

IPS NEWS

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Quarter in Focus

The volatile regional situation, particularly after the Pahalgam attack in Indian-occupied Kashmir, followed by India's aggression on Pakistan, its suspension of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), and then Pakistan's proportionate response, constituted majority of the Institute's analytical work in the quarter.

The Indian hostility in the region was soon followed by the Israel's attack on Iran, and Iran's response resulted in strikes from the United States. Such developments also reinforced the need for Pakistan to balance its relations with emerging and established global powers in this new age of geopolitics. All these happenings were contemplated and analyzed in different sessions held at the Institute with former ambassadors, security analysts and academics.

In-depth discussions were also held on the ongoing humanitarian crisis involving Rohingya Muslim communities in Myanmar as well as the rejuvenated opportunity to re-emphasize the Kashmir issue at the global stage following the recent Pak-India conflict.

Domestically, several key issues were taken up for contemplation, including the federal budget for FY2025-26, Pakistan's constitutional framework w.r.t. the international law, the child marriage restraint act 2025, the need for modernization and sustained compliance with International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s regulations, electricity underutilization and DISCO's reforms, and the need to take steps towards Shariah-based Islamic finance ecosystem in Pakistan.

The Institute joined hands with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to produce a two-day humanitarian journalism workshop, apart from collaborating with Markfield Institute of Higher Education (MIHE), UK, and the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) to hold a six-part lecture series on *The World Today and the Future of Humanity*, out of which three lectures were held within the discussed quarter.

The condolence reference held for the late IPS' founding chairman Professor Khurshid Ahmad garnered tributes from a diverse gathering of policymakers, scholars, students, colleagues, and admirers, whereas the University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore commemorated the lifelong contributions of the late scholar with the establishment of KACIEF (Khurshid Ahmad Center for Islamic Economics and Finance).

The Institute was represented by its chairman in a conference on international law violations in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, held at the University of Haripur, as well as at the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA)'s biennial provincial convention; whereas its vice-chairman discussed Pakistan's foreign policy and national security imperatives at a conference organized by Esar Trust and Riphah International University. IPS Press publication *Beyond the Files* was the first volume of a series based on oral histories

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'Pakistan in a New Age of Geopolitics'

As the global order transitions toward multipolarity amid growing regional rivalries and non-traditional security threats, Pakistan must adopt a unified, clear-headed national approach to leverage its enduring geopolitical relevance. This demands balanced strategic recalibrations in relations with established and emerging global powers, supported by a comprehensive vision rooted in economic and military resilience, and internal cohesion. Key priorities include decolonizing prevailing knowledge systems, crafting an inclusive national narrative, and responding to ideological divides

and the growing challenges of information warfare.

These views were expressed during a seminar 'Pakistan in a New Age of Geopolitics' held at IPS on May 09, 2025, alongside the launch of "Geopolitics: Frameworks and Dynamics in a Multipolar World," authored by Aneela Shahzad and published by IPS Press, which offers insights into challenges and opportunities for fostering balanced ties between nations.

The event had a keynote address by Ambassador (r) Sardar Masood

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'Indus Waters Treaty 'in Abeyance': Implications and Strategic Pathways for Pakistan'

In the wake of India's claims of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) being 'in abeyance,' Pakistan has a strategic opportunity to think out of the box, reframe the discourse on the treaty, assert its water rights, and highlight the treaty's structural flaws at international legal and environmental forums.

This was the consensus at a seminar titled 'Indus Waters Treaty 'in Abeyance': Implications and Strategic Pathways for Pakistan' held on May 02, 2025. The speakers included Dr Hassan Abbas, a noted water expert, Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary, Water and Power, Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS,

Cmdr (r) Azhar Ahmad, IPS associate; and public policy lawyer Ameena Sohail.

