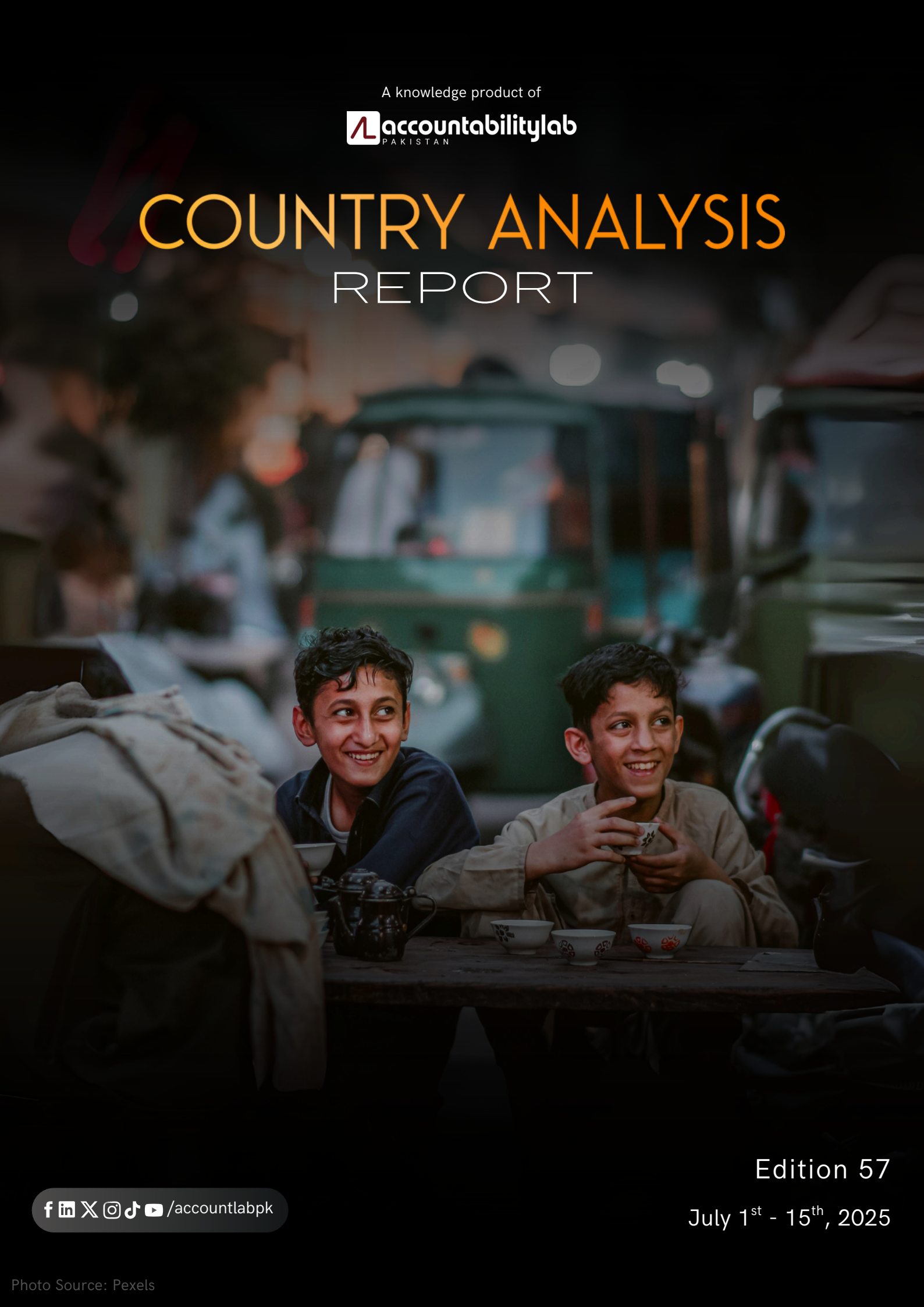


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# COUNTRY ANALYSIS REPORT



Edition 57

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July 1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# Executive Summary

This report presents a detailed account of Pakistan's key developments as of July-2025, covering the most pressing issues shaping the country's social, political, economic, environmental, and security landscape. It opens with an in-depth focus on Pakistan's youth skills crisis, marking International Youth Skills Day. With over 64% of the population under 30, the report examines how limited access to technical and vocational training, outdated curricula, digital divides, and social barriers continue to exclude millions of young people—especially women, rural communities, and persons with disabilities—from the workforce. It highlights the gap between education and market demands and stresses the urgent need for modern, inclusive, and industry-linked skills development.

