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Quarter in Focus

An IPS report based on a nationwide consumer survey highlighting the woes of rising electricity prices made rounds in the national media. The study, covering over 1100 residential and commercial consumers from across ten major cities of Pakistan, delineated the negative effects of rising prices that can lead to difficulties in paying for power purchases from the generation companies, maintaining distribution network, and servicing debts.

Targeted investments and digitization in electricity transmission infrastructure to ensure transparency, affordability and accessibility to consumers was proposed in another seminar.

The last quarter also saw IPS inviting international experts and scholars, especially from the US, to two distinct sessions to speak on the topics of the muffled international responses to Israeli aggression in the Middle East, and the growing challenges of identity crisis among Muslim youth, whereas the British-American lawyer for Dr Aafia Siddiqui was also given the stage to have his say over the unending misery of the iconic Pakistani prisoner in the US. Besides, the ambassador of Sudan to Pakistan was also hosted to discuss the ongoing Sudan crisis in a hybrid session addressed by eminent national and international MENA region experts.

IPS partnered with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to hold a workshop equipping the editors of Islamic publications with the conceptual understanding to report humanitarian crises.

Economic experts partaking in a budget review session advocated for a self-sustaining budget for Pakistan, whereas an IPS team visiting Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) discussed a draft report highlighting the issue of declining governance in the country.

IPS' faculty participated in various external discussions sharing their insights on aspects concerning Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kashmir and Palestine, while the Institute reached out to and hosted delegations from different academic and research institutions exploring opportunities for collaborative ventures.

The Institute produced as much as nine briefs and research reports in the period covering miscellaneous topics of national significance, in addition to bringing forth an issue of its flagship journal *Policy Perspectives*.



Humanitarian journalism is a humanitarian service: IPS-ICRC media workshop

Humanitarian journalism in itself is a humanitarian service, and Islamic publications must be fully equipped with contemporary tools and reporting techniques to serve the humanitarian purpose.

This was discussed at a two-day National Media Workshop on journalism during armed conflicts and emergencies co-organized by IPS and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Karachi on May 16-17, 2023.

The workshop, aimed at improving the capacity and efficiency of reporting during armed conflicts and emergencies, was attended by editors of religious journals, newspaper

reporters, and analysts.

The workshop was conducted by Syed Nadeem Farhat, research fellow IPS, Dr Ziaullah Rahmani, regional adviser for Shariah, ICRC, Fawad Ahmed Sherwani, Helping Hands for Relief and Development (HHRD), Aamir Latif, former secretary of Karachi Press Club and senior journalist, Faizullah Khan, reporter and senior journalist, Shabbir Soomro, senior journalist, Muhammad Tahir, senior journalist, Dr Muhammad Bilal Siddiqui, Naufil Shahrukh, GM Operations IPS, and Nicola Lambert, the ICRC Head of Delegation for Pakistan.

The first day of the

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IPS-IPRI joint roundtable discusses report on 'Political System & Governance in Pakistan'



Owais Ahmed Ghani

A four-member IPS' team visited Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on April 14, 2023 to take part in a roundtable discussion, which was held to discuss the draft report on 'Political System & Governance in Pakistan' based on the proceedings of a 'Grand

National Dialogue' held earlier on the theme jointly by the two think tanks.

The IPS' team comprised Khalid Rahman, chairman, Naufil Shahrukh, general manager operations, Syed Nadeem Farhat Geelani, research fellow, and Mohammad Wali Farooqi, research officer.

Chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman, Senate Defence Committee, the session was moderated by Brig (r) Raashid Wali Janjua, director of research and analysis at IPRI, and addressed by Owais Ahmed Ghani, former Governor of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ambassador (r) Asif Durrani,

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Indigenous solutions, non-interference of foreign actors can resolve Sudan crisis: Sudanese ambassador

Sudan could have a peaceful democratic transition through indigenous solutions if the non-interference of certain foreign countries is ensured and the people are given the right to choose. This is because the Sudanese are capable of dealing with their problems, such as the current conflict, which has no ethnic dimension, said Salih Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Siddig, the Sudanese ambassador to Pakistan.

He was speaking at a seminar titled 'The Crisis in Sudan: Implications for the Country and the Region', organized on May 3, 2023.

