



Weekly



POLICY PULSE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF PUBLIC POLICY

Vol. 5 Issue No. 60
21 - 27 October 2025



CONTENTS

Overview

Governance

Nations mastering semiconductors, AI will rule world

In landmark ruling, safe motherhood declared fundamental right

Balochistan launches first anti-rape crisis cell

TLP banned as govt takes hard line after unrest

Health

Medicines for Hepatitis C cure arrives from Egypt

Pakistan to launch first national vaccine policy to cut 95pc import dependence

Economic Issues

Salaried class pays almost twice as much tax as exporters, wholesalers, retailers put together

Floods inflict Rs1.18bn damage on railways

Security and Law & Order

Pakistan Navy ship makes 'billion dollar' drug bust



Contd

12 militants killed in KP operations; suicide vehicle destroyed

International Affairs

Khamenei tells Trump to 'keep dreaming' over claims of destroying Iran nuclear sites

Semblance of normality as Chaman border partially reopened

Sanae Takaichi becomes Japan's first woman PM

India restores its embassy in Kabul

'No wars with Pakistan', Trump tells Modi amid trade dialogue

Trump threatens to pull US support if Israel annexes West Bank

Second round of Pak-Afghan talks to take place in Istanbul today

Kabul's reluctance creates impasse at Istanbul talks

Policy Nuggets

OVERVIEW

This issue of the *Policy Pulse* captures Pakistan at a critical juncture, ambitiously navigating the transition from foundational challenges to a future built on technological sovereignty, governance reform, and strategic diplomacy. The analysis reveals a government pushing a dual-track agenda: reacting decisively to immediate security and economic pressures while simultaneously laying the groundwork for long-term, structural transformation. From the launch of a national semiconductor initiative to a landmark ruling on safe motherhood, the policy landscape is marked by an ambitious aim to modernize across all fronts.

The launch of the 'Inspire' semiconductor programme and a new National Vaccine Policy signal a strategic pivot towards self-reliance in critical technology and health security. Concurrently, governance is being reshaped through digital means, as seen in the Supreme Court's Public Facilitation Portal and the digital overhaul of the FBR, aiming for greater transparency and efficiency. On the security front, kinetic counter-terrorism operations continue, but are increasingly complemented by institutional innovations like Balochistan's Anti-Rape Crisis Cells and ban on the TLP, reflecting a multifaceted approach to law and order. Internationally, Pakistan navigates a complex chessboard, engaging in delicate diplomacy with Afghanistan despite stalled talks, cautiously responding to India's re-engagement in Kabul, and positioning itself as a voice for regional peace amid US-Iran tensions. These developments, however, are set against persistent systemic hurdles. The stark disparity in tax contributions underscores a regressive fiscal system, while flood damage to railways and rising smog levels expose continued vulnerability to climate and environmental crises. On the Palestine issue, Pakistan's condemning Israel's attempt to impose "Israeli sovereignty" over the occupied West Bank after its parliament passed bills on annexing the West Bank and US's rare criticism on the same, showcases the fragility of peace in the region.

Policy Nuggets offer targeted solutions: integrating AI and multilingual features into the new judicial portal to enhance access to justice; enforcing stricter emission controls and promoting cleaner fuels to combat smog; ensuring Balochistan's equitable inclusion in CPEC's second phase to foster national unity; and establishing a national Healthcare Tourism Council to tap into a multi-billion dollar industry. Ultimately, Pakistan's success hinges on implementing its ambitious reforms to bridge the gap between its potential and its governance deficits.



Pakistan is at a defining crossroads, advancing bold reforms in technology, governance, and diplomacy as it works to balance immediate crises with the pursuit of long-term stability and self-reliance.

GOVERNANCE

Nations mastering semiconductors, AI will rule world



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif launched Pakistan's first national semiconductor initiative, Inspire, marking the country's formal entry into the \$600 billion global semiconductor ecosystem. The programme aims to train 7,200 professionals in semiconductor design, AI, and IT over five years to build a knowledge-based digital economy. Backed by Rs4.5 billion under PSDP and led by the IT Ministry and PSEB, Inspire seeks to make Pakistan technologically self-reliant and globally competitive.

