

1. International Seminar ‘Post 2014 Afghanistan after US Draw-down: Re-thinking India’s Policy’ (Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 August 2014)

International Seminar on

‘Post 2014 Afghanistan after US Draw-down: Re-thinking India’s Policy’

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 August 2014

Jointly organized by:

Yashwantrao Chavan National Centre for International Security and Defence Analysis

(YCNISDA), University of Pune, Pune,

Kunzru Centre for Defence Studies and Research, Pune

The withdrawal of United States military forces from Afghanistan by December 2014 and the change of government after the recent presidential elections have led to concerns, across the world, regarding that country’s political stability. A great deal hinges on the posture and salience of the Taliban. While some analysts may predict a stable democratic government, others believe that anarchy could lead to a civil war. Many others take the view that, after initial uncertainty, the Taliban will be brought under control with assistance from regional and global powers. They hold that a fragile democracy would emerge with fractured groups each under the influence of different regional players. This equally depends on whether eventually the BSA(Basic Security Agreement) will be signed between the United States and the incoming administration allowing some US forces to remain behind.

Issues: Implications of Withdrawal

1. Effects on Afghanistan: The US would not be able to prevent Taliban and Al-Qaeda from resurging again, perhaps with greater strength in Afghanistan particularly in the Southern and Eastern provinces. The Taliban in all probability will establish and maintain its zone of influence in Afghanistan and ANA will struggle to be a relevant force in the conflict. The economic impact of the withdrawal will directly depend on continuation of external financial assistance and the role of external stake holders, the evolving internal political and security situation and myriad factors difficult to predict at this stage.
2. Implications for the USA: Washington will have less influence in the region, even if it keeps some troops in Afghanistan. The United States’ goal of preventing the American homeland from being attacked by the Al Qaeda still remains unfulfilled. A

- growing perception of declining US power, influence and credibility will become inevitable. Its impact on the United States' 're-balancing' to Asia will be important.
3. Effect on Russia and Central Asian Republics (CAR): Similarly Russian policy in the region will need to be assessed both in the context of possibly increased "Islamist radicalism led by the Taliban in Afghanistan and Russia's deteriorating relations with the US and the West after Ukraine and Annexation of Crimea.
 4. Implications for Iran: One of the richest provinces, Herat, is also the closest to the Iran due to prolific border trade. Iran's main interest will be to expand its influence, by making sure that the Afghanistan government is not dominated by the predominantly Sunni Pashtuns, poppy trade controlled and Shias not subjected to continuing violence and terror..
 5. Implications for China: Till date, China has chosen not to get involved in the security sector in Afghanistan although has maintained open links with the Taliban. At the same time it has deepened its economic profile in the country by acquisition of mining and energy extraction projects and investment in rail and road linkages to enable the production to be transported to China. It nevertheless has strong concerns regarding the linking up of the Taliban with the Uighur separatists in Sinkiang.
 6. Implications for Pakistan: There is no sign that Pakistan's has abandoned its India-centric, strategy aimed to secure 'strategic depth' and 'subversive space' on Afghan soil through its proxy, the Taliban. To that end, it has sought to mediate and facilitate the US-sponsored peace talks with the Afghan Taliban while parallel combating the Pakistan Taliban within the country.
 7. Parameters of India's Policy: The US withdrawal from Afghanistan will have serious ramifications for Indian security interests. In the event of a re-Talibanisation of Afghanistan immediate adverse effects will be felt on internal security in Jammu & Kashmir and in the rest of India. The security of India's economic assets on the ground in Afghanistan, amounting to over US \$ 1 billion will also require a robust policy and action. India has vital economic commitments and access to energy and other natural resources in Afghanistan and Central Asia need to be secured and protected.

