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Quarter in Focus

Pakistan's multiple crises at the political, economic, constitutional, and institutional levels posing serious governance challenges kept IPS engaged in a number of policy deliberations around the issues during the last quarter. An extraordinary meeting of the Institute's National Academic Council (NAC) was also summoned to solicit opinions and recommendations to address the ensuing turmoil and yielding a joint statement by the honourable participants.

Keeping similar objectives in mind, the Institute also arranged (and co-arranged) separate sittings on various other issues of national significance, like the deteriorating investment climate in Pakistan, ways to de-carbonize the country's power sector, the Indian attempts to alter Indus Water Treaty, the worsening situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, and the implementation of the Federal Shariat Court's judgement on Riba-free economy.

Launched on the back of the Institute's extensive year-long study in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), the report '*Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection*' remained to be the highlight of the quarter, whereas the launch of a recent IPS Press publication '*International Peacekeeping: Perspectives from Pakistan*' was another significant activity of the quarter.

The Institute also collaborated with the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Pakistan to hold a commemorative session, besides contemplating over the matters like the impacts of political environment on legislation processes, regime oscillations in South and Southeast Asia, and the evolution of atheism as a distinct civilization, in different gatherings.

IPS also hosted a delegation of eminent scholars from Qom, Iran, with which it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), whereas two other MoUs with Bahria University, Islamabad and University of Management Sciences (UMT), Lahore, were penned down as well. Exposure visits to IPS of groups of faculty members and students of National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, and the University of Malakand (UoM), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, were also hosted under IPS LEAD. IPS team members, too, continued to participate in external sessions, extending their voices on the issues like Pak-Afghan relations, alleged forced religious conversion, renewable energy transition, challenges of climate change, etc.

Important topics such as climate financing and de-carbonization, Indian assault on Kashmiri identity, transitioning Afghanistan, and Pakistan's relations with East, West and North African countries formed the substance of the reports published in the period, whereas the 43rd issue of the periodical *Nuqta-e-Nazar* hit the racks too. IPS Press participated in a number of major book fairs and literary festivals across the country

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IPS' National Academic Council meets to discuss ongoing crisis, terms moral decay as root cause

Eminent intellectuals, technocrats, religious scholars and academics representing a cross-section of Pakistani society gathered on March 11, 2023, for a special moot of the National Academic Council of IPS to contemplate measures to mitigate the ongoing national crisis, what they termed as extremely complex, multidimensional and unprecedented since the country's independence.

The veterans suggested launching of a strong, indigenous, civil society, nationwide struggle to help pull the country out of the morass within

the constitutional framework.

They described the ongoing situation a systemic failure whose root cause was moral crisis, corruption, and institutional decay.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalid Rahman, IPS' chairman, called for the mobilization of Pakistan's indigenous civil society, with the inclusion of all stakeholders, that can bring consensus and clarity of ideas, and devise out-of-the-box solutions to mitigate the perpetual crisis. He also proposed the system

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Report on Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection launched



Prof Dr Qibla Ayaz

Islamic social protection system fulfills multiple SDGs and serves as an excellent tool for building resilience and equilibrium in social and economic lives. For that, effective reforms at the legislative, constitutional, and operational levels

are needed to tap the potential of Islamic finance options.

This was stated at an event organized on March 17, 2023, to launch a landmark report, '*Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection*' in

Pakistan', based on research conducted by IPS in collaboration with Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The session, presided by Prof Dr Qibla Ayaz, chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), was addressed as the guest of honor by Muhammad Arshad, CEO, Prime Minister's Health Program, Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Dr Atiquzzafar Khan, dean social sciences, Riphah International University, Dr Salman Ahmad Shaikh, director, Islamic Economics Project and principal investigator of the study, and Mohammad Mustafa Khan, technical advisor, GIZ.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Qibla Ayaz

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Pakistan's contribution and perspectives in international peacekeeping highlighted

International peacekeeping is a success story of Pakistan and Pakistani peacekeepers, both civil and military, have been the country's best goodwill ambassadors, said speakers during the launch ceremony of the book, '*International Peacekeeping: Perspectives from Pakistan*', edited by Dr Tughral Yamin and recently published by IPS Press, the publishing arm of Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).