Analysis:

This initiative reflects Pakistan's strategic shift toward technological sovereignty and economic modernization. By investing in semiconductor and AI skills, Pakistan aims to position its youth within the global innovation chain, aligning national development with emerging tech-driven power dynamics.

Way Forward:

- Expanding initiatives like Inspire to train thousands of youth in chip design, AI, and advanced IT will build a globally competitive workforce.
- Increasing funding for R&D and creating semiconductor fabrication and testing facilities can ensure technological self-reliance.
- Accelerating digitization of government systems and promoting a cashless economy will support a knowledge-based society.

In landmark ruling, safe motherhood declared fundamental right



In a landmark ruling, the Federal Ombudsperson (FOSPAH) declared "safe motherhood" a fundamental right, ruling that dismissing a woman during maternity leave constitutes gender-based discrimination. A private IT firm was fined Rs1 million, with the complainant reinstated and compensated. The decision reinforces constitutional protections and Pakistan's international commitments to women's rights.

Analysis:

This ruling marks a major step toward gender justice and workplace equality in Pakistan, setting a legal precedent for protecting women's maternity rights. It emphasizes the need for all organizations to adopt gender-sensitive policies, ensuring that motherhood is safeguarded as a constitutional and human right rather than treated as a professional liability.

Way Forward:

- Establish regular inspections and reporting mechanisms to ensure employers comply with maternity protection laws and uphold women's rights at work.
- Encourage organizations to provide flexible work options, on-site childcare facilities, and safe environments to support women's professional and maternal responsibilities.
- Mandate all organizations to adopt clear maternity, paternity, and anti-discrimination policies aligned with FOSPAH guidelines and international conventions.

GOVERNANCE

Balochistan launches first anti-rape crisis cell



Balochistan inaugurated its first Anti-Rape Crisis Cells at Civil Sandeman and Bolan Medical Complex Hospitals in Quetta, with support from UN Women. The initiative, led by Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, provides medical, legal, psychological, and police assistance under one roof to victims of sexual violence, marking a major step toward women's protection and access to justice in the province.

Analysis:

This initiative reflects a transformative step in Balochistan's gender justice framework, integrating multi-sectoral support for survivors and promoting victim-centered legal reform. It signifies growing institutional commitment to eradicating gender-based violence and strengthening women's empowerment and human rights across the province.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen the one-window support system by improving coordination among hospitals, police, legal authorities, and psychological counselors for timely and victim-friendly services.
- Set up a provincial oversight body to monitor the performance of crisis cells, ensure transparency, and assess the effectiveness of survivor support services.
- Link survivors to education, vocational training, and employment opportunities to promote economic independence and resilience.

TLP banned as govt takes hard line after unrest



The federal cabinet has banned the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) under the Anti-Terrorism Act following violent protests that resulted in multiple deaths and widespread unrest. The TLP's previous commitment to renounce violence was deemed unfulfilled, leading to the reinstatement of the ban.

Analysis:

This decisive action underscores the government's commitment to maintaining public order and national security. However, it also highlights the challenges of balancing religious sentiments with governance, as the TLP's influence among certain segments of the population remains significant.

Way Forward:

- Develop and promote alternative religious narratives that emphasize peace and tolerance to counter extremist ideologies.
- Increase dialogue between religious leaders, communities, and the state to foster mutual understanding and prevent radicalization.
- Establish programs aimed at rehabilitating former extremists, providing them with education and vocational training to reintegrate into society.

HEALTH

Medicines for Hepatitis C cure arrives from Egypt



Pakistan has received a donation of Hepatitis C medicines from Egypt to support the Prime Minister's Programme for Elimination of Hepatitis C. Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal thanked Egypt and WHO for their assistance and praised Egypt's success in eradicating the disease as a global model. He also chaired a meeting on thalassemia prevention and improving access to bone marrow transplants in Pakistan.

