



Inside this Issue

■ In-House Discussion: <i>Resurgence of Russia and its Impact on South Asia</i>	1	■ In-House Lecture: <i>Indian Army Fast Losing its Morale</i>	2	■ Ambassador Lecture Series: <i>H.E. Mr. Alexey Y. Dedov, Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan</i>	3
■ External Engagements	2	■ IPRI Journal Call for Papers	4	■ Articles by IPRI Scholars	4

In-House Discussion

Resurgence of Russia and its Impact on South Asia



Russia's resurgence is characterized by economic recovery, political stability, military modernization and international diplomatic clout under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin. Russia, being a major regional and world power, having great economic potential, the right to exercise veto power at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and being a leading member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), could be an important ally for Pakistan. This was shared by Mr Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Research Officer, IPRI, in his presentation on "Resurgence of Russia and its Impact on South Asia" on 7 June 2018. Salient points are given below.

Impact of Putin's Leadership

Putin's radical reforms in domestic and foreign policy have had a major impact on Russia's politics and society. His measures against corruption, centralization of power for ensuring internal stability and security have revamped Russian society. After identifying vital areas of interest, Putin translated his vision into a policy

framework focusing on national security, foreign policy, and the military. While his domestic policy is focused on restoring and maintaining internal stability, his foreign policy is geared towards regaining Russia's Soviet era status and to restore its place in world affairs.

Economic Revival

Major economic reforms such as state control over the oil and gas sector, simple flat tax, opening Russia to the world and currency devaluation have helped its economy to gradually recover.

Since Russia's economy is largely dependent on oil, increase in oil prices in 2009 in the international market helped boost its petro-income, lowering the budget deficit, and increasing foreign reserves. This also allowed the government to enhance currency reserves and repay foreign debts.

However, after registering annual growth as high as ten percent during

Putin's two terms, in 2014, the Russian economy plunged into recession due to falling oil prices, sanctions, and subsequent capital flight.

In 2017, the economy again saw an upward trend mainly due to higher global oil prices and increased demand in the international market. Now, it has a modest growth rate of 1.5 percent.

Furthermore, Europe's energy security relies heavily on Russia's gas and oil pipeline network. Russia's planned pipeline infrastructure—Nord Stream and South Stream—are part of its long term energy strategy for European states.

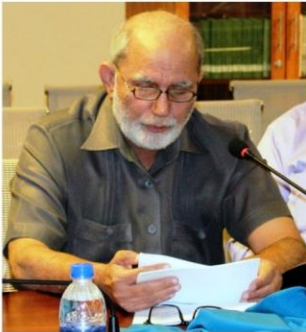
By 2030, Moscow hopes to increase its geographic expansion of Russian energy deliveries and enhance presence in key Asian markets.

Military Modernization

The Global Firepower Index (GFI) and Credit Suisse (2018) rank Russia as the second strongest military power after

Continued on p. 3

Indian Army Fast Losing its Morale



Mr Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow, IPRI delivered an in-house lecture on “Indian Army Fast Losing its Morale” on 26 June 2018. Salient points are given below.

In 2017, over a 100 Indian Army officers moved Supreme Court against discrimination in promotion. According to *The Times of India* (September 2017),

“This act of Army and Union Government (discrimination in promotion) has created tremendous injustice to them and others which is detrimental to the morale of the officers and, in turn, to the defence of the country.”

Ironically, while the Indian government is busy in arms race and procurement of military weapons, its Army is sliding into depression, frustration, and fast losing its morale due to numerous reasons, namely discrimination in promotion, One Rank One Pension, long duty hours, rejection of leave applications, family issues, financial problems and inability to cope with stress. Consequently,

suicides and fratricides have increased in the Indian Army. Since 2014, 803 Army officers and 38,150 soldiers have sought premature retirement which reveals the state of affairs within the Indian Army.

On the other hand, Indian forces deployed in Indian-

“That is a truly worrisome situation, more than another cold statistic, given the “hot” conditions the Army faces while defending the frontier in Jammu and Kashmir... Information furnished to the apex legislature speaks of 425 suicides since 2014: with the Army losing nine officers and 326 soldiers, the Air Force five officers and 67 airmen and the Navy two officers and 16 sailors.”