The ceremony, organized by IPS in coordination with Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS), National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST), and Centre

for Critical Peace Studies, University of Management and Technology (UMT), on March 8, 2023, was chaired by Ambassador (r) Khalid Mahmood, chairman Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI).

The gathering was addressed as chief guest by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed,



Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed

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Financial sector capable to provide riba-free services

It is the religious and constitutional duty of all to lay out a roadmap for the conversion of the financial system of Pakistan to riba-free according to the injunctions of Islam and implement it accordingly. All sectors of government borrowing, external debts, the banking sector, the non-banking sector, capital market, as well as legal and regulatory framework need to bring changes at strategic as well as operational level.

This was underscored during a session titled 'Implementing the FSC Judgement on Riba: Addressing the How,' jointly organized by IPS, IBA-CEIF (Institute of Business Administration's Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance (IBA CEIF), and Centre of Islamic Economics (a division of Jamia Darul Uloom, Karachi) at the IBA City Campus on January 18, 2023.



The session was addressed by Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, director, IBA-CEIF, Omar Mustafa Ansari, secretary general, Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), Mufti Irshad Ahmad Aijaz, chairman, Shariah Advisory Committee, State Bank of Pakistan and Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan, Farrukh Raza, CEO, Islamic Finance Advisory & Assurance Services (IFAAS) Group, Dr Imran Usmani, vice chairman, Shariah Supervisory Board, Meezan Bank, and Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/implementing-the-fsc-judgement-on-riba-addressing-the-how/>

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Report on Islamic Social ...

termed the trust-deficit of the people in government institutions and capacity as the major hurdle in the way of creating a Zakat-based welfare system in Pakistan and stressed that foundations grounded in trust are hope for the future of social protection in Pakistan.

Therefore, he stressed, the need is to promote and strengthen trustworthy faith-based social welfare organizations, which must also be given opportunities to flourish. Moreover, the government should initiate partnerships with such private sector organizations. This would result in a more efficient social protection system and build public trust and confidence in the government.

The willingness to take ownership, collective effort, and action-oriented measures on part of institutions are foundational to the success of nations, said Muhammad Arshad.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/report-on-islamic-social-finance-for-social-protection-launched-at-ips/>

Former Bol chairman terms incompetence as main reason behind economic woes; calls for privatizing public sector enterprises



A significant reason for the economic crisis facing the country currently is incompetence, and under the current circumstances, doing business in Pakistan is no less than jihad. Investors need handholding and assurances, whereas the investment climate in the country lacks both facilitation and consistency.

This was stated by Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, former minister of state and chairman, Board of Investment (BoI), as a keynote speaker at a roundtable titled 'Pakistan's Investment Climate: The Way Forward', which was held at IPS on January 19, 2023.

The session was chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, whereas Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Syed Tahir Hijazi, former member (governance), Planning Commission, Dr Safdar A. Sohail, former dean, National School of Public Policy, Zafar-ul-Hasan Almas, joint chief economist,

Planning Commission of Pakistan, and Dr Shahzad Iqbal Sham, IPS' senior research fellow, also presented their views on the occasion.

The objective of the session was to explore the current challenges faced by local and foreign investors and the desired economic strategies to overcome the prevailing crises. Ahsan started his talk with three main issues: lack of vision, lack of political will, and the need for collaboration. "Although I have zero tolerance for corruption, I believe that a significant reason for the economic crisis that we face is incompetence." He said that under the current circumstances, doing business in Pakistan is no less than jihad.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistans-investment-climate-the-way-forward/>

World urged to support liberation struggles of oppressed people under international law



The world must condemn the brutality and violence of oppressor states as crimes against humanity and support the liberation struggle of oppressed people and their right to self-determination under international law, stated Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, while paying tributes to the martyrs of the Black January massacre by Soviet troops in Azerbaijan.

The remembrance session titled 'The National Will and Determination of Azerbaijani People: Commemorating January 20, 1990', was arranged by the IPS and Embassy of the

Republic of Azerbaijan in Pakistan on January 20, 2023.

