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Quarter in Focus

The highlight of the quarter at IPS was the launch of 'Khurshid Answers' – an AI-powered knowledge bot that aims to preserve and extend the intellectual legacy of late Professor Khurshid Ahmad by offering 24/7 interactive global access to the scholar's extensive body of work. Developed under the project K4P (Knowledge Protection, Preservation, Promotion, and Production), the AI-powered bot, its Android app, and website provide policymakers, researchers, and students a platform to interactively engage with and benefit from the late scholar's lifelong multidisciplinary contributions.

The annual meeting of the IPS National Advisory Council was also held during this quarter, during which a gathering of notable intellectuals, academics, diplomats, and technocrats from diverse disciplines stressed harnessing the potential of youth in Pakistan, while terming research and technology as key areas for sustainable progress.

There were important deliberations held over international developments as well, with experts urging a strategic shift to overcome the trust deficit between Pakistan and Afghanistan, highlighting genocide in Gaza and the ineffectiveness of the global system, analyzing rising global Hindutva networks fueling Islamophobia, and exposing India's widespread human rights violations and the possibility of the restoration of the statehood of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

The domestic issues of Pakistan, such as the measures needed to mitigate floods in the future, as well as the country's readiness for the uptake of low-carbon electric vehicles (EVs), also came under the spotlight.

IPS also completed the six-part lecture series by Dr. Anis Ahmad on the topic of 'The World and the Future of Humanity,' hosting the last three lectures in the discussed period, apart from hosting an insightful dialogue with an Indonesian scholar, Prof. Dr. Abrar, on the shared challenges faced by Muslim societies in the contemporary era.

Another novel step taken by IPS in the quarter

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Annual Meeting of IPS-National Advisory Council (2025)

Pakistan faces complex domestic and international challenges, yet its future prospects hinge on harnessing the potential of its youth, strengthening research, leveraging technology, and driving policy innovation to translate resources and civilizational strengths into sustainable progress. Moreover, the Principles of Policy enshrined in the Constitution provide direction for every aspect of national life and should serve as guiding benchmarks for policy research.

This was underscored by intellectuals, academics, diplomats, and technocrats from diverse

fields at the annual meeting of the National Advisory Council (NAC) of IPS, held on September 13, 2025. The gathering serves as a platform to draw intellectual input from veteran scholars and practitioners, guiding IPS' research activities and shaping realistic ideas for addressing pressing national issues.

The forum, chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, was addressed by Dr. Syed Mohammad Anwer, Justice, Federal Shariat Court, Dr. Shahida Wizarat, dean, College of Economics and Social Development, IoBM,

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'Khurshid Answers' launched



'Khurshid Answers' goes far beyond a conventional technology launch; it represents the creation of a living and evolving knowledge resource designed to safeguard, curate, and contextualize Professor Khurshid Ahmad's vast intellectual contributions. The AI-powered bot and its companion app and web platforms

ensures that students, researchers, and policymakers can interactively engage with his ideas, opening new avenues for scholarship and intellectual exploration

This was noted during the launch of 'Khurshid Answers: Website and AI-Powered Knowledge Bot' of Prof. Khurshid Ahmad - a distinguished scholar, Islamic economist, reformer, and statesman, held on August 20, 2025.

The event was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Dr. Musthafa Rayes, chairman, Board of Trustees, The Islamic Foundation, UK, Farooq Murad, CEO, The Islamic Foundation, UK, and Haris Khurshid, son of Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, while

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'Floods in Pakistan: Building Resilience and Insights for Future Planning'

Pakistan's increasing vulnerability to climate change-driven extremes demands integrated and urgent responses at all levels, as the increasing frequency of floods, rising temperatures, and deteriorating water quality pose a threat to the country's food security, water resources, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

While floods have dominated national discussions, rising temperatures, shrinking forest cover, and weak governance capacities pose equally significant risks, all of which undermine resilience. This underscores the importance of ensuring policy implementation, proactive governance, enhancing national water storage capacity, sustainable water management,



Dr. Ghulam Rasul and Dr. Pervaiz Amir

improving early warning systems, and building local capacity to mitigate the impacts of disasters.

