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Country Analysis Report

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MULTILATERALISM AND
DIPLOMACY FOR PEACE 2026

PAKISTAN'S DIPLOMATIC TEST IN A TIME OF WAR

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Executive Summary

The April 2026 Country Analysis Report presents Pakistan at a critical juncture where global conflict, domestic governance challenges, and economic vulnerabilities intersect. The ongoing Iran-centered war has tested the effectiveness of multilateral diplomacy, with Pakistan emerging as a facilitator of dialogue and a temporary diplomatic bridge between major powers. While this role has enhanced Pakistan's international visibility, it also underscores the limits of middle-power influence in resolving deeply rooted geopolitical disputes. Importantly, Pakistan's engagement is driven not only by principle but by economic necessity, as regional instability directly affects oil prices, trade flows, and financial stability.

At the domestic level, the political landscape reflects a pattern of ambitious reforms constrained by weak implementation and increasing centralisation. Legislative initiatives and institutional restructuring signal reform intent, yet persistent issues such as judicial inefficiencies, fiscal disputes between provinces, and expanding state control over civil society highlight deeper structural tensions. This suggests that governance challenges in Pakistan are less about the absence of reform and more about how reforms are designed and executed within a contested institutional framework.

Economically, Pakistan is experiencing a fragile stabilisation marked by modest growth and reduced inflation, but underlying vulnerabilities remain pronounced. Heavy reliance on external financing, remittances, and imported energy continues to expose the economy to global shocks. While short-term inflows and emerging opportunities in trade and logistics offer some relief, structural issues such as low export diversification, weak revenue mobilisation, and rising debt persist, limiting long-term resilience.

Social and humanitarian trends further reflect a disconnect between policy direction and ground realities. Education privatisation, rising agricultural distress, and increasing cost-of-living pressures are intensifying inequality, even as gains in digital inclusion provide limited but notable progress. Similarly, climate shocks and security challenges reveal a continued reliance on reactive responses rather than preventive, system-wide approaches.

Overall, the report highlights a recurring pattern across sectors: Pakistan demonstrates policy ambition and strategic engagement, but struggles with coherence, implementation, and long-term planning. The country's ability to convert short-term stability and diplomatic relevance into sustained progress will depend on addressing structural weaknesses and shifting toward more integrated, forward-looking governance.

International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace 2026

PAKISTAN'S DIPLOMATIC TEST IN A TIME OF WAR

The [International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace](#), observed on 24 April, was created to reaffirm the UN Charter's promise that disputes should be settled through dialogue rather than force. In 2026, however, the day arrives not as a ceremonial reminder but as a measure of how far the international system has drifted from that promise.

The ongoing war centred on Iran, and the wider regional instability it has triggered, has exposed both the urgency of multilateral diplomacy and the weakness of the institutions meant to uphold it. Pakistan's role in this moment is especially significant because it sits at the intersection of principle, proximity and vulnerability: it is a current non-permanent member of the [UN Security Council for 2025-26](#), it has publicly rooted its diplomacy in the UN Charter, and it has emerged as a direct facilitator of talks linked to the latest regional war.

What makes this year's observance unusually consequential is that multilateralism is being judged not by declarations but by performance. Since late February 2026, the war involving Iran, the United States and Israel has pushed the region toward a wider conflagration, disrupted maritime trade, shaken oil markets and created pressure for urgent diplomacy.

Islamabad became the venue for the highest-level direct [U.S.-Iran talks in decades](#), yet those marathon negotiations ended without a settlement, leaving only a fragile ceasefire and a narrow diplomatic window. The subsequent U.S. move to enforce a blockade on Iranian ports further raised the stakes, while China, Turkey, Egypt and others pressed for renewed negotiations. In other words, diplomacy has not failed completely, but neither has it delivered durable peace. That is precisely the contradiction the 2026 observance lays bare: the world still turns to multilateral channels in crisis, but only after military escalation has already transformed the strategic landscape.

In this setting, Pakistan has attempted to project itself not as a combatant or camp follower, but as a diplomatic bridge. Official statements from Islamabad have consistently framed peace in terms of adherence to sovereignty, territorial integrity and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Pakistan [welcomed the ceasefire](#), supported the revival of dialogue, and publicly stated after the Islamabad talks that it would continue facilitating engagement between Iran and the United States.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has since said that a "full effort" remains underway to resolve the conflict, while international reporting indicates that Pakistan helped broker the initial ceasefire and is now proposing further rounds of talks in Islamabad. This marks one of Pakistan's most consequential diplomatic interventions in recent years and shows that middle powers can still create openings for negotiation when great-power channels narrow.

Yet a serious analysis must also recognise the limits of Pakistan's role. Islamabad can convene, shuttle, reassure and create diplomatic space, but it cannot by itself resolve the underlying asymmetry of power, mistrust over Iran's nuclear programme, or the strategic calculations of Washington, Tehran and Tel Aviv. Even the recent talks made that clear: the key disputes concerned sanctions relief, [enrichment restrictions](#), security guarantees, the Strait of Hormuz and the terms of de-escalation.

Those are not procedural disagreements; they are core questions of war, deterrence and sovereignty. Pakistan's mediation, therefore, matters less as proof of decisive leverage and more as evidence that geographically exposed middle states can still perform a stabilising function when formal multilateral institutions are gridlocked. The real value of Pakistan's diplomacy lies in preventing total diplomatic collapse, not in single-handedly producing a final settlement.

Pakistan's activism is also driven by hard national interest. This war is not a distant geopolitical spectacle for Pakistan. The Strait of Hormuz normally carries about one-fifth of global oil flows, and recent disruptions have been severe enough that traffic reportedly fell to less than 10 per cent of normal levels at one stage.