Analysis:

This collaboration highlights Pakistan-Egypt health diplomacy and reflects Pakistan's commitment to achieving disease elimination goals through international partnerships. It also signals a broader move toward strengthening public health systems, emphasizing prevention, affordable treatment, and learning from global best practices.

Way Forward:

- Learn from Egypt's successful model in eradicating Hepatitis C by integrating similar screening, prevention, and treatment strategies into Pakistan's national health programmes.
- Ensure that the donated medicines are efficiently distributed to vulnerable and low-income populations, prioritizing equitable access across all provinces.
- Develop affordable and accessible bone marrow transplant services by investing in advanced medical facilities, skilled personnel, and patient financial support mechanisms.

Pakistan to launch first national vaccine policy to cut 95pc import dependence



During the meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee on Incentivizing Local Manufacturing of Vaccines, held at the Ministry of National Health Services, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan announced that Pakistan is preparing to launch its first-ever National Vaccine Policy to kickstart local vaccine manufacturing and reduce its 95 percent reliance on imported vaccines. The meeting included discussions on policy formulation, existing hurdles, and strategies to ensure national health security and economic resilience through vaccine self-sufficiency.

Analysis:

This move represents a strategic shift toward health-security and economic resilience, as Pakistan seeks not only to cut import costs but also to build domestic biotech-pharma capability. However, developing local vaccine production is capital-intensive, requires regulatory and infrastructure upgrades, and will take sustained commitment before self-reliance is realised.

Way Forward:

- Prioritise creating a clear regulatory and incentive framework to attract private investment into vaccine manufacturing.
- Strengthen the capacity of key institutions so that local production meets global quality standards.
- Launch pilot "fill-and-finish" projects with foreign partners to gain experience fast, while planning for full antigen manufacturing over the medium term.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Salaried class pays almost twice as much tax as exporters, wholesalers, retailers put together



In Q1 of FY 2025-26, Pakistan's salaried class paid Rs130 billion in taxes almost double the combined contributions of exporters, wholesalers, and retailers. Despite a slight reduction in tax rates for some salary slabs, their burden remains disproportionately high compared to profit-based sectors.

Analysis:

This disparity highlights Pakistan's regressive tax structure, where fixed-income earners bear the brunt while high-profit sectors like retail, export, and real estate contribute far less. The imbalance underscores the need for broadening the tax base and ensuring equitable taxation to promote fairness and fiscal sustainability.

Way Forward:

- Make tax filing easier and more transparent for small businesses to encourage voluntary compliance and reduce informal economic activity.
- Enhance the Federal Board of Revenue's capacity through automation, data analytics, and accountability mechanisms to ensure fair and efficient tax collection.
- Strengthen documentation of the economy by linking business transactions and bank data to detect and penalize non-filers and under-reporting.

Floods inflict Rs1.18bn damage on railways



Recent floods caused Rs1.18 billion in damage to Pakistan Railways' infrastructure, severely affecting multiple railway sections, bridges, and tracks. Restoration work is ongoing, with completion expected by mid-November 2025. The committee appreciated the repair efforts and urged long-term flood resilience measures. Separately, an inquiry into an alleged audio leak involving a former DS Multan found the corruption claims baseless and recommended case closure.

Analysis:

The report underscores Pakistan Railways' vulnerability to climate-induced disasters, highlighting the urgent need for resilient infrastructure and better flood management. The swift inquiry closure also reflects improved institutional accountability; however, sustained transparency and preventive measures are vital to safeguard both infrastructure and public trust.

Way Forward:

- Integrate climate risk assessment and adaptation measures into Pakistan Railways' planning and development framework.
- Engage private sector and development partners in financing and modernizing railway infrastructure with disaster-resilient technology.
- Continue internal audits and inquiries to ensure funds allocated for repairs and rehabilitation are used efficiently and without corruption.

