

The Policy Perspectives Foundation (PPF) is a non-profit, apolitical think tank on matters of national interest. PPF's activities focus on complex and inter-connected challenges to peace, stability and development in India in cognizance of the external dimension. PPF is committed to spreading awareness, building capacity and promoting resilience.

In this first issue of Policy Perspectives Foundation's monthly newsletter 'Prism' we bring you a wrap of important news from India's neighbourhood covering Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Prism's current issue features articles on the Drug Problem in Punjab, Islamicist Radicalisation and Terrorism and India's Moon Mission.

## **Neighbourhood Wrap**

- In Afghanistan there has been widespread violence amidst campaigning for elections which are due on 28 September 2019 and the ongoing negotiations between US and Taliban. Several rounds of talks between the US and the Taliban have been held in Qatar raising the prospects of an imminent agreement. A conditional withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan in exchange for a pledge by the Taliban not to allow the country to become a base for terrorist groups appears to be a plausible outcome though a modicum of skepticism persists. The U.S.-Taliban agreement would precede intra-Afghan talks over a future political settlement that will be negotiated between the internationally backed government in Kabul, the militant group, and representatives of Afghan society. There is lack of clarity over how a U.S.-Taliban peace deal or Afghan government-Taliban peace negotiations would affect the presidential election.
- 2. Afghans across the divide have asked Pakistan not to link the Kashmir issue with the developments in their country. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid and former Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai sought delinking of Afghanistan from Kashmir. The statement issued by the Taliban read, "Linking the issue of Kashmir with that of Afghanistan by some parties will not help because the issue is not related, neither should Afghanistan be turned into a theatre of competition between countries." (Aug 9, INAS)

Vol. 1, Issue 1.

August 2019

3. On Aug 16 the U.N. Security Council held a closed door discussion on developments in Kashmir. Pakistan had originally requested the Security Council meeting and it was subsequently called for by Permanent Member, China. Indian U.N. Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin called India's Aug. 5 move to revoke Article 370 in India-administered Kashmir an internal matter. Permanent Security Council members France, UK, US and Russia favored keeping Kashmir a bilateral

- issue between India and Pakistan. China's U.N. ambassador said that India had "changed the status quo in Kashmir, causing tensions in the region." While emphasizing India's continuing commitment to all agreements signed by her, Syed Akbaruddin explained her concerns with the words that "one state is using terminology of jihad against and promoting violence in India."
- 4. Furthering his administration's emphasis on India's neighborhood, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's significantly chose to visit Maldives and Sri Lanka as the destination for his first visit abroad soon after his emphatic electoral victory to a second term as the head of the national government. The visit to Male and Colombo offers the opportunity to firmly express his intention to strengthen India's linkages with the Indian Ocean island states, which are part of the regional geography. (TIE, Jun 7,). Six agreements in the areas of white shipping, hydrography, health cooperation, ferry and cargo services and cooperation in capacity building in customs and civil service were signed with Maldives. Prime Minister conveyed the solidarity of India with Sri Lanka in the aftermath of terror attacks. Discussions were held to further strengthen the bilateral relationship.
- 5. During his visit to Bhutan from 17-18 August 2019, PM Modi along with Bhutanese PM Dr. Tshering inaugurated the 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Plant, the Ground Earth Station of the South Asian Satellite (SAS) in Thimphu which was constructed with the support of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and also launched the facility of using of Indian-issued RuPay cards in Bhutan. India and Bhutan are currently working on several other projects like Punatsangchhu 1 & 2, Kholongchhu hydropower plants and the Sankosh Reservoir hydroelectric project.
- 6. External Affairs Minister (EAM) India Dr. S
  Jaishankar called the current period in IndiaBangladesh ties a 'sonali adhyay' (Golden
  chapter) during his visit to Dhaka from 1921 August 2019. He expressed confidence
  in the "positive trajectory" of the bilateral

