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Quarter in Focus

The start of the new fiscal and academic year has been full of challenges – especially due to skyrocketing costs – as well as renewed hope and determination, despite all the challenges, to contribute our bit for making Pakistan and this world a better place for our generations to come through promoting policy-oriented research, dialogue, human and technological development for better governance and socioeconomic progress. The fresh initiative of IPSTECH – another ambitious program of IPS aimed at bridging technological research and innovation with the policy needs of the country – is one such example.

The annual meeting of IPS-National Academic Council remained to be the most significant activity of the quarter inviting top thought-leaders from different walks of life and shades of Pakistani society to discuss issues of vital national importance and suggest ideas for research and dialogue to the IPS team.

The Institute continued its focus on regional affairs, especially developments in Afghanistan, and Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, closely studying the ongoing Indian attempts to marginalize Muslim majority population there through settler colonialism tactics. The Institute, in addition, also co-organized a memorial reference on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the iconic Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani and paid homage to the deceased leader's lifelong struggle against Indian occupation.

The IPS team was quick to bring two matters of national significance onto the discussion table: In the wake of the nationwide disaster caused by heavy rains and floods, improved utilization of geospatial technology was stressed in an insightful webinar; while in the case of the amendments proposed in the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018, it was maintained that any legislation over the matter should be in line with the country's religious and cultural norms and scientific evidence.

There were two seminar-cum-book launches, held in collaboration with International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) and Qurtuba University, Peshawar; one on the topic of Pakistan's economic governance, and the other on the threat of reemergence of militancy in Pakistan, respectively. Whereas, a roundtable looking at the state of affairs of Pakistan's tribal districts four years after FATA's merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was also held.

The IPS team working on 'Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection' project visited different areas of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to develop an understanding of Zakat and Ushr administration in the regions, whereas under its ongoing study on alleged 'forced conversions' in Sindh, the Institute hosted an interactive session with Pir Ayub Jan Sarhandi, a renowned religious figure from interior Sindh.

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Annual meeting of IPS-National Academic Council (2022)

Pakistan is faced with a crisis of governance at all levels, lack of national consensus on critical issues, and non-adherence to national objectives in policy formulation and implementation, according to senior academics and seasoned practitioners.

The experts were speaking at the annual meeting of IPS' National Academic Council, which was held on September 17, 2022. The yearly gathering is aimed at delivering intellectual input from a cross-section of veteran

scholars and practitioners to IPS' research activities.

Presided over by IPS' Chairman Khalid Rahman, the meeting was addressed by Dr Syed Junaid Zaidi, former rector, COMSATS, Ambassador (r) Shamshad A Khan, former secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal cabinet secretary, Dr Syed Tahir Hijazi, former vice-chancellor, Muslim Youth University, Dr Waqar Masood

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Seminar & Book Launch | National Consensus for Economic Stability Stressed

It is high time that Pakistan develops an 'Islamabad Consensus', as an alternative to the Washington Consensus, to escape the trap of foreign dependency. As no single entity can bring improvement in the economic system, damaged by its dependency on international biddings, the country must develop a national consensus, charter of economy, proper economic perspective, structural reforms, and long-term planning based on a transformative vision.

These views were shared by speakers on July 26, 2022 during a seminar cum book launching ceremony of IPS Press publication titled

Pakistani Maeshat ki Surat-e-Haal: Masayel, Asbaab aur Lahia-e-Amal (State of Pakistan's Economy: Problems, Causes and Plan of Action), the sixth book of the *Armughan-e-Khurshid* series, which compile the writings and speeches of Prof Khurshid Ahmad, veteran politician, eminent



Dr Syed Tahir Hijazi

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Pakistan needs to develop a robust Afghan policy to counter militancy inside Pakistan



Rustam Shah Mohmand

Former ambassador and veteran statesman Rustam Shah Mohmand has stressed that Pakistan needs to play a proactive role in the region vis-à-vis Afghanistan as it was evident that stability or instability in the country resonate

with Pakistan in parallel. Instead of making further policy dichotomies, Pakistan needs to develop a robust policy concerning Afghanistan to counter militancy inside Pakistan. For Pakistan, it is a time to pause, reflect, assess, and consider the dangers that loom on the horizon if Afghanistan remains unstable for a longer time.

He was addressing a seminar titled 'Askariyat Kay Khadshaat, Mazi Ka Sabaq Aur Darkar Hiemat-e-Aml' (Fears of Re-emergence of Militancy; Lesson from the Past and Required Strategy) combined with the book launch of

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Evidence-informed dialogue stressed to harmonize Pak-Afghan relations for long-term peace



L-R: Brig (r) Said Nazir, Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, Khalid Rahman and Dr Farhat Taj

The nationalist identities of Afghanistan and Pakistan are perpetually at loggerheads with each other due to ontological insecurities of both, causing serious repercussions on the population on both sides of the Durand Line. The resolution of these chronic issues requires evidence-informed dialogue among all stakeholders, especially literati and media, to gain mutual respect to shun historical differences for long-term peace and cooperation, which

is a dire need of the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The thoughts were reflected during an academic session, titled 'Ontological (In)securities of Afghanistan and Pakistan and Resulting Repercussion on the Pashtun Population of Pakistan', held at IPS on July 20, 2022.

