

# IPS NEWS

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## Quarter in Focus

International affairs, particularly those involving Muslim communities, remained at the center of the Institute's work, as various issues and challenges faced by the Muslim world formed the core of its deliberations in the given period.

The dynamics of the upcoming elections in India were analyzed in a roundtable session in light of a decade-long BJP rule in the country, whereas the ongoing inhuman atrocities in Palestine and Gaza were contemplated in two separate sessions through the lens of emerging world order, as well as in light of the role that the Muslim world needs to play in this regard.

IPS also assembled a gathering of distinguished speakers to pay tribute to the services of Dr Ayub Thakur, an iconic figure of the Kashmir's freedom struggle. The visionary leader was also commemorated by two of his contemporaries, Professor Khurshid Ahmad and Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai in their blogs, which are available on IPS' websites.

The escalation between Iran and Pakistan, too, came under the spot light, as experts advised them to mitigate their differences and strengthen bilateral ties. In another discussion, increased production of Islamic-centric knowledge was stressed to address the modern challenges faced by the Muslim societies around the globe.

The Institute launched a special forum to study bills, laws and enactments on socio-legal issues that will be introduced by the newly formed government in Pakistan during its tenure; while the legal and administrative frameworks for ensuring human rights in Pakistan, especially w.r.t children rights, were also discussed at length separately.

IPS also collaborated with the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in the launch of a recent IPS Press publication *Maritime Security: Challenges and Responses in a Changing World*, authored by Vice Admiral (retd.) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao.

A dialogue on tackling huge government debts, interest costs and inflation in Pakistan proposed full reserve banking as a potential solution. The discussion resulted in the formation of a dedicated working group to study the proposed model, of which two meetings were convened in the period.

IPS was represented by its chairman, vice chairman, and advisor for research and academic outreach in various external sessions held on the topics like pre-election landscape in Pakistan, Pak-Iran relations, Pak-Afghan ties, challenges to the family structure, etc. The Institute also signed a MoU with the Chongqing Institute of Global Affairs to cooperate in the area of scientific research.

The Institute's research work produced two briefs on Pakistan's fishing vessels and the country's IT policy landscape, alongside a paper titled 'Great Power Competition and Collaboration: Navigating Indian Ocean Region', written by Chairman IPS, which was published in a Chinese Journal *Indian Ocean Economic and Political Review* (vol. 60. No. 1, 2024). Apart from these, a fresh issue of IPS' periodical *Nuqta-e-Nazar*, and a reprinted title *Iranian Revolution: A Profile* also hit the racks.



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

It is high time that Pakistan takes decisive steps towards developing its maritime policy to respond proactively to increasing Indo-Pacific geopolitical complexities and harness the potential of its coastlines. Pakistan must also prioritize its internal coherence, align its national priorities, and create awareness among the masses about the maritime domain.

This was highlighted by panelists 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 the Prime Minister for Maritime Affairs, and published by IPS Press - the publishing arm of Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad. The event was organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad in collaboration with IPS on February 1, 2024.

The session was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ambassador (r) Nadeem Riyaz, president, IRS, Dr Qamar Cheema, executive director, Sanobar Institute,

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## 'Democracy in India: New Dynamics & Evolving Scenario'

While several South Asian countries are holding elections, the results of the upcoming Indian elections will significantly impact the country within and beyond its national borders. Concerns arise as the BJP eyes a third term, with potential repercussions including further escalation in Hindu fundamentalism and compromises on the rule of law. Besides, the results will also wield a substantial influence on regional dynamics and redefine India's interactions with its neighbors.

This was observed during a roundtable 'Democracy in India: New Dynamics & Evolving Scenario', held at IPS on January 30, 2024.

This roundtable was the first of a series of discussions being held to understand the decade of Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) rule,

marked by enormous changes in socio-political outlook and policy shifts, and navigate the future course to which India is heading in the backdrop of its upcoming general elections.

