

# IPSnews

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## Quarter in Focus

Amidst all the happenings at the Institute as the year came to its conclusion, the paramount remained the publishing of the first seven books of *Armaghan-e-Khurshid* - a series of ten publications featuring Professor Khurshid Ahmad's writings and speeches on a myriad of political, constitutional, economic and social issues.

In terms of activities, the Faith and Society desk took the centerstage with a number of its events taking place within Islamabad as well as in Karachi. The most notable among those was the two-day national conference on Islam and Humanitarian Action, held in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the provincial capital. The conference was followed by a series of visits, lectures and discussions to prominent institutions and seminaries including Karachi University, Federal Urdu University, Jamia Binoria Al-Aalmia, Jamia Tur Rasheed, Islamic Research Academy, etc.

Within the federal capital, the Institute co-organized a seminar with the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) over traditions and modernity in Islamic seminaries, hosted a discussion on the issues of Non-Muslim Pakistanis, participated in seminars on forced conversions in Pakistan and Transgender Act 2018, and formed a study group to work on social protection policy based on Islamic welfare model.

Regional developments especially *vis-à-vis* Afghanistan and Indian Occupied Kashmir also remained an integral part of the Institute's internal and external discussions, whereas a session organized under its 'Understanding Africa' project advised Pakistan to adopt a consistent policy for the neglected continent.

The IPS' Energy desk too had a vibrant quarter, discussing the findings of the Institute's study on Grid-tied solar PV systems at different gatherings while partaking in a webinar on urban resilience and its impact on electricity provision.

The Institute also signed a number of MoUs – with the Council of Islamic Ideology, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Capital University of Science and Technology, Riphah International University and Islamic Economic Project – to explore and pursue joint endeavors in the areas of mutual interests.

The web-talk series by renowned ICT guru Dr Hatim Zaghoul was the highlight of IPS LEAD (the Institute's Learning, Excellence and Development program)'s endeavors. The other significant activities held under IPS LEAD's umbrella included a session of its ongoing oral history project *The Living Scripts*, three lectures by Chairman IPS and an insightful talk by former Federal Secretary Syed Abu Ahmad Akif on the prevailing policymaking environment in Pakistan.

Apart from *Arghuman-e-Khurshid* series, IPS Press (the publishing arm of the Institute) also published

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## Study group at IPS to work on social protection policy based on Islamic welfare model

A study group of relevant experts and stakeholders formed by IPS – in collaboration with the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) – will help develop an effective Islamic social finance model for sustainable social protection that can realize the dream of an Islamic welfare state in Pakistan.

The extensive one-year study will conclude with concrete policy recommendations and draft legislation for the federal, provincial, and local levels.

Held on December 24, 2021, the inaugural meeting of the project titled 'Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection' was co-chaired by Dr Iqram-ul-Haq Yaseen, secretary, Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) and Dr Muhammad Tahir Mansoori, former vice president, International Islamic University, Islamabad.

The session was addressed, as main speakers, by Khalid Rahman, IPS' chairman, Dr H. Hendri Tanjung, advisor to the Indonesian president on Waqf, Dr Salman Ahmed Shaikh, the project's

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## 'Islam and Humanitarian Action: Prospects and Challenges'



Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rahman

Humanitarian actions and services form the very core of Islamic philosophy and principles and this is not only evident from the commandments of Allah and the teachings of Quran, but also manifested by the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH)

via his actions throughout his life.

These views were expressed by speakers in a two-day national conference titled 'Islam and Humanitarian Action: Prospects and Challenges', which was jointly organized by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and IPS in Karachi on November 24-25, 2021.

The conference, which saw researchers from different universities, seminaries and social welfare organizations from across the country presenting their dissertations, was attended by renowned ulema as well as heads and

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## Academia, civil society has a greater role to play in improving Pak-Afghan bilateral ties: IPS webinar



Dr Farhat Taj

The existing mistrust between Afghanistan and Pakistan has largely resulted from the years-long distortion of facts that were influenced by politically motivated

agendas. The need is now to project commonalities by identifying lacunas from the shared history of the two nations; and this can be done by the academia and civil society taking the lead, setting aside all fictions and fabrications, and shaping up a joint-narrative that is based on facts and ground realities, all aimed at ensuring peaceful coexistence and strengthening bilateral ties.

The exigency was stressed at a roundtable titled 'Afghan Historiography: A hybrid threat to

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**'Tradition and Modernity in Islamic Seminaries'**



carve out a revamped identity while staying firmly connected to their academic traditions and societal roots. This not only calls for devising an extraordinary strategy, but also accentuates the importance of reinforced unity in a bid to play down any divisions or rifts.

These views were exchanged at a seminar co-organized by the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad and Darul Ilim-wal-Tehqeeq, Karachi on December 15, 2021. The session also featured launch of the

latest publication on the subject by eminent Islamic scholar Dr Syed Aziz ur Rahman titled *Deeni Madaris Badalte Hue Zamane Main*.