These observations were made by climate and sustainability experts at a roundtable titled 'Floods in Pakistan: Building Resilience and

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Annual Meeting of IPS.....

Karachi, Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani, chairman, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology, Dr. Syed Tahir Hijazi, former member (governance), Planning Commission of Pakistan, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, former chairman, Higher Education Commission, Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal secretary, Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary Water and Power, Ambassador (r) Masood Khalid, Dr. Razia Sultana, vice chancellor, Women University Mardan, Dr. Asad Zaman, former vice chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Vice Admiral (r) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao, Dr. Syed Junaid Zaidi, former rector of COMSATS University, Prof. Jalil Aali, poet and scholar, Dr. Waqar Masood Khan, former federal secretary, finance, Dr. Saima Hamid, former vice chancellor, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Major General (r) Dr. Noel Khokhar, Dr. Masood Mehmood Khan, Curtin University, Australia, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, and Naufil Shahruck, CEO, MuComm and policy analyst.

Participants emphasized the need for greater investment in youth education and technology, urging the mobilization of students and researchers across the country's universities. They urged think tanks, such as IPS, to act as intermediaries between universities and global research efforts and to channel research into actionable, evidence-based policy recommendations. The recently approved AI Policy was seen as a step forward; however, participants noted the absence of a clear roadmap to empower youth leadership and integrate innovation into socio-economic progress.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/harnessing-potential-of-youth-research-and-technology-key-to-sustainable-progress-ips-advisory-council-forum/>

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'Khurshid Answers' launched

Ameena Sohail, senior associate, IPS, and energy sector lawyer, moderated the session. The event was attended by scholars, researchers, technologists, and admirers of Prof. Khurshid's work, underscoring the significance of this innovative step in blending scholarship with cutting-edge technology intelligence.

Khurshid Answers, based on the lifetime works and scholarly contributions of Prof. Khurshid, marks the first milestone of the "Knowledge Protection, Preservation, Promotion, and Production (K4P)" project. The K4P project harnesses technology to safeguard the intellectual legacy of distinguished scholars, to protect their scholarly works from being lost, preserve them in accessible formats, promote their ideas to new audiences, and produce new insights by enabling interactive engagement.

Through *Khurshid Answers*, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad's contributions are not only archived, but made accessible in ways that invite dialogue, research, and learning.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/launch-of-khurshid-answers-ai-powered-knowledge-bot-preserving-the-legacy-of-prof-khurshid-ahmad/>

'Evolving Political Dynamics of Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations'



Addressing the persistent trust deficit between Pakistan and Afghanistan is essential to strengthening the core of their bilateral relationship and setting it on a stable and sustainable path. Confidence-building measures that incorporate long-term, people-centric engagement and a coherent, integrated framework are crucial for both nations and the stability of the region. In this context, a strategic shift toward a '4P' approach – prioritization, partnership, participation, and persistence – is a viable path forward.

This was discussed by former ambassadors, scholars, and researchers during a session on 'Evolving Political Dynamics of Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations', held on July 09, 2025.

The session featured insights from Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice-chairman IPS, Amina Khan, director CAMEA (Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, Ambassador (r)

Ayaz Wazir, Brig. (r) Said Nazir, defense analyst, Ambassador (r) Nasrullah Khan, Brig. (r) Khurshid Khan, IPS associate, Tahir Khan, senior journalist, Dr. Lutfur Rehman, author and researcher, Brig. (r) Tughral Yamin, IPS associate, Dr. Azhar Ahmad, IPS associate, Amanullah Khan, former member, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI), Sheharyar Khan, executive director, National Dialogue Forum, and Dr. Sadia Sulaiman, assistant professor, Quaid-i-Azam University.

Speakers emphasized that foundational tensions continue to strain bilateral ties. While the Taliban's return to power in 2021 initially sparked hope for a more stable western border, this expectation was dampened by a surge in cross-border attacks by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Speakers noted that although the Taliban claim to have limited control over TTP, ground realities suggest otherwise.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistan-afghanistan-relations-experts-urge-strategic-shift-to-overcome-trust-deficit/>

'Continued Israeli Aggression: Two Years of Genocide in Gaza'

Israel's continued aggression and genocide in Gaza reflect the failure of the international community, compounded by US politics, mostly muted Arab responses, and ineffective global institutions.