The roundtable, chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, was addressed by Dr Mujeeb Afzal, author and associate professor, School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, Dr Farooq Adil, author and journalist, Iftikhar Gilani, journalist,

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Dr Mujeeb Afzal

Dr Farooq Adil

## Study group launched to review government's bills and laws on socio-legal issues

The next government should make and amend laws that could affect the cohesiveness of the society and family, keeping the country's social fabric, national character, and religious subtleties in view while fulfilling its international commitments.

This was observed at the launch event of 'Study Group on Socio-legal Legislation' – a dynamic forum established by IPS to generate debate and offer indigenous policy options for viable legislation in the country.

The forum, intended to cultivate a pool of researchers for impactful contributions to the policymaking process, comprises law practitioners, academics, religious scholars, and

social activists.

This initiative aims to engage with stakeholders on socio-legal issues in an unbiased, constructive, and result-oriented manner. The group will convene periodically to deliberate upon various aspects of enactments and bills to form a coherent narrative for the policymakers, opinion makers, and common citizens, with expected outcomes in the form of policy inputs and legislative reviews.

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## Iran, Pakistan need to mitigate differences to avoid any future clash

Iran and Pakistan have preferred rationality over emotions, which will strengthen their historical brotherly ties; otherwise, their adversaries could manipulate any disturbance in their relations. Now, both countries should focus on mitigating their differences to avoid further conflicts, as any escalation in the future will only promote instability while putting the whole region at risk.



These were the views expressed by experts at a meeting held on January 18, 2024 to understand the situation around the unfortunate escalation on Pakistan's western frontier. The meeting was attended by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, prominent security analyst Brigadier (r) Said Nazir, and Syed Abrar Hussain, Pakistan's former ambassador to Afghanistan and vice chairman IPS, among others.

The participants unanimously said Islamabad's position was justified, stressing that Tehran should have pursued alternative diplomatic and political channels to address any concerns. Both friendly countries must work to activate peaceful problem-solving mechanisms to avoid a worst-case scenario.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/iran-and-pakistan-need-to-mitigate-differences-to-avoid-any-future-clash-experts-emphasize/](http://www.ips.org.pk/iran-and-pakistan-need-to-mitigate-differences-to-avoid-any-future-clash-experts-emphasize/)

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## Book Launch | Maritime Security...

Dr Nazir Hussain, former dean, School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Rear Admiral (r) Syed Faisal Ali Shah, and moderated by Dr Salma Malik, associate professor, QAU. The event brought a distinguished group of speakers and scholars together.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/ips-irs-book-launch-maritime-security-challenges-responses-in-a-changing-world/](http://www.ips.org.pk/ips-irs-book-launch-maritime-security-challenges-responses-in-a-changing-world/)

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## 'Democracy in India...

Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Prof Dr Fakhir-ul-Islam, advisor research and academic outreach, IPS, legal experts, scholars, and journalists.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/democracy-in-india-new-dynamics-evolving-scenarios/](http://www.ips.org.pk/democracy-in-india-new-dynamics-evolving-scenarios/)

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## Study group launched...

The maiden meeting of the study group, held on January 31, 2024, was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Prof Dr Shahzad Iqbal Sham, constitutionalist and law commentator, Syed Nadeem Farhat, senior researcher, IPS, Dr Shagufta Umar, director, Women Aid Trust, Khalid Naeem, member, National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCR), Asma Mushtaq, advocate Supreme Court, and other participants, including law practitioners, academics, ulema, and social activists.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/ips-launches-study-group-to-review-new-governments-bills-and-laws-on-socio-legal-issues/](http://www.ips.org.pk/ips-launches-study-group-to-review-new-governments-bills-and-laws-on-socio-legal-issues/)

## 'Kashmir and Global Conscience: A Discussion in the Light of Dr Ayub Thakur's Life and Services'

The freedom of Kashmir, its association with Pakistan, and the eminence of Islam are three aspects of one reality, the struggle for which must continue. This was the vision of Dr Muhammad Ayub Thakur, whose impact on strengthening the Kashmir movement at the global level has been more profound than any individual or group effort.