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Monday, 4 August 2014

9-00 am to 9-30 am: Tea

9-30 am to 9-45 am: Introduction to the Seminar Dr. Shrikant Paranjpe (YCNISDA)

Session I: Chair: Lt. Gen (Retd) D. B. Shekatkar PVSM, AVSM, VSM

9-45 am to 10-45 am: Amb. Rajendra Abhyankar: (Kunzru Centre for Defence Studies and Research ,Pune) Afghanistan After 2014 Us Drawdown: India's Policy Transformation

10-45 am to 11-45am: Mr. M. Ashraf Haidari (Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan, New Delhi): The Afghan Perspective

11-45 am to 12 noon Tea

12-00 noon to 12-45 pm: Lt Gen (Retd) Amitava Mukherjee PVSM, AVSM: Crisis in Afghanistan- the End Game - Strategic Challenges Post US Withdrawal

12-45 pm to 1-00 pm: Chairperson's Remarks

1-00 pm to 1-45 pm: Lunch

Session II Chair: Dr Arun Dalvi

1-45 pm to 2-30 pm: Dr. Lawrence Prabhakar (Madras Christian College, Chennai): Geopolitical implications of the Impact of US withdrawal from Afghanistan

2-30 pm to 3-15 pm: Prof. K. Warikoo (SIS, JNU, New Delhi): Afghanistan and Central Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

3-15 pm to 3-30 pm: Tea

3-30 pm to 4-30 pm: Mr. Haseeb Humayoon (Kabul) Presidential election and its implications

4-30 pm to 4-45 pm: Chairperson's Remarks

Tuesday 5 August 2014

9-30 am to 9-45 am: Tea

Session III: Chair: Dr. Vijay Khare

9-45 am to 10-30 am: Mr Jayant Umranikar IPS (Retd): Afghanistan: Future Options

10-30 am to 11-15 pm: Lt.Gen. (Retd.) K.T. Parnaik UYSM, YSM, PVSM: Impact of US withdrawal from Afghanistan on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir

11-15 am to 11-30am: Tea

11-30 am to 12-15 pm: Dr. Asif Shuja (ICWA, New Delhi) Iran-US Cooperation in Afghanistan Post-2014: Exploring the Possibilities

12-15 pm to 12-30 pm: Chairperson's remarks

12-30 pm to 1-15 pm: Lunch

Session IV: Chair: Amb. Rajendra Abhyankar

1-15 pm to 2-00 pm: Dr Radha Kumar (Delhi Policy Group, New Delhi): Regional Responses to the Afghan Transition

2-00 pm to 2-45 pm: Dr. Arvind Kumar (Manipal University) : India's Policy Options in the Aftermath of the NATO troops Withdrawal

2-45 pm to 3-30 pm: Col (Retd.) Pramod Marathe (DDSS, Pune University): Parameters of India's Afghan Policy

3-30 pm to 3-45 pm Chairperson's Remarks

3-45 pm to 4-00 pm: Concluding Observations and Vote of Thanks

Tea

Venue: Seminar Hall, Yashwantrao Chavan National Centre for International Security and Defence Analysis (YCNISDA), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Humanities Building (First Floor) University of Pune, Pune.

Sponsors:

Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi

The Embassy of India, Kabul.

Resource Persons

Dr. Shrikant Paranjpe Professor in the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, and Director, Yashwantrao Chavan National Centre of International Security and Defence Analysis (YCNISDA), University of Pune, Pune 411007, India.

Ambassador Rajendra Abhyankar Chairman, Kunzru Centre for Defence Studies and Research, Pune and Visiting Professor, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, Bloomington.

M. Ashraf Haidari Deputy Chief of Mission (Minister Counselor) , Embassy of Afghanistan, Plot No. 5, Block 50-F, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110021

Mr. Haseeb Humayoon, Research Analyst and *founding member of the youth-oriented political organization Afghanistan 1400.*

Lt Gen (Retd) Amitava Mukherjee, PVSM, AVSM , Member Governing Board, Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies, Pune

Dr. Arvind Kumar, Professor and Head, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Head, Manipal Centre for Asian Studies, Manipal University, Manipal – 576104, Karnataka, India

Dr. W. Lawrence S.Prabhakar, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Madras Christian College, Chennai, INDIA

Dr. Asif Shuja, Research Fellow at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi.

Prof. K . Warikoo, Professor, Centre for Inner Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Col (Retd.) Pramod Marathe DDSS, University of Pune, Pune

Lt.Gen. (Retd.) K.T. Parnaik UYSM, YSM, PVSM former GOC-in-C, Northern Command of the Indian Army

Dr. Radha Kumar Director General, Delhi Policy Group, New Delhi

Mr Jayant Umranikar, IPS (Retd), Former Director General of Police.

Lt. Gen (Retd) D. B. Shekatkar PVSM, AVSM, VSM, Former Chatrapati Shivaji Chair Professor

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