Speakers emphasized that while IWT is often portrayed as a safeguard for Pakistan, in reality, it contains multiple structural flaws that disproportionately benefit India. These include lopsided

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Dr Hassan Abbas

'Federal Budget 2025-26: Strategic Priorities under Uraan Pakistan and the Shadow of Pakistan-India Tensions'

It is imperative that provisions of the upcoming Federal Budget 2025-26 align closely with the long-term objectives set out in the *Uraan Pakistan* five-year plan. The budget must reflect

well-considered strategies that ensure inclusive and equitable economic development. Above all, political stability remains essential not only for sustainable economic growth but also for

building investor confidence and striving for structural reforms.

Additionally, in light of tensions between Pakistan and India, it is equally critical that budgetary priorities incorporate related measures such as addressing water management challenges, particularly the Indus Waters Treaty issue.

These recommendations were put forward by economic policy and academic experts during a seminar, 'Federal Budget 2025-26: Strategic Priorities under Uraan Pakistan and the Shadow of Pakistan-India Tensions' held on May 22, 2025. The speakers included Dr Waqar Masood

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Sakib Sherani

‘Rejuvenated Case of Kashmir: Perspectives and Future Prospects’

The portrayal of the Kashmir issue as a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan is gradually giving way to a more globalized understanding, driven in part by diaspora activism. At the same time, Pakistan’s recent shift in diplomacy is characterized by compelling narratives and a more prominent presence in world media discourse. Harnessing this momentum for the Kashmir cause involves articulating a coherent policy, forging closer ties between diplomatic missions and diaspora-driven advocacy, investing in policy research, and deepening engagement with academic and media platforms.

These views were shared at a gathering of Kashmiri diaspora leaders, activists, and former diplomats at IPS under the theme ‘Rejuvenated



Case of Kashmir: Perspectives and Future Prospects’ on May 16 2025. The delegation included Muhammad Ghalib, president Tehreek-e-Kashmir Europe, Dr Muzammil Ayyub Thakur, president World Kashmir Freedom Movement, and Zaffar Nazir Quraishi, chairman Kashmir Campaign Global. Also present were Ambassador (r) Sardar Masood Khan, former president AJ&K, as the chief guest, Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and other participants.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/action-oriented-diaspora-diplomatic-efforts-termed-key-to-globalizing-kashmir-issue/>

‘The Pahalgam Attack: Dissecting the Motives and Strategic Fallout’

The Pahalgam incident and India’s subsequent unilateral measures did not happen in isolation but as part of a deliberate and recurring strategy to reshape regional dynamics to Pakistan’s detriment. The timing of the incident, its historical parallels, and the swift, coordinated media campaign that followed signal a calculated move by India. This intent is further reflected in actions taken without evidence or identified perpetrators, such as suspending the Indus Waters Treaty and closing the Attari border. To respond effectively, Pakistan must pursue a strategic, measured, and resolute approach, reaffirming its principled stance, countering disinformation with facts, exposing the underlying motives behind such orchestrated violence, and engaging international partners.

This was observed by a panel of strategy analysts, defense experts, and policy scholars during a session ‘The Pahalgam Attack: Dissecting the Motives and Strategic Fallout,’ organized by IPS on April 23, 2025. The session



was addressed by Dr Asma Shakir Khawaja, executive director, Center for International Strategic Studies, AJ&K, Sheikh Waleed Rasool, director, Institute of Multi-Track Dialogue Development & Diplomatic Studies, Dr Nauman Sattar, visiting faculty, Department of Defense and Strategic Studies (DSS), Quaid i Azam University, Said Nazir, defense and strategy expert, veteran journalist Iftikhar Gilani, Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/pahalgam-attack-and-subsequent-indian-actions-part-of-recurring-strategy-not-isolated-incident-experts/>

‘Israeli Aggression on Iran and the Dynamics of the Middle East’



The recent Israeli unprovoked offensive on Iran is not an isolated event but a reflection of deeper, long-standing strategic fault lines and geopolitical dynamics. While Israel, backed by the US, seeks to neutralize Iran’s potential and regional relevance, Iran is asserting its strategic autonomy and ideological stance. This unfolding escalation not only risks further

destabilizing the region but also strategically diverts international focus from the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Amidst these tensions, Pakistan must maintain its tactful and diplomatically prudent approach, given its historical ties with Iran and evolving regional alignments.