The economic section outlines major financial developments, including a historic \$38.3 billion in remittance inflows that surpassed IMF support, early repayment of Rs1.5 trillion in public debt, and a landmark \$1 billion Islamic financing deal backed by the Asian Development Bank. It also discusses a serious challenge to the government's circular debt plan, as Chinese power producers refused to offer concessions on Rs475 billion in dues. The report points out the growing tax burden on the salaried class, who contributed Rs555 billion in income tax, while informal sectors like retail and real estate continue to underperform and evade taxation. It also details a sweeping reduction in import duties on 7,000 items to stimulate domestic industry and ease consumer costs.

The political updates detail the Punjab Assembly Speaker's controversial move to de-seat 26 PTI lawmakers over protests during budget sessions, raising concerns about curbs on democratic expression. It also covers the banning of 27 YouTube channels, many run by journalists and state critics, and the legal backlash this triggered—highlighting growing restrictions on digital freedoms and dissent. On the diplomatic front, the report reveals that despite suspended formal trade ties with India, Pakistan's imports from India hit a three-year high. It further documents meetings with China's Air Force, plans for a Pakistan-Oman ferry service, and the biannual exchange of prisoners between Pakistan and India under the 2008 Consular Access Agreement.

The environment and security sections provide critical insights. Pakistan's climate vulnerability is escalating, with over 80% of the population at risk. The report documents deadly floods, glacier melt, and institutional failures in disaster response. It highlights calls for climate courts and urgent policy reform. On security, it records 78 terror attacks in June, with 100 killed and 189 injured. It also details military operations on the Pak-Afghan border and renewed ethnic violence in Balochistan. The report concludes that while some macroeconomic indicators show improvement, Pakistan's long-term stability depends on inclusive development, strengthened institutions, and coordinated action on climate, governance, and security.

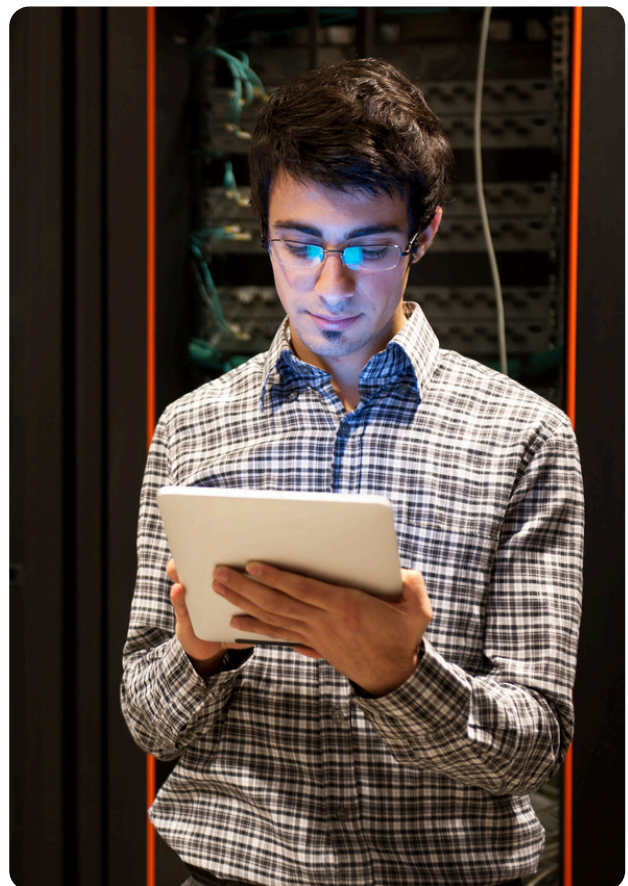
# Empowering Pakistan's Youth

## A Wake-Up Call on International Youth Skills Day

Every year on July 15, International Youth Skills Day reminds the global community of the urgent need to invest in young people's education, training, and employability. For Pakistan, this day carries a deeper resonance. With over [64 percent of its population under the age of 30](#), the country sits on the edge of either a powerful demographic dividend or a looming crisis. The direction it takes depends largely on whether Pakistan can equip its youth with the skills they need to participate meaningfully in the economy and society.

At present, the statistics are worrying. According to the [Labour Force Survey 2021-22](#), Pakistan's youth unemployment rate stands at 11.1 percent, and for young women, it is even higher. Around four million young people enter the workforce each year, but most lack access to quality training and job placement services. Only about 6 percent of young people are enrolled in formal [Technical and Vocational Education and Training \(TVET\)](#) programs. This lack of preparedness has created a profound mismatch between what the education system produces and what the labor market demands. A 2024 report by the World Bank indicates that nearly [58 percent](#) of employers in Pakistan report serious difficulty in finding employees with the right skills.

Some efforts have been made to bridge this gap. Programs such as [DigiSkills.pk](#) have trained over 1.28 million people in freelancing, digital marketing, and e-commerce since 2018. Punjab's [e-Rozgaar program](#) has offered digital skills training to thousands of university graduates, helping many earn a living online. The Prime Minister's Youth Programme has also introduced initiatives like interest-free loans, laptop distributions, and vocational training across hundreds of institutions. However, these efforts, while significant, remain fragmented and often fail to reach marginalized communities. Rural youth, women, and persons with disabilities continue to be left behind. Infrastructure gaps, social barriers, and a lack of targeted outreach have meant that these groups are excluded from even the most accessible training programs.



