

# January Newsletter

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Dedicated to American Ideals, a progressive and politically stable Pakistan, and strong US-Pakistan relations.

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### **INDUS – MOBILIZING PEOPLE'S POWER**

**New Program Announcement**

#### ***COMMUNITY INTEGRATION & CIVIC PROMOTION***

INDUS – Mobilizing People's Power is excited to announce a new programmatic focus for 2016: Community Integration & Civic Promotion. When successful, community integration and civic promotion begin with the individual and then advance collectively, usually through socialization with informal groups and professional and cultural associations and with the support of Federal, State, and municipal programs. However, due to regional, organizational, and programmatic differences, the catalytic potential of civil society organizations often goes underutilized. Such organizations have the capability, as well as a responsibility, to enhance the process of community integration.

Last month, INDUS convened a collaborative meeting of several civil society organizations to identify supplemental methods and frameworks that can advance government and non-governmental efforts to integrate new communities within American society. Under INDUS, the Community Integration & Civic Promotion program will facilitate and deepen partnerships within and among local, regional, and national civil society organizations in

order to advance community integration, promote the concept of U.S. citizenship, and highlight pathways to realize the “American Dream.”

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*INDUS - Mobilizing People's Power [www.induspk.org](http://www.induspk.org) is a Washington, D.C.-registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt Think Tank & Advocacy Group dedicated to a progressive and politically stable Pakistan, strong U.S.-Pakistan relations, and community integration and civic promotion in the United States. INDUS has no political affiliation in the United States or political ambitions anchored in Pakistan.*

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## **"The Home Grown"**

### ***A Challenge for the Home***

Mr. Athar Javaid, President of INDUS

In November 2009, thirteen died and thirty were wounded in a shooting at Fort Hood, Texas. In May 2010, a car bomb was poised to go off in New York's Times Square. In October of the same year, a resident of Ashburn, VA, plotted a terrorist attack on the Washington metro system. In July 2015, an attack on a recruiting center in Chattanooga, TN, killed five people plus the shooter. Finally, the rampage in San Bernardino, CA—just the latest tragedy among a growing number.

Horrible acts like these make victims of survivors as well as the deceased, and all that loved ones can do is try to pick up the pieces. We grieve with them. Muslim communities in North America and around the globe are devastated by each new tragedy.

Alongside mourning, there is also a fear that all who practice Islam will come to be perceived as radicals, militants, and terrorists. It is reasonable to be fearful. While the 9/11 hijackers were foreign nationals, those behind the San Bernardino massacre, the rampage at Fort Hood, and other atrocities are increasingly American-born or naturalized citizens. They grew up in this country and even earned college degrees by virtue of their U.S. citizenship, but questions of what went wrong within them and how they avoided the attentions of law enforcement are less concerning than the inaction or indifference of the Muslim communities they belonged to, the mosques they attended, and the reticence of their relatives and friends.

These attacks could have been prevented.

In the case of Fort Hood shooting, there is no argument about the number of early warning signs that were ignored, as later revealed by authorities, resulting in the cold and calculated massacre of innocent human beings. But it is more important to acknowledge that the responsibility for preventing such heinous crimes first begins at home. Freedom of speech

and faith are unassailable rights, but their practice must not lead to radicalization, extremism, violence, or acts of terror. This responsibility rests first with immediate family members and then friends, co-workers, community members, and religious leaders. It ends with law enforcement authorities.

All things considered, incidents like those mentioned above have reduced members of the Muslim community to second-class citizens. At every cross road, every juncture, every important event of our lives and that of our children's lives, we will be viewed with some concern, if not outright suspicion, if current trends continue. The matter cannot be swept under the rug in hopes that everything will go back to normal or almost normal. The backlash of these events is leveled against entire communities and will be present for a long time to come. A recent example is a statement by a well-known and veteran journalist who expressed his fear of air travel when his flight also carries a Muslim passenger. While one broadcasting organization took action to discipline the journalist, another equally viable media organization signed him to a lucrative contract. Similarly, a protest by the Council of American Islamic Relations against an Arizona gun shop owner who had declared his shop to be a Muslim-free zone was thrown out of the court.

