



Weekly



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CONTENTS

Overview

Governance

TLP chief Saad Rizvi on FIA radar for 'money laundering'

Cop shot dead while guarding polio team in KP's Nowshera: police

Punjab seeks ban on TLP after violent protest

'Curbing militancy key to financial stability'

Socio-Economic Issues

Farm lending slumps as finance minister warns of 'alarming' crisis

Menace of child labour persists across country amid absence of unified definition

Border closures disrupt Pak-Afghan trade, transit

IMF agreement, US trade deal 'imminent'

Staff-level agreement with IMF unlocks \$1.2bn

Govt chose not to seek foreign aid after floods: Aurangzeb



Contd

FBR's 'homegrown' transformation earns spot as global case study at WB forum

Climate finance stuck in red tape, Pakistan warns FAO dialogue

International Affairs

Spread of drug-resistant superbugs surging, WHO warns

World's coral reefs crossing survival limit, experts warn

China rejects reports of Pakistan supplying rare earth samples to US'

Pakistan tells UN India conducting demographic changes in IIOJ&K

Kabul committing aggression at India's behest: PM

Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to immediate ceasefire after Doha talks: defence minister

Trump says Gaza ceasefire still in force after Israeli strikes

Policy Nuggets

OVERVIEW

This week's *Policy Pulse* presents a nation at a critical inflection point, where domestic security imperatives, economic stabilization efforts, and complex diplomatic engagements are deeply intertwined. This edition captures Pakistan's multifaceted challenges, from confronting extremist financing and ensuring public health security to securing international financial support and managing volatile regional relationships. It offers a candid look at how the determined state institutional responses and persistent systemic vulnerabilities are revealed.

The analysis reveals several pressing themes. A significant crackdown on the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), including money-laundering probes and calls for a formal ban, demonstrates a firmer state stance against extremist groups, though not without risks to civil liberties. Economically, the securing of an IMF staff-level agreement and global recognition for the FBR's reforms mark hard-won gains in macroeconomic credibility. However, these are juxtaposed with a severe agricultural lending crisis and the government's decision to forego international flood aid, whilst admirable but not without potential pitfalls, highlight the fragile and uneven nature of economic recovery. Diplomatically, a fragile ceasefire with Afghanistan and continued advocacy on Kashmir at the UN underscore a foreign policy walking a tightrope between confrontation and de-escalation.

These developments have immediate, real-world implications for public sector practitioners. The explicit linkage of economic stability to internal security demands unprecedented coordination between economic and security agencies. The FBR's successful "homegrown" transformation offers a replicable model for other institutions, proving that data-led, transparent reforms can rebuild credibility. Conversely, the tragic attack on security personnel providing security to polio workers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a stark reminder that even well-intentioned public health initiatives can fail without localized, conflict-sensitive security planning and community trust-building.

The Policy Nuggets distill key actionable priorities, such as, accelerated e-procurement reforms to enhance transparency in public spending; hyperspectral satellite data integration into climate and agricultural planning; and the need to strengthen inter-provincial trade mechanisms to prevent crises like the wheat transport ban. In essence, this *Policy Pulse* underscores that Pakistan's path to resilience requires an approach that hardens security, deepens economic reforms, and pursues shrewd diplomacy, all the while ensuring that policy gains tangibly reach the most vulnerable citizens.



Pakistan stands at a pivotal moment where tackling extremism, stabilizing the economy, and navigating complex diplomacy must be tightly integrated to ensure national resilience and protect vulnerable populations.

GOVERNANCE

TLP chief Saad Rizvi on FIA radar for ‘money laundering’



Authorities have launched a money-laundering probe against TLP chief Saad Rizvi after recovering Rs110 million in foreign currency and nearly 2kg of gold from his residence. Over 20 FIRs, including terrorism and murder charges, have been registered against Rizvi and his aides following violent clashes with police. Human rights groups and clerics have called for a judicial inquiry into the alleged excessive use of force during the crackdown.

Analysis:

The case highlights the deepening confrontation between the state and extremist groups, exposing both governance challenges and gaps in law enforcement transparency. While the crackdown aims to curb militancy and illegal financing, the government must ensure due legal process and accountability to maintain public trust and uphold human rights.

Way Forward:

- Empower the FIA and State Bank to closely monitor religious and political organizations' funding sources to prevent money laundering and terror financing.
- Establish an independent judicial commission to investigate the money-laundering allegations and alleged excessive use of force.
- Create a national task force to trace, freeze, and audit all suspicious financial channels linked with extremist groups.

