

NEWSLETTER

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Pakistan's Finance Conference 2025 Charts Path Toward Digital Transformation and Inclusive Growth

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Advance together;
CPEC Phase 2 Paving the
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FEATURED STORY

Pakistan and China Advance together; CPEC Phase 2 Paving the way for Growth Through Innovation

The 14th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) concluded in Beijing this September, marking a pivotal moment in the strategic partnership between the two nations. Under the leadership of Pakistan's Planning Minister, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, the meeting successfully laid the foundation for an ambitious and transformative "CPEC Phase 2," envisioned as a corridor of hope, innovation, and shared prosperity.

Moving beyond the foundational infrastructure projects of its first phase, this new chapter is designed to be deeply people-centric, leveraging innovation and green technology to deliver tangible benefits to the citizens of both nations and the wider region. The vision for this new phase is powerfully summarized by a guiding principle: Youth at the Core, People in the Lead, and Exports as the Engine.

A NEW VISION: FROM HIGHWAYS TO HIGH-TECH



Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal presented a comprehensive roadmap for CPEC's second phase, structured around five key "Corridors for Transformation." This multifaceted approach signals a strategic shift from building physical connectivity to fostering holistic, sustainable growth.

The agreements forged at the 14th JCC are a testament to the win-win nature of the China-Pakistan partnership.

For the Region and its People:

1.Enhanced Stability: By promoting economic development and opportunity, CPEC Phase 2 contributes to the stability and security of South Asia.

2.Greater Connectivity: Modernized infrastructure and digital networks will facilitate smoother trade and people-to-people exchanges across Central and South Asia.

From power plants and highways to innovation, exports, and youth leadership, CPEC Phase 2 represents Pakistan's confident leap into a future of enhanced connectivity and prosperity. The 14th JCC has successfully set the stage for this next chapter, ensuring the corridor remains a golden thread in the tapestry of the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, with its benefits destined to ripple far beyond the borders of the two nations.

SPOTLIGHT STORY

High-Level Delegation, Led by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Assesses Situation in Muzaffarabad

In a move to address escalating protests, a high-level federal delegation, led by Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, visited Muzaffarabad on the direct directive of the Prime Minister.

The delegation's primary mission was twofold: to review the on-ground situation and to engage directly with the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), the group leading the protests over issues including wheat flour subsidies and electricity tariffs. The visit culminated in the announcement of a "principled agreement," effectively de-escalating a situation that had brought the region to a standstill.

DIALOGUE AND DE-ESCALATION

During the engagements, Minister Ahsan Iqbal struck a conciliatory yet firm tone. He publicly acknowledged the patriotism of the people of Kashmir and stated that their sentiments were respected by the federal government.

"The people of Kashmir are patriotic and their sentiments are respected," Prof. Iqbal stated. However, he simultaneously urged protesters to avoid any steps that could be exploited by Pakistan's "adversaries" to disrupt the nation's peace and stability.



He assured that the government's approach was to listen to and address the "legitimate demands" of the people through dialogue.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A "PRINCIPLED AGREEMENT"

The key outcome of the delegation's visit was the announcement of a resolution. Prof. Iqbal declared that the talks had been successful, stating, "Those who wished for large-scale bloodshed and unrest have failed. A principled agreement has been reached, and formal signing will take place very soon." He characterized the agreement as a "victory for Pakistan, the people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and democracy."

NEW MECHANISM FOR ONGOING GOVERNANCE

To address the root causes of the unrest and prevent future crises, the government announced a new structural mechanism. A committee, to be chaired by the Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas, will now meet every 15 days. This is intended to ensure better governance and provide a consistent forum for addressing public concerns, ensuring that "public sentiments must be respected".



Nation Salutes Its Teachers on World Teachers' Day

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, underscored the foundational role of educators in national development during his keynote address at the Global Education Conference & International School Awards, held in conjunction with World Teachers' Day celebrations.

In a policy-focused speech, the minister characterized teachers as "the true nation builders" and "the foundation upon which the future of nations is built." He elaborated that their work in "igniting minds" and "shaping generations" is critical to long-term national progress.

