



Ministry of Planning
Development &
Special Initiatives
Government of Pakistan

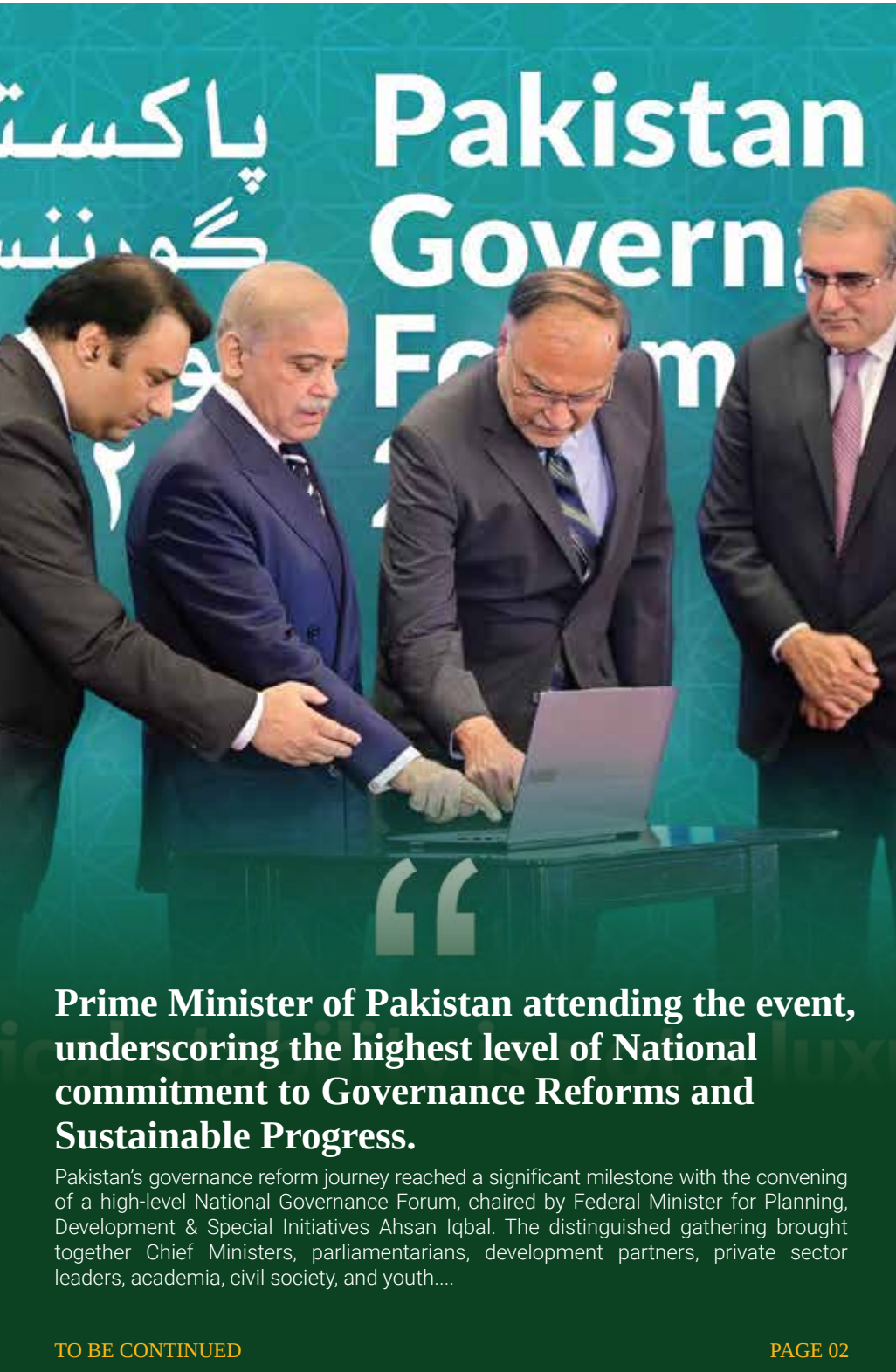


URAAN
PAKISTAN
توشائیں ہے پرواز ہے کام تیرا

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

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Prime Minister of Pakistan attending the event, underscoring the highest level of National commitment to Governance Reforms and Sustainable Progress.