The well-attended session was also addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Khalid Taimur Akram, executive director, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future, and Dr Tughral Yamin, senior research fellow, IPS and former dean, Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS), MUST.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/the-national-will-and-determination-of-azerbaijani-people-commemorating-january-20-1990/>

Systematic persecutions, extrajudicial killings, Israeli-style settler tactics in loK go way beyond human rights violations



The documented evidence of Indian heinous acts and war crimes in Kashmir, just like the BBC documentary on Modi, strengthens Pakistan's case and Kashmiris' right to self-determination against India's Israeli-style settler agenda and military occupation. The reflections were shared by speakers during a discussion on 'Kashmir Solidarity Day', held at IPS on February 3, 2023. Those who shared their views included Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Advocate Nasir Qadri, founder, Legal Forum for Kashmir, and Farzana Yaqoob, former minister, AJ&K. Khalid Rahman highlighted that the significance of 5th February must be understood with

its context and observed with a clear objective in mind. It is fortunate that regardless of who wins elections in Pakistan, no government has ever changed its stance on Kashmir. Along with that, the consensus

between the political government and populace regarding Kashmir is a strength that must be reinforced at higher levels. He further emphasized that every social entity, including leadership, embassies, youth, public, media, activists, and Pakistani diaspora, has to play a role in raising the Kashmir issue and voicing Kashmiris' right to self-determination. Moreover, in the post-truth era, it is crucial to gain a deeper understanding of national interests and issues. This is important for accurately presenting Pakistan's case and exposing the horrendous acts committed by India against Muslims.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/kashmir-solidarity-day-5-feb-2023/>

Pakistan urged to aggressively counter India's attempts to modify Indus Waters Treaty



Power, Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal secretary and senior research fellow, IPS, Dr Fiaz Hussain Shah, associate professor, Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS) at National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Dr Bashir Lakhani, water expert and Ameena Sohail, legal expert also joined the discussion.

Highlighting India's push for bilateral negotiations to modify the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), Mirza Hamid said India is

India's attempts to amend the Indus Waters Treaty will fall flat since the modification that India claims is already present in the treaty's Article IX. To counter India's propositions, Pakistan needs to retaliate with a pragmatic response and a legal stance with a strong projection of its standpoint. This was noted by speakers during a roundtable titled 'Indus Water Treaty Arbitration – Battle over Water Sharing', held at IPS on February 13, 2023. The session was addressed as keynote speaker by Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, while Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ashfaq Mahmood, former federal secretary, Ministry of Water and

already designing its water projects with storages of a higher level and obstructing river flows more than what was permitted under the Treaty. Moreover, India upholds the neutral expert's decision on using silt clearance technology in Baglihar Dam and ignores the subsequent decision of the International Court of Arbitration in 2013 which refuted the use of silt technology for more water storage and upturned the neutral expert's decision as far as live storage is concerned. Hence, India is violating the IWT as well as other water-sharing international laws, he stated.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/indus-water-treaty-arbitration-battle-over-water-sharing/>

Renewable energy officials, experts discuss ways to de-carbonize power sector

Renewable energy officials and experts in an international webinar titled '2030 solar and wind roadmap for Pakistan: Accelerating the development of wind and solar power beyond current governmental plans', organized jointly by Agora Energiewende, Germany and Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) on March 1, 2023, reviewed and discussed the '2030 solar and wind roadmap for Pakistan' chalked out by National Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) under its Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) 2022-31.



The speakers included Shah Jahan Mirza, CEO, Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB), Ali Zain Banatwala, deputy managing director, National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC), Tobias März, German climate activist and solar engineer associated with '8.2 Renewable Energy Experts', Hassan Jafar Zaidi, CEO, Power Planners International (PPI), Naila Saleh, project manager, Agora Energiewende, and Lubna Riaz, researcher, Energy, Water & Climate Change Program, IPS.

Shah Jahan Mirza reiterated the government's commitment towards lessening reliance on fossil fuels and de-carbonization of the power sector by ambitious targets of renewable energy uptake as outlined in the Alternative and Renewable Policy 2019, which aims to boost the renewable energy share to 30% by 2030.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/2030-solar-and-wind-roadmap-for-pakistan/>

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Pakistan's contribution and...

chairman, Senate's Defense Committee, while the other speakers included Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Dr Farhan Hanif Siddique, associate professor, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Dr Muhammad Makki, associate dean, CIPS-NUST, Dr Fatima Sajjad, director, Centre for Critical Peace Studies, UMT, and Dr Tughral Yamin, the book's editor and a senior research fellow at IPS.

