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Two-Day National Conference Changing Security Situation in South Asia and Development of CPEC



Participants of National Conference with Chief Guest Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control

The Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) jointly organized a Two-Day National Conference on "Changing Security Situation in South Asia and Development of CPEC" on September 19-20, 2017 at Islamabad Hotel. The Conference aimed to evaluate how the current regional and international security situation would impact the security of Pakistan and what could CPEC offer in terms of stabilizing regional security and vice versa.

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control and Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Defence, attended the opening and

concluding sessions, respectively, as Chief Guests.

Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, President IPRI, in his welcome address said that peace and development are interlinked. Expecting sustained economic growth in a regional environment riven by deep mistrust, disputes and conflicts would be unrealistic. Unfortunately, South Asia, which is home to more than 1/6th of the world population, continues to be mired in disputes. These are serious impediments to realizing the economic potential of this region. It is no coincidence that South Asia continues to be the least integrated region of the world. For

instance, the intra-regional trade in South Asia accounts for 5 percent as compared to the 40 percent of South East Asia and 60 percent of the European Union. The situation



Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, President IPRI while presenting Memento to Chief Guest, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Defence who presided over the Concluding Session.

in Afghanistan needs to be dealt

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Keynote Address

H. E. Mr. Sun Weidong, Ambassador of People's Republic of China (PRC) to Pakistan, acknowledged Pakistan's contributions in the promotion of China-Pakistan friendship. He added that in order to understand CPEC, the corridor must be analyzed from a larger perspective of China's foreign cooperation ambitions which are based on three keywords: Partnership, Win-Win Benefit and Regional Cooperation.

He highlighted that a peaceful, stable, developing and prosperous South Asia is not only in line with the interests of the regional countries but also in line with the interests of China. Currently, there is accelerated cooperation on many important projects. China is pushing CPEC and other initiatives like Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) with Nepal,

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives. China and South Asia together will form a huge market of three billion population in total. It is also the fastest growing region and the largest emerging market in the world. He opined that economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asia has great potential and China is willing to take advantage of these favourable conditions.

He shared that under the Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC has now entered into the early harvest stage. Nineteen projects worth US\$ 18.5 billion are growing like bamboo shoots for Pakistan.

However, the smooth progress of CPEC requires stable internal and external environment, coherent policies and sound supply of infrastructure like water, electricity, roads and communication. It is through the promotion of this all-weather strategic partnership between Pakistan and China that more can be contributed to peace, stability, security and prosperity of the region through projects like CPEC.

Changing Security Situation in South Asia and Development of CPEC



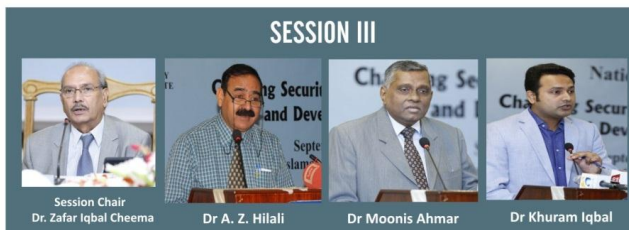
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with a holistic approach, whereas Pakistan and India, being important regional players, also need to settle their longstanding disputes.

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, said that through CPEC, South Asia will cease to be the corridor of conflict and become a corridor of cooperation. But for this continued engagement at all levels and commitment to peace is needed. He said that CPEC is collaborative project between the two most reliable partners– Pakistan and China – especially given their time-tested friendship. South Asians, too, need to come together and create an enabling environment to embrace the security and well-being which CPEC is offering. He shared that Under Vision 2025, the Government of Pakistan has envisaged the country as a hub of trade, commerce and connectivity, which further promotes CPEC objectives.