The session held at CII was attended as chief guest by Barrister Zafarullah Khan whereas the other speakers included Chairman CII Dr Qibla Ayaz, Vice Chairman IPS Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, Dr Nazir Ahmed Vaid, renowned social activist and member, IPS-National Academic Council, Dr Syed Aziz ur Rahman and Dr Ikram ul Haq Yasin, secretary, CII.

Barrister Zafarullah Khan was of the view that religious education must be in tune with the times. In this regard, it becomes important to look beyond one's preconceived beliefs and thoughts.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/tradition-and-modernity-in-islamic-seminaries/>

The Islamic schools (Madaris) in Pakistan are undergoing a transformational change, and while this appears to be a good omen, it is also a growing feeling among them that they have to

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**Islam and Humanitarian.....**

representatives of national and international social welfare organizations.

The first day of the event was graced as chief guest by Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rahman, president, Tanzeem-ul-Madaris Pakistan. Many scholars including Maulana Yaseen Zafar from Faisalabad, Mufti Abdul Munim from Karachi, Molvi Abdullah Khoso from Kashmir, Mohammad Rafiq Shinwari from Peshawar, Dr M Tariq Ramzan from Sargodha, and Dr Ashfaq Ahmad from Islamabad presented their research papers on the occasion, before Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman, VC-IPS Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, Dr Zia ullah Rahmani, provincial advisor on Islamic law and fiqh, ICRC, Maulana Dr Ahmad Binori from Jamiatul Uloom Al-Islamia, Binori Town, Karachi, Shujauddin Sheikh from Tanzeem-e-Islami, Pakistan, and rDr Syed Mohsin Naqvi shared their views.

On the concluding day, Abdul Shakoor, president, Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan, Kanwar Waseem, provincial secretary, Red Crescent Pakistan, Prof Dr Anis Ahmed, VC, Riphah International University (RIU) and Maulana Mufti Abdul Raheem from Jamia Tur Rasheed, Karachi chaired separate sessions. Dr Shehzad Channa and Raheela Khan Advocate from Karachi, Dr Umar Saleem, Dr Maleeha Zeba Khan and Hafiz Usama Hameed from Islamabad and Aqsa Tasgheer from Lahore presented their papers whereas Maulana Hanif Jalandhari, nazim-e-aala, Wafaq-ul-Madaris Alarbia Pakistan, Umair Hassan, head of Islamic Relief UK, Abdul Shakoor, Al-Khidmat Foundation, Dr Shahida Nomani, Shaor Welfare Trust, Umair Siddiqui, Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), Maulana Dr Zubair Ashraf Usmani, Darul Uloom Karachi, Dr Syed Aziz-ur-Rehman and Dr Sohail Akhtar, former president of Pakistan Islamic Medical Association expressed their views following the presentations.

For complete rerport, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/islam-and-humanitarian-action-prospects-and-challenges/>

**Global recognition of Taliban government may end uncertainty in Afghanistan: Dr Ghairat Baheer**



Afghanistan and Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman during a session held at IPS on October 7, 2021 marking the 20th anniversary of the US invasion of Afghanistan.

The session was also attended by Masood Anwer, senior journalist from Daily Jasarat, Tariq Abdul Hasan, special correspondent, Geo News and IPS team comprising GM-IPS Naufil Shahrulkh, Senior Research Officer Syed Nadeem Farhat, Senior Editor Arif Jamshed, and Manager Outreach Shafaq Sarfraz.

The speakers had high hopes with the new government in Afghanistan, believing that the regime could succeed provided the Taliban act wisely, embrace all factions of the society and focus their attention to pressing issues such as poverty, law and order, etc.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/global-recognition-of-taliban-government-may-end-uncertainty-in-afghanistan-dr-ghairat-baheer/>

The recently established Taliban government needs more time to uphold its promises which were made to the world after seizing power in Afghanistan. The global recognition of their rule will help the Taliban government to strengthen their control and ensure peace and stability in the country that has been caught by political frenzy and economic uncertainty since their ascension to power.

These views were exchanged by Dr Ghairat Baheer, senior leader of Hizb-e-Islami,

**Afghanistan striving to return to normalcy under the new regime – A first-hand account**



to normalcy under the new regime.

These views were expressed by Tariq Abul Hasan, a well-known journalist, while sharing first-hand accounts from his recent visit to Afghanistan before a team of researchers from IPS on October 27, 2021. IPS Chairman Khalid Rahman, General Manager Operations at IPS Naufil Shahrulkh, Syed Nadeem Farhat Geelani, senior

research officer at the Institute and Senior IPS Associate Amanullah Khan were also present on the occasion.