This underscores the urgent need for Muslim unity, resource pooling, mutual defense arrangements, and peacekeeping forces to stop Israeli actions and expansionist plans and secure regional peace.

Seasoned diplomats, defense analysts, and academics observed this during a seminar titled 'Continued Israeli Aggression: Two Years of Genocide in Gaza', held on September 23, 2025. It was addressed by Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, Ambassador (r) Naela Chohan as the keynote speaker, Ambassador (r) Nasrullah Khan, Brigadier (r) Said Nazir, defense analyst, and Dr. Azhar Ahmad, senior analyst.



Ambassador Naela Chohan emphasized the importance of accurately framing the Palestine-Israel issue to ensure a holistic understanding. This can help guide the search for a just solution and end the genocide of Palestinians. She further stressed the significance of clarifying whether the conflict is fundamentally religious, political, or commercial. She said that real estate developers view Gaza as land that can be exploited for financial gain, and these commercial interests also drive efforts to expel Palestinians from their homeland.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/gaza-genocide-exposes-apathy-and-ineffectiveness-of-global-system/>

‘Hindutva: Networks, Diaspora Politics, and Islamophobia’



professor, Quaid-i-Azam University, and Dr. Khurram Iqbal, academic and policy analyst.

In his opening remarks, Khalid Rahman noted that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which propagates and institutionalizes the ideology of Hindutva, marked its centenary

on September 27. He highlighted the steady surge in mobilization of Hindutva organizations under the guise of cultural organizations, such as the RSS, not only within India but also across Indian diasporas, to advance the politics of hate.

He underlined the factors through which Hindutva reinforced itself within India, including organizational discipline, a robust grassroots network, political influence through the BJP, expansion in affiliate organizations, community service, shaping educational and cultural discourse, and, most of all, a favorable Islamophobic global environment. He emphasized that Hindutva weaponizes Islamophobia as a strategy in the West to further its own anti-Muslim agenda.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/rising-global-hindutva-networks-fueling-islamophobia-and-threatening-peace-seminar/>

The rising influence of Hindutva ideology and its expanding transnational networks are fueling diaspora-driven politics and a dangerous escalation in Islamophobia worldwide. This trend poses serious challenges to global peace, coexistence, and pluralism, highlighting the need for academic, diplomatic, and policy-driven engagements to counter its divisive narratives.

This was deliberated at a seminar ‘Hindutva: Networks, Diaspora Politics, and Islamophobia’, convened on September 24, 2025, which gathered scholars, policymakers, diplomats, and other stakeholders to explore one of today’s most pressing global ideological challenges. The seminar featured insightful discussions by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, director general, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI), Dr. Mujeeb Afzal, associate

‘Restoring Statehood of IOJ&K: A Step Forward or Political Mirage?’

While the restoration of occupied Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood remains uncertain, any such development would signal the erosion of India’s unilateral actions since August 5, 2019. With India’s internal unrest, mounting international scrutiny, and evolving global power dynamics, a new trajectory has emerged. India may attempt to reframe the narrative and capitalize on emerging scenarios. However, Pakistan must build on this trajectory, grounded in optimism, strategic clarity, and the unwavering pursuit of the Kashmiri people’s right to self-determination.

This was discussed during a session titled ‘Restoring Statehood of IOJ&K: A Step Forward or Political Mirage’, held at IPS on August 04, 2025. The meeting of the IPS’ Working Group on Kashmir (WGK) was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice-chairman IPS, Dr. Sheikh Waleed Rasool, director general Institute of Multi-Track Dialogue, Development and Diplomatic



Studies, Farzana Yaqoob, secretary general WGK, Dr. Khurshid Khan, IPS associate, Ambassador (r) Nasarullah Khan, Brig. (r) Raja Shozeb Majeed, international law expert, and Brig. (r) Said Nazir, IPS associate and security analyst.