SECURITY AND LAW & ORDER

Pakistan Navy ship makes 'billion dollar' drug bust



The Pakistan Navy ship Yarmook, operating under the Combined Maritime Force (CMF), intercepted two "dhow" vessels in the Arabian Sea and seized over two tons of crystal methamphetamine (worth about USD 822 million) and additional narcotics (worth about USD 150 million) in a major anti-smuggling operation.

Analysis:

This significant bust demonstrates Pakistan's growing capacity for maritime interdiction and the importance of multinational cooperation. However, it also underscores the enormous scale and profitability of illicit trafficking in the region, signalling that much more systemic vigilance and coordination are needed.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen coastal security along Balochistan and Sindh by expanding naval patrols and installing modern radar systems.
- Improve coordination between the Pakistan Navy, Anti-Narcotics Force, and Customs through shared databases, and unified command centers.
- Enhance collaboration with neighbouring countries to share intelligence and conduct joint efforts against cross-border drug trafficking networks.

12 militants killed in KP operations; suicide vehicle destroyed



Security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) carried out separate operations in the districts of Bajaur, Hangu and North Waziristan in which 12 militants were killed. According to Inter-Services Public Relations' statement for the operation in North Waziristan, the security forces averted a "potential catastrophic attack" by destroying a vehicle being prepared for a suicide attack. It further stated that the security forces will continue "at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country."

Analysis:

The operations show that Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts in the region are active and that intelligence is successfully used to thwart high-risk attacks. However, the recurring nature of such militant activity underlines that the militant threat remains persistent and may require more than just kinetic action.

Way Forward:

- Enhance cooperation among the military, police, local administration and community informants in KP to detect militant preparations before they escalate.
- Strengthen local civil governance and community resilience in the impacted areas so that militants cannot simply return or re-establish bases in the vacuum left behind.
- Continue clearing hideouts but simultaneously implement deradicalisation and reintegration programs for former militants or at-risk youth in KP as a long-term strategy to wipe out radicalism.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Khamenei tells Trump to ‘keep dreaming’ over claims of destroying Iran nuclear sites



Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei dismissed US President Donald Trump’s claim that American strikes in June “destroyed” Iran’s nuclear sites. Instead, he told Trump to “keep dreaming” and called his remarks as “improper, wrong, and bullying”. The strikes, launched jointly with Israel, reportedly delayed Iran’s nuclear program by only anywhere from one to two years. However, the attack further derailed ongoing nuclear negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

Analysis:

This exchange underscores deepening US-Iran hostility and the fragility of diplomatic engagement following military escalation. While Trump’s rhetoric seeks to project strength, Khamenei’s rebuttal reflects Iran’s defiance and desire to maintain sovereignty over its nuclear program. The incident highlights how political posturing continues to obstruct meaningful dialogue and long-term regional stability.

Way Forward:

- As a country with balanced ties to both Iran and Western powers, Pakistan can act as a neutral facilitator encouraging the revival of peaceful nuclear negotiations.
- Maintain security around projects like Gwadar Port and CPEC to ensure regional tensions do not disrupt Pakistan’s strategic and trade interests.
- Pakistan should advocate for de-escalation through dialogue between the US, Iran, and regional stakeholders to prevent further instability in the Middle East.

Semblance of normality as Chaman border partially reopened



The Pakistan-Afghanistan Chaman border has been partially reopened after both countries agreed to a ceasefire mediated by Qatar and Turkey. The truce follows deadly clashes along the border that killed over 200 militants and 23 Pakistani soldiers. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif confirmed that upcoming talks in Istanbul will finalize a counterterrorism mechanism, stressing that peace hinges on the Afghan Taliban’s ability to restrain militants operating from their soil.

Analysis:

The ceasefire signals a cautious step toward restoring stability and trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan. However, its success depends on Kabul’s commitment to curbing cross-border terrorism. Pakistan’s diplomatic engagement through Qatar and Turkey reflects a shift toward regional cooperation, yet sustained peace will require strict implementation, trust-building, and verifiable actions against militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan.