This was discussed during a session on ‘Israeli Aggression on Iran and the Dynamics of the Middle East’ held on June 16, 2025. The session featured insights by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Amb (r) Nasrullah Khan, Amb (r) Riffat Masood, Amb (r) Naila Chohan, and Brig (r) Dr Tughral Yamin.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/israels-offensive-aims-to-undermine-irans-potential-and-overshadow-gaza-pakistan-urged-to-remain-tactful/>

‘Buddhists, Rohingyas, and Genocide: Major Fault Lines and Possible Silver Linings’

The genocide of the Rohingya in Myanmar is a systematic campaign rooted in Buddhist chauvinism, mono-ethnic nationalism, and the denial of Rohingya identity. Addressing atrocities of this scale requires moral courage, strong legal mechanisms, and a unified global response. As such, it is a critical test of the international community’s moral and legal resolve. Justice can only be achieved through sustained international pressure, comprehensive documentation, and inclusive political reforms.



This was observed at a seminar titled ‘Buddhists, Rohingyas, and Genocide: Major Fault Lines and Possible Silver Linings’ held on April 30, 2025. The panelists included Myanmar-born scholar and rights activist Dr Zarni as the keynote speaker, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, senior advocate and founding president of the Research Society of International Law, Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal secretary, and Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/rohingya-genocide-a-test-of-international-moral-and-legal-commitment-experts/>

Continued from Page - 01 Pakistan in a New Age...

Khan, former president AJ&K, who was joined by Ambassador (r) Naghmana Hashmi, Dr Nazir Hussain, former dean, Social Sciences, University of Wah, Dr Khurram Iqbal, associate professor, National Defence University, Dr Adam Saud, dean humanities and social sciences, Bahria University, Brig (r) Said Nazir, defense analyst, Brig (r) Dr Tughral Yamin, IPS associate, Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, and Aneela Shahzad.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistan-must-recalibrate-geopolitical-strategy-to-navigate-multipolar-world-experts/>

Continued from Page - 01 Indus Waters Treaty...

water distribution, water diversion, provisions permitting pollution through effluent drains, and limited protection for Pakistan’s rights as a lower riparian state.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/pakistan-must-adopt-proactive-strategy-legal-action-on-indus-waters-treaty-experts/>

Continued from Page - 01 Federal Budget 2025-26...

secretary, Ministry of Finance, Sakib Sherani, former principal economic advisor to the Govt. of Pakistan, Zafar ul Hassan Almas, former joint chief economist, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, and Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS.

'Towards a Shariah-Based Islamic Finance Ecosystem in Pakistan'



Tariq Naseem and Dr Atiqzafar Khan

Urgent dedicated primary legislation, swift adoption of AAOIFI (Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions) standards tailored to local financial context, and the establishment of a stronger Shariah governance framework are critical steps needed to ensure the sustainable and credible growth of Islamic banks and non-bank financial institutions in Pakistan. This requires coordinated efforts across the regulatory, legal, and institutional fronts, as no financial framework operates in isolation. Leading financial and legal experts highlighted this at a session 'Towards a Shariah-Based Islamic Finance Ecosystem in Pakistan' held on April 25, 2025 to discuss the legal framework for Islamic banks and non-bank financial institutions at IPS.