The hybrid seminar was moderated by Dr Tughral Yamin and addressed as keynote speaker by Sami Hamdi al-Hachimi, managing director, The International Interest UK and MENA expert, Ambassador (r) Imran Yawar, Ambassador (r) Manzoor-ul-Haq,

Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, and Dr Fakhru-ul-Islam, director



Salih Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Siddig

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International scholars see growing identity crisis as a challenge for the Muslim youth



addressed by Dr Sami Al-Arian and Dr Junaid Ahmad, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg (US) in the first phase, discussing the subject in the broader perspective of global Muslims.

It was followed by a second round of discussion on trends and approaches among the youth to identify the key concerns and their solutions. This discussion was joined by Dr Mohyuddin Hashmi, dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, AIU, Dr Ghulam Hussain, assistant professor, Bahria University, Ammar Mehboob, head of program, Character Education Foundation, Dr Muhammad Riaz, assistant professor, AIU, Dr Afshan Huma, assistant professor, AIU, Dr Waqas Khan, HoD Islamic Studies, RIU, Dr Hafiz Tahir Islam Askari, assistant professor, AIU, Ameena Sohail, advocate, Abu Saad from Youth Club, Dr Fakh-ul-Islam, director, Research and Academic Outreach, IPS, and Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/international-scholars-see-growing-identity-crisis-as-a-challenge-for-the-muslim-youth/

The identity crisis among young Muslims has been pronounced considerably in recent times due to multiple factors, and it's leading to confusion on how to navigate through the challenges of the evolution of their identity. These thoughts were shared by Dr Sami Al-Arian, founding director, Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA), Istanbul, during a hybrid roundtable discussion, titled 'Muslim Youth Today: The Question of Identity,' held at IPS on June 19, 2023, with a view to develop a realistic assessment of the identity crisis and search for pragmatic solutions towards an integrated knowledge-driven future.

The session, conducted in two phases, was

Exerting political pressure on the US is crucial for Dr Aafia's release: Lawyers



The release of Dr Aafia Siddiqui is as much a political battle as it is a legal battle. Apart from seeking legal avenues, the Government of Pakistan must do its part by creating political pressure on the US to secure her release.

For this, Pakistan's Prime Minister, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Court must demonstrate the will and undertake all necessary measures to bring her back, urged speakers during a session 'Unending Woes of the US War of Terror: The Case of Pakistani Prisoner Aafia Siddiqui'.

The session was held on May 6, 2023, with Clive Stafford Smith, British-American lawyer for Dr Aafia Siddiqui, her sister Dr Fowzia Siddiqui, and Imran Shafiq Advocate, her lawyer in Pakistan.

Dr Aafia is a symbol of unending misery thanks to the post-9/11 US panic and the War on Terror, said Clive.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/exerting-political-pressure-on-the-us-is-crucial-for-dr-aafias-release-lawyers/

Only a self-sustainable budget can pay off Pakistan's debts: Experts

The upcoming budget for FY 2023-24 appears to be a deficit budget as there are fewer resources and greater demands. As only a self-sustainable budget can pay off Pakistan's debts and overcome the intransigent character of major challenges, the government must adopt a self-sustainable approach in

budget-making rather than relying on loans.

This was the view of various economic experts who participated in a session on May 24, 2023, which was organized to gain insights into the budget for the next financial year.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/only-a-self-sustainable-budget-can-pay-off-pakistans-debts-experts/

Utilizing effective AI methods and tools can aid in policy planning

Sentiment analysis through artificial intelligence (AI) can be an effective way to analyze controversial topics. The utilization of efficient AI techniques and tools can also help plan policies as the observed trends can predict the



direction a certain situation is headed to.

This was highlighted by Sana Sohail, data scientist, who was presenting her MS research paper 'Investigation of Feminism Trends through Sentiment Analysis, Using Machine Learning and NLP Techniques', on April 6.

The scholar investigated the trends of feminism in Pakistan during the last five years using sentiment analysis as a combined AI-based technique of machine learning and natural language processing (NLP) and presented the insights as extracted by AI models.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/utilizing-effective-ai-methods-and-tools-can-aid-in-policy-planning/

Targeted investments and consumer-oriented digitization indispensable for power security: Experts

Digitization is the future and it must be tailored toward addressing the lack of electricity transmission infrastructure to ensure price affordability and accessibility to consumers.