Geopolitics of the Region and Development of CPEC

- Global and Regional powers are becoming increasingly aggressive. This is where CPEC presents a radical break. The BRI and CPEC projects break the zero-sum geo-politics in the region by presenting a model of geo-economics which is a positive-sum for all countries.
- South Asian states are looking at economic ventures through geopolitical lens. India's absence in the recently concluded One Belt One Road (OBOR) Summit in China is a glaring example. For Pakistan's economic model, CPEC provides an alternative with a focus on foreign investment. It was reiterated that South Asian states need to revise their hostile geopolitics and work towards reconciliatory geo-economics.
- Despite the autonomy, South Asia is the least economically integrated region of the world. It remains a segmented region as less than 7 percent trade takes place within South Asia compared with other regions in the world. India has maritime and land borders with all South Asian countries which gives it power and influence vis-à-vis other countries except Pakistan which has resisted Indian hegemony. CPEC would frustrate India's aspirations for regional hegemony as the project would further provide impetus to China's \$11 trillion economy having 8 percent growth rate. Pakistan sees CPEC as a game-



changer as the relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan will create thousands of jobs leading to a more inclusive and peaceful South Asia in general and Pakistan in particular.

- Peripheral security is the top priority for Chinese policymakers after reforms in China in 1978-79. This is also reflected in China's neighborhood policy as it tries to disengage its neighbors from any kind of conflict. Peace through development is the current policy of China in South Asia. OBOR is the mechanism through which China is influencing the global economic system.

Impact of CPEC on National Security of Pakistan

- The development of CPEC and the use of the Gwadar Port will increase Pakistan's maritime security responsibilities and challenges, especially those related to sea-based nuclear weapons; the rise of India as a maritime power; non-traditional security threats like climate change, smuggling, cyber warfare and piracy; ISIS presence in littoral states; and threats of subversion. India is overtly hostile to CPEC and launching covert operations in areas of Pakistan's responsibility.
- Building human resource for the collaborative linkages and intellectual connectivity which symbolizes the spirit of CPEC, was stressed. In addition to building the CPEC-University Alliance, further focus is required to develop the capacity of existing HEIs in



Baluchistan, Gilgit Baltistan, Coastal areas and other areas where there is high deficiency in labour markets and provision of quality vocational training.

- To ensure economic security through CPEC, it is imperative to build capacity of Pakistan's bureaucracy to handle multi-dimensional projects; and set up a CPEC Development Authority comprising civil and military officers for better coordination, smooth and timely execution and completion of projects.

Regional Security and CPEC

- Engaging Pakistani youth in projects covered under CPEC particularly roads, railways, solar and thermal power production will not only enhance their talent and skills but will also utilize their energies in a positive manner which may help dilute the level of frustration thus mitigating the threat of extremism in the country.
- Large scale development projects under CPEC with proper planning and by taking local stakeholders on board can be a 'great leap forward' in reducing the level of unemployment, particularly in the backward regions of Balochistan and KPK and thus act as a bulwark against elements of extremism in these vulnerable regions.

CPEC: A Win-Win Corridor for the Region

- States at international level interact with each other on the basis of

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Chinese Delegation from CISS Visits IPRI

A five-member Chinese delegation from the China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CISS), Beijing visited Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on September 11, 2017 for a bilateral discussion on recent developments affecting the China-Pakistan relationship. The delegation headed by Major General (R) Zhao Ning, Vice Chairman of CISS, included advisors and researchers: Major General (R) Li Mengyan, Sr. Col (R) Jing Chunlu, Mr Li Zuyang, and Mr Dou Erli.

President IPRI, Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit in his opening remarks said that Pak-China friendship is not confined to bilateral strategic cooperation. Both the countries have also been engaged regionally and internationally in promoting peace and prosperity around the world. CPEC, today, has further strengthened Pak-China ties. Pakistan feels that CPEC will allow Pakistan to take off economically. Pakistan, through CPEC,



President IPRI, Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit and Vice Chairman of CISS, Major General (R) Zhao Ning while exchanging views

will not only bridge the energy deficit, it will also be able to expand its industrial base and enhance its exports not only to China but also to other regional countries and beyond. Therefore, Pakistan is pinning high hopes on CPEC and is confident that China's partnership with Pakistan would help in realizing CPEC objectives and its economic potential in the years to come. It would also lead to more regional integration and for that it is imperative that regional countries resolve their bilateral issues on priority basis. China's role and responsibility, as a rising global power, becomes more crucial and Pakistan hopes that China will play a more active role.