Pakistan's governance reform journey reached a significant milestone with the convening of a high-level National Governance Forum, chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal. The distinguished gathering brought together Chief Ministers, parliamentarians, development partners, private sector leaders, academia, civil society, and youth....

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Preface: January 2026 – Consolidating Reform, Expanding Horizons

January 2026 marked a decisive phase in Pakistan’s reform journey, as the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives translated stabilisation into structural transformation under the URAAN Pakistan framework. Building on the economic turnaround achieved in late 2025, the month reflected a clear shift from recovery to acceleration, anchored in data-driven governance, export competitiveness, human development, and climate resilience.

At the global level, Pakistan’s development voice gained prominence. At the Global Caregiver Forum in Madrid, co-hosted by UNICEF and World Health Organization, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal positioned early childhood development as both a moral obligation and an economic imperative. Soon after, at Gulfood 2026 in Dubai, Pakistan championed value-added agricultural exports, reinforcing the transition from commodity supplier to competitive global brand. The China–Pakistan Mineral Cooperation Forum further signalled a new chapter in economic diplomacy, aligning CPEC 2.0 with URAAN Pakistan to unlock mineral-led industrial growth and deepen strategic ties with China.

Domestically, reform momentum was equally robust. The launch of Pakistan’s first fully digital Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2024–25 by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics marked a milestone in evidence-based policymaking. Encouraging gains in literacy, digital connectivity, immunisation, and household welfare signalled improving social indicators, even as economic stabilisation gathered pace with 3.7% GDP growth in Q1 FY2025–26, easing inflation, rising remittances, and stronger development utilisation.

Institutional reform remained central. The Higher Education Commission’s “Maktab” initiative advanced digital governance across universities, integrating technology, transparency, and performance-based funding to strengthen Pakistan’s knowledge economy. Quarterly reviews of the Annual Plan were introduced to tighten monitoring and delivery discipline, embedding accountability into the planning system.

Health sector reforms reflected a people-centred approach. Through the Central Development Working Party, key initiatives, including the restructuring of the Sehat Sahulat Program and expansion of major healthcare facilities, were advanced to reduce financial hardship and strengthen public health systems. Partnerships with the private sector were deepened through a landmark MoU with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, reinforcing export-led growth and collaborative policymaking.

Climate resilience and resource security featured prominently. From embedding environmental safeguards into PSDP planning to convening the National Water Security Task Force, the Ministry prioritised long-term safeguards against climate volatility, glacier melt, and water scarcity. Strategic projects such as Diamer-Bhasha Dam and Mohmand Dam were highlighted as pillars of future water stability. Meanwhile, renewed focus on the blue economy, food security ahead of Ramadan, cold chain reform, and agricultural productivity underscored an integrated approach to resilience.

Engagement with global academia, including a delegation from Yale University, and interaction with the 53rd Common Training Programme officers reflected a forward-looking emphasis on youth, governance, and institutional integrity.

In sum, January 2026 was defined by consolidation and confidence: stabilisation translated into reform, partnerships deepened across continents, and planning evolved into a more disciplined, data-driven and citizen-focused enterprise. As the nation moves into the coming month, the foundations laid in January signal not only recovery, but a determined march toward sustainable growth, social inclusion, and the long-term vision of a trillion-dollar economy by 2035.