For complete rerport, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/afghanistan-striving-to-return-to-normalcy-under-the-new-regime-a-first-hand-account/>

Afghan warlords and mercenaries were the real beneficiaries of the US invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, which continued for two decades and brought misery to the people and instability to the region. In wake of the exit of the US forces and the consequent fall of Kabul however, the country is now striving for a return

## IPS Working Group on Kashmir (IPS-WGK)

### Experts urge Pakistan to seek advisory opinion of ICJ on IOJK situation



Kashmir (IPS-WGK) which was held on November 2, 2021. The participating experts discussed the situation in IOJK, covering issues including India's intransigence, the future of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) after Syed Ali Geelani, and the resurgence of the armed struggle.

Altaf Wani, chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) was the main speaker of the session, which was chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, whereas Farzana Yaqoob, former AJ&K minister and general secretary of IPS-WGK moderated it. Ambassador (retd) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Iftikhar Gillani, Ankara-based senior Kashmiri journalist, Ambassador (retd) Syed Ishtiaq Hussain Andrabi, and Advocate Nasir Qadri, founder, Legal Forum for the Oppressed Voices of Kashmir (LFOVK) were the main discussants.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/experts-urge-pakistan-to-seek-advisory-opinion-of-icj-on-iojk-situation/>

The ever-increasing grave human rights violations and Hindutva fascism in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK), coupled with the recent demographic and cultural onslaught, reflected through measures such as the establishment of a delimitation commission of electoral constituencies to further squeeze the Muslim influence in Kashmir's politics, warrant the need for Pakistan to approach the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for an advisory opinion on the situation in IOJK.

This was a key recommendation at the sixteenth meeting of IPS' Working Group on

### Qatar's potential role in facilitating Pak-India dialogue on Kashmir discussed

Exploring every possible avenue is critical for the Kashmiri freedom struggle leadership and activists to gather support from the world community, including Qatar's economic and diplomatic clout, which can help provide a potential channel for meaningful dialogue among the stakeholders. This suggestion holds water in the existing regional and global scenario where Qatar is emerging as an important regional player, especially after successfully facilitating the US-Taliban talks in recent years.



This idea was extensively debated on December 2, 2021, during a meeting of the IPS' Working Group on Kashmir (IPS-WGK), a body of experts and opinion leaders on Kashmir affairs meeting regularly for the last two years after the illegal revocation of the special constitutional status of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir by the BJP-led Delhi regime on 5 August 2019.

Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, chaired the session, which was addressed as keynote speaker by Dr Farhan Mujahid Chak, a Kashmiri-Canadian scholar and associate professor, international relations, Qatar University, Doha.

Irshad Mahmood, director-general, Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Cell (JKLC), Ambassador (r) Tajammul Altaf, senior research associate at IPS, Advocate Nasir Qadri, international law researcher and founder, Legal Forum for Oppressed Voices of Kashmir (LFOVK); Professor Dr Shaheen Akhtar, National Defence University (NDU), Mir Tahir Masood and Hasan al-Banna, officials of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), and Dr Waleed Rasool, Kashmiri scholar and activist attended the meeting. Sabur Ali Syed, senior research officer at IPS, moderated the session.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/seventeenth-meeting-of-ips-working-group-on-kashmir/>

### Rapidly receding glaciers within loK, a growing concern for Pakistan and the region



Enhanced human intervention and a deliberate neglect by the Indian government is causing the glaciers in the Indian occupied region of Kashmir to recede

fast. This environmental degradation could have dire consequences for the South Asian region, not least for Pakistan whose water resources depend chiefly on the rivers originating from the Himalayan range present within the Indian-held state.

The anomaly was pointed out by renowned UK-based journalist and author from Jammu and Kashmir Syed Iftikhar Gilani while addressing a seminar titled 'Jammu and Kashmir: An Environmental Catastrophe in the Making and its Implications'. The session held on December 27, 2021 was presided over by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman and participated by IPS' Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain and the Institute's research faculty.

Addressing the session online via video link, Gilani revealed that most of the glaciers in the great Himalayan range – from Harmuk to Drungdrung, including Thajiwas, Kolahoi, Machoie, Kangrez, and Shafat – have significantly receded to around 4,000-5,000 m (13,123-16,404 ft) over last 50 years.

He termed increased, unhindered human activity in the region and unchecked tourism being fostered by the Indian government to promote religious tourism a major reason behind such swift melting of the glaciers.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/jammu-and-kashmir-an-environmental-catastrophe-in-the-making-and-its-implications/>

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### Study group at IPS ...

principal investigator and assistant professor, SZABIST, Karachi, and Mustafa Khan, technical advisor, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit).