Senator Mushahid was of the view that Pakistan has been at the forefront of peacekeeping missions but has not received due recognition and reward at the UN and international level. Pakistani peacekeepers are the best ambassadors of Pakistan, he said, while reiterating the words of the first Indonesian president, Sukarno.

As such the book has rightly served the cause by focusing on this aspect because, in today's nature of war and battle of ideas and narrative, practitioners should write more on the subject to build a stronger narrative, he stressed.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/book-launch-international-peacekeeping-perspectives-from-pakistan/>

Atheism has evolved into a distinct civilization: Dr Ijaz Shafi Gilani



Islam, Christianity and other faith-based civilizations need to realize and emphasize that atheism is not a global religion but a distinct civilization. This newly-developed civilization claims universalism but it needs to acknowledge the right of other human civilizations to thrive and coexist.

During recent decades, atheism, backed by the secular values and globalization, has evolved into a civilization which is distinct from other global civilizations such as Islam and Christianity. It has evolved out of a peculiar historical background in a particular political and social environment and should not be allowed to impose its ideas, ideals, and values through coercive power over other civilizations, each of which has its own

values, traditions, and beliefs.

This was observed during a lecture-cum-discussion held with Dr Ijaz Shafi Gilani, a veteran political scientist and chairman, Gallup Pakistan, split across two days on February 28 and March 14, 2023, on the topic of 'Contemporary Civilizational Discourse: An Analysis of Three Global Civilizations'.

The session revolved around the recent developments and trends in Islam, Christianity, and Atheism and the prospects of cooperation and/or confrontation between the global civilizations and thought paradigms of the contemporary world.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/contemporary-civilizational-discourse-an-analysis-of-three-global-civilizations/>

'Politically aware public can make legislators commit to Constitution'

Awareness of Pakistan's Constitution among the electorates can help challenge and pressurize the legislators to pursue public interest and set priorities for lawmaking based on collective welfare, national consensus, and institutional competency in the current political environment marred by legislation based on personal interest.

These views emerged during a session titled 'Impacts of Political Environment on Legislation Processes' held at IPS with the research associates of Tadeven (legislative drafting and research clinic at the National Assembly) of Mantag Center for Research on January 10, 2023. The session was addressed by Imran Shafique, advocate, high court and former special prosecutor NAB, Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and Farzana Yaqoob, CEO and founding member, Mantag.



For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/impacts-of-political-environment-on-legislation-processes/>

Patterns and Processes of Regime Oscillations in South and Southeast Asia



Pakistan is in need of a sustainable, peaceful, and inclusive political settlement or social contract, and this demands a formative role to be played by the political, military and economic elite by developing a consensual unity among them. This is essential to form a democratic static regime that engenders socio-economic development and political stability.

The views were presented by Anish Mishra, research scholar and PhD candidate, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences of Institut für Politische Wissenschaft at Heidelberg University, Germany, who addressed a session on 'Patterns and Processes of Regime Oscillations in South and Southeast Asia' held at IPS on January 16, 2023. The session, chaired by Nazeer Ahmad Mahar, executive director, The Research Initiative

(TRI), was also joined as chief guest by Ambassador (r) Nasrullah Khan.

As Pakistan has been witnessing multiple regime transitions since its independence, regime oscillations appear to be an ongoing phenomenon with frequent attempts to reshape the political system, set of rules, power transition mechanisms, and policy frameworks, Mishra stated.

He further argued that while government change is a healthy thing for introducing stability and strengthening democracy, regime change creates an opposite environment, and there have been more regime transitions than government changes in Pakistan.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/patterns-and-processes-of-regime-oscillations-in-south-and-southeast-asia/>

'Chutzpadik Advertising Strategies in the Pakistani Media – Impact on Society'

An active role of civil society, a citizen-based advertising standards body, and an extensive legal manifestation regarding

ethics of advertisement are crucial to promptly address the challenges of Chutzpadik advertisements.