SPOTLIGHT STORY

Reimagining Governance for Pakistan's Next Development Leap



February 2026 marked a defining moment in Pakistan's governance reform journey with the convening of a high-level National Governance Forum, chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal. Professor Ahsan Iqbal outlined a decisive national roadmap, stating that Pakistan must choose between becoming a \$600 billion economy or transforming into a \$1 trillion economy by 2035, a goal dependent on leadership quality, governance effectiveness, and national cohesion. Addressing a high-level gathering including the Chief Ministers, parliamentarians, development partners, private sector leaders, academia, civil society, and youth, the Minister emphasized that merit, transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric service delivery form the foundation of good governance. He noted that sustained reforms over the past two years had steered Pakistan away from economic crisis, positioning it as a global case study of recovery.



Anchored in the government's Five Es framework; Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment & Climate Change, Energy & Infrastructure, and Equity & Empowerment, the reform agenda prioritizes export-led growth, digital transformation, climate resilience, energy efficiency, and human capital development. The Minister highlighted pressing challenges, including climate risks, water and food insecurity, 2.55 percent population growth, 40 percent child stunting, 25 million out-of-school children, and a low tax-to-GDP ratio, while calling for an economic long march based on cooperative federalism rather than political confrontation. To strengthen transparency, he announced that all development projects are now publicly accessible through an online portal.



In his concluding address, Professor Iqbal called for comprehensive reform of the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, while reaffirming the constitutional protection of provincial resource shares. He highlighted severe fiscal imbalances, noting that federal expenditures significantly exceed retained revenues after provincial transfers, largely due to debt servicing, defence, social protection, and development financing obligations. He proposed restructuring the NFC formula to incentivize poverty reduction, human development, climate resilience, and population stabilisation, while ensuring equitable fiscal recognition for AJK, Gilgit-Baltistan, and ICT. Emphasizing the revival of the National Economic Council, he underscored the need for institutionalized coordination between the federation and provinces to sustain reform momentum and achieve the \$1 trillion economy target by 2035.

FEATURED STORY

Strengthening Pakistan–Bangladesh Economic Engagement for Regional Prosperity



During his official visit to Dhaka on February 17, 2026, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary attended the oath-taking ceremony of Prime Minister-Elect Tarique Rahman, representing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and conveying congratulations on Bangladesh's successful elections and peaceful democratic transition. He also met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus, commending his global contributions to social entrepreneurship and inclusive development, and extended the Prime Minister's invitation to both leaders to visit Pakistan.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Rahman, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to a forward-looking partnership grounded in mutual respect, shared history, and aligned economic interests. Discussions focused on expanding trade, strengthening connectivity through direct air links and maritime routes, integrating supply chains, and promoting people-to-people engagement amid evolving regional dynamics. They also emphasized cooperation in skills development, entrepreneurship, and the digital economy, alongside aligning industrial capacity, SME growth, and export strategies to integrate into global value chains.

The Minister highlighted the Pakistan–Bangladesh Knowledge Corridor, including the Allama Muhammad Iqbal Scholarships, under which the first group of Bangladeshi students has already begun studies in Pakistan, with further university partnerships expected as the Higher Education Commission advances institutional collaborations. He also proposed reviving the Iqbal Academy in Dhaka and jointly commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Allama

Muhammad Iqbal to strengthen cultural diplomacy. Both sides underscored the importance of deeper academic collaboration, institutional cooperation, and the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence in sectors including education, health, climate resilience, and governance, while reiterating the need to revitalize SAARC and advance South Asia through geo-economic cooperation, connectivity, and regional value chains.



Expanding Economic Cooperation with Dhaka Chamber of Commerce

During the visit, the Minister held a high-level engagement with the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, emphasizing the transformation of Pakistan–Bangladesh economic relations into a practical, results-driven partnership. Discussions identified priority sectors including agriculture, information technology, pharmaceuticals, textiles, maritime transport, and connectivity. Participants welcomed the resumption of direct flights and discussed a proposed shipping route between Karachi and Chittagong to reduce freight costs and delivery times. The dialogue also focused on coordinated export strategies and supply-chain integration targeting major markets such as the United States, the European Union, and China. SMEs were highlighted as central to this cooperation, with chambers of commerce serving as key institutional bridges. A proposal was also presented to establish a Pakistan–Bangladesh Trade Forum, to be hosted alternately in both countries, to formalize economic linkages and advance shared prosperity.