Cop shot dead while guarding polio team in KP's Nowshera: police



A police constable escorting a polio-vaccination team in Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was fatally shot by unidentified assailants while protecting the team. The attack comes just a day after when a Levies constable who was guarding a polio team in Swat was shot dead. Through special order, 285 police personnel have been deployed across the country to provide security to polio teams.

Analysis:

This attack highlights the severe security risks faced by polio-eradication efforts in Pakistan, especially in militant-affected regions. Between 2012-2021, more than 200 polio team workers have lost their lives whilst working on polio campaigns. The attacks on polio team underscore how violence and mistrust continue to hamper the campaign despite official commitments.

Way Forward:

- Increase and enhance dedicated security protocols for polio teams in high-risk districts, including rapid-response units on-standby.
- Launch community-led awareness and protection initiatives to build local trust and reduce hostility toward vaccination programmes.
- Integrate conflict-sensitive planning into vaccination drives such as mapping high-risk zones, engaging local elders and adjusting timings/routes to minimise exposure.

GOVERNANCE

Punjab seeks ban on TLP after violent protest



The Punjab government has decided to request the federal government to ban TLP after violent protests in Muridke and Lahore. In addition, as part of the crackdown, Section 144 has been imposed across the province banning public gatherings till October 18. Moreover, it has been proposed to place the TLP's leadership under the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Analysis:

This move marks a significant escalation by the provincial government in its efforts to assert the writ of the state and curb the influence of hard-line religious groups. At the same time, history shows that banning such groups does not always eliminate their support base and may drive them underground, raising enforcement and civil-liberties challenges.

Way Forward:

- Ensure that the ban on TLP is accompanied by a transparent process of investigation and prosecution of individuals responsible for violence.
- Strengthen de-radicalisation and community-engagement programmes in madrassas and neighbourhoods associated with TLP support.
- Coordinate federal and provincial efforts to monitor and freeze financial flows, social-media channels and organisational assets of TLP.

‘Curbbing militancy key to financial stability’



As the Pakistan delegation led by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb ended their week-long visit to Washington to participate in 2025 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings, the Finance Minister in a briefing to media acknowledged that internal peace and political cohesion is important for economic stability and maintaining investor confidence. Moreover, one of the officials also stated that security-economy link surfaced repeatedly in many of the delegation's 65 meetings during the visit.

Analysis:

This linkage of economic stability with domestic stability marks a rare admission and acknowledgement regarding the inseparability of the two elements for the country's growth. As Pakistan expands its bilateral cooperation with US and improves its macroeconomic indicators, it remains important that its ability to maintain fiscal discipline and attract foreign capital is matched by its efforts to maintain domestic stability.

Way Forward:

- Enhance transparency and enforcement in financial systems to cut off funding channels for militants.
- Invest strategically in the socioeconomic development of affected regions to reduce grievances that drive militancy.
- Strengthen coordination between security, intelligence and economic agencies to ensure that counter-militancy advances feed into improved investor confidence and market stability.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

Farm lending slumps as finance minister warns of 'alarming' crisis



Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb highlighted a severe agricultural financing crisis as Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited's (ZTBL) farm lending dropped by nearly 54% in two years due to climate shocks, economic pressures, and farmers' repayment difficulties amid volatile crop prices.

Analysis:

The decline exposes deep structural flaws in Pakistan's agriculture sector, where outdated practices, climate vulnerability, and weak financial resilience threaten food security and rural livelihoods, demanding urgent policy and institutional reforms for sustainable recovery.

Way Forward:

- Introduce drought- and flood-resistant crop varieties and promote adaptive farming practices to mitigate climate-related losses.
- Revise ZTBL's lending model to ensure easier access to smallholders through flexible repayment plans, low-interest loans, and digital credit platforms.
- Expand insurance coverage against climate disasters and pest attacks to protect farmers' incomes and ensure loan repayment stability.

Menace of child labour persists across country amid absence of unified definition



Child labour remains rampant in Pakistan due to poverty, weak enforcement, and the absence of a unified legal definition, with thousands of children mostly girls working in abusive domestic settings despite existing provincial bans.