- relationship. In anticipation of PM Hasina's visit to India in October both countries are working towards finding "mutually acceptable formulas" to share water from 54 rivers. (Aug 20, PTI)
- EAM India was the Chair at the 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting held on 01 August 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting adopted the new MGC Plan of Action 2019-2022 which envisages projectbased cooperation in the areas of MGC cooperation. The meeting also approved India joining the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) as a Development Partner. India's educational support for the Mekong countries and work on the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and initiative in early finalization of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Motor Vehicle Agreement (IMT MVA) were appreciated by other member countries.
- 8. A high official level delegation from Myanmar held discussions with Rohingya leaders in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar over the return of refugees to Rakhine state. An earlier deal between Bangladesh and Myanmar on the repatriation issue signed in November 2017 had made no progress so far. Bangladesh and Myanmar made a fresh attempt to repatriate 3,450 Rohingya Muslims. However, there is little sign of any tangible breakthrough.
- 9. The 5th Nepal-India Joint Commission meeting held on 21 August 2019 reviewed the Indo-Nepal bilateral ties with special focus on connectivity and economic partnership. It is hoped that commercial operational of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil pipeline, a bilateral project between India and Nepal would commence soon. There has been progress on the Jayanagar-Janakpur and Jogbani-Biratnagar sections of the cross-border railway projects, the four segments of Hulaki Roads, and the Integrated Check Post in Biratnagar.
- In a recent interview commander-in-chief of Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA) Bashir Zeb said that Pakistan's economy and



foreign policy are driven by terrorism. He said "Pakistan is a terrorist organisation and its economy and foreign policy are driven by terrorism. However, it is high time the civilised world adopts a strong approach and stops Pakistan's blackmailing tactics for good." Earlier the US Dept. of State had designated the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA) as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). The announcement also included an alert that Pakistan's based militant group Jundallah, is now using the name 'Jaysh al-Adl'. (July 2, 19)

- 11. Global rights organisations have been calling on Pakistan to end the crackdown on the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) which has intensified in recent months with arrests of several PTM activists. This crackdown along with PTM's designation as a nonparliamentary voluntary movement was done to effectively prevent the PTM from participating in the first provincial elections held for 16 seats in the seven tribal districts of erstwhile Federal Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and six towns of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).
- 12. Various media reported Pakistan's evacuation of more than 50 Chinese nationals working in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, confirming presence of China in the territory illegally occupied by Pakistan. (Aug 02, ET)
- 13. Speaking at the US Institute of Peace, PM Imran Khan admitted that "30,000 to 40,000 militants trained in some theatre who fought either in Afghanistan or in Kashmir" are still operating in Pakistan. He also pointed to the existence of at least "40 militant groups" in the period after the 9/11 attacks in 2001. These remarks by the Pak PM contradict the Pakistan Army's position on the activities of terror groups. (Various Sources)
- 14. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board has approved a \$6 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan. This is Pakistan's 13th IMF program, and it includes a primary budget deficit target of 0.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) excluding debt service costs. Upon approval the IMF immediately released a \$1 billion tranche to Pakistan.

- 15. The Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, the regional affiliate of the FATF has placed Pakistan on the "Enhanced Expediated Follow Up List" rating its performance in countering terror funding 'as extremely poor.' The APG's review of Pakistan's position on upgrading its systems in all areas of financial and insurance services and sectors, to assess whether there are sufficient safeguards against money laundering and terror financing should be a harbinger to the FATF review in October this year.
- 16. There are several reports of heightened activity of Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) which has supposedly been relocated to training camps in Afghanistan. It is probable that the shift at this time has been done to avoid black-listing of Pakistan by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in its Paris conference later this year.
- 17. Both Pakistan and China were censured at the Arria-Formula meeting of the UNSC for persecution of religious minorities like Ahmadis, Christians, Kazakhs, Uighur Muslims and Tibetan Buddhists in their countries. (Aug 23, TIE)

HT – Hindustan Times, TIE – The Indian Express, TOI – The Times OF India, ET – Economic Times

### Drug Problem in Punjab

Punjab, once known as a 'crown jewel' for leading India's Green revolution, has developed into a state with a serious drug addiction problem amongst its people including women and youth. We propose to discuss the challenge faced by the state in this commentary.