The roundtable was chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and addressed as keynote

speaker by Dr Farhat Taj, associate professor, University of Tromsø, Norway. IPS' Associate Brig (r) Said Nazir Mohmand, former MNA Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob Khan and Fazal Ullah Farooq, a religious leader – joined as discussants. Ambassador (r) Ayaz Wazir, Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director, Pakistan Study Centre, University of Peshawar, Farhatullah Babar, political leader and former senator, Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary, Dr Lutfur Rehman, author and researcher, Amanullah Khan, IPS' senior associate, and Brig (r) Dr Saif-ur-Rehman Malik, IPS' senior research fellow, also spoke on the occasion. Dr Farhat Taj, while presenting her research, stated that the dynamics of Pak-Afghan relations, from historical context to contemporary times, revolve around a clash of identities, ontological insecurities, and divergent management of their respective insecurities.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/ontological-insecurities-of-afghanistan-and-pakistan-and-resulting-repercussion-on-the-pashtun-population-of-pakistan/>

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Seminar & Book Launch...

scholar, economist, and patron-in-chief and founding chairman of IPS on a variety of subjects of national significance.

The ceremony, jointly organized by IPS and the International Institute of Islamic Economics (IIIE) of the International Islamic University (IIUI), Islamabad, was co-chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and Prof Dr Ayaz Afsar, vice president IIUI, and addressed by Dr Abdul Rashid, director general IIIE, Dr Syed Tahir Hijazi, senior academician and former Member (Governance), Planning Commission of Pakistan, and Dr Miraj-ul-Haq, asst. professor, IIIE.

For complete report, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/seminar-book-launch-pakistani-maeshat-ki-surat-e-haal-masayel-asbaab-aur-lahia-e-amal/>

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Pakistan needs to develop...

Dehshat Gardi Kay Khilaf Jang: Pak Amrika Ta'awun Aur Is Kay Asarat (War Against Terrorism: Pak-US Relations and its Impacts), the ninth book of the *Armughan-e-Khurshid* series recently published in two volumes, which compiles the writings and speeches of Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, a veteran politician, eminent scholar, economist, founder and patron-in-chief of IPS on a variety of subjects of national significance.

The seminar, hosted by Qurtuba University, Peshawar on September 21, 2022 and co-chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and Dr Muhammad Azhar Khan Niyazi, chairman, Qurtuba Education System, was also addressed by Professor Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director, Pakistan Study Center, Peshawar University, Mahmood Jan Babar, journalist and columnist, Dr Shahzad Iqbal Sham, senior research fellow at IPS, and Prof Dr Muhammad Riaz Khan, dean, Qurtuba University.

For complete report, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/seminar-askariyat-kay-khadshaat-mazi-ka-sabaq-aur-darkar-hikmat-e-amli-book-launch-dehshat-gardi-kay-khilaf-jang/>

'Transitioning Afghanistan: A Year After Taliban and Way Forward'

The Taliban government or the Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan (IEA), going through a political transition, from a battle-hardened resistance force to a state government, is facing several voids that cannot be filled right away or in a disconnected manner. This transition in Afghanistan presents a role for the international community, especially regional countries, towards facilitating the desired transformation through a dynamic, persistent, and symbiotic engagement at multiple levels.

These views were reflected in a heart-to-heart discussion followed by a keynote speech of Ambassador (r) Mohammad Sadiq, special assistant to the Prime Minister/Minister of State and Pakistan's special representative for Afghanistan, in a roundtable titled 'Transitioning Afghanistan: A Year After Taliban and Way Forward', held at IPS on August 26, 2022.

The in-camera address by Ambassador Sadiq to a select gathering of Islamabad's intelligentsia based on Chatham House rules, aimed at assessing the actual picture of Afghanistan and how Pakistan should carry itself in the scenario, was moderated by Brig (r) Dr Saif-ur-Rehman Malik, IPS's senior research fellow. Lt Gen (r) Asif Yasin Malik, former Corp Commander Peshawar, Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director, Pakistan Study Centre, University of Peshawar, Maj Gen (r) Dr Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, Obaid Ullah Baheer, former faculty member (International Relations), American University, Kabul, Tahir Khan, senior journalist and Afghan affairs analyst, Dr Farhat Taj, associate professor, University of Tromsø, Norway, Dr Salma Malik, assistant professor, Defense & Strategic Studies, Quaid-i-Azam, University, and Brig (r)



Ambassador Sadiq and Lt Gen (r) Asif Yasin Malik

Said Nazir also took part in the discussion.

Concluding the roundtable proceedings, Khalid Rahman, IPS' chairman, remarked that the situation in Afghanistan is still precarious after one year of an 'exclusive' Taliban rule.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/transitioning-afghanistan-a-year-after-taliban-and-way-forward/>

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Quarter in Focus

IPS' work on maritime affairs yielded rich discussion between Chairman IPS and DG Pakistan Maritime Security Agency during the latter's visit to the Institute. The role of coastal communities in blue economy, on the other hand, was elaborated by the Institute's GM Operations in a roundtable held at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

The quarter also witnessed IPS' flagship journal *Policy Perspectives* being recognized as a scientific journal by the Norwegian Register to Scientific Journals.

