



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY - 2025



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PM Shehbaz Launched 'Uraan Pakistan' to Drive Economic Growth

31st December, 2024 , Islamabad



Ahsan Iqbal presents Uraan Pakistan cap to PM Shehbaz Sharif

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif launched the five-year National Economic Transformation Plan, "Uraan Pakistan," aimed at achieving sustainable, export-led growth through the 5Es—Exports, e-Pakistan, Environment, Energy, and Equity & Empowerment.

The prime minister emphasized that, having achieved macroeconomic stability, the government would now focus on accelerating economic growth through targeted investments and reforms in key sectors, including IT, agriculture, exports, and mining. He stressed that national unity and political harmony were essential for the plan's success, which sought to create a business-friendly environment and incentivize private sector investment. He vowed to increase annual investment to \$10 billion and make export-led growth the foundation of Pakistan's economic revival.



PM Shehbaz Sharif, Vice PM Ishaq Dar, CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Federal Minister Aurangzeb launch "URAAN PAKISTAN" Website



PM Shehbaz Sharif, Vice PM Ishaq Dar, CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal and other senior leadership at the launch event of "Uraan Pakistan"

Editor's Note

We are pleased to resume the publication of the Ministry's newsletter, providing key updates on recent developments, initiatives, and engagements. This edition offers a snapshot of the past month's activities, highlighting efforts led by the Minister to drive progress and lead various initiatives of Uraan Pakistan.

As we move forward, this platform will continue to keep stakeholders informed, engaged, and connected with the Ministry's ongoing work. Transparency, collaboration, and impact remain at the core of our efforts, and we look forward to sharing more updates in the coming editions.

PM Receives One-Year Performance Book from Ahsan, Tarar at Cabinet

4th March, 2025 , Islamabad



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Federal Minister Ataullah Tarar present one-year performance to PM Shehbaz Sharif

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was presented with a book on the one-year performance of the government by Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and Minister for Information & Broadcasting Ataullah Tarar during the Special Meeting of the Cabinet at Jinnah Convention Center Islamabad.

Australian High Commissioner Calls on Planning Minister

4th March, 2025 , Islamabad



Ahsan Iqbal meets Australian High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Neil Hawkins

Australian High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Neil Hawkins met with Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal to discuss strengthening economic cooperation, sustainable development, and academic partnerships. Prof. Iqbal highlighted Pakistan's Economic Transformation Plan and the need for increased exports for sustainable growth. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation in trade, higher education, and sustainable development.

Planning Minister Urges Research for Export Growth at RASTA-PIDE Conference | 26th February, 2025 , Islamabad



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal addressing at the RASTA-PIDE Conference

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal challenged researchers to drive export growth through scientific planning and evidence-based policymaking at the 5th RASTA-PIDE Conference. He emphasized research relevance, industrial clusters, and global competitiveness to strengthen Pakistan's trade.

He highlighted the Science, Technology & Engineering for Development (STED) initiative, the role of CPEC in economic transformation, and the need for policy continuity and stability. The conference showcased PIDE's research efforts in shaping national policies and economic reforms.

Planning Minister Chairs Meeting on Price Stability of Essential Commodities | 26th February, 2025 , Islamabad



Planning Minister while chairing a meeting on price stability

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal chaired a high-level meeting to ensure price stability of essential commodities, including ghee and sugar, during Ramadan and Eid. He directed authorities to curb hoarding and profiteering, ensuring uninterrupted supply and relief for the public.

Officials from food security, industries, and provincial administrations reviewed market conditions and pledged strict monitoring and legal action against artificial price hikes. The minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting consumers from unnecessary economic burdens.

Government Launches National ECD Policy Framework and SUN Youth Network to Advance Child Development & Nutrition | 20th February, 2025 , Islamabad

In collaboration with UNICEF and GAIN, the initiative focused on holistic childhood development across 34 districts, aligning with World Health Assembly (WHA) targets. Key stakeholders, including government officials and youth representatives, emphasized the importance of nutrition, early development, and youth engagement in policymaking. The event reinforced collaborative efforts to implement the framework and strengthen child well-being nationwide.