Results of a recent national survey report - "Magnitude of Substance Use in India 2019" released earlier this year remind us of the serious challenge the drug addiction poses. The survey, a massive and first of its kind of exercise, was commissioned by the Ministry of Social Justice

and Empowerment (MoSJE)1 covering all the States and UTs<sup>2</sup>. The data of this survey reveal the serious magnitude of the continuing drug addiction in Punjab. For the sake of brevity, this piece will only discuss the challenge posed by the 'Opioids' and no other addictive substances. These include three different sub-categories in the overall category of opioids: (1) Opium (including doda/phukki/poppy husk); (2) Heroin (including brown sugar/smack) and (3) Pharmaceutical opioids. Punjab at 7.2% of 77 Lakh users nationally was pipped only by the more populous UP (10.2%). Findings show that the story remains identical in the sphere of people who inject drugs (PWID) as UP and Punjab (in that order) lead the affected states<sup>3</sup> in India.

The drug problem in Punjab, has been flagged earlier reports/study also. An earlier (2015) study<sup>4</sup> covering ten worst affected districts<sup>5</sup> had revealed similar worrisome facts. It had shown that 89% of drug addicts are educated and literate – mostly male (83%) though a significant number of women also were addicted. It had also indicated that the problem was not confined to urban areas only as 56% of drug addicts came from villages. The most commonly used drug is Heroin (Chitta)

Another research paper<sup>6</sup> (March 2018) published in the Asian Journal of Psychiatry, pegs the figure of the total number of persons who have used a substance at least once in their lifetime at 4.1 million (4 million men & 0.1 million women). The number of substance dependent persons in Punjab was put at 3.2 million (3.1 million men and 0.1 million women).

Punjab has a consistently high rate of registration of cases under the Narcotics Drug and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. It also records a significant number of drug related suicide cases. In fact, about 44.5% of all convicts under the NDPS Act in India at the end of 2014 were in Punjab.

The drug problem has now permeated through the social fabric of the state cutting across the markers such as class, gender, age and geography. Rampant addiction affects the Government employees as well which has forced the state government to direct all employees to undergo drug tests.

This persistent menace is also telling on the Health parameters in Punjab<sup>7</sup>. An unfortunate impact is seen in deteriorating health of the addicted population which includes both youth and women – the latter often through addicted partners. Multiple causative factors like relationship issues: broken marriages, domestic violence, alcohol addiction, peer pressure; addiction while selling drugs for money have been identified. Women addicts are hardly seen visiting Outpatients Opioid Assisted Treatment (OOAT) Centres for treatment perhaps due to the fear of social stigma.

Lure of easy money from drug business has led to a complex network of criminals, politicians and the corrupt officials of enforcement agencies that is difficult to break. Enforcement agencies are not efficient enough to check these activities effectively; particularly due to lack of government support to keep these agencies well trained, equipped and motivated.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> An estimated 6,000 people have died of AIDS in the past 11 years in Punjab. 67 drug addicts died of drug overdose between 2017 & 2019.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The survey covering all the States and UTs was undertaken by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)Government of India in collaboration with selected NGOs and the State governments spread throughout the country.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This was undertaken by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AlIMS) Government of India in collaboration with selected NGOs and the State governments spread throughout the country.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The list includes other states like Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat who together with the two states mentioned earlier accounted for more than half the users in the nation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Society for Promotion of Youth & Masses (SPYM) in collaboration with the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AllMS, New Delhi and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Punjab undertook this study in 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> viz Bhatinda, Ferozepur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Patiala, Sangrur, Moga & Tarn Taran

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Epidemiology of Substance Use and Dependence in the State of Punjab, India: Results of a Household Survey on a state-wide representation Sample" conducted by the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh.

The main source of opioids in Punjab is
Afghanistan. Drug syndicates use the traditional
smuggling routes and techniques to negotiate
the Indo-Pak border. Some observers find a
linkage between growth in drug trade with decline
witnessed in the economy of Punjab. Inter State
trafficking takes place from neighbouring states
like Rajasthan, MP, HP etc. to Punjab.