This was put in words by Professor Khurshid Ahmad, veteran politician, economist, and patron-in-chief of IPS, who commemorated Dr Ayub Thakur, Kashmiri political activist and founder of London-based World Kashmir Freedom Movement (WKFM), on the occasion of his 20<sup>th</sup> death anniversary on March 10.

A hybrid seminar, titled 'Kashmir and Global Conscience: A Discussion in the Light of Dr Ayub Thakur's Life and Services', was held at IPS on March 7, 2024, to remember the iconic figure of Kashmir freedom struggle.

The seminar was addressed by a distinguished group of scholars and experts, including Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Prof Dr Fakhir-ul-Islam, advisor, research and



academic outreach, IPS, Muzzammil Ayyub Thakur, president WKFM and son of late Dr Ayub Thakur, Victoria Schofield, historian and author, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, convener, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, Advocate Nasir Qadri, director, Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK), Abdur Rashid Turabi, leader of Jamaat-e-Islami AJK, Mahmood Ahmad Saghar, convener APHC-AJK chapter, Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai, secretary general, World Kashmir Awareness Forum (WKAF), and Dr Ghulam Ahmad Mir, president WKAF.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/kashmir-and-global-conscience-a-discussion-in-the-light-of-dr-ayub-thakurs-life-and-services/](http://www.ips.org.pk/kashmir-and-global-conscience-a-discussion-in-the-light-of-dr-ayub-thakurs-life-and-services/)

## 'The War on Gaza: Dynamics in the Red Sea'

The Gaza conflict is not merely politically rooted but fundamentally humanitarian, with a collective responsibility of the Muslim world to provide support through a unified response at all levels. The Palestine crisis requires not just expressions of solidarity but cohesive and collective strength of Muslim Ummah.

This was observed by Dr Ateq Al Garbi, an expert on Yemen-Gulf affairs and the executive director of the Mokha Center for Strategic Studies, Turkiye, during a session on 'The War on Gaza: Dynamics in the Red Sea', held at IPS on March 4, 2024.

The session, chaired by Brigadier (r) Said Nazir, was joined by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Prof Dr Fakhir-ul-Islam, Prof Dr Shahzad Iqbal Sham, Prof Dr Tughrul Yamin, and others.

The evolving dynamics of the century-old Palestine crisis have resulted in the loss of



tens of thousands of lives and the displacement of millions. Despite its Islamic significance, efforts to unite against Israel and its allies are hindered by divisions within the Muslim world, especially among Arab states. The Muslim world remains fragmented while their adversaries are finding common ground.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/the-war-on-gaza-dynamics-in-the-red-sea/](http://www.ips.org.pk/the-war-on-gaza-dynamics-in-the-red-sea/)

## 'Gaza, Emerging World Order, and American Politics'



There has been a remarkable upsurge in activism among the Muslim population in the US following the Israeli aggression against Gaza, specifically in efforts to raise awareness and support for the Palestinian cause. The conflict has ignited a strong sense of urgency and unity among the Muslims, and, as a result, their voices are increasingly being heard,

which has strengthened the community. This is also evident in the display of solidarity of the general American public towards Muslims in support of this cause.

This emerged during a discussion titled 'Gaza, Emerging World Order, and American Politics' by Dr Zahid Bukhari, Pakistani American political analyst and former director, American-Muslim Studies Program at Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

The session held on January 12, 2024 was also partaken by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, and Dr Fakhir-ul-Islam, advisor, research & academic outreach at IPS.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/gaza-emerging-world-order-and-american-politics](http://www.ips.org.pk/gaza-emerging-world-order-and-american-politics)

## 'Decolonization of Education: An Islamic Perspective'



during a lecture on 'Decolonization of Education: An Islamic Perspective', held on February 23, 2024. Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman and a number of scholars attended the session.