Targeted investments and digital transformation must go hand-in-hand with effective resource management, thoughtful policy development, governance reforms as well as innovation in system planning, highlighted experts during a hybrid seminar on 'Powering Progress: Investments and Digitization to Overcome Pakistan's Power Sector Challenges' held at IPS on April 17, 2023.

The session, chaired by Ashfaq Mahmood, former federal secretary, Water & Power, was addressed as speakers by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Mirza Hamid Hassan, chairman, IPS' steering committee for energy, water & climate change and former federal secretary, Water & Power, Mazhar Iqbal Ranjha, registrar, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), Sadia Dada, CMCO, K-Electric, Salahuddin Rifai, former GM NTDC, and eminent energy experts including Asad Mehmood, Ahmed Ammar Yasser, and Ameena Sohail.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/powering-progress-investments-digitization-to-overcome-challenges/

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Humanitarian journalism...

workshop revolved around enhancing the capacity of journalists and editors while introducing them to humanitarian services, changing demands of the times, philanthropy, the Red Crescent Movement, related international laws, various information-gathering strategies, and different forms of human tragedy.

On the second day of the workshop, a study circle was held with the participants on the topic of human services and their fundamental principles.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/humanitarian-journalism-is-a-humanitarian-service-ips-icrc-media-workshop/

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PS-IPRI joint roundtable ...

President IPRI Dr Raza Muhammad, and Dr Syed Kaleem Imam, former IG Police.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman IPS apprised the participants that the prepared report addresses the issue of declining governance in Pakistan, as well as the broader global and local context.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-ipri-joint-roundtable-to-discuss-report-on-political-system-governance-in-pakistan/>

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Indigenous solutions ...

research and academic outreach at IPS.

The crisis is a major threat not only to any possibility of democratic transition but also stability and peace in the region, cautioned Salih Mohamed Ahmed.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/indigenous-solutions-non-interference-of-foreign-actors-can-resolve-sudan-crisis-sudanese-ambassador/

Weakening global response encouraging Israeli and Indian aggression: International webinar



Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, while the speakers included Dr Hatem Bazian, chair, Islamophobia Research & Documentation Project, USA, Dr Zeenat Adam, deputy executive director, Afro-Middle East Centre, South Africa, Dr Chandra Muzaffar, president, JUST, Malaysia, Dr Ali Hossain Zadeh,

A weakening global response due to systemic failures in global governance – under the UN’s umbrella – is emboldening Israel and India to carry out aggression and human rights violations with impunity. This is clearly illustrated by the latest Israeli assaults on Palestinians in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound which have failed to elicit any firm response beyond the routine statements of condemnation from the OIC, Arab League and a few countries.

These views were expressed during an international webinar titled ‘Israeli Actions in the Middle East: Normalizing Aggression and Weakening Response’ organized by IPS on April 13, 2023.

The forum was chaired by Ambassador (r)

Al-Mustafa University, Iran, Nazir Hussain, former dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, QAU; and Dr Junaid S Ahmed, professor at College of William & Mary, USA.

The speakers observed that Israel thrives on conflict and war, which have been fundamental elements of its creation, consolidation and expansion. Israel claims to be a democratic state but harbors colonial ambitions and wants to colonize the remaining Palestinian lands.

Israel has been working on Judaization of Jerusalem since 1967. The Judaization project is still underway which envisions demographic superiority to consolidate hold of the Jewish state in the occupied lands.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/israeli-actions-in-the-middle-east-normalizing-aggression-and-weakening-response/

Society must stay vigilant of foreign campaigns to protect its younger generations

The family institution forms the basis of the social fabric in Pakistan and other Muslim societies and that is why it is constantly being targeted by adversaries having vested interests. These societies thus need to stay vigilant of the consequential traps in order to protect the future of their younger generations from the undesired foreign influence.

This was emphasized by speakers during a consultative meeting, titled ‘Save the Family’, organized by IPS, Shaor Social Media Network, and Circle Social Welfare Foundation, Karachi, on May 18, 2023.

