

# IPSnews

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Institute of Policy Studies is a non-government think tank dedicated to promoting policy-oriented research and human development.

## Quarter in Focus

The outbreak of Covid19 caught everyone by surprise and forced the world into a lockdown. The situation in Pakistan was no different. Realizing the need of developing an understanding of this crisis and help forge a comprehensive policy-oriented response, IPS stepped up and initiated a webinar series 'Covid-19: Global Challenge, National Response', each session of which was addressed by a subject specialist studying the crisis from his area of expertise. The ten sessions held as a result of this rigorous exercise covered some important aspects of the crisis including its economic impact, socio-political repercussions, changing dynamics in international relations, the subsequent global oil crisis, and strategic recommendations to minimize the losses incurred as well as to tap the opportunities coming forth. A two-part policy monograph was prepared as a follow up of these sessions which was shared with the concerned stakeholders.

The highlight of the quarter however was a two-part webinar series 'India: Past, Present and Future – Perceptions of the Muslim World'. Addressed by a total of fifteen international experts hailing from the US, UK, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the activity urged the Muslim World to stand united especially over the issues like Palestine and Kashmir if it wants to be respected as a global force.

The Institute also did not waver in keeping its focus on the Kashmir issue and held the seventh meeting of its Working Group on Kashmir. A comprehensive review of Federal Budget 2020-21 was another important dialogue session held in the period.

IPS Press – the publishing and bookselling arm of the Institute came up with two new titles: *Elements of the Blue Economy* authored by VI Admiral (Retd.) Iftikhar Rao and *Islamic Law of Contract: Applications in Islamic Finance* by Dr Muhammad Tahir Mansoori.

The Institute also brought forth the 17-1 issue of its flagship journal *Policy Perspectives* in the previous quarter.



## 'India: Past, Present & Future - Perceptions of the Muslim World'

A two-part webinar series titled 'India: Past, Present and Future - Perceptions of the Muslim World' was organized by IPS on April 23 and 26, 2020.

Chaired by Executive President IPS Khalid Rahman and moderated by Senior IPS Research Fellow Syed Muhammad Ali, the global online symposia was addressed by a total of fifteen speakers including Pakistan's Federal Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Sardar Masood Khan, British House of Lords Member Lord Nazir Ahmed, Member of British Parliament Khalid Mehmood, Member of Turkish Prime Minister's Advisory Board for Human Rights Dr Hamit Ersoy, Vice President to Egyptian National Constitutional Committee Dr Kamal Helbawi, Prof Dr Halil Tokar from Istanbul University, Turkey, Prof Dr Farhan Mujahid Chak from Qatar University, Bangladeshi American researcher, journalist and author Mohammad Zainal Abedin, American Muslim scholar Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid,

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## 'Covid-19: Global Challenge, National Response'

A webinar series titled 'Covid-19: Global Challenge, National Response' was held to provide better understanding of the implications of the crisis and put forward recommendations that would help in formulating a national policy in the war against the global pandemic.

Comprising ten online sessions jointly chaired by former Federal Secretary Finance and member IPS' National Academic Council Dr Waqar Masood Khan and EP- IPS Khalid Rahman, the series covered various aspects of the pandemic's challenge while presenting

policy recommendations to tackle the concerns highlighted in the sessions.

Held on April 13, 2020, the first session of the series 'Economic Impact of Coronavirus on Pakistan' was addressed by Zafar-ul-Hassan Almas, chief macroeconomics, Planning



Zafar-ul-Hassan Almas

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## Pakistan much advanced in nuclear technology for socio-economic development: Experts



Kamran Akhtar

Pakistan's nuclear programme has not only ensured its national security and regional peace but also helped pursue 12 Sustainable Development Goals and promote socio-economic development. Pakistan is among

only 13 countries that are effectively using nuclear technology to meet a variety of their own socio-development needs and are also capable of sharing nuclear knowledge and expertise for peaceful purposes.

