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National Dialogue Series-I

Mainstreaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions



L-R: Acting President Brig. (R) Mohammad Mehoob Qadir, Mr Owais Ahmed Ghani and Ambassador (R) Inamul Haq

IPRI's National Dialogue Series is an initiative spread over two years to dilate upon matters of national importance and intended to come up with broad contours of a national narrative.

The Islamabad Policy Research Institute organized the first of its National Dialogue Series Roundtable on 'Mainstreaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions.'

Delivering his welcome address, Acting President of IPRI, **Brig (R) Mohammad Mehoob Qadir** said that colonial era administrative, constitutional, political and socioeconomic makeup of FATA coupled with external influences, most notably the anarchy in

Afghanistan, had the evil effect of converting this tribal area into a 'no-go' zone for the state and became a source of instability for Pakistan and the region. He highlighted that given these reasons, the government introduced wide-ranging reforms in the area to ensure sustainability of state interventions, and remove the causes of violence and anarchy bedeviling the FATA region. 'However, question marks over its constitutional future remain a problem towards this end.' He also pointed out that the

reforms introduced in GB have not been able to allay the genuine concerns of its people.

Fifth Generation/hybrid war under the US-India axis against Pakistan will continue; and FATA, GB & Balochistan regions will be main targets of subversion by hostile external powers & their agencies.

Delivering his keynote address to diplomats, bureaucrats, students and journalists, former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baloch-

istan **Mr Owais Ahmed Ghani** provided a detailed overview of the FATA region from the international, national and local dimensions.

He pointed out that the US-India axis will continue to have deep impact on Pakistan, particularly in the tribal regions with societal polarization, rise of Shia-Sunni sectarian militancy, warlordism, *Jihadi Tanzeems*, terrorism, and rise of mafia-like gangs.

Mr Ghani reflected that while national cohesion has improved 'instead of doing things in haste, incremental step-by-step approach is needed which consists of continuous & extensive consultation with FATA residents.' He called for close coordination between

administrative, political & military set-up; and detailed homework on administration and judicial systems.

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Mainstreaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) into National/Political Architecture: Challenges and Solutions



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In the session on mainstreaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts moderated by Ambassador (R) Inamul Haq, Dr Sohail Shehzad from the University of Peshawar discussed that implementing formal legal systems will be a challenge for the state. Transition will also be critical, especially in terms of past

decisions taken under Rewaj vis-à-vis women's rights, land rights and inheritance etc. that will need to be respected and upheld.

Dr Waseem Ishaque, Assistant Professor from the National Defence University stressed that while remaining within the bounds of tribal culture, comprehensive land reforms must be undertaken with complete concurrence of locals. Special allocation in the National Finance Commission for FATA development should also be made, and allied countries approached for enhanced developmental activities in health, education and infrastructure development.

Mr Mohammad Amir Rana, Director of the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS) shared the perceptions of the people of FATA. He was of the view that the government should have started the process of mainstreaming by focusing on the 'softer' issues first which deal with the day-to-day affairs of the people, rather than opting for the 'hard' security and judicial restructuring first.

Dr Syed Adnan Ali Shah Bukhari, Senior Consultant at IPRI highlighted that Afghanistan remains a major source of concern for Pakistan's tribal belt. 'KPTDs are the "soft underbelly" of Pakistan; and there is a need for expeditious implementation of Security Sector Reforms (SSR). For this, it is important to create awareness about benefits of SSR among KPTDs' inhabitants,' he concluded.

In the session on mainstreaming Gilgit-Baltistan moderated by former Federal Law Minister and President of Research Society of International Law (RSIL) **Mr Ahmer Bilal Soofi**, **Mr Aziz Ali Dad**, Gilgit-based social scientist and columnist, argued that to remain meaningful and relevant, it is indispensable for any political arrangement to bring people towards the 'zone of being' by investing power in them. 'By bringing people of GB within the ambit of the Constitution can create this zone of being.'

