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PRESS COVERAGE

25-26 April 2018

One-Day Conference: Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives and Prospects

INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

‘Space for negotiations with India shrinking’

Rasheed Khalid

April 26, 2018

Islamabad:

Prof Mujeeb Afzal, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, has said that the space for negotiations with India is shrinking with the spread of Hindutva thereby increasing animosity vis-à-vis Pakistan and the Muslim world. Dr Mujeeb was addressing one-day conference on ‘Pakistan-India dialogue: imperatives and prospects’ organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, here Wednesday. Prof Mujeeb said that because of extremist ideology adopted by BJP government, it is so easy for New Delhi to equate terrorism with the freedom struggle in Kashmir. He said that the hawkish elements in Modi’s administration want to restore India’s pride and hegemony which means giving no concessions. Rather, India wants to isolate, encircle and weaken Pakistan, besides tempering its linkages with traditional allies, neighbours and potential friends, he concluded.

Dr Farhan Siddiqi from the same school said that relations between India and Pakistan can be characterised as one of “frenemies,” alternating between periods of peace and conflict. He observed that of late, conflict has become an overarching feature of their bilateral relationship. He said that both countries need to look towards absolute gains with economic overtures and regional connectivity mechanisms such as CPEC.

Lieutenant General (r) Asif Yasin Malik, former Defence Secretary, lamented that no meaningful bilateral discussions was taking place. Earlier, Abdul Basit, President, IPRI, in his welcome address said that Jammu and Kashmir is not a territorial dispute between Pakistan and India, but a political and humanitarian issue.

In the question hour, a lawyer from Jammu and Kashmir stressed that the Pakistan government needs to move cases of Indian brutalities to the International Criminal Tribunal since time for talks had passed.

<<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/309204-space-for-negotiations-with-india-shrinking>>

‘India Loses Space for Negotiations Due To Spread of Hindutva Ideology’

ISLAMABAD, Apr 25 (APP):India is losing space for negotiations due to the spread of the Hindutva ideology that causes greater animosity, especially towards Pakistan and Muslims, Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal, Associate Professor at Quaid-i-Azam University said at a day long seminar here Wednesday.

Speaking on ‘Making Pakistan-India Dialogue Possible and Sustainable: A Way Forward for Shared Future’, Dr Mujeeb Afzal said the Indian extremist ideology was equating terrorism with the freedom struggle in Kashmir. He said the hawkish elements in Modi’s administration wanted to restore India’s hegemony, and that did not involve giving any concessions, rather they wanted to isolate, encircle and weaken Pakistan, besides tempering its linkages with traditional allies, neighbours and potential friends. The seminar on “Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives and Prospects” was organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

Associate Professor of Quaid-i-Azam University Dr Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, in his presentation, said relations between India and Pakistan could be characterized as one of ‘frenemies’ – alternating between periods of peace and conflict. He said the conflict had become an overarching feature of Pakistan-India bilateral relationship. Siddiqi said in order to move forward with peace, both countries needed to look towards absolute gains with economic overtures and regional connectivity mechanisms such as CPEC and OBOR. He, however, said ‘unfortunately, the shadow of the future was still cast in strategic terms making it impossible for larger peace initiatives to be implemented and reciprocated. “If both India and Pakistan do not do so, the opportunity of increased economic development promised by the ruling elites of these countries to their masses will be easily challenged and forfeited,” he added.

Former Defence Secretary Lt General (Retd) Asif Yasin Malik gave a historical overview of the Kashmir issue starting with the 1948 local armed uprisings that flared in various parts when the princely state was asked to join either India or Pakistan. He said that despite peace pledges and confidence building measures to settle differences bilaterally through peaceful means, hardly any progress had been made. No meaningful bilateral discussions had taken place and the Kashmir dispute continued to fester, he added. Asif Yasin Malik said, “The problem has been that having a good Pak-India relationship has been the corollary for the resolution of Kashmir, whereas it should be the resolution of Kashmir which should lead from the front.” He stressed that it had never been the military which had impeded the peace process; rather the most out-of-box solutions to the conflict came from a military government. Malik said the sad irony was that the people of Kashmir had become secondary in the conflict,

even though they were the ones who were paying the price with their lives, and the lives of their women and children. He said hopes for peace remained grim because in the global environment there was utter apathy towards Kashmir, which was not seen as a problem as there was only concern about a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. He said,” Unless there is national consensus and an aggressive media campaign to support the Kashmiris, there can be no way forward. A ten-year clear and robust strategy is needed, which includes an institutional mechanism within Pakistan to resolve this issue, not just a parliamentary committee which has unlimited resources.” “Membership of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir needs to either be re-vamped altogether or reformed so that it can actually have greater impact. Giving its chairmanship to a competent person is of utmost importance,” he said.

Earlier, IPRI President former ambassador Abdul Basit highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir was not a territorial dispute between Pakistan and India as it was a political and humanitarian issue. It was primarily about the Kashmiri peoples’ right of self-determination as granted to them under several United Nations Security Council resolutions, which had been accepted by previous Indian governments. He called for greater will on the part of the government and the people of Pakistan to find a way towards Kashmir’s peaceful resolution.

<<http://www.app.com.pk/india-loses-space-negotiations-due-spread-hindutva-ideology/>>



‘India loses space for talks due to narrow ideology’

Islamabad

Staff Report Pakistan Times



Basit says Kashmir not a territorial dispute between Pakistan, India

ISLAMABAD: India is losing space for negotiations due to the spread of a narrow ideology that causes greater animosity, especially towards Pakistan and Muslims, Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal, associate professor at the Quaid-i-Azam University said at a day-long seminar here on Wednesday.