Addressing modern challenges demands a transformative shift towards the system of knowledge production centered on Islamic epistemological foundations. This reorientation requires collective efforts from educators, policymakers, and communities to foster an Islamic knowledge paradigm, prioritizing the practical application of Qur'anic teachings. This was observed by Prof Dr Asad Zaman, former vice chancellor Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad,

In a world where Western knowledge is often heralded as the sole path to progress, Muslim societies are facing a deep and difficult dilemma. Despite the Qur'an's revolutionary message and the rich intellectual tradition of Islam, many Muslims find themselves unable to harness this knowledge to address modern challenges. This struggle is largely due to the historical colonization of knowledge over the past two centuries.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/decolonization-of-education-an-islamic-perspective/](http://www.ips.org.pk/decolonization-of-education-an-islamic-perspective/)

## Full reserve banking proposed to resolve Pakistan's huge debt servicing problem

Pakistan's huge debt servicing problem can be resolved through full reserve banking, which will eliminate high inflation, government debt, and interest costs. Full reserve banking represents a transformative shift toward financial stability, economic growth, and inclusive prosperity; it has a clear overlap with the principles of Islamic economics and the true foundations of Islamic banking.

This was proposed by Qanit Khalil, chartered accountant and economic analyst, during a roundtable 'A Solution for Tackling Huge Government Debt, Interest Costs, and Inflation in Pakistan: Full Reserve Banking Model' held on January 26, 2024.

The session was also addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Tahir Hijazi, former member Planning Commission, and economists and financial experts.

In his proposal to address Pakistan's economic challenges, Qanit Khalil advocated adopting full reserve banking as a transformative solution with far-reaching implications. He said



that a staggering 60 percent of government revenue is currently allocated to interest payments, fueled by increased expenditure on debt servicing from less than Rs200 billion in 2003-04 to a staggering Rs7,300 billion in 2023-24. Out of this, 90 percent of interest costs are for servicing domestic loans and not foreign loans.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/a-solution-for-tackling-huge-government-debt-interest-costs-and-inflation-in-pakistan-full-reserve-banking-model/](http://www.ips.org.pk/a-solution-for-tackling-huge-government-debt-interest-costs-and-inflation-in-pakistan-full-reserve-banking-model/)

## Legal implementation, institutional strengthening needed to advance human rights in Pakistan

It is the responsibility of the state and its institutions to ensure the protection and preservation of human rights. This involves creating a conducive environment at all levels by enacting and enforcing laws, providing essential services, and capacity building of government institutions, law enforcement agencies, judiciary, and civil society organizations.

This was noted by Khalid Naem, senior member, National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), while delivering a presentation on human rights framework during a session titled 'Legal and Administrative Frameworks for Monitoring and Implementation of Human Rights in Pakistan, with a Specific Reference to the Rights of the Child' held on March 6, 2024.

The session was joined by Syed Nadeem Farhat, research fellow, IPS, Prof Dr Shahzad Iqbal Sham, senior research associate, IPS, Dr Yasir Aman ASC, Sehrish Saba Raja, advocate, and others.



The session was organized under the Study Group on Socio-legal Legislation, a dynamic forum established by IPS to generate debate and offer indigenous policy options for viable legislation in the country.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/legal-administrative-frameworks-for-monitoring-implementation-of-hr-in-pakistan/](http://www.ips.org.pk/legal-administrative-frameworks-for-monitoring-implementation-of-hr-in-pakistan/)

## IPS' Working Group on Full Reserve Banking

The inaugural meeting of newly formed IPS' working group on Full Reserve Banking was convened at the Institute on February 20 and 24, 2024 in two sittings, addressing Pakistan's economic hurdles, particularly focusing on internal debt and interest payments, underscoring the potential of full reserve banking as a solution to alleviate Pakistan's economic woes.