These thoughts were shared at a webinar 'Youm-e-Takbeer 2020' organized by IPS on May 28, 2020, to mark the 22nd anniversary of Pakistan's nuclear tests that were conducted on May 28, 1998. The guest speakers included Dr Naeem Salik, Senior Fellow CISS and former director of ACDA, Strategic Plans

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## Seventh Meeting of IPS-Working Group on Kashmir



AJ&K Minister and Secretary IPS-Working Group on Kashmir hosted the session. The participants included Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Hurriyat leader, Brig (r) Said Nazir Mohmand, Senior IPS associate, Advocate Nasir Qadri, international law expert, Shakil

Turabi, chief editor, South Asian Broadcasting Agency (SABAH), Syed Muhammad Ali, IPS' senior research fellow, and Naufil Shahrukh, GM Operations, IPS.

Dr Idrees, while delivering his keynote speech titled 'Karachi Agreement and Kashmir Issue: Contemporary Relevance', presented the background of the Karachi Pact, apprising that the tripartite agreement was signed on April 30, 1949 as an international treaty between the sovereign governments of Pakistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) – which also represented Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) – to legally document the relationship between the three entities, especially for running civil administration and financial matters, as well as formalizing the division of governance functions among them.

For further details, visit:  
<http://www.ips.org.pk/ips-working-group-on-kashmir-deliberates-renewal-of-karachi-agreement-signed-in-1949/>

The seventh meeting of IPS' Working Group on Kashmir (IPS-WGK) was organized online on May 18, 2020, with a view to study and analyze the contemporary relevance of the Karachi Agreement (signed by Pakistan, Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) and its then only political party and resistance front, the Muslim Conference, in 1949).

The meeting was addressed as keynote speaker by Dr Idrees Abbasi, research scholar, Department of Shariah and Law, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), whereas the main discussant was Bashir Khan Saddozai, former director Information, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and author of five books on Kashmir history and freedom struggle.

With IPS Executive President Khalid Rahman in chair, Farzana Yaqoob, IPS associate, former

## 'Federal Budget 2020-21: My Impressions and Takeaways'



circumstances and in this situation some innovative ideas were expected in the proposed budget. Addressing the economic challenges the country is experiencing needs out-of-the-box thinking to boost revenue generation, he stressed.

He deplored that the country's actual problem is

governance deficit, which is going from bad to worse. "Examples of this can be seen in the petrol shortages and healthcare issues during the pandemic" he said.

Zaheeruddin Dar, former civil servant, and economic policy analyst expressed his concern that a 27 per cent increase in FBR revenue was unrealistically expected in the budget. The FBR tax collection target has been set at Rs4.963 trillion while the revised estimate of the closing year was Rs3.908 trillion. In the current situation even collecting Rs3.500 trillion would be a miracle, he remarked.

For further details, visit:  
<http://www.ips.org.pk/federal-budget-2020-21-my-impression-and-takeaways/>

The government can only improve its revenue side by creating an environment conducive to economic activity especially in the current unprecedented challenging external and internal circumstances. However, the budget presented by the federal government shows severe lack of any well-thought-out approach in policy- and budget-making in the turbulent times Pakistan is faced with.

These views emerged at a webinar on Federal Budget 2020-21 organized by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) on June 15, 2020.

Khalid Rahman, executive president, IPS, said that the country is experiencing extraordinary

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## Pakistan much advanced...

Division (SPD), Dr Ansar Pervez, former Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), and Kamran Akhtar, Director General, Arms Control & Disarmament (ACDIS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Khalid Rahman, Executive President, IPS, chaired the event which was moderated by Syed Muhammad Ali, Senior Research Fellow, IPS. Other participants included security analyst Brig (Retd) Said Nazeer Mohmand, Air Cdre (Retd) Khalid Iqbal, Cdr (Retd) Dr Azhar Ahmad, HoD, Humanities & Social Sciences, Bahria University, Islamabad, and IPS Associate and former AJ&K Minister Ms. Farzana Yaqoob.



Dr Naeem Salik

Akhtar stated that the huge Indian defence acquisitions and developments in the areas of artificial intelligence, cyber security and space militarization are destabilizing for the region and the international community must exercise care and caution in sharing its advanced nuclear and other related technologies with India which is emerging as an extremist and anti-status quo state. He further emphasized that the international community has a collective responsibility to dissuade India from engaging in any misadventure as any such step will lead to grave consequences that will not remain limited to this region.

