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Quarter in Focus

Several multifaceted developments in the international arena were discussed at IPS during the reported quarter. The completion of ten years of CPEC, for instance, was analyzed in depth with a visiting delegation from the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Sichuan University, China, whereas the visit of the Chairman IPS to China not only provided an opportunity to share an institutional perspective on CPEC and Pak-China relations, but also provided IPS an opportunity to become a pioneering member of a Chinese initiative to create a 'think tanks' network on the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The China-brokered Saudi-Iran rapprochement was seen as a blow to the Indo-US ambitions in the Western Indian Ocean region in a separate deliberation, while the potential of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to offer a viable alternative to SAARC was the topic of discussion in another roundtable session.

Attended by prominent intellectuals, academics, technocrats, veterans and religious scholars, the annual meeting of IPS' National Academic Council (NAC) was the quarter's most significant activity, which deliberated on the critical governance challenges faced by Pakistan at length, while urging the rulers to fill the chronic knowing-doing gap through concrete actions.

The Institute's participation in the first meeting and workshop of the International Network of Energy Transition Think Tanks (INETTT) in Johannesburg was another highlight of the period, alongside its inclusion in PID's CVE Media Cell's Policy Working Group.

Another noteworthy seminar was held with the president of Al-Mustafa International University, Qom, Iran, who spoke about the need of contemplating the Western view of modernity through *ijtihad*.

The Institute, in addition, also held webinars with three subject specialists, two on the roadmap towards Islamic financial system in Pakistan, and one discussing the ICT policy landscape in the country.

IPS LEAD, hosted exposure visits from delegates of Fiqh Academy, Al-Imam Research Institute and Jami'a Nauman bin Sabit in the period, apart from holding an in-house workshop on AI tools for research. An oral history session of its program 'The Living Scripts' was also held with renowned ibusiness magnate and philanthropist Bashir Janmohammad.

IPS Press published a new title *Maritime Security: Challenges & Responses in a Changing World* by V/Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao (retd).

Besides producing eight research briefs and reports on significant topics in the period, the Institute also brought out the 44th issue of its periodical *Nuqta-e-Nazar*.



Pakistan must overcome 'knowing-doing gap' to address governance challenges: IPS-NAC

Pakistan faces deeply ingrained governance challenges that require moving beyond suggestions to concrete and sustained actions. The knowing-doing gap necessitates a proactive stance where solutions are implemented in the form of tangible actions to address the challenges faced by the nation.

The country urgently needs to address major concerns such as poor governance, internal strife, corruption, a flawed education system, moral turpitude, environmental challenges, and healthcare difficulties. This requires consistency in government policies, addressing disparities, utilizing youth as a resource, building

narratives and national emotions, and pushing constructive change through research.

This was observed by prominent intellectuals, academics, technocrats, and religious scholars at the annual meeting of the National Academic Council of IPS on September 16, 2023. The yearly gathering aims to garner intellectual inputs and ideas from a cross-section of Pakistani intelligentsia for IPS' research and dialogue on national and international issues.

Chaired by IPS' Chairman Khalid Rahman, the meeting was addressed by Prof Dr Anis Ahmed, Vice Chancellor, Riphah International

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Investment in CPEC-led economic opportunities open to other countries, too: Experts

Investment in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not limited to Pakistan and China, rather it is open to other countries as well, especially from the Gulf region, to invest in the opportunities being created with the development of the mega project, which holds vast possibilities to expand avenues for further cooperation. It is critical for both China and Pakistan to resist and counter false narratives peddled by rivals as well as their attempts to sabotage the success of CPEC.

This was observed during a roundtable discussion on 'CPEC:

10 Years and On' at IPS on August 23, 2023 with a Chinese delegation of researchers from the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Sichuan University, China, led by Dr Zeng Xiangyu, senior research fellow, ISAS and director of its Indian Ocean Study Centre.