Chaired by Qanit Khalilullah, a chartered accountant and economic analyst, the meeting was participated by a diverse group of participants including Dr Anwar



Shah from School of Economics, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Dr Ghazala Ghalib from International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Dr Tahir Hijazi, former vice chancellor, MY University, Muzammil Azeem, assistant director, State Bank of Pakistan, Haris Abdullah from the School of Economics, QAU, Jamal Anees, Helping Hand, Ali Salman, founder and executive director, PRIME, Dr Mudeer Khattak, assistant professor, Iqra University, Islamabad, Shoaib Ahmad, assistant manager, Central Power Purchasing Agency (Guarantee) Limited, Uzair Abdul Saboor, manager, APRSP, Dr Khalid Abbasi, assistant professor, Bahria University, Islamabad, Abdullah Adnan, senior research fellow, IPS, Muhammad Wali Farooqi, research officer, IPS, Najib Ullah Yousafzai, a PhD student from the School of Economics, QAU, Saarim Ghazi, head, Sharia Compliance, Silk Bank, Muhammad Umair, Jamal Bashir, Sohaib Khalil, Syed Umer Amaduddin and Waleed Abdullah Abbasi.

The second meeting of the working group on Full Reserve Banking was held on March 9, 2024, aiming to delve into potential stakeholder queries surrounding full reserve and debt-free banking model and its implementation. The meeting chaired by Qanit Khalilullah was attended by Dr Tahir Hijazi, former vice chancellor, MY University, Dr Ghazala Ghalib, lecturer, Department of Shariah & Law, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), Abdul Rab, chartered accountant, Haris Abdullah, School of Economics, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), and IPS team members Arif Jamshed and Muhammad Wali Farooqi.

Khalil, on the occasion, provided insights into the role of private banks in money creation within Pakistan's existing banking framework.

His presentation was followed by a robust discussion on strategies to swiftly address Pakistan's domestic debt leveraging the full reserve banking model. Moreover, the anticipated impact of the model on business funding accessibility post-implementation was also discussed at length.

## 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.

### Pakistan's pre-election landscape discussed

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman was invited to share his insights in an online roundtable discussion titled 'Decoding Pakistan's Pre-Election Landscape', held as part of 'Asia in Review' webinar series on elections in 2024, organized by the German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG) on February 7, 2024.

Sharing his insights into the then upcoming 2024 general elections in Pakistan, Rahman highlighted three factors contributing to the perceived decrease in election campaigning: firstly, the



prevailing uncertainty surrounding the scheduled election date; secondly, the focus on political and legal struggle between the main contending parties over the past two years, which could be seen as part of the campaigning itself, and thirdly, the significant role played by social media platforms, which escalated the ongoing narrative tussle between the leading parties to its peak.

This influence of social media was unprecedented, he stressed, as in previous elections, such impactful use of social media platforms was either non-existent, or it was still in its early stages.

For further details, visit:  
[www.ips.org.pk/chairman-ips-at-cpg-roundtable-pakistans-pre-election-landscape-discussed/](http://www.ips.org.pk/chairman-ips-at-cpg-roundtable-pakistans-pre-election-landscape-discussed/)

### 'Good Governance for Socio-Economic Development'

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman delivered a lecture on the topic of 'Good Governance for Socio-Economic Development' at Akhtar Hameed Khan-National Centre for Rural Development (AHK-NCRD) on January 2, 2024.



Prof Dr Fakhru-Allah Khan addressing a book launching ceremony at Pakistan Academy of Letters, Islamabad. (February 2, 2024)

### IPS, Chongqing Institute of Global Affairs to cooperate in scientific research



Aiming to open doors for mutual cooperation in the area of scientific research, IPS penned down a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chongqing Institute of Global Affairs (CIGA) – the first non-profit independent think tank for

international studies located in Chongqing, China – on March 20, 2024.

The MoU was signed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and Li Jijun, the president of Chongqing Higher Education Culture Exchange Co., Ltd., on behalf of its Chongqing Institute of Global Affairs.

Effective for an initial period of five years and extendable thereafter, the agreement will pave way for both institutions to collaborate in writing research papers, facilitate exchange visits, and co-organize dialogues and discussions pertaining to the areas of scientific research.