The meeting was addressed by Syed Nadeem Farhat, research fellow, IPS, Kashif Hafeez Siddiqui, CEO of Pulse Consultant, and Shoab Madni, CEO Shaor Institute & Media Network.

It was mentioned that basic religious and social tenants are being challenged in the name of right campaigns and governments are ready to fall prey to these traps. For instance, activism in the name of the rights of transgender communities has a clear motif of normalizing LGBTQ practices in Pakistan.

Int’l community urged to support the struggles of Palestinian, Kashmiri people



Speakers partaking in a discussion on Kashmir, held at IPS on April 19, 2023, urged the international community to take notice of the ongoing struggles of the oppressed people in Palestine and Kashmir and support their efforts for justice and self-determination.

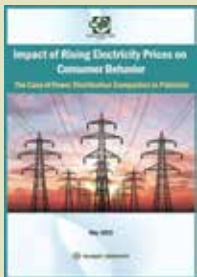
The conference-cum-solidarity iftar for Kashmir and Palestine – jointly hosted by Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) and IPS – was followed by the launching of a report by LFK titled ‘India’s Impunity in Kashmir: Surveillance, Counter-Insurgency & Politics of Fear’, which throws light on the systematic use of surveillance, counter-insurgency measures, and political repression by India against the people of Kashmir.

The event was addressed by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman, Prof Dr Anna Mahmood, dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), Advocate Nasir Qadri, executive director, LFK, Senior Hurriyat leaders Ghulam Muhammad Safi and Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, and Abdur Rasheed Turabi, a former politician.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalid Rahman said that the dynamics of warfare have undergone a significant change, and while physical warfare remains effective, the occupation of territories in modern times has become increasingly difficult, with a few exceptions like that of Palestine and Kashmir. The battle is no longer limited to the battlefield and has evolved into a battle of minds and hearts. To keep a state or house in order, we must focus on our strengths and own our weaknesses.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/solidarity-iftar-for-kashmir-and-palestine-report-launch/

High electricity prices stretching consumers’ affordability to breaking point, adversely impacting DISCOs recovery



Rising electricity tariffs are increasingly moving beyond the affordability of the masses and adversely impacting their consumption patterns. This alarming trend is also causing a sharp decline in the recoveries of distribution companies (DISCOs) which can lead to difficulties in paying for

power purchases from the generation companies, maintaining distribution networks, and servicing debts. These factors further hinder the ability of DISCOs to invest in infrastructure upgrades, provide quality services, and improve the overall reliability of electricity supply.

These are some of the findings of a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad titled ‘Impact of Rising Electricity Prices on Consumer Behavior: The Case of Power Distribution Companies in Pakistan’. The research study covered over 1,000 households and 140 shop owners in the top 10 cities of Pakistan.

The survey results indicate that most of the

respondents have experienced moderate to significant increase in their electricity bills in recent months. The study further highlights the correlation between the magnitude of the bill increase and the extent of consumption reduction, indicating that higher price hikes lead to more significant efforts in reducing electricity usage. However, despite the overall reduction in electricity consumption, a significant portion of the survey participants reported no noticeable decrease in their bills.

The research emphasizes effective measures to address power affordability concerns and suggests strategies for DISCOs to mitigate the negative effects of rising prices. It recommends the need for improved governance and regulatory measures in the energy sector along with affordable electricity tariffs and alternative payment options to accommodate different economic circumstances. The study also stresses the importance of addressing issues such as load shedding and raising consumer awareness about peak hours when electricity costs are higher.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/high-electricity-prices-stretching-consumers-affordability-to-breaking-point-adversely-impacting-discos-recovery-study-reveals/>

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.

Multidomain engagements with Afghanistan termed crucial to address humanitarian concerns



To address the humanitarian issue in Afghanistan, the Pakistani government and policymakers need to set a substantial emphasis on forging relationships and establishing various engagements with the present Afghan Taliban leadership.

The views were shared by Ambassador Abrar

Hussain, vice-chairman IPS and former Pakistani ambassador to Afghanistan, during a consultative meeting on 'Intra-Islamic Dialogue for Stable Afghanistan,' organized by the International Research Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA) on May 27, 2023, in Islamabad. Ambassador Abrar stressed that interaction and building relations with the present Afghan Taliban administration must be made a top priority by policymakers and decision makers. He further said that if Pakistan wants to solve Afghanistan's humanitarian concerns, it is crucial to understand and comprehend the needs and requirements of Afghanistan as it stands right now.

