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Editorial

Dear readers,

Welcome to the July edition of Insights of Pakistan, Iran, and the Caucasus Studies (IPICS). In this issue, we are delighted to present a diverse range of research articles that delve into significant socio-political issues in the region. These articles contribute to our understanding of various challenges and shed light on potential solutions that can foster peace, progress, and cooperation.

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer and his team present an insightful article titled "Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Program: Mitigating the Non-Traditional Security Threat of Climate Change and Water Crisis in Pakistan." Recognizing the pressing concerns of climate change and water scarcity, this research highlights the transformative potential of afforestation initiatives in Pakistan. The authors emphasize the need for concerted efforts to address these challenges and promote environmental sustainability for a secure future.

Shahid Hussain, Humay Abdyrahmanova, Nesar Ahmad Rahmati, and Junaid Ali contribute a comparative study titled "From Orthodoxy to Progress: A Comparative Study of Central Asian Muslim States and Pakistan's Journey towards Liberalization." This research analyzes the trajectories of Central Asian Muslim states and Pakistan in their pursuit of liberalization. By examining the political, economic, and social dimensions, the authors offer valuable insights into the processes of change, providing a basis for understanding the complexities of these transitions.

"Promoting Social Cohesion and Resolving the Kurdish Ethnic Dilemma in Iran, Iraq, and Turkey; A Critical Review of Dr. Asim's Book 'Romanticizing Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan'" is a thought-provoking article by Niloufar Talebi and Freidun Sarkisov. This critical review engages with Dr. Asim's book to explore avenues for promoting social cohesion and resolving the Kurdish ethnic dilemma. By critically examining the perspectives presented, the authors invite further discussion and reflection on this important issue.

In their article, "Unraveling the Informal Economic Association: A Study of Baloch Population Staying in Pakistan's Balochistan and Afghanistan's Nimruz within the Context of Cross-Border Trade," Tariq Saeed and Dr. Muhammad Asim shed light on the dynamics of cross-border trade and the informal economic associations between Baloch populations in Pakistan's Balochistan and Afghanistan's Nimruz. This research offers valuable insights into the economic interdependencies and challenges faced by these communities, providing a basis for understanding the complexities of cross-border trade in the region.

Lastly, Warda Najeeb Jamal presents an article titled "Reviewing the Concept of 'Romanticizing Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan' for Idealizing Peaceful and Progressive Afghanistan." This thought-provoking piece critically reviews the concept of romanticizing Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, with a focus on envisioning a peaceful and progressive Afghanistan. The author's analysis stimulates a meaningful discussion on the potential pathways for promoting peace and progress in the region.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the authors, reviewers, and the editorial team for their dedicated efforts in making this edition of IPICS a success. We look forward to bringing you more insightful research in the future. Warm regards,

Dr. Shumaila Arzoo RMR Representative in IPICS Advisory Board