Vice Chairman of CISS, Maj. Gen. (R) Zhao Ning said that China and Pakistan have many commonalities vis-à-vis goals and opportunities. Both countries have fostered genuine friendship by helping each other in crucial times. Besides, both countries are important players in the regional dynamics as the region remains entangled in problems including terrorism, poverty, the Afghan issue and other regional disputes. All these issues need joint efforts and cooperation for effective resolution.

Trump's South Asia Policy and Prospects for Peace in Afghanistan

With regards to Trump's South Asia Policy, while delivering presentation, an IPRI scholar stressed that the new US strategy lacks clear objectives in Afghanistan, with an emphasis on using force rather than promoting

reconciliation. As in the past the Kinetic-driven approach is likely to fail again. The Taliban are unlikely to be influenced by Trump's shenanigans.

Moreover, India-guided South Asia policy of the US, especially under the Trump administration is not going to consolidate Afghanistan in a positive manner, since India cannot be a net security provider in South Asia as it has conflicts with almost all its neighbours and countries in the region.

Meanwhile, China has become a main determinant of the South Asian politics. America is trying to respond to China's rise in the region and the new policy is going to create problems for China as well. Pakistan recognizes China's role in Afghanistan and hopes that it will play an active role for bringing peace in Afghanistan.

Given the security situation in Afghanistan, no stakeholder must be blamed. Instead, they should strive to find a political solution for war-torn Afghanistan.

While exchanging views on Trump's South Asia Policy, Chinese experts said that President Trump's South Asia policy indicates that the US wants to keep its military presence in Afghanistan, at least in the near future.

At the time of the Obama administration, US engagement in Afghanistan had a hint of nation-building but the current administration wants military solution to the problem.

It was also discussed that giving bigger role to India in Afghanistan is a bad idea. It is more likely that India will play a spoiler's role. The use of force being propounded by President Trump is not the only way of achieving peace in Afghanistan. The reconciliation talks should be given a chance.

While President Trump has announced that he will encourage India to play a bigger role in Afghanistan, he has asked Pakistan to do more in fighting terrorism, despite the fact that Pakistan has already done maximum and suffered the most.

Conclusion

The role of China, another global power, becomes very important vis-à-vis regional integration. Both countries are important players as the region remains entangled in problems including terrorism, poverty, the Afghan issue and other regional disputes. The new US strategy lacks clear objectives in Afghanistan as there is not a single clause regarding nation building, economic cooperation and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. Further, President Trump believes in using force in Afghanistan instead of peace through dialogue.

Pakistan-Russia Rapprochement and Current Geopolitics



Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Research Officer at IPRI, gave a presentation on "Pakistan-Russia Rapprochement and Current Geopolitics."

Key points of the discussion are as under:

- The recent engagements between Russia and Pakistan amid changing geo-political and geo-strategic environment along with evolving inter-regional economic prospects and emerging threats to regional stability have steered both countries to define a new era of friendship.
- Both countries see convergence of their strategic and economic interests in post 2014 regional security environment. Both envisage a role for themselves in achieving peace and stability in Afghanistan and economic cooperation in the region.
- Moscow under the leadership of Vladimir Putin is reaffirming its role in its immediate domain and beyond, whereas Islamabad is seeking new avenues of opportunity, reducing its reliance on the United States in particular and the West in general.

Resurgence of Russia and South Asia

- Russian resurgence is based on history, strong geopolitics, military modernization, fast economic recovery, political stability and international diplomatic clout. Despite its shrinking role, Russia is the only country which has credible nuclear deterrence against the US. It has maintained its influence and control in its traditional sphere of influence such as the Baltic, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Russia considers that any external move to undermine its role will be resisted forcefully. Russia deems them important for its political stability and economic viability.
- The changing regional strategic environment, especially in the Middle East and South Asia has compelled Russia to look beyond its immediate security realm to safeguard its interests.

Pakistan's Rationale for Rapprochement with Russia

In the changing geo-political dynamics of the world, Pakistan needs to have improved and progressive relations with all countries. For that reason, the main factors that compel Pakistan to have an amiable relationship with Moscow are:

- After suffering heavy human losses in the endless War on Terror as a front-line state for the US interests and still being asked to 'do more', Pakistan feels compelled to think of its national interests, i.e. to 'look more' towards Russia and China.
- Pakistan needs foreign investment, access to vast reserves of Central Asia, once part of Soviet Union, and more importantly strategically important relations between Pakistan and Russia could prop up former's position.
- Pakistan, for its part, can benefit from the Russian defense industry.
- Pakistan's decreasing reliance on the US as a reliable and dependable partner, is another reason.
- Pakistan seeks Russian economic assistance in the form of foreign direct investment and technological cooperation particularly in the energy sector.