The keynote speech was delivered by Khalid

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Modernity must be subjected to contemplation through Ijtihad: Academics



Professor Dr Ali Abbasi

Epistemology reflects the fundamentals and foundations on which a particular worldview approaches knowledge, its sources, and objectives. Civilization, scientific tradition, literary work, and societal structures are developed through this

worldview and play a key role in the concept of knowledge.

The Western worldview has developed an

epistemology that draws on the peculiar historical experiences of the Western nations and do not go well with divinely inspired Muslim societies. Given the gap between the Islamic worldview and the epistemology imposed through knowledge imperialism, Muslim societies have failed to exhibit their true potential. Muslims need to develop their epistemology through extensive academic engagements and blend the tradition with modernity through *ijtihad*.

This was observed by academics during a seminar 'Tradition, Modernity, and the Muslim Epistemology', held on *Continued on Page 03*

SCO's success hinges on settling bilateral issues with regional solutions: IPS roundtable



The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has the potential to offer a viable alternative to SAARC, provided the regional problems are solved regionally. Unless the bilateral equations are settled and cohesion is maintained between member states, the future contours of SCO would remain undefined.

This was observed during a roundtable discussion titled 'Regional Cooperation in the Eurasian Region: Role of the SCO' held at IPS on July 20, 2023. The forum analyzed the significance of the SCO as a vital platform for fostering regional stability, economic development, and connectivity in the Eurasian region, with a particular focus on Pakistan, and evaluated the outcomes of the SCO Summit hosted by India on July 4.

The roundtable was addressed by Ambassador (r) Masood Khalid, Pakistan's former ambassador to China, Dr Sarwat Rauf, associate professor, NUML, Ambassador (r) Abdul Basit, Pakistan's former high commissioner to India, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Meher Kashif Younis, veteran industrialist and former senior vice president Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dr

Faisal Javed, assistant professor, FUUAST, Karachi, and Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director research and academic outreach, IPS.

Underscoring the potential of the SCO, Ambassador Masood said that the organization has gained strength as compared to SAARC and ECO. The expansion of the SCO after inclusion of Iran along with the geographical spread of dialogue partners and observer states rooting for multipolarity instead of pledging to US-led Western domination has added a new dynamic to the evolving regional architecture of the SCO.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/regional-cooperation-in-the-eurasian-region-role-of-the-sco-2/>

Enabling 'Islamic First' mindset and opting for Islamic mechanisms crucial for developing an Islamic economic system



Ahmad Ali Siddiqui

Pakistan can transform its external debts, by opting for Islamic financial modes of IMF and World Bank, and domestic debts, through mechanisms like Mudarabah, Musharakah, and Murabaha, provided that the necessary steps are taken in a timely manner and strict priorities are set by the legal authorities. Along with this, enabling an 'Islamic First' mindset at state and organizational levels is crucial to establish an Islamic economic system.

This was emphasized by Ahmad Ali Siddiqui, director, Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance, IBA, senior executive vice president & head, Product Development and Shariah Compliance (PDSC), Meezan Bank, and secretary for Shariah Supervisory Board, Meezan Bank, during a detailed presentation and discussion on 'Road Map for Conversion towards Islamic Financial System in Islamic Republic of Pakistan: Enabling Mindset and Strategies', held with IPS' research team associated with the Institute's economy desk on August 22, 2023. The session was moderated by Naufil Shahrukh, IPS' GM Operations. The talk was aimed at understanding the status quo and forging a strategic roadmap with recommendations for converting into a completely interest-free system.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/enabling-islamic-first-mindset-opting-islamic-mechanisms-crucial-developing-islamic-economic-system/>

Indian occupation of Kashmir is apartheid: IPS-WGK



Kashmir is now a civilizational project for India. India has started employing the apartheid element in the region, ensuring that the people of Kashmir are not given any power. The Kashmir issue has historically been one of occupation and settler colonialism, and not just a territorial dispute. Therefore, the struggle for Kashmir must at all times and levels be centered on the right to self-determination, which cannot be compromised in any way.

This was the consensus opinion during the 21st meeting of the IPS-Working Group on Kashmir and the launch of Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK)'s report, 'Article 370: Genesis, Abrogation, and its Ramifications for IIOJK,' at IPS on August 4, 2023.