Prof. Iqbal directly linked educational investment to tangible national outcomes, stating that education is "the most powerful force that opens doors to economic stability, social justice, and sustainable progress." This statement aligns with the government's stated policy direction.

Outlining concrete governmental strategy, the minister reaffirmed a commitment to "strengthening the dignity, capacity, and professional growth of teachers." He cited the "Uraan Pakistan" Vision as the overarching framework for this initiative, confirming that strategic investments in "education, research, and human capital" are being prioritized as a cornerstone of national development.

The conference segment was followed by the International School Awards ceremony, which recognized institutional excellence and innovative teaching practices across the country.

Pakistan's Leadership Issues Stern Warning to Adversaries

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, issued a firm rebuttal on Monday to recent statements from the Indian government, warning that any act of aggression against Pakistan would be met with a severe and overwhelming response.

The minister's comments, made during a public address, come amid a period of heightened diplomatic tension between the two neighboring states.

"Any act of aggression against Pakistan will be met with a response far more devastating than ever before," Prof. Iqbal stated, delivering a clear message on the nation's security posture.

Beyond the security warning, the minister presented an optimistic view of Pakistan's international standing. He asserted that the country is now viewed with "renewed respect across the world," citing its relationships with global powers from China to the United States and its stature in regions from the Middle East to Europe. He credited this perceived diplomatic position to the nation's leadership, its societal resilience, and the capabilities of its armed forces.

The minister framed this domestic progress as essential for Pakistan's broader aspirations, stating the goal is to pave the way for the nation to become a "model of rapid progress and national pride."

The address thus balanced a stern warning on national security with a forward-looking appeal for national unity and socio-economic development.

Unity in Defense: Pakistan's Clear Message

The Government of Pakistan has reiterated its commitment to maintaining national sovereignty while affirming its stance as a proponent of regional peace, following recent statements from senior officials. The comments come amid ongoing regional security deliberations.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, articulated the state's position, stating that "Pakistan has always stood for peace, stability, and good neighbourly relations." He further clarified the nation's security doctrine, adding that "any breach of our sovereignty will meet a firm and dignified response."

The minister's statements underscore a dual-track policy of diplomatic engagement coupled with military preparedness. He characterized Pakistan as "a peace-loving nation, but fully resolute in defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

In his address, Prof. Iqbal also commended the performance and discipline of the country's armed forces, noting they have "acted with restraint, responsibility, and resolve" in the face of regional challenges. This sentiment was framed within a context of national unity, with the minister asserting that "the entire nation stands united in defence of Pakistan's honour and security."

Cabinet Committee on Agriculture and Climate Emergencies Holds Inaugural Session

The newly formed Cabinet Committee on Agriculture and Climate/Flood Emergencies held its inaugural session, chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal.

The high-level committee was constituted by a directive of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Its established mandate is dual-faceted: to provide immediate relief to farmers impacted by recent floods and to develop and initiate long-term reforms aimed at strengthening the national agriculture sector and ensuring food security.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Iqbal framed the committee's work within the context of a shifting climate reality. He stated that climate change is "no longer a one-time phenomenon," noting that "floods, droughts, and other climate shocks are becoming a permanent feature of our environment."

The minister emphasized the necessity of a strategic, forward-looking policy to address these challenges. The core objective of the committee, he outlined, is to build a "long-term policy framework to ensure food security, resilience, and sustainable growth in our agriculture sector."



Pakistan's Finance Conference 2025 Charts Path Toward Digital Transformation and Inclusive Growth

The Pakistan Finance Conference 2025, a high-level gathering of economic policy-makers, banking executives, fintech entrepreneurs, and international investors, concluded today with a clear directive from the government to accelerate the nation's digital economic transition. The event, held at the Prime Minister's Office, served as a key platform to align national economic strategy with private sector innovation.

In his keynote address, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, outlined a strategic vision to harness technology for inclusive growth. He urged the assembly of financial and technology leaders to actively embrace the "democratization of technology," a principle focused on enabling individuals, startups, and institutions to become direct beneficiaries of the digital revolution.

