

# IPSnews

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## Quarter in Focus

The 50<sup>th</sup> year of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan was a great national milestone. IPS took the opportunity to highlight its significance and deliberate on the learnings from the challenges in the last fifty years by collaborating with Fatima Jinnah Women University's (FJWU) department of law to produce a two-day international conference on the subject. Several researchers and leading constitutional experts participated in the academic event, which also attempted to have a futuristic look at the constitution's next 50 years with special focus on better governance, inclusive policies, and synergized frameworks.

The Institute also collaborated with Quaid-i-Azam University's (QAU) School of Economics (SoE) to produce a day-long hybrid conference '1<sup>st</sup> International Islamic Economics and Development Conference' on the theme: 'From Islamic Finance to Islamic Economy'.

Book launching ceremonies of recent IPS Press publication *Maritime Security: Challenges & Responses in a Changing World* authored by Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao (ret'd), Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Maritime Affairs, were hosted by University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore, and Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore. This is the third book by the author on maritime studies published by IPS Press.

School of Politics & International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) hosted the book launch of another new IPS Press title *Revisiting the Durand Line: Historical and Legal Perspectives* by Dr Lutfur Rehman, which is based on his original, painstaking research of two decades.

The publishing arm of the Institute also brought forth and launched the memoirs of the outgoing High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan, H.E. Mohammed Bello Abioye, and its launch at IPS attracted a galaxy of diplomats and university students in Islamabad from various African countries.

International burning issues like Palestine and Kashmir crises were also covered in the Institute's quarterly activities in two different seminars. Institutional insights were also shared by the IPS faculty in various external events in the federal capital.

The recent developments in Pak-Afghan relations – including the issue of the repatriation of Afghan refugees – also garnered considerable attention, with the Institute deliberating over the subjects in two distinct sittings, besides extending its viewpoint on these topics in discussions held externally.

Ideas such as the need of full-reserve banking and tapping the unexplored potential of olive culture in Pakistan were also highlighted by visiting experts.

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman was invited to China on two occasions to speak on the topics relating to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Central/South Asia Cooperation, apart from

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## Experts call for fiscal devolution, empowering CCI, local governments; highlight the role of NFC for federal harmony

Harmonizing post-18<sup>th</sup> amendment scenario among federating units and all constitutional stakeholders, which is marred by differences creating numerous governance challenges, in tandem with ensuring timely elections for democratic continuity, remains indispensable for reconciling and preserving the spirit of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan for a stable and prosperous future of the country.

A functional Council of Common Interests (CCI) with its rules of business, consistent National Finance Commission (NFC) Award governed

through subordinate legislation, and devolution of political, financial, and administrative authority empowering local governments are also imperative to create the right environment to renew Pakistan's commitment to federalism, uphold the constitution's mandate, and protect its basics for the next 50 years.

This was highlighted by veteran statesmen, jurists, and constitutional experts during a two-day international conference titled 'The Constitution of Pakistan: Lessons for the Next

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## IPS-QAU conference underscores paradigm shift from Islamic finance to Islamic economics for socio-economic uplift



Dr Amjad Saqib

While Islamic finance has garnered attention in recent years, the true potential lies in developing a comprehensive Islamic economic framework that can uplift Pakistan's socio-economic landscape by nurturing Islamic social finance and fostering holistic growth. Islamic teachings, rooted in principles aligned with sustainable development

goals (SDGs) such as poverty alleviation, equitable growth, and sustainable economic development, offer a comprehensive blueprint for progress.

This was observed by eminent economics experts and practitioners who participated in the one-day hybrid '1<sup>st</sup> International Islamic Economics and Development Conference' organized on December 7, 2023, by the School of Economics (SoE) Department at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), in collaboration with IPS, with the theme 'From Islamic Finance to Islamic Economy'. A number of papers

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## Gazans have lent a fillip to global campaign against Israeli occupation and its protectors

The UN with its current composition and dynamics cannot provide any solution to chronic conflicts like Palestine and Kashmir. The ongoing genocide in Gaza has exposed the so-called rule-based world order and moral bankruptcy of the global institutions and forums responsible for it.

US President Biden and his government have become complicit in the aggression by backing Israel's war crimes and endorsing its lies. While the US sticks with Israel, the world is witnessing a massive transformation driven by grassroots public support internationally, especially in the West, as millions of people rally daily for justice

for Palestinians. The Muslim world, the Global South, Russia, and China with its soft power collectively have the desire and the potential to cause tectonic shifts in the US-led world order.

These were some of the key observations of renowned Pakistani and international scholars who discussed different dimensions of the issue during an international hybrid seminar, '30 Days of Gaza Crisis: Global Response & the



Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed

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## Indian SC's verdict on the status of Kashmir has no legal standing for UN and int'l law on its disputed nature

The burning Kashmir issue should be seen as an international armed conflict and a matter of illegal occupation, annexation and settler colonialism and all unilateral actions by the Indian government or court verdict to legitimize them have no legal standing for the UN, the world community and international law.