For further details, visit:

www.ips.org.pk/multidomain-engagements-with-afghanistan-are-crucial-to-address-humanitarian-concerns/

People are massively unaware of their rights granted by the 1973 Constitution: Prof Dr Fakhul-Islam

The unanimous adoption of the 1973 Constitution marks a significant milestone in the country's turbulent history. The Constitution of 1973 protects the citizens of Pakistan but Pakistanis are largely unaware of their rights covered by the Constitution. Therefore, it must be understood and comprehended to ensure that it is put into effect for the well-being of the citizens.

This was emphasized by Prof Dr Fakhul-Islam, director, Research & Academic Outreach at IPS, while delivering a lecture to the undergraduate

students of social sciences on the topic of "The 1973 Constitution: How is it different from previous Constitutions?" at Bahria University, Islamabad Campus, on June 1, 2023.

For further details, visit:

www.ips.org.pk/people-are-massively-unaware-of-their-rights-granted-by-the-1973-constitution-prof-dr-fakhrul-islam/



Bureaucracy in Pakistan needs to be seen outside the pessimistic perspective: Syed Abu Ahmad Akif

To understand things differently, it is critical to change the perspective and raise the right questions, said Syed

Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal secretary and member, IPS' National Academic Council, in a lecture on 'Anthropologizing Bureaucracy in Pakistan: A Practitioner's Perspective', delivered at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Bahria University, Islamabad Campus, on June 16, 2023.



What ensures one's understanding, choices, and opportunities depends largely on perspective and value thinking, he viewed. When seen negatively, bureaucracy, as a system of governance, fosters a negative sense of connection and limits the admission of what people may achieve. As people are the product of their thinking, things change when seen from a different perspective. Therefore, he stressed, the bureaucracy in Pakistan needs to be seen outside the pessimistic perspective.

For further details, visit:

www.ips.org.pk/anthropologizing-bureaucracy-in-pakistan-a-practitioners-perspective/

Need for exposing Indian plans of hosting G20 meeting in IIOJK stressed

There is a dire need to highlight Indian atrocities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and expose the reasons behind Indian plans of hosting a G20 meeting in a disputed area, emphasized Ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, while addressing a roundtable on Kashmir and Indian motives at

the Institute for Strategic Studies, Research and Analysis (ISSRA), National Defense University (NDU), on May 16, 2023.

For further details, visit:

www.ips.org.pk/need-for-exposing-indian-plans-of-hosting-g20-meeting-in-iiojk-stressed-there-is-a-dire-need-to-highlight-indian-atrocities-in-the-indian-illegally-occupied-jammu-and-kashmir-and-expose-the-reasons-beh/

Economic sanctions on Afghanistan need be lifted as early as possible: VC-IPS

The international community should accept the ground realities of Afghanistan as coercion is no option and economic sanctions against the Afghan Taliban government need to be lifted as soon as possible.

This was suggested by Ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, while speaking at a roundtable titled 'Afghanistan's New Era: Assessing the Role of Regional Powers and International Organizations in Shaping Afghanistan's Future' at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, on May 18, 2023.

For further details, visit:

www.ips.org.pk/economic-sanctions-on-afghanistan-need-be-lifted-as-early-as-possible-vc-ips/

Academic excellence termed critical to progress in the contemporary world

IPS team comprising its GM Operations Naufil Shahruckh, Senior Research Fellow Syed Nadeem Farhat, and Research Officer Usama Hameed visited the Department of International Relations (IR) and the Department of Islamic Learning at the University of Karachi on May 18, 2023. The delegation was received by Dr Shaista Tabassum, dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr Naeem Ahmad, Dr Nausheen Wasi, and other faculty members from the IR Department, while Dr Arif Khan Saqi, chairman, Department of Islamic Learning, welcomed the team to his department.