The Minister called for a fundamental shift in the national economic approach, stating the need to move "from reactive to proactive, from fear to foresight." This transition, he emphasized, is central to realizing the government's 'URAAN Pakistan' vision and its cornerstone 'E-Pakistan' digital initiative.

Framing the current decade as critical, Prof. Iqbal set a definitive economic target: "We cannot afford another lost decade. The 2020s must be Pakistan's decade of transformation, towards a \$1 trillion, dynamic, inclusive, and digital economy."

To achieve this goal, he proposed a synergistic approach, advocating for the integration of "the ethics of finance, the discipline of planning and the passion of youth."

The conference agenda featured dedicated panel discussions on critical themes, including "Mobilizing Capital for a Digital Pakistan," "Regulatory Frameworks for Fintech Growth," and "Building a Climate-Resilient Economy." Senior representatives from the State Bank of Pakistan, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), and leading commercial banks participated in these sessions.

AI Integration Highlighted as National Priority at Finance Leaders Conference

At the Finance Leaders Conference 2025 in Islamabad, organized by The Institute of Financial Accountants, Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary outlined Pakistan's strategic direction for integrating artificial intelligence into its economic framework as part of a broader vision for ethical finance and export-led growth.

Key announcements regarding artificial intelligence included:

- The launch of a National AI Policy
- The establishment of an AI Task Force
- A directive to embed artificial intelligence across governance, industry, and finance sectors

These initiatives form part of the broader URAAN Pakistan vision and its 5Es Framework, which prioritizes technological transformation under the "E-Pakistan" component alongside other strategic sectors.



Pakistan Advances Major Healthcare Initiatives with Focus on Infrastructure and Disease Control

Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary has underscored the government's commitment to transforming Pakistan's healthcare landscape through a dual strategy of building advanced medical infrastructure and launching aggressive national disease control programs.

During a high-level review meeting, Prof. Iqbal emphasized that the Jinnah Medical Complex—spanning 800 kanals—must emerge as a "regional center of excellence" providing specialized care in cardiac, renal, pulmonary, and cancer treatment. The facility will feature air ambulance response capabilities and provide free treatment for underprivileged patients, representing a significant step toward delivering modern healthcare infrastructure at optimal cost.

To ensure effective implementation, Prof. Iqbal emphasized that health guidelines be printed on food packaging and medical students be mobilized for community awareness campaigns. These measures reflect a comprehensive approach that combines infrastructure development with preventive public health strategies, positioning healthcare transformation as a critical component of national development.



Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Calls for Visionary Leadership to Drive National Transformation at MAP Conference

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the critical role of visionary leadership in achieving organizational excellence and national progress as the Chief Guest at the MAP Leadership Conference 2025 on Thursday.

Addressing corporate and public sector leaders, Prof. Iqbal stressed that leadership should be driven by purpose rather than power, urging attendees to align their strategies with innovation, integrity, and measurable impact.

The Minister outlined how strategic leadership and management excellence are essential to realizing Pakistan's development ambitions, particularly under the **Fourth URAAN** framework, which aims to transition the country "from Vision to Excellence."

Prof. Iqbal's address centered on the need for both corporate and public institutions to embrace forward-thinking governance and operational discipline to contribute effectively to national development goals.

The Minister's closing call – **"Let's lead the change"** – resonated as a direct challenge to Pakistan's leadership corps to actively shape the country's economic and institutional future.

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Stresses Media's Role as "Development Partner" in Meeting with Dawn CEO

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, held a meeting with Mr. Hameed Haroon, Chief Executive Officer of the Dawn Media Group, on Friday in Karachi.

The discussion, described as constructive, centered on the role of national media in the country's development trajectory. Minister Iqbal underscored the importance of the media industry as a vital partner in the nation's progress.

A key focus of the dialogue was the advancement of issue-based advocacy and the promotion of pluralism within the national discourse. Both sides acknowledged the significance of principled journalism in addressing critical national challenges, with

climate change highlighted as a primary area of concern.