The session was addressed by Ghulam Mohammad Safi, Hurriyat leader, Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Advocate Nasir Qadri, executive director, LFK, Farzana Yaqoob, former AJ&K minister and general secretary IPS-WGK, and Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director research and academic outreach, IPS, among others.

Khalid Rahman underscored that the current situation demands that Pakistan should shape the narratives and awareness of the P5 states and international organizations to make them realize their role in this issue.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/indian-occupation-of-kashmir-is-apartheid-ips-forum/>

Continued from Page - 01

Pakistan must overcome ...

University, Vice Admiral (r) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao, special assistant to the PM on maritime affairs, Prof Dr Qibla Ayaz, chairman, Islamic Ideology Council of Pakistan, Dr Syed Mohammad Anwer, Justice, Federal Shariat Court, Razia Sultana, member, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission; Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, Dr Anwar-ul-Hasan Gilani, Chairman, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology, Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal cabinet secretary, Mohammad Bashir Jan Mohammad, chairman, Westbury Group of Companies, Karachi, Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary, Water and Power, Dr Syed Tahir Hijazi, former vice-chancellor, Muslim Youth University, Saima Hamid, vice chancellor, Fatima Jinnah University, Rawalpindi, Syed Irfan Hyder, vice chancellor, Ziauddin University, Karachi, Dr Syed Junaid Zaidi, former rector COMSATS, Dr Masood Mehmood Khan, Curtin University, Australia, Dr Shahida Wizarat, dean, College of Economics and Social Development, IoBM, Karachi, Prof Jaleel Aali, former HoD Urdu, F.G. Sir Syed College, Dr Naveed Butt, senior physician, Federal Government Services Hospital, Dr Noreen Sahar, associate professor and chairperson, Department of Anthropology, IIUI, whereas Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director research and academic outreach at IPS moderated the session.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/annual-meeting-of-ips-national-academic-council-2023/>

Iran-Saudi rapprochement termed blow to Indo-US ambitions, hope for regional peace, progress



The China-brokered Saudi-Iran rapprochement is a blow to the Indo-US ambitions in the Western Indian Ocean region, especially the Gulf. It also provides an opportunity for Pakistan in terms of benefits beyond economic development, including mitigation of proxy wars and sectarian conflicts.

Regional security analysts and academics observed this at a session titled 'Iran-Saudi Rapprochement: New Power Dynamics of the Middle East' organized on July 26, 2023.

The speakers and discussants included Ambassador (r) Javed Hafeez, as the keynote speaker, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman (academics), IPS, Prof Dr Nazir Hussain, former dean, social sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Dr Amna Mahmood, dean, social sciences, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director research & academic

outreach at IPS, and IPS' research fellows Dr Tughral Yamin, Brig (r) Said Nazir and Dr Azhar Ahmad.

The Saudi Arabia-Iran rapprochement has rekindled hope for a positive future of the geopolitical environment of the Middle East and its peripheries, and socioeconomic progress of the larger region, the experts concurred.

Analyzing the significance of the restoration of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Javed mentioned that this development and the peacemaking role of China, in contrast to the war-waging approach of the US, has changed the region's geopolitical landscape.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/iran-saudi-rapprochement-new-power-dynamics-of-the-middle-east/>

All stakeholders must own, take responsibility to adopt Islamic financial system: Expert



Farrukh Raza

Pakistan can develop and reshape its economy and financial system based on Islamic principles, provided the state and all stakeholders demonstrate absolute acceptance and support for the purpose. The executive, legisla-

ture, judiciary, policymakers, regulators, media, clergy, political parties and market players should demonstrate the willingness, take responsibility to adopt Islamic financial system.

This was emphasized by Farrukh Raza, Group CEO at UK-based Islamic Finance Advisory and Assurance Services (IFAAS) and co-founder IFN Services, during a detailed presentation on 'Road Map for Conversion Towards Islamic Financial System in Pakistan: Enabling Mindset and Strategies', held at IPS on August 31, 2023 as part of a project on mapping the Islamization of Pakistan's economy.