Analysis:

The persistence of child labour reflects deep social inequality and institutional failure. Pakistan urgently needs stronger national legislation, stricter prosecution, and poverty alleviation measures to protect vulnerable children and uphold their right to education and dignity.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen poverty alleviation programs like BISP and Ehsaas, and link the cash transfers with truancy to incentivize families to keep/enroll their children in school.
- Formulate a national definition of "child" and "child labour" aligned with international conventions to remove inconsistencies.
- Extend Sindh's domestic child labour ban to all provinces and make it a federal offense, ensuring strict penalties and zero tolerance for violators.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

B order closures disrupt Pak-Afghan trade, transit



Cross-border trade and travel between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been halted after unprovoked firing by Afghan forces, leading to the closure of major crossings like Torkham and Chaman. The closure disrupted commerce and caused heavy financial losses.

Analysis:

The recurring border closures highlight fragile Pak-Afghan relations and the lack of effective conflict resolution mechanisms. To prevent further economic and diplomatic strain, it is critical to restore dialogue, enforce border protocols, and ensure coordinated security communication.

Way Forward:

- Enhance real-time intelligence sharing between civil and military agencies to preempt militant movements in tribal regions.
- Invest in advanced protective gear and tactical training for officers involved in counterterrorism operations.
- Launch community engagement initiatives in border areas to build local support networks against extremist infiltration.

I MF agreement, US trade deal 'imminent'



Pakistan is set to finalize a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this week. This will unlock a \$1.2 billion tranche under its ongoing loan program. Simultaneously, Pakistan is also preparing to sign a trade framework with the US within two weeks. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb announced plans to launch a Green Panda bond by December and a \$1 billion global bond next year, alongside accelerated privatization and structural reforms.

Analysis:

The imminent IMF deal and US trade framework signal renewed investor confidence and improved economic stability for Pakistan. However, sustained reforms, transparent privatization, and efficient implementation of financial commitments will be critical to ensuring long-term economic resilience and reducing dependency on external bailouts.

Way Forward:

- Accelerate the privatization of PIA and power distribution companies to reduce fiscal losses and improve governance.
- Leverage Pakistan's geostrategic position by enhancing trade connectivity with Central Asia, China, and the Gulf states.
- Balance growth by ensuring that fiscal and trade reforms benefit small businesses, farmers, and youth entrepreneurs.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

Staff-level agreement with IMF unlocks \$1.2bn



The IMF and Pakistan have reached a staff-level agreement on the second review of its 37-month Extended Fund Facility and first review of the 28-month Resilience and Sustainability Facility, unlocking about US\$1.2 billion under both the facilities. The IMF acknowledged Pakistan's regaining macroeconomic stability. It also noted that the primary balance exceeded targets and recorded a surplus for the first time in 14 years, whilst inflation remained contained, and external buffers had strengthened. Although recent floods and weaker agriculture outlook may bring FY26 growth projection to 3.25-3.5 %.

Analysis:

This deal is significant to continue the momentum of Pakistan's economic reforms and macro-stability efforts, and it could potentially ease external financing constraints and boost investor sentiment. However, the modest growth outlook, coupled with flood damage and structural vulnerabilities, demand deep and consistent reforms.

Way Forward:

- Prioritize converting the unlocked IMF funds into sustainable reforms to bolster growth and restore confidence.
- Accelerate structural reforms to sustain the macroeconomic gains.
- Use the current economic breathing space to build stronger buffers to shield against future external shocks.

Govt chose not to seek foreign aid after floods: Aurangzeb



Addressing a closed gathering at the Atlantic Council in Washington, the Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb stated that the government decided not to appeal to international donors following the 2025 floods. This decision was taken on the back of improved macroeconomic stability and the government opted to fund recovery efforts from domestic fiscal resources instead.

Analysis:

This decision signals a bid for self-reliance and an effort to avoid the conditionalities or reputational risks of foreign aid. However, it also risks undermining resource capacity in the face of major damage caused by flood.

Way Forward:

- Establish a transparent flood-damage database and publicly release a full needs-assessment to ensure domestic funding is efficiently targeted.
- Reinforce climate-adaptation and resilience infrastructure to reduce recurring losses rather than just respond.
- The government may remain open to technical cooperation and concessional financing from multilateral institutions so that Pakistan benefits from best practices.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

FBR's 'homegrown' transformation earns spot as global case study at WB forum



The World Bank invited Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to showcase its successful transformation efforts as a global case study in public sector reform during the World Bank Annual Meeting held in Washington. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Chairman FBR Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Secretary Finance, Secretary Economic Affairs Division and other senior officials attended the Annual Meetings. The reform highlights include raising the tax-to-GDP ratio from 8.83 % in FY 2023-24 to 10.33 % in FY 2024-25, driven by a home-grown, data-led plan focusing on transparency, efficiency, and compliance.