He further stated that Pakistan can be compared with any developed country in terms of its nuclear expertise, knowledge and capabilities, and is completely qualified to become an active and productive member of the global strategic export control regime.

Dr Pervez said that nuclear technology was being used for peaceful purposes all over the world in diverse sectors including medicine, health, agriculture, industry, pollution control, water resources management, and safe and sustainable electricity production. Nuclear technology, for instance, has allowed Pakistan to develop 100 new crop varieties, which have added Rs 1200 billion to the national exchequer, whereas eight hundred thousand cancer patients are treated every year by hospitals using nuclear radiation.

Dr Salik said that Pakistan became a nuclear weapon state after its security needs were neither understood nor met by the world and its several arms control initiatives were not reciprocated and expectations for security assurances were not met. Pakistan has a credible minimum deterrence posture which provides security without engaging in a costly arms race with India.

For further details, visit:  
<http://www.ips.org.pk/youm-e-takbeer-2020/>

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## 'India: Past, Present & Future - Perceptions of the Muslim World'



Senior Saudi journalist and South Asia analyst Khaled Almaeena, Nigerian scholar Dr Bakare Najimdeen, and Prof Haroon Khatibi, a senior official of Kabul-based think tank Centre for Strategic and Regional Studies (CSRS).

Mazari, in her keynote speech on the first day, called upon the Muslim world to shed its dependence on the Western world and adopt a united stance on critical issues like Kashmir and Palestine.

Sardar Masood Khan, while delivering the keynote speech on the second day, described India as a foreign colonial power which has occupied and colonized Kashmir and is now vying to colonize littoral states of the Indian Ocean region.

Lord Nazir Ahmed stated that India is no longer a secular country whose political system is controlled by Hindutva extremist ideology that does not provide equal opportunities to its minorities.

Khalid Mehmood called upon the Kashmiris to shed their mutual differences and forge their ranks worldwide to put greater pressure on world powers.

Zainal Abedin, who was trained in India to fight against Pakistan in 1971, urged all South Asian countries to form a united alliance to prevent New Delhi from exploiting, subjugating or oppressing them.

Dr Halil Tokar stated that Indian BJP's ideological core is RSS, which has an extremist philosophy based on hatred towards other religions.

Dr Helbawi stated that Muslims are being deliberately painted by India as terrorists in order to hide its atrocities against them and also to justify its aggressive behavior towards neighboring Muslim countries.

Dr Ersoy highlighted that India, the US and Israel are jointly working against the Muslim world and deliberately painting Muslim freedom struggles against foreign occupation as terrorism.

Dr Farhan Chak augmented Dr Ersoy's argument by urging the Muslim scholars to look for indigenous and innovative solutions for resolving their important issues.

Almaeena too called upon the Muslims to unite, seek knowledge and globally promote their story with logic and clarity in order to be taken seriously by major powers.

Mujahid stated that India is not immune from pressures but the onus is on the Indian Muslims to raise their voices and rise up and they will receive help from the Muslims around the world.

Dr Najimdeen warned against the international Islamophobia project to systematically dehumanize and victimize Islam and the Muslims.

Professor Khatibi opined that the current rise of far-right extremism globally has hit the US and India the most.

Executive President IPS Khalid Rahman urged Muslims around the world to develop positive thinking, innovative strategies and patience to organize themselves and meet their growing and complex challenges.

For further details, visit: <http://www.ips.org.pk/>

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## 'Covid-19: Global Challenge..'

Commission of Pakistan, who highlighted the macroeconomic challenges facing the country due to the pandemic and suggested how to cope with these issues.

The second session 'Strategic Recommendations for Pakistan' was held on April 14 in which senior policy analyst Syed Muhammad Ali viewed the pandemic as an opportunity for the nation to become self-reliant in pharmaceuticals, biomedical engineering and public health management.