This was discussed on October 5, 2023, during the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the IPS' Working Group on Kashmir (IPS-WGK), a body of experts and opinion leaders on Kashmir affairs, under the title 'Article 370 in the Indian Supreme Court: Arguments, Outcomes & the Way Forward'



The hybrid session, chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, was addressed by Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, special representative of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) chairman Masarrat Alam Bhat, Dr Asma Shakir Khawaja, executive director, Centre of International Studies, Muzaf-farabad, AJ&K, Iftikhar Gillani, senior Kashmiri journalist based in Ankara, Amb (r) Ishtiaq Hussain Andrabi, Adv Imran Shafiq, int'l law expert, Adv Nasir Qadri, executive director, Legal Forum for Kashmir, Dr Sheikh Waleed Rasool, Kashmiri academician and activist, Dr Khurram Abbas, director, India Study Centre, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, Reema Shoukat, Institute of Regional Studies, among others, and moderated by Farzana Yaqoob, former AJ&K minister and general secretary IPS-WGK.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/article-370-in-the-indian-supreme-court-arguments-outcomes-the-way-forward/>

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## Gazans have lent a flip...

'Reshaping World Order', jointly organized by IPS and the Centre for Critical Peace Studies, University of Management & Technology (CCPS-UMT), Lahore, on November 6, 2023.

The program was chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairperson, Senate Defence Committee, and co-chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS. The main speakers included Dr Chandra Muzaffar, renowned political scientist and president, International Movement for a Just World, Malaysia, Na'eem Jeenah, executive director, Afro-Middle East Centre, South Africa, Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Oves Anwar, director research, Research Society of International Law (RSIL), Islamabad, and Dr Fatima Sajjad, director, CCPS-UMT, Lahore.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/30-days-of-gaza-crisis-global-response-the-reshaping-world-order/>

## Book Launch | 'Maritime Security: Challenges & Responses in a Changing World'



A coordinated national effort is essential to exploit and safeguard the inherent potential of Pakistan's maritime domain and coastlines. The Pakistan Navy upholds collaboration in its international dealings; the same must also be demonstrated internally to protect the oceans and unlock the potential of the blue economy. This was highlighted by speakers at the book launching ceremony of *Maritime Security: Challenges & Responses in a Changing World*, authored by Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao (retd), Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Maritime Affairs, and published by IPS Press, the publishing arm of the Institute of Policy Studies. The event was organized by

the Institute in coordination with the University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore, at the university's campus on December 6, 2023.

The gathering was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Lt Gen Javed Hassan (retd), acting president, UMT, Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao (retd), Dr Maliha Zeba Khan, assistant professor, NUML, Islamabad, and Dr Fatima Sajjad, head, Department of Political Science and International Relations, UMT.

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

## Pakistan should shift focus from 'Look Africa' to 'Enter Africa': Nigerian High Commissioner



Pakistan should forge a deeper connection with Africa to transform the perception of the country and open doors for fruitful collaboration as well as move forward from 'Look Africa' toward 'Enter Africa,' said H.E. Mohammed Bello Abioye, the outgoing High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan, on October 26, 2023, during a farewell session and launch of his memoirs *Pakistan: How I Saw It - Memoirs & Reflections*, published by IPS Press, the publishing arm of Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad.

The session was also addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Mthuthuzeli Madikiza, High Commissioner of South

Africa to Pakistan, Mary Nyambura Kamau, High Commissioner of Kenya to Pakistan, and attended by officials from the Nigerian Embassy.

Speaking about the book, H.E. Abioye stated that *Pakistan How I Saw It: Memoirs & Reflections* is a game-changing read as it challenges stereotypes and encourages a fresh perspective on Pakistan, which for too long has been misrepresented in books and media that paint a negative picture of the country.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistan-should-shift-focus-from-look-africa-to-enter-africa-nigerian-high-commissioner/>

## Book Launch | 'Revisiting the Durand Line: Historical and Legal Perspectives'



The Durand Line Agreement, international law, historical evidence, and the original maps exchanged at the time of the accord establish the present status of the Durand Line as an international border. As such, the Durand Line issue is political and geostrategic, and its status as an internationally recognized border is indisputable.

This was observed during the book launch of *Revisiting the Durand Line: Historical and Legal Perspectives* authored by Dr Lutfur Rehman. The event, held on December 15, 2023, was co-organized by IPS and the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad.

The session was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Ambassador (r) Abrar Hussain, former ambassador to Afghanistan

and vice chairman, IPS, Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, director and professor SPIR, QAU, Dr Razia Sultana, member, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission, and Dr Lutfur Rehman, while Faheemullah Khan, lecturer, SPIR, acted as moderator.