Speaking on ‘Making Pakistan-India Dialogue Possible and Sustainable: A Way Forward for Shared Future,’ he said the Indian extremist ideology was equating terrorism with the freedom struggle in Kashmir. He said the hawkish elements in Modi’s administration wanted to restore India’s hegemony, and that did not involve giving any concessions, rather they wanted to isolate, encircle and weaken Pakistan, besides tempering its linkages with traditional allies, neighbours and potential friends.

IPRI President Abdul Basit highlighted that Jammu Kashmir was not a territorial dispute between Pakistan and India as it was a political and humanitarian issue. It was primarily about the Kashmiri peoples’ right to self-determination as granted to them under several United Nations Security Council resolutions, which had been accepted by previous Indian governments.

He called for greater will on the part of the government and the people of Pakistan to find a way towards Kashmir’s peaceful resolution. The seminar was organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). Associate Professor Dr Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, in his presentation, said

that relations between Pakistan and India could be characterized as one of ‘frenemies’ – alternating between periods of peace and conflict.

He said the conflict had become an overarching feature of Pakistan-India bilateral relationship. He said in order to move forward with peace, both countries needed to look towards absolute gains with economic overtures and regional connectivity mechanisms such as CPEC and OBOR. However, he said the shadow of the future was still cast in strategic terms making it impossible for larger peace initiatives to be implemented and reciprocated.

“If both Pakistan and India do not do so, the opportunity of increased economic development promised by the ruling elites of these countries to their masses will be easily challenged and forfeited,” he added. Former Defence Secretary Asif Yasin Malik gave a historical overview of the Kashmir issue starting with the 1948 local armed uprisings that flared in various parts when the princely state was asked to join either India or Pakistan. He said that despite peace pledges and confidence-building measures to settle differences bilaterally through peaceful means, hardly any progress had been made.

No meaningful bilateral discussions had taken place and the Kashmir dispute continued to fester, he added. “The problem has been that having a good Pak-India relationship has been the corollary for the resolution of Kashmir, whereas it should be the resolution of Kashmir which should lead from the front.” He stressed that it had never been the military which had impeded the peace process; rather the most out-of-box solutions to the conflict came from a military government.

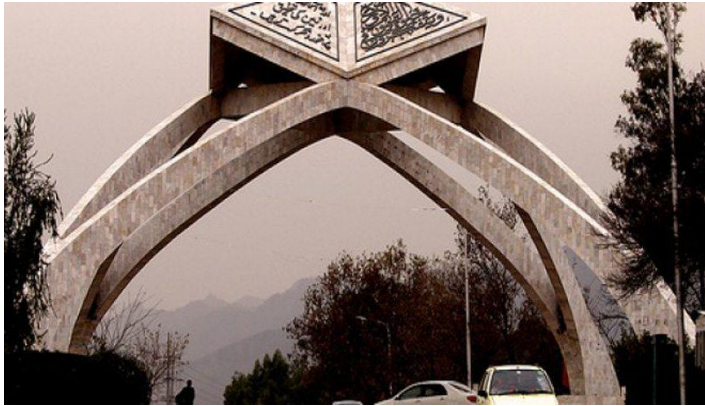
Malik said that the sad irony was that the people of Kashmir had become secondary in the conflict, even though they were the ones who were paying the price with their lives, and the lives of their women and children. He said hopes for peace remained grim because in the global environment there was utter apathy towards Kashmir, which was not seen as a problem as there was only concern about a nuclear war between India and Pakistan.

<<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2018/04/26/india-loses-space-for-talks-due-to-narrow-ideology/>>

Resolving Kashmir issue will be a new dawn of peace in South Asia

Staff Report

APRIL 26, 2018



ISLAMABAD: Jammu and Kashmir remains the most dangerous place on earth because torture, injury through deadly pellet guns, rape and extrajudicial executions of innocent Kashmiris by the Indian Armed Forces has increased exponentially. What is needed is an all-of-Pakistan approach for this issue. Unless, there is national consensus and an aggressive media campaign to support the Kashmiris, there can be no way forward. The Government of Pakistan should use all means necessary including negotiations, arbitration, legal recourse, diaspora, and diplomacy to highlight Indian Occupied Kashmir's nonviolent struggle. While maintaining détente with India, the country's policy-makers and thought leaders should also approach the international community at all forums to highlight its human right violations and uncompromising and hostile attitude in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan also needs to set its own house in order because only then it can impress upon the global community, and India, that it is in the mutual interest of both countries that their disputes, especially Kashmir, are resolved to herald an era of goodwill, peace and progress in South Asia.

These were some of the issues discussed at the One-Day Conference on 'Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives and Prospects' organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, here in Islamabad today.

Dr Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, Associate Professor from the Quaid-i-Azam University argued that relations between India and Pakistan can be characterized as one of 'ferneries' – alternating between periods of peace and conflict. Dr Siddiqi pointed out that now, however, conflict has become an overarching feature of their bilateral relationship with New Delhi claiming 860

ceasefire violations in 2017, and Pakistan blaming India for 1,970 ceasefire violations in the same year. 'The situation has not abated even in 2018, with India blaming Pakistan for 633 violations, while Pakistan blaming India for more than 400 ceasefire violations in the first two months alone,' he shared. The speaker was of the view that in order to move forward with peace, both countries need to look towards absolute gains with economic overtures and regional connectivity mechanisms such as CPEC and OBOR. 'Unfortunately, the shadow of the future is still cast in strategic terms making it impossible for larger peace initiatives to be implemented and reciprocated by either side. If both India and Pakistan do not do so, and continue to engage in strategic games and relative gains, the opportunity of increased economic development promised by the ruling elites of these countries to their masses will be easily challenged and forfeited', he concluded.

Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal from the Quaid-i-Azam University presented his paper on 'Making Pakistan-India Dialogue Possible and Sustainable: A Way Forward for Shared Future' and highlighted that the space for negotiations in India is shrinking with the spread of the Hindutva ideology due to which there is greater animosity towards Pakistan, and Muslims in particular. This extremist ideology is why it is so easy to equate terrorism with the freedom struggle in Kashmir, he remarked. The hawkish elements in Modi's administration want to restore India's pride and hegemony, and this does not involve giving any concessions, rather it wants to isolate, encircle and weaken Pakistan, besides tempering its linkages with traditional allies, neighbors and potential friends.

Lt General (Retd) Asif Yasin Malik, HI (M), Former Defense Secretary, Government of Pakistan, gave a historical overview of the Kashmir issue starting with the 1948 local armed uprisings that flared in various parts when the princely state was asked to join either India or Pakistan. He lamented that despite peace pledges and confidence building measures to settle differences bilaterally through peaceful means, hardly any progress has been made. No meaningful bilateral discussions have taken place and the Kashmir dispute continues to fester. 'The problem has been that having a good Pak-India relationship has been the corollary for the resolution of Kashmir, whereas it should be the resolution of Kashmir which should lead from the front.' He stressed that it has never been the military which has impeded the peace process; rather the most out-of-box solutions to this conflict came from a military government. 'It is the lack of political will and wisdom on both sides that has been the problem. Under Modi's Mahabharat, there is no space for liberation of Kashmir. Apart from strategic reasons, Modi has made Kashmir a question of India's survival as a state. Due to such an egoistic attitude, India cannot accept a group of people separating from it; nor a small country like Pakistan getting away with its campaign,' he explained. The sad irony is that the people of Kashmir have become secondary in this conflict, even though they are ones who are paying its price with their lives, and the lives of their women and children. Lt General (R) Malik outlined that hopes for peace remain grim because in the global environment, there is utter apathy towards Kashmir as they do not see it as a problem, and are only concerned about nuclear war between India and Pakistan. 'There is also negativity in the regional environment with SAARC sitting almost next to its grave thanks to being scuttled by Modi,' he remarked. 'What is needed is an all-of-Pakistan approach for this issue. Unless, there is national consensus and an aggressive media campaign to support the Kashmiris, there can be no way forward. A ten-year clear and robust strategy is needed which includes an institutional mechanism within Pakistan to resolve this issue, not just a Parliamentary

Committee which has unlimited resources and no capacity and teeth. 'Membership of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir needs to either be re-vamped altogether or reformed so that it can actually have greater impact. Giving its chairmanship to a competent person is of utmost importance,' he said.

Earlier, Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, President of IPRI, welcomed the participants and highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is not a territorial dispute between Pakistan and India, it is a political and humanitarian one. It is primarily about the Kashmiri peoples' right of self-determination as granted to them under several United Nations Security Council resolutions, which have been accepted by previous Indian governments. He called for greater will on the part of the government and the people of Pakistan to find a way towards Kashmir's peaceful resolution. A special envoy to coordinate all matters related to the Kashmir dispute should be considered, he recommended.

In the interactive and packed question, answer session, a lawyer from Jammu and Kashmir urged that the Pakistani government needs to move cases of Indian brutalities to the International Criminal Tribunal since time for talks have now passed and failed, with India changing the very demographics of the region. With Kashmir now having one of the world's largest population of blind people due to Indian pellet gun attacks and the increasingly draconian laws being implemented by the Indian Armed Forces, urgent action needs to be taken, participants stressed.

Published in Daily Times, April 26th 2018.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/232550/resolving-kashmir-issue-will-be-a-new-dawn-of-peace-in-south-asia/>

Kashmir not a territorial dispute between Pakistan & India, it is political & humanitarian one: Abdul Basit

Sabah News

April 25, 2018

In: National

ISLAMABAD, April 25 (SABAH): Ambassador (retd) Abdul Basit, President of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Wednesday welcomed the participants and highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is not a territorial dispute between Pakistan and India, it is a political and humanitarian one. It is primarily about the Kashmiri peoples' right of self-determination as granted to them under several United Nations Security Council resolutions, which have been accepted by previous Indian governments, he said.

The issues discussed at the One-Day Conference on 'Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives and Prospects' organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute in Islamabad on Wednesday.

It was said that Jammu and Kashmir remains the most dangerous place on earth because torture, injury through deadly pellet guns, rape and extrajudicial executions of innocent Kashmiris by the Indian Armed Forces have increased exponentially.

What is needed is an all-of-Pakistan approach for this issue. Unless, there is national consensus and an aggressive media campaign to support the Kashmiris, there can be no way forward.

The Government of Pakistan should use all means necessary including negotiations, arbitration, legal recourse, diaspora, and diplomacy to highlight Indian Occupied Kashmir's nonviolent struggle. While maintaining détente with India, the country's policy-makers and thought leaders should also approach the international community at all forums to highlight its human right violations and uncompromising and hostile attitude in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan also needs to set its own house in order because only then it can impress upon the global community, and India, that it is in the mutual interest of both countries that their disputes, especially Kashmir, are resolved to herald an era of goodwill, peace and progress in South Asia.