Raza emphasized the need for government policies and legislation to transform the finance

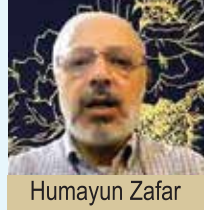
industry in line with Islamic principles, urging federal and provincial governments to create policies and enact laws reshaping the legal framework. To maintain the integrity of Islamic finance practices, robust regulatory supervision, corporate and Shariah governance laws, capacity-building initiatives targeting stakeholders, and raising public awareness are crucial for promoting a comprehensive understanding of Islamic finance, he added.

The transformation journey involves exploring sovereign funding tools like Sukuk, adjusting financial institutions to align with Islamic principles, and integrating Islamic funds with the economic development needs of the country, he stated.

Raza said that despite prevailing challenges, establishing Islamic finance is certainly feasible in Pakistan. The Islamic finance industry can achieve tremendous development; for that, obstacles must be overcome with dedication, coordinated efforts, and a clear plan, he added.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/all-stakeholders-must-own-take-responsibility-to-adopt-islamic-financial-system/>

Permanent board essential to formulate and update IT policies



Humayun Zafar

Building digital trust and improving the reliability of ICT and technology infrastructures through proper policies and frameworks can lay the foundation for meeting pre-defined IT objectives. Besides, an established policy management and review procedure led by a permanent body is required to multiply the efficiency and fill the policy implementation gap.

The ideas emerged during a seminar on 'IT Policy Landscape in Pakistan: Challenges and the Way Forward' held at IPS on August 31, 2023. The guest speaker was Humayun Zafar, ICT specialist, while Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and other experts also presented their views at the session moderated by Naufil Shahrukh, GM Operations, IPS.

Talking about the IT policy landscape in Pakistan, Humayun Zafar stated that the biggest concern is that the policies are designed in a way that restricts the sector rather than facilitates them. Most of the time, it is due to the lack of vision, a clear roadmap, and a predefined target goal behind policy formulation. He stressed that policies must be developed to promote an orderly environment conducive to innovation and conflict resolution rather than to create hurdles and impediments.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/it-policy-landscape-in-pakistan-challenges-and-the-way-forward/>

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Investment in CPEC-led ...

Rahman, chairman, IPS, while Dr Zeng Xiangyu, Gao Liang, senior researchers, ISAS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman (academics), IPS, Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director research and academic outreach, IPS, and Dr Syed Tahir Hijazi, former member Planning Commission, addressed the roundtable, which was moderated by Naufil Shahrukh, IPS' GM Operations.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/cpec-10-years-and-on/>

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Modernity must be subjected ...

August 1, 2023. The speakers included Professor Dr Ali Abbasi, President, Al-Mustafa International University, Qom, Iran, as the keynote speaker, the chair Professor Dr Anis Ahmad, vice chancellor, Riphah International University (RIU), Professor Dr Mustafeez Ahmad Alvi, HoD, Islamic Thought and Culture, NUML, and Professor Dr Mohyuddin Hashmi, Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Learning, Allama Iqbal Open University.

Prof Ali Abbasi said that the particular understanding of rationality and reason in the West has undermined the traditional norms and beliefs. Despite the persistent, extensive, and expansive development of the Eurocentric epistemology and its aggressive implementation through colonial and neo-colonial means, the Muslim worldviews, doctrinal beliefs, and epistemological sources are still intact.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/tradition-modernity-and-the-muslim-epistemology-2/>

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 join hands with RIIO to form network of think tanks on Indian Ocean Region



IPS has become part of a pioneering effort by a Chinese institution to create a multilateral cooperative network of think tanks of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The development was a result of a bilateral MoU signed by IPS in Kunming, China with the Research Institute for Indian Ocean Economics (RIIO), Yunnan University of Finance and Economics (YUFE). The initiative was launched during the 8th RIIO international conference on 'Common Development of China and Indian Ocean Region' held with the theme of 'Challenges and Prospects of Blue Economy Cooperation in the Indian Ocean: from the Perspective of Security and Develop-

ment', which was hosted by RIIO-YUFE on August 18-19, 2023.