The speakers said the book dispels the misconceptions through evidence-based research. As further evidence, it also contains all the original maps exchanged in Kabul in November 1893 following the border agreement between the ruler of Afghanistan Ameer Abdur Rahman Khan and British Indian official Mortimer Durand.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/book-launch-revisiting-the-durand-line-historical-and-legal-perspectives/>

## Full reserve banking advised for eliminating inflation, debt, and interest rate problems



In Pakistan, debt servicing is one of the biggest challenges that every government has to face and it is growing constantly due to the prevailing policies. As per the federal budget 2023-24, 60% of the government's revenue is used in debt servicing. This issue is prevailing due to the controversial monetary policy of the State Bank of Pakistan. The share of debt servicing in consuming revenue is higher than the other state entities.

These views were shared by Qanit Khalil, chartered accountant & economic analyst, while making a presentation during a session titled 'SBP's Policy Rate: Bane or Boon for Pakistan', which was organized by IPS on December 1, 2023. The presentation was followed by an insightful discussion which was

partaken by prominent scholars and practitioners including Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Justice Dr Syed Muhammad Anwer, alim judge, Federal Shariat Court, Dr Muhammad Tahir Mansoori, former vice president, IIUI, Dr Atiqzafar Khan, dean, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Riphah Int'l University, Dr Anwar Shah, associate professor, School of Economics, Quaid-i-Azam University, Dr Tahir Hijazi, former vice chancellor, Muslim Youth University, Ghazala Ghalib, lecturer IIUI, and Naufil Shahrukh, GM operations, IPS. The session was moderated by Muhammad Wali Farooqi, research officer, IPS

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/sbps-policy-rate-bane-or-boon-for-pakistan/>

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### Experts call for fiscal ...

50 Years', co-organized by IPS and the Department of Law, Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi, at the latter's campus on October 18-19, 2023.

The conference was addressed on the first day, among others, by Justice Jawad Hassan, judge, Lahore High Court, Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Muhammad Akram Shaikh, senior advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Hamid Khan, senior advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan and author, Haroon-ur-Rashid, vice chairman, Pakistan Bar Council, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, senior advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan & former federal minister of law, Riffat Inam Butt, secretary, Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan, Justice Dr Syed Muhammad Anwer, judge, Federal Shariat Court, Dr Tamara Sonn, Georgetown University, Washington DC., Barrister Zafarullah Khan, senior advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan and former special assistant to the PM on law, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, and Professor Dr Fakh-ul-Islam, advisor research at IPS and former DG, Pakistan Study Centre, University of Peshawar.

The prominent speakers on the second day included Raja Zafar-ul-Haq, former senator, Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Owais Ahmed Ghani, former governor, Balochistan and KP, Amanullah Kanrani, Balochistan's interim law minister, Dr Saima Hamid, former vice chancellor, FJWU, Prof Dr Shoab Akhtar, dean, FJWU, Aftab Memon, former federal secretary, Ministry of Interprovincial Coordination, Inayatullah Khan, former minister for local governments, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Lt Gen (r) Naeem Khalid Lodhi, former federal minister for national security, Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, president, PILDAT (Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency), Prof Dr Aziz-ur-Rahman, director, School of Law, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Dr Nadia Khadam, head, Department of Law, FJWU, and Prof Dr Fakh-ul-Islam, advisor research at IPS.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-fjwu-conference-the-constitution-of-pakistan-lessons-for-the-next-50-years/>

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### IPS-QAU conference...

covering a diverse range of topics were also presented at the conference.

The participants included Justice Dr Syed Muhammad Anwer, judge, Federal Shariat Court, Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib, founder, Akhuwat Foundation, Saleem Ahmad Ranjha, founding director, Akhuwat Foundation, Zafar-ul-Hassan Almas, joint chief economist, Planning Commission, Dr Ridwan Bakar, chief executive officer, Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia, Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, vice chancellor QAU, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Dr Muhammad Idrees, dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, QAU, Dr Muhammad Tariq Majeed, conference chair and director, SoE, QAU, Dr Muhammad Salman Shaikh, associate professor, SZabist University, and Prof Anwar Shah, SoE, QAU, among others.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/1st-international-islamic-economics-and-development-conference/>

## Pak-Afghan inclusive commission mooted amid concerns over repatriation of illegal Afghans



Pakistan's move to repatriate illegal and undocumented immigrants has raised multifaceted concerns, particularly among Afghans, which should be addressed through a comprehensive approach. This necessitates the establishment of a commission comprising representatives from both governments, their civil society, and academic and religious communities.

Such a representative body can foster constructive engagement and cooperation to leverage the pull factors in Afghanistan and create incentives for Afghan refugees in other countries as a comprehensive approach.

This was discussed during an extended in-house session, 'Understanding Pakistan's Campaign to Evacuate Illegal Immigrants,' held at IPS on November 22, 2023.