Academic Bridge Through Youth and Knowledge Cooperation

At North South University in Dhaka, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal engaged with students and emphasized that stronger collaboration between Pakistan and Bangladesh can unlock new opportunities for regional progress. Highlighting youth as key drivers of innovation and transformation, he stressed the importance of academic partnerships, research cooperation, and technological collaboration. The visit also underscored the growing momentum of the Pakistan–Bangladesh Knowledge Corridor, under which 500 Allama Muhammad Iqbal Scholarships have been announced. The first cohort of 40 Bangladeshi students has already begun their studies in Pakistan, while another group of 35 students is preparing to depart. Encouraging young people to shape a new era of cooperation, the Minister noted that while the present generation did not write the past, it holds the responsibility to shape a more collaborative and prosperous future.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS FROM FEBRUARY 2026

National Dairy Conference

Addressing the National Dairy Conference on Attracting Investment to Enhance Exports, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, underscored dairy as a strategic pillar for Pakistan's economic sovereignty and export-led growth, noting that despite being the world's fourth-largest milk producer, the sector operates far below potential, with per-animal yields of only 1,800–2,000 litres annually compared to 8,000–12,000 litres in leading economies, alongside nearly 15 percent post-harvest losses, limited value addition, and negligible global presence of Pakistani dairy brands. Emphasising that exports must be treated as a national emergency under the Uraan Pakistan Vision, which targets \$100 billion in exports by 2035, he outlined a district-level export development strategy that prioritises dairy, supported by scientific integration of livestock through the Centre for Genomics, commercialisation via high-value processed products, private sector mobilisation, modernisation to meet international health and quality standards, and global promotion of "Made in Pakistan" brands. He stressed that doubling per-animal productivity, reducing losses, and building an integrated farm-to-market value chain could propel Pakistan into the top tier of global milk producers, while generating employment, reducing rural poverty, and strengthening foreign exchange earnings, and directed the Food and Security Sector to prepare, within 15 days, a comprehensive, industry-backed action plan for cabinet submission, signalling a decisive shift from policy to implementation.



Resetting Governance for Results: Key Messages from the 3rd MCMC

Addressing the 3rd MCMC, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, called for a fundamental reset in governance, delivery, and state capacity, stressing that public service must be measured by citizen satisfaction and real outcomes rather than procedural compliance. He underscored that Pakistan's development challenges cannot be solved through over-centralized systems, emphasizing that empowered local governments and a strengthened third tier are essential for effective service delivery. Placing this reform agenda in a broader national context, he warned that with a population exceeding 240 million, Pakistan can no longer afford cycles of unsustainable growth and must generate high-growth momentum over the next decade to escape fiscal stress, low productivity, and recurring dependence on external financing. Highlighting the post-NFC reality, he called for strong federal–provincial coordination to achieve results in agriculture, health, education, and energy, and stressed that exports are now existential, requiring a shift from isolated production to integrated value chains with at least one exportable product in every district, supported by packaging, branding, and global market access. Reiterating that state capacity grows through productivity rather than extraction, he emphasized expanding the tax base, boosting exports, and enhancing productive capacity as the only sustainable pathways to economic sovereignty, concluding with a clear call for delivery over process, coordination over fragmentation, and productivity over dependence.