The demand was raised by experts during a session on 'Chutzpadik Advertising Strategies in the Pakistani Media – Impact on Society' organized by IPS on March 15, 2023.

The discussion, chaired by Dr Asmat Ara, HoD, Department of Mass Communication, University of Karachi, was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Talha Shorwala, brand strategist and media consultant, Kashif H Siddiqui, CEO, Pulse Consultant, Dr Safdar A Sohail, former dean, National School of Public Policy, Dr Saima Esma, teacher and trainer in media studies, Syed Abu Ahmed Akif, former federal cabinet secretary, Dr Shahzad Iqbal Sham, senior research fellow, IPS, and Naufil Shahrkh, GM Operations IPS.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/chutzpadik-advertising-strategies-in-the-pakistani-media/>



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 inks MoU with Al-Mustafa Int'l University, Iran



cooperation and collaboration in the areas of policy research, publishing projects, and human development.

The document was signed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and Dr Ali Abbasi, president, Al-Mustafa International University, to

Knowledge sharing, used as an efficient tool, between Muslim countries such as Pakistan and Iran is crucial for preserving, projecting, and propagating Islamic identity, thoughts, and ideas.

This was highlighted by eminent Iranian scholars during the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Al-Mustafa International University, Qom, Iran, and the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad on March 9, 2023, that focuses on

further their interests in exploring areas of cooperation and the scope of future partnership in multiple areas of knowledge sharing.

Prof Dr Zohadat, Dr Abdul Majeed, Muhammad Murtaza Ali Nejad Shani, Dr Nadeem Abbas, Ali Hasnain, Dr Mohsin Dad Sarisht Tehrani, and other delegate members were also present on the occasion.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-inks-mou-with-al-mustafa-intl-university-iran/>

Lack of political will a major hindrance in the promotion of Urdu language: Chairman IPS



The biggest hindrance in the promotion of Urdu language in the national sphere is the lack of political will and resolve by decision makers, which originally owes to their associated interests with the language status quo in

Pakistan.

This was pointed out by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman while addressing a conference titled 'National Language Day and Our Responsibilities', which was held jointly by Tehreek

Nifaz-e-Urdu Pakistan and the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), Islamabad at the latter's premises on February 27, 2023.

Speaking on the occasion, Rahman maintained that there were several facets of cultural and civilizational clash pointed towards Pakistan in the contemporary globalized world, and it was mandatory in this regard to work in the legal, political, educational, research, and media spheres for the active promotion of Urdu language at the national as well as grassroots level.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/lack-of-political-will-a-major-hindrance-in-the-promotion-of-urdu-language-chairman-ips/>

Pakistan's green policies show commitment to SDGs and energy transition: Mirza Hamid Hassan



Pakistan has validated the sincerity of its international commitments regarding green energy by implementing relevant policies to support the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and energy transition.

This was stated by Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary, Water and Power, and member IPS-National Academic Council, while representing the Institute at a webinar, titled 'Solidarity Solar Actions for Energy Transition', held on March 21, 2023.

The webinar was co-hosted by China Energy Network Press and People of Asia for Climate Solutions, a Manila-based NGO working to promote climate action and support the acceleration of energy transition in Asian countries, with a special focus on China.

The online forum was attended by researchers and advocates from the major countries in Southeast Asia and South Asia and solar industry leaders from China to review the common challenges, explore shared opportunities, and shape action plans in solidarity to support fast and just energy transitions in Southeast Asia and South Asia.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/solidarity-solar-actions-for-energy-transition/>

Prospects of strategic Pak-Afghan partnership for regional peace discussed

On the invitation of National University of Science and Technology (NUST)'s Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS), IPS' Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain participated in an expert panel discussion titled 'Pak-Afghan Relations: The Future Prospects' on January 3, 2023.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/vc-ips-highlights-prospects-of-strategic-pak-afghan-partnership-for-regional-peace/>

VC-IPS partakes in roundtable discussion at ISSI

IPS' Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain was invited by Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)'s Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) on February 20, 2023, to participate in a roundtable discussion on developments relating to Afghanistan.