The session, chaired by Khalid Rahman,

chairman, IPS, was addressed by Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, advisor, research and academic outreach, IPS, Dr Attaullah Wahidiyar, Afghanistan's former deputy minister for education, Naseer Ahmed Nawidy, head of Research Center, Salam University, Kabul, Haroon Khatibi, chairman, Humanitarian Assistance Society, Afghanistan, Salman Javed, director, Pak Afghan Youth Forum, Juma Khan Sufi, an expert on Pak-Afghan relations, Dr Farhat Taj, associate professor, University of Tromsø, Norway, Dr Sajid Iqbal, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), and senior journalists and experts on Pak-Afghan affairs Mehmood Jan Babar and Tahir Khan.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/understanding-pakistans-campaign-to-evacuate-illegal-immigrants/>

## Olive farming potential in Pakistan highlighted

Pakistan can become self-sufficient in edible oil within a decade if the immense potential of olive farming and millions of wild olive trees across Pakistan is realized. If harnessed to its full potential, indigenous olive oil production in the country can help save a staggering \$4.5 billion spent annually on importing edible oil and lead to a thriving olive export market.

This was observed during a discussion at IPS, organized on November 27, 2023, to shed light on Pakistan's expanding potential in olive cultivation.

The discussion, moderated by Naufil Shahrukh, GM operations, IPS, was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Dr Faiyaz Alam, general secretary, Dua Foundation, Shabbir Soomro, author and journalist, and Dr Ghuffran Saeed, assistant professor, Department of Food Science and Technology, University of Karachi.

Dr Faiyaz Alam and Shabbir Soomro have also recently co-authored a book on the history, status and potential of olive farming in Pakistan.

While introducing the work, *Pakistan Main Zaitoon Ki Kaasht – Tareekh, Tajruba, Aur Imkanaat*, Soomro highlighted that despite Pakistan having around 85 million wild olive trees, their full potential remains unexplored even by local people due to a lack of awareness and knowledge about the resource.



For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/olive-farming-potential-in-pakistan-highlighted/>

## True implementation of 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment can bridge integration gap of ex-FATA: Dr Farhat Taj



Implementation of the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment in letter and spirit stands as a transformative stride toward the integration of the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) into the national mainstream. This signifies a pivotal shift, heralding socio-political empowerment, representation for the region's populace, and strengthening Pakistan's management of ontological insecurities.

Dr Farhat Taj, associate professor, University of Tromsø, Norway, said this during a presentation and group discussion on her drafted research article, titled 'The 'Terrephilia Retributa' in Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations',

organized at IPS on December 27, 2023.

The presentation was followed by a discussion by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Farhatullah Babar, former senator, Dr Lutfur Rehman, an expert on FATA affairs, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar

Hussain, former ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan and vice chairman, IPS, Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, advisor research at IPS and former DG, Pakistan Study Centre, University of Peshawar, Ambassador (r) Ayaz Wazir, and Brig (r) Said Nazir, defense analyst.

In the context of the Pakistan-Afghanistan identity clash, the research article explores which state has 'better' ontological (in)security management routines.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/terrephilia-retributa-in-pakistan-afghanistan-relations/>

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### Quarter in Focus...

addressing a consultation forum on political finance in Pakistan, organized by PILDAT (Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency). The IPS' chairman also attended the nine-day Maritime Security Workshop 2023 (MARSEW-6) organized by Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC) in the given period.

The Institute hosted delegations from the 53<sup>rd</sup> PN Staff Course at Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC), Muslim Dialogue Network, Norway, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi, and Jamiatu Al Kauthar; whereas its various representatives were invited to talk about recent IPS' research studies on Islamic social finance and the impact of escalating power tariffs, as well as the issue of provincial laws concerning social protection of senior citizens.

Under IPS LEAD (Learning, Excellence and Development Program), among other activities, the third and concluding session with Ambassador (r) Abdul Salik Khan was held as part of its oral history initiative 'The Living Scripts'.

Apart from aforementioned publications, which are also available on Amazon and Kindle stores for worldwide readership, the Institute brought forth new issues of its journals *Policy Perspectives* and *Maghrib aur Islam*, whereas two policy briefs and two event reports were also published.

**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 at MARSEW-6**



Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman was invited to attend the Maritime Security Workshop 2023 (MARSEW-6), which was hosted and arranged by Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC) with the theme of 'Secure Seas – Prosperous Pakistan', from December 6-14, 2023. The sixth workshop of the series provided an opportunity to its participants to interact with academia, experts and decision makers

relevant to maritime security and blue economy, besides witnessing events at sea as well as operational visits to creeks and coastal areas. The 9-day workshop included three days academic session at PNWC, a day's visit to Naval Headquarters, Islamabad, and four-day field trip to Karachi, Gwadar, Ormara and creeks area.