The Institute's research produced a policy brief and three seminar reports in the period, while IPS Press came up with two new titles – one of which was published in collaboration with ICRC – alongside a new issue of one of its three periodicals, *Nuqta-e-Nazar*.

Syed Ali Shah Geelani, iconic leader of Kashmiris' struggle for self-determination remembered



L-R: Prof Dr Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, Raja Zafa-ul-Haq, Khalid Rahman, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain and Advocate Nasir Qadri

An embodiment of honesty, unwavering resoluteness, struggle, and vision in the story of the Kashmir freedom movement. Such was Syed Ali Shah Geelani, an epitome of Kashmiri's struggle and resistance, whose passion, ideology, and vision about Kashmir were matchless. He not only presented the cause of Kashmir with great clarity but also united all his people for that one cause i.e., the freedom of Kashmir and the right to Kashmiris' self-determination, for which he paid a high price.

As put in words by Prof Khurshid Ahmad, veteran politician, eminent scholar, economist, and patron-in-chief and founding chairman of the IPS, who commemorated Syed Ali Shah Geelani, founder of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, during his memorial reference, titled "Syed Ali Shah

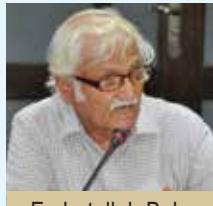
among others, by veteran statesman Raja Zafar-ul-Haq, Professor Dr Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, vice chancellor, AJ&K University, Dr Asma Shakir Khwaja, executive director, Centre for International Strategic Studies, Muzaffarabad, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, general secretary, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, IPS' vice-chairman, Prof Dr Muhammad Mushtaq, chairman, Department of Law, Mirpur University of Science & Technology (MUST), Advocate Nasir Qadri, director, LFK, and Farzana Yaqoob, general secretary, IPS' Working Group on Kashmir. Brigadier (r) Dr Saif-ur-Rehman Malik, IPS' senior research fellow, moderated the event.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/syed-ali-shah-geelani-his-struggle-legacy/>

Geelani: His Struggle & Legacy", organized by IPS in, collaboration with Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK), on September 1, 2022.

The session was addressed,

Pakistan Tribal Areas: Four Years After Merger



Farhatullah Babar

The tribal areas and their unresolved issues following merger with the KP province cannot be seen in isolation from the rest of the country. Every region has similar problems and the solution lies in better governance that entails an operative strategy and development focused on inclusivity and what is doable and achievable. In addition, there is a vital need of reforms to make the administrative units smaller with the local bodies genuinely empowered and consistently in operation to redress grievances and usher in governance and development inclusivity.

This was the conclusion of a roundtable 'Pakistan Tribal Areas: Four Years After Merger', held on August 4, 2022. The event, chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, was joined by Brig (r) Said Nazir, Amb (r) Ayaz Wazir, Farhatullah Babar, political leader and former senator, Akhunzada Chattan, political leader, Zahid Ullah Shinwari, former president Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director, Pakistan Study Centre, University of Peshawar; Dr Farhat Taj, associate professor, University of Tromsø, Norway, Dr Lutfur Rehman, an expert on FATA affairs, Adnan Shinwari, former president FATA Youth Jirga, and Dr Saif-ur-Rehman, IPS senior research fellow, as discussants. The keynote speaker was Dr Ashraf Ali, former director FATA Research Center, while VC-IPS Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain delivered the opening remarks.

Experts stress use of G-Governance in managing natural disasters



climatologist, Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Dr Abdul Saboor, dean PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Syed Abu Ahmad Akif,

former federal secretary, climate change, Dr Karwar Muhammad Javed Iqbal, senior research fellow, National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), Dr Kamran Azam, associate professor, Dept. of Management Sciences, University of Haripur, and Dr Muhammad Irfan Khan, dean Environmental Sciences, International Islamic University (IIUI), Islamabad.

According to Dr Ibrar-ul-Hasan, despite having free access to five satellites whereby flooding can be aptly monitored through daily space statistics on rainfall, flood inundation, flood damages, ground data collection analysis, etc., Pakistan lacks timely decision-making.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistan-recent-floods-from-space-technology-perspective/>

Pakistan has sufficient access to satellite data, imagery, and indigenous research that can immensely help in pre- and post-management of natural disasters like floods. However, as pointed out by experts, most of the space technology resources remain underutilized due to poor governance, lack of funds, and the disinterest of the related institutions and decision-makers.

This was observed at a roundtable session, titled 'Pakistan Recent Floods from Space: Technology Perspective', organized by IPS on September 30, 2022.

The session, chaired by Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, was joined by the session's keynote speaker Dr Ibrar-ul-Hasan Akhtar, scientist and

Gender-variant persons' issue ordains indigenous approach instead of transplanted measures

In an environment where the question of rights for the gender-variant people has stimulated polarization, academic and policy institutions need to play their role to reach a common ground. Such common ground should comprehend the peculiar nature of the issue to devise a solution that is not only in line with the normative structure of the society, but also protects the rights of every individual.