Apart from IPS, the event was attended by top officials of the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (SIS), India, Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Myanmar, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh, and Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka. The participating institutions have also signed a letter of intent to become part of the network after necessary formalities.

necessary formalities.

This network, called 'China-Indian Ocean Blue Economy Network (CIOBEN)', will work for the policy analysis and review of Indian Ocean's strategic issues, undertaking joint activities, promoting common development between China and Indian Ocean region through research and discussion, and publishing research papers, articles, books, white papers, and reports as an outcome, all in a bid to strengthen various areas of cooperation.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-join-hands-with-riio-to-form-network-of-think-tanks-on-indian-ocean-region/>

CPEC is expected to move much faster in its true spirit in coming days: Chairman IPS



On the invitation of Research Centre for Asian Studies (RCAS), Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman visited China from July 24-27, 2023, to take part in a seminar titled 'Pakistan Politics and China-Pakistan Relations'.

Held in the city of Haikou, the objective of the

activity was to hold a policy-relevant discussion to develop a better understanding of as well as to promote China-Pakistan relations.

In his speech, Chairman IPS reflected on the historical account of the relationship between the two countries that laid the foundations of CPEC, while discussing the context and the approach of the mega project, the challenges it could face and the prospects it has to offer.

Chairman IPS also spoke at a session in the city of Sanya on July 25, 2023, where a discussion was held at the Asia-Pacific Public Security Forum on similar subject with a special reference to the security dimension.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/cpec-is-expected-to-move-much-faster-in-its-true-spirit-in-coming-days-chairman-ips/>

INETTT annual meeting and workshop in Johannesburg

On behalf of IPS, its GM Operations Naufil Shahrkh participated in the first annual meeting of the International Network of Energy Transition Think Tanks (INETTT), which was hosted in Johannesburg by its initiator Agora Energiewende – a project of Smart Energy for Europe Platform gGmbH from Berlin, Germany – in collaboration with two South African civil society organizations, Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI), Johannesburg and GreenCape, Cape Town from September 3-9, 2023.

It was the first in-person gathering of the

founding members of INETTT – a collaborative and knowledge-sharing platform of think tanks across the world contributing towards clean energy transition in their respective countries.

It merits a mention here that IPS has been a member of Agora's international outreach initiative INETTT for about two years and has collaborated with Agora in its research studies on renewable and clean energy transition in the recent past.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/inettt-annual-meeting-and-workshop-in-johannesburg/>

Taliban's international legitimacy conditional to reforms in education and governance sectors: Ambassador Abrar

To win international legitimacy and acceptance, the Taliban leadership need to address issues related to governance, inclusivity, and education, particularly women education through strategic reforms.



Syed Abrar Hussain

This was discussed by Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice-chairman, IPS, during a roundtable held at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) on the topic of 'Political-Economic Situation of Afghanistan and its Impact on Regional Connectivity' on September 19, 2023, to understand and explore ground realities of Afghanistan and its changing relations with regional countries as well as international community.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/talibans-international-legitimacy-conditional-to-reforms-in-education-and-governance-sectors-ambassador-abrar/>

IPS in PID's CVE Media Cell's Policy Working Group

Naufil Shahrkh, GM Operations, IPS represented the Institute in the inaugural meeting of Press Information Department (PID)'s Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Media Cell's Policy Working Group, which was held on September 21, 2023.

The formation of the policy working group is aimed at building a broad-based consensus on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's CVE efforts and includes representatives of leading think tanks of Pakistan.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-represented-in-pids-cve-media-cells-policy-working-group/>



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.

Fiqh Academy's delegation visits IPS



A delegation of scholars, academics, and humanitarian workers visited IPS on July 14, 2023, to interact with the Institute's team and identify the potential areas of cooperation.