The workshop also featured the soft launch of *Maritime Security: Challenges & Responses in a Changing World* - authored by Vice Admiral Ittikhar Ahmed Rao (retd) and recently published by IPS Press, the publishing arm of Institute of Policy Studies - on December 8, 2023.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/chairman-ips-at-marsew-6/>

**Kashmir issue discussed with OIC officials at ISSI**

IPS' Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, GM Operation Naufil Shahrukh, and Secretary General IPS-Working Group on Kashmir (IPS-WGK) and Former AJ&K minister Farzana Yaqoob, visited Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on October 11, 2023, to take part in a roundtable discussion with Ambassador Yousef Aldobeay, Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary General for Jammu and Kashmir/Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, who was accompanied by Ambassador Hassan Ali Hassan, director of legal department at the OIC, and other officials.



For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/kashmir-issue-discussed-with-oic-officials-at-issi/>

**'The Trajectory of US-China Relations and South Asia'**

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman attended and delivered a presentation in an international conference 'China-South Asia Cooperation and Geopolitical



Changes', hosted by the Center for South Asia-West China Cooperation and Development Studies (SAWCCAD), Sichuan University, in Chengdu, China, from November 9-12, 2023. Rahman, in his presentation 'The Trajectory of US-China Relations and South Asia', maintained that the relations between the US and China have become one of the defining features of international relations in recent times.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/south-asia-likely-to-remain-a-playground-for-the-us-and-chinas-strategic-competition-chairman-ips/>

**Chairman IPS attends moot on BRI legal cooperative framework in China**

In the spirit of building a community of shared destiny and inclusivity to meet the lawful rights and interests of all while integrating the economic, social, ecological, and security dimensions of global governance, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with its unique legal cooperative framework, China International Commercial Court, has set off the process of developing a new model of governance.

This was observed by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman during his keynote speech at the first China (Kashgar)-Central Asia & South Asia Legal Forum, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative in Kashgar City, Xinjiang, China, on October 29-31, 2023.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/chairman-ips-attends-moot-on-bri-legal-cooperation-in-china/>

**Hamas' attack was a result of seven decades of injustices and brutalities on Palestinians**

Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, delivered a keynote speech at a seminar titled 'The Palestine Issue and Possibilities for the Future', held at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Peshawar on November 4, 2023. Giving a history of the issue, he argued that the 7<sup>th</sup> October attack by Hamas did not happen in a vacuum; it was a reaction to injustices and brutalities that Palestinians suffered for seven decades.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/hamas-attack-was-a-result-of-seven-decades-of-injustices-and-brutalities-on-palestinians-vc-ips/>

**Israel flouts UN resolutions with impunity: VC-IPS**



VC-IPS Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain was invited by the Department of International Relations of Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology, Islamabad, on October 27, 2023, to speak at the session titled 'Israel-Palestine Conflict: Analyzing the Role of the UN in Conflict Resolution During Last 77 Years'.

Ambassador Abrar said that Israel used the UNGA Resolution 181 as a legal basis for its establishment in Palestine in 1948. However, once it was created, it started flouting the UN resolutions with impunity and any UNSC resolution critical of Israel is vetoed by the US.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/israel-seems-to-flout-un-resolutions-on-palestine-with-impunity-ambassador-abrar-hussain/>

**Pakistan must clearly outline its refugee policy: VC-IPS**

Pakistan has the legal right to deport all those staying in the country illegally and this right cannot be contested. However, the issue of illegal Afghans should be addressed through a comprehensive approach. For that, it is pertinent that Pakistan should outline its refugee policy clearly.

This was viewed by Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, in a roundtable discussion on 'Afghan Refugees and Illegal Migrants: Problems and the Way Forward', held at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, on December 29, 2023.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistan-must-clearly-outline-its-refugee-policy-amb-abrar-hussain/>

**Middle East will not be the same after the Israel-Hamas escalation: Amb (r) Abrar**

IPS was represented by its Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain and Research Officer Usama Hameed in an online discussion titled 'Spotlight: Palestine Issue', organized by Youth Intelligentsia on November 1, 2023.

Ambassador Abrar Hussain analyzed the Middle Eastern politics and regional scenario in context of the escalation of Israel in Gaza. Particularly focusing on the response from Arab governments, he stressed that the Middle East will not be the same after the recent standoff between Israel and Hamas.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/middle-east-will-not-be-the-same-after-the-recent-standoff-between-israel-and-hamas-amb-abrar-hussain/>

## 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.

### Participants of 53<sup>rd</sup> PN Staff Course at Pakistan Navy War College visit IPS

Participants of the 53<sup>rd</sup> PN Staff Course at Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC), Lahore, visited IPS on October 4, 2023, to gain exposure to independent think tanks and their role in the contemporary world and in enhancing strategic capabilities.