The keynote speaker, Dr Waleed Rasool, noted that since 1947, the struggle of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K) has been one of *De Facto* versus *De Jure* control. Once the territory came under Indian military control, it enabled India to engage in both legal and operational manipulation.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/kashmir-statehood-restoration-in-any-form-would-signal-failure-of-indias-2019-actions-ips-forum/>

‘Social Issues and Legislative Approaches in Muslim Societies’

IPS hosted an engaging in-house session on August 27, 2025, with Prof. Dr. Abrar from Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Imam Bonjol Padang, Indonesia, who was visiting Pakistan. The session provided an excellent opportunity for knowledge exchange between Pakistani and Indonesian scholars, as well as for exploring shared challenges faced by Muslim societies in the contemporary era.

In his talk, Prof. Dr. Abrar spoke on the theme of “Social Issues and Legislative Approaches in Muslim Societies.” He highlighted how Indonesia, the largest Muslim-majority country, navigates critical social concerns through the interplay of legislation, policy, and Shariah principles. Drawing on the Indonesian experience, he explained the ways in which governance frameworks, religious interpretations, and community engagement work together to address evolving societal needs while balancing tradition with modernity.



The session was also joined by Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, Prof. Dr. Mustafeez Alvi, senior IPS associate and former dean, Social Sciences, NUML, Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Atiq uz Zafar Khan, research advisor, IPS, Prof. Dr. Shahzad Iqbal Sham, senior research associate, IPS, Syed Nadeem Farhat, research fellow, IPS, and IPS team.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/dialogue-on-social-and-legal-challenges-in-muslim-societies-with-an-indonesian-scholar-at-ips/>

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Floods in Pakistan...

Insights for Future Planning’, held on September 16, 2025.

The session was chaired by Mirza Hamid Hassan, member IPS National Advisory Council (NAC) and former federal secretary, Water and Power, and addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Dr. Pervaiz Amir, climate change expert, Dr. Ghulam Rasul, advisor, China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences, Syed Tahir Hijazi, former member (governance), Planning Commission of Pakistan, Syed Ikram ul Haq, disaster risk capacity building expert, Yasir Riaz, flood recovery expert, Dr. Imran Hashmi, associate professor NUST, Dr. Mujtaba Hassan, HoD Space Sciences, Institute of Space Technology, and Altaf Sher, president, Al-Khidmat Foundation, Islamabad.

The session was moderated by Ameena Sohail, senior IPS associate and energy sector lawyer.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/integrated-water-storage-early-warning-and-local-capacity-building-critical-to-mitigate-flood-risks-experts/>

‘Prospects of Low-Carbon Transport in Pakistan: Exploring EVs Future’

Electric vehicles (EVs) can play a transformative role in achieving low-carbon transport; however, for scaling EVs in Pakistan, local manufacturing, charging and swapping infrastructure, and research and development (R&D) are necessary. While numerous incentives have been laid out in new EV policies, limited purchasing power, grid readiness challenges, and a lack of repair and service facilities continue to obstruct their uptake in the country.

This highlights the need for integrated policies, technological readiness, and infrastructure development to ensure that EV adoption contributes to reducing emissions, managing energy demand, and advancing the country's broader climate and sustainability goals.

Experts observed this at a roundtable titled ‘Prospects of Low-Carbon Transport in Pakistan: Exploring EVs Future,’ held on August 18, 2025.

The session was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, keynote speaker Engr. Asim Ayaz, general manager policy, Engineering Development Board, Sulaiman Majeed, director planning, Punjab Transport Authority, and Dr. Faisal Ahmad Khan, CEO, Balochistan Public Private Partnership Authority, while Dr. Usman Qadir, senior economist, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Dr. Muhammad Adil Khan, assistant professor, Air University, Islamabad, Mehrosh Fatima, EV charging



solutions expert, National Radio Telecommunication Corporation, Afzaal Khan, U.S. Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCASE), National University of Science and Technology (NUST), and Engr Asad Mehmood, a climate expert, also spoke on the occasion.

The session was chaired by Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary, Water and Power, and moderated by Ameena Sohail, energy sector lawyer.

Speaking on the policy preparedness at the federal level, Asim Ayaz underlined that the government has been working on making a comprehensive EV policy since 2019. He noted that the government has introduced several policy incentives, such as sales tax exemptions, only 1% duty on EV imports, and initiatives like EV bike distribution schemes to stimulate demand.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/integrated-policies-local-manufacturing-and-infrastructure-readiness-key-to-ev-uptake-experts/>

Project Launch | ‘Sustainable Society: Empowering Youth for Action’

The launching of a waste management project under the program ‘Sustainable Society: Empowering Youth for Action’ was held on August 22, 2025.

