

INSIGHTS OF PAKISTAN, IRAN AND THE CAUCASUS STUDIES

ISSN (P): 2958-5112 | ISSN (Online): 2958-5120

Vol. 04, No. 04, November 2025



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Editorial

Dear readers!

The November 2025 edition of *Insights of Pakistan, Iran and the Caucasus Studies* highlights the journal's continued commitment to advancing rigorous interdisciplinary scholarship on regional connectivity, governance and socio-religious evolution. This issue features two significant research contributions that interrogate the intersections of state structures, cultural continuities and developmental paradigms across the wider Central and West Asian sphere. The first article, "Border Governance, State Presence and Human Security in the Balkh-Central Asia Interface", by Asfandyar Ayaz and Dr. Muhammad Asim, gives an empirically grounded analysis of the security and administrative mechanisms shaping Afghanistan's northern frontier, situating Balkh Province as a strategic hinge between South and Central Asia.

The second significant contribution, "Regional Religious Commonalities and Sustainable Urbanism: Lessons for Pakistan", by Dr. Muhammad Asim and Prof. Dr. Ghulam Shams Ur Rehman, gives an innovative reading of Islamic and regional ethical traditions as foundational resources for sustainable urban planning and civic resilience.

Together, these studies reaffirm the journal's mission to bridge political economy, cultural thought, and applied policy within the Pakistan-Iran-Caucasus arc, encouraging policymakers and scholars alike to rethink regionalism through an integrated and human-centred lens.

We invite our readers -- scholars, diplomats, students and regional experts -- to engage deeply with these analyses and to join us in fostering a critical, empathetic, and well-informed dialogue across borders and disciplines.

Best regards,

Dr. Shumaila Arzoo
RMR Representative in IPICS
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