As Russia is a major regional and world power, having great economic potential, the right to exercise the veto power at the UNSC besides being a leading member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), maintaining relations with Russia is crucial for Pakistan.

Russia's Rationale for Rapprochement

President Putin's willingness to adapt Russia's foreign policy to the new geopolitical realities and his intention to pursue a multivector approach in SA is one of the main reasons. In this context, the importance of Pakistan in SA is reflected in Putin's statement. He said "Pakistan is important for us in trade and economy and is an important country of South Asia and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and can play an important role in the promotion of peace and security in the region."

- Russia is seeking new markets for its military hardware to keep its economy afloat; Pakistan could be a prospective buyer.
- Pakistan offers a market to Moscow to invest in Pakistan's agriculture technology, including drip irrigation and desert farming.
- Russia recognizes Pakistan's strategic significance in the region particularly with respect to final settlement of Afghanistan where instability can have negative impact on the security of Central Asia and North Caucasus.
- Russian quest for alternate energy markets has pushed Moscow to align itself with Pakistan.
- For Russia, Pakistan has significance for providing access to the Arabian Sea and the Gulf thus Russian goods can access the international market very conveniently through Gwadar Port.

Geopolitical Realities and Pak-Russia Relations

There are following certain geopolitical realities that offer prospects in shaping Pakistan-Russia relations such as:

- The evolving geopolitical realities such as a) enhanced strategic cooperation between India and the US, b) post 2014 regional security situation especially in Afghanistan and possible US troops surge in the country, c) Russian renewed politico-economic interest in SA in terms of seeking new markets for trade and defence products, and d) the growing strains in US-Russia relations are persuading Russia to expand relations with Pakistan and to take a shift in its strategic perception in favour of Pakistan's future positive role in the region.
- Crimean annexation and trouble in East Ukraine put Russia under several stringent economic sanctions by the European Union and the United States. This resulted in Russia turning to China as well as other countries to stabilize its economy and Pakistan is important in this regard.
- Russia is a big exporter of gas to Europe, but the US is lobbying to drive away Moscow from this market. In the same context, Washington's backing of the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) gas pipeline project is also part of that move to capture energy markets of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Conclusion

The changing geo-strategic situation has provided an opportunity to Pakistan and Russia to work together at regional and international forums. The way forward is to have maintainable and long-term bilateral relationship where both countries have huge potential to enhance mutual cooperation.

Poverty in India and Prime Minister Modi's Agenda



Mr Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow at IPRI, delivered a lecture on "Poverty in India and Prime Minister Modi's Agenda."

Salient Points of Lecture:

- Discussing increasing rate of poverty in India, Mr Shad quoted Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who has confirmed in his recent speech at Bloomberg

Economic Forum, Mumbai that the biggest challenge Indian government is grappling with is to maintain financial discipline due to a sharp decline in GDP percentage. While addressing the Forum, he said, in the current fiscal quarter GDP growth rate has come down to 5.7 percent, which is the lowest since 2014.

- According to 2013 Reserve Bank of India Report, 21.92 percent population is living below the proverbial poverty line.
- In India, two million children under the age of five die every year. Since January 1, 2017, 1250 children have died only in one hospital in

Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.

- Dharavi which is Asia's second and world's third largest slum is not only one of World's most congested regions but also the poorest.

Increase in Indian Farmers' Suicide Rate

According to National Crimes Bureau of India, in past 15 years, over three lac Indian farmers have committed suicide. In 2016, suicide trend among farmers remained high.

- On June 11, 2017, Indian Premier Narendra Modi admitted in his first address to Lok Sabha that Indian Muslims, the largest minority in India, come at the bottom of socio-economic indices, which needs to be changed.