The session, chaired by Prof. Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani, former vice chancellor, University of Haripur and chairman, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology, was addressed by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman, Dr. Fazal-ur-Rehman, country director, Zakat Foundation of America, Dr. Zafar-ul-Hasan Almas, IPS senior associate and



former joint chief economist, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and Dr. Shahid Naeem, whereas it was moderated by Dr. Asim Ehsan, senior research officer at IPS.

It merits a mention here that the project - with the help of local community, and particularly the youth from marginalized segments as well as colleges and universities - seeks to develop a sustainable model to recycle urban waste into productive organic compost (cashable item) in targeted areas.

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Quarter in Focus...

was the launch of a waste management initiative, ‘Turning Trash into Treasure,’ under the program ‘Sustainable Society: Empowering Youth for Action.’

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman was invited by Research Institute of Indian Ocean Economies (RIIO), Yunnan University of Finance and Economics, to take part in their ninth international conference in Kunming, China, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) to speak at a roundtable on Islamophobia, and Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) to participate in their Thought Leaders’ Forum.

IPS also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Muslim Youth University to foster collaboration in research and capacity building.

The Institute held the 34th session of its oral history project ‘The Living Scripts’ with Dr. Tariq Mustafa, former federal secretary, Ministry of Defense Production, besides hosting an exposure visit of Al-Khidmat Foundation.

IPS Press – the publishing and bookselling arm of the Institute – brought forth the second volume of Yaadein Unki, Baatein Hamari, authored by the late Professor Khurshid Ahmad. Besides, a brief titled ‘Pakistan Economic Insights (July-August 2025)’, as well as three blogs commenting on the India-Pakistan escalation in May 2025, the implications of the abrogation of Article 370 by India, and the global responsibility with respect to atrocities in Gaza, were also published.

‘The World and the Future of Humanity’ – A Lecture Series by Dr. Anis Ahmad

In Islam, gender justice forms the foundation of family relations. Rooted in ethical equality and fairness, it ensures dignity for both men and women as true empowerment emerges through complementarity and balance, creating harmony within family and society.

There is also a need to rethink how history and civilization are understood, as Eurocentric frameworks sideline ethics and divine guidance, reducing progress to fragmented and materialistic notions. In sharp contrast, the Islamic perspective views history as a moral process shaped by universal values such as justice, fairness, and social responsibility, and sees civilization as the embodiment of these values in cultural, social, and institutional life.

These observations were made by Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad, vice chancellor, Riphah International University (RIU), during his thought-provoking six-part lecture series ‘The World and the Future of Humanity’, which continued from the previous quarter. The current quarter featured the fourth lecture of the series, ‘The Essence of Human Relations: Family, Gender Roles, and Society’, held on July 31, the fifth lecture ‘Understanding History and Civilization the Right Way’, held on August 29, and the sixth lecture ‘Revisiting the Concept of Knowledge’, held on September 25,



2025. The sessions were hosted by Prof. Dr. Mustafeez Alvi, senior IPS associate and former dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, NUML, Islamabad, whereas the fourth lecture was also addressed by Dr. Redhwan Karim from The Markfield Institute of Higher Education, UK.

The last lecture on the other hand, which was organized in collaboration with the Markfield Institute of Higher Education (MIHE), UK, International Institute of Muslim Unity, Malaysia, and Islamic Studies Department at Bahauddin Zakria University (BZU), Multan, was also addressed by Dr. Haroon Bashir, Head of Research at MIHE and Dr. Abdul Quddoos Sohaib from BZU.

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.

Chairman IPS analyses power dynamics in Indian Ocean at RIIO's Int'l Conference

On the invitation of Research Institute of Indian Ocean Economies (RIIO), Yunnan University of Finance and Economics, Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman visited Kunming, China, to participate in the Ninth International Conference and CIOBEN (China-Indian Ocean Blue Economy Think Tank Network), which was held on August 28-29, 2025.

