



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर परिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

13th MP-IDSA SOUTH ASIA CONFERENCE RETURN OF THE TALIBAN IN AFGHANISTAN: IMPLICATIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Day One: 16 December 2021

INAUGURAL SESSION: 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM (IST)

- **Welcome Remarks**
Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy, *Director General, MP-IDSA*
Release of Special Issue of MP-IDSA *Journal of Defence Studies* on
“50 Years Later: 1971 India–Pakistan War”

SESSION ONE: 10:30 AM – 12.30 PM (IST)

Return of Taliban: A Critical Analysis

Chair: Amb Sujan R. Chinoy, *Director General, MP-IDSA*

Speakers: 15 minutes each

- ***Return of Taliban and What It Means for Afghanistan and the Region***
Mr Lotfullah Najafizada
Director, TOLO News
- ***The Taliban's Immediate Future***
Mr Abubakar Siddique
Editor, RFE/RL Prague
- ***Afghanistan Heads Towards Uncertainty***
Amb Shamsheer M. Chowdhury
Former Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh
- ***Extreme Prognosis for an Extreme Region***
Dr Ayesha Siddiq
Research Associate, SOAS, University of London
- ***Working With or Around the Taliban***
Mr Obaidullah Baheer
Lecturer, American University of Afghanistan, Kabul

Q&A Session

SESSION TWO: 6:30 PM – 8.30 PM (IST)

Perspectives on Afghanistan

Chair: Amb Ashok Sajjanhar, *Member, MP-IDSA, Executive Council*

Speakers: 15 minutes each

- ***The Future of US Policy in Afghanistan***
Mr Michael Kugelman
Deputy Director & Senior Associate, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC
- ***Afghanistan's Security Crisis and the Region***
Dr Nilofar Sakhi
Senior Fellow (NR), Atlantic Council, Washington, DC
- ***Central Asia's Approach Towards Taliban-Controlled Afghanistan***
Mr Bruce Pannier
RFE/RL, Prague
- ***The Central Asian States versus New Afghanistan***
Dr Irina Zvyagelskaya
Head, Centre for the Middle East Studies, IMEMO, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

Q&A Session

Day Two: 17 December 2021

SESSION THREE: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM (IST)

Regional Perspectives

Chair: Amb Rakesh Sood, *Former Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan*

Speakers: 15 minutes each

- ***Social Engineering of Afghanistan Revisited***
Prof Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sajjadpour
Distinguished Fellow, Institute for Political and International Studies, Tehran
- ***Taliban Victory in Afghanistan - The Impact Upon Pakistan***
Prof Pervez Hoodbhoy
Islamabad-based Physicist and Writer
- ***Afghanistan's Road to Peace and Development***
Dr Wang Shida
Deputy Director and Associate Professor, Institute for South Asian Studies, CICIR, Beijing
- ***Return of Taliban and Reversal of Women's Rights in Afghanistan***
Dr Bahar Jalali
Visiting Professor, Loyola University Maryland
- ***Central Asia, Taliban and the Regional Security***
Dr Akram Umarov
Fulbright Visiting Scholar, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- ***Taliban 2.0: A View from Russia***
Dr Alexey Kupriyanov
Head, Group on South Asia and Indian Ocean, IMEMO, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

Q&A Session

SESSION FOUR: 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM (IST)

Way Forward in Afghanistan

Chair: Amb Sujan R. Chinoy, *Director General, MP-IDSA*

Speakers: 15 minutes each

- ***Afghanistan and South Asia: Two Different Futures***
Prof C. Raja Mohan
Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore
- ***A Long, Violent, Road Ahead for Afghanistan***
Mr Mahendra Ved
President Emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists Association, New Delhi
- ***The Peril of Legitimation***
Prof Ajay Darshan Behera
Director, MMAJ Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia
- ***The Way Ahead in Afghanistan***
Dr Ashok K. Behuria
Senior Fellow & Coordinator, South Asia Centre, MP-IDSA

Q&A Session

VOTE OF THANKS

Mr Vishal Chandra, *Conference Coordinator*