The State Government is aware of the challenge and has initiated several measures. A Special Task Force (STF) was constituted in March 2017 to tackle drug smuggling and an Anti-Terror Staff (ATS) was set up under the Intelligence Branch of Punjab Police to break the link between terrorists and gangsters lodged in prisons. Augmented security measures for prisons were also announced. In addition, the state has taken steps that include provision for detention of drug smugglers for a year and creation of a separate Drug Division under the Health Dept. to centralise synergise the de-addiction efforts of the State Govt. and private centres. The State Police has also been directed to step up their preventive actions. It is also stepped up its engagement with the youth to deter their taking to drug addiction. While these measures are well intended, there is, however, a need to undertake a serious and urgent augmentation in the existing strength, capacity and training of the Police and other specialized Enforcement agencies to have any meaningful impact on the problem.

There is a need for a National Drug Policy. It is clear that no single state alone and on their own would be in a position provide an effective response to this complex and hydra-headed problem. It is understood that on a recommendation of the Chief minister personally to the Union Home Minister recently, a Joint Coordination Committee under the Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB),has been formed which has already held its first meeting this month (Aug. 2019). There are other issues that deserve attention of the government. The latter should encourage more intense and in-depth research and study of various aspects of the problem at the level of States. This will help in understanding the complexities better involved and in evolving pragmatic administrative responses.

The menace of drug addiction in any state merits serious attention as it adversely affects the most precious national source – the youth. In a sensitive state like Punjab, it acquires a strategic dimension and therefore, an urgency. The task should not be relegated entirely to the levels of Police or the Narcotics Control Bureau. There is also a critical requirement of addressing the issues of augmenting their footfalls and capacity in terms of training. Simultaneously, the MoSJE report quoted above has made several useful recommendations which merit a meaningful examination with a view to formulating appropriate policies for a more holistic response to needs of the people. Just to cite one instancethe suggestion to factor in the nature, percentage as well as the absolute magnitude of substance use along with other socio-cultural factors in formulation of response is very useful.

The author Shri A P Bhatnagar, IPS (retd.) is a former Director General Intelligence of Punjab

## Islamicist Radicalisation and Terrorism: A Need for New Approach

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The twin interrelated phenomenon of Islamicist Radicalisation and terrorism continued to pose serious threat to global security as evident from IS led/inspired terror strikes in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan in April and August 2019 respectively. The Islamicist terrorist action mostly results from the larger historical process of radicalisation, which combines the specific local, regional and global contexts.

Most nation states including Indian establishment have attempted to understand the challenges of radicalisation and terrorism among Muslims within the West-centred discourse of 'radicalisation of Islam' and perspective of 'Good Muslim, Bad Muslim', to use Mahmood Mamdani's phrase. The underlying assumption beneath this perspective is that Islamic texts including Holy Quran and Hadith promote the culture of radicalisation and violence. Based on such a mechanical understanding of Islamicist radicalisation and terrorism, the policy



prescription veered towards 'the securitisation of Islam' and led to an excessive reliance on application of hard power including tight surveillance over Muslim concentrated locality, regulation and control over Islamic institutions, interrogation, detention, questioning and arrest of suspect terrorist and finally the physical elimination of 'Bad Muslims'/terrorists.

The west centric approach also aims at 'reform of Islam' with a focus on creating a single representative structure of Islam, something like Church, and to expunge most of violent sentences from Islamic sources and texts. This top-down security centred approach has though significantly dismantled the physical infrastructure and capacity of Islamicist terror groups such as al Qaida and ISIS, but they could neither weed out nor could de-legitimise the ideational resources, which motivates young Muslim mind to commit the terror act.