Prominent participants of the session included Omar Mustafa Ansari, secretary-general, Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), Bahrain, Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, member, Prime Minister's Inspection Commission and former federal secretary, Dr Abdul Saboor, dean, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Azeem Pirani, CEO, Pak-Qatar Takaful, Dr Nazir Ahmed Ved, Akhuwat Foundation, Qanit Khalilullah, chartered accountant and economic analyst, Mufti Ghulam Majid, senior research officer, CII, Dr Anwar Shah, associate professor, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, Ghazala Ghalib, PhD scholar and lecturer, IIUI, Numair Hasan Madni, Association For Academic Quality (AFAQ) and officials from Zakat and Usher departments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/inaugural-meeting-of-ips-study-islamic-social-finance-for-social-protection/>

## 'Observations on Non-Muslim Pakistanis'

Aimed at understanding the observations of a nationwide study on the conditions, aspirations, and problems of Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and other non-Muslim communities in Pakistan, a session titled 'Observations on Non-Muslim Pakistanis' was held on October 27, 2021.

The session was addressed by Dr Umair Mahmood Siddiqui, a renowned scholar, academic, and member of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII). He shared the findings and reflections from his interactions with the key figures of various non-Muslim communities across the country. The session was chaired by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman, and partaken by the Institute's research faculty, including Senior Research Officer Syed Nadeem Farhat and researcher Sufi Ghulam Hussain.

Dr Siddiqui informed the audience that his self-initiated project of reaching out to various non-Muslim communities was driven by the popular depiction of maltreatment of non-Muslims in Pakistan, and more particularly the allegation that members of these communities are forcibly converted to Islam. As part of this project, he had visited several cities and localities across the country to observe and interact with a cross-section of non-Muslims in Pakistan. He inquired about their conditions, challenges, and protection of their rights, including the right to profess religion. He had



Sufi Ghulam Hussain and Dr Umair Mahmood Siddiqui

video recorded the interviews for future reference and had put them on a couple of popular video-sharing platforms on the internet.

The scholar shared that the members of various communities expressed their devotion to and attachment for Pakistan and were generally satisfied with the treatment they received from their fellow countrymen. They categorically refused any intent to emigrate on any basis involving religion. "They face the socio-economic problems that are similar for the members of the majority community of their socio-economic class," he explained.

The speaker had not found the complaints of forcible conversion to Islam even in those communities that are generally stated to be the targets of the alleged crime.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/observations-on-non-muslim-pakistanis/>

## Pakistan advised to learn from China's experience in Africa, leadership diplomacy stressed



Amb (r) Tajammul Altaf

Pakistan can learn a lot from China's successful engagement and robust foreign policy on Africa, which have remained consistent over the years since the establish-

ment of the People's Republic of China and are aimed at human and infrastructure development in the neglected African continent. The approach has earned China many political, economic, diplomatic and strategic dividends. Pakistan should also capitalize on its already existing goodwill in Africa owing to its historic role in the decolonization of several African nations and its significant contribution to the UN peacekeeping missions in the conflict-riven

zones of the African continent.

This view was presented at a seminar titled 'Understanding East African Region' organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) under its 'Understanding Africa Program' on December 9, 2021. Ambassador (r) Tajammul Altaf, a senior research associate at IPS, was the session's keynote speaker, which was chaired by the IPS' Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain.

Underlining the potential of the East African Region in his presentation, Altaf said that it is the most populous region in Africa comprising 19 countries which are rich in natural resources, minerals, oil and gas, diamonds, gold, and iron ore. However, terrorism, abject poverty, poor governance, conflicts, and uneven models of development are the biggest challenges in the region, he pointed.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/understanding-east-africa/>

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Vice Admiral (retd) Iftikhar Ahmad Rao's *Gwatar Bay to Sir Creek – History and Memoirs*.

The Institute's research work on the other hand oversaw the new volumes of IPS' journals *Policy*

*Perspectives and Nuqta-e-Nazar* coming forth, alongside three insightful briefs on forced conversion in Sindh and the conduct of Pakistan's foreign policy from 2018-20.

## IPS' study on Grid-tied solar PV systems discussed

Some solar vendors in Pakistan are installing non-compliant, low quality PV modules which neither conform to international standards, nor adhere to the guidelines provided by concerning govt agencies. These substandard practices not only yield low efficiency and reduce cost-effectiveness of the module, but also raise risks of accidents, ultimately rusting the growth of solar PV uptake in the country.

These were the outcomes of an IPS' study on grid-tied solar PV systems analyzing the procedural, regulatory and quality assurance in-compliances, which was presented before IPS' Steering Committee on Energy, Water & Climate Change on October 27, 2021.



The study – which was carried out with the joint persuasion of Alternative Energy Development Board and GIZ-Pakistan, and had active participation from AEDB, NEPRA, GIZ, IESCO, LESCO, REAP, SQF and several solar vendors and private companies, meant to assess the technical barriers in the installation of solar PV systems, quality compromise on PV modules in practice, the malpractices by distribution companies & solar vendors, and deployment of recommendations on third party validation procedures.

