, Iran has also showed its concerns over the rising tensions between Pakistan and India. The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has repeatedly cautioned against the continuation of tensions between India and Pakistan, urging both countries to exercise more self-restraint. Likewise, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif showed Iranian willingness to mediate between Pakistan and India over the long standing issue of Kashmir.
- On the other hand, Pakistan also wants to make South Asia a peaceful region. The present government believes that economic development and security are interlinked with each other. The economic development often comes through better regional connectivity and infrastructure development. In this mushroom growth of connectivity, connectivity between Iran and Pakistan was inevitable. The international Freight Rail line worth US\$20 billion from Islamabad to Istanbul via Tehran agreement was signed in 2009. Now, Iranians offer to join CPEC shows commonality of interests of both countries in the region. Uplifting of international sanctions on Iran will also pave way to enhance connectivity between the two countries. In this regard, Pakistan is among the first countries that had lifted sanctions on Iran after the 2231-UNSC resolution. Pakistan's active initiative has been appreciated by Iran. This decision will start a new era of economic cooperation between two countries. Iran is also interested in setting up power transmission line to Pakistan to boost electricity supply from 500MW to 3,000 MW.



Recommendations for Economic Cooperation

- Exchange of business delegations from different sectors can help promote bilateral trade and economic relations. Delegations of Pakistani exporters of textiles, fruit, sports and surgical instruments should visit Iran regularly and hold more export goods exhibitions. Moreover, Iran has many Free Economic Zones (FEZs) where goods can be imported without paying the regular duty/taxes. Pakistan needs to explore these FEZs.
- Both the sides should try to operationalize the Pak-Iran Joint Business Council (JBC).
- Efforts to divert informal trade to legal channels, revision of trade policies and reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers needs to be done. Unless the tariffs are brought at par with the cost of smuggling, the informal trade will continue to flourish. If the smuggling is curbed at the border especially of livestock, it would give a big push to the meat exports from Pakistan to Iran.
- Both Pakistan and Iran have joint chambers of commerce with a number of countries. These kinds of forums which are mainly managed by the private sector go a long way in facilitating growth of bilateral commercial relations. Pakistan needs to have a joint Chamber of Commerce with Iran as well. The formation of Joint Chamber will facilitate more interaction and business activity between private sectors of the two countries.
- On defence cooperation, Pakistan and Iran signed a pact in July 1989. The two countries are holding joint military and naval exercises under this agreement. However, in this rapidly changing regional security environment with increased challenges of drug trafficking, smuggling, human trafficking and piracy both countries need to collaborate more closely in defence sector.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that the economy and security of the two countries are closely linked to each other. Pakistan and Iran can become a source of strength to each other in dealing with important regional security and economic issues. The prospects of improved bilateral relations are now brighter as Pakistan and Iran both want to engage with each other. The recent past has shown substantial positive developments in Pakistan-Iran relations.

ARTICLES BY OUR SCHOLARS

Air Cdr (R) Khalid Iqbal, Non Resident Consultant
"Palestine Focus" (The Nation)



"Hindu Sikh Dosti--mumkin nehil!"
(Nawa-i-Waqt)
"Youm-i-Qaid, Bharti Musلمان Aur!"
(Daily Pakistan)

Col (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow
"India: Major HR violator in S Asia"
(Pakistan Observer)



Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow
"G-global: New format of global dialogue"
(Pakistan Observer)



Amna Ejaz Rafi, Assistant Research Officer
"Trump as US President"
(Pakistan Observer)
"Culture and politics"
(Pakistan Observer)



Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow (Urdu Articles)
"Almi Byehsi, Babri Aur Kashmir!"
(Nawa-i-Waqt)
"Brahamdagh' Raw:Aur"
(Daily Pakistan)
"16 December Yae Bharti Shetani Rawish!"
(Daily Pakistan)



Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Research Officer
"Is Water a Source of Conflict or Cooperation in South Asia?"
(The London Post)



Aymen Ijaz, Assistant Research Officer
"HoA Conference: Indo-Afghan nexus"
(Pakistan Observer)



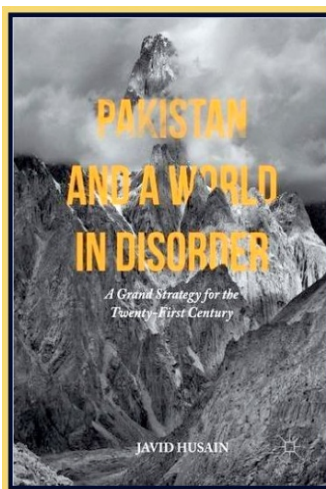
Umar Farooq Khan, Assistant Research Officer
"Finding a Future for Afghanistan"
(The Diplomat)

ADDITION TO IPRI LIBRARY

Pakistan and a World in Disorder: A Grand Strategy for the Twenty-First Century

This book delineates the role that Pakistan should play in the largely anarchic world of the twenty-first century in order to best serve the country's long-term national interests. Its main aim is to lay down the parameters within which Pakistan's grand strategy should be formulated, taking into account the evolving global and regional security environment and Pakistan's historical experience. Provided here is an in-depth analysis and critical evaluation of the past record of Pakistan's foreign policy within this context, bringing out its successes and failures, strengths and weaknesses. Based on these analyses, a comprehensive approach is recommended for

Author: Javid Husain



safeguarding Pakistan's national security and promoting its prosperity utilizing a strategy that is a marked departure from the military-dominated, uni-dimensional policies the country has followed thus far. Besides providing guidelines to Pakistan's policy makers and intelligentsia, this book will be of interest to academics, foreign observers, and general readers in understanding the constraints and parameters within which Pakistan a de facto nuclear-weapon state of 190 million people at the cross-roads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Persian Gulf must operate to safeguard its national interests in the turbulent times ahead.

Islamabad Policy Research Institute



Newsletter Team

Editor-in-Chief
Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin

Editor
Maryam Nazir

Composer
Noreen Hameed

Contact Information

Address: Fifth Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, Sir Agha Khan Road, Sector F-5/1, Islamabad, Pakistan

Phone: +92 51 9211346-49; Fax: +92 51 9211350



maryamnazir1991@gmail.com