The discussion witnessed broad participation from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Islamic banks, academia, and legal professionals. The main speakers included Justice Dr Syed Muhammad Anwer, aalim judge of the Federal Shariat Court, Tariq Naseem, head of Islamic Finance Department at SECP, Tauseef ur Rahman, managing executive, SECP, and Dr Muhammad Ayub, former director, Research and Training, Riphah Center of Islamic Business. It was moderated by Dr Atiqzafar Khan, board member, IPS.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/urgent-need-for-primary-legislation-stronger-shariah-governance-to-boost-islamic-finance-sector-experts/>

'46th anniversary of IPS'

In an era where public policy research in Pakistan remains largely underprioritized and often influenced by vested interests, donor agendas, and politically driven narratives, the presence of independent research institutions is a necessity. In this context, for 46 years, IPS has sustained its mission of offering principled, non-partisan, and value-driven research rooted in national priorities and ethical clarity amidst a rapidly evolving policy landscape.

This was commemorated during a session at IPS, held on May 20 2025, marking its 46th anniversary with a reflective and forward-looking direction.

The event was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, Dr Waqar Masood Khan, former federal secretary, Finance, Prof Dr Anis Ahmad, founding vice chancellor, Riphah International University, Prof Dr Ijaz Shafi Gilani, founder Gallup Pakistan, Bashir Janmohammad, chairman Westbury Group of Companies, and Ameena Sohail, energy lawyer. Other IPS associates also joined the session.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/role-of-independent-research-institutions-termed-vital-amid-vested-interests-and-policy-gaps/>

'Navigating IMO Regulations: Opportunities and Strategies for Pakistan's Shipping Industry'

As Pakistan seeks to align itself with evolving global maritime standards, there is an urgent need for structural modernization, regulatory harmonization, and sustained compliance with International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulations. Achieving this will require cohesive legal reforms, inter-ministerial coordination, and greater private-sector engagement to position the country as a competitive and sustainable maritime nation.

These views were shared during a roundtable titled 'Navigating IMO Regulations: Opportunities and Strategies for Pakistan's Shipping Industry' held at IPS in observance of the World Oceans Day, on June 03, 2025.

The session featured speakers, including Cdre (r) Jawad Akhtar, maritime policy advisor, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Cdre (r)



Cdre (r) Jawad Akhtar and Shahzad Atta

Irfan Taj, maritime strategist and consultant, Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, member, National Climate Change Council, Shahzad Atta, director (legal), Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/regulatory-harmonization-imo-compliance-critical-to-unlock-maritime-potential-experts/>

'Addressing Electricity Underutilization and Affordability: A Demand Side Approach to DISCOs Reforms'



To address the challenge of electricity underutilization, privatization can be a viable option, provided certain prerequisites are met. The process should follow a phased, step-by-step approach. For other issues in the power sector, such as uneven cost recovery and rising circular debt, urgent reforms are

needed in governance, service quality, and demand-side management to restore consumer trust and enhance grid efficiency.

This was observed at a roundtable titled 'Addressing Electricity Underutilization and Affordability: A Demand Side Approach to DISCOs Reforms', which was held at IPS on June 02, 2025. The session was addressed by Amer Zia, chairman board of directors, LESCO and MEPCO, Muhammad Asim Ejaz, chief engineer IESCO, Zubair Chaudhary, general manager, Finance, CPPA-G, Afia Malik, senior energy economist, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, and Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS. The session was chaired by Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary, Water and Power.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/electricity-underutilization-circular-debt-demand-urgent-power-sector-reforms/>

Humanitarian Journalism in Emergencies and Armed Conflicts



Christoph Sutter and Dr Ziaullah Rahmani

Journalists play a critical role during emergencies, serving as both the eyes and ears of the public and the government. In times of natural disasters or violent conflicts, the dissemination of accurate and timely information can be life-saving. Journalists help guide humanitarian efforts, identify urgent needs, and monitor irregularities. To avoid misinformation during periods of chaos and uncertainty, it is essential for reporters and analysts to have a deep understanding of emergency dynamics. These points were emphasized during a

two-day regional workshop for editors of religious journals and digital content creators. This media workshop was jointly organized by IPS, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on June 24, 25, 2025. The workshop aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools needed for effective reporting and analysis in the context of armed conflicts and humanitarian emergencies.

