Dialogue at IPS

International Relations, Pakistan Affairs, Faith, Society & Law, Science & Technology, and Leadership & Governance are the core themes of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, which remained the focus of deliberations held at IPS during the past few months. The following write-up summarizes these discussions under the aforementioned themes.

Normalizing Aggression and Weakening Global Response—A Case of Israeli Actions in the ME

A weakening global response due to systemic failures in global governance is emboldening Israel to carry out aggression and human rights violations with impunity in the occupied territories under its control. This is clearly illustrated by the Israeli assaults on Palestinians in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound on April 4, 2023, which have failed to elicit any firm response beyond the routine statements of condemnation from various institutions and the governments.1

Israel thrives on conflict and war, which have remained fundamental elements in its creation, consolidation and expansion. Though Israel claims to be a democratic state, it harbors colonial ambitions and wants to colonize the remaining Palestinian lands, currently being administered by Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

Israel has been working on Judaization of Jerusalem since 1967. The Judaization project is still underway which envisions demographic superiority to consolidate hold of the Jewish state in the occupied lands. As such the Arabs in Israel have been relegated to the status of second-class citizens irrespective of their religion. The Christians are also facing restrictions on carrying out their religious activities.

This is happening because Israel is moving away from the essence of the Oslo Accords (1993) and has no intention of giving the Palestinians their due rights. The International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court
Policy Perspectives 20:1 (2023)

of Justice (ICJ) are unlikely to entertain cases against Israeli violation of international humanitarian law due to the dominance of the US in the global governance system. The situation needs to be challenged. While the issues like Palestine and Kashmir are local or regional but require a global response.

While the governments give precedence to geoeconomic aspects and so-called national interests rather than taking a stand for justice and human dignity, the international civil society needs to get together to play a meaningful role in highlighting the aggression and atrocities perpetrated by Israel in the occupied lands and other similar hotspots.

**Pakistan’s Investment Climate: The Way Forward**

A significant reason for the economic crisis facing the country currently is incompetence, and under the current circumstances, doing business in Pakistan is a complex job. Investors need handholding and assurances, whereas the investment climate in the country lacks both facilitation and consistency. Investment profits can go into developing the infrastructure, and one success story creates opportunities for others to follow. Similarly, some Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) may be privatized to conserve and better utilize national resources. The Privatization Commission’s performance, however, is dismal for the lack of transparency, expediency, and identification of issues.

Pakistan needs to focus on six to eight countries as best case studies, to attract investment. Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan’s investment strategies are excellent models for Pakistan to follow. These economies have shown remarkable development in a short period of time. There is a need to create a similar ecosystem in Pakistan with a simultaneous focus on G2G, G2B, and B2B initiatives.

While the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a great example of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), not much is being done to productively utilize the opportunity. The Chinese government has already established Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in 22 countries.

The Saudi government has funding available for eight priority sectors. It has been showing interest in engaging Pakistan as a food security partner; the Saudi leadership wants to establish an Agri Zone in Pakistan, in addition to an oil refinery in Balochistan. Unfortunately, there has been delay at
Pakistan’s end, being unable to deliver ready projects. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia is investing aggressively in other countries.

Another big concern for investors is the function and policies of the Federal Board of Revenue. The stakeholders feel burdened beyond their feasibility. It has reached a level of exploitation and needs immediate solutions. The country needs to resolve bureaucratic hurdles and introduce visionary and sustainable policies.

As governance originates from political government, it is the legal duty of the head of government to pull the country out of adverse circumstances. Likewise, parliamentarians should effectively fulfill their role with regard to the national agenda and public interest. This commitment to duty can only be ensured through fair elections. An electoral system based on proportionate representation needs to be seriously considered. The changes brought about by such reforms would eventually lead to consistent policies, national confidence, investors’ trust, the convergence of interests, and better trade relations through good governance.