In short, the matter cannot be taken lightly. A sensible way to deal with the situation is to be on our guard and foster community activities and inter-personal relations that will help detect abnormal behavior, extremism, and recklessness before it culminates into a serious crime. Just as neighborhood and community watches are organized for physical safety and crime prevention, we need to organize community watch groups to detect early signs for concern among our own community members. A well-run community watch program can be far more effective than any police force in stopping crime, and without abandoning personal privacy. Uniting a community under a common goal can turn strangers into friends, making the community warmer, vigilant, aware, and safer for everyone. The central purpose is to establish and sustain communication and prevent individuals from isolating themselves.

Society is stronger and more resilient when it is a community, or even a community of communities, and when responsibilities are shared. It is time we reciprocated the benefits we've enjoyed as members of American society—a society that has afforded us opportunities to reach new heights and enjoy all the privileges for which the Founder Fathers and generations since have made countless sacrifices.

This is our challenge, and it begins at home.



#INDUSPK



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*The Diplomat*

## **After Modi's Visit to Pakistan: Beyond Hugs and Handshakes**

Toquir Hussain and Ishrat Saleem

*A reality check following the Indian premier's surprise visit.*

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi surprised everyone by paying a short visit to his Pakistani counterpart on his birthday on December 25. This was the first visit of an Indian premier to Pakistan in 12 years and has raised high hopes for peace on both sides.

But lest we get carried away, let's do a reality check.

The optics of the two prime ministers warmly hugging each other and later holding hands at the airport ceremonies created an extraordinary feel-good moment, but will this warmth be enough to thaw the ties frozen in time? Due to centuries of shared history, Indians and Pakistanis have always felt some affinity in manners and social protocol. So when they meet, leaders and ordinary people alike, there is enough willing suspension of disbelief to set aside for a fleeting moment what divides them and let the feelings of closeness take over. But this tenuous cultural identity has never been enough to override their differences as nations. For that you need much more than emotion of the moment.

If history is any guide, similar feelings were created when former Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Lahore on Dosti Bus in 1999, Pakistan's General Musharraf visited Agra in 2001 or Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Delhi in 2014 to attend the swearing in of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But the initial excitement proved so effervescent as entrenched strategic positions soon reared their heads once the dialogue started in earnest.

It has already happened with Prime Minister Modi once. After generating hopes for peace with the invitation to his swearing in Modi turned unexpectedly to a hard line approach towards Pakistan not missing any opportunity to claim that Pakistan promoted terrorism and was a nuisance for India. Tensions along the Line of Control and Working Boundary in the disputed territory of Kashmir went up even further.

Pakistan responded to India's hard line by upping the ante. It availed of every opportunity to highlight Kashmir and claimed to have credible evidence that India was involved in terrorist activities on its soil and let it know it had developed tactical nuclear weapons to

counter any Indian attack. During their respective visits to Washington earlier this year, both Pakistan's Prime Minister [Nawaz Sharif](#) and Army Chief [General Raheel Sharif](#) expressed their concern about India's aggressive posturing and Pakistan's inability to devote full attention to Afghanistan's stability in the face of this threat.

Washington had to do something as it felt that India-Pakistan tensions were giving Pakistan an alibi not to be fully cooperative in the Afghanistan war. So Washington certainly played a role in getting the India-Pakistan dialogue started. But that was not the only stimulus. Modi's image in the United States, about which he is so concerned, was being tarnished by the growing incidence of intolerance in India attributed to the rise of Hindu nationalism. And in the light of his silence over this, his own intransigence was beginning to look like hostility towards Pakistan. So he had to change his stance. This was good diplomacy. Now that the dialogue will resume, he may have a chance to shift the blame for any lack of progress on Pakistan's hard line.