For further details, visit:

www.ips.org.pk/academic-excellence-termed-critical-to-progress-in-the-contemporary-world/

Boycotting the Srinagar G20 summit, prompted by Pakistan's proactive diplomacy

The diplomatic efforts of Pakistan against the upcoming G20 Tourism Working Group moot in Srinagar, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), paid off as China, KSA, and Türkiye boycotted the conference, said Prof Dr Fakhul-Islam, director Research & Academic Outreach at IPS, while representing the Institute during a seminar on 'G20 Summit in Disputed Territorial Area: Exploitation of Economic Alliance,' held at Riphah Institute of Public Policy (RIPP), Riphah International University (RIU), Islamabad, on May 30, 2023.

For further details, visit:

www.ips.org.pk/boycotting-the-srinagar-g-20-summit-prompted-by-pakistans-proactive-diplomacy/

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.

Role and importance of think tanks in modern-day policymaking arena highlighted



A delegation of participants from the 38th Human Resource Development Program (HRDP), organized by Dawah Academy for the officers of the armed forces of Pakistan, visited IPS on May 23, 2023. The visit was aimed at introducing the professionals to the operation and role of think tanks in the policymaking

environment of a country.

The visiting delegation, headed by Dr Hafiz Muhammad Zaheer, lecturer, Dawah Academy, was addressed by Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director of research and academic outreach at the Institute, and Syed Nadeem Farhat, senior research fellow at IPS.

The delegates were introduced to the Institute's background, its areas of research, contributions to different issues, and strong institutional relationships and linkages with several top-tier universities and educational institutions to facilitate research on a variety of topics.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/role-and-importance-of-think-tanks-in-modern-day-policymaking-arena-highlighted/

Prioritization of education termed critical for national development

There is a dire need for prioritizing education and research in national planning, as this the only way forward to address the present and future challenges.

These views were expressed by Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director, research and academic outreach at IPS, and Arshad Saeed Khan, senior educationist, during a meeting between IPS team and a delegation of PhD-EPM (Education Planning and Management) scholars from the Department of Educational Planning, Policy Studies and Leadership (EPPSL), Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), Islamabad, headed by Dr Afshan Huma, assistant professor, EPPSL, AIU, on June 8, 2023.



Citing the example of public education system and education policy of the Meiji era in Japan, Khan said that the literacy rate in Pakistan can only be increased with the modernization of the education system.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/prioritization-of-education-termed-critical-for-national-development/

NUML delegation visits IPS

A delegation from the Dept of Islamic Thought and Culture, National University of Modern Languages (NUML) headed by Prof Dr Mustafeez Ahmad Alvi, HoD, Dr Riaz Ahmad Saeed, assistant professor



and focal person, Research and Collaboration, Dr Nasrullah Qureshi, lecturer and focal person, BS research, Hafiz Muhammad Asim, lecturer and coordinator, BS program, and Dr Umar Farooq, lecturer and student advisor, visited IPS on June 23, 2023, to discuss and explore collaborative ideas between the two institutions.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/numl-delegation-visits-ips/

IPS hosts 'Raabta' program's delegates

IPS hosted a delegation of scholars from the 'Raabta' program of Karachi-based Research Academy for Higher Education and Technology



(Darul Ilm-wal-Tehqeeq) on June 13, 2023. The delegation, led by Dr Syed Aziz-ur-Rahman, included teachers and scholars who have acquired research degrees after completing their madrassa education.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/countering-objectionable-gender-related-activities-and-trends-is-social-responsibility/

Understanding of multiethnicity, multiculturalism among youth can promote tolerance and enhance national integration

IPS' Director Research and Academic Outreach Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam represented the Institute at the national consultation on 'Promoting Narratives of Diversity, Inclusion, and Peace among Youth,' arranged by Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) on May 19, 2023.

Presenting his views, Dr Islam said that unity in a multicultural society may be evolved from within its diversity, and that can be done by rectifying the misunderstandings that exist within different ethnic groups of the country due to certain biases, myths or misconceptions.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/understanding-of-multiethnicity-multiculturalism-among-youth-can-promote-tolerance-enhance-national-integration-dr-fakhrul-islam/

Collaboration opportunities discussed with Da'wah Regional Center, Karachi

An IPS delegation on a visit to Karachi, comprising Naufil Shahruckh, GM Operations, Syed Nadeem Farhat, senior research fellow, and Usama Hameed, research officer, stopped by Da'wah Regional Center, Karachi, International Islamic University, on May 19, 2023, where it held a meeting with Dr Syed Aziz ur Rehman, incharge Regional Da'wah Centre, Karachi, IIUI, and discussed the prospects of future collaboration.