Source: Unsplash



The barriers are not just logistical; they are also cultural and structural. Vocational training is still widely perceived as a lesser alternative to academic degrees. As a result, families are reluctant to enroll their children in technical programs, especially daughters. Moreover, the existing TVET curriculum is often outdated and disconnected from emerging economic sectors such as renewable energy, climate resilience, data science, and creative industries. The digital divide further compounds the issue. While online platforms like DigiSkills exist, reliable internet access and digital literacy remain limited in many parts of the country, especially in Balochistan, interior Sindh, and South Punjab.

If Pakistan is to truly harness the energy, creativity, and potential of its youth, a comprehensive and inclusive skills strategy is essential. First, the country must expand and modernize its TVET sector. This includes introducing demand-driven curricula developed in consultation with the private sector, investing in up-to-date equipment and digital tools, and ensuring that training is aligned with the future of work. Second, gender equity must be embedded in all programs through safe learning spaces, transport stipends, and childcare facilities. Programs should also target underserved regions with mobile training units and community-led outreach.

Third, Pakistan should adopt a [dual-education approach](#) that combines classroom instruction with structured apprenticeships. This model, successfully used in Germany and Switzerland, can create a smoother transition from education to employment. Public-private partnerships are critical in this regard. The government should incentivize industries to offer training slots, while also setting up sector councils to identify evolving skills needs. Fourth, soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving should be embedded across all training modules, as they are increasingly important in both traditional and digital economies.

Additionally, Pakistan must improve data collection and monitoring to track the long-term impact of its training programs. This includes following up with graduates to assess employment outcomes and refining policies based on evidence. Finally, the government must allocate greater resources toward education and skills development. Pakistan's current public spending on education remains under 3 percent of GDP, one of the lowest in South Asia. Without sustained investment, even the best-designed policies will falter.

International Youth Skills Day should serve as a reminder as well as a rallying cry. The cost of inaction is far too high. An unskilled and disillusioned youth population risks becoming a source of social unrest and economic stagnation. But with the right reforms, investments, and political will, Pakistan can transform its youth bulge into an engine of inclusive growth.





# Political Updates

## PA Speaker Moves to De-seat 26 PTI Lawmakers Over Unruly Conduct:

In a sharp escalation of controversial action, Punjab Assembly speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan has fined 10 PTI lawmakers over [Rs 2 million](#) collectively and initiated steps to [de-seat 26](#) others for their alleged disruptive behaviour during recent budget sessions. The fined MPAs are being penalized for actions such as allegedly climbing desks and damaging microphones during the June 16 session.

Each has been directed to pay a fine within seven days or face legal recovery. Meanwhile, following a heated protest during CM Maryam Nawaz's address on June 27, the speaker has moved to draft a reference for the disqualification of 26 suspended PTI members, citing violations of the assembly decorum under Rule 210(3).



Source: Tribune

However, this move has drawn sharp criticism from civil society and legal experts who argue that such heavy-handed measures threaten democratic norms and the rights of the opposition. Protest has long been recognized as a part of parliamentary expression, and critics warn that silencing dissent through fines and suspensions could set a dangerous precedent. While the speaker has called for maintaining order and respect within the house, observers contend that enforcing discipline must not come at the cost of legitimate political expression.

# Economic Outlook

## Gulf Remittances Power Record \$38.3 Billion Inflow to Pakistan in FY25, Surpassing IMF Bailout:

In a major boost to Pakistan's economy, remittances from overseas workers soared to a historic high of \$38.3 billion in the fiscal year 2024–25, marking a **27% increase** from the previous year's \$30.25 billion. The surge, driven primarily by remittances from Saudi Arabia (\$9.34bn), UAE (\$7.83bn), UK (\$5.99bn), and USA (\$3.72bn), has not only exceeded all forecasts but also outpaced the country's \$7 billion IMF loan package. Monthly remittance inflows averaged \$3.19 billion, significantly higher than the \$2.52 billion average in FY24.



Source: Arab News

Analysts say this inflow is a game-changer for Pakistan's balance of payments. According to Topline Securities, this surge may lead to a current account surplus for the first time in 13 years and only the second time in two decades. Remittances from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, excluding KSA and UAE, reached \$3.71 billion, while EU nations contributed \$3.53 billion. The inflows come at a time when Pakistan is navigating a fragile post-crisis economic recovery, and experts have credited overseas workers for helping stabilize macroeconomic indicators more effectively than external lending institutions.

