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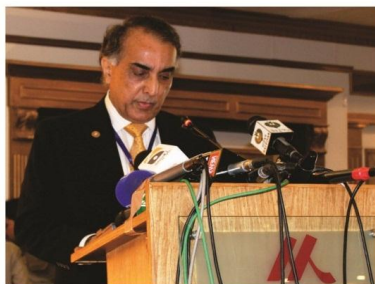
This Special Issue of IPRI UPDATE contains highlights of the activities conducted by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute during 2018. The Institute held two-day national and international conferences as well as Media Workshops and hosted Visiting Fellows from China and Australia under its Visiting Fellowship Program. The issue also includes details about the IPRI Lecture Series under which Ambassador Lectures and Guest Lectures were convened. The Institute also organized issue-centric one-day Conferences, Panel Discussions and an International Seminar. Apart from these activities, books and biannual issues of the IPRI Journal and Journal of Current Affairs were also published. Articles by research scholars continued to appear in Urdu and English dailies on monthly basis. In-house discussions and lectures were also delivered by IPRI scholars on diverse topics.

International Conference Conflict and Cooperation in South Asia: Role of Major Powers



Conference speakers and IPRI staff members with the Acting President, Brig. (R) Mohammad Mehoob Qadir and Foreign Secretary Ms. Tehmina Janjua

The Islamabad Policy Research Institute organized a two-day International Conference on 11-12 December 2018. The



conference aimed at analyzing the role of the United States (US), Russia and China - which remain critical in shaping the regional dynamics of South Asia (SA).

“Powerful regional countries and global powers must shoulder their responsibilities by using their influence to bring the South Asian countries to the table, shun violence, coercion and more importantly destabilizing proxies.”

- Brig (R) Mohammad Mehboob Qadir, Acting President, IPRI

Due to the immense significance of its unique geostrategic location, geo-

Day One

Session I

Session Chair

Ambassador (R) Shahid Kiani

Speakers

- Dr Ahmed Ijaz Malik, Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan
- Dr Najamudin Ayoola, National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan
- Dr Wang Shida, Chinese Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), China

Session II

Session Chair

Dr Maria Sultan, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI), Pakistan

Speakers

- Dr Joshua T. White, Johns Hopkins University, US
- Prof Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad, University of Sargodha, Pakistan
- Dr Shehryar Khan, Iqra University, Pakistan

economic potential and impacts on territorial disputes, SA has witnessed

Continued on p. 2

IPRI Update Team

Editor-in-Chief: Brig (R) Mohammad Mehboob Qadir Editor: Zahida Khalid Composer: Noreen Hameed

Conflict and Cooperation in South Asia: Role of Major Powers

Continued from p. 1

great powers' contest since the Cold War era, which has resulted in the formation of strategic and interest-centric alliances. Even in the post-Cold War era, the entire region remains significant due to the US-led Afghan war, traditional security threats, emerging non-traditional security challenges, increased risks of being a nuclear flashpoint and rising middle-class that can transform into the largest consumer market of the world. The role of major powers, hence, remains critical in shaping regional dynamics of SA.

"Under Pakistan's new leadership, both China and Pakistan have agreed to further enlarge and broaden the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and improve social sector development and trade cooperation."



- H.E. Mr Yao Jing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

This international conference, which included delegates from the US, Russia, China and Pakistan, hence, highlighted that:

- The South Asian countries face multiple common challenges in the realm of non-traditional security. It is imperative that regional cooperation be sought to address such collective concerns like rising poverty, food insecurity, water shortages, illicit trafficking, poor human development indices etc., in the domain of social sector and human resource development.
- Pakistan should focus on strengthening its economy through structural reforms and robust trade regimes. Bilateral transit trade agreements and SAARC's agenda should be promoted so that regional trade volume can be enhanced.
- Emphasis should be placed on diplomatic means, political dialogues and negotiations at both bilateral and multilateral levels to settle inter-state disputes. While Pakistan's peace overtures towards both Afghanistan and India are unfortunately not being reciprocated, the existing political and security paradigm demands that countries resume dialogue and open communication channels regarding

issues of critical nature. Global powers should play a proactive role in bridging the divide between disputants by facilitating political engagements between South Asian countries.