The meeting between a senior federal minister and the head of a leading media group signifies an ongoing engagement between the government and the press. The conversation reinforced the notion that a collaborative approach is essential for tackling complex issues facing the nation.

Prof. Iqbal's outreach is seen as part of a broader effort to align various sectors of society with the government's national development agenda, emphasizing shared responsibility and constructive dialogue.

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Urges Shift to Job-Creating Economy in Address to Students



Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, addressed students at the Karachi School of Business & Leadership (KSBL), detailing the government's strategic blueprint for national development, known as URAAN Pakistan.

The Minister presented the **5Es Framework** – Exports, Equity, E-Pakistan, Environment, and Energy—as the core pillars designed to guide Pakistan toward a new era defined by innovation, inclusion, and sustainability. He emphasized to the assembled youth that the nation's economic model must undergo a fundamental shift.

A central theme of the address was the critical need to transition Pakistan from a "job-seeking to a job-creating economy." Prof. Iqbal identified exports and technology as the primary drivers of this transformation, with the nation's youth positioned as the key agents of change.

From rote to real learning; Pakistan's future depends on how we teach its next generation



Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, highlighted the critical importance of hands-on education during a visit to The Dawood Foundation MagnifiScience Centre on Tuesday.

Addressing attendees, the Minister stated that "experiential learning is the most effective form of education, where students learn by doing, not just listening." He praised the science centre for its role in advancing this educational model within Pakistan.

Prof. Iqbal specifically commended the Centre for its success in transforming complex scientific principles into interactive exhibits designed and built locally. He described the facility as a "true example of Made in Pakistan innovation" that effectively ignites curiosity and engagement among young visitors.

The visit underscores a growing governmental focus on integrating practical, inquiry-based learning methods into the national educational framework to better prepare youth for future challenges.



Winning the "Marqa-e-Taraqi": Pakistan's Journey to Send its First Astronaut

Pakistan is poised to make a historic leap into space exploration with plans to send its first astronaut into orbit next year, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal announced during a keynote address at World Space Week 2025.

The mission, a flagship initiative under the government's broader Uraan Pakistan vision, marks Pakistan's most ambitious foray into space sciences and represents a significant milestone in the nation's technological advancement.

Addressing an audience of scientists, students, and space enthusiasts, Prof. Iqbal framed the initiative as a revival of a historic legacy. He reminded the gathering that Muslim scientists were once pioneers in the fields of astronomy and space sciences, and he issued a direct call to the nation's youth to reclaim that heritage through dedicated pursuit of knowledge, curiosity, and rigorous research.

Investing in Mental Health Means Investing In Recovery, Resilience, And Hope.

On World Mental Health Day 2025, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, declared that the nation's strength is fundamentally linked to the psychological well-being of its citizens, particularly those impacted by climate and humanitarian crises.

Aligning with this year's global theme, "Mental Health in Humanitarian Emergencies," the Minister emphasized that emotional trauma requires the same serious attention as physical injury, noting that "the wounds we cannot see are often the deepest."

To operationalize this commitment, the Ministry of Planning announced several key structural initiatives:

- The establishment of a National Mental Health Strategic Planning & Coordination Unit (2025) to provide centralized oversight.
- The launch of a National Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Implementation Plan (2025-2030), focused on developing a trained workforce and creating digital referral systems.
- The systematic integration of mental health into national policy frameworks as a core component of social development.
- A nationwide push for evidence-based and rights-based mental health services.
- Enhanced collaboration with federal and provincial authorities, UN agencies, and development partners to ensure the sustainability of MHPSS programs.

Stability vs. Sabotage: Government Warns Unrest Undermines Economic Recovery

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, has stated that India is attempting to vent its frustrations by destabilizing Pakistan through internal facilitators, following its defeat in what he termed the struggle of truth.

In a recent social media post, the Minister alleged that certain extremist elements are playing a clear and dangerous role in this conspiracy against the state. He drew a parallel to international events, noting the recent ceasefire and truce agreed upon by Hamas in Gaza.