Analysis:

This recognition by the World Bank signals a meaningful stride for Pakistan's revenue-administration reforms, suggesting growing credibility internationally and possibly easing access to development partners and capital markets.

Way Forward:

- Institutionalise the reform gains by embedding them into legislation and ensuring continuity beyond the current administration's tenure.
- Broaden the tax base by reducing exemptions and special treatments and capture more informal economic activity.
- Publish regular independent performance dashboards to maintain transparency and build public trust.

Climate finance stuck in red tape, Pakistan warns FAO dialogue



Addressing the FAO's Rome Water Dialogue, Adviser to the Prime Minister, Dr Syed Tauqir Shah stated that Pakistan needs around US\$7-14 billion annually by 2030 for adaptation efforts. However, access to this climate finance is being blocked by bureaucratic delays, complex criteria and a finance architecture that favours loans over grants.

Analysis:

Dr Shah's address reveals a critical gap in the international climate finance architecture: it's not just the amount of money which is an issue, rather the design and administration of climate finance which acts as a bottleneck for vulnerable countries to utilize these funds. In addition, the institutional capacity of countries like Pakistan to fulfill the complex criteria means that the adaptation efforts will be significantly hampered, leaving the countries to remain vulnerable to climate change.

Way Forward:

- Create a fast-track national climate finance cell to cut through bureaucratic delays and coordinate directly with international donors.
- Prioritize grant-based project proposals instead of loans to reduce debt burden while addressing climate adaptation needs.
- Build technical capacity in ministries and provinces to design and submit "bankable" climate adaptation projects quickly.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Spread of drug-resistant superbugs surging, WHO warns



The WHO has warned of a global surge in drug-resistant bacterial infections, with one in six cases in 2023 showing antibiotic resistance, threatening the effectiveness of life-saving treatments and increasing risks of deadly infections.

Analysis:

The rapid rise of antimicrobial resistance exposes a global health emergency driven by overuse of antibiotics and weak surveillance systems. This necessitates an urgent global action to strengthen monitoring, invest in new treatments, and promote responsible antibiotic use.

Way Forward:

- Support the development of new antibiotics, diagnostic tools, and alternative therapies through global funding and public-private partnerships.
- Launch worldwide educational programs to inform the public and healthcare providers about the dangers of antibiotic misuse.
- Improve infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in low- and middle-income countries with weak health systems.

World's coral reefs crossing survival limit, experts warn



A major scientific report warns that the world's tropical coral reefs have crossed a critical tipping point due to record ocean warming, causing unprecedented coral dieback and threatening marine biodiversity and coastal livelihoods.

Analysis:

The irreversible coral decline reflects the escalating climate crisis and underscore the urgent need to curb greenhouse gas emissions and protect remaining ecosystems before further ecological tipping points like Amazon dieback and ice sheet collapse are triggered.

Way Forward:

- Pakistan should enhance its national climate change and marine biodiversity strategies to protect its coastal ecosystems.
- Integrate sustainable fishing, coastal tourism, and renewable ocean energy into Pakistan's blue economy framework.
- Align coral reef protection with SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 14 (life below water) to ensure that marine sustainability is a long-term priority.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

China rejects reports of Pakistan supplying rare earth samples to US



China dismissed reports claiming Pakistan supplied rare earth samples to the US using Chinese technology, calling them baseless and aimed at creating discord between Beijing and Islamabad. The Chinese Foreign Ministry clarified that the materials shown to US officials were ordinary gem ores, not rare earth elements. Beijing reiterated that its recent export controls on rare-earth technologies are unrelated to Pakistan and are meant to uphold security and non-proliferation norms.

Analysis:

The statement reflects China's intent to safeguard its strategic partnership with Pakistan while countering Western media narratives that could strain ties. It also underscores Beijing's growing assertiveness in controlling critical mineral technologies amid ongoing US-China trade tensions. For Pakistan, maintaining transparency and balance in its dealings with both powers remains crucial to avoid diplomatic misinterpretations.

Way Forward:

- To counter disinformation, Pakistan's foreign office should actively engage with international media and diplomatic forums.
- Pakistan should maintain open and transparent communication with China to prevent misinformation and reinforce strategic trust.
- Pakistan should formulate a national rare earth and critical minerals policy to reduce dependency on external actors.