## Pakistan's Circular Debt Plan Hits Major Snag as Chinese IPPs Reject Discounts:



Source: Pro Pakistani

Pakistan's ambitious **Rs. 1.275 trillion circular debt** reduction plan has hit a serious roadblock after Chinese-funded power producers under CPEC refused to agree to any discounts on their Rs. 475 billion in outstanding dues. The development threatens to derail the government's broader strategy to stabilize the power sector's finances ahead of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's planned visit to China in August or September 2025. The government is now caught between either renegotiating the terms of the CPEC energy projects or formulating a new settlement strategy that clears dues without concessions, a move that would strain already tight fiscal space.



While the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) has secured funding from 18 banks, including HBL, UBL, NBP, and Meezan Bank, the lack of consensus with Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) jeopardizes planned disbursements, including the Rs. 267 billion already budgeted and an additional Rs. 393 billion through a supplementary grant. Analysts warn that failure to resolve this standoff could reignite circular debt accumulation.

### **DIB Arranges \$1 Billion Sovereign Financing for Pakistan with ADB Support:**



Source: Brecorder

Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) has successfully arranged a **\$1 billion** syndicated term finance facility for the Government of Pakistan, marking a major milestone in the country's return to international capital markets. Structured as a five-year deal, the financing is backed in part by a Policy-Based Guarantee (PBG) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), making it the first such transaction of its kind for Pakistan. The Islamic tranche, comprising 89% of the facility, was structured under AAOFI-compliant Commodity Murabaha, underscoring Pakistan's increasing reliance on Shariah-compliant financial solutions.

DIB led the deal as the sole Islamic global coordinator and joint mandated lead arranger alongside Standard Chartered, with other major participants including Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, Ajman Bank, and Sharjah Islamic Bank. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb hailed the agreement as a vote of confidence in Pakistan's economic reforms and a step toward diversifying funding avenues.

DIB CEO Dr. Adnan Chilwan added that this innovative structure enables Pakistan to tap into broader Islamic liquidity pools. The ADB's guarantee played a crucial role in easing Pakistan's access to global markets, reflecting renewed investor trust amid ongoing fiscal consolidation efforts.

### **Pakistan Retires Rs1.5 Trillion in Public Debt Early, Cuts Debt-to-GDP Ratio to 69%:**

In a major step toward fiscal consolidation, the government of Pakistan has retired **Rs1.5 trillion** in public debt ahead of schedule during FY2024-25, marking a significant shift in debt management and economic strategy. This early repayment has helped bring down the country's debt-to-GDP ratio from 75% in FY23 to 69% in FY25, a six-point improvement that signals growing macroeconomic stability.



Source: Brecorder



The Ministry of Finance confirmed the early retirement included Rs500 billion in debt owed to the State Bank of Pakistan, cleared four years before its 2029 maturity. The move follows a Rs1 trillion buyback of market debt completed in December 2024, the first such operation in the country's history. Officials emphasized that the strategy aims to reduce short-term refinancing risks, extend the average maturity of public debt from 2.7 to 3.75 years, and lessen reliance on fresh borrowing.

According to Advisor to the Finance Minister, Khurram Schehzad, these steps have saved the government approximately Rs830 billion in interest payments in FY25 alone, largely due to disciplined borrowing and declining interest rates. With an improved liquidity position and a [Rs3 trillion profit transfer from the SBP](#), the government was able to cushion the debt repayments. Authorities say the approach reflects a shift from reactive crisis management to proactive, long-term fiscal planning designed to create space for development spending and build economic credibility.

### **Pakistan Slashes Import Duties on 7,000 Items to Boost Key Sectors:**

In a major policy move aimed at stimulating the economy, the government of Pakistan has reduced taxes and import duties on approximately [7,000 items](#) across various sectors in the new fiscal year. The decision, announced through an official notification, aims to support domestic manufacturing, agriculture, food security, and industrial production by making imported raw materials and essential goods more affordable.

Key changes include a significant reduction in regulatory duties on raw materials for the industrial sector, intended to encourage local manufacturing. Duties on breeding animals and chickens for the livestock and poultry industries have been lowered to 5 percent. In the fisheries sector, imported live fish, including codfish, now carry a 5 percent duty, while frozen fish is subject to a 17.5 percent duty. Dairy products such as milk, yogurt, butter, and cream now face a 20 percent import duty, while cheese and honey are taxed at 40 percent and 24 percent, respectively.



Source: ARY News

The food sector also sees widespread cuts, with duties on canned, frozen, and dried vegetables reduced to 5 and 10 percent. Duties on imported dates and fresh apples now stand at 20 and 24 percent, and fresh peaches at 36 percent. Wheat flour, maize flour, and corn imports face a 20 percent duty, while cocoa products, pasta, and cornflakes are also taxed at 20 percent. Other notable reductions include 2.5 percent duties on carbon dioxide, magnesium, and nickel, and a 10 percent duty on motor spirit. In a related development, the government has also unveiled a phased reduction in duties on imported used vehicles, eventually eliminating them by July 2029 to expand consumer access and promote market competition.