Civic Responsibility in Mitigating the Challenges of Governance

The prolonged financial distress in the Pakistani economy is not caused primarily by economic factors; the problem lies in poor governance and moral decay. Political disintegration, deepening polarization in society, and tensions between state institutions have adversely affected the economy and society in all aspects. More alarmingly, the controversies are not restricted to individuals anymore, the state institutions are also losing their credibility. The general lack of trust in state institutions and the disengagement of leading political figures from each other have made it difficult for any person or even institution to mediate and act as a bridge between heterogeneous groups. This does not, however, mean that the country is already out of its options.\(^3\)

The current situation demands that the citizens of Pakistan act as a nation and play their role through individual and collective efforts. Every individual should play a positive role in personal capacity that promotes positive values and trends in society while discouraging chaos, intolerance, and malice. At the same time, it is necessary for those who enjoy respect and influence in society to play their role in reducing polarization and bridging gaps between various segments and groups. The prominent and influential individuals, especially teachers, experts (technocrats), religious scholars, former government and military officials, and intellectuals need to generate a dynamic social mobilization at the national level. On the basis of their
commitment and duty to Pakistan and the people of Pakistan, these people cannot only give the nation a message of hope and progress, but also reach out to leaders of various political parties, officials of national institutions, important media personalities, influential industrialists, and businessmen, to initiate dialogue for building national dialogue and consensus.

This broader national consensus can only be based on the supremacy of the Constitution of Pakistan and the rule of law. The current dilemma can only be resolved through a fair and honest recourse to the people of Pakistan. The electoral process, when undertaken according to the dictates and spirit of the Constitution of Pakistan can pave the way for stable governance. Although the need for introducing fundamental reforms in the political process and electoral system is felt by all sections, such reforms can neither be developed nor implemented in an environment of mutual mistrust and chaos. Nonetheless, the consultations to transform the electoral system for better governance should continue.

It is important to realize that the current crisis in Pakistan is not economic but related to poor governance and moral practices. Economic decline is not caused by lack of resources but by deteriorating ethical values in managing them. The country still has sufficient potential and assets to restore and revive national economy and dignity if the right decisions are made. A primary shift toward this end is required in the current approach to economic decision-making by placing the national interest over personal interests or any foreign-driven objectives. The current economic circumstances seem to offer an ideal setting for a national move towards self-reliance.

The judiciary and military are two important pillars of the state whose roles should always remain apolitical. It is even more critical in the current scenario that these institutions do not show any tilt towards any specific player while some elements from their ranks are already considered to have contributed to creating the current crisis. While the national security institutions should neither be biased nor favorable to political forces, and should not even concern themselves with any particular solution or model, they should play their role in national spirit to facilitate harmony in political and economic realms. On the same principle, the judiciary must abide by the Constitution of Pakistan and the relevant laws, but it must avoid creating a perception that judicial decisions are self-contradictory or favor a particular political tendency. All honorable judges must maintain integrity and uphold the sanctity of their office. In view of the importance that the media has gained in national life, journalists and media houses too have immense responsibility. They need to exhibit their commitment to facts and collective good of the people.
Systematic Persecutions, Extrajudicial Killings, Israeli-Style Settler Tactics in IOJK.

The national position on Jammu and Kashmir has always remained a common factor in starkly polarized national politics of Pakistan. Despite the diversity of views and aspirations, no government has ever changed its public stance on Kashmir. The consensus between the political government and populace regarding Kashmir is a strength that must be reinforced at all levels.

In the post-truth era, it is even more crucial to gain a deeper understanding of issues of national interests in the continuously changing global and regional political context and strategic dynamics. The dynamics of warfare have undergone a significant change today. While kinetic warfare remains important, the battle, in today’s world, is no longer limited to the battlefield. It has evolved into a battle of minds and hearts.

It is important to accurately present the Kashmir case to the world in its entirety, that it is neither a territorial nor a bilateral issue; and, it is not merely a case of human rights violations. It is a full-fledge Illegal military occupation and being the occupied people, Kashmiris have a recognized right under the international law to resist occupation. This right is affirmed, in principle, in the context of the right of self-determination of all peoples under the colonial rule under the International Law; and has also been specifically promised to the Kashmiri people under the UN resolutions.

Moreover, exposing the horrendous acts by India, such as systematic persecution, heinous atrocities, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and replication of Israel’s settler agenda as well as its surveillance and counter-insurgency operations, in Kashmir, call for immediate resolution. The manifestation of India’s settler colonial program in Kashmir is an indication of the conjunction between Indian and Israeli strategies to eliminate the natives and ensure the settlements of non-natives.

Similarly, various Indian moves intended to alter the narrative, demography, and the situation on ground are required to be an integral part of aggressive political, diplomatic and media campaigns.

Meanwhile, it is good to note that the diplomatic efforts against the G20 Tourism Working Group moot in Srinagar, (IOJ&K), paid off as China, KSA, and Türkiye as well as Egypt and Oman stayed away from the conference. Despite India’s efforts and some success in attracting investment,
its efforts in projecting Kashmir as a normal and peaceful region and giving the impression that Kashmir is no more a ‘nuclear’ flashpoint have miserably failed.

