



Press Coverage

One day Conference, “Revisiting Kashmir Policy” on January 30th, 2014

DAWN

METRO EVENTS

Conference

Published in Dawn, January 30th, 2014.

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) is organising a conference titled ‘Revisiting Kashmir Policy’ at IPRI Conference Hall on Thursday, January 30 at 10am.

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1083636/metro-events>

Express tribune

Revisiting Kashmir issue: Outlook pessimistic for quick resolution

Published in The Express Tribune, January 31st, 2014.

Speakers at a conference on Thursday were of the view that there was no hope for an immediate resolution of the Kashmir issue given the inflexible attitudes prevalent in India and Pakistan.

They said Pakistan needs to pursue a step-by-step approach to normalise tie with its eastern neighbour with caution, according to a press release. Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) President Sohail Amin, a former ambassador said despite their diametrically opposed stances India and Pakistan had to find a way to remove obstacles to the peace process for progress in the subcontinent.

Mr. Khalid Rehman from the Institute of Policy Studies quoted “India Poll 2013,” according to which 87 per cent Indians wanted an improvement in Indo-Pak relations for which they stressed courageous leadership on both sides. In the survey, 76 % agreed that India should take the initiative which according to him could be seen as a positive point for composite dialogue.

Chief guest Ambassador (retired) Khalid Mehmood said India’s sore point is its human rights violations which Pakistan must present at world forums to support the Kashmiris’ right to self-determination. Giving up Pakistan’s principled position is not an option, he added. “There is no easy solution to the Kashmir issue.”

National Defence University Dean Dr Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema said India had mastered the evasion technique to wriggle out from unfavourable situations. Musharraf’s soft border approach could help in softening rigid attitudes in the subcontinent which Pakistan requires for revival of its economy, said speakers.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/665551/revisiting-kashmir-issue-outlook-pessimistic-for-quick-resolution/>

SACH TIMES

Step by step approach faulted by scholars for Kashmir dispute in a conference

Published in Sach Times on Thursday 30 January 2014.

Islamabad [Special correspondent] Scholars participated in a conference sought step by step approach; stress pressing human rights issue in Kashmir. They said

that there was no hope of solution of the Kashmir issue any time soon given the fixated mindsets that prevail in India and Pakistan as such the need of the hour was to abandon time frames without abandoning Pakistan's principled position.

The conference organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) was addressed by Dr. Tahir Amin of Quaid-i-Azam University, Dr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema, Deen National Defence University and Mr. Khalid Rahman (Institute of Policy Studies). It was chaired by Ambassador (R) Khalid Mahmood. IPRI president, Ambassador (R) Sohail Amin said that despite their diametrically opposed stances India and Pakistan had to find a way out to remove this obstacle in the progress of the subcontinent.

Dr. Tahir Amin said that the step by step approach without comprehensive framework would not produce any fruitful results. He emphasized by saying that Kashmir dispute was not about territory but from India's position a clash between one nation and two-nation theories.

Dr. Peraviz Iqbal Cheema of NDU said that India had mastered the evasion technique to wriggle out from situations unfavourable to it. He suggested an interim arrangement to facilitate a possible solution.

Mr. Khalid Rehman explained the positions of major political parties of India on Kashmir and quoted surveys of public opinion. He quoted "India Poll 2013" according to which 87 % people of India wanted improvement in India-Pakistan relations for which they stressed courageous leadership on both sides. In their survey, 76 % agreed that India should take the initiative which according to him could be seen as a positive thing for composite dialogue.

The speakers said that Pakistan need to pursue the step by step approach with caution and whatever the Musharraf initiative had achieved should not be made a new starting point in the composite talks. India's sore point was its human rights violations which Pakistan must press with advantage at world forums in its support for the Kashmiris' right of self determination. Musharraf's soft border approach could help in softening rigid attitudes and create a conducive climate in the subcontinent which Pakistan badly needed for revival of its economy. They

said India-Pakistan rapprochement was the need of the hour given the global and regional trends.

Chief Guest of the Conference Amb (R) Khalid Mehmood said that problem of influencing the rigid and tricky Indian attitude could be tackled by highlighting violation of basic human rights in Kashmir at all platforms. He also said that giving up principled position was not a good solution. Also there was no easy solution to Kashmir issue, he said.

Conference was attended by scholars, intellectuals, researchers, former ambassadors and diplomats.

<http://sachtimes.com/0en15693idcontent.htm>

PAKISTAN NEWS

Revisiting Kashmir issue: Outlook pessimistic for quick resolution

Published in Pakistan News on January 31st, 2014.

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<http://paknews.doorblog.co.uk/tag/revisiting>