There is no doubt that counter terror security measures are needed in fight against Islamicist radicalisation and terrorism. The application of hard power should combine with civil society perspective of Islamicist radicalisation and terrorism. To better serve the intended purpose and objectives the latter prescribes a text-incontext approach with focus on 'Islamisation of radicals' rather than 'radicalisation of Islam'. This approach takes into consideration of existence of Muslim youths, who are internally troubled and discontented for a variety of socio-economic-political and personal reasons. They undergo the process of Islamisation in terms of selectively appropriating Islamic history, myth, verses, hero and other resources, which justifies his/her radical state of being leading to participation in violent action. This process of Islamisation minimally includes the following: the process of 'othering' and creation of politicised other, an ideological, geo-political understanding of Islam; Islam as unified, homogenised creed, which is opposed to all forms of pluralism and diversity and a binary worldview of US and THEM. The dominant site and agency of process of Islamisation of radicals are mostly upper income Muslim youths with modern educational and professional

background, who deeply suspects the Islam of their parent generation and other traditional Islamic institutions and hold them responsible for decline of Islamic values and remained in constant search of authentic expression of Islam, which could provide hope and way out including the violent ones to re-establish the hegemonic position of Islam in the world.

This Islamicist discourse managed to move rapidly at global level in last quarter of 20th Century for two specific reasons: (a) the withdrawal of Soviets from Afghanistan and later its disintegration sharpened the contradiction between political Islam and the West and (b) modernity as hegemonic homogenised discourse over last 200 years of its life span has itself weakened and delegitimised the conception of diversity and pluralism, which in turn produced a homogenised conception of religious community as 'ideal'. Today all Islamic traditions and institutions have themselves internalised the principles of modernity, idealised the homogeneous Islamic community and suspect the diversity of Islamic expressions as un-Islamic.

It is this transformative shift in the conception of Islam, which partly explains the resonance of Wahhabi-salafi understanding of *Tawheed* (monothism)- hierarchal, literal, rigid, ideological, exclusive and violence-prone (compared to pre-modern times)-the principle ideational source of radicalisation- across the Muslim parts of the globe.

This understanding of *Tawheed* has led to development of an idea among a large number of Muslims that by restoring back Allah's rule, which is considered to have been corrupted through long process of *shirk* and *bida* (innovations including ideas, practices and institution that was non –existent during the period of Prophet Muhammad) committed by Muslims governments and people alike, the pristine glory of Islam can be retrieved and a good fortune of the Muslims be assured. This 'material' hope, however illusory, sustains the preference of 'Sharia law' over any form of 'manmade law' among large section of Muslims, as former is forever 'sacralised'. That is why the idea of

'Islamic state', no matter how faceless and abstract it is, continues to retain an appeal among a good number of Muslims and propel them either to rebel against existing forms of secular government or to demand *Sharia* law in governance in Muslim majority nations or to seek 'autonomy of *Sharia* law' in Muslim minority context.

A framework of modernity with homogenising thrust -whether of secular or religious variety-would not be therefore much helpful in eliminating or delegitimizing the idea of Islamicist radicalisation. Only Islamic post modernism with its celebration of pluralism and diversity as an article of faith and belief into principle of relative truth could arrest such modern Islamicist forces of destruction.

The author Prof. Dr. Anwar Alam, Senior Fellow at Policy Perspectives Foundation

# "All civilizations become either spacefaring or extinct"\*

At 3.844 lakh km away, the moon is the most mysterious body in the solar system, too far to fully comprehend yet close enough to feel an intimate bond. The Moon remains scientifically appealing and has generated revived interest in recent years. Its' a puzzle how among the four inner planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars) only Earth acquired such a large and permanent satellite, whose isotopic composition is the same as that of the earth and the chemical composition is largely similar to the earth's mantle. Chandrayaan-2 is an ambitious endeavor to seek answers to some of the questions that puzzle the global scientific community. The aim of the mission is to gather information on lunar topography, mineralogy, elemental abundance, the lunar exosphere and signatures of hydroxyl and water ice.

Simply put, the equatorial front side of the moon has been studied in great detail. Consequently, a wealth of information about lunar surface topography, gravity, albedo, chemical and

mineral composition is available. However, there still remain many gaps in our understanding of the moon. One such gap in our knowledge relates to the lunar polar regions which were not observed by the earlier moon missions. A major question that puzzles the scientific community about availability of hydrogen or water ice on the permanently shadowed region of the lunar poles where temperatures can be as low as -230°C. Exploration of the far side of the South pole region of the Moon being attempted by Chandrayaan-2 is significant because of the possibility of the presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it. In addition, lunar South Pole region has craters that are cold traps and may provide a fossil record crucial for an understanding of the formation of Solar System.