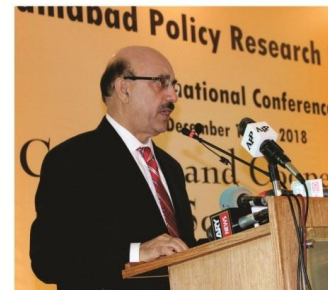
- China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) offers a vision of common economic development for the entire region, which may eventually lead to a common security architecture. Rather than attempting to sink this economic initiative in controversy, it should be seen as a means for mutual economic prosperity and development.

"India has held South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) hostage, and become a hurdle in the way of hosting the SAARC Summit in Pakistan."



- Ms Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GoP

"India has abandoned all principles of proportionality and precaution; and the distinction between combatants and non-combatants is being flagrantly violated in the Indian-held Kashmir."



- Mr Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Day Two Session III

Session Chair

Dr Fazal-ur-Rahman, University of Sargodha, Pakistan

Speakers

- Mr Harrison Akins, University of Tennessee, US
- Dr Liu Zongyi, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIR), China
- Mr Leonid Savin, Journal of Eurasian Affairs, Russia
- Dr Maria Sultan, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI), Pakistan

Session IV

Session Chair

Ambassador (R) Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Institute for Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Pakistan

Speakers

- Dr Huma Baqai, Institute of Business Administration, Pakistan
- Dr Naeem Ahmed, University of Karachi, Pakistan
- Dr Sarwat Rauf, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Pakistan

National Conference Irritants in Pakistan-US Relations: Way Forward



L-R: Amb. (R) Riaz Hussain Khokhar, Amb. (R) Inam-ul-Haq and Amb. (R) Shamshad Ahmed



L-R: Prof. Dr Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, Lt. Gen. (R) Asif Yasin Malik and Dr Salma Malik

A two-day national conference on **"Irritants in Pakistan-US Relations: Way Forward"** was organized on 9-10 October 2018.

Session Chairs included Ambassador (R) Inam-ul-Haq, Lt General (R) Asif Yasin Malik, Ambassador (R) Shahid M.G. Kiani, and Lt. General (R) Naeem Khalid Lodhi.

"US has no intention of allowing a challenge to its primacy in the world by any country, including China. It will use all the means at its disposal to remain the undisputed and sole super power of the world. Full spectrum domination is its primary objective."



- Ambassador (R) Inam-ul-Haq

Speakers included Ambassador (R) Riaz Hussain Khokhar, Dr Salma Malik, Dr Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, Dr Tughral Yamin, Dr Rasul Baksh Rais, Ms Nasim Zehra, and Dr Farhan Hanif Siddiqi.

The delegates concluded that in order to remove the mutual mistrust between Pakistan and the US, it is important to holistically debate key irritants that mar bilateral ties, understand each other's security concerns, acknowledge contributions made in achieving peace in the region and work on commonalities, without compromising on core interests.

This national conference, which included delegates from all over Pakistan, hence, highlighted that:

- The key challenge for both Pakistan and the US is to build a relationship that transcends the security-centric approach and focus on trade, development and culture.
- It is important for Pakistan to look inwards because only economic autonomy can give the country an independent foreign policy and a sustainable future.
- Pakistan needs friendly and close relations with the US and China. Pakistan's relations with each cannot be at the expense of one over the other.
- Stability and order in Afghanistan is a primary interest of both Pakistan and the US. However, relations between the three countries should also develop independent of each other.

TWO-DAY CONFERENCES



L-R: Dr Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, Lt. Gen. (R) Naeem Khalid Lodhi and Ms Nasim Zehra



L-R: Dr Tughral Yamin, Amb. (R) Shahid M. G. Kiani and Prof. Dr Rasul Baksh Rais

Ambassador Lecture Series

IPRI initiated the Ambassador Lecture Series in 2018 and convened three lectures in July, August and September.

