

“Dinner and Discussion”

January 8, 2009

1. Elections:

- Voter Turnout: What really led to higher than expected voter participation? After all good governance is not an overnight realization?
- Election Result: PDP and BJP were the biggest gainers in their respective regions, and neither is in the ruling coalition. How do you see their role and relevance in the NC-Congress regime?
- Post election: Do you see any changes in separatist strategy or is it business as usual for them?
- Parliamentary election: How do you see the regime change affecting the Parliamentary elections, especially in the valley?

2. Governance:

- Is good governance simply providing essential needs of the day or should it mean something more? Does it matter if corruption, poor accountability, lack of transparency and the rule of law suffer while people are given roads, water and electricity?
- How strong is the civil society in Kashmir to affect the good governance? For example, what is the quality of investigative journalism in the State, and are there NGO's that analyze the impact of various laws passed by the State Assembly in contributing to or distracting from good governance?
- Can you comment on why annual Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Reports on Jammu and Kashmir are never debated in the State Assembly and are generally tabled on the final day of the Budget Session literally minutes before the Session ends?
- Should separatists care for good governance?

3. Solution:

- We know that good governance alone will not end separatism that is seeded by political disenchantment. But politics is an art of engagement, dialogue and compromise. So where do we go from here?
- Is there really any choice in regards to a solution outside of the frame work of the India-Pakistan dialogue?
- Post Geelani: Who will carry his mantle and what is the likely landscape going to be?
- Is there an American role (or the role of major powers) in Kashmir? Do you think the latest election changed their perspective regarding the region?