Lifetime Honorary Membership by Islamabad High Court Bar Association

The Islamabad High Court Bar Association awarded Lifetime Honorary Membership to Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in recognition of his contributions to the legal fraternity and access to justice. Addressing the ceremony, he described lawyers as the backbone of justice and reaffirmed that, despite fiscal constraints, development initiatives for the legal community remain a priority. He highlighted Pakistan's improving economic outlook, noting declining inflation, stable policy rates, and positive assessments by international financial institutions. Citing FPCCI surveys, he stressed the gap between perception and reality on corruption, calling for restoring national confidence. Emphasizing political stability, strong institutions, and consistent reforms, he concluded that peace, justice, and progress are shared national responsibilities.



Monthly Development Update: Signs of Stability, Momentum, and Reform

Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary briefed the media on the Monthly Development Update (MDU) for February 2026, presenting a comprehensive snapshot of Pakistan's improving macroeconomic position and on-ground development progress under the URAAN Pakistan framework. The update highlighted clear signs of stabilization and recovery, with inflation easing to 5.2 percent (July–January FY2025–26) from 6.5 percent last year, GDP growth rising to 3.7 percent in Q1, and large-scale manufacturing expanding by 6 percent, with 16 of 22 sectors in positive territory. Fiscal performance also strengthened, as FBR tax collection reached Rs. 7.2 trillion, remittances climbed to US\$19.7 billion, and the KSE-100 Index touched 184,174 points. Ahead of Ramadan, the Prime Minister's Ramadan Relief Package was expanded, increasing cash support from Rs. 12,500 to Rs. 13,000 and extending coverage to 1.7 million families. Development execution accelerated significantly, with Rs. 272.8 billion utilized during the first seven months of FY2025–26, reflecting a 27 percent increase over last year, while disciplined CDWP scrutiny delivered cumulative savings of Rs. 5.5 billion by eliminating non-essential project components.



The update also underscored progress in governance and social development. During January 2026, the CDWP reviewed 34 agenda items, approving 19 and recommending 9 to ECNEC, strengthening the national project pipeline. On the global stage, Pakistan's leadership in Early Childhood Development (ECD) was recognized at a high-level forum in Madrid co-hosted by UNICEF, WHO, and the Government of Spain, highlighting the urgency of investing in the first five years of life, when over 90 percent of a child's development occurs. With nearly 40 percent of Pakistani children lacking access to structured early childhood care, the government plans to convene a National ECD Conference, explore hosting a future global forum, and develop a coordinated national action plan with provinces. Together, these measures reflect a steady shift toward evidence-based planning, efficient execution, and people-centered outcomes, reinforcing Pakistan's positive and resilient development outlook for FY2025–26.

Indus AI Week: Advancing Pakistan's AI-Driven Development

During Indus AI Week (9–14 February), a joint workshop by UNDP, MoITT, and the Ministry of Planning advanced Pakistan's AI readiness, policy coordination, and future-ready development agenda. Addressing the forum, Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary emphasized that Artificial Intelligence is now central to national planning under the URAAN Pakistan framework, embedded across all five development pillars. He highlighted investments in human capital through 10,000 scholarships under Vision 2010 and Vision 2025, the establishment of National Centres in AI and emerging technologies, and new initiatives in quantum computing and advanced manufacturing. Outlining the way forward, he stressed scaling AI across sectors, strengthening data-driven governance, modernizing curricula, and equipping youth with future skills, noting that investing in people remains Pakistan's most resilient development strategy toward achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2035.



The week concluded with the URAAN AI Techathon finale, where the top 12 teams were selected from over 400 entries nationwide and awarded PKR 7 million in prizes. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal commended the finalists for their innovation and dedication, encouraging them to pursue excellence, discipline, and continuous growth, reaffirming the government's commitment to nurturing youth-led innovation for national progress.



URAAN AI Techathon:

Powering Pakistan's Next-Gen Innovators

The Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives launched URAAN AI Techathon 1.0, Pakistan's first national AI-focused techathon, as a flagship initiative under the E-Pakistan pillar of the URAAN Program. Designed as a nationwide innovation platform rather than a conventional coding contest, the Techathon brings together students, professionals, startups, researchers, and innovators to develop AI-driven solutions for real-world challenges facing Pakistan. By nurturing problem-solving skills, fostering innovation, and promoting future-ready technologies, URAAN AI Techathon is empowering youth, strengthening national digital capacity, and contributing to sustainable development and public good.