The meeting chaired by Mirza Hamid Hassan, chairperson, IPS Energy Steering Committee & former Federal Secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ashfaq Mehmood, former federal secretary, Ministry of Water & Power, Naufil Shahrukh, GM Operations, IPS, and Ameena Sohail, member, Board of Directors, IESCO & former legal advisor to NEPRA, whereas the presentation was delivered by IPS' Energy Desk members Hamza Naem and Lubna Riaz.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-study-on-grid-tied-solar-pv-systems-presented-before-the-institutes-energy-steering-committee/>

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## Global recognition of Taliban ...

Pakistan', which was held on December 29, 2021. The session was addressed as keynote speaker by Dr Farhat Taj, associate professor from the University of Tromso, Norway, chaired by VC-IPS Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain and participated as discussants by IPS' Chairman Khalid Rahman, Akhunzada Chattan, a former parliamentarian, Brig (r) Said Nazir, Juma Khan Sufi, a renowned author and Afghan affairs expert, Dr Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani, VC, University of Haripur, and Naufil Shahrukh, GM operations at IPS.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/afghan-historiography-a-hybrid-threat-to-pakistan/>

**Sharing Insights** IPS encourages interaction with different national and international organizations and scholars to share their studies and exchange views on the subjects of mutual interest. A glimpse of such interactions in the last quarter is being presented here.

## 'Pak-Afghan Relations in Current Situation'



On the invitation of Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST)'s Department of International Relations, Vice Chairman IPS Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar

Hussain delivered a talk at a seminar titled 'Pak-Afghan Relations in Current Situation', which was held at the University's campus in Karachi on November 26, 2021.

The former diplomat was accompanied by Institute's Senior Research Officer Syed Nadeem Farhat and Assistant Research Officer Usama Hameed, whereas Dr Asghar Ali Dashti, chairman, Department of International Relations, Dr Faisal Javed and Dr Waseem ud Din, along with other faculty members, welcomed the visiting IPS delegation on the University's behalf.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/pak-afghan-relations-in-current-situation/>

## Forced conversion, other contemporary issues discussed at Jamia Binoria Al-Aalmia

An IPS delegation comprising the Institute's Chairman Khalid Rahman, Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, Senior Research Officer Syed Nadeem Farhat and Assistant Research Officer Osama Hameed visited Jamia Binoria Al-Aalmia (Binoria University International) in Karachi on November 23, 2021 and contemplated with the Jamia's officials over various matters of shared concerns.

In a meeting with the Jamia's mohtamim Maulana Nauman Naeem, the delegates had an in-depth discussion on several contemporary issues, most notably over the much-hyped issue of forced conversions in Pakistan and the implications of the malicious campaign being run against the country to malign its name.



For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/forced-conversion-other-contemporary-issues-discussed-at-jamia-binoria-al-aalmia/>

## Need for bridging modern and religious education stressed at Jamia Tur Rasheed



Invited by Maulana Mufti Abdur Rahim, the head of Jamia Tur Rasheed, Karachi, an IPS delegation visited the University on November 26, 2021 and had insightful discussion with it's officials on the matters of shared interests.

The visiting delegation, which was led by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman and comprised the Institute's Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, GM Operations Naufil Shahrukh, Senior Research Officer Syed Nadeem Farhat Geelani, and Assistant Research Officer Hafiz Usama Hameed, was also accompanied by Syed Aziz Ur Rehman, in charge, Da'wah regional center, Karachi.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-delegation-visits-jamia-tur-rasheed-need-for-bridging-modern-and-religious-education-stressed/>

## IPS' flagship journal Policy Perspectives moves to ScienceOpen – a new hosting platform

*Policy Perspectives*, the flagship journal of Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad that is co-published by Pluto Journals, UK, has now moved to ScienceOpen – a new hosting platform – from JSTOR, the previous host.

The development is part of the Pluto Journals, UK's new agreement with ScienceOpen to host

their 21 academic journals, including *Policy Perspectives*, on the ScienceOpen platform.

The new digital platform is set to provide open access hosting services as well as digital journal management system, enabling the publisher to create, host and promote its content more effectively using latest digital technologies.

## IPS delegation contemplates on mutually concerning issues at IRA

Led by IPS' Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, an IPS delegation visiting Karachi was invited by Islamic Research Academy – Karachi (IRAK) on November 27, 2021 to exchange views on issues of shared concerns.

The visiting team, also comprising the Institute's Senior Research Officer Syed Nadeem Farhat and Assistant Research Officer Hafiz Usama Hameed, was received on the occasion by the IRAK team which was headed by the Academy's Deputy Director Ali Hussain.

## Reception for IPS officials at PIMA House

IPS team members visiting Karachi on an official trip were hosted by Professor Dr Sohail Akhtar, former central president of Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) and IPS associate – at a dinner reception at PIMA House on November 26, 2021.