Spike in Indian Farmers' Suicide Rate

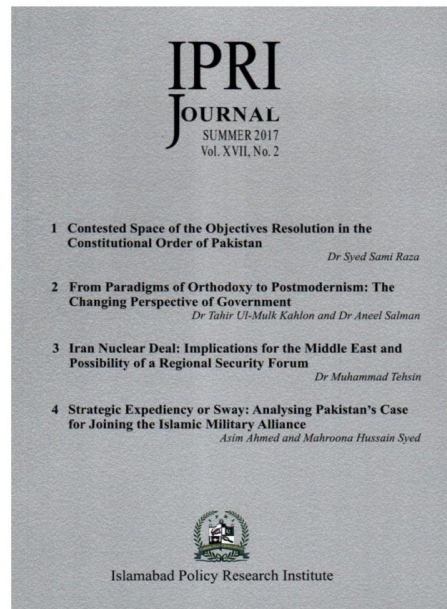
1-	Maharashtra	4,291
2-	Karnataka	1,569
3-	Telangana	1,400
4-	Madhya Pradesh	1,290
5-	Chhattisgarh	936
6-	Andhra Pradesh	916
7-	Tamil Nadu	606

Future Indian Policy

- Reviewing this situation, experts believe that after assuming power, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had realized that despite their over-ambitious pre-poll claims of economic revolution in India, they would not be able to reduce poverty and overcome Indian financial issues. They had realized that like former Indian Premier Vajpayee's 'Shining India', they would also not be able to turn rhetoric into a reality.
- Therefore, RSS leadership decided to focus on controversial foreign policy issues especially turbulent relations with Pakistan. Appearing tough vis-a-vis Pakistan always gives electoral dividends. This is how 2019 Lok Sabha elections are likely to be contested rather than to be fought on resolving issues of poverty and development.

Following Indian provinces have more poor people than 25 African countries:

1-	Bihar	103,804,637
2-	Jharkhand	32,988,134
3-	Madhya Pradesh	72,597,565
4-	Uttar Pradesh	199,812,341
5-	Chhattisgarh	27.93 million
6-	Orissa	41,947,358
7-	Rajasthan	68,548,437
8-	West Bengal	91,347,736
9-	Uttarakhand	10,086,292



IPRI JOURNAL SUMMER 2017

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ARTICLES

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Asim Ahmed and Mahroona Hussain Syed

BOOK REVIEWS

- 1 **Shadi Hamid, *Islamic Exceptionalism: How the Struggle over Islam is Reshaping the World***
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- 2 **Naeem Ahmad Salik, *Learning to Live with the Bomb Pakistan: 1998-2016***
Sameer Ali Khan
- 3 **Javid Husain, *Pakistan and a World in Disorder: A Grand Strategy for the Twenty-First Century***
Adeel Mukhtar Mirza
- 4 **Hong Liu, *The Chinese Strategic Mind***
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik

Water Security



Mr. Adeel Mukhtar Mirza, Assistant Research Officer at IPRI, delivered a presentation on "Water Security."

Salient points discussed are as under:

Water security refers to availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, safety and stability of water resource.

Water plays a key role in the development and prosperity of a state. However, its unequal accession, wasteful usage and mismanagement hamper economic growth, affect welfare and impact human security. Moreover, its scarcity creates destabilizing environment that augments the risk of inter or intra-state conflicts.

Water Security and the Case of Pakistan

According to the available literature:

- Between 1990 and 2015, per capita water availability declined from 2,172 cubic meters per inhabitant to 1306 cubic meters per inhabitant.
- Pakistan extracts 74.3 percent of its fresh water annually exerting tremendous pressure upon renewable water resources.
- 27.2 million Pakistanis do not have access to safe drinking water.
- 52.7 million Pakistanis do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities.
- The repercussions of less quality or contaminated water are severe: an approximate 39,000 children under the age of five die every year from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation.

Threat Assessment

According to various national as well as international studies:

- An increase of 14.2 percent in water availability is needed to meet the requirement of the population in 2025.
- In the last forty years (1976-2016), groundwater contribution to irrigated agriculture has doubled from 25.6 to 50.2 MAF.
- The agriculture sector consumes around 91.6 percent of the total annual use in the country; followed by environment at 3.3, domestic at 2.6 and industry at 2.5 percent.
- Water scarcity in Pakistan is much higher as water withdrawal as a percentage of total renewable water resources is 74 percent, against 34 percent in India and 31 percent in Afghanistan.
- If the existing canal system is managed properly, it can provide an



estimated 76 MAF of water.