Dr Omer Zakhilwal, former Afghan finance minister also spoke on the occasion.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/vc-ips-partakes-in-a-roundtable-discussion-with-former-afghan-finance-minister/>

Marriage, not faith, motive behind 'forced' conversions, if any: Dr Ghulam Hussain

Contrary to claims, a high percentage of faith conversions in Pakistan is neither underage nor any of it is forced in any way. Most of the religious conversions in Pakistan primarily took place for marriage reasons, to break free from forced marriages, or to get rid of domestic burdens prevailing within the minorities' community.



This was brought into light by Dr Ghulam Hussain Sufi, who presented key findings of his research conducted for IPS study on forced conversion during a seminar 'Religious Conversion, Issues, Controversies, and Realities', organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on January 31, 2023.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/there-are-no-religious-conversions-in-pakistan-that-are-forced-dr-ghulam-hussain/>

IPS attends stakeholders' workshop on sustainable nitrogen management

Naufil Shahrukh, GM Operations at IPS, represented the Institute in a Stakeholders' Workshop on Nitrogen Management and National Policies, organized by South Asian Nitrogen Hub in collaboration with the Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) on March 21, 2023.

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, UMT to augment research, academic activities together



IPS and University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore, entered into a formal collaboration agreement on January 5, 2023, after penning down a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a ceremony held in Lahore. The MoU was signed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and Dr Asif Raza, rector, UMT,

with an interest to explore the areas of cooperation in research and publication of projects as well as to conduct capacity-building activities.

The signing ceremony was attended by Naufil Shahrukh, GM Operations, IPS, Dr Hassan Shakeel Shah, chairperson, Department of Islamic Thought & Civilization (DITC), Dr Muhammad Shoaib Pervez, chairperson, Department of Political Science and International Relations (DPSIR), Dr Fatima Sajjad, associate professor and director, Center for Critical Peace Studies (CCPS), and Dr Aisha Azhar, director, School of Governance and Society (SGS).

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-umt-join-hands-to-augment-research-and-academic-activities/>

IPS, Bahria University join hands for research and resource-sharing

Aimed at fostering collaboration in the areas of research, capacity building, resource sharing and publishing, IPS signed a MoU with Bahria University (BU), Islamabad, on January 12, 2023.

The MoU was signed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and Rear Admiral Naveed Rizvi, HI(M), director general, Bahria University Islamabad Campus, while, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Naufil Shahrukh, GM Operations, IPS, Syed Nadeem Farhat, senior research fellow, IPS, Shafaq Sarfraz, senior manager outreach, IPS, Dr Adam Saud, dean Humanities & Social Sciences, BU, and Dr Sufi Ghulam Hussain, associate professor, BU, were present at the signing ceremony.

The collaboration aims to explore the areas of



cooperation in research, academic programs, publishing projects, and capacity-building initiatives in various areas such as public policy, human development, faith and society, internships for students, community engagement, and others.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-bahria-university-joined-hands-for-research-and-resource-sharing/>

Efficient mechanisms, innovative ideas, capacity building mandatory to tackle challenges of climate change



Lubna Riaz from IPS' Energy, Water and Climate Change desk represented the Institute in 'Young Researchers' Convention on National Security

Ecosystem of Pakistan', which was organized by Centre for Strategic and Contemporary Research (CSCR) on February 7, 2023.

Alongside participating in the working group 'Guaranteeing Climate Consciousness' on the occasion, Riaz also took part in a discussion meant to brainstorm the implications of climate change in Pakistan.

The researcher apprised the participants that Pakistan was rated very high on climate change vulnerability index.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/efficient-mechanisms-innovative-ideas-and-capacity-building-mandatory-to-tackle-challenges-of-climate-change/>

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IPS' National Academic

of proportionate electorate to ensure representative democracy and good governance in the country.

Dr Shahida Wizarat, eminent economist and author, said Pakistan has long relied on external actors, especially IMF and the World Bank, for economic support, which then dictated the country's policies and developed the nation's consumer mindset.

Along with introducing democratic, electoral, and governance reforms, efforts are needed to ensure check and balance, accountability, and the functionality of all state institutions, the speakers stressed. They also called for a need of a new management paradigm based on enhancing the functionality of governance structures through measures such as the integration of local governance units at the national level.