Chairman IPS had the opportunity to address different sessions of the event on three occasions, including moderating one, on the themes of 'Building Blue Economy Partner-



ships: Challenges and the Way Forward', 'Reconstructing the Geo-Economy: Challenges and Solutions', and 'Security Issues and Building an Inclusive Security Mechanism in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)'.

MoU with Muslim Youth University (MYU)

IPS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Muslim Youth University (MYU), Islamabad, to foster mutual cooperation in areas of research, education, and capacity building.

The MoU was signed on July 15, 2025 by Shafat Sarfraz, IPS' Head of Operations and Dr. Farhat Jabeen, Director ORIC, MYU. The agreement marks a strategic partnership aimed at leveraging each institution's strengths to drive academic growth and policy-oriented engagement.

For further details, visit: <http://ips.org.pk/institute-of-policy-studies-ips-signs-mou-with-muslim-youth-university-myu/>

'The Political Dimensions of Islamophobia'

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman was invited by Islamabad Policy Research



Institute (IPRI) on August 22, 2025, to speak at a roundtable 'International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief: Addressing Islamophobia'. Rahman spoke on the occasion on the topic of

'The Political Dimensions of Religious Violence and Islamophobia'.

Academic Exchange with ISAS

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman visited the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) at the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences (YASS), Kunming, China, on August 30, 2025, and had a meeting with the Institute's team over various matters of mutual interest. The meeting was facilitated by Ren Jia, former president of YASS.



Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman at the Thought Leaders Forum on "Peace and Stability in South Asia and Beyond", held by the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) on July 11, 2025

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.

The Living Scripts with Dr. Tariq Mustafa (TI)

The 34th session of IPS' oral history project 'The Living Scripts' was held with Dr Tariq Mustafa, former federal secretary, Ministry of Defense Production, and Pioneer of Pakistan Space Program, on July 10 and 17, 2025.

Over the years, Dr. Mustafa held top leadership positions in Pakistan's federal ministries. He served as Federal Secretary in five key ministries, including Defense Production, Science & Technology, and Petroleum & Natural Resources. His 14-year tenure in defense production was pivotal in modernizing Pakistan's military capabilities, overseeing the development of aircraft, tanks, submarines, and missile boats.



Internationally, Dr Mustafa served as Minister (Technical) at the Pakistani Embassy in Washington D.C., managed US-Pakistan technical relations, and advised the World Bank on technology transfer and privatization.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/living-script-with-dr-tariq-mustafa-ti/>

Exposure Visit of Al-Khidmat Foundation



Youth are the architects of Pakistan's future, and when guided by purpose, national values, and a clear vision, they can become a powerful force for meaningful change. With sincerity, strategic thinking, and a commitment to ethical principles, the young generation of Pakistan can lead the way in building a more just, progressive, and resilient Pakistan.

This message was conveyed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, while addressing a group of interns from Al-Khidmat Foundation, Islamabad, during their exposure visit to the Institute on July 16, 2025. The visit aimed to foster youth engagement in policy dialogue, research, and national development.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/exposure-visit-of-al-khidmat-foundation-interns-at-the-institute-of-policy-studies/>

Lectures on Professionalism, Poverty Alleviation, and Good Governance

On the invitation of the AKH-NCRD (Akhtar Hameed Khan - National Centre for Rural Development), Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman delivered lectures on the topics of 'Professional Ethics for Office Management', 'Poverty Alleviation on Sustainable Basis in the Islamic Framework', 'An Introduction to Professional Ethics and Ethical Mindset for Professionalism', and 'Good

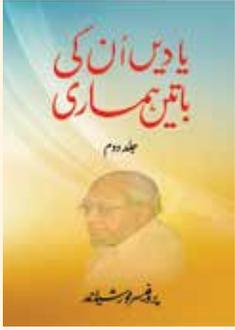


Governance for Socioeconomic Development (SDG-16)' on July 18, August 22 & 25 and September 26, 2025, respectively.

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.