These views were shared at a consultative meeting titled 'The Rights of Gender-Variant Persons' held on September 22, 2022. The roundtable, moderated by Nadeem Farhat Geelani, senior research officer IPS, was joined as the keynote speaker by neurologist Dr Talha Saad, while Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Amb (r) Safdar Hayat, Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal secretary, Hammad Hussain Butt and Muhammad bin Sajid, both petitioners at the Federal Shariat Court, Tahir Shah, research assistant and Irfan Fazil from the research wing of the Council of Islamic Ideology, Dr Saima Esma, visiting professor, NUML, Dr Shagufta Omar, assistant professor, IIUI, Shoaib Madni, director, Shaor Media Network, Abida Farheen, chairperson, Working Women Welfare Trust, Dr Abdullah Fazi, lecturer, Curtin University, Malaysia, Talha Imran, and Maryam Khan from Istanbul Zaim University, also voiced their views.



S Nadeem Farhat

Chairman IPS, DG-PMSA highlight the need for increased sea-related awareness

The formation of an inclusive maritime community and collaboration among all the stakeholders, including think tanks, NGOs, researchers, and students, are prerequisites for the explication of maritime issues and their awareness in the country. In this regard, research, working papers, reports, discussions, roundtables, and conferences - like an annual conference on landscaping maritime - should be conducted with focus on varied maritime domains, related issues, and their resolution.



The ideas were discussed during a meeting held at IPS on August 11, 2022, partaken by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman, Rear Admiral Mirza Foad Amin Baig HI(M), director general, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA), Flag Officer Lt Muhammed Jazib, Pakistan Navy, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, VC-IPS, Shafaq Sarfraz, senior manager, Outreach, Muhammad Wali Farooqi, IPS' research officer for Pakistan Affairs, and the Institute's research faculty.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/chairman-ips-dg-pmsa-highlight-the-need-for-increased-sea-related-awareness-propose-forming-a-maritime-community/>

Relentless power tariff hike no solution for circular debt

The power sector of Pakistan has been badly incapacitated by the grave issues of circular debt, which is reflected in the continuous electricity tariff hikes and skyrocketing fuel price adjustments. Not only NEPRA has approved a Rs11 per unit tariff hike for the high-end consumers on the request of the Ministry of Energy, the 'flat slab rates' mechanism also has been implemented, burdening the low electricity consumers substantially.



Mirza Hamid Hassan

This was discussed in a meeting held on July 21 to discuss the pitfalls of the power sector of Pakistan, impacts of circular debt, resolution mechanism, and to assess the roadmap to address the issues.

The meeting was co-chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and Mirza Hamid Hassan, chair IPS' Steering Committee on Energy and former federal secretary, Water and Power. Ashfaq Mehmood, former federal secretary, Water and Power, Ameena Sohail, member board of directors, IESCO and legal advisor to NEPRA, Syed Akhtar Ali, energy expert, Raja Kamran, president Council of Economics and Energy Journalist, GMO-IPS Naufil Shahrukh, and Hamza Naeem and Lubna Riaz, energy researchers at IPS also participated in the meeting.

IPS' Working Group on Kashmir (IPS-WGK)

AJ&K's draft 15th constitutional amendment termed harmful for Kashmir cause

Pakistan stands firm by its Kashmiri brethren in their struggle for freedom and fight for their right of self-determination. It however needs to remain careful in its approach towards the cause, keeping in mind that primarily this has always been a war of liberation for Kashmir and the status of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) is that of its basecamp. The recently proposed 15th amendment in the AJ&K constitution, in contrast, appears to deviate from this consideration substantially, resulting in creating uncertainty and perplexity within AJ&K regarding the rationale behind this proposition.

These notions were reflected during the 19th meeting of IPS' Working Group on Kashmir (IPS-WGK), held on September 8, 2022, to critically analyze and discuss different aspects of the proposed amendment, its background, objectives as well as implications.

The in-camera meeting based on Chatham House Rule was chaired by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman whilst a prefatory presentation on the topic was delivered by Dr Idrees Abbasi, former secretary law, AJ&K. The other speakers partaking the interactive discussion included, among others, Saleem Bismil, former secretary, AJ&K, Aijaz Hussain Lone,



Dr Idrees Abbasi and Saleem Bismil

secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell (JKLC), Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Ambassador (r) Ayaz Wazir, Advocate Nasir Qadri, director, Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK), Sheikh Abdul Mateen, general secretary, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Farzana Yaqoob, former minister, AJ&K and general secretary, IPS-WGK, Amanullah Khan, former president, RCCI, Mahmood Ahmad, eminent Kashmiri educationist, Dr Shahzad Iqbal Sham, senior research fellow at IPS, Aniq-ur-Rahman Saifi, president, Jammu & Kashmir Lawyers' Association, Sabur Ali Sayyid, research associate at IPS, whereas the discussion was moderated by IPS' GM Operations Naufil Shahrukh.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/ajks-draft-15th-constitutional-amendment-termed-harmful-for-kashmir-cause/>

Kashmir issue is essentially a 75-year old liberation war, not just an HR violations' case: Experts

The Kashmir issue is primarily a legitimate war of liberation being fought by the people of Kashmir with the support of Pakistan - a fundamental party to the conflict - for the last 75 years. It is not just a case of human rights violation, and must be highlighted as such to validate the applicability of international laws of war and Indian occupation's actions as war crimes. For this, a common narrative and unified direction is crucial, along with the implementation of robust strategies.