The sessions were led by Syed Nadeem Farhat, IPS research fellow, Dr Ziaullah Rahmani, ICRC regional adviser, Dr Yasir Riaz, a humanitarian officer at the United Nations, Muhammad Waqar Bhatti, senior health journalist, and Dr Saqib Jawad, legal expert. The workshop concluded with remarks from ICRC Head of Delegation Christoph Sutter and IPS Chairman Khalid Rahman.

For further details, visit:
<https://www.ips.org.pk/religious-media-urged-to-contribute-more-emphatically-to-promote-humanitarian-journalism/>

'Pakistan's Constitutional Framework and International Law'



This was discussed at a seminar hosted by IPS, titled 'Pakistan's Constitutional Framework and International Law' which brought together prominent legal scholars and practitioners from Pakistan, Malaysia, and

Bangladesh. The event, organized in collaboration with GIFT University, Gujranwala, on June 28, 2025, explored the intersection of Islamic jurisprudence and modern international legal standards within Pakistan's constitutional context.

The speakers present on the occasion included Dr Khalid Masood, member, Shariat Appellate Bench, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Chairman

IPS Khalid Rahman, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, senior advocate Supreme Court and former law minister, Dr Aziz ur Rehman, director, School of Law at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Imran Shafique, advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP), Dr Shamrahayu Abdul Aziz, from the International Islamic University Malaysia, and Dr Mumtahina Nazbin, from the Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/constitutional-integrity-requires-thoughtful-engagement-with-global-norms-legal-experts/>

'The World Today and the Future of Humanity' – A lecture series by Dr Anis Ahmad



Globalization today reflects a modern form of neocolonialism deeply embedded in global institutions, media, and academia. These domains serve as key instruments for the continued projection of

hegemonic narratives and expansive global influence, which undermine intellectual independence, distort social structures, and reduce human interaction to self-centered individualism. To truly decolonize their minds, souls, and even territories, the Muslims must return to their original sources of knowledge and embrace learning processes that nurture critical thinking.

This was the underlying message delivered by renowned scholar, social scientist, and vice chancellor of Riphah International University (RIU), Prof Dr Anis Ahmad, during his lectures at IPS. The first lecture, held on April 24, was titled 'The World Today and the Future of Humanity'; the second lecture on May 29 discussed 'What Ails Human Civilization Today?', whereas the third lecture held on June 26, 2025 was on 'Revisiting the Concept of Knowledge'.

The overall six-part series was organized by IPS in collaboration with the Markfield Institute of Higher Education (MIHE), UK, and Int'l Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) to foster informed debate on the evolving intellectual and ideological challenges the Muslim world faces today.

The first lecture of the series was joined by Dr. Thameem Ushama from IIUM and Yousuf Farooq from the Islamic Foundation, UK. The second session, moderated by Prof Dr Mustafeez Ahmad Alvi, was joined by Prof Dr Hazizan Md Noon from IIUM as a discussant, whereas Dr Haroon Bashir, Head of Research at MIHE, and Dr Abdul Quddoos Sohaib from Bahauddin Zakria University, Multan spoke in the third session.

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narrated by Pakistani public policy practitioners, while a fresh issue of the Institute's flagship journal *Policy Perspectives*, as well as an issue brief on NTDC reforms were also produced.

'Child Marriage Restraint Act 2025 – Legal, Social, and Religious Perspectives'

Sustainable solutions to child marriage require more than the enforcement of punitive laws like the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2025. It demands a holistic approach that nurtures moral development, encourages inclusive discourse, and fosters societal responsibility. A comprehensive strategy, grounded in public awareness, education, family support, and community dialogue, is crucial to addressing the root causes of early marriage. Only through collective efforts that combine legal safeguards with cultural sensitivity and ethical upbringing can meaningful and long-term social progress be achieved.