Way Forward:

- Formalize border crossings like Chaman and Torkham through biometric systems, trade regulation, and fencing to prevent illegal movement and smuggling.
- Promote balanced narratives in both countries’ media to reduce hostility and foster public support for peace efforts.
- Reopen trade routes fully and expand cross-border commerce to create mutual economic dependency that discourages conflict and supports regional stability.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Sanae Takaichi becomes Japan's first woman PM



Sanae Takaichi has become Japan's first female prime minister, marking a historic breakthrough in the nation's male-dominated politics. A hardline conservative and protégé of Shinzo Abe, she plans to revive Japan's economy through Abe-style policies, strengthen ties with the US, and adopt tougher stances on defence and immigration. Her cabinet includes only two women which is fewer than promised.

Analysis:

Takaichi's rise signifies both progress in gender representation and a rightward political shift in Japan's governance. While her leadership breaks a symbolic barrier for women, her conservative agenda and limited female cabinet representation highlight the ongoing struggle for gender inclusivity in Japanese politics amid shifting domestic and global political dynamics.

Way Forward:

- With Japan's renewed focus on economic revival, Pakistan can seek Japanese investment in sectors like automobile manufacturing, renewable energy etc., to foster industrial growth and job creation.
- Pakistan should enhance its cooperation with Japan through JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) for its sustainable development.
- Initiate programs in collaboration with Japanese investors and NGOs to support women-led startups and SMEs in Pakistan.

India restores its embassy in Kabul



India has restored its embassy in Kabul, upgrading its technical mission to a full diplomatic presence following improving ties with the Taliban-led Afghanistan. The move comes after Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's recent visit to India, marking the first since 2021. While India still does not officially recognise the Taliban government, it aims to expand cooperation in development, humanitarian aid, and capacity building.

Analysis:

India's decision reflects a pragmatic shift in its Afghanistan policy, prioritizing strategic engagement over isolation to protect its regional interests and influence. By reopening its embassy, India seeks to counter regional competitors like China and Pakistan, maintain visibility in Afghan affairs, and cautiously re-establish diplomatic and developmental ties without formal recognition of the Taliban regime.

Way Forward:

- Islamabad may enhance its own diplomatic coordination with Kabul to ensure that its national and security interests are safeguarded amid India's expanding presence.
- Pakistan can expand trade routes, energy corridors, and border facilitation with Afghanistan to maintain its economic relevance and counterbalance Indian influence through practical cooperation.
- Given India's renewed diplomatic engagement, Pakistan must closely monitor India's activities in Afghanistan to prevent any security or intelligence-related threats along its western border.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

‘No wars with Pakistan’, Trump tells Modi amid trade dialogue



During a phone call between US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump emphasized that there should be “no wars with Pakistan” while the two leaders discussed trade and regional stability.

Analysis:

Trump’s comment signals US interest in promoting regional stability through economic and diplomatic levers rather than purely military pressure. It also indicates that Washington still views peace between the two neighbours as essential to maintaining balance in South Asia, giving Pakistan a diplomatic opening to present itself as a responsible and peace-seeking regional player.

Way Forward:

- Deepen diplomatic engagement with the US to ensure Pakistan’s perspective on regional peace and security is well understood in Washington.
- Use Trump’s “no wars” stance to advocate for renewed dialogue with India on key bilateral issues such as Kashmir, trade, and border stability.
- Strengthen Pakistan’s regional diplomacy by promoting economic cooperation and conflict-avoidance mechanisms that support peace in South Asia.