Dr Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, Associate Professor from the Quaid-i-Azam University argued that relations between India and Pakistan can be characterized as one of 'frenemies' –alternating between periods of peace and conflict. Dr Siddiqi pointed out that now, however, conflict has become an overarching feature of their bilateral relationship with New Delhi claiming 860 ceasefire violations in 2017, and Pakistan blaming India for 1,970 ceasefire violations in the same year. 'The situation has not abated even in 2018, with India blaming Pakistan for 633

violations, while Pakistan blaming India for more than 400 ceasefire violations in the first two months alone,' he shared. The speaker was of the view that in order to move forward with peace, both countries need to look towards absolute gains with economic overtures and regional connectivity mechanisms such as CPEC and OBOR. 'Unfortunately, the shadow of the future is still cast in strategic terms making it impossible for larger peace initiatives to be implemented and reciprocated by either side. If both India and Pakistan do not do so, and continue to engage in strategic games and relative gains, the opportunity of increased economic development promised by the ruling elites of these countries to their masses will be easily challenged and forfeited', he concluded.

Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal from the Quaid-i-Azam University presented his paper on 'Making Pakistan-India Dialogue Possible and Sustainable: A Way Forward for Shared Future' and highlighted that the space for negotiations in India is shrinking with the spread of the Hindutva ideology due to which there is greater animosity towards Pakistan, and Muslims in particular. This extremist ideology is why it is so easy to equate terrorism with the freedom struggle in Kashmir, he remarked. The hawkish elements in Modi's administration want to restore India's pride and hegemony, and this does not involve giving any concessions, rather it wants to isolate, encircle and weaken Pakistan, besides tempering its linkages with traditional allies, neighbours and potential friends.

Lt General (Retd) Asif Yasin Malik, HI (M), Former Defence Secretary, Government of Pakistan, gave a historical overview of the Kashmir issue starting with the 1948 local armed uprisings that flared in various parts when the princely state was asked to join either India or Pakistan.

He lamented that despite peace pledges and confidence building measures to settle differences bilaterally through peaceful means, hardly any progress has been made. No meaningful bilateral discussions have taken place and the Kashmir dispute continues to fester. 'The problem has been that having a good Pak-India relationship has been the corollary for the resolution of Kashmir, whereas it should be the resolution of Kashmir which should lead from the front.'

He stressed that it has never been the military which has impeded the peace process, rather the most out-of-box solutions to this conflict came from a military government.' It is the lack of political will and wisdom on both sides that has been the problem. Under Modi's Mahabharat, there is no space for liberation of Kashmir. Apart from strategic reasons, Modi has made Kashmir a question of India's survival as a state. Due to such an egoistic attitude, India cannot accept a group of people separating from it; nor a small country like Pakistan getting away with its campaign,' he explained.

The sad irony is that the people of Kashmir have become secondary in this conflict, even though they are ones who are paying its price with their lives, and the lives of their women and children. Lt General (Retd) Malik outlined that hopes for peace remain grim because in the global environment, there is utter apathy towards Kashmir as they do not see it as a problem, and are only concerned about nuclear war between India and Pakistan. 'There is also negativity in the regional environment with SAARC sitting almost next to its grave thanks to being scuttled by Modi,' he remarked.

‘What is needed is an all-of-Pakistan approach for this issue. Unless, there is national consensus and an aggressive media campaign to support the Kashmiris, there can be no way forward. A ten-year clear and robust strategy is needed which includes an institutional mechanism within Pakistan to resolve this issue, not just a Parliamentary Committee which has unlimited resources and no capacity and teeth. ‘Membership of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir needs to either be re-vamped altogether or reformed so that it can actually have greater impact. Giving its chairmanship to a competent person is of utmost importance,’ he said.

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In the interactive and packed Q/A session, a lawyer from Jammu and Kashmir urged that the Pakistani government needs to move cases of Indian brutalities to the International Criminal Tribunal since time for talks have now passed and failed, with India changing the very demographics of the region. With Kashmir now having one of the world’s largest population of blind people due to Indian pellet gun attacks and the increasingly draconian laws being implemented by the Indian Armed Forces, urgent action needs to be taken, participants stressed. Ends-SABAH-PR-AK

< www.sabahnews.net/127115>

IOK remains dangerous place because of Indian atrocities: Speakers

April 25, 2018



The Speakers at a conference have said that occupied Jammu and Kashmir remains the most dangerous place on earth because torture, injury through deadly pellet guns, rape and extrajudicial executions of innocent Kashmiris by the Indian Armed Forces have increased exponentially. They made these remarks at the One-Day Conference on Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives and Prospects, in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Expressing his views, President of Islamabad Policy Research Institute and retired Ambassador Abdul Basit highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is not a territorial dispute between Pakistan and India, it is a political and humanitarian one. He called for greater will on the part of the government and the people of Pakistan to find a way towards Kashmir's peaceful resolution. He recommended a special envoy to coordinate all matters related to the Kashmir dispute should be considered.

Other speakers were of the view that in order to move forward with peace, both countries need to look towards absolute gains with economic overtures and regional connectivity mechanisms such as CPEC and OBOR.

<<http://www.radio.gov.pk/25-04-2018/india-committing-crime-of-changing-demography-of-iok-basit>>

IPRI organizes One-Day Conference on “Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives, Prospects”

DNA News | April 25, 2018



ISLAMABAD, APR 25 (DNA) – Jammu and Kashmir remains the most dangerous place on earth because torture, injury through deadly pellet guns, rape and extrajudicial executions of innocent Kashmiris by the Indian Armed Forces have increased exponentially. What is needed is an all-of-Pakistan approach for this issue. Unless, there is national consensus and an aggressive media campaign to support the Kashmiris, there can be no way forward. The Government of Pakistan should use all means necessary including negotiations, arbitration, legal recourse, diaspora, and diplomacy to highlight Indian Occupied Kashmir’s nonviolent struggle. While maintaining détente with India, the country’s policy-makers and thought leaders should also approach the international community at all forums to highlight its human right violations and uncompromising and hostile attitude in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan also needs to set its own house in order because only then it can impress upon the global community, and India, that it is in the mutual interest of both countries that their disputes, especially Kashmir, are resolved to herald an era of goodwill, peace and progress in South Asia.