## Salaried Class Pays Rs555 Billion in Taxes While Informal Sectors Lag Behind:



Source: Tribune

In the fiscal year 2024-25, Pakistan's salaried class paid a record Rs555 billion in income tax, a [51 percent increase](#) compared to the previous year. According to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), this amount is more than double the total taxes collected from the retail and real estate sectors combined. Despite the heavy contribution from salaried individuals, the FBR still fell short of its overall tax collection target by nearly Rs1.2 trillion. This has raised concerns about the fairness of the tax system and the lack of accountability in sectors that remain largely undocumented.

The sharp rise in income tax collections from salaried workers came after the government increased their tax burden, expecting to generate an additional Rs75 billion. However, the increase ended up being much higher, at Rs188 billion. Non-corporate employees paid Rs236.5 billion, while corporate employees paid Rs165 billion.

Provincial government staff contributed Rs99.5 billion, and federal government employees paid Rs54.2 billion. These individuals have their taxes deducted directly from their salaries and cannot adjust for expenses like other sectors often can. Meanwhile, informal sectors contributed significantly less. Retailers, many of whom are not even registered with the FBR, paid only Rs 38 billion. The government's trader registration initiative, Tajir Dost, failed to bring meaningful results, and most traders simply passed the cost of new taxes onto consumers.

The real estate sector paid Rs237 billion, an improvement from last year, but still far below its potential. Despite introducing higher withholding taxes on property sales and purchases, the government removed the federal excise duty on real estate. While the salaried class continues to carry a major share of the tax burden, broader reform and stricter enforcement remain missing.

## Diplomatic Landscape

### Pakistan-India Trade Persists Amid Conflict, With Imports at Three-Year High:

Despite heightened tensions and suspended formal trade ties since 2019, Pakistan's imports from India surged to a [three-year high](#), reaching \$211.5 million in the first 11 months of FY25. This includes \$15 million in imports during May 2025 alone, a slight dip from \$17 million in the same month last year, signaling that economic interdependence between the two countries continues despite political and diplomatic hostilities.

In stark contrast, Pakistan's exports to India remained negligible, amounting to just \$1,000 in May and a total of \$0.5 million between July and May FY25. The imbalance reflects a persistent one-way trade dynamic, as exports stood at \$3.44 million in FY24. Traders and analysts suggest some goods may have entered Pakistan through third countries like Dubai and Singapore, with payments processed prior to the brief military escalation earlier this year. Indian research estimates place the volume of informal trade routed through intermediary countries as high as [\\$10 billion annually](#). Experts argue that Pakistan's high production costs and dependence on imported industrial inputs continue to fuel demand for Indian goods, whether officially recorded or not, underscoring the deep, if unofficial, commercial ties between the two neighbors.



Source: TBS News

### **China's Air Chief Applauds PAF's Response to Indian Hostilities:**

Lieutenant General Wang Gang, Chief of Staff of the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF), on an [official visit to Pakistan](#), commended the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) for its precise and disciplined response during the recent military confrontation with India.

During a high-level meeting with Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu at Air Headquarters, both sides discussed regional security, airpower cooperation, and strategic alignment. The Chinese delegation was briefed on PAF's evolving operational capabilities, particularly its integration of Multi-Domain Operations.

General Wang praised the PAF's conduct during the escalation, calling it a model of restraint and professionalism under pressure. He expressed PLAAF's interest in deepening bilateral collaboration in areas such as training, operational doctrine, and emerging technologies.



Source: ARY News

The meeting underscored the long-standing strategic partnership between Pakistan and China, with both air forces reaffirming their commitment to advancing shared goals in regional peace, air defense, and technological innovation.



## Pakistan, Oman Move Ahead with Plans for Ferry Service to Boost Maritime Trade:

Pakistan and Oman have agreed to strengthen their maritime cooperation with a focus on launching a direct [ferry service](#) between the two countries. The initiative was discussed in a high-level meeting held on Thursday between Pakistan's Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, and the Omani Ambassador to Pakistan, Fahad bin Sulaiman bin Khalaf Al Kharusi.



Source: Tribune

Both sides reaffirmed the strong diplomatic, cultural, and economic ties that exist between Pakistan and Oman. They emphasized the need to enhance connectivity and maritime trade, viewing the proposed ferry link as a key step toward deepening regional integration and easing travel and cargo transport.

The planned service aims to provide a more efficient and affordable alternative to air and road routes. In addition to the ferry project, the two countries discussed sharing marine expertise and expanding cooperation in other areas of the maritime sector. Officials noted the potential for long-term economic benefits, especially in boosting trade, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges across the Arabian Sea.