This was discussed during a session titled 'Child Marriage Restraint Act 2025 – Legal, Social, and Religious Perspectives' held at IPS on June 19,



2025. The session was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Hammad Saeed Dar, advocate, High Court, Dr Umm-e-Kulsoom, physician and Islamic scholar, and Dr Ghazala Ghalib, senior lecturer, International Islamic University, Islamabad, among other scholars.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/sustainable-solutions-to-child-marriage-beyond-punitive-laws-require-holistic-community-driven-approach-experts/>

Prof Khurshid Ahmad remembered for a life of scholarship, service, and vision



Professor Khurshid Ahmad, a distinguished scholar, Islamic economist, reformer, and statesman, consistently sought to build bridges among people of diverse ideological backgrounds. This commitment to inclusivity is evident in

the wide spectrum of individuals influenced by his ideas, his body of work, and the institutions he founded.

Speakers observed this at a condolence reference held on April 17, 2025, to honor the life, work, and enduring legacy of Prof Khurshid Ahmad, also the founding chairman of IPS, who passed away on April 13th. The event brought together a diverse gathering of policymakers, scholars, students, colleagues, and admirers.

The speakers, which included former senators Mushahid Hussain Syed, Farhatullah Babar and Javed Jabbar, renowned lawyer Ahmed Bilal Soofi, former minister Dr Shireen Mazari, Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman, Dr Anis Ahmad, vice chancellor, Riphah International University (RIU), Dr Qibla Ayaz, member, Shariat Appellate Bench, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Maulana Zahid-ur-Rashidi and Haris Ahmad, son of Professor Khurshid, remembered the late scholar as a trailblazer who championed Islamic economics, founded transformative institutions, and helped shape intellectual discourse in Pakistan and beyond.

Tribute to the late intellectual were also paid in another literary gathering, titled 'Mehfil-e-Sher-o-Sukhan', organized by Daira Ilm-o-Adab Pakistan (DIAP) in collaboration with IPS on April 29, 2025.

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.

UMT establishes KACIEF to honor Professor Khurshid's lifelong work on Islamic economics

Commemorating the lifelong contributions of Professor Khurshid Ahmad - a renowned economist, scholar and the founding chairman of Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) - University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore announced the establishment of KACIEF (Khurshid Ahmad Center for Islamic Economics and Finance) in a ceremony held on June 17, 2025.

The establishment of the center is aimed at acknowledging and carrying forward the intellectual legacy of Professor Khurshid, commemorating his efforts to integrate Islamic principles and ethical values into the framework of economics.

The center is envisioned to serve as a



dedicated hub for research, academic dialogue, and policy development in the field of Islamic economics and finance.

Chairman IPS addresses int'l law violations in IIOJ&K at the University of Haripur

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman condemned the blatant breaching and violations of the International Laws and International Humanitarian Laws by India in the Illegally Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), while speaking at the national conference, titled 'Indian Violations of International Law in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir'.

The conference was jointly organized by the



Department of Law of the University of Haripur, and Youth Association of Pakistan (YAP) on May 6, 2025.

VC-IPS highlights strategic foreign policy imperatives for Pakistan

Vice Chairman IPS Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain participated as a speaker in a roundtable titled 'Foreign Policy and National Security', which was organized by Esar Trust in collaboration with Riphah International University (RIU) on April 22, 2025.

Addressing the event, VC-IPS spoke about the importance of strengthening Pakistan's ties with global powers, while ameliorating its role



and proactive engagement in the regional and Islamic forums it is a part of.

'Pakistan's Scenario: Education and Governance'

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman was invited by Tanzeem-e-Asatiza Pakistan on April 12, 2025 to address their 10th National Education Conference titled 'Education and Civilization:

Challenges and Opportunities'. Rahman, on the occasion, delivered a speech on the topic of 'Pakistan's Scenario: Education and Governance'.

Chairman IPS at PIMA's Biennial Provincial Convention

On the invitation of PIMA (Pakistan Islamic Medical Association), Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman participated and delivered a speech at their 19th Biennial Provincial Convention held on April 19, 2025 at the Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad.