The third session 'Socio-Political Repercussions of Covid-19: An Analysis' on April 16 featured UK-based journalist Murtaza Shibli, who maintained that many ideals and ideologies of the modern world e.g. capitalism, appear to be under threat today in the wake of Covid-19.

The fourth session 'Emerging Trends in IR & Diplomacy, and Pakistan' on April 20 saw senior IPS associates Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain and Amb (r) Tajammul Altaf pointing out that the coronavirus pandemic has changed the way diplomacy was conducted and the transformation will see it practiced more and more through virtual meetings in the online world.

Titled 'Trends in Strategic Arena and Pakistan', the session on April 21 was addressed by senior IPS associate and security analyst Brig (retd)

Said Nazeer, who viewed that the crisis will give rise to a new world order based on review of policies and strategies, and reorientation of doctrines.

The next session 'Global Oil Crisis Amidst Covid-19 & its Impact on Shipping Sector: Challenges and Prospects for PNSC' was addressed on April 22 by Cdre (r) Syed Muhammad Obaidullah, former executive director of PNSC, who advised that Pakistan can save around US\$5-6 billion annually merely by using Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) as a mainstay of its international maritime trade.

The sessions number six and eight were addressed by Dr Ijaz Shafi Gilani, chairman, Gallup Pakistan on April 23 and 28, who opined that the Covid-19 spread has severely exposed the shortcomings of prevailing health and economic systems across the globe.

'A look towards its brighter side' on April 27 was addressed by Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary, Water and Power, who viewed that coronavirus pandemic has also thrown up opportunities in various sectors, which could prove to be beneficial both in short and long terms. The next session on May 5 titled



'Pakistan's Economic Outlook and Way Forward' was participated in by Syed Muhammad Ali, senior research fellow IPS, Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary Water and Power, Air Cdr (r) Khalid Iqbal, and Zaheeruddin Dar, executive consultant and external expert, Center for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries, who put forward and deliberated upon different measures to boost spending in order to jumpstart the economy.

The last session 'Impact of Covid-19 on Pakistan's IR at Regional & Global Levels' saw former Foreign Secretary Riaz Hussain Khokhar on May 13 urging Pakistan to engage in skillful diplomacy and balancing of its relations with global powers amid the evolving new world order.

For further details, visit: <http://www.ips.org.pk/covid-19-global-challenges-national-response/>

**Publications**

IPS Press is the publishing, bookselling and distributing arm of Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad. Along with the Institute's own research, it also publishes the scholarly work of individual authors and institutions independently.

**Policy Perspectives (Volume 17, No. 1)**



The latest edition of peer-reviewed IPS' flagship journal *Policy Perspectives* - disseminating the research carried out by IPS and its associates, and experts on diverse range of current and evolving topics - is out now and is widely available for the readers in Pakistan and abroad.

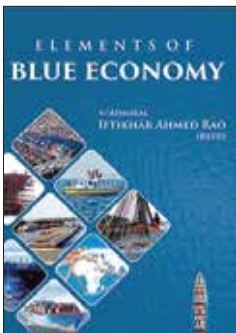
The issue combines deliberations upon important global theoretical debates as well as discourses on current regional and international matters of significance. The latest issue comprises following articles:

- ▶ **'Reintegration Prospects for the Ex-Convicts in Pakistan: A Legal Perspective'**  
Aisha Tariq
- ▶ **'Coastal Communities of Balochistan vis-à-vis CPEC: Mapping Perceptions and Socioeconomic Issues'**  
Naufil Shahrukh, Shahzad Hussain, Tuba Azeem and Samand Khan
- ▶ **'Maritime Economy and Gwadar Port: A Growth Catalyst'**  
Inayat Kalim and Areeja Syed
- ▶ **'Impasse of Kashmir and Recurring Pretexts: A Historiographical Analysis'**  
Rabiya Aamir
- ▶ **'Emerging Politics in Iran: Rouhani's Last Year Term and the New Conservative Parliament'**  
Kulsoom Belal
- ▶ **'Covid-19: Global Challenge, National Response'**

For further details, visit:  
<http://www.ips.org.pk/policy-perspectives-volume-17-no-1/>

- ▶ **'Transgender Law in Pakistan: Some Key Issues'**  
Syed Nadeem Farhat, Muhammad Daniyal Abdullah, Dr Shafei Moiz Hali and Hamza Iftikhar

**Elements of Blue Economy**



Our planet is rightly called the "Blue Planet" as 71 per cent of it is covered with water. Thus, the economy related to the marine environment is called the "Blue Economy". It is immensely important for almost all segments of human life, but has not received the attention

and importance that it deserves. However,

realization of its importance is increasing with time.