## Pakistan, India Exchange Prisoner Lists Amid Rising Tensions:

Despite heightened tensions in the wake of the Pahalgam attack and deteriorating bilateral relations, Pakistan and India adhered to their commitment under the [2008 Agreement on Consular Access](#) by exchanging lists of prisoners in each other's custody on July 1. The agreement, which mandates biannual exchanges on January 1 and July 1, remained intact even as other long-standing arrangements, including the Indus Waters Treaty and Shimla Accord, came under strain following recent hostilities. The exchange was conducted through diplomatic channels, with both foreign offices confirming the development.



Source: Tribune

Pakistan handed over a list of 246 Indian or believed-to-be-Indian prisoners, comprising 53 civilians and 193 fishermen, to the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. In return, India shared a list of 463 Pakistani or believed-to-be-Pakistani prisoners, including 382 civilians and 81 fishermen, with a representative from the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi. Pakistan has called for the immediate release and repatriation of those prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose national status has been verified. Additionally, a request was made for special consular access to physically and mentally challenged detainees, and for timely confirmation of the national status of remaining prisoners. The Foreign Office reiterated Pakistan's commitment to humanitarian matters and the early return of its nationals held in Indian jails.

# Environment and Climate Change Updates

## Pakistan Ranked Among Top Five Most Climate-Vulnerable Countries:



Source: PID

Pakistan has been listed among the top [five most climate-vulnerable](#) countries in a recent report, with over 80 percent of its population exposed to climate-related risks. This includes recurring heatwaves, floods, droughts, and unpredictable weather patterns that have increasingly impacted lives, livelihoods, and food security across both rural and urban areas.

Despite contributing very little to global emissions, Pakistan continues to face severe consequences of climate change, putting a strain on already fragile infrastructure and public services. Pakistan has been listed among the top five most climate-vulnerable countries in a recent report, with over 80 percent of its population exposed to climate-related risks.

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impacted lives, livelihoods, and food security across both rural and urban areas. Despite contributing very little to global emissions, Pakistan continues to face severe consequences of climate change, putting a strain on already fragile infrastructure and public services.

## Justice Mansoor Ali Shah Calls for Establishment of Climate Courts in Pakistan:

Supreme Court's senior judge, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, has emphasized the urgent need for establishing dedicated climate courts in Pakistan to address the growing challenges posed by climate change. Speaking at the national conference titled "[Pakistan's Final Warning](#)" held in Islamabad, he highlighted the legal system's role in environmental justice and the importance of institutional mechanisms to deal with climate-related disputes and enforcement.

The conference brought together senators, ministers, private sector leaders, and climate experts. Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, noted that Pakistan remains one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, yet the federal climate budget has been slashed from [Rs3.5 billion to Rs2.7 billion](#). Federal IT Minister Shaza Fatima presented a five-point framework leveraging data and technology to counter climate threats, including the establishment of a national Climate AgriTech incubation center. The forum echoed a shared consensus on the need for coordinated national action, robust policy implementation, and greater public-private collaboration to combat Pakistan's escalating climate crisis.

### **Heavy Rain Forecast Puts Several Parts of Pakistan at Risk of Flooding:**

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has issued a [nationwide alert](#), warning of heavy to very heavy monsoon rains that could trigger flash floods, landslides, and urban flooding in several regions over the coming days. Strong monsoon currents, combined with a westerly wave, are affecting most of central and southern Pakistan, raising concerns about safety in flood-prone areas.



Source: Tribune

Flash flooding is likely in streams and nullahs across Murree, Galliyat, Mansehra, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Buner, Chitral, Dir, Swat, Shangla, Nowshera, Swabi, Mardan, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, parts of northeast Punjab, Kashmir, and numerous districts of Balochistan such as Barkhan, Kohlu, Loralai, and Khuzdar. Landslides and mudslides could cause road blockages in the hilly regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, and Kashmir, while low-lying urban areas including Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, and Peshawar are at risk of urban flooding.

### **Monsoon Rains Claim 79 Lives Across Pakistan as NDMA Issues Fresh Flood Warning:**

As monsoon rains intensify across Pakistan, at least [79 people](#) have died and 140 others have been injured in rain-related incidents, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).



The breakdown of casualties reveals that Punjab has reported 24 deaths and 72 injuries, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) 29 deaths and 27 injuries, Sindh 15 deaths and 34 injuries, and Balochistan 11 deaths and three injuries. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, four people have been injured.

Among the deceased are 38 children, 25 men, and 16 women. In K-P alone, at least five people, including two women and two children, were killed in flash flood incidents in Buner, Mohmand, and Charsadda districts, with homes damaged or destroyed. This brings K-P's total monsoon death toll to 21 so far, with Swat Valley among the hardest-hit areas.