It is important to realize that despite unabated oppression and state violence, the resilient people of Kashmir continue to resist the occupation and state-sponsored violence. It is crucial to focus on long-term planning and strategizing the struggle and to explore how the natives of Kashmir (Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), particularly the youth, can play a role in advocating the Kashmir cause.

Above all, at the domestic front, it needs to be stressed that the political instability in Pakistan and AJK has serious implications for the Kashmir issue and needs the attention of all the stakeholders.6

**Muslim Identity in a Globalized World**

Contemporary Muslim societies are facing a dichotomy where social ethos are constructed by Islam but formal knowledge is shaped by historical experiences of the West and interpreted by its contemporary approaches.

It is not surprising then that the identity question among the Muslim youth, particularly in the Muslim diaspora communities, is causing confusion on how to navigate through the challenges of the evolution of their identity in a globalized world.7

Every person lives by a primary identity, which is an informed choice out of the free will and to which all other identities are subject. For Muslims, the ultimate source is the Holy Qur’an, which defines their primary identity. However, there is always a need is to put the basic definition in the perspective of changing sociological and political landscapes. This is necessary so that one can construct a sense of how to see oneself with multiple identities.

Geographical and racial identities have now largely become secondary identities, having been surpassed by the primary one of being a Muslim. While Islamophobia has greatly influenced the world order, sufficient attention has not been given to making young Muslims aware of local and global issues in totality. Consequently, the youth are caught off-guard and hesitant in responding to these issues. Therefore, the identity crisis among Muslim youth, though a challenge, also offers an opportunity to not only make the Muslim youth aware of their primary identity but also reflect it in their
interactions while living in multi-cultural societies, and consequently spreading the word of Islam.

Muslim scholars, though tend to respond to these questions but their academic studies and responses generally lack the understanding and articulation required to catch up with the changing dynamics. It is critical to develop a homegrown approach to foresee and contribute to the future developments concerning the global community in order to equip young minds with critical outlook and proactive approaches. Muslim perspective should also reflect in development, interpretations, and application of international systems, educational frameworks and curricula, and cultural grooming of societies.

_Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection_

Islamic social protection system fulfills multiple SDGs and serves as an excellent tool for building resilience and equilibrium in social and economic lives. For that, effective reforms at the legislative, constitutional, and operational levels are needed to tap the potential of Islamic finance options.\(^8\)

The trust-deficit of the people in government institutions and their capacity are the major hurdle in the way of creating a Zakat-based welfare system in Pakistan; foundations grounded in trust are hope for the future of social protection in Pakistan.

There is a need to promote and strengthen trustworthy faith-based social welfare organizations, which must also be given opportunities to flourish. The government too, should initiate partnerships with such private sector organizations. This would result in a more efficient social protection system and build public trust and confidence in the government.

The willingness to take ownership, collective effort, and action-oriented measures on part of institutions are foundational to the success of nations. Moving in this direction, the integration of relevant institutions, cooperation-based working models rather than competition, public-private partnership, and consensus are crucial to exploit the existing potential in the country.

A welfare economy based on Islamic economic principles provides a prospective alternative to the Riba-based economic system. Countries like Malaysia have set a good example in the adoption of Islamic social finance
tools for the social protection of the people. As the collection and disbursement of Zakat is the state’s responsibility, the government should take into account the models of these countries to develop an economic fiscal system based on social welfare. Diverting the flow of money towards the lowest strata of society and preventing the rich from getting richer and the poor poorer should be the most important principle for any government to adopt in related policy matters.

**Implementing the FSC Judgment on Riba**

The Federal Shariat Court (FSC) called upon the government to transform the financial system to riba-free model, for which the detailed judgment has given clear guideline. Current scholarship as well as several financial models already in operation clearly indicate that the financial sector can provide riba-free services. A clear national strategy requires political will and careful crafting of the transition. The Constitution of Pakistan imposes duty on the government to switch to riba-free financial model. The sectors relevant to government borrowing, external debts, banking and non-banking transactions, capital market, as well as legal and regulatory framework already have the capacity to convert existing non-Islamic procedures and means to Islamic standards by reinforcing the alternate ways and means to implement the FSC judgment.