Authored by V/Admiral (retd.) Iftikhar Ahmad Rao, this book is an attempt to describe various elements of Blue Economy and is divided into 14 chapters for ease of understanding. It starts by explaining Blue Economy and geography of oceans and seas, highlights importance of oceans for mankind, then discusses seaborne trade and related globalization, waterways, inland waterways, ships, their types, shipbuilding, ports, fishing, seabed resources, marine and coastal tourism, law of the seas including IMO, importance of CPEC, and marine spatial planning.

For further details, visit:  
<http://www.ips.org.pk/elements-of-blue-economy/>

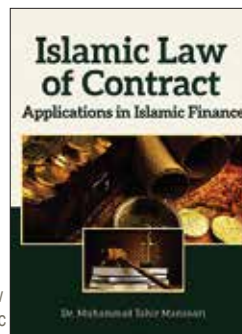
**Islamic Law of Contract: Applications in Islamic Finance**

*Islamic Law of Contract: Applications in Islamic Finance* is a systematic exposition of Shariah rules in the field of *Fiqh al-Mu'amalat* (Islamic law of Contracts and Transactions) with their applications in modern business and commercial transactions. The book deals with the general theory of contracts in Islam, formation of contract, concepts of *riba*, *gharar*, *maysir* and their effect on the contract. It also discusses in lucid manner specific nominate contracts such as contracts of sale, *ijarah*, partnership, *mudarabah*, surety-ship, *rahn* and many other that constitute the corpus of Islamic commercial law. While dealing with these contracts, the focus of the book has been on their

modern applications in banking and finance.

The book also deals with current issues of Islamic finance, such as the use of *hiyal* (stratagems) in Islamic banking.

For further details, visit:  
<http://www.ips.org.pk/islamic-law-of-contract-applications-in-islamic-finance/>



**RESEARCH**

**'Tackling Covid-19: Policy Options for Pakistan'**

Based on the webinar series 'Covid-19: Global Challenge, National Response', a two-part policy monograph series was prepared by IPS comprising following analytical pieces and subsequent recommendations:

- ▶ **Coronavirus and its Impact: Evolving Scenario and the Changing World**  
Khalid Rahman
- ▶ **Managing the Covid-19 Crisis – Global Challenge and National Response**  
Syed Muhammad Ali
- ▶ **Pakistan's Economy Amidst Coronavirus Crisis**  
Zafar-ul-Hasan Almas
- ▶ **Socio-Political Repercussions of Covid-19: An Analysis**  
Murtaza Shibli
- ▶ **Covid-19: Emerging Trends in Diplomacy & International Relations and Pakistan**  
Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain
- ▶ **New Stratagems in the Strategic Arena and Pakistan's Reorientation**  
Brig (r) Said Nazeer Mohmand
- ▶ **Impact of Global Oil Crisis on Shipping Sector: Challenges and Prospects for PNSC**  
Cdre (r) Syed Muhammad Obaidullah
- ▶ **Coronavirus Pandemic – A Look at the Brighter Side of a Global Threat**  
Mirza Hamid Hasan

For further details, visit:  
<http://www.ips.org.pk/covid-19-global-challenges-national-response/>

**'Pakistan's Economy: Covid-19 Pandemic and Federal Budget 2020-21'**

This policy brief reviews the current (FY19-20) economic conditions and specifically focuses on the economic issues resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

It attempts to provide necessary immediate recommendations to address the economic problems faced in the context of Covid-19.

For further details, visit:  
<http://www.ips.org.pk/pakistans-economy-covid-19-pandemic-and-federal-budget-2020-21/>



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