The hybrid national moot was also addressed by Dr Qibla Ayaz, chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology, Ahmad Bilal Mehboob, founder president, PILDAT, Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rahman, president, Tanzeem-ul-Madaris Ahle Sunnat Pakistan, Mufti Abdul Rahim, head, Jamia-tur-Rasheed, Karachi, Muhammad Akram Sheikh, eminent jurist, Dr Syed Irfan Haider, vice-chancellor, Ziauddin University, Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal cabinet secretary, Dr Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani, former vice chancellor, University of Haripur, Dr Junaid Ahmed Zaidi, former rector COMSATS, Dr Syed Tahir Hijazi, former member governance, Planning Commission of Pakistan, Waqar Masood Khan, former federal secretary (finance), Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary, Water and Power, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Prof Jaleel Aali, prominent intellectual and former head, Urdu department, F.G. Sir Syed College, Dr Naveed Butt, physician, Federal Government Services Hospital, Nazeer Ahmad Mahar, governance specialist and executive director, The Research Initiative, Dr Fakhru Islam, director Pakistan Study Centre, Peshawar University, Brig Tughral Yamin, former dean CIPS, NUST, Dr Masood Mehmood Khan, faculty at Curtin University, Australia, Dr Noreen Saher, associate professor/chairperson, Department of Anthropology, IIUI, and Shahzad Iqbal Sham, senior research fellow IPS.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-national-academic-council-meets-to-discuss-ongoing-crisis/>

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during the quarter such as 14th Karachi Literature Festival, Pakistan Literature Festival – Lahore, and 8th Gwadar Book Fair. IPS Press also entered into an arrangement with the National Book Foundation (NBF) under which the books published and distributed by it have been made available at all 18 outlets of NBF across Pakistan.

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.

Youth urged to think critically, creatively, to unearth indigenous solutions to the country's problems

The young people of Pakistan must be able to question, analyze and evaluate information and news before communicating it to develop an informed judgment and well-informed opinion on national issues. This critical thinking is particularly important for young minds to solve the country's problems in a creative and effective manner, as well as to safeguard the country's image.



This was viewed by Khalid Rahman, chairman of IPS, during an interactive session held with the undergraduate students of National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, who visited IPS on February 23, 2023, on an exposure trip. These students from the NUST

Public Administration Society (NPAS) were in the second semester of their course and their visit was aimed at introducing them to IPS and its activities on several topics related to public administration and governance.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/youth-urged-to-think-critically-creatively-to-unearth-indigenous-solutions-to-the-countrys-problems/>

'Local governments vital for democracy, good governance' Chairman IPS' session with Malakand University delegation

As the constitution is fundamental to governance, there is a need to strengthen the electoral system and empower local governments in the light of directives of the constitution to ensure the quality of representation and the effective role of legislators in parliament.

This was observed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, during an interactive session with the undergraduate students of the University of Malakand (UoM), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who visited IPS on March 16, 2023, on an exposure trip.

The group headed by Mairaj Ul Hamid Nasri, lecturer UoM, also included Sher Hassan and Sajid Khan, lecturers from UoM, and Mubarak Zeb. The visit of the eighth semester students



from the Department of Political Science was aimed at introducing them to IPS and its activities relating to various topics of national significance.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/local-governments-vital-for-democracy-good-governance-khalid-rahman/>

'Pakistan: Today's Scenario' - Lecture at YULP 2023

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman was invited to deliver a lecture on the topic of 'Pakistan: Today's Scenario' to the training participants of the 8th Annual Young Ulema Leadership Program (YULP) on February 28, 2023.

It worths a mention that YULP 2023 was being organized by Ataleeq Trainings from February 25 to March 11, 2023, with a view to capacitate young Islamic scholars, both men and women from Pakistan and abroad, through two-week long intensive leadership training and mentorship.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistan-todays-scenario/>



'We need compelling stories from subaltern, micro histories to harmonize Pak-Afghan region'



Naufil Shahrukh, general manager operations, IPS, addressed as keynote speaker a workshop titled 'The Rise of Digiplomacy, Stratcom and Storytelling', organized by Pak-Afghan Youth Forum (PAYF) on January 25, 2023, as part of its youth outreach program, aiming to enhance digital interaction among youth from Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Sharing his views in the context of digiplomacy between the two countries, the speaker stressed the need for countering the negativity of nationalist, divisive histories and researching and highlighting compelling stories from subaltern and micro histories that can help unite the region socially and economically, so that the people from the two neighbouring countries could come closer, interact with one another, and benefit from each other's knowledge, expertise and experiences.