These views were reflected on September 29, 2022, during the 20th meeting of IPS' Working Group on Kashmir (IPS-WGK), a body of experts and opinion leaders on Kashmir affairs that meets regularly after the illegal revocation of the special constitutional status of IIOJK by the BJP-led Delhi regime on August 5, 2019.

The session, titled 'Assault on Kashmiri Identity and its Likely Implications', held to discuss the Indian moves to disempower Kashmiri Muslims and their consequences,



Ghulam Muhammad Safi and Advocate Nasir Qadri

was chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and joined, among others, by Ghulam Muhammad Safi, veteran Kashmiri resistance leader, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, Dr Idrees Abbasi, former secretary law, Azad Jammu & Kashmir; Advocate Nasir Qadri, director, Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK), and Raja Sajjad Khan, director, Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI).

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/assault-on-kashmiri-identity-and-its-likely-implications/>

Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection

'Problems in Governance, Administration of Zakat in Pakistan'



Dr Anwar Shah and Muhammad Mustafa Khan

The establishment of an efficient zakat system, which is fundamental to providing social protection, must be made a priority by the Government of Pakistan. For a result-oriented system, the govt. should consider the Akhuwat model and the Government of Malaysia as an example, which took unique measures to alleviate poverty through transparent and efficient utilization of Islamic finance, zakat and charity funds.

This was advocated by speakers during a round-table 'Problems in Governance and Administration of Zakat in Pakistan' organized on September 2, 2022, as part of IPS' ongoing policy research project, titled 'Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection', to 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 session, moderated by Dr Anwar Shah, associate professor, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) and co-principal investigator, was addressed by Dr Salman Ahmed Shaikh, assistant professor, SZABIST and principal investigator of the project.

Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, senior research fellow IPS and former cabinet secretary, Muhammad Mustafa Khan, technical advisor, GIZ, Naufil Shahrukh, GM Operations at IPS, Jamil Afridi, assistant director IT, Zakat and Ushr Dept., Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr Muhammad Ayub, director, Riphah International University, Ghazala Ghlib, lecturer IIUI, Dr Ikram ul Haq, secretary Council of Islamic Ideology, Zubair Ahmad, a PhD scholar at Malaysia National University, Mufti Fawad Ali, resident member, Shari'ah Board, ZTBL, Abdul Quddus Suhaib, chairman Dept. of Islamic Studies, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Jamila Achakzai, journalist at The News, Mufti Abu Bakar, member Shari'ah Board, Silk Bank, and Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, also voiced their remarks in the session.

Visits to Punjab's Zakat & Ushr, Auqaf & Religious Affairs departments, Akhuwat

A delegation from IPS visited Lahore as part of its study on Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection on July 18-19, 2022 and held meetings with the officials of Zakat & Ushr Department and Auqaf & Religious Affairs Department of Punjab, as well as the founder and executive director of Akhuwat Foundation Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib.

The IPS' delegation comprised Dr Salman Ahmed Shaikh, principal investigator, Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection Study, Dr Anwar Shah, co-principal investigator, Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection study, Naufil



IPS team with Dr Amjad Saqib (July 19, 2022)

Shahrukh, general manager operations at IPS, M Wali Farooqi, research officer, IPS and Mir Afzal, junior research associate at IPS.

IPS team studies Zakat and Ushr administration in KP



A four-member delegation from IPS, headed by Dr Salman Ahmed Shaikh, principal investigator, Islamic Social Finance for

Social Protection study, visited Peshawar, Bannu and Abbottabad from July 25-29, 2022 to understand the on-ground administration of Zakat and Ushr processes in three districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The visit, which included meetings with the officials of Zakat & Ushr divisions as well as field trips, revealed some significant obstacles and will help the Institute's team in its ongoing research to come up with more informed policy suggestions.

Presentation on Zakat and Ushr calculators

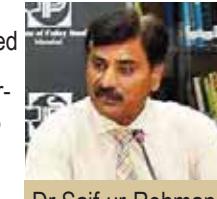


Dr Salman Ahmad Shaikh, the principal investigator for Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection study at IPS, visited Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) on July 20, 2022, and delivered a presentation to its research wing on calculators for Zakat on wealth, Zakat on livestock and Ushr in Pakistan.

CII was represented in the meeting by its chairman Professor Dr Qibla Ayaz, Secretary Dr Ikram ul Haq, and research faculty, whereas Dr Shaikh was accompanied by M Wali Farooqi, research officer at IPS.