For further details, visit:  
[www.ips.org.pk/ips-chongqing-institute-of-global-affairs-to-cooperate-in-scientific-research/](http://www.ips.org.pk/ips-chongqing-institute-of-global-affairs-to-cooperate-in-scientific-research/)

### Pak-Iran collaboration critical to mitigate security risks, harness mutual growth: VC-IPS

The stability of Pak-Iran relations holds much significance for regional dynamics. By prioritizing collaboration in mutually concerned areas, both countries can harness their respective strengths and resources to address common challenges and unlock new opportunities for shared growth and development.

This was said by Vice Chairman IPS Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, who was speaking on the theme of 'Pakistan and its Western Frontiers' at the 'National Conference on Security and Foreign Policy', jointly held by Sanobar Institute (SI), The Millennium Universal College (TMUC), Islamabad, and Centre for Law and Security (CLAS) on January 17, 2024.

Ambassador Abrar emphasized that both neighboring countries can foster mutual benefits and contribute to regional stability by developing cooperation in three areas i.e. border security, energy, and trade. Enhanced cooperation in

border management, intelligence sharing, and joint border patrols can help mitigate security risks. Moreover, Iran possesses vast reserves of natural gas, presenting an opportunity for Pakistan to meet its energy needs through imports. However, the challenge lies in navigating US sanctions on Iran, which restricts international transactions with the country.



For further details, visit:  
[www.ips.org.pk/pak-iran-collaboration-critical-to-mitigate-security-risks-harness-mutual-growth-vc-ips/](http://www.ips.org.pk/pak-iran-collaboration-critical-to-mitigate-security-risks-harness-mutual-growth-vc-ips/)

### Reconnection with fundamental values stressed to navigate global changes in the family structure

The solution to global changes to family structure lies in returning to the Islamic paradigm of life which entails self-introspection and reconnection with fundamental values and social principles. Amidst the ever-changing family landscape shaped by science, technology, and modern paradigms, questions surrounding self-identity, life purpose, and societal needs must be introspected.

This was noted by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, while speaking at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Islamic Studies 2024 on 'Family System and Contemporary Challenges', held at Riphah International University (RIU), Islamabad, on March 03, 2024. The conference aimed to address and explore various aspects

related to the evolving dynamics and issues faced by traditional family structures.



For further details, visit:  
[www.ips.org.pk/reconnecting-with-fundamental-values-necessary-to-navigate-global-changes-in-family-structure/](http://www.ips.org.pk/reconnecting-with-fundamental-values-necessary-to-navigate-global-changes-in-family-structure/)

**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.

**Strengthening of Pak-Afghan strategic ties encouraged despite bilateral tensions**

Any instability in Pakistan and Afghanistan will impede development and please our common enemies. Therefore, both countries must remember the commonalities over differences and advocate for strategic thinking and joint efforts to combat terrorism and promote peace and prosperity.

These notions were shared by IPS' Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, while speaking at a seminar titled 'Balancing Security and Development: Addressing Terrorism, Refugee Flow, and Border Security', held at the Institute for Strategic Studies, Research & Analysis (ISSRA), National Defense University (NDU), Islamabad, on January 16, 2023.

Ambassador Abrar highlighted the intertwined relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan, emphasizing the need for strategic cooperation despite bilateral tensions. He underscored that Pakistan has historically supported Afghanistan during crises and

hosted millions of Afghan refugees. However, now that Afghanistan is at peace, Pakistan fairly seeks the repatriation of undocumented immigrants to contribute to



Afghanistan's development. Pakistan is still hosting around 2.7 million Afghans and is also engaged in the resettlement of Afghan refugees in third countries, he said.

Moreover, security concerns, exacerbated by increased terrorist attacks in Pakistan following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, drive Pakistan's expulsion of illegal immigrants. These attacks rose by 28% in 2022 and a staggering 79% in 2023.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/ambassador-abrar-encourages-strengthening-pak-afghan-strategic-ties-despite-bilateral-tensions/](http://www.ips.org.pk/ambassador-abrar-encourages-strengthening-pak-afghan-strategic-ties-despite-bilateral-tensions/)

**The Living Scripts | M Akram Sheikh (Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan)**

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 under the title '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 that took place within this quarter was the first session with Muhammad Akram Sheikh, advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan, held on March 5, 2024.