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- ▶ Indian Atrocities in loJK and the struggle for right to self-determination | A Conversation
- ▶ Chairman IPS urges Pakistani society to unite and find unique solutions to the ongoing crisis
- ▶ Book launch - 'International Peacekeeping' | Views of Senator Mushahid Hussain
- ▶ Senator (r) Javed Jabbar highlights the importance of institutional accountability
- ▶ Pakistan remains strong & resilient despite the scale of challenges faced | M Akram Sheikh
- ▶ Explore indigenous solutions to overcome economic crisis | Dr Shahida Wizarat
- ▶ Incompetence a big reason behind Pakistan's economic crisis | M Azfar Ahsan (Chairman BOI)
- ▶ World must condemn brutality & violence of oppressor states | Ambassador Khazar Farhadov
- ▶ 'Int'l Peacekeeping: Perspectives from Pakistan' - Book review by Brig (r) Dr Tughral Yamin
- ▶ Pakistan-Azerbaijan friendship should pass on to next generation | Khalid Taimur Akram
- ▶ Pakistan urged to aggressively counter India's attempts to modify Indus Waters Treaty
- ▶ Need an in-depth study of Indus Water Treaty for stronger projection, enhanced capability
- ▶ پاکستان میں جبری مذہب کی تبدیلی کے کوئی ثبوت نہیں ملے۔ ڈاکٹر غلام حسین صوفی

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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.

Nuqta-e-Nazar (Issue No. 43)



Editor: Safir Akhtar
Volume: 43
Pages: 200

Price: PKR800/- | \$15

The 43rd issue of *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-third edition of the book offers in-depth reviews on books published on the topics of Islam, Pakistan, history, education, biographies, Urdu, Punjabi and Arabic literature, etc.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/nuqta-e-nazar-issue-no-43/>

Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection in Pakistan

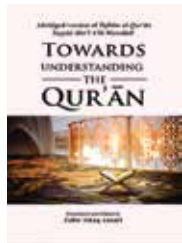


'Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection in Pakistan', based on year-long research carried out by IPS, in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, is the first-ever seminal work on the topic in the country. It is based on a review of the Zakat & Ushr and Waqf laws, the system

designed in their light, implementation of this system in Pakistan and Malaysia, and extensive consultations with stakeholders. Consequently, the study has produced concrete recommendations for reforms. It paves the way for policy dialogue to enhance the role and effectiveness of Islamic social finance institutions in enabling social protection of the vulnerable segments of the populace.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/islamic-social-finance-for-social-protection-in-pakistan/>

Pakistan editions of Kube titles printed by IPS Press



The Pakistan edition of the abridged version of *Towards Understanding the Qur'an*, which is the English rendition by Zafar Ishaq Ansari of *Tafhim al-Qur'an* - a monumental Urdu translation and commentary of the Qur'an by Sayyid Abu'l A'la Mawdudi, has been published for sale exclusively in Pakistan and

Afghanistan territory.

The work, published under an agreement between IPS Press and Kube Publishing (UK) signed in 2020, was made available to the readers just before the holy month of Ramazan. The other titles published under this arrangement for licensed reprints so far include:

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2. *Prayers of the Pious*, Omar Suleiman
3. *A Treasury of Ibn Taymiyyah*, Mustapha Sheikh
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5. *A Textbook of Hadith Studies*, Mohammad Hashim Kamali
6. *The Prophet of Mercy*, Mohammad El-Shinawy & Omar Suleiman
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8. *40 on Justice*, Yasir Qadhi
9. *Revive Your Heart: Putting Life in Perspective*, Nouman Ali han
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11. *Lessons from Surah Al Kahf*, Yasir Qadhi
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For more details and orders:
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Muneeba Rasikh

Khudkushi ki koshish par saza ka khatima (2)
Muneeba Rasikh



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