But the question still remains: what will come of the talks? The two countries have conflicting expectations of each other and different priorities. Pakistan has long argued that the Kashmir dispute be resolved first, or at least in conjunction with other areas of mutual concern. Regardless of who is in power, India has been and will remain unwilling to offer to Pakistan any concessions on Kashmir, even if it means foregoing the economic dividends of trade with Pakistan and transit trade through Pakistan to Afghanistan and Central Asia. India instead has remained focused on terrorism, especially since 2008 Mumbai attack which it blamed on Pakistan-based banned outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba.

But Pakistan is unwilling to do anything more than it has already done to allay Indian concerns about terrorism by non-state actors. Pakistan has undertaken security operations against terrorists of all hues under the National Action Plan (NAP) which was devised after the [terrorist attack](#) on Army Public School in Peshawar in December 2014, which killed 150 including more than 120 children. Although much more work still needs to be done to curb terrorist financing, registration of seminaries and overhauling of school curricula, progress on NAP indicates a [serious commitment](#) to tackle a threat that has harmed Pakistan more than anyone else. But Pakistan lacks the political will and the capacity to go after its erstwhile surrogates like LeT. The backlash will be too risky. In addition, Islamabad has its own concerns about India stoking instability within Pakistan and would like to treat this subject in a linked manner in dialogue with India.

Has the Pakistani military been on board so far with this bear hug diplomacy? Of course. The military is not opposed to talks. But that is not the end of the story. Their role really comes into play when the talks get underway. That is when they will show their hand. This then raises the question if Nawaz Sharif is in a position to give concessions to Modi. He could not give them to President Ghani of Afghanistan. In case of Ghani, of course, the problem is more complicated. There is no unified position within the unity government in Kabul. So both were not good interlocutors for each other. Can Modi and Nawaz Sharif be good interlocutors? We will have to see. Familiar obstacles to progress remain.

Yet something is indeed different this time: China. Would the massive Chinese investment in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, linking Pakistan's Gwader Port to China's Xinjiang province make China a stake holder in India Pakistan peace? The corridor is part of the larger Chinese plans to stabilize the region on its periphery and to this end is expected

to open avenues of regional trade. But can it realize its potential without peace in the region? And will the United States for its own reasons continues to nudge Pakistan and India towards peace, for the sake of Afghanistan's success if nothing else? Maybe this is what Ghani told Modi when he visited him before coming to Lahore. And this is what the businessmen friends of the two Prime Ministers who are eyeing the economic prospects in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan are telling them.

In the ultimate analysis, much would depend on whether the two leaders will be able to show not only bold and imaginative leadership but also policies that change destinies of their peoples. Anything less will be the continuation of the same old story.

Drama is good to set the stage for talks. But however exciting and auspicious this start is, this is no indication of how it will all end. This is very much just another in a series of beginnings for India and Pakistan, though as far as beginnings go, it was a good one.

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This article is reprinted from the original found [here](#).  
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## MEDIA REVIEW

### **Hate is Nothing New, But Our Response Should Be**

Rep. Judy Chu

After Pearl Harbor, "to fight enemies abroad, we turned against neighbors at home...To feel safe, we adopted prejudice as a tactic and began rounding up American citizens of Japanese descent." We are doing it again on a societal level: "Crimes against Muslims, Middle Easterners, or those of Arab descent, sky rocketed from 20-30 anti-Muslim crimes in a year to almost 500" since 9/11. This prevents our country from moving forward, "leaving us all less safe in the long-term," in part by increasing the risk of homegrown terrorism. For our country and our safety, the proper response to an attack is more unity and less division. [[HuffPost](#)]

### **The Serenity of Ghanche: Of mountains, rivers and valleys**

Syed Mehdi Bukhari

The Ghanche district of Gilgit-Baltistan is exquisitely beautiful. The author describes a visit there in autumn alongside stunning photographs, replete with poplar trees, river ways, indigenous people, and mountainous landscapes. [[Dawn](#)]

### **F-16 Sale Delayed in US Congress**

Anwar Iqbal

Eight new F-16s promised to Pakistan have yet to clear congressional hurdles, despite backing from the Obama administration. With support from a growing pro-India lobby, Republican members in the House of Representatives are opposing the sale. The administration provided formal "foreign military financing" notification to Congress in December. [[Dawn](#)]