- Pakistan is also highly vulnerable to climate change. According to the CEO of Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan, Dr Ali Tauqeer Sheikh said the per capita water availability has diminished from about 1500 to nearly a 1000 cubic meters, owing to fast growing population (growth rate of 2.4 percent annum). This will further drop to nearly 650 cubic meters by 2047.

Major Recommendations

- An analysis of institutional strengths and weaknesses should be conducted on priority basis to undertake advance studies of sectoral demand by building models.
- Pakistan should regulate water in dams, barrages, and wetlands and around urban centers.
- Pakistan should use heliborne technology based on mapping of underground water resources of Pakistan.
- Pakistan should formulate a commission to look into an institutional mandate for impact of changing water demand on sector wise allocations.
- There is an urgent need to undertake water use-specific costing studies to understand what type of adaptation costs are required.
- Joint media campaigns should be undertaken on core water issues.
- Policy group exchanges should be established to help Pakistan compete for international funding related to water security.



UPCOMING EVENT
TWO-DAY
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Regional Dynamics and Strategic Concerns in South Asia



Organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Germany (Pakistan Office)

Date: November 14-15, 2017
Venue: Serena Hotel, Islamabad

Afghan Peace Process and Pak-Afghan Relations

Ambassador (R) Mohammad Sadiq, Former Secretary, National Security Division (NSD) delivered a lecture on "Afghan Peace Process and Pak-Afghan Relations" at IPRI on September 21, 2017.

Salient Points of the lecture are as follows:

Ambassador Sadiq opined that since US invasion, there are several instances when negotiation process could have been initiated between the Afghan Government and the warring parties, for instance, in the year 2002 and 2005-06; however, such opportunities were not exploited by the stakeholders.

Ambassador Sadiq identified reasons for which the reconciliation process failed particularly after 2010. These include lack of ownership of the crisis by the warring parties; trust-deficit among the political stakeholders; benefits of war economy which overshadow the dividends of peace; presence of internal divisions and sub-national identities and support of Afghan society for foreign invaders.

While elaborating on Pak-Afghan relations and options available to Pakistan, Ambassador Sadiq offered that solution of Afghanistan issue does not lie in isolation or blaming any stakeholder. In fact, Afghanistan and other stakeholders must take initiatives to find a feasible solution of the issue, setting aside the competing interests which hinder Afghan peace process and regional stability.

Responding to a question on Daesh threat, Ambassador said that it is a

major concern for all the stakeholders involved in Afghanistan. Similarly, the US also considers Daesh a bigger threat than the Taliban or Al-Qaeda. He added that Daesh will lose ground in Iraq and Syria soon but is likely to gain it in Afghanistan as they are on the lookout for an ungovernable territory. The US has not declared the Taliban as threat in their last released National Security Policy of 2016.

He said that there are obvious convergences for the US and India in Afghanistan, especially since 2010. In the US' New Policy towards South Asia, India has a bigger role in Afghanistan, which has raised concerns for Pakistan. Although India cannot send troops to Afghanistan, it can enhance its influence through economic projection and increased people-to-people contacts.

Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit while concluding the session said that it is hard to find a solution for the situation in Afghanistan but giving up is not an option for Pakistan. Pakistan's short and long term stability is highly dependent on the situation in Afghanistan; therefore, Pakistan must continue striving for sustainable peace in its western neighborhood.



Changing Security Situation in South Asia and Development of CPEC

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power. The processes, through which balance of power is maintained, are very delicate and perpetual as they involve various adjustments and readjustments in response to the domestic and international changes. These processes are i) the gap between the demand and availability of resources, ii) creating a balance between national security interests and welfare of the people and iii) assessment of the opponent's ever-changing power capabilities. The BRI project proposes integration at both levels, i.e. through the land and sea routes of the new Belt and Road Initiative and Maritime Silk Road respectively. China wishes to revive old trade routes and reunite them. The envisaged (BRI) is expected to link the major trading Centres of the continents through land and sea.