Pakistan tells UN India conducting demographic changes in IIOJ&K



Pakistan, addressing the UN Fourth Committee on Decolonization, accused India of conducting demographic changes in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) and violating UN resolutions through military occupation and settler-colonial policies since August 2019. Minister Asif Khan reaffirmed that Kashmir remains a disputed territory whose final status must be decided via a UN-supervised plebiscite.

Analysis:

Pakistan's statement reflects its consistent diplomatic strategy to internationalize the Kashmir issue and counter India's narrative at global forums. By framing India's actions as violations of international law and the Geneva Conventions, Pakistan seeks to reaffirm the legitimacy of Kashmiris' right to self-determination while exposing India's human rights abuses and regional destabilization efforts.

Way Forward:

- Engage international legal experts and human rights bodies to document India's demographic engineering and international law breaches.
- Work closely with friendly nations to build a unified diplomatic front to demand accountability for India's actions in IIOJ&K.
- Support international investigations into extrajudicial killings, mass incarcerations, and gender-based violence in IIOJ&K to expose India's repression.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Kabul committing aggression at India's behest: PM



Addressing the federal cabinet, PM Shehbaz Sharif stated that the Taliban-led Afghan regime launched recent cross-border aggression at the behest of India, and said that Islamabad is ready to hold talks only if Kabul accepts Pakistan's "legitimate conditions" for a permanent ceasefire. Meanwhile, China's foreign ministry when asked about Pakistan and Afghanistan agreeing to a 48-hour ceasefire, stated that it supports countries in exercising restraint and realising a full and lasting ceasefire.

Analysis:

The statement reflects Pakistan's attempt to link the Afghan attacks to India, thereby framing the conflict as part of a broader regional rivalry rather than just a bilateral Pakistan-Afghanistan issue. At the same time, by keeping the door open for talks conditioned on a permanent ceasefire, Pakistan signals it prefers a diplomatic path — but from a position of strength and with red lines clearly drawn.

Way Forward:

- Clarify and publish a specific list of "legitimate conditions" for the permanent ceasefire to remove ambiguity in future talks.
- Engage a neutral third-party mediator to monitor and verify any cease-fire implementation.
- While pursuing diplomacy, simultaneously strengthen border surveillance and early-warning systems..

Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to immediate ceasefire after Doha talks: defence minister



Pursuant to a declaration of a 48-hour ceasefire between Pakistan and Afghanistan on October 16 after Pakistan hit Kabul and Kandahar, the two countries met in Doha for a high-level dialogue on October 18. Subsequently, on October 19, both sides pledged to respect each other's sovereignty and would refrain from supporting groups that carry out attacks against their neighbor. The agreement, mediated by Qatar and Türkiye, will be followed up with another meeting on October 25 in Istanbul to discuss implementation and monitoring mechanisms. The Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar appreciated the "constructive role" of Qatar and Türkiye in these talks.

Analysis:

This cease-fire marks a meaningful de-escalation of one of the worst outbreaks of violence between the two countries since 2021 and provides a diplomatic opening for addressing deeper security-and-sovereignty issues. At the same time, the key challenge will be implementation without which the truce may be fragile.

Way Forward:

- Prioritize a public-and-transparent roadmap for follow-up with clear timelines and responsibilities so that the stakeholders see progress.
- Carry out targeted confidence-building measures to build goodwill and reduce the risk of the cease-fire unraveling.
- Launch a media awareness campaign to promote peace and cooperation and counter misinformation and extremist narratives.

Trump says Gaza ceasefire still in force after Israeli strikes



Although the US President Donald Trump had declared an end to the Gaza war at the Sharm El Sheikh Peace Summit, Israel carried out yet another deadly attack on Hamas positions in southern Gaza. Trump, when asked, stated that the ceasefire remains in force.

The attack came after Israel accused Hamas of targeting its troops in "a blatant violation" of the nine-day-old truce. Trump, on the other hand, attributed the alleged breaches not to Hamas leadership but to "some rebels within" the organization. Gaza's civil defence agency, which operates under the Hamas authority, has said that the strikes killed at least 45 people across the territory.

Analysis:

According to human rights advocate and former UNRWA spokesperson Chris Gunness, the continuous violation of ceasefire by Israel highlights the insidious nature of the agreement. The deal has been "set up to fail" as it is going to be very difficult to deliver the bodies of the captives and Israel would have a "pretext to call off the plan" and "restart the genocide" whilst the Palestinians "don't have the wherewithal to prevent it."

