



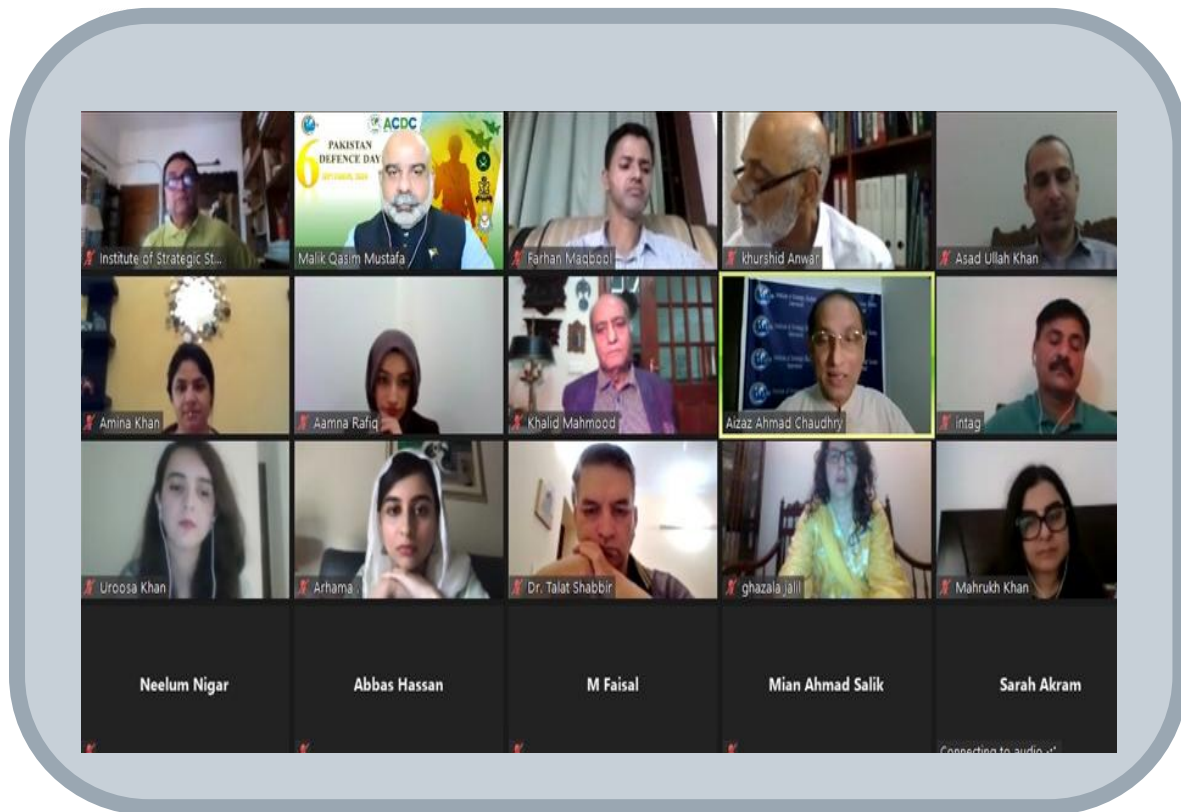
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Report – In-house Meeting

“Pakistan Defence Day Celebrations”

September 6, 2020



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Edited by: Malik Qasim Mustafa

The Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised an in-house event on September 6, 2020, to celebrate Pakistan Defence Day. The occasion commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran and playing of the national anthem. The new track, “*Har Ghari Tayyar*” by the Inter-Services Public Relations Pakistan (ISPR) was also played. Researchers at the five Centres of Excellence at ISSI also spoke on the occasion. The event was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director, ACDC.

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اے راہ حق کے شہیدوں وفا کی تصویر
تمہیں وطن کی ہوائیں سلام کہتی ہیں

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Remarks by Amb. Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI

Pakistan is historically and geographically connected with India and this connection cannot be changed. Since 1947, India has waged many wars on Pakistan but currently, India has unleashed the most dangerous hybrid warfare upon Pakistan. While highlighting the importance of narrative building, he said that positive national projection not only instigates motivation and inspiration among people but also enhance an international standing of a state. However, adversaries try to tarnish the global standing of a state and sow the seeds of mistrust and discouragement among people through propaganda and alternate history. For example, Pakistan is the biggest victim of terrorism and suffered a huge economic and human loss in the last two decades. Still, Pakistan is being falsely labelled as the perpetrator of terrorism because of massive propaganda by the anti-Pakistan lobbies at the international level. Pakistan should work on positive narrative building and celebrating the days of national importance is a major contribution in this direction. Today, every Pakistani should not only highlight the positive and prideful aspects of Pakistan but also try to strengthen the national traditions. While highlighting the plight of Palestinians and Kashmiris, he said that every Pakistani should pray for their independence and at the same time be grateful for living an independent life in a sovereign state of Pakistan. Pakistan could only prosper through collective hard work and positive outlook of its people.