Challenges to Pak-China relations can be proactively tackled

A proactive, solution-oriented and forward-looking approach with due consideration to changing domestic, regional, and international scenarios is required to analyze and tackle current challenges and issues in Pak-China relations, while strengthening policy communication, and safeguarding CPEC projects. The ideas were generated on July 7, 2022 during an in-house session held at IPS, which was addressed by Khalid Rahman, IPS' chairman, Dr Saif-ur-Rehman, senior research fellow at IPS, and joined by IPS' research team and associates.



Dr Saif-ur-Rehman

Central Africa: An Untapped Region, Prospects & Challenges'

It's an opportune time for Pakistan to give attention towards developing relations with the African countries so far ignored, especially in the Central African region, in foreign policy through a clear strategy, an informed approach, and consistent program with a strong focus on the private sector supported by the public sector.



Amb (r) Imran Yawar

These observations emerged during a roundtable 'Central Africa: An Untapped Region, Prospects and Challenges', held by IPS under its 'Understanding Africa Program' on August 17, 2022.

The discussion was addressed as main speaker by Amb (r) Imran Yawar and moderated by IPS' Senior Research Fellow Dr Saif-ur-Rehman Malik. Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman, VC-IPS Amb (r) Abrar Hussain, Amb (r) Tanveer Akhtar Khaskheli, Prof Dr Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani and Amb (r) Salahuddin Choudhry also spoke on the occasion.

"Baseless campaign on religious conversions harming social harmony of Sindh"

The myth of forced faith conversions is based on distorted realities and misrepresented facts propagated by vested interests, which is damaging the social harmony of Sindh where different religious communities have been living in peaceful association for centuries.



Pir Ayub Sarhandi

These views were presented by Pir Muhammad Ayub Jan Sarhandi, a renowned religious scholar from Sindh, in his keynote speech during a roundtable session held at IPS on July 17, 2022. The session, chaired by VC-IPS Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain aimed at exploring the factors behind the controversies regarding religious conversions in Sindh.

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.

IPS' representations during the quarter



IPS was represented by its team members in a number of externally organized sessions, such as:

- GMO-IPS Naufil Shahrukh | Discussant over 'The role of coastal communities in blue economy' in a roundtable titled 'Blue Economy of Pakistan' co-organized by IPRI - Islamabad Policy Research Institute, and IRS - Institute of Regional Studies (July 28, 2022).
- Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman | Presentation at Akhtar Hameed Khan - National Centre for Rural Development (AHK-NCRD)'s training program on the topic of governance (August 1, 2022).
- Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman | Chief guest and keynote speaker at the 8th National

Conference on Higher Education (NCHE) on the topic of 'Quality of Research in Higher Institutes' (August 14, 2022).

- Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman | Speaker in Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)'s 'First Thought Leaders Forum' (August 21, 2022).
- Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman | Speaker at the launching ceremony of India Study Centre, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)'s report 'Voices on Kashmir' (August 23, 2022).
- Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman | Presentation at Akhtar Hameed Khan - National Centre for Rural Development (AHK-NCRD)'s training program on the topics of poverty alleviation in Islamic framework (August 26, 2022).
- Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman | Guest speaker at Shifa Interscholastic Tournament (SIST) 2022 (August 27, 2022).
- Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman | Lecture to the students of Pharmacy Department of Riphah International University (RIU), Islamabad, on the topic of 'Challenges of Youth in Modern Society' (September 6, 2022).

Policy Perspectives recognized as a scientific journal by the Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals



Norwegian Directorate
for Higher Education
and Skills

IPS' flagship bi-annual journal *Policy Perspectives* has been approved and included in the Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals. It has been recognized as a Scientific Journal (publication channel) in Level 1 category.

The Norwegian Register is operated jointly by The National Board of Scholarly Publishing (NPU) and the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills on behalf of The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.

This recognition is expected to help increase the Journal's outreach across the Norwegian and the European research community.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/policy-perspectives-recognized-as-a-scientific-journal-by-the-norwegian-register-for-scientific-journals/>

IPS, Qmentum Consulting to cooperate in healthcare capacity building

IPS penned down a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Qmentum Consulting (Pvt.) Limited on September 22, 2022, with a view to provide a framework between the two institutions to cooperate in the areas of mutual interest.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-qmentum-consulting-to-cooperate-in-healthcare-and-capacity-building-initiatives/>



IPS, ICRC to promote int'l humanitarian laws and principles; their compatibility with Islamic jurisprudence

In view of their shared commitment to promote International Humanitarian Law (IHL), humanitarian principles and their compatibility with Islamic Shariah through joint ventures and endeavors, IPS and ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) entered into a collaboration formally by penning down an MoU on August 18, 2022.

The scope of this collaboration includes hosting

of joint national, international and regional programs and events, carrying out collaborative research projects, joining hands in promotional activities and advocacy, and participation of subject matter experts from ICRC in the events, lectures and trainings held by IPS on relevant topics.