Lectures on 'Good Governance' and 'Professional Ethics'

AHK National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD) invited Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman to deliver lectures on the topics of 'Good Governance for Social Economic Development' and 'Ethical Mindset for Professionalism' on 22nd and 30th April, 2025 respectively, as part of their training course on 'Socio-economic Development and SDG's Status'.

▶ IPS TV | New Videos

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- ▶ Prof Khurshid Ahmad: Life and Services
- ▶ Condolence Messages for Professor Khurshid Ahmad (Late)
- ▶ Chairman IPS on Indian strikes and Pakistan's response
- ▶ Chairman IPS on Pak-India Ceasefire and Future Strategy for Pakistan (10th May 2025)
- ▶ Sr Security Analyst Brig (r) Said Nazir speaks about recent Indian aggression & Pakistan's response (7th May)
- ▶ Kashmir after 10th of May: Apprehensions and Opportunities
- ▶ Pakistan has a strategic opportunity to assert its water rights w.r.t IWT | Dr Hassan Abbas
- ▶ Federal Budget 2025-26
- ▶ What happened on 3rd June 1947?
- ▶ IPS Talks | Iran-Israel War (A discussion with former ambassadors and analysts)
- ▶ US attack on Iran and the Global System | Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman
- ▶ Pak-Africa Relations - Ties that Bind | A conversation with Brig (r) Dr Tughral Yamin
- ▶ Int'l Maritime Organization's Regulations: Opportunities and Strategies for Pakistan's Shipping Industry
- ▶ Private Sector Engagement in Pakistan's Climate-Smart Maritime Transition for Trade Growth | Ali Tauqueer
- ▶ Israel-Gaza War: Geopolitics and the Game Theory | Aneela Shahzad (Geopolitical Analyst)
- ▶ Mending Fences in the GCC-Iran Relationship in the Wake of Israel-Gaza War | Dr Nora Maher (Egypt)
- ▶ Federal Budget 25-26: A Review | Dr Zafar-ul-Hasan Almas

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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.

Policy Perspectives (Volume 22, Issue 1, 2025)



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

► Amid the ongoing war in Gaza, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) appears to share more foundational

ties with Iran than with Israel, prompting a comprehensive reassessment of the GCC relations and regional alignments. Employing the prisoner's dilemma framework, Dr Nora Maher in her paper **'Mending Fences in the GCC-Iran Relationship in the Wake of Israel-Gaza War'** examines how hardline Gulf states could shift from a punitive stance toward Iran to a collaborative approach, encouraging cooperation over confrontation.

Author: Dr Nora Maher, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Political Science, Economics and Business Administration, May University, Cairo.

► The Palestine-Israel 'game' is a multiter, intricate, and ever-evolving conflict, shaped by complex geopolitical dynamics. The paper on **'Israel-Gaza War: Geopolitics and the Game Theory'** evaluates the protracted Israel-Palestine conflict through the lens of game theory and seeks to lay down the field of play, identify players, discover different angles to approach the matter, and bring the reader closer to possible solutions.

Author: Aneela Shahzad, Geopolitical Analyst; *Author of Understanding Politics: Geopolitics—From the Other Side; and Geopolitics – Frameworks and Dynamics in a Multipolar World.*

► Lars Hilse, in his paper **'Trump's Five percent NATO Ruse'** assesses President Donald Trump's demand for North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members to contribute five percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as a strategic business initiative rather than a genuine security policy objective. The paper argues that President Trump's demand strategically advances American business interests, as the European nations currently allocate approximately 63 percent of their military procurement budgets to the US defense firms, yielding a substantial return on minimal US investment in NATO's actual operational costs.

Author: Lars Hilse, Independent Researcher, Cyber Security Expert, Bunsöh, Germany.