### **India-Pakistan Road to Peace Runs through Kabul**

Suhhash Kamila

*Daanash Kapadia*

'The U.S. relationship with Pakistan's military prevents India-Pakistan normalization and perpetuates instability in Afghanistan. Kashmir allows the military establishment in Pakistan to maintain the status quo in Afghanistan, helping the military reinvent its strategic utility to the United States and preventing the formation India-Afghanistan land routes.' "Before any further steps are initiated by India for resumption of the so-called Composite Dialogue, India must insist that all this has to await a comprehensive India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue on Afghanistan's security and stability underwritten by the United States." [[SAAG](#)]

### **Back from the Enemy Country**

*Pervez Hoodboy*

An 11-day and 12-lecture marathon at Indian universities revealed to the author that, "Pakistan and India may be moving along divergent paths of development but their commonalities are becoming more accentuated as well. Engaging with the other is vital — and certainly possible [...] Pakistan and India might yet learn to live with each other as normal neighbours. This in spite of the awful reality that terrorism is here to stay." [[Dawn](#)]

### **CPEC Controversy...Army's Failure**

*Ayaz Amir*

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was a game-changer, and then it became a political tug-of-war. The PML Sharifs have behaved opaquely. How could the Army not see this coming? The army "needs to take the lead, behind the scenes, discreetly but firmly, knocking sense into the political leadership, the way it did over terrorism." [[TheNews](#)]

### **I Thought My Ivy League Degrees Would Protect Me From Bigotry. I Was Wrong.**

*Altaf Saadi*

The daughter of Iraqi and Iranian immigrants and a physician educated at Harvard Medical School thought her patients would judge her based on her medical acumen, not by the color of her skin or her headscarf. "My fight as a Muslim-American doctor to serve my patients without fear of racism...should also be your fight [...] We will only be able to properly address harmful prejudices in the medical profession, and throughout the United States, when we all come together and acknowledge each other's pain and America's pained history." [[HuffPost](#)]

## **OUR FOCUS**

### **Youth Leadership Development**

Creating campus-based, strictly nonpolitical Student Government Associations that offer Executive, Legislative & Judiciary functions experience within the campus environment. Elected student representatives, as Members of Parliament, Senators and judges manage all aspects of student affairs, in conjunction with campus administration.

### **Pakistan Civil Liberties Union**

Civil liberties are personal guarantees and freedoms that the government cannot abridge, either by law or by judicial interpretation. However in today's Pakistan, rising violence, intolerance, weak rule of law, endemic corruption, lack of social and economic justice, and religious freedom, social exclusion of the vulnerable and the marginalized are a common phenomenon that the people of Pakistan face on a daily basis. Pakistan Civil Liberties Union – PCLU is a watchdog organization intended to combat all the above issues at every cross section of our society.

### **Community Integration & Civic Promotion**

When successful, the processes of community integration and civic promotion begin with the individual and, alongside support from Federal, State, and municipal programs, advance collectively, often through socialization with informal groups and professional and cultural associations. However, due to regional, organizational, and programmatic differences, the catalytic potential of civil society organizations is underutilized.

Partnerships with local, regional, and national civil society organizations will advance community integration, promote the concept of citizenship, and highlight pathways to achieve the “American Dream.”

### **Policy Research – As It Happens**

Campus-based political and social sciences research. Graduate Student and Faculty focusing on policy issues for possible social, cultural, and political reform, followed by advocacy action and awareness creation by the same researchers for the purposes of legislative reform as appropriate.

### **Cultivating Early Awareness**

Aimed at increasing youngsters’ awareness of rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and building a national bond at a very impressionable age, leading to real benefits to the nation in evolving future leadership.

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*As always, thank you for reading, and thank you for your efforts. If you have questions or comments, or desire to participate in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us at [induspk.usa@gmail.com](mailto:induspk.usa@gmail.com).*

*Registration and tax-deductible donations can be made through our website: [www.induspk.org](http://www.induspk.org)*



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