The conversion policy developed and executed by the federal government must have yearly targets and proper monitoring of progress. The government should create an enabling environment by consulting all related organizations, introducing educational reforms, and taking capacity-building measures for officials. Along with the national-level strategy and policy, sector-level planning is also significant. Fintech, combined with tools of Islamic social finance, can provide solutions to challenges of financial inclusion through increased access to credit, financial safety nets, consumer protection, crowdfunding models, and microfinance and entrepreneurship development. Tools like the *qard-e-hasana* model, micro-takaful, *waqf*, *zakat*, and *sadaqat*, can also create economic justice in the system.

While international economic dynamics may present some questions to be addressed, they provide an opportunity for Pakistan to contribute to the system by introducing a change that would fill the gaps and meet the economic needs of the world.
**Are Religious Conversions in Pakistan Forced?**

Contrary to claims, a high percentage of faith conversions in Pakistan is neither underage nor forced. The empirical evidence suggests that conversions, in most cases, took place for social factors, primarily contracting marriage by choice, to break free from forced marriages, or to avoid cultural constraints.\(^\text{10}\)

According to the findings of the IPS baseline study titled *Forced Conversion or Faith Conversion: Rhetoric and Reality*, out of 6055 cases of faith conversion, and data collection conducted under this study, more than 74 percent i.e., 4494 cases were mass conversions, that is family conversions. This in itself suggests a volunteer decision by the converts and on the other hand the reason for underage conversion in certain cases.

The discussion on underage forced conversion lacks objectivity and scientific authenticity. While any case of forced conversion needs to be strictly handled under the law, the choice of religion of an individual should not be confronted on false premise.

**Chutzpadik Advertising: Civil Society’s Role in Social Change**

The medium of mass communication is becoming a potent tool for disseminating progressive agenda through Chutzpadik advertisements. Also, the advertisements are now more linked with showing dreams of fulfilling expectations rather than facts. This trend seems to be increasingly perceivable in the advertising industry of Pakistan affecting the country’s social fabric with the artistic proofs of ethos, pathos, and logos.\(^\text{11}\)

These media strategies facilitate the social effects of novel advertising discourse by appealing to the credibility, reason, and emotions of society. While it does affect the individual and collective behavior of society, smartly crafted campaigns can have positive impact as well.

In the context of Pakistani media, as there is the mindset of brand custodians and creative agencies behind any advertising or brand campaign, they are mostly unaware of the social norms and nonchalant about its impact on society. The intense polarization on sensitive topics, inconsistent values of large businesses, and their indifference to cultural values are also issues prevalent in the media industry of Pakistan. In order to address these issues, an extensive legal manifestation regarding advertisement ethics is needed. These ethics must not solely be focused on standardization. Instead, there
must also be space for innovation, adaptability, and adjustment of scientific advancements.

Advertising has a central impact on conscious change leading to a consumerism-based society. It is important to develop a consensus for a social policy, liquefy the consciousness, and undertake a social movement for core values in order to move society away from consumerism and its influences.

As the current media and advertising policies are driven by donors and funding, this increases the need to change the mindset as well as develop an advertising standard authority in the form of a citizen-based body with multiple stakeholders.

There is need to rethink the use of media, particularly social media, to bring positive impact. The change can be brought about by the active role of civil society which is aware of the issues, informed of what’s happening against the norms, and able to evaluate it according to its negative or positive impact on communities’ behaviors.

**Political Pressure is Crucial for Dr Aafia’s Release**

The abduction, handing over, and prolonged detention of Pakistani scientist Dr Afia Siddiqui by the US authorities is a permanent cause of concern for the people of Pakistan. Release of this sick and frail lady from her 86-year sentence after a highly controversial trial is as much more political battle as it is legal. Apart from seeking legal avenues, the Government of Pakistan must do its part by creating political pressure on the United States (US) to secure Dr Aafia’s release.12

Dr Aafia has attained an iconic status in Pakistan as a symbol of unending misery and the post-9/11 US panic. Deprived of her liberty, she has been a traumatized victim of unlawful imprisonment, and extreme injustice. Apart from the obvious loopholes in the circumstances attributed to her, the accounts of her innocence get credibility from the data suggesting that 98.5 per cent of 780 detainees in Guantanamo Bay were subject to unlawful imprisonment wherein 764 out of 780 prisoners posed no threat to US.13

**Effective Use of AI Methods and Tools in Policy Planning**

Sentiment analysis or opinion mining through artificial intelligence (AI) can be an effective way to study contentious subjects. The use of efficient AI
techniques and tools can also help plan policies as the observed trends can predict the direction a certain situation is headed to.\textsuperscript{14}

The trends of feminism in Pakistan during the last five years were investigated using sentiment analysis as a combined AI-based technique of machine learning and natural language processing (NLP) and insights were extracted by AI models. As per the data models, neutral sentiments on the issue of feminism were recorded to be the highest overall, while positive sentiments were the lowest in five years.