- “An Unhappy Army,” *The Statesman, India* (2017)

External Engagements



President IPRI, Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit’s external engagement during the month of June included:

- Speech at the Track-II Afghanistan-Pakistan Dialogue for Reconciliation titled “Approaching Peace Talks: Stakeholders, Challenges and Prospects” organized by the Regional Peace Institute (RPI) in collaboration with the Royal Danish Defence College (RDDC) on 28 June 2018.

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are more prone to falling prey to stress. The major factor triggering stress and frustration among soldiers are the daily human rights violations and persecution of innocent Kashmiris, which has increased rate of suicides and fratricides in the occupying forces.

Recently, Indian army sources while speaking to the BBC admitted that many soldiers are growing uncomfortable with their role in Kashmir. An Army officer was quoted as saying:

“We are fighting a legacy of political betrayal, infiltration, rigging in local elections, cynical politics, bad governance, vested interests, religion and regional divides.”

Resurgence of Russia and its Impact on South Asia

Continued from p. 1

the United States given its top rank vis-à-vis tanks arsenal and nuclear warheads in the world.

Russia's military modernization is aimed at enhancing weapons, equipment, training, and healthcare of its troops at home and abroad, including establishment of military bases in different countries such as Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Syria and Crimea etc.

In 2013-17, Russia's arms industry had 22 percent share of global arms exports. Its arms exports, apart from contributing to the country's economy, are also helping countries such as Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia (traditionally US allies), diversify their relations, while retaining cooperation with the US.

Diplomatic Clout

Over the last few years, Russia has increasingly asserted itself as an influential diplomatic actor, fostering engagement in international crises.

Given its significant economic gains and military might, Russia sought to regain its role in the immediate and vital areas of influence i.e. in the Baltics, Central Asia and Caucasus, as well as the Middle East and South Asia.

Russian invasion of Georgia in 2008 and annexation of Crimea in 2014 have boosted its confidence in defending and enhancing its interests and sphere of influence in the region. This perception has been further strengthened because of NATO not providing military support to Georgia, Crimea and Ukraine during this time.

Impact of Russia on South Asia

Given the protracted war, and failing US' Afghan policy, Russia envisages its role in establishing peace in Afghanistan. It also sees Pakistan as a major stakeholder in the Afghan quagmire.

On the other hand, it has to retain its traditional partnership with India, which is now a major US defense partner and balance Moscow's recent rapprochement with pro-Beijing Pakistan.

In the wake of several stringent economic embargoes by the EU and the US, following Crimean annexation and trouble in East Ukraine, Russia is looking for alternate energy markets, especially in South Asian Countries (SACs).

Therefore, it is seeking to engage SACs in areas of energy, defense, agriculture, security, infrastructure development and technology assistance.

As terrorism remains the biggest challenge for SACs, including Pakistan and India, Russia has been collaborating with them in counter-terrorism efforts for establishing regional stability. Under a Russian initiative, Pakistani and Indian forces, for the first time, will conduct drills in a multi-nation military exercise to be held in Russia's Ural Mountains in August 2018. The exercise "Peace Mission 2018", a part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), will focus on counter-terrorism. Also, Pakistan and Russia have agreed on the establishment of Anti-terror

Cooperative Military Commission to combat extremism.


As far as the long-term US influence in the region is concerned, Russia is inclined to support regional setups, like SCO and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Therefore, Moscow is looking towards India and Pakistan as active members of the SCO in the region, to address issues like human trafficking, narcotic smuggling, terrorism, extremism and separatism through a combined regional approach.

Pakistan-Russia Rapprochement

Pakistan and Russia see their strategic and economic interests converging in the post-2014 security environment. Both envisage a role for themselves in achieving peace and stability in war-blighted Afghanistan and economic cooperation in the region. They have been enhancing their relations over the last decade, with top political and diplomatic engagements. 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, i.e. Russia's backyard.


Conclusion

Russia's resurgence is characterized by economic revival, political stability, military modernization and increasing diplomatic role at the international arena under the leadership of Vladimir Putin. Russia, being a major regional and global power, having great economic potential, veto power at UNSC forum and being a leading member of the SCO, would be an important ally for Pakistan. In the wake of fading US influence in SA and its tilt towards India, Russia is postured to act as a balancer in the region, given its economic, military and politico-diplomatic resurgence.




Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI)

AMBASSADOR LECTURE SERIES



**Pakistan-Russia Relations:
Is there a New Trajectory?**

By
H. E. Mr. Alexey Y. Dedov
Ambassador of the Russian
Federation to Pakistan



Date: Wednesday, August 1, 2018
Time: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm
Venue: IPRI Office, 5th Floor, Evacuee Trust Building,
Islamabad

For further details, email: ipripak@ipripak.org

UPCOMING EVENT

ARTICLES BY IPRI SCHOLARS/
IPRI JOURNAL CALL FOR PAPERS

Asghar Ali Shad
Research Fellow
(Urdu Articles)



"عالمی امن اور پاک آرمی...!"
ڈیلی پاکستان

"Aalmi Aman Aur Pak Army"
Daily Pakistan

"چوتھی عالمی جنگ...؟"
نوائے وقت

"Chothi Aalmi Jang...?"
Nawa-i-Waqt

"اقوام متحدہ کا وجود کیوں خطرے میں...!"
ڈیلی پاکستان

"Aqwam-e-Mutahidda Ka Wujood Kyun
Khatray Mein?"
Daily Pakistan

"مقبوضہ کشمیر... دیوار برہمن گرنے کو ہے!"
نوائے وقت

"Maqbooza Kashmir ... Deeware Barhaman
Girnay ko Hai"
Nawa-i-Waqt

"اسلام دشمن قوت داعش کی نئی سازش!"
ڈیلی پاکستان

"Islam Dushman Quwatt Daish Ki Nai Saazish"
Daily Pakistan

Dr Muhammad Munir
Research Fellow



"Astana: City of Peace & Development"
Pakistan Observer

Khalid Hussain Chandio
Research Fellow



"Trouble in Paradise for Pakistan and America"
Daily Times

Muhammad Nawaz Khan
Research Officer



"ASEAN: Pakistan's Vision East Asia"
Regional Rapport

Khurram Abbas
Assistant Research Officer



"Xiplomacy: President Xi's Foreign Policy"
Daily Times

Maryam Nazir
Assistant Research Officer



"The Long Shot for Peace"
The Express Tribune

Iqra Mobeen Akram
Assistant Research Officer



"Growing Turkish Influence in Syria"
Eurasia Review

Call for Papers IPRI Journal 2018-19

IPRI
JOURNAL
ISSN: 1684-9787
eISSN: 1684-9809

HEC Recognised X-category Journal
(Covered in Clarivate Analytics, Emerging Sources Citation
Index (ESCI) Web of Science)

The biannual Journal welcomes original high-quality papers/studies, review articles and book reviews which debate erudite and contemporaneous issues and ideas of academic relevance. Research published by the Journal include (but not limited to) topics such as:

- International Affairs
- Geopolitics
- Diplomacy
- Security
- Political Economy
- Conflict
- Governance
- Defence and Strategic Studies

Call for Papers

Submission Procedure: Author/s are required to submit manuscripts in MS Word format, along with their brief introduction, complete contact details and a letter certifying that the submission has not been previously published nor currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Articles submitted for publication are subject to three double blind peer-reviews (one national and two international). Authors of published articles and book reviews are paid a modest honorarium. The *IPRI Journal* follows a strict zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism.

Format

- Word Length of Articles: 5000-8000 words
- Word Length of Book Reviews: 1000 words
- Referencing Style: The Chicago Manual of Style 16th Edition (Full Note)

Important Dates

- For the Winter 2019 issue: 30 September 2018
- For the Summer 2019 issue: 30 March 2019

Submission Address

Editor IPRI Journal
ipri.editor@gmail.com

The mission of the *IPRI Journal* is to promote scholarly research in the academic fields related to International Relations and Political Science, as reported by academics, researchers, social and political scientists from around the world, especially Pakistan.



Islamabad Policy Research Institute

Contact Information

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

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

zahedah.khalid@gmail.com www.ipripak.org

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Islamabad-Policy-Research-Institute

https://twitter.com/IPRI_Pakistan