The visitors, who were associated with different academic and philanthropic organizations, particularly the Fiqh Academy, Karachi and Fateh Foundation, were led by Mufti Owais Pasha Qarni, head of Fiqh Academy, Karachi. General Manager Operations Naufil Shahrukh and Research Fellow Syed Nadeem Farhat welcomed the delegation and informed them of the role of IPS as a think tank. They were apprised of the IPS programs aimed at collaborating with educational institutes and

organizations and engaging with scholars to help build knowledge in numerous policy-oriented areas. The delegates took keen interest in the working model and thematic contributions of the Institute.

It was observed during the discussion that the policy environment in the country needs to be molded to cater to the local requirements and ambitions with a people-centric approach. The Euro-centric narratives and solutions have not been able to address the socio-economic issues that are deeply entrenched in the peculiar circumstances, history, and culture of Pakistan.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/fiqh-academy-delegation-of-academics-visits-ips/>

Delegation of Al-Imam Research Institute and Jami'a Nauman bin Sabit, Karachi visits IPS



Jamia Nauman bin Sabit, Karachi, on September 21, 2023.

The delegation, headed by Habib Ahmad Hanfi, principal, Jamia Nauman bin Sabit, Najeeb Ahmad Hanfi, director, Al-Imam Research Institute, and Syed Fasihullah Hussaini, director training, visited the Institute to have a look at its functioning as well as to identify avenues and areas for future collaboration and

coordination as a part of their multi-city educational trip aimed at providing students a direction in research.

The delegates, during their interactive session with Khalid Rahman, Chairman IPS, highlighted a wide range of contemporary issues and challenges Pakistan is faced with such as pessimism, lack of leadership and guidance for youth, generation gap, lack of modern skills, etc.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/delegation-of-al-imam-research-institute-and-jamia-nauman-bin-sabit-karachi-visits-ips/>

The disregard and severe underutilization of indigenous knowledge resources is one of the significant challenges faced by Pakistan. Relevant departments and organizations of the country must ensure efficient use of knowledge creation and sharing techniques, and enhance inter-organizational coordination in order to make better use of the information available at hand.

This was discussed during an exposure visit of IPS by a delegation of faculty members and students of Al-Imam Research Institute and

An oral history session with Bashir Janmohammad

Bashir Janmohammad, a Pakistani business magnate, Chancellor of Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi, and a recent member of the IPS-National Academic Council, was the main guest and speaker on September 16, 2023 of the ongoing program titled 'The Living Scripts'.



Bashir Janmohammad

The program aims at acquiring tacit knowledge from highly accomplished personalities and imparting it to the next generation as food for thought and motivational lessons to learn.

It also provides a platform to eminent individuals of national stature to share invaluable experiences and knowledge from their personal and professional lives.

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

Workshop on AI tools for research



Taking into account the significance of Artificial Intelligence and the potential of AI tools for revolutionizing academic and research activities, IPS organized an interactive workshop on 'Potential Use of AI for Academic and Research Professionals' for its research team on August 11, 2023.

Shedding light on the use and potential of various novel AI tools, the facilitator, Dr Shaikh Najam, termed these skills critical to knowledge creation and academic research in the changing times.

It was pointed out by the facilitator that in the contemporary rapidly evolving digital landscape, the integration of AI in various sectors has immensely broadened the possibilities of development and progress.

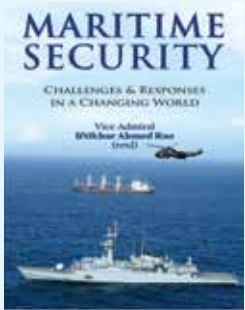
The higher educational institutions in Pakistan, too, need to focus on building the skills of its students to take full advantage of AI tools in order to avoid falling behind.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/integration-of-ai-tools-for-research-and-academic-endeavors-termed-necessary/>

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.