Against this backdrop of global de-escalation, Prof. Iqbal questioned the motives behind the sudden re-emergence of a specific religious group in Pakistan after two years of dormancy. He pointed to its calls for disruptive actions, including marches toward the federal capital, Islamabad, as being out of sync with the current need for national stability.

The Minister emphasized that Pakistan's foremost priorities at this juncture are peace, stability, and economic recovery. He issued a stern warning, asserting that any elements choosing to spread unrest at this critical moment are, in effect, advancing the agenda of forces hostile to Pakistan's progress and security. The statement underscores the government's view that internal political stability is inextricably linked to national security.



Every Big Dream Starts with One Step; Take Yours with PakistanOne!

Got a bold idea that can change Pakistan's future? Here's your chance to turn it into reality!

Phase 1: Submit your business plan; share your vision with the nation.

Phase 2: Get shortlisted among Pakistan's top 10 innovators.

Phase 3: Learn from leading mentors in business & academia.

Phase 4: Pitch your idea at the Grand Finale and win PKR 5 Million!

Innovation starts with belief; believe in your idea, and let Pakistan believe in you.



Jinnah Medical Complex & Research Center

A Regional Center of Excellence

Spread over 800 Kanals

Designed to be a regional hub for advanced healthcare

Specialized treatment for Cardiac, Renal, Pulmonary & Cancer Diseases

Includes Air Ambulance Services for rapid emergency response

Offers Free Treatment for underprivileged patients



"When planning is abandoned, nations drift."

In his latest article, Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary calls for long-term discipline and evidence-based development, reminding us that sustained progress demands consistency, not complacency.

Economic vision can only be executed with stability, trust, and a decade of uninterrupted policy direction.

If every vision is dismissed as fantasy before it matures, we will forever circle the same mountain instead of climbing it.



Honouring 150 Years of Iqbal; Reviving the Spirit of Khudi

A high-level committee convened under the chairmanship of Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary to coordinate nationwide and international celebrations for the 150th birth anniversary of national poet-philosopher Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

During the meeting, Prof. Iqbal emphasized the contemporary relevance of Iqbal's philosophy, stating that his message of self-belief, determination, and action continues to inspire generations to overcome challenges and shape their collective destiny.

The committee finalized several key initiatives for the anniversary commemorations:

The establishment of Yaadgar-e-Iqbal, a national library and memorial dedicated to preserving and promoting the poet's intellectual legacy.

The coordination with Pakistan's overseas missions to host commemorative events across global diplomatic posts.

The arrangement of joint exhibitions on Iqbal's life and philosophy through collaboration between the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Iqbal Academy.

The production of a drama series highlighting Iqbal's journey and ideas, aimed at engaging youth through modern storytelling mediums.



The comprehensive programming reflects the government's intention to position Iqbal's philosophy as a continuing source of national inspiration and guidance for contemporary challenges. The initiatives aim to bridge generational divides by presenting Iqbal's ideas through both traditional academic channels and modern digital platforms.

NEWS IN PICTURES



Minister Ahsan Iqbal celebrates Pakistan Day in UAE. The Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai marked Pakistan's National Day with a dignified and vibrant reception.



Minister Iqbal meets UAE's OGE Chairman to advance digital governance



Federal Minister Chairs Launch of May Development Update, Highlights 80% Budget Authorization and Full Utilization Target by June.



Planning Ministry and UNDP Convene National Workshop to Strengthen Outcome-Based Monitoring under Pakistan's 4RF Framework



Review meeting on the Youth Policy Development Council National Debate





The University of Narowal convened the Narowal Peace Dialogue, commemorating the landmark movement for peace initiated in 2017



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal Reviews Uraan Pakistan Priority Development Projects for FY 2025-26 with Emphasis on Strategic Impact and Institutional Reforms



Minister Ahsan Iqbal Accelerates Launch of Seerat Chair and Gender Studies Centre to Promote Research and Youth Development

Minister chairs meeting in Islamabad, urging reforms and alignment with URAAN Pakistan