Under this series, the first lecture was delivered by Mr Jean-Francois Cautain, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan on **"EU-Pakistan Relations: Challenges and Opportunities"** on 4 July 2018. The Ambassador shared that the EU



being a major trading partner of Pakistan accounts for its largest share of its global exports; and that EU countries want to invest in ventures like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. However, more clarity and information on CPEC's long-

term vision is required for this to materialize. He stressed that connectivity is not possible without stability in South Asia.

Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Pakistan, Mr Alexey Dedov, delivered the second lecture on **"Pakistan-Russia Relations: Is there a New Trajectory?"** on 1



August 2018. Mr Dedov highlighted that Pakistan is an important partner for Russia due to its role in regional politics, its influence in the Muslim world and its geostrategic location. He remarked that interaction with Pakistan in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as a full-

fledged member is very important for Russia to carry out transregional economic, energy and infrastructure projects. In the third lecture of the series, Mr Thomas Drew, British High Commissioner to Pakistan discussed **"Post-Brexit Foreign Policy: Future of Pakistan-UK Relations"** on 4 September 2018.

Mr Drew stated that the UK has a very direct and unique stake in Pakistan's future stability, security and prosperity since both countries share similar challenges and opportunities.

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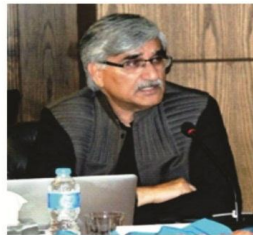
Guest Lecture Series

The Institute convened three Guest Lectures in January, April, November and December.



On 16 January 2018, the Institute had a Guest Lecture on **"Pakistan-Bangladesh Relations"** by Dr Junaid Ahmad, author of *India-An Apartheid State* (2017) and *Creation of Bangladesh-Myths Exploded* (2016). On improving Pakistan and Bangladesh relations, he recommended, "Islamabad

should work continuously and systematically to smooth out tensions and have improved relations with Dhaka."



Mr Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President, Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency discussed **"18th Amendment and Challenges to Federalism"** on 11 April 2018. He stressed, "We have no option but to make local governments more meaningful and effective if the real purpose

of the Amendment is to be achieved."



Mr Harrison Akins, Research Fellow, University of Tennessee's Howard H. Baker, Jr., Center for Public Policy, Knoxville, USA, delivered a lecture on **"Pakistan-US Relations"** on 14 December 2018. He recommended that "The US needs to establish and enhance business and people-to-people exchanges; and scholarship programmes with Pakistan. Both sides need to focus on

what is common and need to identify areas of cooperation to rebuild trust."



Mr Jacques Follorou, Chief Editor of *Le Monde* delivered a lecture on **"Security Situation of Afghanistan and its Impact on Pakistan"** on 12 November 2018. He stressed, "The peace process is the only way to reach a political settlement with the warring factions in Afghanistan."

One-Day Conferences/Panel Discussions

Conferences

The Institute organized two One-Day Conferences in January and April during 2018:



L-R: Lt. Gen. (R) Masood Aslam, Mr Ihsan Ghani and Dr Khurram Iqbal

The theme of the first conference was “**Issues of Radicalization and Extreme Behavior in Pakistan**”, which was organized on 30 January 2018. Mr Ihsan Ghani, Dr Khurram Iqbal, and Lt. Gen. (R) Masood Aslam spoke on the occasion. There was consensus among the panelists that since radicalization in Pakistan is caused by both external and internal issues, it is important to enhance focus on soft approaches; reduce collateral damage in counterterrorism operations; find a regional solution to the Afghanistan conundrum; and devise a joint Sino-Pak stance on issues related to the use of proxy groups by India and extra-regional

forces that fan terrorism.