Citizens' Charter is necessary to build trust between citizens and government

IPS' GM Operations Naufil Shahruckh represented the Institute as a civil society organization in a discussion on major issues in the Citizens' Charter at the roundtable conference on 'Enhancing and Implementing Citizens' Charter for Effective Service Delivery' at the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, arranged by Governance Innovation Lab on May 9, 2023.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/citizens-charter-is-necessary-to-build-trust-between-citizens-and-government/

IPS team visits Shaor Social Media Network

Naufil Shahruckh, GM Operations at IPS, and Syed Nadeem Farhat, IPS' research fellow, visited Shaor Social Media Network on May 19, 2023, and got an orientation of its work and role in promoting research-oriented social media content and countering misleading ideas that are damaging the social fabric of society, like the delinking of gender with sex, etc.

For further details, visit: www.ips.org.pk/ips-team-visits-shaor-social-media-network/

Publications

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

Policy Perspectives (Volume 19, Issue 2)



The latest issue of *Policy Perspectives* brings forth research, analyses and commentaries on various topics concerning national, regional, and international issues from policy experts, academics, and practitioners.

The article '**Clash of Identities: Ontological (In)Securities of**

Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the Repercussions' gives a perspective for understanding the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It discusses how the Pashtun state identity of Afghanistan interacts with the Islamic identity of Pakistan, causing anxiety over self-identity in both states and confronting their ontological (in)security challenges.

Author: Dr Farhat Taj, PhD, Associate Professor, The University of Tromsø – UiT, The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway.

The article '**Geoeconomics: The New Geopolitics**' emphasizes that economics and politics determine, define, and drive each other. It suggests that geoeconomics is replacing geopolitics as a new global force, particularly when the underlying phenomenon of power and control is factored in.

Author: Aneela Shahzad, geopolitical analyst; author of the following books: *Understanding Geopolitics*; and *Geopolitics – from the Other Side*.

The next article '**Social Structure and Conflict-Inducing Elite Interest: A Comparison of Pakistan and South Korea**' is a comparative study of the elite capture in Pakistan and developmental

structure in South Korea. It sets out to explore the reasons due to which Pakistani state remains constricted by social actors, failing to achieve a developmental state, despite similar post-colonial trajectories of Pakistan and South Korea.

Author: Anish Mishra, PhD Candidate, Institut für Politische Wissenschaft (IPW), Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany. The working title of his doctoral dissertation is "Patterns and Processes of Regime Oscillations in South and Southeast Asia".

Another article evaluates the repercussions of suspension of Russia's MFN status on EU-Russia trade relations in '**MFN Yes, MFN No? Trade Developments Between the EU and Russia and the Principle of Most-Favored Nation**'. It underscores that this move would affect Russia more than the European Union (EU).

Authors: Frans Lavdari, LUISS Guido Carli University, Department of Business and Management, Rome, Italy; and Xhulio Lavdari, University of Exeter, Department of Engineering, Exeter, United Kingdom (UK).

The final article, '**Food Security in Pakistan and Need for Public Policy Adjustments**' calls for integration and alignment in public policies for ensuring sustainable food and nutrition security, in the post-Covid-19 times.

Authors: Touqeer Ahmad, PhD scholar, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Pakistan; and Dr Abdul Saboor, Professor, Department of Economics; Dean to Faculty of Social Sciences, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

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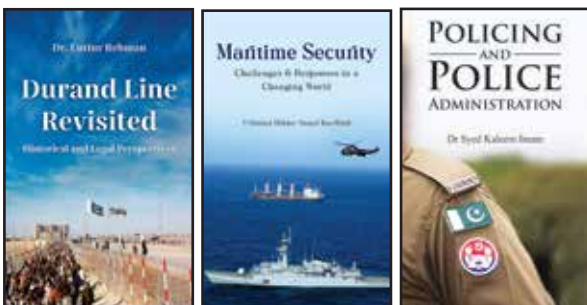
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