The IPS delegation comprising Chairman Khalid Rahman, Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, GM Operations Naufil Shahrukh, Senior Research Officer Syed Nadeem Farhat and Assistant Research Officer Usama Hameed, was received by leading doctors and medical practitioners of the city most prominently including renowned psychiatrist Dr Mubeen Akhtar, Professor Dr Shahid Mustafa, Dr Zeeshan Hussain, Dr Saeed Mohsini and Dr Khalid Mushtaq. A number of IPS associates based in Karachi such as Azeem Pirani, CEO, Pak-Qatar Takaful, Tarique Rehman Fazlee, CEO, Fazeens Pvt Ltd, Dr Bashir Lakhani, director (Water & Energy Division) Techno-Consult Pvt Ltd, and Kashif Hafeez Siddiqui, CEO, Pulse Consultant, were also present in the get-together.

## IPS' study on Transgender Act of 2018 presented in an academic seminar

Syed Nadeem Farhat, IPS' Senior Research Officer, spoke in a session organized by the Riphah Institute of Public Policy (RIPP), Riphah International University, Islamabad on November 30, 2021.



The session brought together various stakeholders to discuss the dimensions of the Transgender (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018, which is currently being heard at the Federal Shari'at Court and debated at various legislative and social forums due to its controversial clauses.

## Sharing Insights

IPS encourages interaction with different national and international organizations and scholars to share their studies and exchange views on the subjects of mutual interest. A glimpse of such interactions in the last quarter is being presented here.

### PGREF working group endorses outcomes of IPS study on grid-tied PV systems

Energy experts and practitioners partaking in the online meeting of the working group of Pakistan-Germany Renewable Energy Forum (PGREF) have termed the issues highlighted in the ongoing IPS' study over quality and procedural gaps in solar PV deployment in Pakistan as a matter of grave concern, as they were adversely affecting the country's transitional growth towards renewable energy. It may be noted that the said study is being carried out as part of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE) agreement held between Pakistan's Ministry of Energy (Power) and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation. Under this REEE program, IPS is working



with the joint persuasion of AEDB (Alternative Energy Development Board) and GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) to identify gaps and suggest ways to improve the quality and practices of grid-tied PV system installations in the country.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/pgref-working-group-endorses-outcomes-of-ips-study-on-grid-tied-pv-systems/>

### Proposed law on faith conversions needs to be based on research findings, not rhetoric

The bill that purports to prevent forced conversions in the country and is on the agenda of the Parliamentary Committee, has been proposed without proper research and appreciation of the facts that define religious conversions in Pakistan. The proposed legislation contravenes the basic tenets of the Constitution and flouts the legislative authority of the Parliament as it is being imposed by pressurizing the policy makers through tools like GSP-Plus.

This was the crux of the discussion held at a seminar 'Rhetoric and Reality of Forced Conversions in Pakistan' which was organized by Islamabad Bar Association and Legal Thinkers

Forum in collaboration with IPS on October 5, 2021.

Sufi Ghulam Hussain, research officer at IPS and author of the Institute's study 'Forced Conversions or Faith Conversions: Rhetoric and Reality', delivered the keynote address and spelt out the key features and findings of his research in the issue. Other speakers included Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Dr Ikram-ul-Haq and Dr Inamullah from the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), and Rao Abdur Raheem Advocate from Islamabad Bar Association.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/proposed-law-on-faith-conversions-needs-to-be-based-on-research-findings-not-rhetoric-iba-seminar/>

## Visits

### Delegation from Chinese Embassy (Islamabad)

A delegation from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad visited IPS on December 22, 2021, and had a discussion with the Institute's team on various issues of mutual interests.



Wang Shengjie

The visiting delegation comprised Wang Shengjie, director, political section and Ms Cui Yaolum, an attache at China embassy Islamabad, whereas IPS' Chairman Khalid Rahman, Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, General

Manager Operations Naufil Shahrukh, and Senior Research Officer Syed Nadeem Farhat participated in the discussion on the Institute's behalf.

### Faculty from Islamia University Bhawalpur

Jawad Iqbal, dean, Faculty of Management Sciences and Commerce, Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) and Shahzad Ali Gill, assistant professor, IUB visited IPS on October 18, 2021 and had a meeting with the Institute's faculty.

### NDU-GPP alumni

Headed by T.A Bhutta, a four-member delegation comprising alumni of National Defence University's Department of Governance and Public Policy (NDU-GPP) visited IPS on December 10, 2021.

### Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)



VC-IUB Prof Dr Athar Mahboob with Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman at the MoU signing ceremony

IPS signed a number of Memorandum of Understanding in the quarter with an aim to develop synergies with other organizations in a bid to explore and pursue joint ventures in the areas of mutual interests.

These MoUs were signed with the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) on November 16, Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) on November 19, Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST), Islamabad on October 28, Riphah Int'l University on December 1 and Islamic Economics Project (IEP) on December 27, 2021.