**'Behavioral Change Amongst Pakistani Youth'**



Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman was invited to participate in the roundtable discussion titled 'Behavioral Change Amongst Pakistani Youth', organized by

Jinnah Centre for Character and Leadership (JCCL) on January 3, 2024.

Speaking on the occasion, Rahman said that human character building is directly related to the world view of the individual, and the way he looks and perceives the world, goes on to define his character. For instance, if someone is disoriented in his thinking, the confusion will directly begin to reflect in his personality one

way or the other.

Some people think that the world was created by itself and has no end, so they may feel free to do anything they like. On the other hand, a Muslim world view maintains that both the world and humans are the creations of the Almighty, and thus one stands accountable, and hence has an important role to play in this world.

This fundamental paradigm and approach, Rahman pointed out, should be kept in view while speaking of youth development and character building in the Muslim societies. If one's world view is set in the right direction, he will be able to construct and present a much improved version of himself, he emphasized.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/behavioral-change-and-the-significance-of-life-paradigm/](http://www.ips.org.pk/behavioral-change-and-the-significance-of-life-paradigm/)

**Work-life balance in Ramadan from religious perspective**

Neither professional nor religious facets of life should be compromised, but rather harmonized to enrich one's overall well-being and fulfillment, said Dr Habib-ur-Rehman Asim, associate professor, Bahria University, Islamabad, while delivering a lecture at IPS on the topic of 'Ramadhan: Ibadaat aur Peshawarana Aukat main Tawazun' (Ramadan: Balancing Worshipping and Professional Commitments), on March 1, 2024.

This lecture was the first session held as a part of IPS' Team's Capacity Building Program for the year 2024-25, aimed at enhancing collective skills, knowledge, and teamwork as well as fostering a culture of continuous growth and learning, both spiritually



and professionally.

For further details, visit: [www.ips.org.pk/balancing-worshipping-with-professional-duties-in-ramadan-is-delicate-yet-essential-dr-habib-ur-rehman/](http://www.ips.org.pk/balancing-worshipping-with-professional-duties-in-ramadan-is-delicate-yet-essential-dr-habib-ur-rehman/)

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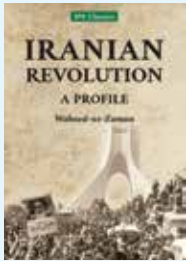
- ▶ Indian constitution has transformed into a compromised rule of law | Dr Mujeeb Afzal (SPIR, QAU)
- ▶ The complex state of affairs in India is marked by challenges to minority rights | Dr Farooq Adil
- ▶ The rhetoric on Durand line has successively been used for political gains | Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain
- ▶ Durand Line issue has been misinterpreted repeatedly | Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal (SPIR, QAU)
- ▶ Durand Line is not a historical problem, but an issue of division of an ethnic group | Dr Razia Sultana
- ▶ Modern challenges emphasize need for Islamic-centric knowledge production | Dr Asad Zaman
- ▶ The War on Gaza: Dynamics in the Red Sea | Dr Ateq Al Garbi (Turkiye)
- ▶ Decolonization of Education: An Islamic Perspective | Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman
- ▶ Legal implementation, institutional strengthening needed to advance human rights: Khalid Naeem (NCRC)
- ▶ Dr Thakur's role in highlighting the Kashmir issue serves as a great source of inspiration
- ▶ Dr Ayub Thakur was a visionary and principled leader: Ghulam Nabi Fai
- ▶ Dr Ayub Thakur dedicated his life to protect and project the Kashmir movement: Abdur Rashid Turabi

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## Publications

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

### Iranian Revolution: A Profile



**Author:** Waheed-uz-Zaman  
**Binding:** Paperback  
**Pages:** 296  
**Language:** English  
**Edition:** 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**Year:** 2024

#### About the Book

The Iranian Revolution was a mass upsurge that totally transformed the country by

bringing together practically every section of the society to replace the secular Pahlavi monarchy and overthrow the entire political, cultural, economic, and social apparatus that, in one form or another, had persisted for 2,500 years. It differed from the earlier great revolutions – the French in 1789, the Russian in 1917, and the Chinese in 1949 – not only in content but also in inspiration. Unlike any of

them, the Iranian Revolution was led by the ulema, who looked back to their past as a model for their future.