Source: Recorder

The NDMA's National Emergencies Operation Centre reports that the current weather system is being intensified by moisture inflows from the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea, along with a prevailing westerly wave. Heavy rain is forecast to continue across central and northeastern Punjab, lower Sindh, central K-P, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and AJK.

Rising water levels have already been observed in the Indus, Chenab, Kabul, and Jhelum rivers, with low floods at Tarbela, Kalabagh, and Chashma. Authorities have urged residents in vulnerable regions to remain vigilant, avoid flooded routes, and follow official advisories, including real-time updates through the NDMA's Disaster Alert App.

### **Parliamentary Committee Questions Early Warning System's Effectiveness Amid Climate Threats:**

The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Climate Change convened in Islamabad to discuss urgent environmental concerns, including climate change, glacial melt, and the growing risk of floods. Officials from the [National Disaster Management Authority \(NDMA\)](#) and committee members participated in the session. During the meeting, committee member Sahibzada Sibghatullah voiced strong criticism of the early warning system, stating that it had proven ineffective on the ground. He cited recent floods in his constituency that washed away a bridge, with no repairs initiated so far, and urged NDMA to assume greater responsibility, especially during severe emergencies. In response, the NDMA Chair clarified that while most disasters fall under provincial jurisdiction, the federal agency steps in when the situation exceeds local capacity. He stressed the need to strengthen District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), whose resources remain limited. The Chair also warned that poor urban sanitation was contributing to urban flooding, and advised provincial governments to avoid settling populations along riverbanks and natural waterways. NDMA officials briefed the committee on glacier monitoring efforts, noting their reliance on the Global Glacier Monitoring Portal to track changes, as melting has accelerated over recent years, raising future risks of both water scarcity and floods.

Highlighting NDMA's technological capabilities, the Chair noted that the authority is equipped with advanced control rooms, drones capable of transporting up to 100 kg, and frequently conducts emergency drills in collaboration with other agencies. He emphasized that while NDMA issues early warnings up to six months in advance, tangible results depend on effective ground-level implementation. The committee was also informed of expected heavy rainfall in late July in Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Upper Punjab, prompting instructions for local agencies to stay on alert.

### **Shrinking Glaciers Threaten Pakistan's Ecological Balance:**

Pakistan's vast glacier systems, which include over [7,000 ice masses](#) and rank among the largest outside the polar regions, are rapidly retreating and posing serious threats to ecological stability and human livelihoods. In areas like Swat, locals have witnessed disturbing changes in water patterns. Streams that once flowed steadily are now drying up or causing destructive floods that damage homes and farmland. Agriculture in these mountainous regions, dependent on steady glacial meltwater to grow crops like wheat, barley, peaches, and apricots, is increasingly vulnerable. At the same time, heavier-than-usual monsoonal rains are compounding the effects of glacial melt, increasing the frequency of glacial lake outburst floods and destabilizing the natural water cycle.

Experts warn that glaciers in Pakistan are thinning by up to five meters annually, and warming in the Himalayan region is occurring faster than the global average. These glaciers act as natural water reservoirs, slowly releasing water during dry seasons. Their rapid loss disrupts this balance, affecting not only water availability but also food security, biodiversity, and tourism. Entire ecosystems dependent on cold, alpine conditions are at risk of collapse. To address the crisis, environmentalists stress the need for coordinated action that includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing forest cover, investing in sustainable water management, and installing early warning systems to prevent glacial disasters.



Source: Tribune

# Social and Humanitarian Focus

## Ban on 27 YouTube Channels Sparks Backlash from Legal and Rights Groups:

In a major development over the weekend, a district and sessions court in Islamabad suspended the blocking orders for seven of the 27 YouTube channels. On Friday, the court admitted revision petitions by journalists Matiullah Jan and Asad Ali Toor and temporarily restored access to their channels.

A day later, the same court, presided over by Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka, granted similar relief to five more petitioners: Makhdoom Shahabuddin, Orya Maqbool Jan, Abdul Qadir, Uzair Anwar, and Umair Rafique. The court noted that no prior notice was issued to the petitioners before the ban, raising serious concerns about procedural fairness and the right to a fair trial.



Source: Tribune

Proceedings for another petitioner, Habib Akram, were adjourned due to his absence. The blocked channels reportedly included accounts run by journalists, political commentators, and social media influencers based both in Pakistan and abroad, many of whom are known for their critical coverage of the government and security agencies. According to FDRD, the takedowns violate Article 19 of the Constitution and Pakistan's commitments under international agreements such as the ICCPR. SCBA President Mian Muhammad Rauf echoed these concerns, stating that while misinformation must be addressed, silencing dissent through blanket bans undermines democratic values and the public's right to access diverse perspectives.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) also expressed alarm, warning that conflating dissent with criminal activity erodes civil liberties. Rights groups and media bodies are now calling on the government to withdraw the remaining bans, restore due process, and halt what they describe as a growing trend of digital repression.



