
Key Messages:

- The speaker began by reflecting upon the importance of economic performance and national security. According to the speaker, there are two pillars of National security: Strong economy and strong defense. However, Dr Khan argued that chain of causation runs from economy to defense and not the other way round. A strong economy ensures political and social stability which in turn leads to economic stability and a strong defense. On the hand, economic backwardness generates violence, social conflicts, political turmoil and weakens national security.

- According to the speaker, weak economy (in terms of slow economic growth), large persistent fiscal deficit, rising debt and persistent deficit in balance of payment has weakened the national security of Pakistan. Resultantly, rising poverty is causing civil unrest, social chaos, breakdown of law and order which further compromises our political environment and effects national security.

- Dr Ashfaqe highlighted the current economic situation of Pakistan and suggested various solutions to solve the existing problems facing the economy. He believed that good and planned macroeconomic policies, structural reforms and investment in human resource can help Pakistan to help fight the current problems. Dr Khan argued how Pakistan can transform its human resources to human capital by effective inputs of education and health.

- Dr Khan argued that the incidents of 2007-2008 (& onwards) have landed Pakistan into a difficult situation. The year 2007-08 changed the economic direction and course of Pakistan and the country faced issues like food and fuel crisis, collapse of financial system in the year 2009, intensification of war on terrorism, absence of credible economic team together with a deteriorating governance structure. The speaker greatly highlighted the need for a good leadership in order to help strengthen both the economy and national security of the country.

- The speaker concluded by emphasizing the importance of strong economy for better performance in other areas of administration e.g. defense and foreign policy.

- He believed that a strong economic team together with honest, patriotic leadership providing full support to its economic team should step forward to fight the current challenges of the country. He believed that there is no dearth of good people in Pakistan and with full dedication the country has the capacity to turnaround economy in three years.