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<<http://www.dnanews.com.pk/ipri-organizes-one-day-conference-pakistan-india-dialogue-imperatives-prospects/>>

IPRI organizes One-Day Conference on “Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives, Prospects”



April 25, 2018 Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, APR 25 (DNA) – Jammu and Kashmir remains the most dangerous place on earth because torture, injury through deadly pellet guns, rape and extrajudicial executions of innocent Kashmiris by the Indian Armed Forces have increased exponentially. What is needed is an all-of-Pakistan approach for this issue. Unless, there is national consensus and an aggressive media campaign to support the Kashmiris, there can be no way forward. The Government of Pakistan should use all means necessary including negotiations, arbitration, legal recourse, diaspora, and diplomacy to highlight Indian Occupied Kashmir’s nonviolent struggle.

While maintaining détente with India, the country’s policy-makers and thought leaders should also approach the international community at all forums to highlight its human right violations and uncompromising and hostile attitude in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan also needs to set its own house in order because only then it can impress upon the global community, and India, that it is in the mutual interest of both countries that their disputes, especially Kashmir, are resolved to herald an era of goodwill, peace and progress in South Asia.

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‘There is also negativity in the regional environment with SAARC sitting almost next to its grave thanks to being scuttled by Modi,’ he remarked. ‘What is needed is an all-of-Pakistan approach for this issue. Unless, there is national consensus and an aggressive media campaign to support the Kashmiris, there can be no way forward. A ten-year clear and robust strategy is needed which includes an institutional mechanism within Pakistan to resolve this issue, not just a Parliamentary Committee which has unlimited resources and no capacity and teeth. ‘Membership of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir needs to either be re-vamped altogether or reformed so that it can actually have greater impact. Giving its chairmanship to a competent person is of utmost importance,’ he said.

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<<http://www.centreline.com.pk/ipri-organizes-one-day-conference-pakistan-india-dialogue-imperatives-prospects/>>

Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives And Prospects

Umer Jamshaid

Wed 25th April 2018 | 03:49 PM



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Pakistan also needs to set its own house in order because only then it can impress upon the global community, and India, that it is in the mutual interest of both countries that their disputes, especially Kashmir, are resolved to herald an era of goodwill, peace and progress in South Asia. These were some of the issues discussed at the One-Day Conference on ‘Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives and Prospects’ organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, here in Islamabad today.

Dr Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, Associate Professor from the Quaid-i-Azam University argued that relations between India and Pakistan can be characterised as one of ‘frenemies’ – alternating between periods of peace and conflict. Dr Siddiqi pointed out that now, however, conflict has become an overarching feature of their bilateral relationship with New Delhi claiming 860 ceasefire violations in 2017, and Pakistan blaming India for 1,970 ceasefire violations in the same year. ‘The situation has not abated even in 2018, with India blaming Pakistan for 633 violations, while Pakistan blaming India for more than 400 ceasefire violations in the first two months alone,’ he shared. The speaker was of the view that in order to move forward with peace, both countries need to look towards absolute gains with economic overtures and regional connectivity mechanisms such as CPEC and OBOR. ‘Unfortunately, the shadow of the future is still cast in strategic terms making it impossible for larger peace initiatives to be implemented and reciprocated by either side. If both India and Pakistan do not do so, and continue to engage in strategic games and relative gains, the opportunity of increased economic development promised by the ruling elites of these countries to their masses will be easily challenged and forfeited’, he concluded.

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<<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/pakistan-india-dialogue-imperatives-and-pros-326342.html>>

Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives And Prospects

20 hours ago



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Times of Islamabad

IOK remains dangerous place because of Indian atrocities: Speakers

26 Apr. 2018



ISLAMABAD: The Speakers at a conference has said that occupied Jammu and Kashmir remains the most dangerous place on earth because torture, injury through deadly pellet guns, rape and extrajudicial executions of innocent Kashmiris by the Indian Armed Forces have increased exponentially.

They made these remarks at the One-Day Conference on Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives and Prospects, in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Expressing his views, President of Islamabad Policy Research Institute and retired Ambassador Abdul Basit highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is not a territorial dispute between Pakistan and India, it is a political and humanitarian one.

He called for greater will on the part of the government and the people of Pakistan to find a way towards Kashmir's peaceful resolution.

He recommended a special envoy to coordinate all matters related to the Kashmir dispute should be considered.

Other speakers were of the view that in order to move forward with peace, both countries need to look towards absolute gains with economic overtures and regional connectivity mechanisms such as CPEC and OBOR.

APP/AFP

<https://timesofislamabad.com/26-Apr-2018/iok-remains-dangerous-place-because-of-indian-atrocities-speakers>



‘India loses space for talks due to narrow ideology’



ISLAMABAD: India is losing space for negotiations due to the spread of a narrow ideology that causes greater animosity, especially towards Pakistan and Muslims, Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal, associate professor at the Quaid-i-Azam University said at a day-long seminar here on Wednesday.