On the issue of constitutional processes and GB Order 2018, **Mr Ahmer Bilal Soofi** was of the view that while there have been attempts in the past to govern the GB region with a sense of independence like other



L-R: Mr. Aziz Ali Dad, with Acting President, Brig. (R) Mohammad Mehoob Qadir, Ahmer Bilal Soofi and Dr. Raja Qaiser

provinces of the country, none has so far worked. He outlined that 'there can be a legal instrument crafted through which it can be given provincial status, notwithstanding Pakistan's international position on Kashmir.'

Dr Raja Qaiser from the Quaid-i-Azam University discussed that power-sharing may work in Gilgit-Baltistan since it relies on governing coalitions that work through cooperative mechanisms like negotiation and

compromise.

Recommendations

Following recommendations were brought forth in the Roundtable:

- The biggest challenge in mainstreaming KPTDs into the national/political architecture is implementation on the ground. Rebuilding of damaged infrastructure needs to be completed on priority basis.
- Awareness among policy-makers regarding local sensitivities and culture are need of the hour, as well as exhaustive consultations with the local population.
- Strict border management over the short to medium term is needed in order to stop cross-border movement of terrorists.
- The Western route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), joining Gwadar-Quetta-Zhob-DI Khan-Peshawar-Islamabad is ideal for integrating FATA areas. Therefore, FATA should be integrated into this project for speedy development.
- Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

must cater to the development needs of FATA and planned in a way to benefit this region through special incentives.

- GB should be given internal autonomy instead of keeping its identity in perpetual limbo.
- Power-sharing may work in GB since it relies on a parliamentary system made up of governing coalitions that function through negotiation and compromise.

Ambassador Lecture Series-IV

Pakistan-Sri Lanka Relations



L-R: Acting President, Brig. (R) Mohammad Mehoob Qadir and H.E. High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan Noordeen Mohamed Shaheid

On 27 February 2019, IPRI invited H.E. High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan Noordeen Mohamed Shaheid to discuss "Pakistan-Sri Lanka Relations" as part of IPRI's Ambassador Lecture Series. The proceedings of the Lecture were held under the Chatham House Rule.

In the emerging political scenario where forces of cooperation and competition together will define regional politics, Pakistan and Sri Lanka can enhance bilateral cooperation, and further link up with the adjoining regions and countries through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The session underscored that both Pakistan and Sri Lanka at some point in history have experienced imposed belligerence. However, resistance to regional oppression and fighting back is a shared trait. South Asia as a region has been a victim of exclusionist tendencies. However, the regional connectivity projects, building of ports in South Asian states and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have strengthened the prospects of

economic integration.

It was highlighted that Pakistan and Sri Lanka have shared cordial ties with each other since independence. When Sri Lanka celebrated its 71st independence day, it also commemorated 71 years of bilateral relations with

Pakistan. The founding father of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah in his first visit to Sri Lanka stressed upon strengthening goodwill among people and development of mutual interests.

Historically, the governments on both sides have stood by each other in times of conflict, such as the 1971 Indo-Pak war and during Sri Lanka's battle against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Besides this, sports, especially cricket, is one area where both countries have fought each other's case. The terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team and their return to Pakistan in 2018 is a reflection of their warm sentiments. Similarly, Mr Abdul Hafeez Kardar, Former Test Captain and Chairman Cricket Board fought Sri Lanka's case for ICC

On the Kashmir issue, Sri Lanka maintains a position of neutrality and believes that both parties should seek peaceful means to resolve the crisis.

status and recognition.

It was strongly recommended that the Pak-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed in 2005 should be revitalized and revised based on current trends and trade requirements.