The delegation of 79 officers, headed by Commodore Ehsan Ahmed Khan SI(M), comprised faculty members of PNWC and participant officers of the Staff Course.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/participants-of-53rd-pn-staff-course-at-pakistan-navy-war-college-visit-ips/>



### Muslim minorities in the West need coordinated responses to counteract negative portrayal

In today's highly interconnected globalized world, the actions of fringe elements within a society can have far-reaching consequences for that community extending beyond geographical boundaries. Thus, it becomes imperative for Muslim societies to cultivate better organization and cohesion.

By doing so, communities can effectively counteract the negative portrayals stemming from the actions of a few, promoting a more accurate understanding of the diverse nature of societies and Islam across the globe. This approach not only enhances internal unity but also contributes to a more harmonious global discourse.

This was observed during an interactive discussion on the 'Role and Status of Religious Minorities in Pakistan', with the Muslim Dialogue Network (MDN), an umbrella organization for Islamic religious communities in Norway, organized at IPS on November 13, 2023.



The visiting delegation included Senaid Kobilica, chairman of MDN, Arshad Jamil, board member, MDN, Islamic Cultural Centre (ICC), Sajid Raheem, manager, MDN, Faruk Terzic, a Bosnian imam, Saleemullah Aliva, imam, ICC, Soliman Kandrouch, board member, Rahma Islamic Association, Ikhlāq Ahmad, operational manager, ICC, Femi Baftii, representative, Albanian mosque, and Mian Waqas Waheed, coordinator, MDN Tour 2023.

### IPS highlights intricacies of provincial laws concerning the social protection of senior citizens



responsibility, community engagement, and a multi-faceted legal framework.

This was highlighted by Syed Nadeem Farhat, senior research fellow at IPS, while representing the institute at the two-day national seminar on 'Ageing and Inclusive Development in Pakistan', which was organized by the Ministry of Human Rights in collaboration with HelpAge International on November 23-24, 2023. Muneeba Rasikh and Maryam Ihsan, junior researchers at IPS also attended the forum.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-highlights-intricacies-of-provincial-laws-concerning-the-social-protection-of-senior-citizens/>

To ensure the holistic well-being of the elderly, it is imperative to uphold the dignity and rights of senior citizens while advocating for familial

### LEJA seminar reverberates the findings of IPS' study on escalating power tariffs and their impact



The Lahore Economic Journalists Association (LEJA) organized a seminar at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on November 6, 2023, addressing the pressing issue of the surging

power tariffs and their far-reaching impact on consumers' affordability, distribution companies (DISCOs) recoveries, and the burgeoning circular debt crisis, to discuss a recent IPS' study titled 'Impact of Increase in Electricity Prices on Consumer Behavior'.

The seminar was addressed by Senior IPS Associate and member, IPS' Energy Steering Committee Ameena Sohail, Hafiz Muhammad Numan, chairman, Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) board, Tahir Basharat Cheema, energy expert and former MD of Pakistan Electric Power Company (PEPCO), Shahid Haider, CEO, LESCO, Imran Rana, director communications, K-Electric, Kashif Anwar, president, LCCI, and Muhammad Sudhir Chaudhry, president of LEJA.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/leja-seminar-reverberates-the-findings-of-ips-study-on-escalating-power-tariffs-and-impact/>

### IPS' study on Islamic social finance presented at IBA-CIEF

Dr Salman Ahmed Shaikh, associate professor, SZABIST and IPS' Non-Resident Fellow participated in a working group meeting of experts in Islamic social finance, which was hosted by Institute of Business Administration (IBA)'s Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance, Karachi, on November 16, 2023.

The session was chaired by Justice Dr Syed Mohammad Anwer, aalim judge, Federal Shariat Court and member IPS-National Academic Council.



For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-study-on-islamic-social-finance-presented-at-iba-cief/>

### Reforms mandatory as shortcomings in Pakistan's electoral system make it inherently vulnerable

Reforming Pakistan's electoral system stands as an important step towards fostering a more accountable, transparent, and genuinely representative electoral framework. Pakistan's electoral system has to be reformed to address problems arising from the ambiguity and lack of transparency surrounding campaign spending, the proliferation of political parties, and the system of electables.

This was opined by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman while addressing the 'Consultation Forum on Political Finance in Pakistan', organized by PILDAT (Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency), in collaboration with the UNDP Pakistan, under its Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes, on November 28, 2023.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/reforms-mandatory-as-shortcomings-in-pakistans-electoral-system-make-it-inherently-vulnerable-chairman-ips/>

## 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.

### FJWU law students enlightened about research gaps in legal studies and actual practice

The overarching objective of any research process should be directed towards the advancement of society and fostering positive societal transformation. For this, it is important to cultivate research culture as an integral aspect of the collective national mindset.

This was observed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, during an interactive session with the law students of Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi, held at IPS on November 30, 2023.

The Brainstorming Research Ideas session held under the IPS LEAD – the Learning, Excellence and Development program of Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), aimed to provide law researchers with the opportunity to brainstorm their research areas with senior experts and practitioners in legal studies.