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خون دل دے کے نکھاریں گے رُخ برگِ گلاب
ہم نے گُلشن کے تحفظ کی قسم کھائی ہے

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Remarks by Amb. Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI

September 6 is a day when the entire nation commemorates the valour and bravery of the armed forces of Pakistan against Indian attack in 1965. Pakistan bravely defeated the enemy which was much bigger in terms of geography, resources and armed forces. During this war, Pakistan emerged as a united nation where people from every walk of life like poets, singers, journalists played a significant and inspirational role. This experience is still edged on the national consciousness of Pakistan. The major lesson for future generations is that the armed forces alone cannot defeat the enemies. A nation can only overcome all security challenges through unity, commitment and determination. While highlighting the current situation along the Line of Control and the Indian Occupied Kashmir, he said that Pakistan could only survive by prioritising the national cohesion and spirit as of 1965.

Remarks by Ms Aamna Rafiq, Research Associate, ACDC

Speaking for the Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC), Ms Aamna Rafiq said that Pakistan is a unique country which has set great examples of resilience, bravery, commitment, determination and courage for rest of the World. Since 1947, Pakistan is fighting against the ideological, cultural, political, social, economic and military invasions. September 6, 1965, is one of the most glorious chapters of this great struggle. It is a day when the armed forces of Pakistan successfully defended the Indian aggression on their homeland in 1965. Numerous sacrifices were rendered by the Pakistani armed forces, while the nation showed an unprecedented spirit of unity and determination to safeguard Pakistan's territorial integrity.

Defence day is not only a day to pay tribute to all the martyrs of the 1965 war but also a day to appreciate the serving officers who are laying down their lives in the ongoing war against the militants, extremists and terrorists to ensure safe, secure and prosperous Pakistan. We must

remember that the internal and external threats to peace have not yet ended completely. But we should also remember that Pakistan is a nuclear power with one of the most battle-hardened armies of the world, which has no parallels. The armed forces of Pakistan are fully capable to deal with all types of internal and external threats, may it be conventional or sub-conventional. As a nation, we can be rightfully proud of these accomplishments. Lastly, the people of Pakistan and all state institutions must play their respective roles with utmost sincerity and commitment for the brighter future of Pakistan.

Remarks by Ms Arhama Siddiqa, Research Fellow, CMEA

Speaking for the Centre for Middle East & Africa (CMEA), Ms Arhama Siddiqa said that defence day is a tribute to the armed forces of Pakistan and all the martyrs of the 1965 war. “It is a day to renew our pledge that we are strong and should not be intimidated by any sort of threats and difficulties that come our way,” she said. She underscored the importance of having strong institutions by describing her recent interaction with the Yemeni official. Talking about state institutions, she mentioned the strength of an Ox. She said that the ox is a very strong animal and while it is upright few dare to and that too very rarely, overpower it. However, when it falls on its knees, weakens and ultimately dies, all sorts of vultures, who were previously circling overhead, swooping in and fighting over its meat. Similarly, any country needs to keep its institutions strong. Weak institutions are akin to a weak ox.

Ms Siddiqa also talked about refraining from the negative portrayal of the country on the international stage. Regardless of the differences, people may have within their country and with their government, when interacting at an international level, people of Pakistan should always showcase themselves as one. “If you are negatively portraying your country, you are essentially demeaning yourself along with it, she added. It is also important that one should not engage in hypocrisy, incessant telling of lies, leg-pulling and unnecessarily encroaching upon people’s personal lives, at all levels, particularly at individual levels. As was mentioned during the 14th August celebrations, it is, after all, individuals that make up a country, as the saying goes, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” Pakistan was not handed over as a charity. It was certainly not made in a day. It is the story and result of immense struggle and resilience. And everyone should honour that. Towards the conclusion, she said that resilience is like a muscle.

One can build it up and take advantage of it when one needs to. And in that whole process, if one is persistent and patient enough, they can come out to be the best version of themselves.

Remarks by Ms Uroosa Khan, Editor, CPSC

On behalf of the China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), Ms Uroosa Khan said that the nation of Pakistan commemorates this day to pay tribute to their valiant armed forces who fought fearlessly to defend their motherland when the Indian forces crossed the international borders of Pakistan on September 6, 1965. India attacked without a formal declaration of war and launched a three-pronged attack on the same day in 1965. The Indian army was fully confident of capturing Lahore and they had proudly announced their huge celebration after the war at Lahore Gymkhana. However, the Indian army could not accomplish its desired objective of capturing Lahore as it was badly beaten back by the brave armed forces of Pakistan who inflicted heavy losses to the enemy. The Pakistan Army was fully supported by the Pakistan Air Force in halting the Indian offensive. The 1965 war was followed by a ceasefire which came into effect on September 23, 1965, under the auspices of the UN. “We believed it then, and we believe it now that war is not a solution to resolve problems. Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence with its neighbours and in resolving disputes through dialogue. Defence day is a reminder to renew our pledge that we are a strong, proud nation and that we would not be intimidated by any foreign nation, no matter how strong it is. Our military is a symbol of all that and much more. It embodies the fighting spirit, bravery and tactical acumen of the great nation of Pakistan,” she said.