In the Question/Answer session, it was opined that people-to-people contacts are key to enhance goodwill. In this regard, the Sri Lankan government has envisioned an exchange visit of journalists and media to Pakistan. Businessmen from Pakistan, particularly the textile sector were also invited to Colombo to learn best practices about integration of Sri Lanka's textile sector into

Religious tourism should be promoted between the two countries. Pakistan should promote its heritage in Buddhist countries by developing partnerships with Buddhist societies, holding conferences and launching promotional videos.

global value chains. Regarding the stalemate in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), it was pointed out that only one

country in the region has problem with Pakistan hosting the SAARC Summit. On the issue of Chinese investment in Sri Lanka and what Pakistan can learn from their example, it was maintained that irrespective of investment, South Asian countries need to ensure that China does not take land ownership in their territories.

Recommendations

Following recommendations were brought forth in the discussion:

- People-to-people contact needs to be enhanced in the fields of media, education and research.
- Both countries can increase the level of bilateral trade to one billion dollars. In this regard, the Joint Economic Commission should meet annually and find new areas of cooperation. Joint ventures in textile sector can substantially improve the current level of trade volume.
- Since the Sri Lankan investors have no clarity about the cost and benefits of doing business under CPEC, therefore, Pakistan needs to educate investors about its benefits through frequent engagements at

businessmen-to-businessmen and government-to-government levels.

Brig (R) Mehboob Qadir
Acting President

"Fall of Dacca December 71: A Different Trauma"

Daily Times



Asghar Ali Shad
Research Fellow

"Soobon mein Anti-Terrorist Departments Ko Mazboot Kiya Jaye"

Roznama Pakistan

"Adm-Rawadari ka Khatima Kyun Zaroori?"

Roznama Pakistan

"Delhi Police-1237 ta 2019"

Nawa-i-Waqt

"Qaumi Zimmadaariyan"

Roznama Pakistan

"Barhamni Insaaf, Guru taa Maqbool Butt"

Roznama Pakistan



Muhammad Nawaz Khan
Research Officer

"Peace Constituency and India"

Daily Times



Amna Ejaz Rafi
Assistant Research Officer

"CPEC Dividends"

Daily Times



Gulshan Bibi
Assistant Research Officer

"Kashmir Demands Sanity"

Daily Times



Khurram Abbas
Assistant Research Officer

"Trump's Military Doctrine and its Implications"

The Express Tribune



Adeel Mukhtar Mirza
Assistant Research Officer

"Belligerence Begets more Belligerence"

The Express Tribune



Usama Nizamani
Junior Consultant

"Saudi Arabia and Pakistan at Economic Cross Roads"

The Nation



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

ipri.editor@gmail.com

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Institutional Collaboration
Emirates Policy Center (EPC),
United Arab Emirates



A delegation from Abu Dhabi-based think tank Emirates Policy Center (EPC), visited IPRI on 27 February 2019. The delegation included:

- Dr Ebtessam al-Ketbi, President, Emirates Policy Center (EPC)
- Ali al-Mansori, Visa Counsellor, UAE Embassy

Dr al-Ketbi briefed IPRI about the Center which was established in September 2013 and focuses on internal/external threats to the Arabian Gulf; and aims to determine and forecast the impacts of geopolitical developments and changes in the global balance of power on the UAE and the region. She shared that the EPC provides strategic analyses on regional security and foreign policy to the Ministry of Defence and National Security Council of UAE, apart from organizing the annual Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate in November, which has risen to international prominence.

She also highlighted that the EPC has research cooperation with various think tanks such as International Crisis Group and Atlantic Council in USA, Geneva Centre for Security Policy in Switzerland, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis in India, amongst others. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IPRI and EPC is now under consideration.

CALL FOR PAPERS IPRI JOURNAL
2019-20

The biannual IPRI Journal welcomes original high-quality papers/studies, review articles and book reviews which debate contemporary international relations issues and ideas of academic relevance.

Important Dates

- For the Summer 2019 issue: End of March
- For the Winter 2020 issue: End of September

Submission Guidelines for authors are available at:
<http://www.ipripak.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Guidelines-Contributors-IPRI-Journal-1-August-2018.pdf>

Submission Address
ipri.editor@gmail.com