Speaking on ‘Making Pakistan-India Dialogue Possible and Sustainable: A Way Forward for Shared Future,’ he said the Indian extremist ideology was equating terrorism with the freedom struggle in Kashmir. He said the hawkish elements in Modi’s administration wanted to restore India’s hegemony, and that did not involve giving any concessions, rather they wanted to isolate, encircle and weaken Pakistan, besides tempering its linkages with traditional allies, neighbours and potential friends.

IPRI President Abdul Basit highlighted that Jammu Kashmir was not a territorial dispute between Pakistan and India as it was a political and humanitarian issue. It was primarily about

the Kashmiri peoples' right to self-determination as granted to them under several United Nations Security Council resolutions, which had been accepted by previous Indian governments.

He called for greater will on the part of the government and the people of Pakistan to find a way towards Kashmir's peaceful resolution. The seminar was organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). Associate Professor Dr Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, in his presentation, said that relations between Pakistan and India could be characterized as one of 'frenemies' – alternating between periods of peace and conflict.

He said the conflict had become an overarching feature of Pakistan-India bilateral relationship. He said in order to move forward with peace, both countries needed to look towards absolute gains with economic overtures and regional connectivity mechanisms such as CPEC and OBOR. However, he said the shadow of the future was still cast in strategic terms making it impossible for larger peace initiatives to be implemented and reciprocated.

“If both Pakistan and India do not do so, the opportunity of increased economic development promised by the ruling elites of these countries to their masses will be easily challenged and forfeited,” he added. Former Defence Secretary Asif Yasin Malik gave a historical overview of the Kashmir issue starting with the 1948 local armed uprisings that flared in various parts when the princely state was asked to join either India or Pakistan. He said that despite peace pledges and confidence-building measures to settle differences bilaterally through peaceful means, hardly any progress had been made.

No meaningful bilateral discussions had taken place and the Kashmir dispute continued to fester, he added. “The problem has been that having a good Pak-India relationship has been the corollary for the resolution of Kashmir, whereas it should be the resolution of Kashmir which should lead from the front.” He stressed that it had never been the military which had impeded the peace process; rather the most out-of-box solutions to the conflict came from a military government.

Malik said that the sad irony was that the people of Kashmir had become secondary in the conflict, even though they were the ones who were paying the price with their lives, and the lives of their women and children. He said hopes for peace remained grim because in the global environment there was utter apathy towards Kashmir, which was not seen as a problem as there was only concern about a nuclear war between India and Pakistan.

< <https://theworldnews.net/pk-news/india-loses-space-for-talks-due-to-narrow-ideology>>

26 APR 2018

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Thursday, April 26, 2018



Lt. Gen. (R) Asif Yasin Malik Former Defence Secretary giving his remarks on the occasion of One-Day Conference on "Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives and Prospects". - DNA

IPRI organises One-Day Conference on 'Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives, Prospects'

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The Government of Pakistan should use all means necessary including negotiations, arbitration, legal recourse, diaspora, and diplomacy to highlight Indian Occupied Kashmir's nonviolent struggle.

While maintaining détente with India, the country's policy-makers and thought leaders should also approach the international community at all forums to highlight its human right violations and uncompromising and hostile attitude in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan also needs to set its own house in order because only then it can impress upon the global community, and India, that it is in the mutual interest of both countries that their disputes, especially Kashmir, are resolved to herald an era of goodwill, peace and progress in South Asia.

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This extremist ideology is why it is so easy to equate terrorism with the freedom struggle in Kashmir, he remarked.

The hawkish elements in Modi's administration want to restore India's pride and hegemony, and this does not involve giving any concessions, rather it wants to isolate, encircle and weaken Pakistan,

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'The problem has been that having a good Pak-India relationship has been the corollary for the resolution of Kashmir, whereas it should be the resolution of Kashmir which should lead from the front.'

Lt General (R) Malik outlined that hopes for peace remain grim because in the global environment, there is utter apathy towards Kashmir as they do not see it as a problem, and are only concerned about nuclear war between India and Pakistan.

'There is also negativity in the regional environment with SAARC sitting almost next to its grave thanks to being scuttled by Modi,' he remarked. - PR



اسلام آباد: اسلام آباد پالیسی ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ میں پاک بھارت مذاکرات کے حوالے سے منفقہ کانفرنس میں بھارت میں پاکستان کے سابق ہائی کمشنر عبدالباسط، سابق ڈپٹی سیکرٹری لیشنٹ جنرل (ر) آصف یاسین ملک اور دفاعی تجزیہ نگار فرحان صدیقی موجود ہیں (فوٹو صباح)

مقبوضہ جموں میں مسلمان آبادی کا تناسب 61 فیصد سے کم ہو کر 31 فیصد رہ گیا، عبدالباسط

Posted By: SabahNews | In: 2018.25 اپریل 2018

اسلام آباد (صبح نیوز) بھارت میں پاکستان کے سابق ہائی کمشنر عبدالباسط نے انکشاف کیا ہے کہ مقبوضہ جموں میں مسلمان آبادی کا تناسب 61 فیصد سے کم ہو کر 31 فیصد رہ گیا ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ بھارت نے مقبوضہ کشمیر میں آبادی کے تناسب کو تبدیل کرنا شروع کر دیا ہے۔ 1947ء میں جموں میں 61 فیصد آبادی مسلمان تھی۔ اب صرف 31 فیصد آبادی مسلمان ہے، اسلام آباد پالیسی ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ میں پاک بھارت مذاکرات کے حوالے سے منفقہ کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے عبدالباسط نے کہا کہ 1947ء میں پاکستان سے لشکر اس لئے گئے تھے کہ بھارت نے مقبوضہ کشمیر کے 2 لاکھ سے زائد مسلمانوں کو شہید کر دیا تھا۔ بھارت مقبوضہ کشمیر پر بات نمینکرنا چاہتا ہے مسئلہ کشمیر کو اجاگر کرنے کے لئے پاکستان کو ایک خصوصی نمائندہ بنانا چاہئے جو پوری دنیا میں