The entire nation salutes the martyrs and veterans for their unforgettable sacrifice and contribution in the protection of their beloved homeland against terrorism and hostile countries. In line with the spirit and national unity demonstrated during the 1965 war, the entire nation prays for the safety, security and solidarity of Pakistan. Talking about the plight of the Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK), she said that India attacked Pakistan in 1965 to hide the local resistance in Kashmir due to its oppressing rule but the Kashmir issue still stands unresolved between the two countries. After the abrogation of Article 370 and during the ongoing curfew, the horrific necro-political acts of violence, mental torture and ruthless brutalities towards Kashmiris are dangerously putting Kashmir in a state of exception and state of lawlessness. The

international humanitarian and human rights laws and the UN Security Council resolutions have been violated since 1947. The international community should take notice of the ongoing serious human rights violations in the IoK. “We must thank Almighty God for the freedom we enjoy and should never forget to pray for the freedom of Kashmiri people. May Allah keeps showering his blessings upon us,” she concluded.

Remarks by Mr Mian Ahmad Naeem Salik, Research Fellow, CSP

On behalf of the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP), Mr Mian Ahmad Naeem Salik said that the armed forces of Pakistan were successful in defending not only the areas attacked but also in protecting the lives of thousands of civilians and their homes in 1965 war. Thus, the nation of Pakistan owes a duty to honour and respect all the military personnel who gave up their lives so that the rest of the Pakistani nation could live peacefully. September 6, is about giving the right message to the youth and children of the country to grow up as proud citizens of Pakistan. This is also a day to renew the pledge that as a strong and proud nation, the people of Pakistan would not be intimidated by any foreign nation, no matter how strong it is and the armed forces are capable of defending every inch of the country. Prime Minister Imran Khan, in his message on the occasion, said that Pakistan’s desire must not be mistaken for weakness rather as it is to foster economic well-being and prosperity of the people in the region. Talking about the contributions of non-military personnel, he said that during the 1965 war, while the armed forces were engaged in defending geographical frontiers on ground, air and sea, the entire nation formed a strong rock-like second defence line by extending and providing all kinds of support to their forces. This respect and honour should also extend to all those non-military personnel as well who supported the armed forces by risking their lives on the battlefield. This day should also be observed in line with the spirit and national unity demonstrated during the September War.

Towards the conclusion, he said that Pakistan has entered into a new phase of China – Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and tries to achieve its goals of sustainable development. However, as economic security is closely linked with national security, the role of the security agencies becomes even more important to deal with the threats affecting the economic well-being of the country. The entire nation should pray for the safety, security and solidarity of Pakistan.

Moreover, the peaceful surroundings and freedoms as citizens of an independent country should not be taken for granted. This freedom and peace are ensured by the military and security agencies that work round the clock to protect our country from foreign and domestic threats, and their personnel make great sacrifices, in the course of their duty, and they should be appreciated fully. We all should be proud of our strong military forces and their role in guarding the physical frontiers and security of our country. As our military not only engages in combat during the war but also contributes to the nation in peacetime and times of calamities. “The best tribute to the martyrs is that all Pakistanis should work hard with full dedication and professional commitment in their selected professions to make Pakistan stronger and economically prosperous,” he said.

Remarks by Mr Muhammad Abbas Hassan, Research Associate, ISC

On behalf of the India Study Centre (ISC), Mr Muhammad Abbas said that in the history of every nation there comes a day when they have to stand as a unified force and prove themselves as a nation capable of confronting every single challenge with utmost bravery and fortitude. For Pakistan, it was September 6, 1965. On this day the armed forces of Pakistan demonstrated to the community of nations that no power in the world can undo Pakistan. The entire nation set the countless examples of heroism like Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed and M.M. Alam. He emphasised that this day of national importance must be celebrated on annual basis to raise awareness among youth which is the biggest target of alternate history and propaganda against Pakistan. Furthermore, such celebrations will also make the future generations cognisant of the sacrifices made by the armed forces for the survival of Pakistan as an independent sovereign nation-state. The enemies are systematically making an effort to build an anti-national narrative, especially among academia in Pakistan. The state of Pakistan has to take immediate actions against the conspiracy of discrediting the contributions of the armed forces of Pakistan.

Remarks by Mr Khurshid Anwar, Director Administration

Mr Khurshid Anwar, Director Administration ISSI, said that the people of Pakistan including women and children showed a great spirit of sacrifice for their motherland in 1965. The core intangible factors behind this dedication were strong faith in Allah Almighty and the desire for martyrdom. He presented a fascinating account of resilience and courage showed by the Pakistan Army and 19th Squadron of Pakistan Air Force during the battles of Chawinda, Jona Garah,

Pathan Kot and Chamb Sector during the 1965 war. He highlighted the amazing display of faith, unity, discipline and sacrifice by the entire nation on a single call of the then President of Pakistan, Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan.

Remarks by Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC

Dr Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) also gave a heart-wrenching speech. He recollected the strength, bravado and valour of the armed forces of Pakistan which he witnessed during his service especially in Siachen and Azad Jammu and Kashmir during the 1990s. He said that the entire Pakistani nation is ready to sacrifice their lives for the protection of their homeland.

The event concluded with a prayer that Allah gives us the strength, courage and determination, to safeguard our freedom and protect our motherland. Pakistan Zindabad.