The study was conducted by applying three AI models of sentiment analysis, namely VADER, pysentimiento and RoBERTa-large, on comprehensive Twitter dataset. The objective was to see sentiments of people on positive, negative, and neutral scales, along with the visualization of words and emojis. The AI tools observed the trends across five years and extracted the findings as mentioned above. The study also compared insights of human data labeling and AI data labeling and concluded that out of three AI models, the findings of RoBERTa-large, with 130 GB vocab data, were closest to human findings showing similar figures as manual data labeling. This demonstrates that efficient AI tools with proper data handling can supplement human intelligence, under specific conditions.

\textit{Tackling the Challenges of Climate Change}

Pakistan is consistently rated very high on climate change vulnerability index. Adaption measures to tackle the situation demand efficient mechanisms of disaster management. The capacity building and innovative ideas are also of paramount importance in this regard in order to develop an effective framework against climate risks.\textsuperscript{15}

The climate governance in the country also needs a decentralized implementation plan, where the regional and local actors are eminently involved to address climate disasters at the grass-root level. Moreover, the Loss and Damage Funds and other types of climate finances require a speedy action plan to manage such aids, so that the utilization of these funds remains targeted for the recovery from climatic disasters.
Pakistan has validated the sincerity of its international commitments regarding green energy by implementing relevant policies to support the United Nations’ (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and energy transition.\textsuperscript{16}

The importance and need for solar power in the energy transition increases, given the severe shortage of electric power and indigenous natural gas, which have traditionally been Pakistan’s two major sources of energy, for the last few years. In addition to this, the introduction of independent power producers (IPPs), expensive power purchase agreements with IPPs, and power shortages have resulted in multiple problems of availability, affordability, and reliability of power supply.

As a result, Pakistan is now enmeshed in massive circular debt amounting to PKR 400 billion, closure or relocation of industrial units, disruption in economic activity and daily lives of people, and unemployment.

This situation necessitates reforms and paradigm shift in the energy sector. The successive governments have undertaken reforms in the power sector by introducing fresh policies. However, more strenuous efforts, strong political commitment to renewable energy, and market incentives for energy transition are needed for affordable, adequate, and clean energy.

Therefore, in order to boost the renewable energy share to 30 per cent by 2030, the government, in line with the Alternative and Renewable Policy 2019, has shown commitment towards lessening reliance on fossil fuels and de-carbonization of the power sector by ambitious targets of renewable energy uptake.\textsuperscript{17} Many mega-scale and distributed generation projects based on solar PV are, therefore, in the pipeline.

The results of an ambitious solar and wind roadmap performed by ‘8.2 Renewable Energy Experts’ and ‘Power Planners International’ asked for accelerating the development of wind and solar power beyond the target adopted in the Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP). The review of the 10-year generation expansion planning for Pakistan suggests that an increase of the planned total VRE capacity from 20 GW to 33 GW by 2030 would be possible by adding minor grid infrastructure reinforcements. This would reduce energy generation’s total emissions by 50 percent and the average energy generation costs by 15 percent.
The rooftop solar system has a huge potential and can be a win-win occurrence providing sustainability, security of supply, and affordability. For Pakistan, rooftop solar makes a compelling case as it can help in meeting local demands, reduce capacity payment burden and transmission and distribution losses, and manage daytime peaks.

Mini and micro grids provide a midway between standalone and grid systems as they operate like autonomous and decentralized electricity networks capable of functioning separately from a national grid. This would improve rural livelihood and increase local business growth by adding value creation to local products and services. Moreover, RE-dominated MGs present much more financial feasibility as compared to conventional fossil-fuel-based generation.