### IPS team visits Faculty of Arabic & Islamic Studies, AIOU



IPS' Senior Research Fellow Dr Shahzad Iqbal Sham and Senior Research Officer Syed Nadeem Farhat visited the Faculty of Arabic & Islamic Studies (AIS). Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad on 17th November, 2021 on the invitation by Dean of the Faculty Dr Mohyuddin Hashimi.

### IPS represented in a webinar on urban resilience and its impact on electricity provision

On the invitation of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Chairman IPS' Steering Committee on Energy, Water and Climate Change Mirza Hamid Hasan participated in a webinar 'Urban Resilience and Its Impact on Electricity Provision', which was hosted by the Institute on November 1, 2021.

The purpose of the webinar was to discuss with key opinion leaders and energy experts the findings of the host's study on the impact that urban resilience has on electricity provision and utility services.

## Human Development

The Institute's human development activities are carried out under 'IPS LEAD' (Learning, Excellence and Development Program) that aims at promoting knowledge economy for individual, organizational and societal excellence.

### IPS hosts web-talk series of ICT guru Dr Hatim Zaghloul



Dr Hatim Zaghloul

Dr Hatim Zaghloul, an Egyptian-Canadian telecom scientist, founder and CEO, Inovation Inc., globally known for his pioneering role in several ICT inventions and innovations including Wi-Fi in the 1990s, and most recently 6G and his own blockchain technology, delivered a series of web-talks in Pakistan hosted by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) on October 20-22, 2021.

The online sessions titled "Frontiers of the World's ICT Research & Innovation" were attended by a large number of ICT professionals, researchers, teachers and students from

both the public and private sectors in the country.

The lectures followed by interactive sessions between the speakers and the participants generated a rich debate on the topics of 'Blockchain: History and Future', 'Wireless Communication & the Internet of Things (IOT)', and 'Artificial Intelligence Enabled Cyber Security'.

The guest speaker of the third session was Dr Hussam Kinawai, co-founder and chief scientist, Wedge Networks Inc., a Canada-based cyber security software company specializing in real-time cyber threat prevention.

The main discussants, along with the speakers, in all the three sessions included Dr Adeel Akram, professor, telecommunication engineering, University of Engineering & Technology (UET), Taxila, and Humayun Zafar, chairman, Open Source Foundation, Pakistan.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-hosts-web-talk-series-of-ict-guru-dr-hatim-zaghloul/>

### The Living Scripts | An oral history project to record life and times of veteran civil servants



Abdul Rauf Chaudhry

Aimed at acquiring tacit knowledge from experienced practitioners of the public sector and imparting it to the audience as food for thought, IPS LEAD – the learning, excellence and development program of IPS - is organizing

series of sessions titled 'The Living Scripts'.

The idea behind the initiative is to pursue accomplished personalities and eminent individuals of national stature, providing them a window to share invaluable experiences and knowledge from their personal and professional lives.

The sitting held within this quarter featured Abdul Rauf Chaudhry, former cabinet secretary, on November 10, 2021.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-lead/the-living-scripts/>

### 'Pakistan's Policy Environment: A Practitioner's Perspective'



Syed Abu Ahmad Akif

Intended to apprise and familiarize aspiring policy practitioners with the challenges and obstacles of actual policymaking environment, IPS hosted an interactive session with the students of NUST Public Administration Society (NPAS) on November 10, 2021.

The session, which was chaired by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman, was addressed as keynote speaker by Former Federal Secretary Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, whereas the head of the visiting

delegation Dr Inayatullah, assistant professor at NUST School of Social Sciences, IPS Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain and Naufil Shahrukh, general manager at IPS were also present in the speaker's panel.

In light of his profuse experience, Akif shared rich insights from the policymaking environment of Pakistan, discussing at length how public policy was designed and put into action in the country, while shedding light on different kinds of impediments that policy practitioners have to face in a very complex and challenging environment.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistans-policy-environment-a-practitioners-perspective/>

### 'The Role of Academia in Policy Processes'



A lecture on 'The Role of Academia in Policy Processes' was imparted by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman during a seminar collaboratively held at Karachi University's Department of Mass Communication on November 26, 2021.

### 'Peace and Conflict in Pakistan: Perceptions and Perspectives'

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman delivered a presentation titled 'Peace and Conflict in Pakistan: Perceptions and Perspectives' while conducting a workshop for facilitators from all over Pakistan on November 18, 2021 at the Himalaya Camp organized by Youth Impact – a youth-focused training and leadership development organization.

### 'The Govt Role in Inclusive Development - Islamic Perspective'

On the invitation of AHK-NCRD (Akhtar Hameed Khan - National Centre for Rural Development), Chairman IPS delivered a lecture on 'The Govt Role in Inclusive Development - Islamic Perspective' on October 13, 2021, as part of their training course 'Inclusive Development for Socio-Economic Justice' that was held from October 11-15, 2021.

### Law students from Dir briefed over the importance of socio-legal research and the role of think tanks

A delegation comprising students from the law department of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Sheringal (SBBUS), Upper Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, visited IPS on an exposure trip on November 1, 2021.