# Security and Governance

## Pakistan Faces Surge in Terror Attacks: 100 Killed, 189 Injured in June Alone

In June 2025, Pakistan witnessed a sharp spike in terrorist activity, with [78 attacks](#) claiming the lives of 100 individuals and leaving 189 others injured, according to a report by a security-focused think tank. Targets included security personnel, public spaces, and critical infrastructure, underscoring the evolving threat landscape and its impact on civilian life and national security.



Source: Dunya News

Security forces responded robustly, neutralizing 71 militants in counter-terror operations and arresting 52 suspected terrorists. These actions reflect an ongoing effort to contain and dismantle militant networks that continue to operate within and near Pakistan's borders.

The report also highlighted that law enforcement agencies have intensified intelligence-led operations to disrupt future plots and restore a sense of security, especially in vulnerable regions.

The think tank's findings show that from January to June 2025, the country recorded a total of 502 terrorist incidents resulting in 737 fatalities and 991 injuries. The scale and consistency of these attacks mark a significant challenge for Pakistan's internal security apparatus. Despite this, the report acknowledged continued counterterrorism operations aimed at stabilizing the security environment

## 30 Militants Killed in North Waziristan as Pak-Afghan Border Infiltration Thwarted: ISPR

In a major counterterrorism operation, Pakistani security forces foiled an infiltration attempt along the Pak-Afghan border in North Waziristan's Hassan Khel tehsil, killing 30 militants affiliated with what the military described as an "Indian proxy" outfit. The operation, conducted over the nights of [July 2 and 3](#), was described by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) as a precise and professionally executed engagement that prevented a major security threat. A large cache of weapons, explosives, and ammunition was recovered from the slain militants.

The military identified the group as part of "Fitna al Khawarij," a term used by the government to refer to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). According to the ISPR, the group attempted to cross from Afghan territory into Pakistan, a route often cited in past cross-border militancy incidents. The statement urged the Afghan government to prevent the use of its soil by foreign proxies planning attacks against Pakistan. It reiterated that Pakistan's security forces remain fully committed to defending the country's borders and eliminating terrorism.

The engagement follows a series of recent operations, including a clash in Balochistan's Duki district, and comes as Pakistan continues to experience high levels of militant violence, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.



Source: DunyaNews

### **Balochistan Bus Killings Spark National Outrage, Renew Fears Over Ethnic Targeting:**

The bodies of nine passengers kidnapped and executed in Balochistan's Sardhaka area were sent back to their hometowns in Punjab, following a brutal attack on two buses traveling from Quetta to Punjab. Armed men intercepted the vehicles in the Sur-Dakai area, forcibly removed 10 individuals based on their identification documents, and later shot them — a chilling act claimed by the banned Balochistan Liberation Front.

The attack, which left at least two victims unidentified due to missing ID cards, follows a disturbing pattern of violence targeting Punjabi workers and travelers in the province. Survivors described the horror of hearing gunfire moments after the assailants dragged their family members away, underscoring the trauma inflicted on civilians with no political affiliations.



Source: The Dawn

National leaders, including President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, condemned the incident as a terrorist act, blaming what they described as "[Fitna-al-Hindustan](#)" a term the state uses for Indian-sponsored militant outfits.

While security forces have launched a large-scale operation and tightened inter-agency coordination, human rights groups like HRCP have called for a political resolution to long-standing grievances in the region, warning that continued violence against civilians only deepens mistrust and fuels instability.



# Reading Recommendations

- The FY 2025–26 Budget and Its Impact on Pakistan’s IT & ITeS Sector ([Click Here](#))
- Planting for Survival: Pakistan’s Path Out of the Heat ([Click Here](#))
- Transparency Through Open Data: Key to Reforming Governance in Pakistan ([Click Here](#))
- From Reports to Reality: Why Pakistan Ranks Last in Global Gender Gap Index ([Click Here](#))
- From Policy to People: Rethinking Governance with Design Thinking ([Click Here](#))
- Floods, Heatwaves, and Hope: Reimagining Agriculture in a Warming Pakistan ([Click Here](#))
- The Fight for Transparent Access to Information in Pakistan ([Click Here](#))
- Life without Autonomy: Understanding Our Culture of Dependency ([Click Here](#))
- Prioritizing Citizens Beyond the Ballot ([Click Here](#))
- Solving the corruption challenge: The key may lie with the citizens. ([Click Here](#))
- Citizens’ Inclusion and Accountability is the Key to Improved Governance and Efficient Public Sector Institutions ([Click Here](#))
- Digital Community Policing ([Click Here](#))
- Privatization of Schools in Punjab ([Click Here](#))
- Water Governance Challenges in Pakistan ([Click Here](#))
- Consumer Protection in Pakistan ([Click Here](#))