**Powering Progress: Investments and Digitization to Overcome Challenges**

Digitization is the future and it must be tailored toward addressing the lack of electricity transmission infrastructure to ensure price affordability and accessibility to consumers. Targeted investments and digital transformation must go hand-in-hand with effective resource management, thoughtful policy development, governance reforms as well as innovation in system planning.¹⁸

Energy dependency is a major issue and Pakistan needs to escape the vicious cycle through out-of-the-box thinking and win-win solutions at policy and practice level. The power sector must be focused on overcoming the energy ‘trilemma’ revolving around the availability, accessibility, and affordability of electricity. For that, power industry must integrate new solutions and ensure targeted investments.

The technology and digitization ideas have often been wrongly tackled by the power sector. Consequently, all the costs and expenses are borne by consumers, making the affordability goal futile. A consumer-oriented power sector and optimization of cost is necessary. Also, as effective use of resources and ideas requires energy experts’ input. Establishment of a professional board to advise the government in this regard is necessary.

To establish greater power security in Pakistan, there is a need to systematize wholly with an improved approach. Case studies on different aspects, including tariff indexation, investments, planning, digital transformation, etc. must be done to derive workable solutions.
A major reason for the burden on consumers is the obsolete and less efficient power transmission system; therefore, power transmission must be made an investment priority area, along with energy transition and digitization.

As future power planning is important for Pakistan, investments should be done in mobilizing the power policy, along with technology and innovative tools. Moreover, structural and management reforms must be made a priority to address structural issues and deficiencies in the system’s planning capacity.

Power investment, policy planning, and digitization must be oriented, for the time being, towards transmission, and not generation. This will help to ensure price affordability as well as accessibility to customers.

**Indus Water Treaty Arbitration – Battle over Water Sharing**

The Indus Water Treaty (IWT), a water-sharing treaty between Pakistan and India signed in 1960, ‘allocates the Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan and the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India’.

However, India seeks to amend the Indus Waters Treaty, whereas Pakistan calls for upholding the sanctity of the treaty which supports the world’s largest continuous irrigation system and is crucial for Pakistan’s economy.19

India is already designing its water projects with storages of a higher level and obstructing river flows more than what was permitted under the Treaty. India upholds the neutral expert’s decision on using silt clearance technology in Baglihar Dam and ignores the subsequent decision of the International Court of Arbitration in 2013 which refuted the use of silt technology for more water storage.

India has made blatant attempts to gain control over the three western rivers allocated to Pakistan in violation of the IWT. Moreover, as the western rivers’ waters are Pakistan’s lifeline and it is a matter of its survival, it is high time for Pakistan to take the initiative in raising the issue and projecting its stance to protect its basic rights, to resist India’s attempts to gain control over them and safeguard its vital interests as a lower riparian state with an agricultural economy.
A very calculated response and a comprehensive action plan on the part of the government is required. This should be coupled with the capacity building of relevant institutions like office of Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters (PCIW), Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), and Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC); establishment of data cells and faculties for research programs in technical institutions; close liaison of academia and relevant government institutions; and proactive and firm projection of Pakistan’s stance in local and foreign media. Pakistan should prepare to take the matter to the United Nations (UN) if India continues to boycott the proceedings of the International Court of Arbitration.

Despite the violation and non-compliance, India keeps projecting its stance aggressively while Pakistan has been a passive player in a defensive mode. This passive role has provided India enough space to plan more than 150 projects like in violation of the IWT. There is an immediate need for an in-depth study of IWT for a stronger projection and enhanced capability to interpret its provisions to present argumentative assertions, develop academic content, and convince the international community of Pakistan’s stance. Pakistan requires comprehensive preparations for developing an action plan, projecting its narrative, and retaliating with a pragmatic and reasoned response that encompasses all dimensions of the water dispute.

Notes

3 This write-up is based on the deliberations by academicians, practitioners and thought leaders on current challenges related to governance in Pakistan held on March 11, 2023 at IPS.


This was shared by Lubna Riaz from IPS’ Energy, Water and Climate Change desk, in “Young Researchers’ Convention on National Security Ecosystem of Pakistan,” organized by the Centre for Strategic and Contemporary Research (CSCR) on February 7, 2023 as well as in a discussion of working group “Guaranteeing Climate Consciousness,” https://www.ips.org.pk/efficient-mechanisms-innovative-ideas-and-capacity-building-mandatory-to-tackle-challenges-of-climate-change/.

This was stated by Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary, Water and Power, and member IPS-National Academic Council, while representing the Institute at a webinar, titled “Solidarity Solar Actions for Energy Transition,” held on March 21, 2023. See, https://www.ips.org.pk/solidarity-solar-actions-for-energy-transition/.