Signed on behalf of ICRC by Dr Ziaullah Rahmani, regional advisor for Islamic law and jurisprudence, Jamal Khan, the head of the committee's delegation present on the occasion, and Aqeel Ahmad, admin and finance coordinator, and by IPS' GM Operations Naufil Shahrukh as a representative of the Institute, the non-binding renewable agreement will initially remain into effect for a period of three years.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-icrc-to-co-highlight-intl-humanitarian-laws-and-principles-their-compatibility-with-islamic-jurisprudence/>



Delegation from UK Islamic Mission visits IPS

A six-member delegation from UK Islamic Mission, headed by its secretary general Sajjad Amin, visited IPS on August 15, 2022 and had a discussion with the Institute's team, led by Chairman IPS, on the matters of shared interests.



Continued from Page - 01

Annual meeting of IPS-NAC...

Khan, former federal secretary, finance, Dr Anwar-ul-Hasan Gilani, former vice chancellor, University of Haripur, Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary, Water and Power, Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Dr Abdul Rauf Rafiqui, director, Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai Shaheed Chair, University of Balochistan, Dr Adnan Sarwar Khan, former dean of social sciences, University of Peshawar, Dr Naveed Butt, senior physician at Federal Government Services Hospital, and Dr Noreen Sahar, associate professor and chairperson, Dept. of Anthropology, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI).

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/annual-meeting-of-ips-national-academic-council-2022/>

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.

Futuristic, solution-oriented research on Islam stressed for progress



The continuous changes across different spheres of life, along with their challenges, must be understood proactively and holistically with a keen focus on their foundational patterns to convert them into opportunities. By making use of these opportunities, the Islamic world and its educational institutions can bring forth futuristic and constructive transformations in the world through their proactive and solution-oriented research performance.

These ideas were generated during a roundtable session with the Raabta delegation of Research Academy for Higher Education and Technology (Darul Ilm-wal-Tehqeeq), Karachi, headed by Dr Syed Aziz-ur-Rahman, held at IPS on July 19, 2022.

The delegation comprised scholars who had acquired higher university degrees after completion of their madrasa education and

were now teaching in various institutions. The forum was organized under IPS program 'Promoting Indigenous Policy Research Initiative' to brainstorm research ideas for the young and midcareer scholars. The initiative aims at making academic research more productive and relevant to policy process.

Dr Aziz-ur-Rahman said that bridging the gap between religious schools and other education systems will greatly help in solving the contemporary issues in different spheres of life. Islamic educational institutions have contributed significantly to propagating Islamic values and resolving social issues. However, they are considered detached from and antagonistic towards other approaches and contemporary discourses to the issues of their concern.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/brainstorming-research-ideas-faith-and-society/>

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

Aimed at acquiring tacit knowledge from experienced practitioners of the public sector and imparting it to the audience as a 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 sittings held within this quarter featured a session with Ambassador (r) Umar Khan Ali



Ambassador (r) Umar Khan Ali Sherzai and Syed Abu Ahmad Akif

Sherzai on July 22, 2022, the first session with Ambassador (r) Salik Khan on September 16, 2022, and the final session with Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary, Water and Power, on September 17, 2022, which continued from previous sittings held with him on March 4 and May 27.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-lead/the-living-scripts/>

IPSTech launched

Aimed at bridging technological research and innovation with the policy needs of the country, IPS has launched another one of its ambitious initiatives, titled IPSTECH.

The program was formally launched in a session held at the Institute on July 7, 2022. The sitting was chaired by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman, whereas Muhammad Nasrullah, ICT advisor at IPS, apprised the participants about the programs concept, objectives, strategic planning and other working details.



Muhammad Nasrullah

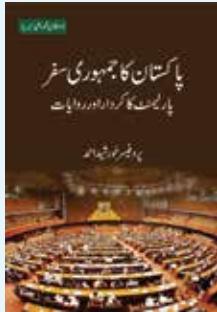
► IPS TV | New Videos www.youtube.com/ipstv

- Chairman IPS speaks to PTV News over Quaid-i-Azam's speech to constituent assembly in 1947
- Pakistan did not show enough seriousness after India's abrogation of article 370 in IoK | Raja Zafar ul Haq
- The solution of Kashmir issue rests only in UN resolutions | Chairman IPS' concluding remarks
- Foreign Policy of Pakistan should be owned and formulated by the Foreign Office | Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam
- Flawed economic strategies have pushed Pakistan into deep structural issues | Dr Miraj-ul-Haq
- Flaws in the economic system are the absence of national consensus | Dr Tahir Hijazi
- Inefficient strategies, & poor governance is damaging Pakistan's economy | Khalid Rahman
- Cdre Jawwad Akhtar Khokhar on Gwadar's development under various modalities
- Having embraced Islam, I invited my parents to become Muslim | Muhammad Bilal
- I was inspired by the way of life of Muslims and thus converted to Islam | Mohammad Rehan Shaikh (formerly Pardeep Kumar)
- Travelers of Faith (A documentary film promo)
- Human Response to Change | Khalid Rahman, Chairman IPS
- Islamization is a continuous process, but it happened swiftly under some regimes and slowly under others | Dr Shahzad Iqbal Sham

Visit IPS TV for more videos

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.