Maritime Security: Challenges & Responses in a Changing World



Author: Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Rao (ret'd)
Binding: Hardback
Pages: 478
Language: English

About the Book
Maritime security, just like the blue economy, is a relatively recent concept. It is different and distinct from traditional naval security and maritime power projection. Maritime security is an evolving comprehensive construct encompassing several interwoven facets of the maritime domain. In this book, the reader will find the historical background of the maritime domain and how various powers of the times benefitted from the seas, at times exclusively. Then, as others became aware, some rules and understandings began to emerge, eventually leading to the adoption of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III). After that, the concept of maritime security started to evolve more clearly. The book discusses various challenges at sea, including the age-old curse of piracy and emerging criminal activities such as trafficking (human, drugs, arms, etc.); terrorism; illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing; and the marine environment. It then moves to responses to these challenges. As maritime strategy is gaining importance, many regions and countries have promulgated their maritime security strategies. This book explores the maritime security strategies of various important regions and countries. It also discusses Pakistan's maritime

aspects and the suggested contours of maritime economic and military security strategies. Hopefully, this book will significantly contribute towards creating awareness and understanding of maritime security.

About the Author

Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao (ret'd) has over 40 years of maritime experience. He has served on board and commanded ships and is also a naval aviator, which gives him vast all-round expertise. He has been Chief Staff Officer of Fleet Command, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations), and Commander Coast. He was a member of the Gwadar Port Implementation Committee at the start of the port project and actively contributed to its development. As Managing Director of Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works, he is credited with its turnaround. He remained an advisor to the Government of Pakistan for the development of the shipbuilding industry and is considered the brains behind the conception of this industry's development, its vision and plan for Pakistan, which the Prime Minister has approved. He has been an advisor to the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, too. Iftikhar Rao is a regular guest speaker at the National Defence University, Staff Colleges, National School of Policy Studies, and seminars on maritime subjects. This is his third book about the maritime sector after *Elements of Blue Economy* and *Gwadar Bay to Sir Creek: The Golden Coast of Pakistan – History and Memoirs*. Both books are widely recognized in Pakistan's maritime sector and academia as pioneering research work in this domain.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/maritime-security-challenges-responses-in-a-changing-world/>

Policy Briefs & Reports

- Revitalizing Waqf for Effective and Sustainable Delivery of Social Protection in Pakistan
- The Question of Identity and the Muslim Youth Today
- Regional Cooperation in the Eurasian Region: Role of SCO
- Making the System of Zakat More Effective and Impactful for Social Protection
- Sustainable Mini-grid Solutions for Off-grid Electrification in Pakistan
- Empowering Pakistan's Power Sector: A Policy Framework for Investments and Digitization
- Morality in Public Broadcast: A Discussion in the Light of Supreme Court Judgement
- Humanitarian Journalism During Armed Conflicts and Emergencies

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- Bridging tradition and modernity: A new paradigm for Muslims | Prof Ali Abbasi
- Changing geopolitical landscape: China's peacemaking vs US war-waging | Amb (r) Javed Hafeez
- Iran's entry amplifies SCO's potential; favors multipolarity | Amb (r) Masood Khalid
- Without resolving bilateral issues, future of SCO will be uncertain | Amb (r) Abdul Basit
- SCO: Pakistan's gateway to economic recovery and security stability | Dr Sarwat Rauf
- Road map for conversion towards Islamic financial system in Pakistan | Ahmed Ali Siddiqui
- Stakeholders must own, take responsibility to adopt Islamic financial system | Farukh Raza
- Kashmir issue needs to be resolved with persistence & resilience | Hurriyat leader M Safi
- Pakistan should try to impact Kashmir issue globally through a strong narrative
- Bashir Janmohammad talks about his life & times in The Living Scripts [An IPS' Oral History Project]
- Rising Meth/ICE Addiction, Homosexuality & the HIV Epidemic in Pakistan
- IT Policy Landscape in Pakistan: Challenges and the Way Forward | Humayun Zafar

Nuqta-e-Nazar (Issue No. 44)



Editor: Safir Akhtar
Issue: 44
Pages: 200

About the Issue
The 44th 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, Islamic history, culture and Pakistan. The 44th issue of the periodical features a special review by Professor Abdur Rauf Zafar (late) on the Urdu translations of two books of Karen Armstrong on *Seerah* by Naemullah Malik among many others scholarly publications.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/nuqta-e-nazar-issue-no-44/>

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