► Historically, the U.S. Indo-Pacific policy has been shaped by efforts to counter China's expanding political, economic, and military influence. China's territorial claims in the South

China Sea (SCS) and East China Sea (ECS), along with its tensions with Taiwan and US regional allies, have prompted Washington to recalibrate its Indo-Pacific policy and strategic posture. The paper **'Evolving US Indo-Pacific Posture and Strategic Competition with China'** also analyzes the political, economic and military ramifications of the US Indo-Pacific policy for China including regional alliances, trade and investments, arms race, maritime security, tariffs and duties under Trump 2.0 administration.

Authors: Abid Hassan, Research Associate, Department of IR, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan; and Syed Hammad Ali, Research Associate, Department of IR, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan

► Asifa Tanveer in her paper on **'From Ganga to Pahalgam: India's Arc of Strategic Deceit'** evaluates India's tendency to blame Pakistan for its domestic instabilities, particularly 'terrorist' events. She explores the history and use of false flag operations to contextualize India's pattern of blame provenance in the wake of Pahalgam incident. She further analyzes whether Pahalgam incident and the much-hyped Indian response reflects honest concerns, or a broader political agenda, reflecting 'method in madness'.

Author: Asifa Tanveer, Associate Editor, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad; Former Chief Officer, Local Government & Community Development Department (LGCCD), Rawalpindi.

► Next, Khalid Rahman in his paper **'The Life and Legacy of A Luminary Scholar Khurshid Ahmad (1932-2025): A Tribute'** pays homage to Prof Khurshid Ahmad, the founder and patron of the *Policy Perspectives*, exploring his contributions. Khurshid Ahmad was not only a prominent Pakistani figure and global thought leader, but also a staunch ambassador of Islamic thought, Pakistan and the Muslim Ummah, earning him widespread respect, even from across ideological and political divides. His writings and initiatives, which explain the distinction between Islamic economics, socialism, and capitalism, helped shape modern Islamic economic theory, he argues.

Author: Khalid Rahman, Chairman, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, Pakistan

► Finally, the **'Dialogue at IPS'** section features discussions of events held at the Institute on a number of significant subjects related to national, regional and global affairs during recent months along with a summary of situational briefs on 'Beyond the Frontlines: 50 Days since Pahalgam Incident'.

The full text of these articles is available at ScienceOpen.

For further details, visit: <https://www.ips.org.pk/policy-perspectives-volume-22-issue-1-2025/>

Beyond the Files (Conversation with Pakistani Civil Servants)



[*The Living Scripts - Vol 1*]
Editor: Syed Abu Ahmad Akif
Binding: Paperback
Year: 2025 (Vol 1)
Pages: 386

About the Book

Beyond the Files is the first volume in a series based on oral histories narrated by Pakistani public policy practitioners. Over the past five years, the IPS team has documented the lives and experiences of more than 30 individuals who have played pivotal roles in shaping public policy in Pakistan. This initiative, known as *The Living Scripts Project*, is a unique blend of academic research, journalism, and social science inquiry. The scope of "policy practitioners" covers bureaucrats, elected representatives, political party members, academics, civil society advocates, and other professionals working on policy and advocacy. This inaugural volume features narrations from 12 individuals – all except one are former federal civil servants. Those familiar with Pakistan's governance landscape know that bureaucrats have long been at the forefront, not only in routine administration but also in national political affairs. They have served as both witnesses to history and architects of change. Through *The Living Scripts Project*, IPS seeks to spotlight personal narratives that offer deep insights into Pakistan's public policy sphere. The project remains an ongoing endeavor committed to preserving and sharing these invaluable experiences.

RESEARCH

Issue Brief | Reforming NTDC: Addressing Transmission Challenges and Advancing Market Liberalization
Faryal Qazi

PESPECTIVES (IPS BLOGS)

Pahalgam Incident, A Pretext to Undo the Indus Water Treaty
Dr Muhammad Khurshid Khan

Military Stand-off and Quick De-Escalation: What Next for India and Pakistan
Dr Muhammad Khurshid Khan

US Policy Toward Israel and Palestine Under the Trump Administration
Dr Muhammad Khurshid Khan



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