Pakistan ka Jamhoori Safar, Parliament ka Kirdar aur Riwayaat

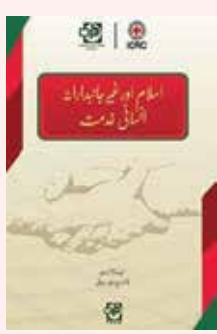
Author: Professor Khurshid Ahmad
Editor: Khalid Rahman
Binding: Paperback
Pages: 214
Language: Urdu
Year/Edition: 2022
ISBN: 978-969-448-823-3
Publisher: IPS Press

The democratic process in Pakistan, despite its persistent progression, is still faced with numerous challenges. This, however, obviously is, and had to be a long continuous journey. As a matter of fact, stops and obstacles become part and parcel in the pursuit of success in any journey, but if a new destination is not determined at every hurdle, the progress may tend to go in the reverse direction. Thus, this is a long interminable journey which probably has no end. The book under discussion imparts the story of this very journey.

The book has four parts. The first part discusses the legal and ethical requirements for appointments to various constitutional and parliamentary positions. The second part consists of comprehensive comments regarding the presidential addresses in Parliament at various times and the government's performance in their light. The third part discusses the rules of legislation, customs and traditions. The fourth and final part is based on the achievements of the Senate as an important role in the democratic journey and suggestions regarding its overall role in the future.

On one hand, this book describes the political history of Pakistan over past years, on the other, it is a book for any student of political science as well as for those active in the field of politics, whether they are novices or somewhat experienced. The book provides useful guidance for understanding the rules, procedures, manners and customs of debate in Parliament and improving the overall performance of the Parliament.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistan-ka-jamhoori-safar-parliament-ka-kirdar-aur-riwayaat/>

Islam aur Ghair Janibdarana Insani Khidmat

Editor: Syed Nadeem Farhat, Dr Ziaullah Rahmani
Binding: Paperback
Pages: 322
Language: Urdu
Year/Edition: 2022
ISBN: 978-969-448-824-0
Publisher: IPS | ICRC

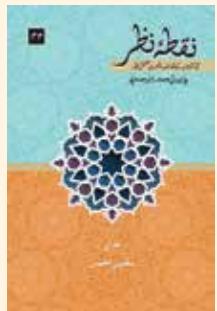
The book is based on the speeches and papers presented in an IPS-ICRC joint national conference titled 'Islam and Humanitarian Action: Prospects and Challenges', which was held on

November 24-25, 2021 in Karachi.

Apart from projecting the message of the conference to a wider audience, the main goal of the book is to draw attention towards the opportunities for understanding and cooperation regarding humanity, respect for humanity and humanitarian services in the light of Islamic teachings.

Published in 2022, *Islam aur Ghair Janibdarana Insani Khidmat* is the second book produced by IPS and ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) in collaboration. Earlier in 2021, a book titled *Islam aur Takreem-e-Insaniyat ke Usool* was also co-published by the two organizations.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/islam-and-ghair-janibdarana-insani-khidmat/>

**Nuqta-e-Nazar (Issue No. 42)**

Editor: Safir Akhtar
Volume: 42
Pages: 200

The 42nd issue of the periodical *Nuqta-e-Nazar* is now published. Being brought out diligently by senior IPS associate Dr

Safir Akhtar since 1996-97, the bi-annual journal provides in-depth reviews and commentaries on Urdu books, especially on the topics of Islam and Pakistan.

The forty-second edition of the book offers in-depth reviews on books published on the topics of Islam, Pakistan, Education, Iqbaliyat, Travelogue, Urdu literature, Children literature, etc.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/nuqta-e-nazar-issue-no-42/>

Research**Policy Brief | Blue Talks: Enhancing the Conservation & Sustainable Use of Oceans**

Based on an international seminar held on the occasion of 'World Oceans Day 2022', this policy brief discusses emerging gaps in the existing legal infrastructure of the oceans that need be filled in the wake of constantly evolving circumstances.

Seminar Report | 'Blue Talks: Enhancing the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Oceans and their Resources by Implementing Int'l Laws'

This seminar report presents the proceedings of a hybrid seminar titled 'Blue Talks: Enhancing the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Oceans and their Resources by Implementing International Laws', jointly organized by the National Institute of Maritime Affairs, IPS and the Portuguese Embassy on June 7, 2022.

Seminar Report | 'Syed Ali Shah Geelani: His Struggle & Legacy'

The seminar report is based on a memorial reference titled 'Syed Ali Shah Geelani: His Struggle & Legacy' organized by IPS in collaboration with Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) to pay tribute and homage to the Kashmiri leader on his first death anniversary.

Seminar Report | 'Central Africa – An Untapped Region: Prospects and Challenges'

Based on a roundtable titled 'Central Africa – An Untapped Region: Prospects and Challenges' organized by IPS on August 17, 2022 under its 'Understanding Africa Program', this seminar report underscores the need to forge a foreign relations policy based on multi-sectoral connectivity and the facilitation of business-to-business and people-to-people interactions between African countries and Pakistan.

For detailed reports, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk>



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