Reimagining Pakistan’s Education for a Future-Ready Generation

Addressing the National Curriculum Conference 2026, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary underscored that curriculum reform is a central pillar of URAAN Pakistan, aimed at transforming education from its colonial-era legacy into a future-ready system. He noted that global knowledge paradigms have shifted, with digital literacy now replacing pen literacy as the defining requirement of modern education, and stressed that Pakistan must move beyond the 1835 colonial model that fostered intellectual dependency. The new curriculum, he said, will shift learning from rote memorization to creative thinking, inquiry, research, exploration, and experiential knowledge, while integrating modern economic skills, citizenship, and ethics. Emphasizing that nations progress through knowledge and innovation in their mother tongues, he called for preparing youth to harness modern technologies while remaining rooted in national identity. He further highlighted that curriculum development will reflect the needs of the entire country, not just major urban centers, ensuring inclusive and representative reform. Concluding, the Minister stressed that reconnecting young people with their heritage and intellectual tradition is essential to building confidence and shaping resilient, empowered future generations.



CEO Summit Called to Lead Pakistan’s “Battle for Progress”

At the CEO Summit Karachi 2026, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal presented a compelling vision for Pakistan’s economic future, urging a shift from a “Glass Half Empty” mindset to proactive “Glass Half Full” action. He outlined Vision 2035, aiming to build a Trillion Dollar Economy, and emphasized an export-led growth strategy, challenging CEOs to become the “Arshad Nadeem” of exports. Stressing that political stability and policy continuity are the foundations of successful nations like China and Vietnam, he called on the corporate sector to take the lead in the nation’s “Marraka-e-Taraqqi” or Battle for Progress.



Redefining Leadership for a Changing World



Concluding the 3-Day PIDE Leadership Excellence Workshop, Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary highlighted that effective leadership is shaped by vision, empathy, communication, and the ability to motivate people, rather than formal qualifications alone. He stressed that soft skills form the backbone of leadership and must be embedded in education and professional training to overcome long-standing gaps in critical thinking and character development. Calling for curriculum reforms to nurture confident and value-driven leaders, he urged participants to become transformational change-makers who can align institutions with global and technological shifts, strengthen teamwork, and contribute to building world-class centers of learning, research, and innovation.

Charting Pakistan’s Path to Sustainable Growth



At the International Conference “Sustainable and Resilient Pakistan in a Changing Global Order 2025-26” at the Applied Economics Research Centre, Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary highlighted a clear roadmap for national progress, stressing that peace, political stability, policy continuity, and structural reforms are essential for long-term growth and investor confidence. Speaking to academics, students, and international scholars, he called for an export-led strategy with a \$100 billion target by 2035, driven by productivity, quality, and innovation, and outlined the Prime Minister’s \$1 billion AI initiative, aiming to train 1,000 PhDs and equip 1 million youth with AI skills. Reflecting on Pakistan’s journey from independence to nuclear power, he framed resilience as the nation’s guiding force, concluding with a dynamic Q&A and commemorative memento presentation.