صرف مسئلہ کشمیر کو اجاگر کرے اس کے ساتھ ایک الگ ادارہ بنانا چاہیے۔ بد قسمتی سے کشمیر سمیٹی سیاست کی بحیثیت ہندو گئی ہے۔ سابق ڈیفنس سیکرٹری لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) آسٹن یاسین ملک، دفاعی تجزیہ نگار فرحان صدیقی، دفاعی تجزیہ نگار ڈاکٹر محمد مجیب افضل و دیگر نے بھی اسلام آباد پالیسی ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ میں پاک بھارت مذاکرات کے حوالے سے منعقد کانفرنس سے خطاب کیا۔ عبدالباسط نے کہا کہ بھارت خطے میں اپنی بالادستی تسلیم کروانا چاہتا ہے اگر پاکستان بھارتی بالادستی تسلیم کرے تو اس کو نقصان ہوگا اور دنیا میں پاکستان کی اہمیت ختم ہو جائے گی۔ مسئلہ کشمیر کے حل نہ ہونے کی وجہ پاکستان کی غلطیوں کے ساتھ عالمی برادری کی مہربانہ خاموشی بھی ہے۔



اسلام آباد: اسلام آباد پالیسی ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ میں پاک بھارت مذاکرات کے حوالے سے منعقد کانفرنس سے
دفاعی تجزیہ نگار فرحان صدیقی خطاب کر رہے ہیں جبکہ بھارت میں پاکستان کے سابق ہائی کمشنر عبدالباسط بھی موجود ہیں (فوٹو صباح)

اگر عالمی برادری بھارت پر دباؤ ڈالے گی تو مسئلہ کشمیر کے حل ہونے کے امکانات بڑھ جائیں گے۔ مسئلہ کشمیر پس پردہ ڈالنے سے پاکستان کو نقصان ہوگا۔ مسئلہ کشمیر کے حل کے بعد پاک بھارت تجارت اور تعلقات بہتر ہو سکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مشرف نے مسئلہ کشمیر کو حل کرنے کے لئے ایک فارمولا دیا جو کہ بہت بڑی غلطی تھی مگر اس سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ فوج بھی مسئلہ کشمیر کو حل کرنا چاہتی ہے۔ فوج نے اپنے ادارے بنائے ہیں مگر سویلین ادارے نہیں بنائے گئے جس کی وجہ سے ہر جگہ دن میں شہلے رہا ہے۔ لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) آسٹن یاسین ملک نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے مسئلہ کشمیر کو حل کرنے کے لئے مختلف کوششیں کی ہیں مگر آج تک یہ مسئلہ حل نہیں ہو سکا ہے۔ مسئلہ کشمیر کو سر دغا نہ میں نہیں ڈال سکتے اس سے پاکستان کو نقصان ہوگا

مقبوضہ کشمیر میں روز کشمیری شہید ہو رہے ہیں۔ فوج بھی مسئلہ کشمیر کو حل کرنا چاہتی ہے مسئلہ کشمیر کے حوالے سے کشمیر کمیٹی کا کردار بھی ٹھیک نہیں رہا۔ کشمیر کمیٹی کی صدارت کے لئے لوگ لڑتے ہیں کیونکہ کشمیر کمیٹی میں مراعات اور لاتعداد بیرونی دورے ہیں جس کا اہتمام نہیں ہو سکتا۔ مولانا فضل الرحمن کی جگہ کسی اور کو کشمیر کمیٹی کا چیئر مین بنا دیا جائے تو کم از کم بیرون ملک دوروں پر جا کر مسئلہ کشمیر کو اجاگر کر سکے۔ بھارت میں علیحدگی کی 19 تحریکیں ہیں۔ بھارت کو معلوم ہے کہ اگر کشمیر کو آزاد کر دیا تو باقی بھی زور پکڑ جائیں گی۔ مسئلہ کشمیر کو اجاگر کرنے کے لئے میڈیا کا استعمال کرنا چاہئے۔ آج کے دور میں میڈیا برسہا برسہا پر تباہی پھیلانے اور مچانے دونوں قسم کا اختیار بن چکا ہے۔ مسئلہ کشمیر پر اگر بیرون ملک 87 پاکستانی مشن موٹر آواز بلند کریں تو مسئلہ کشمیر پر دنیا توجہ دینے شروع کر دے گی۔ مسئلہ کشمیر کے حل کے لئے دنیا میں دن بدن جگہ کم ہو رہی ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ اس کو دہشت گردی کے ساتھ ملایا جاتا ہے۔ فوج کو جی ڈی پی کا صرف 18 فیصد دیا جاتا ہے۔ یہ غلط فہمی ہے کہ 60 فیصد بجٹ فوج کھا جاتی ہے۔ دفاعی تجزیہ نگار ڈاکٹر محمد مجیب افضل نے کہا کہ ایک مضبوط پاکستان بھارت کے مفاد میں ہے مقبوضہ کشمیر میں حالت خراب ہونے کی وجہ سے بھارت کو اپنی جی ڈی پی کا ایک سے دو فیصد خرچ کرنا پڑتا ہے۔ یہیں مسئلہ کشمیر پر توقعات کم کر کے بات کرنی چاہیے اگر پاکستان اور بھارت اپنی توقعات کم کریں گے تو مذاکرات کا فائدہ ہوگا جب تک کشمیر کا مسئلہ حل نہیں ہوتا پاکستان کشمیریوں کے لیے اپنی سیاسی، سفارتی اور علاقہ جہی جاری رکھے گا



