

CSA hosts discourse on Dr Ishrat's book

Our Correspondent
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LAHORE: The Civil Services Academy (CSA), Walton hosted a comprehensive discourse on Development Pathways: India, Pakistan and Bangladesh (1947–2022) by eminent economist, public policy expert and former State Bank of Pakistan governor Dr Ishrat Husain, with participants underscoring the importance of institutional reforms, evidence-based policymaking and effective governance for sustainable national development.

Organised by the Academy's Rah-e-Rushd Book Club at the Jinnah Auditorium, the event brought together probationary officers, faculty members and senior officials for an in-depth discussion on the comparative development trajectories of the three South Asian countries since independence.

The programme commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran and the national anthem, followed by the formal inauguration of the event. Participants were welcomed by the organisers, while an introductory audiovisual presentation highlighted Dr Husain's contributions to Pakistan's economic reforms, public administration and institutional development.

A presentation on the book outlined its comparative analysis of the development experiences of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh from 1947 to 2022. It focused on key themes, including institutional governance, economic policy reforms, investment in human capital and the role of effective state institutions in achieving sustained economic growth and national development.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr Husain shared insights drawn from decades of experience in public service and policy formulation. Reflecting on the successes and

shortcomings of South Asia's development journey, he stressed that institutional continuity, merit-based governance, quality education and prudent economic management remained indispensable for achieving long term national progress.

Addressing the probationary officers, he urged future civil servants to uphold integrity, professionalism and evidence-based decision-making in the discharge of their official responsibilities, emphasising the critical role of an efficient and impartial civil service in strengthening state institutions.

The discussion also examined the practical relevance of the book's findings for Pakistan's civil service, with participants deliberating on how institutional reforms, improved governance and informed policymaking could enhance public service delivery and contribute to sustainable socio-economic development.

A lively question and answer session followed, during which probationary officers and faculty members engaged Dr Husain on a wide range of issues relating to governance, economic management, institutional capacity and Pakistan's future development priorities. The interactive exchange reflected the participants' keen intellectual engagement with the subject.

The event concluded with a book-signing ceremony, where probationary officers received signed copies of Development Pathways. The Director General of the Civil Services Academy lauded Dr Husain's scholarly contribution and thanked him for sharing his experience and insights with the Academy. A commemorative shield was presented to the distinguished guest, followed by a vote of thanks and a group photograph.

The Academy said the event reaffirmed its commitment to promoting intellectual inquiry, evidence based learning and informed dialogue on issues of national importance through the initiatives of the Rah-e-Rushd Book Club.