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## Editorial

Dear readers!

This IPICS's February 2026 issue consolidates three major analytically distinct yet structurally connected inquiries into the evolving political and intellectual landscape of Iran, Pakistan and their wider regional environment. The ethnographic study situated in Qom interrogates the negotiation between desire and orthodoxy within a clerical centre of the Islamic Republic and demonstrates that cultural Europeanisation unfolds through selective adaptation rather than displacement of religious authority. In parallel, the discourse analysis of Khomeinism repositions the thought of Ruhollah Khomeini as an ideological framework structured around resistance to Western epistemic and political domination. Together, these contributions refine our understanding of how identity, sovereignty and moral order are debated and recalibrated within post-revolutionary Iran and across adjacent intellectual spaces.

The third contribution extends the analytical frame to global political economy by examining delayed climate finance and its distributive consequences for the Global South with particular attention to Pakistan and Afghanistan. It demonstrates that postponement in climate disbursement functions not only as administrative lag but as structural asymmetry that deepens fiscal stress, constrains adaptation capacity and reshapes geopolitical alignments. Across culture, ideology and finance, this volume advances a coherent proposition. Regional dynamics in Pakistan, Iran and the Caucasus cannot be understood through isolated variables. They demand integrated analysis that links intimate social negotiation, ideological production and global economic governance within a unified strategic framework.

Best regards,

**Dr. Shumaila Arzoo**  
RMR Representative in IPICS  
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