Rising Poverty in Pakistan Highlights Urgent Need for Export-Led Growth



At the launch of the Poverty & Inequality Estimates 2024–25 in Islamabad, Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal presented the latest data showing that poverty in Pakistan has risen from 21.9% in 2018–19 to 28.8% in 2024–25, reversing the notable declines achieved between 2013 and 2018, when national poverty fell from 29.5% to 21.9%, rural poverty from 35.6% to 28.2%, and urban poverty from 18.2% to 11.0%. This setback is attributed to overlapping global and domestic shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic, a global commodity super-cycle fueling record inflation, geopolitical disruptions, and severe climate events such as the 2022 floods causing \$30.1 billion in losses and further losses of \$2.9 billion in 2025, alongside the economic adjustments required under three IMF-supported programs. Highlighting the way forward under the Uraan Pakistan framework, the Minister stressed policy continuity, export-led growth, and human capital development, including skills training, microcredit access, entrepreneurship support, and district-level export strategies. He urged leveraging local strengths to generate jobs and resilience, noting that just as 9 million Pakistanis abroad contribute \$40 billion in remittances, the country's 240 million citizens can drive growth by taking locally produced goods to global markets. The government is also prioritizing data-driven governance, strengthened collaboration with industry, and equitable resource allocation to ensure inclusive long-term development.

Bringing the Prophet's ﷺ Teachings to Life in Pakistan



At the Seerat Conference in Lahore, it was emphasized that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was not only a spiritual guide but also a visionary leader, teacher, peacemaker, and social architect whose timeless principles of justice, ethics, integrity, and collective welfare remain vital for today's society. The address highlighted that Pakistan's true progress depends not just on infrastructure or GDP but on strengthening social cohesion, institutional trust, interfaith harmony, and national identity. By transforming Seerat study from knowledge into action through ethical governance, social justice research, and institutional reforms, universities and policymakers can cultivate a moral and intellectual foundation essential for sustainable national development.

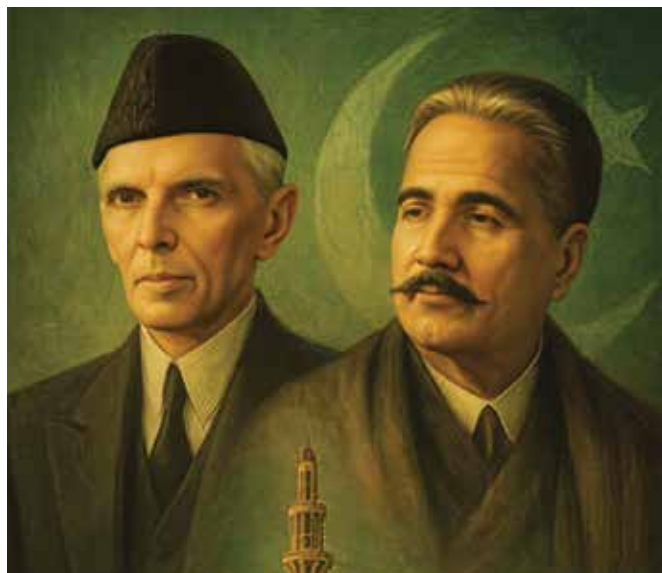
Equipping Youth for Pakistan's Knowledge Economy



At the National Laptop Distribution Ceremony at UET Lahore, Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that this initiative is a strategic investment in digital empowerment, giving students access to global learning, research, and technical skills. Framing Pakistan's progress from the Agricultural and Industrial Ages to today's Knowledge Age, he stressed that national success now depends on intellect, creativity, and innovation. Highlighting AI, Cyber Security, Big Data, engineering networks, and the CPEC as growth drivers, he urged youth to move from consuming knowledge to producing it, fostering research, entrepreneurship, and technological innovation, while combating misinformation and strengthening national unity, transforming themselves into agents of Pakistan's economic leadership.

Allamah Iqbal and Quaid Azam 150th anniversary in full swing

To mark the 150th birth anniversaries of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the Government is launching a landmark national initiative to produce high-caliber drama series depicting their lives, philosophies, struggles, and Pakistan's founding milestones. Modeled on globally acclaimed historical dramas like *Diriliş: Ertuğrul*, these productions will combine rigorous research, cinematic storytelling, and advanced production values to engage youth with their ideological heritage while presenting Pakistan's intellectual legacy to the world. The project aims to introduce younger generations to the authentic vision of these leaders, portray Pakistan's creation with documentary accuracy and dramatic appeal, elevate the national creative industry, and project Pakistan's narrative globally. Implementation includes dedicated government funding, collaboration with top production houses, historians, VFX experts, and an international advisory board, along with multilingual distribution in Urdu, English, Turkish, Arabic, and more. Beyond entertainment, this initiative is part of a broader strategy to strengthen Pakistan's soft power, creative economy, and intellectual identity, carrying forward Jinnah's political vision and Iqbal's intellectual legacy to future generations and global audiences.