Tump threatens to pull US support if Israel annexes West Bank



In an interview to the *Time* magazine, Donald Trump warned that West Bank annexation by Israel would lead the US to withdraw its support, asserting he had pledged to Arab countries that such a move “won’t happen”. Despite these comments, Israeli lawmakers advanced two bills paving the way for West Bank annexation. The move was called as a “very stupid political stunt” by US Vice President JD Vance. In the meanwhile, Pakistan, in a joint statement with 14 other nations, condemned Tel Aviv’s attempt to impose “Israeli sovereignty” over the occupied West Bank after the Israeli parliament passed bills on annexing the West Bank.

Analysis:

This marks a rare moment of open US opposition to an Israeli territorial move, underscoring the strategic weight Arab-allied states still carry in Washington’s Middle East calculus. At the same time, the lack of concrete enforcement mechanisms means the threat’s credibility remains uncertain.

Way Forward:

- Pakistan should proactively engage in diplomatic forums to highlight international law concerns raised by the annexation move, reinforcing its stated position.
- Pakistan should coordinate with friendly nations to explore economic or humanitarian assistance channels for Palestinians.
- The Parliament should pass a bipartisan resolution condemning any Israeli annexation, sending a unified domestic signal and reinforcing Pakistan’s long-standing stance on Palestine.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

S econd round of Pak-Afghan talks to take place in Istanbul today



The second round of peace talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan, following a ceasefire mediated in Doha, began in Istanbul on October 25. Pakistan will focus on establishing a “concrete and verifiable monitoring mechanism” to curb cross-border terrorism from Afghan territory. According to Afghan interim administration, the Afghan delegation was to be led by Mawlawi Rahmatullah Najeeb, deputy minister at Ministry of Interior, whilst Pakistan has not stated whom it has sent for talks.

Analysis:

The shift from a ceasefire to designing operational mechanisms marks a critical phase: while the goodwill from the Doha agreement is still intact, the success of the Istanbul talks hinges on actual institutional commitments and actions rather than just diplomatic statements.

Way Forward:

- Pakistan should push for specific, time-bound actions in the mechanism so that progress can be measured objectively rather than relying on vague assurances.
- Pakistan should offer concrete incentives linked to Kabul’s fulfilment of commitments to foster sustained compliance.
- Encourage dialogue among tribal elders, journalists, academics, and business communities from both sides to build trust and people-to-people ownership of the peace process.

K abul’s reluctance creates impasse at Istanbul talks



The talks held in Istanbul between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban have stalled as Afghan delegation showed reluctance to offer written assurances or concrete, verifiable steps to shut down militant sanctuaries on its soil, particularly those used by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). According to *Dawn*, the Afghan mediators, who were receiving directions from Kabul and Kandahar, appeared to lack the mandate to make decisions. During the meeting, the Pakistani side also presented documentary evidence of photographic and documentary evidence of TTP and other terrorist groups operating from Afghan territory.

Analysis:

The impasse highlights a deep trust deficit as Pakistan insists on verifiable action against militants based in Afghanistan, while the Afghan side appears unwilling or unable to commit decisively. Afghanistan’s reluctance risks undermining the cease-fire with the possibility of hostilities to resume. This deadlock underscores how security concerns dominate the bilateral relationship and how the absence of shared mechanisms for accountability weakens diplomacy.

Way Forward:

- Leverage international support to equip border and counter-insurgency forces with modern tech.
- Enhance cross-border trade regulation to cut smuggling and fund legal commerce that benefits both sides.
- Invest in media and narrative management to counter extremist propaganda and highlight peace dividends.

1 Supreme Court launches Public Facilitation Portal

Impact

Enhances judicial transparency and accessibility by bringing court services closer to citizens through a user-friendly digital platform.

Recommendation

Integrate AI-based support tools, multilingual features, and awareness campaigns to ensure equal access for people across all regions.

“Digital transformation is not about technology, it’s about bringing people closer to solutions.” – Mike Walsh

4 11 martyred in Security operations in Balochistan

Impact

Operations underscore Pakistan’s determination to combat militancy and secure volatile regions, whilst recurring attacks highlight the need for stronger preventive and protective strategies.