The delegation, headed by Dr Nadia Khadam,



assistant professor, Department of Law, FJWU, comprised students from the final year of the LLB program writing their research proposals.

The session was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and Dr Fakhul-Islam, advisor, research and academic outreach, IPS.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/fjwu-law-students-enlightened-over-research-gaps-in-legal-studies-and-the-actual-practice/>

### Exploration of innovative, pragmatic research avenues stressed before the students of Jamiatu Al Kauthar



Knowledge economy is the key for economic development, and one of its essential pillars is the innovation in research endeavors. To achieve this objective, scholars need to explore new research avenues that have practical applicability today and will remain relevant in the

future. In this regard, partnerships between educational institutions and research organizations, such as think tanks, can benefit both entities.

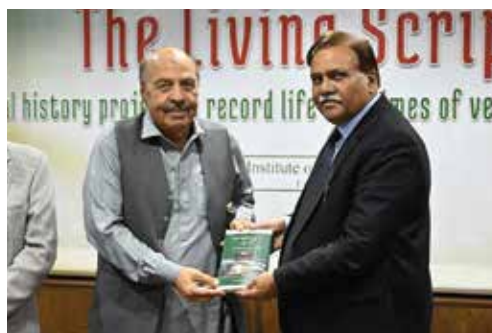
This was highlighted during a session held with a delegation of students of Jamiatu Al Kauthar, an Islamic institute providing a mixture of religious and contemporary education, led by Dr Muntazir Mehdi, head of the Department of English, who visited IPS on December 6, 2023. The session, designed to provide an enriching exposure opportunity to the young scholars, was addressed by Dr Fakhul-Islam, advisor, Research and Academic Outreach, IPS, and Syed Nadeem Farhat, research fellow, IPS.

For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/exploration-of-innovative-pragmatic-research-avenues-stressed-before-the-students-of-jamiatu-al-kauthar/>

### The Living Scripts | Ambassador (r) Abdul Salik Khan

Aimed at acquiring tacit knowledge from experienced practitioners of the public sector and imparting it to the audience as food for thought, IPS LEAD – the learning, excellence and development program of IPS is organizing a series of sessions titled 'The Living Scripts'. The idea behind the initiative is to pursue accomplished personalities and eminent individuals of national stature, providing them a window to share invaluable experiences and knowledge from their personal and professional lives. The sitting held within this quarter was the second and concluding one with Ambassador (r) Abdul Salik Khan, Pakistan's former ambassador to Kazakhstan and Indonesia, on December 11, 2023.



For further details, visit:

<https://www.ips.org.pk/ips-lead/the-living-scripts/>

### Each individual holds a role in steering Pakistan towards a better future: Chairman IPS

It's time to cultivate a culture of self-improvement and collective growth as each individual holds a role in steering Pakistan towards a better future.

This was said by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, during an interactive session held with Positive Pakistan on December 3, 2023.

In his speech, Khalid Rahman emphasized that solutions to weaknesses in Pakistan are rooted in national strengths, requiring sustained efforts and preparedness. This encompasses being vigilant, identifying threats, mitigating them, taking action, and promoting and building on inherent strengths.

### Lectures on 'Self-Management' and 'The Ideology of Pakistan'



Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman and Dr Fakhul-Islam, advisor, Research and Academic Outreach at IPS, delivered lectures on the topics of 'Self-Management' and 'The Ideology of Pakistan and Current

Situation' on December 21 and 27 respectively, at the National Teachers' Workshop organized by Dawah Academy, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

### IPS TV | New Videos

[www.youtube.com/ipstv](http://www.youtube.com/ipstv)

- ▶ The Constitution of Pakistan: Lessons for the Next 50 Years | Justice Jawad Hassan
- ▶ The Constitution of Pakistan: Deliberating Next 50 Years for a Rule-Based Polity
- ▶ Operationalizing the Constitution: The Role of Executive | Dr Syed M Anwer
- ▶ Legislation and Interpretation: Achieving a Balance in Legislature-Judiciary Relations
- ▶ The Constitution of Pakistan: Lessons for Next 50 Years | Haroon-ur-Rashid
- ▶ Democracy and Public Representation in a Muslim Polity | Dr Tamara Sonn
- ▶ Durand Line as an internationally recognized border is indisputable | Dr Lutfur Rehman
- ▶ State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) Policy Rate: Bane or Boon for Pakistan?
- ▶ Potential of olive farming in Pakistan
- ▶ Pakistan mai Zaitoon ki Kaasht | Dr Faiyaz Alam
- ▶ Pakistan main Zaitoon ki Kaasht | Dr Ghufuran Saeed
- ▶ Pakistan mai Zaitoon ki Kaasht | Shabbir Soomro

Visit IPS TV for more videos

**Publications**

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

**Policy Perspectives (Volume 20, Issue 1, 2023)**



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

**Research Articles**

■ The Challenge of Governance and Public Representation in Pakistan: How

Electoral System Matters?  
- Khalid Rahman, Chairman, IPS.