Transforming Creativity into Economic Growth

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated the PSDP Water Line Project from KB Feeder to SABS University of Art, Design and Heritage, underscoring the government's commitment to both infrastructure and Pakistan's creative economy. Highlighting the \$2 trillion global creative arts market, he emphasized empowering youth to turn cultural heritage into economic opportunity, moving art beyond gallery walls to global markets. The visit also celebrated the exceptional talent, vision, and innovation of SABS students, positioning creativity as a key driver of employment, growth, and national progress.



Pakistan Transparency & Accountability Index Launched

At the launch of the Pakistan Transparency & Accountability Index, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary delivered a data-driven and forward-looking address, urging a national reset in how Pakistan perceives and projects itself. Citing the survey findings, he noted that while 68 percent of respondents believe bribery is widespread, only 27 percent have actually experienced it, revealing a deep gap between perception and reality. The survey further showed that 67 percent of Pakistanis never faced malpractice in public institutions, 73 percent never paid a bribe, 76 percent never experienced nepotism, and 95 percent never witnessed illicit enrichment by government officials, highlighting a chronic trust deficit that fuels negative narratives far beyond ground realities.



The Minister cautioned that persistent negativity, often amplified for political gain, has damaged national confidence, inflated the cost of doing business, discouraged investment, weakened exports, and eroded collective ambition. Drawing on global assessments, he pointed out that institutions such as the IMF, World Bank, ADB, Fitch, Moody's, and the Financial Times now acknowledge Pakistan's economic turnaround, yet internal narratives continue to undermine progress. Stressing that "country brands are sold before products," he warned that exaggerated flaws and dismissal of facts result in real economic losses, from missed investments to billions diverted elsewhere. Commending FPCCI's initiative, he issued a clear call to the business community to build brands, move up the value chain, transform districts into export hubs, and champion 'Brand Pakistan' globally, emphasizing that Pakistan's diversity, from Gwadar's cuisine to Thar's craftsmanship, is its competitive edge. Concluding with a powerful message of facts over fear, ambition over despair, and belief over doubt, he underscored that nation-building begins with restoring confidence at home and credibility abroad.



NEWS IN PICTURES



Federal Minister for Planning, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing the National Dairy Conference



Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chaired the meeting of 3rd MCMC. Senior Officials from the Ministry have also attended.



The Islamabad High Court Bar Association awarded Lifetime Honorary Membership to Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal



Federal Minister for Planning, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing at the launch of Poverty & Inequality Estimates 2024-25



Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chaired the meeting of Commemoration of National Intellectual Legacy



Federal Minister Prof Ahsan Iqbal met Leader of the Opposition Dr. Shafiqur Rahman, representing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.



Federal Minister for Planning, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing on the occasion of Indus AI Week, a unique workshop was held



Federal Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal, representing Pakistan, visited the grave of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and laid a wreath.





Concluding the 3-Day PIDE Leadership Excellence Workshop, Ahsan Iqbal graced the occasion with his presence, reaffirming the government's commitment to nurturing visionary leadership and strengthening institutional excellence for Pakistan's future.



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, during his official visit to attend Bangladesh's Prime Minister-Elect's oath-taking ceremony, held a cordial and constructive meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus.



Federal Minister for Planning, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, held a detailed discussion on transforming economic cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh into a practical partnership in an important and fruitful meeting with the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Federal Minister for Planning and Development Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaired a meeting on Diamer Bhasha Dam



Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, chaired Price Monitoring Committee





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