Yaadein Unki, Baatein Hamari (Volume No. 2)



Author: Professor Khurshid Ahmed
Binding: Paperback
Pages: 286
Language: Urdu
ISBN: 978-969-448-859-2
Publisher: IPS Press

About the Book

The book under review consists of the spontaneous writings of

Professor Khurshid Ahmed, which were generally written after the departure of his comrades who were his companions in the common aspiration and struggle to build the beloved homeland of Pakistan according to its founding objectives. The feeling of religious brotherhood and love that arises due to the unity of purpose is reflected repeatedly in these writings. These writings are not just personal memoirs or biographical

sketches, but despite their brevity, they encompass three decades of national and movement life. These glimpses of the struggle with ideological and intellectual unity on various aspects and topics of the country's politics, from the constitutional struggle of Pakistan, democratic traditions in the country, civil liberties and Islamic formation of laws to matters related to internal affairs, defense strategy and foreign policy, are not only landmarks for those who follow this path but also serve as useful documents for those interested in national and national history. In this account of personal connections established during his student days and then relationships spanning decades, many aspects of Professor Khurshid Ahmed's own personality, thoughts, and actions also come to the fore, the most prominent of which is his style of writing about different people and events. He mentions the qualities of each with respect and love, and his central reference in this account is the objectivity that is the basis of the introduction and relationship between these diverse personalities.

PESPECTIVES (IPS BLOGS)

New Normal? India-Pakistan Tensions and Global Peace at Risk

Author: Dr. Farhat Taj

The May 2025 escalation between India and Pakistan stems from India's attempt to establish a 'new normal': Every "terrorist" attack on Indian soil will trigger a conventional military response, striking deep within Pakistan, beyond the Kashmir region. Each response will be more severe than

the last, aiming to damage Pakistan's military capabilities, compel action against what India calls "terror infrastructure," and challenge Pakistan's nuclear deterrence.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/new-normal-india-pakistan-tensions-and-global-peace-at-risk/>

Ek Mutanazaa Iqdam (A Controversial Move)

Author: Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain

This blog critically examines the Indian government's decision to abrogate Article 370 of its constitution, a provision that granted special autonomy to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The piece explores the historical background of Article 370, the political motivations behind its removal, and the far-reaching implications for

regional stability, bilateral relations between Pakistan and India, and the rights of the Kashmiri people. Through a diplomatic and analytical lens, the author assesses whether this move serves long-term peace or further deepens existing tensions in South Asia.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/ek-mutanazaa-iqdam-a-controversial-move/>

Tracing Responsibility: The Global Hand in Gaza's Collapse

Author: Dr. Muhammad Khurshid Khan

Who bears responsibility for the staggering loss of life and the enduring suffering of the people of Palestine? Though the global community cannot escape the blame for the atrocities committed by Israel, history will cast a harsh judgment on the

US and its Western allies. This collective failure has not only deepened the humanitarian crisis but also eroded the moral fabric of global governance.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/tracing-responsibility-the-global-hand-in-gazas-collapse/>

RESEARCH

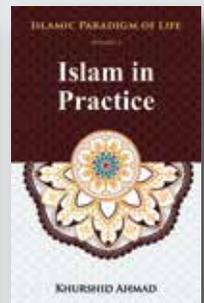
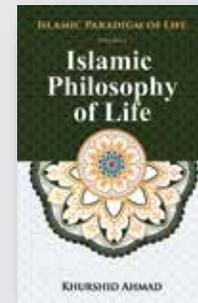
Pakistan Economic Insights (July-August 2025)



Pakistan's economy in the first two months of fiscal year 2025-26 (July-August 2025) displayed a mixed outlook, characterized by cautious confidence following credit rating enhancements but outshined by other noteworthy issues and challenges. Moody's elevation to Caa1 reflects growth under the IMF program, strengthened by better external cushions and fiscal consolidation. Major segments demonstrate progress: manufacturing, predominantly cement and automobiles, displayed sturdy development, and inflation has toned down meaningfully from the previous year. However, devastating current floods have severely damaged agriculture, threatening major kharif crops like cotton and rice, which poses a grave danger to development, food security, and inflation. As far as the external sector is concerned, the current account glided back into deficit in July due to a surge in imports, whereas remittances showed signs of tapering off. A critical step is the renegotiation of US trade tariffs, which, though decreased from 29% to 19%, remain high. This depicts both a competitive prospect against higher-tariff adversaries, such as India, and a challenge to Pakistan's cost competitiveness, necessitating calculated policy measures to get the most out of the shifting global trade dynamics.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistan-economic-insights-july-august-2025/>

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