■ Civil-Military Relationship in a Democratic Pakistan  
- Muhammad Yunas Khan, PhD, Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Islamabad; Practicing criminologist with specialization in political economy of trans-border crimes, and Mubashar H. Jaffari, PhD, Peace and Conflict Studies, Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan; Educationist.

■ Decentralization of Environmental Governance in Pakistan and its Impact on Sustainable Development  
- Khalid Farooq Akbar, PhD, Environmentalist; Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist, Punjab Human Capital Investment Project (PHCIP)-World Bank, Lahore, Pakistan.

■ Pakistan's External Debt: Unsustainability and the Required Approach  
- Muhammad Sikandar Ali Chaudary, PhD scholar, International Relations, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.

■ Chinese Investments in Maritime Sectors of Oman and UAE: Transitioning Realities  
- Muhammad Jawad Akhter, Commodore (retd.), Maritime Affairs & Public Policy Expert.

**Book Reviews**

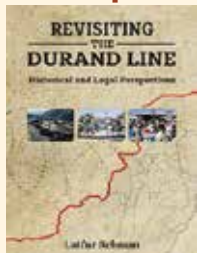
■ Iskander Mirza: Pakistan's First Elected President's Memoirs from Exile

■ Economics and Economic Policy – Islamic Perspective

**Dialogue at IPS**

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/policy-perspectives/>

**Revisiting the Durand Line: Historical and Legal Perspectives**



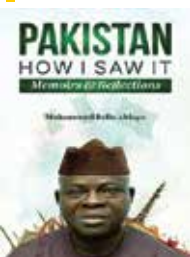
Author: Lutfur Rehman  
Binding: Hardback  
Pages: 261  
Language: English  
Year: 2023

This book focuses on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border dispute which has been a source of tension between

the two countries for more than seven decades. This research is unique in the sense that it contains all the original maps which were exchanged in Kabul in November 1893 following the border agreement between the ruler of Afghanistan Ameer Abdur Rahman Khan and British Indian official Mortimer Durand.

For more details and orders:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/revisiting-the-durand-line-historical-and-legal-perspectives/>

**Pakistan: How I Saw It | Memoirs and Reflections**



Author: Mohammed Bello Abioye  
Binding: Paperback  
Pages: 143  
Language: English  
Year: 2023

This monograph recounts Ambassador Mohammed Bello Abioye's encounters and interactions with Pakistani officials and

stakeholders at all levels as part of his diplomatic duties. It also describes notable aspects of Pakistan, such as the patriotism and nationalism

of its people, society, form of government, political structures, judiciary, electoral processes, and civil service, among other features. The book also elaborates on the economy and discusses the state of infrastructure development. It then delves into the domestic and geostrategic issues that define Pakistan's unique circumstances, touching upon various challenges and opportunities and what lies ahead for the nation. Overall, this monograph aims to provide a fresh perspective on Pakistan, dispelling myths and offering a more nuanced understanding of the country.

For more details and orders:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistan-how-i-saw-it-memoirs-and-reflections/>

**Maghrib aur Islam: Hijab, Ablagh aur Muslim Shanakht (Issue No. 49)**



Editor: Dr Anis Ahmad  
Volume: 24  
Issue: 49  
Language: Urdu  
Pages: 207

The discriminatory and prejudiced behavior of European nationalists towards Muslim women is not only a violation of the basic rights of Muslim

women but also a defiance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948). Those who oppose such conflicts and human degradation remain silent spectators, but it is also true that within the West, there exists a class critical of the growing bias. The research articles included in this collection reflect the perspective of Western thinkers.

These articles indicate that Muslim immigrant women living in the West and local neo-Muslim women are being subjected to psychological, physical, cultural and religious violence through electronic and media channels due to Islamophobia. In these articles, the negative social, economic, academic, emotional and cultural effects of this aggression have been examined from a research point of view.

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/maghrib-aur-islam-hijab-ablagh-aur-muslim-shanakht-issue-no-49/>

**RESEARCH**

**CPEC – 10 Years and On**

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/cpec-10-years-and-on-2/>

**Commemorating 50 Years of the Constitution of Pakistan: Lessons for the Next 50 Years**

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/commemorating-50-years-of-the-constitution-of-pakistan-lessons-for-the-next-50-years/>

**Revitalizing Waqf for Effective and Sustainable Delivery of Social Protection in Pakistan**

For further details, visit:  
<https://www.ips.org.pk/revitalizing-waqf-for-effective-and-sustainable-delivery-of-social-protection-in-pakistan/>

**Exploring the Intricate Dynamics between Tradition, Modernity and the Muslim Epistemology**

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



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