In this Issue

The latest issue of Policy Perspectives brings forth research, analyses and commentaries on various topics concerning national, regional, and international issues from policy experts, academics, and practitioners.

The first article ‘Clash of Identities: Ontological (In)Securities of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the Repercussions’ suggests a perspective for understanding the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It discusses how the Pashtun state identity of Afghanistan interacts with the Islamic identity of Pakistan, causing anxiety over self-identity in both states and confronting their ontological (in)security challenges. The two countries manage their ontological insecurities by observing self-affirmation routines that are potentially harmful for civilians.

The second article ‘Geoeconomics: The New Geopolitics’ emphasizes that economics and politics determine, define, and drive each other. It suggests that geoeconomics is replacing geopolitics as a new global force, particularly when the underlying phenomenon of power and control is factored in. It maintains that geoeconomics should be considered a form, or means of gaining political ends. While political economy is conducting economics through politics, geoeconomics is administring politics through economics. When economics becomes a means to gain power and control, it becomes geoeconomics.

The next article ‘Social Structure and Conflicting Elite Interest: A Comparison of Pakistan and South Korea’ is a comparative study of the elite capture in Pakistan and developmental structure in South Korea. It sets out to explore the reasons due to which Pakistani state remains constricted by social actors, failing to achieve a developmental state, despite similar post-colonial trajectories of Pakistan and South Korea. It identifies social structure and conflicting elite interest as twin independent variables responsible for the different outcomes in South Korea and Pakistan.

The fourth article ‘MFN Yes, MFN No? Trade Developments Between the EU and Russia and the Principle of Most-Favored Nation’ evaluates the repercussions of suspension of Russia’s MFN status on EU-Russia trade relations. It underscores that this move would affect Russia more
The last article ‘Food Security in Pakistan and Need for Public Policy Adjustments’ calls for integration and alignment in public policies for sustainable food and nutrition security, in the post-Covid-19 times. By applying the Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (FGT) index to estimate food security dimensions, it shows that food sustainability and utilization have been on a downward trajectory. It also reveals that non-farmers are 8 percent more food-insecure than farmers who are 4 percent food-insecure. The article recommends a holistic approach in public policies toward food security.

The symposium section includes a symposium on ‘Afghanistan and its Relations with Pakistan’ in which four prominent experts discuss the current state of affairs in Afghanistan and the matters related to Pakistan-Afghanistan relations in the broader perspective of history, ideology, and culture.

The comment section includes commentary on ‘Land Grabbing: A Tool to Disempower the People of Jammu & Kashmir’. Since August 2019, when India revoked the special status given in its constitution to the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it has undertaken several legislative and administrative measures to bring a demographic change in J&K in clear contravention of international laws and human rights. These measures have caused lasting impact by marginalizing Kashmiri people, their identity and culture. Through settler colonial legislation, India is allowing radical changes in domicile laws, allowing India’s armed forces to take over land, and altering the electoral boundaries.

The issue concludes with the ‘Dialogue at IPS’ section which covers important themes from some topical discussions held at the Institute of Policy Studies during recent months.