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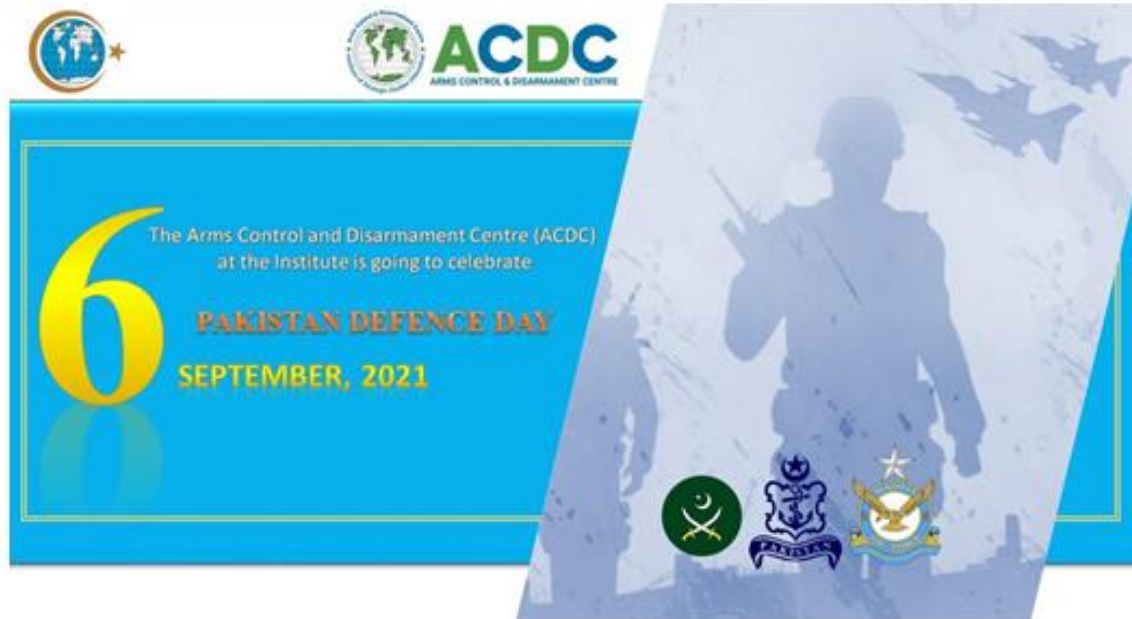
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Report – Web Celebration

“Defence Day of Pakistan”

ناقابلِ تسخیرِ دفاعِ پاکستان

September 6, 2021



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The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an in-house virtual meeting to celebrate the Defense Day of Pakistan under the theme the “Impregnable Defense of Pakistan (ناقابلِ تسخیرِ دفاعِ پاکستان)” on September 6, 2021. The celebration was attended by the entire ISSI research faculty and moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI. The occasion commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran and the playing of the national anthem.

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 اے راہِ حق کے شہیدوں وفا کی تصویر
 تمہیں وطن کی ہوائیں سلام کہتی ہیں
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In his introductory remarks, Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director, ACDC-ISSI said that the immense hard work, dedication and passion over the years have empowered the Armed Forces of Pakistan to stand like an Iron wall against threats.

Ms Ghazala Yasmin Jalil, Research Fellow ACDC-ISSI, provided a comprehensive overview of Pakistan’s defence capabilities in a special presentation. She said that Pakistan has the sixth-largest armed forces in the world. The active strength is 654, 800 personnel. The total strength of the Army, Navy and Air Force is 560,000, 21,800 and 70,000 respectively. The number of paramilitary forces is 291,000. She enlightened the participants with a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative analysis of Pakistan air, naval and land power. As India is the main threat to Pakistan’s national security, she also provided an all-encompassing comparison between the conventional and nuclear capabilities of Pakistan and India. While referring to John Mearsheimer, she said that between forces of comparable quality and firepower, the attacker will need a force that is three times or larger if it wants to achieve a breakthrough or success. However, in the case of India and Pakistan, the ratio is 2:1.

Pakistan’s nuclear capability is primarily intended to offset the conventional superiority of India. Pakistan’s basic guiding principle is minimum credible deterrence. Pakistan is working on a triad of land, air and sea-based nuclear forces. Pakistan has largely focused on its short to medium-range ballistic missile and cruise missile capabilities. She said that the full spectrum deterrence capabilities of Pakistan eliminate space for the Indian limited war doctrines. In February 2019, Pakistan has shown that it can counter any adventurism by India. She concluded her presentation

with a view that Pakistan's Armed Forces have a spirit that goes beyond just weapons. It is the belief in Almighty Allah that makes the defence of the country impregnable.

While highlighting the significance of this day in his remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, stated that celebrating this day of national and historic importance is one of the best ways to strengthen the resilience and keep the sense of unity alive in the nation to deal with ever-increasing challenges of present times. He was of the view that as a nation, people often point out the deficiencies in the country but ignore the blessing of living in such a peaceful, democratic and secure country. Defence day is a reminder to appreciate this huge blessing of independence and protection. As a nation, one must appreciate the capabilities of Pakistan's Armed Forces for holding up with a militarily superior country like India. While pointing towards the emerging change in the traditional role of the military in his remarks, he stated that the global strategic landscape is shifting from kinetic to hybrid or 5th generation warfare especially cyberwarfare. Therefore, the Armed Forces of Pakistan as well as the entire nation must change its focus towards this new mode of warfare. Defending the national narrative and ideological borders is as important as defending the geographical borders of Pakistan.

In his observations on the occasion, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI, said that September 6 is a day when the entire nation commemorates the valour and bravery of the armed forces of Pakistan against the 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. He also recollected the strength, bravado and valour of the entire nation, bureaucracy and armed forces of Pakistan that he witnessed during his posting in East Pakistan during the 1965 war. Furthermore, 6th September is not only a day to pay tribute to all the martyrs of the 1965 war but also a day to appreciate the officers who have sacrificed their lives in the ongoing war against terrorism, cyberwarfare and militarisation of emerging technologies. The major lesson for future generations is that the armed forces alone can't defeat the enemies. A nation can only overcome all security challenges through unity, commitment and determination.

EVENT IN PICTURES