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal launches National ECD Policy Framework and SUN Youth Network

Consultative Workshop on "Uraan Pakistan" Held in Karachi | 24th February, 2025 , Islamabad



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal in conversation with CM Sindh Murad Ali Shah during the workshop

The federal government launched the first consultative workshop on "Uraan Pakistan" in Karachi, bringing together key stakeholders to drive economic expansion, industrial growth, and digital transformation. Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal highlighted major initiatives, including enhancing exports, leveraging Thar coal and renewable energy, and strengthening trade infrastructure with projects like the Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway. The workshop emphasized policy coordination, climate resilience, and youth skill development, reaffirming Sindh's pivotal role in Pakistan's economic future.



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal presents Uraan Pakistan cap to Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Muraad Ali Shah



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal along with CM Sindh and other officials at the Provincial Workshop

CDWP Approves Rs. 49.3 Billion in Development Projects, Recommends Rs. 19.96 Billion to ECNEC

21st February, 2025 , Islamabad



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal addressing the Central Development Working Party.

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP), chaired by Minister Ahsan Iqbal, approved development projects worth Rs. 49.3 billion and recommended Rs. 19.96 billion to ECNEC, bringing the total cost to Rs. 69.27 billion.

Key approvals include Daanish Schools in Gilgit-Baltistan and AJK, a gas supply project in Sindh and Balochistan, and the upgradation of Bannu University. Major initiatives include the Pakistan Optical Remote Sensing Satellite, Green Energy Projects for hospitals and schools, Karachi Industrial Park, and strengthening of AJK's Counter Terrorism Department. The government reaffirms its commitment to infrastructure, energy, education, and security development.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal Inaugurates Astrolabe Data Centre, Unveils Vision for AI-Driven Future

19th February, 2025 , Islamabad



Federal Minister, Ahsan Iqbal Inaugurates Astrolabe Data Centre, at NED University

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated the Astrolabe Data Centre at NED University, a key initiative under the E-Pakistan program aimed at strengthening Pakistan's technological infrastructure. The centre will support big data analytics, Maktab ERP solutions, and high-performance computing services at subsidized rates for students and researchers. The event brought together academic and industry leaders to drive Pakistan's digital transformation and innovation agenda.

Narowal-Muridke Road Phase II Launched to Boost Regional Connectivity

19th February, 2025 , Islamabad



Narowal-Muridke road phase II Launched

The government has launched Narowal-Muridke Road Phase II, a 75km-long project that will strengthen road connectivity between key districts. Other major initiatives include Narowal Medical College (Rs. 4.4 billion) and Children's Learning Park (Rs. 100 million). With Rs. 28 billion allocated for road infrastructure, these projects aim to enhance connectivity, education, and economic growth in the region. The minister highlighted that this project is part of a broader effort to modernize Punjab's road network, ensuring smoother transportation for businesses, farmers, and commuters.

Ahsan Iqbal and Chinese Ambassador Discuss Future Areas of Collaboration

18th February, 2025 , Islamabad



Federal Minister, Ahsan Iqbal meets the Chinese Ambassador H.E. Jiang Zaidong

Chinese Ambassador H.E. Jiang Zaidong met with Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in Islamabad to discuss future collaboration in economic and infrastructure development. The meeting emphasized Pakistan-China strategic ties and reaffirmed commitment to advancing CPEC initiatives. Both sides pledged to deepen cooperation and strengthen people-to-people connections for mutual prosperity. Iqbal reiterated Pakistan's commitment to advancing key initiatives under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and emphasized the importance of aligning developmental priorities for mutual benefit.

Prof. Iqbal Urges Digital Influencers to Shape Positive Narratives | 18th February, 2025 , Islamabad



Planning Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal meets digital influencers in Islamabad

Planning Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal urged digital influencers to use social media responsibly, counter polarization, and promote national unity. In the meeting with digital influencers he highlighted the power of digital platforms in shaping narratives and warned against misinformation and identity politics.

He also introduced the "Uraan Pakistan" initiative, focusing on economic growth, digital transformation, and social equity. Prof. Iqbal projected Pakistan as a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, calling for collective efforts to drive progress and global recognition.