The visitors were headed by Dr Afzal Mehmood, chairman of the department of law at SBBUS, whereas IPS was represented by the Institute's Chairman Khalid Rahman, Syed Nadeem Farhat, senior research officer and a team member Sardar Ali Yousafzai.

## 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.

## Armughan-e-Khurshid Series

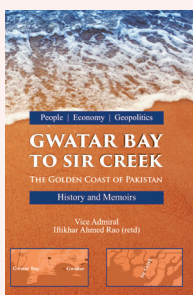


*Armughan-e-Khurshid* is a series of books featuring writings and speeches of Professor

Khurshid Ahmad on variety of national issues especially concerning democracy and politics, constitution and law, economy, foreign policy and social issues of Pakistan.

The quarter saw following seven out of ten scheduled publications of the series coming forth:

- ▶ **Pakistan ki Nazriyat Asaas: Nifaz-e-Shariat aur Madina ki Islami Riasat**  
Pages: 247 | Price: PKR600  
Binding: Paperback | Year: 2021  
ISBN: 978-969-448-799-1
- ▶ **Islam aur Maghrib ki Tehzeebi-o-Syasi Kashmakash**  
Pages: 336 | Price: PKR850  
Binding: Paperback | Year: 2021  
ISBN: 978-969-448-800-4
- ▶ **Aeen-e-Pakistan: Inhirafat aur Bahali ki Jiddojehad**



## Gwatar Bay to Sir Creek – History and Memoirs

Author: Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Rao (ret'd)  
Year: 2022  
Binding: Hardback

## About the Book

This book gives the readers an overview of the history of Makran coast from the ancient days of Gedrosia, Gwadar under Omani control, concerted efforts for its retrocession to Pakistan, to the more recent days of CPEC. It highlights key features of development of Gwadar deep-water port, its importance for Pakistan and focused attention needed to benefit from our coastal

treasure. The book describes the features of the coast right from Gwatar Bay at the border with Iran to Sir Creek at the border with India. Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao (Retd) recounts his adventures and personal experiences from his early days as a Lieutenant on-board ships and flying helicopters from and along the arid and hitherto uninhabitable terrain of Makran coast bordering Iran, to his days as flag officer quite literally 'shoveling' mud, patrolling and marching with the Marines through the inhospitable marshes in the creek area bordering India and by sharing his experiences and lessons learnt through facing challenges while serving on the coast.

For further details, visit:  
<http://ips.org.pk/armughan-e-khurshid-series/>

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/gwatar-bay-to-sir-creek-history-and-memoirs/>

## Nuqta-e-Nazar (Issue No. 39)

The 39th issue of IPS journal *Nuqta-e-Nazar* is now published. Being brought out diligently by senior IPS Associate Dr Safir Akhtar for more than last 20 years, the bi-annual journal provides in-depth reviews and commentaries on Urdu

books, especially on the topics related to Islam and Pakistan.

The latest edition of the book discusses the contributions of renowned Islamic scholar Maulana Shibli Nomani (3 June 1857 – 18 November 1914), who wrote the first two volumes of the *Sirat-un-Nabi*.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/nuqta-e-nazar-issue-no-39/>

Policy Perspectives  
(Volume 18, No. 1, 2021)

The latest edition of IPS' flagship journal *Policy Perspectives*—disseminating the research carried out by IPS, its associates, and experts on diverse range of current and evolving topics—is out now. This issue brings forth contributions on topics related to the domestic

issues of Pakistan as well as global politics.

- ▶ **Religious Conversions in Pakistan: Empirical Evidence from Sindh**  
Author: Ghulam Hussain
- ▶ **Abraham Accords, Indo-Pacific Accord and the US-Led Nexus of Curtailment: Threat to Regional Security, and Joint Counter Strategy**  
Authors: Shabana Syed and Dr Zainab Ahmed
- ▶ **The US in China's Nuclear Threat Perception**  
Authors: Khusrow Akkas Abbasi and Zahida Khalid
- ▶ **Utilizing Militia Forces in Modern Warfare: Role and Challenges**  
Authors: Dr Muhammad Nasrullah Mirza and Naveed Mushtaq
- ▶ **The Conduct of Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Structure, Strengths, and Issues (2018-2020)**  
Author: Ambassador (r) Tajammul Altaf
- ▶ **Locust Attack in Pakistan: Assessing and Dealing with the Threat**  
Author: Bukhtawer Pervaz

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/policy-perspectives/>

## Research Briefs

- ▶ Faith Conversions in Pakistan: Evidence from Sindh
- ▶ The Conduct of Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Structure, Strength and Issues (2018-2020) - Part 1
- ▶ The Conduct of Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Structure, Strength and Issues (2018-2020) - Part 2



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Editor: Naufil Shahrukh, Asst Editor: Farhan S. | Layout: Asif Taimuri