Chandrayaan-2 seeks an answer to this very question. Its predecessor Chandrayaan-1 India's first orbiter lunar mission of 2008 which was designed to seek answers to such questions had conclusively, provided evidence of water molecules on Moon despite a hard landing near the Lunar South pole. Apart from Moon Impact Probe (MIP) which crashed on landing, all the other experiments part of the Chandrayaan-1 mission were conducted from the orbiting spacecraft. Therefore, Chandrayaan-2 continues the work that started with Chandrayaan-1 and marks a significant stride forward.

Launched onboard India's most powerful rocket, the GSLV Mk-III, Chandrayaan-2 mission will attempt to study the southernmost realm of the far side of the moon at close quarters with help from lander 'Vikram' and robotic rover 'Pragyaan' The lander Vikram will attempt to soft land on the lunar surface on September 6-7, 2019. The robotic rover will roll out and carry out experiments on Lunar surface for a period of one Lunar day which is equal to 14 Earth days. The Orbiter will continue its mission for a duration of one year. The soft landing that is being aimed involves separation from the Orbiter through a series of complex maneuvers This is the more challenging part of the mission. Extreme surface temperature variations because of the length of a lunar day, hostile surface full of craters, rocks and dust make it very difficult to conduct lander and rover



operations. Imaging of the landing site region prior to landing will be done for finding safe and hazard-free zones.

China's moon mission Chang'e-4 was the first to land in lunar far side within the South Pole-Aitken basin. Although both the Chang'e-4 and Chandrayaan-2 moon missions are attempting to explore the far side by soft landing there are some differences in their scientific aims. Chang'e-4's mission was to expose the lunar mantle which is the region just below the moon's crust but above the core and understand the questions about the formation of the solar system whereas Chandrayaan-2's aim is to study lunar topography and signatures of hydroxyl and water ice.

With the successful final orbit raising maneuver of Chandrayaan-2, the spacecraft is now on course its four orbital maneuvers which will bring it closer to the moon surface for the final landing on 7th September. Successful landing of 'Vikram' and release of rover 'Pragyaan' will further reiterate India's stature as a leading spacefaring nation.

Scientific experiment on the Moon, the orbital experiment, would bring significant scientific returns and vastly enhance our knowledge of the Solar System and of our own planet. ISRO's moon mission is a testament to India's growing confidence to undertake more ambitious space science and exploration missions. Our moon mission could prove to be a test bed for equipment and operations required for other planetary missions. In view of its importance in understanding the early evolution of the earth, life on earth and its ancient interplanetary environment, Chandrayaan-2 will be followed by sample-return missions when the technology permits. A manned space mission, Gaganyaan is being planned for its first test flight in 2021. The future is likely to see greater space exploration by India as consultations on the Space Activities Bill which aims to channelize the activities of the domestic private space industry through national legislation are in pre-legislative stages.

The author Vaishali Basu Sharma is working with the PPF.

\*By Carl Sagan

#### **Events Held**

Panel Discussion on "Developments in Afghanistan in Perspectives: Policy Implications for India"

#### **Panelists**

Shri Rana Banerji, Shri T C A Rangachari, Shri Gautam Mukhopadhya, Ms. Anju Gupta & Gen. Deepak Kapoor 31 July 2019, PPF Premises

A talk on 'Contemporary Emerging Trends Among Muslim Community in Tamil Nadu' by Mr. A. Faizur Rahman President, Islamic Forum for the Promotion of Moderate Thought, Chennai and Ms. Harini Kumar, Ph.D Research Scholar, Chicago University, USA.

20 August 2019, PPF Premises

## **Forthcoming Events**

A talk on "Political Journey of Indian Democracy: Towards Inclusive Development" by Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, Former Union Minister

31 Aug 2019, Conference Hall-II, IIC

"Developments in the Gulf" By HE Dr. Ahmad Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India

14 Sept. 2019, Conference Hall-II, IIC



ppf.org.in



policyperspective@gmail.com



+91 11 4105 8454