اسلام آباد: بھارت میں پاکستان کے سابق ہائی کمشنر عبدالباسط اسلام آباد پالیسی ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ میں پاک بھارت مذاکرات کے حوالے سے منعقد کانفرنس سے
میں بڑی تعداد میں سکالر، ریسرچر اور طلبہ شریک ہیں (فوٹو صباح)

تنازعہ نہیں بلکہ ایک اہم سیاسی اور انسانی مسئلہ بھی ہے۔ کشمیری عوام کو اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادوں کے مطابق حق خود ارادیت کا موقع ملنا چاہیے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ بھارتی قابض فوج کی جانب سے ہیلت گنز کے بے دریغ استعمال، عصمت دری کے پے در پے واقعات اور بڑے پیمانے کی نسل کشی جاری ہے اور بھارتی بربریت ختم ہونے کے بجائے بر آنے والے دن کے ساتھ بڑھتی چلی جا رہی ہے۔ بھارتی مظالم کو ذرائع ابلاغ کے ذریعے صحیح طرح اجاگر کرنے اور قومی سطح پر استحکام کے ذریعے ہی کشمیریوں کی بھرپور حمایت ممکن ہے۔ پاکستانی حکومت کو تمام ذرائع بروئے کار لاکر مثلاً مذاکرات، قانونی چارہ جوئی اور ڈیپلومیسی کے ذریعے مقبوضہ کشمیر میں جاری بھارت کے غیر انسانی مظالم کو اجاگر کرنا چاہیے۔ پاک بھارت تعلقات میں بہتری کے لئے اشد ضروری ہے کہ تنازعہ جموں و کشمیر کو حل کیا جائے تاکہ جنوبی ایشیا میں امن و استحکام کا خواب شرمندہ تعبیر ہو سکے۔ ڈاکٹر فرحان حنیف صدیقی، ایسوسی ایٹ پروفیسر قائد اعظم یونیورسٹی نے کہا کہ پاک بھارت تعلقات وقتاً فوقتاً تشیب و فراز کا شکار ہوتے رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان کی امن کی خواہش کے باوجود بھارت کی جانب سے جارحیت کی جاتی ہے۔ 2017 میں دہلی نے اہل اوسی پریس فار کی خلاف ورزیوں کی تعداد 860 بتائی جبکہ حقیقتاً یہ تعداد 1970 ہے۔ سال رواں میں بھارتی اعداد و شمار کے مطابق اب تک 633 خلاف ورزیاں ہوئیں جبکہ 2018 کے پہلے دو ماہ میں ہی 400 سے زیادہ سیز فائر کی خلاف ورزیاں کی گئیں۔ ڈاکٹر مجیب افضل نے پاک بھارت مذاکرات کو ممکن، یاسیدار بنانے اور ایک بہتر مستقبل کی جانب سفر پر بات چیت کرتے کہا کہ بھارت میں تیزی سے بڑھتے ”ہندوتوا“ خیالات کی وجہ سے مذاکرات کا امکان کم سے کم تر ہو رہا ہے جس سے پاکستان اور بھارتی مسلمانوں سے زیادہ خود بھارت کے لئے شدید مسائل کھڑے ہو سکتے ہیں۔ لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) آصف یاسین ملک، سابق ڈیفنس سیکرٹری نے تنازعہ کشمیر کی تاریخ پر تفصیل سے روشنی ڈالی۔ انھوں نے کہا ابھی تک دونوں ممالک کے مابین کوئی باقاعدہ اور موثر مذاکرات نہیں ہوئے اور مقبوضہ کشمیر میں حالات تیزی کے ساتھ گھڑ رہے ہیں۔ تنازعہ کے حل کے بغیر دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات میں بہتری کا کوئی امکان نہیں۔ بھارتی وزیر اعظم مودی کے مہا بھارت میں مسئلہ کشمیر کے حل کے امکانات کم ہیں کیونکہ دہلی سرکار نے دانستہ کشمیر کو بھارت کی بقا کا مسئلہ بنا لیا ہے اور وہ پوری کوشش کریں گے کشمیر کسی صورت ان سے الگ نہ ہو۔ اس لئے ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ بہترین حکمت عملی تیار کی جائے اور مسئلہ کشمیر کا حل کشمیری عوام کی امنگوں کے مطابق ہو۔



اسلام آباد: لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) آصف یاسین ملک، عبدالباسط اور ڈاکٹر مجیب افضل کانفرنس میں اظہار خیال کر رہے ہیں

کشمیری عوام کو ان کا حق خود ارادیت ملنا چاہئے، عبدالباسط

مسئلہ کے پرامن حل کے بغیر جنوبی ایشیا میں امن و استحکام کا خواب شرمندہ تعبیر نہیں ہو سکتا

تنازعہ کے حل کے بغیر دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات میں بہتری کا امکان نہیں، آصف یاسین ملک

اسلام آباد (سٹی رپورٹر) اسلام آباد پالیسی ریسرچ کانفرنس منعقد کی گئی۔ اپری کے پریذیڈنٹ اور سابق انسٹی ٹیوٹ (اپری) کے زیر اہتمام بدھ کو پاک بھارت سفارتکار عبدالباسط نے اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ تعلقات، محرکات و عوامل کے عنوان سے ایک روزہ مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر محض ایک (صفحہ 10 بقیہ 50)

Thursday, April 26, 2018