Recommendation

Boost intelligence coordination, adopt modern surveillance technologies, and enhance training and welfare support for security personnel.

“Preventing conflict is the most effective way to protect lives and build lasting peace.” – Antonio Guterres

7 Govt targets \$30bn pharma exports amid ethical reform drive

Impact

Pakistan’s plan to boost pharmaceutical exports signals a major economic opportunity, but unethical marketing and irrational prescribing practices threaten both public health and global market credibility.

Recommendation

Implement strict ethical and evidence-based prescribing standards, enhance regulatory oversight through DRAP, and incentivize compliance to ensure sustainable growth and international trust in Pakistan’s pharma sector.

“Ethics and innovation must move together, progress without integrity is no progress at all.” – Margaret Chan

2 Sindh launches first child labour survey in decades

Impact

The Sindh Child Labour Survey 2023–24 exposes that 1.3 million children are still engaged in labour, mostly in agriculture, highlighting persistent poverty, educational deprivation, and enforcement gaps despite progress since 1996.

Recommendation

Strengthen enforcement of child labour laws, expand social protection programs, and invest in quality education and community awareness to break the poverty, labour cycle and safeguard children’s rights.

“No child should have their hands full of work when they should be full of dreams.” – Kailash Satyarthi

5 NEPRA’s tariff review hailed as regulatory milestone

Impact

Ensures regulatory uniformity, transparency, and fiscal discipline in Pakistan’s power sector while aligning K-Electric’s framework with national standards.

Recommendation

Sustain strong regulatory oversight, enhance corporate efficiency, and improve consumer communication to ensure long-term energy stability.

“Fair regulation builds trust, the foundation of every stable economy.” – Christine Lagarde

8 Balochistan Assembly seeks inclusion in CPEC Phase-II

Impact

Balochistan Assembly’s resolutions reflect growing provincial demands for equitable participation in national development, highlighting economic and administrative disparities within the federation.

Recommendation

Ensure Balochistan’s full inclusion in CPEC’s second phase, align police pay with national standards, and prioritize infrastructure and service delivery in neglected regions like Margha Kabzai.

“Equity in development is not a privilege – it is the foundation of lasting unity.” – Amartya Sen

3 ADB appreciated and reaffirms partnership with Pakistan

Impact

Strengthens Pakistan’s transport and infrastructure sector through enhanced regional cooperation and sustainable connectivity, boosting trade, safety, and economic integration under the CAREC framework.

Recommendation

Prioritize completion of ongoing projects, adopt climate-resilient construction standards, and ensure transparent use of ADB assistance to maximize socio-economic impact.

“Sustainable infrastructure is not just about building roads; it’s about connecting people to opportunity.” – Ban Ki-moon

6 PMD warns of rising smog levels

Impact

The PMD’s alert highlights worsening air quality in Punjab, posing serious health risks and threatening public safety, mobility, and environmental sustainability.

Recommendation

Enforce stricter emission controls on industries and vehicles, promote cleaner fuels, and strengthen urban air monitoring and public awareness campaigns to mitigate smog impacts.

“Fighting pollution begins with prevention, not reaction.” – Gro Harlem Brundtland

9 Experts urge Pakistan to develop healthcare tourism framework

Impact

Global health experts highlight Pakistan’s potential to earn up to \$5 billion in five years by building a structured medical tourism system and upgrading hospitals to international standards.

Recommendation

Establish a national Healthcare Tourism Council, improve hospital accreditation, and promote specialised treatments through global partnerships to attract foreign patients and boost economic growth.

“Health is the new currency of global travel, investing in it means investing in national prosperity.” – Dr. Emin Çakmak



Editorial Team

**Dr. Naveed Elahi
Naeema Naem
Jahanzeb Waheed
Sadia Pirzada**

Editorial Assistants

**Maira Jamal
Saffa Amjad**

National School of Public Policy
87- Shahrah e Quaid e Azam, Lahore.

Email: polycypulse.nipp@nspp.gov.pk