Workshop on Food Safety Held in Islamabad

3rd February, 2025 , Islamabad



FAO and MoPD&SI organized workshop on Food Safety in Islamabad

FAO and MoPD&SI organized an Inception Workshop on Food Control System Assessment under Uraan Pakistan to address food safety challenges. Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal stressed the need for stricter regulations to boost exports and protect public health. Experts highlighted Pakistan's food safety gaps and called for stronger compliance with global standards. The event concluded with a commitment to improving food safety regulations and trade opportunities.

AHSAN IQBAL IN UK

Minister undertook a strategic visit, fostering economic growth, youth empowerment, and stronger bilateral ties.

'Youth ki Uraan' Initiative Launched to Empower Overseas Pakistanis | 3rd February, 2025 , London

During his visit to the UK, Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal launched the 'Youth ki Uraan' initiative, aimed at empowering young overseas Pakistanis by linking them with opportunities in education, entrepreneurship, and technology. The initiative is designed to foster leadership, encourage innovation, and connect Pakistani youth abroad with the country's economic development efforts. Addressing the attendees, Minister Iqbal highlighted the immense potential of young Pakistanis in shaping the country's future and emphasized the importance of creating a strong global network of skilled professionals.



Ahsan Iqbal Triumphs at Oxford Union Debate

31st January, 2025 , London



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal addressing after a victory at Oxford Union Debate in London

In a major intellectual milestone, Minister Ahsan Iqbal secured a victory at the Oxford Union debate, where he passionately argued on issues related to the challenges faced by the Global South in the current global economic and political landscape. His speech focused on the need for economic justice, fair global governance, and equitable opportunities for developing nations. His arguments resonated with the audience, leading to a decisive win. This achievement positioned Pakistan as a strong voice in international discussions on economic disparity and governance reforms.



Strengthening Pakistan-UK Bilateral Relations

28th January, 2025 , London



Minister Ahsan Iqbal writes a note during his visit to the Pakistan High Commission

Minister Iqbal engaged in high-level meetings with British officials, business leaders, and academics, focusing on enhancing economic ties, investment opportunities, and knowledge exchange. During his visit to the Pakistan High Commission in London, he discussed key government initiatives, including the Uraan Pakistan Economic Transformation Plan, which aims to boost exports, attract foreign direct investment, and modernize key sectors. He also encouraged the Pakistani diaspora to play a proactive role in Pakistan's progress, emphasizing their role as a bridge between the two nations.



Planning Minister Highlights URAAN Pakistan at Journalists' Roundtable | 15th January, 2025 , London



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal addressing the journalists

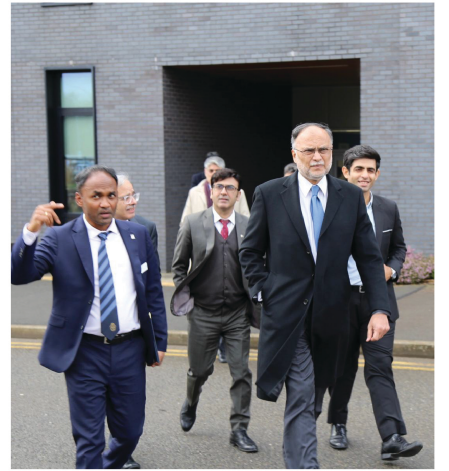
Planning Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal outlined the government's strategic direction under URAAN Pakistan during a roundtable with leading journalists. He emphasized the media's crucial role in supporting national development and informing the public about key government initiatives.

Prof. Iqbal discussed the urgent need for climate-resilient agricultural practices and the use of advanced technologies like drones and satellite imaging to tackle environmental challenges. He also addressed energy sector reforms, focusing on optimizing infrastructure and reducing energy theft to align production with

demand. The Minister highlighted the importance of improving Pakistan's educational and healthcare systems to boost sustainable development. He emphasized empowering women and youth, particularly through skills development in IT, to drive economic growth. Concluding the session, Prof. Iqbal urged the media to shift focus from political narratives to developmental issues, supporting the government's economic and social reforms under URAAN Pakistan.

NEWS IN PICTURES







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