The theme of the second conference organized on 25 April 2018 was “**Pakistan-India Dialogue: Imperatives and Prospects**”. Panelists included Dr Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal and Lt. General (R) Asif Yasin Malik. They discussed that both India and Pakistan are hostage to the legacy of the Partition and the communal violence which accompanied it. Identity conflict leading to Islamic fundamentalism and Hindu extremism are also impeding resolution of bilateral issues. They stressed that the countries should strive to leave their historical baggage behind, and cooperate on substantive issues to make South Asia more prosperous and integrated.



L-R: Lt. Gen. (R) Asif Yasin Malik and Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal

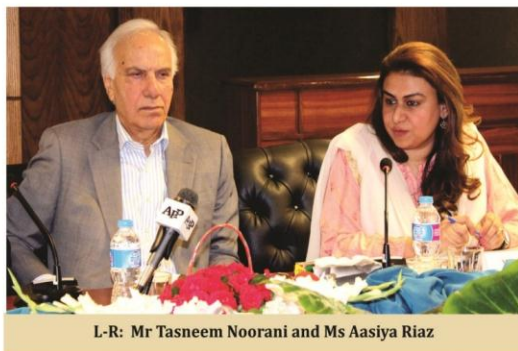
Panel Discussions

The Institute held two Panel Discussions in February and May during 2018:

The first Panel Discussion “**Indian Armed Forces Joint Doctrine 2017: A Critical Appraisal**” was held on 28 February 2018. Panelists included Air Commodore (R) Khalid Banuri and Ms Salma Malik.

They concluded that in order to counter India’s military build-up, Pakistan also needs to have a robust defense production infrastructure; and develop an indigenous scientific research and development culture. Moreover, Pakistan should promote public-private partnerships for R&D projects in the defense sector.

The second Panel Discussion “**National Action Plan (NAP): Imperatives and Impediments**” was organized on 8 May



L-R: Mr Tasneem Noorani and Ms Aasiya Riaz

2018. The panelists included Ms Aasiya Riaz, Lieutenant General (R) Khalid Rabbani, and Mr Tasneem Noorani. It was stressed that the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), being the primary institution overseeing NAP, needs to improve its coordination with different intelligence and security departments at the federal and provincial levels. It should have a presence in the provincial capitals or establish monitoring and coordination units within the provincial departments.



International Seminar

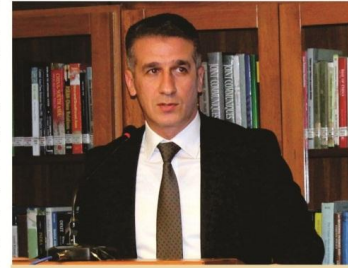


Brig. (R) Mohammad Mehoob Qadir and Dr Cavid Veliyev

IPRI, in collaboration with the Azerbaijan Center for Strategic Studies-SAM, organized a One-Day International Seminar on **“Current Geopolitical Trends in the Region and Prospects for Deeper Relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan”** on 22 November 2018. Dr Cavid Veliyev, Mr Fuad Chiragov and Mr Mahir Humbatov from SAM and Dr Nazir Hussain from Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan delivered Keynote Speech and presented papers, respectively. Ambassador of Azerbaijan,

H.E. Ali Alizada, Ambassador (R) Fauzia Nasreen and diplomats from several foreign embassies graced the occasion and shared their views.

Pakistan-Azerbaijan bilateral relations which transcend geographical boundaries and distance are characterized by shared values, common outlook on various regional and global issues, mutual trust and respect. Both share similar regional and global challenges and threats in the current geopolitical environment and need greater cooperation to maximize each other's potential to overcome them.



Ambassador Ali Alizada

“Pakistan is a strategic, brotherly country and the government and people of Azerbaijan are always ready to improve and strengthen relations.”

- H.E. Mr Ali Alizada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan



L-R: Amb. Andrei Ermolovich, Amb. Ali Alizada, Brig. (R) Mohammad Mehoob Qadir, Dr Fazal-ur-Rahman, Dr Nazir Hussain, Amb. (R) Fauzia Nasreen, Mr Fuad Chiragov and Mr Mahir Humbatov

Visiting Fellowships

Under its Visiting Fellowship Program, IPRI hosted researchers from China and Australia.