Way Forward:

- Pakistan should continue to endorse diplomatic initiatives that aim to end bloodshed and establish a durable ceasefire in Palestine.
- Pakistan must push for mechanisms ensuring accountability for war crimes and violations against civilians in Palestine.
- Pakistan must vociferously denounce the continuous and blatant ceasefire violations by Israel on all international fora.

POLICY NUGGETS

1 Pakistan urges Afghan repatriation amid domestic economic strains

Impact

Reflects Pakistan's stance on refugee repatriation amid economic strain and calls for regional cooperation to ensure safe, voluntary return.

Recommendation

Coordinate with Afghanistan, UNHCR, and international partners to develop a phased, rights-based repatriation plan; enhance host community support and border management to ease local strain and maintain bilateral stability. *"Migration managed with dignity builds peace beyond borders."* – Filippo Grandi

4 Dengue cases emerge in South Waziristan

Impact

Nine dengue cases reported in Lower South Waziristan highlight rising public health risks and gaps in local disease surveillance.

Recommendation

Strengthen vector control, community awareness, and rapid response mechanisms to contain the outbreak and prevent future spread. *"Public health security begins with preparedness at the community level."* – Gro Harlem Brundtland

7 Pakistan to launch first hyperspectral satellite from China

Impact

The launch of HS-1 marks a milestone in Pakistan's space technology, enhancing capabilities in agriculture, urban planning, and disaster management through advanced data analytics.

Recommendation

Integrate HS-1 data into national planning frameworks to strengthen climate resilience, food security, and evidence-based policy development.

"Space technology is most powerful when it serves humanity on the ground." – Yang Liwei

2 Sindh introduces tech-based system to curb school absenteeism

Impact

Sindh's launch of the Student Attendance Monitoring and Redress System (SAMRS) marks a major step toward reducing dropout rates and improving educational accountability through real-time data.

Recommendation

Ensure effective implementation through teacher training, data transparency, and continuous evaluation to strengthen student retention and learning outcomes. *"Education reform succeeds when technology serves inclusion, not exclusion."* – Audrey Azoulay

5 KP voices concern over Punjab's wheat transport ban

Impact

Punjab's wheat transport ban has disrupted supplies to KP, driving up flour prices and straining inter-provincial trade relations.

Recommendation

Government should ensure free inter-provincial movement of essential goods through constitutional safeguards; establish a joint monitoring mechanism to prevent political interference. *"Food security is not just about production, it is about fair access and responsible governance."* – José Graziano da Silva

8 Irregularities uncovered in Hyderabad immunisation drive

Impact

Findings of fake vaccination entries and poor monitoring in Hyderabad's immunisation campaign expose systemic flaws threatening polio eradication and child health safety.

Recommendation

Strengthen accountability through digital vaccination tracking, improved staff retention, and strict cold-chain monitoring to ensure data integrity and effective immunisation coverage. *"Public health systems fail not from lack of resources, but from lack of responsibility."* – Paul Farmer

3 Punjab drafts rules for civilian victims of terrorism

Impact

Punjab's move to finalise rules for civilian victims of terrorism strengthens legal and institutional mechanisms for compensation, healthcare, and rehabilitation.

Recommendation

Ensure timely implementation and transparent fund management through inter-departmental coordination and digital monitoring. Globally, similar victim support reforms in Sri Lanka and Nigeria highlight the importance of state-led rehabilitation frameworks. *"Justice for victims begins with dignity in response."* – Michelle Bachelet

6 Pakistan advances e-procurement reforms for transparency

Impact

PPRA's proposed legal and digital reforms aim to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in public procurement—covering up to 20% of Pakistan's GDP.

Recommendation

Ensure swift parliamentary approval of the amendments and strengthen institutional oversight to prevent leakages and promote fair competition in public spending. *"Institutional transparency is not merely procedural, it is foundational to sustainable governance."* – Amartya Sen

9 Pakistan, Turkmenistan to sign cultural cooperation MoU

Impact

The upcoming Pakistan-Turkmenistan cultural MoU strengthens bilateral ties through collaboration in arts, heritage, and tourism, fostering regional connectivity and people-to-people engagement.

Recommendation

Institutionalise cultural exchange and integrate it into Pakistan's foreign policy to enhance regional cooperation and soft power. *"Culture is not merely an accessory to diplomacy, it is its most enduring foundation."* – Edward Said



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