This book looks at the revolution as it passes through various phases, the salient developments during Pahlavi's rule, the open confrontation between the ruling elite and revolutionary elements until the overthrow of the monarchy and return of Khomeini, factors and forces that facilitated the success of the revolutionary upheaval, the democratic process, the dramatic seizure of the American embassy, and, lastly, the power struggle that started after the success of the revolution.

This book, first published in 1985, is an essential reading for all students and scholars interested in Iran and the revolution.

For further details, visit:  
[www.ips.org.pk/iranian-revolution-a-profile-2/](http://www.ips.org.pk/iranian-revolution-a-profile-2/)

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(Muhammad Wali Farooqi)

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(Usama Hameed)

For further details, visit:  
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### Nuqta-e-Nazar (Issue No. 45)



**Editor:** Safir Akhtar  
**Volume:** 45  
**Pages:** 200

#### About the Issue

The 45<sup>th</sup> issue of IPS' periodical *Nuqta-e-Nazar* is now published. Being brought out diligently by senior IPS associate Dr Safir Akhtar

since 1996-97, the bi-annual journal provides in-depth reviews and commentaries on Urdu books, especially on the topics of Islam and Pakistan.

The forty-fifth edition of the periodical offers in-depth reviews on books published on the topics of Islam, Quran, Seerat Un Nabi, Sufism, Pakistan, history, personality sketches, etc.

For further details, visit:  
[www.ips.org.pk/nuqta-e-nazar-issue-no-45/](http://www.ips.org.pk/nuqta-e-nazar-issue-no-45/)

### Perspectives (IPS Blogs)

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#### American Political Spectrum, Gaza, and the Transforming World Order

(Moaz Bashir)

#### India-Maldives dispute

(Moaz Bashir)

### Great Power Competition and Collaboration: Navigating Indian Ocean Region

The paper titled 'Great Power Competition and Collaboration: Navigating Indian Ocean Region', written by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman, was published in the Chinese Journal *Indian Ocean Economic and Political Review* (vol. 60. No. 1, 2024). A preliminary draft of the paper was presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> RIIO International Conference held in Kunming, China on August 18-19, 2023. It is accessible in the Chinese language at [cnki.net](http://cnki.net). The abstract and the English and Chinese versions are also presented on IPS' website for wider readership and understanding.

#### Abstract

The inherent competitive drive, which humans are bestowed with by nature, while becoming the precursor of evolution and development of this world, has also caused misery and destruction when it went unrefined. This paper gives a brief overview of the power struggle between major powers during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, which necessitated the establishment

and continuation of the United Nations to prevent conflicts from turning into wars. It discusses the current and emerging scenario, the transition from unipolar to multipolar world order, where China, through its flagship BRI and other development initiatives, is playing a leading role in "building a community of shared future", challenging US imperialist policies and exceptionalism. It navigates through the great power competition in the Indian Ocean Region, where the US, India, and China vie for "strategic advantage", which poses a risk to common maritime resources of the Indian Ocean. While these evolving regional dynamics bring a new set of challenges, they also present some opportunities. To tap these potentials and achieve sustainable "shared growth" and equitable share and management of maritime resources, collective efforts are needed to strengthen global governance.

For further details, visit:  
[www.ips.org.pk/great-power-competition-and-collaboration-navigating-indian-ocean-region/](http://www.ips.org.pk/great-power-competition-and-collaboration-navigating-indian-ocean-region/)



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