Dr Xu Jianying, Senior Research Fellow from the Institute of China's Borderlands Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Beijing, China completed his fellowship in April. During his stay, he undertook research on **“CPEC: Tourism Opportunities and Challenges”**.



Mr Benjamin Clarke, New Colombo Plan Scholar from the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia completed his fellowship in September.

During his stay, Mr Clarke undertook research on **“Pakistan and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue: Current and Future Perceptions”**.



Media Workshops



Ambassador (R) Tajammul Altaf



Mr Imtiaz Gul



Ambassador (R) Fauzia Nasreen

In 2018, IPRI also organized capacity-building workshops for media personnel on international relations, diplomacy and security related issues. Ambassador (R) Tajammul Altaf, Mr Imtiaz Gul, Ambassador (R) Fauzia Nasreen and Ms Gulshan Bibi facilitated the workshops.

The first one-day media workshop titled “Foreign Policy and Diplomacy” was

organized on 18 January 2018. The workshop discussed in detail the organizational structure and functioning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), GoP, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963.

More than 20 journalists from ARY News, Geo News, Samaa TV, 24 News, Dunya

News, 92 News, Neo TV, Jaag TV, Waqt News, PTV News, Radio Pakistan, Associated Press of Pakistan and Pakistan Observer participated in the workshop.

The second one-day media workshop titled “Pakistan’s Relations with the US, China and Russia,” was organized on 29 August 2018. The workshop focused on the complexities of Pakistan’s relations with the US, China and Russia, and whether or not the country has been managing the complexities effectively and efficiently. 40 journalists from ARY News, Geo News, Dawn News, Samaa TV, 24 News, Dunya News, 92 News, Abb Takk News, News One, Such News, Neo TV, Jaag TV, Waqt News, Public TV, PTV News, Radio Pakistan, Associated Press of Pakistan, Nawa-i-Waqt, Tass TV and IRNA participated in the workshop and were also awarded certificates.



Articles by IPRI Scholars

157 English and Urdu articles appeared in various newspapers, magazines and online.

THE EXPRESS
TRIBUNE

PAKISTAN POLITIC
Daily Times

Global Village Space

eurasia
news & analysis

Pakistan
OBSERVER

The Nation

RegionalRapport

نوائے وقت

پاکستان

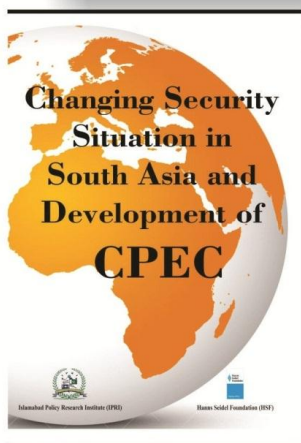
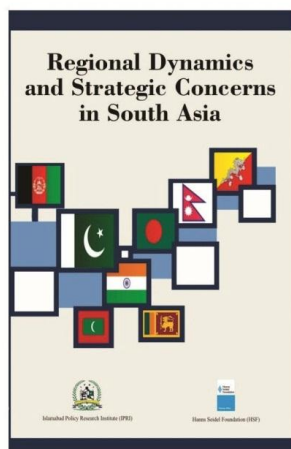
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In-House Discussions

17 In-house discussions and lectures were held, in which IPRI scholars delivered presentations on diverse topics ranging from Israel’s role in the Middle East, ongoing Syrian crisis, GCC’s apprehensions about Iran’s nuclear capabilities, India’s growing influence in the GCC and Asia-Pacific to US-China relations, Russia’s resurgence, North Korea’s nuclear program, JDIAF-2017, India’s nuclear ambitions and cultural imperialism as well as Pakistan’s public diplomacy, internet governance and artificial intelligence.

IPRI Publications 2018

IPRI PUBLICATIONS



The Islamabad Policy Research Institute wishes its readers

Happy New Year!

2019



Islamabad Policy Research Institute

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