In his concluding remarks, Minister for Defence, Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan said the success of CPEC, hinges on the ability to deal with intricate national security issues, forging national consensus and preventing negative geo-political influences in the region. He held that the cooperation between Pakistan and China is focused on economic development through connectivity and is not against any other country and seeks to establish and sustain long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with the global and regional players.

Major Recommendations

- South Asia cannot afford to continue on its path of confrontation and hostility if it wants to become a powerful economic bloc. In this respect CPEC has the potential to transform the region from a conflict zone to a corridor of cooperation. To accrue maximum benefits and to get on to the path of regional progress, the regional players, in particular, India and Pakistan need to set aside their differences by resolving their disputes on priority, and move towards geo-economics.
- There is also a need to set up CPEC Development Authority comprising civil and military officers for better coordination, smooth and timely

execution and completion of projects. The Authority should include senior officials from Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and should have offices in all four provincial capitals.

- To ensure the participation of locals in development work under CPEC, the Pakistani workforce needs to be prepared. There is a need to focus on human resource development, quality vocational training and the technical gap needs to be bridged.
- Upholding the principles of mutual trust and respect in Sino-Pak relations will go a long way in strengthening CPEC implementation. The timeline mentioned for the completion of projects under CPEC must be strictly maintained by Pakistan. It will certainly raise Pakistan's credibility and would enhance trust between the two countries.
- Pakistan and China need to jointly counter the sabotage tactics directed at CPEC. In addition, mechanisms to jointly address terrorism also need to be formulated.
- Pakistan needs to use CPEC as an inclusive forum to alleviate poverty in the country; pursue maritime security cooperation, but be also prepared to meet antagonistic designs by establishing a naval harbour at Gwadar port or in its vicinity, so that maritime security can be augmented for CPEC.



Col (R) Muhammad Hanif,
Research Fellow

"CPEC - Impact on South Asia's Economic Integration" (*Pakistan Observer*)



Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow
(Urdu Articles)

"Youm-e-Difa aur Baharti Dawon Ki Haqiqat...!"

(*Daily Pakistan*)

"Nasil Kushi Burma ta Kashmir!"

(*Nawa-i-Waqt*)

"Pak-Behria...Panion Ki Mohafiz!"

(*Daily Pakistan*)

"Modi...Wapsi Key Safar Par?"

(*Nawa-i-Waqt*)

"Suna Hai Bohat Sasta Hai Khoon Wahan ka!" (*Nawa-i-Waqt*)



Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow

"CPEC as a Linchpin of China-Pakistan Relations" (*Pakistan Observer*)



Khalid Chandio, Research Fellow

"NATO's Relevance and Europe's Search for an Alternative" (*Regional Rapport*)



Amna Ejaz Rafi,

Assistant Research Officer

"Terrorism, India and CPEC"

(*Pakistan Observer*)

"Improving Governance"

(*The Express Tribune*)



Gulshan Bibi, Assistant Research Officer

"Masters at 'Forgetting Facts'"

(*Pakistan Observer*)



Khurram Minhas,

Assistant Research Officer

"Tehreek-Jamaat Relations"

(*The Nation*)

"The Most Sanctioned Ally"

(*Pakistan Observer*)



Aymen Ijaz, Assistant Research Officer

"A Tragic Tale of Ethnic Cleansing!"

(*Pakistan Observer*)



Adeel Mukhtar Mirza,

Assistant Research Officer

"D for Dams"

(*Pakistan Observer*)



Call for Papers IPRI Journal Summer 2018

Interested researchers are invited to submit scholarly manuscripts (5000-8000 words) and current book reviews (1000 words) for consideration for the *IPRI Journal*, Summer 2018 Issue (ISSN 1684-9787/eISSN 1684-9809) on areas such as international relations, geopolitics, diplomacy, security, political economy, conflict and governance. Submissions should not be previously published nor currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Published since 2001, the *IPRI Journal* is a biannual peer-reviewed publication of the Islamabad Policy Research Institute in Pakistan. It is recognised as an 'X' category Journal - the country's second highest category for Social Science Journals. It is indexed and abstracted internationally.

Manuscripts undergo two double-blind reviews. If they are found suitable for the Journal, reviewers may recommend either major or minor changes in the manuscript.

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