Oil prices have surged to above \$100 a barrel, major institutions have warned of slower growth and higher inflation, and Pakistan's own finance minister has acknowledged that the Middle East conflict is pressuring the economy and strengthening the case for a strategic petroleum reserve. When diplomacy stalls, Pakistan pays economically through imported inflation, reserve stress, market volatility and external financing risks. The collapse of recent talks was followed by a sharp fall in Pakistan's stock market, underlining how closely its economic stability is tied to regional peace. Pakistan's multilateral posture, then, is not just normative; it is deeply material. Peace diplomacy is an economic imperative.

This is where the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace acquires real meaning for Pakistan. Islamabad entered the Security Council in January 2025, promising to uphold the UN Charter, and during its July 2025 Council presidency, it even sponsored a resolution on strengthening mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes. The current war is now testing whether that posture can be translated into sustained influence. Pakistan's challenge is to move beyond event diplomacy and use every available platform, including the Security Council, the OIC and broader regional diplomacy, to press for ceasefire maintenance, protection of maritime stability, opposition to escalatory coercion, and a revival of negotiated security arrangements.

The lesson of 2026 is not that multilateralism is dead. It is that multilateralism only matters when states are willing to invest political capital in it before the next military step becomes irreversible. Pakistan has, to its credit, chosen diplomacy over alignment and engagement over passivity. But the durability of that choice will depend on whether it can help convert a fragile pause in war into a broader defence of rules, restraint and negotiated order. On this year's observance, that is the standard by which multilateralism should be judged.

Political Updates

Pakistan's political landscape in early 2026 is a complex mix of reformist intent, institutional centralisation, and unresolved structural tensions. Recent developments collectively point to an increasingly interventionist governance model struggling to deliver systemic outcomes.

The introduction of the [Bill for the Protection of Joint Properties of Minorities, 2026](#), in the Punjab Assembly is a significant political signal. On the surface, the legislation appears to address a longstanding governance gap: the protection of minority religious properties, many of which have historically been vulnerable to encroachment, misuse, or administrative neglect. By proposing a provincial action committee, comprising state officials, law enforcement, and minority representatives, the bill attempts to institutionalise oversight, improve documentation, and prevent illegal occupation.



Source: Pexels

However, the bill's framing raises critical questions. By classifying minority welfare organisations receiving government or foreign funding as “joint properties,” the legislation expands state oversight into civil society spaces in a manner that may blur the line between protection and control. While the intent may be to safeguard assets, the mechanism could potentially increase bureaucratic intervention in minority-led institutions, raising concerns about autonomy, especially in a context where civil society space is already constrained. The effectiveness of the bill will ultimately depend not on its structure, but on the neutrality and independence with which the proposed committee operates, an aspect that remains uncertain given its composition is largely state-driven.

This legislative development must be understood alongside broader institutional shifts. The [27th Constitutional Amendment](#), which led to the creation of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), was presented as a major reform aimed at improving judicial efficiency. Yet, nearly five months into its implementation, evidence suggests that the reform has had limited practical impact. Case backlogs remain above [56,000](#) across the superior judiciary, indicating that the reform has largely redistributed cases rather than resolved systemic inefficiencies. Legal experts have also raised concerns about judicial independence, arguing that the restructuring may have strengthened executive influence over judicial appointments and weakened accountability mechanisms.



Source: Pexels

This pattern of ambitious reform design with limited implementation outcomes appears to be recurring across sectors. The state's response to the Middle East conflict further illustrates this dynamic. The formation of the National Coordination and Management Council (NCMC) represents an attempt to centralise economic and security decision-making under a unified platform. The council's mandate spans macroeconomic monitoring, energy security, trade policy, and even narrative control, reflecting an increasingly integrated governance approach. While this may enhance coordination during crises, it also signals a consolidation of authority that risks sidelining institutional checks and balances.

At the federal level, emerging tensions between the centre and provinces highlight deeper structural challenges within Pakistan's political economy. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's threat to approach the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) over its National Finance Commission (NFC) share shows growing dissatisfaction with fiscal federalism arrangements. The province argues that the merger of former tribal districts has significantly increased its fiscal burden, warranting a higher resource allocation. However, resistance from other provinces reflects competing interests and the absence of a consensus-driven framework for resource distribution.

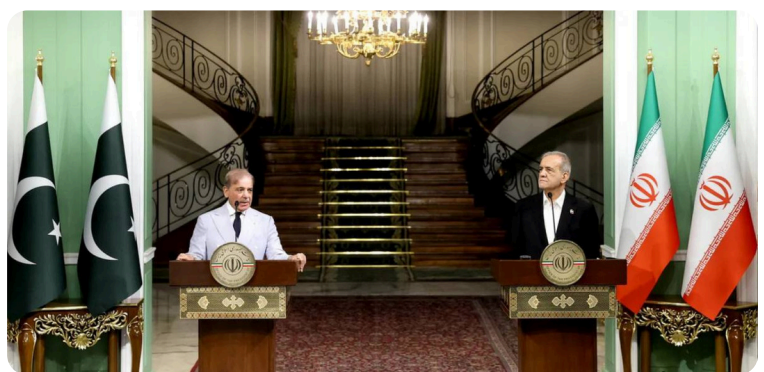


Source: Pexels

These tensions reveal a broader issue: while political discourse often emphasises unity and reform, the underlying governance architecture remains contested. Fiscal decentralisation, judicial independence, and civil society autonomy are all being renegotiated simultaneously, often without a clear institutional roadmap.

Without corresponding safeguards for transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation, such interventions risk reinforcing centralised control rather than delivering inclusive governance.

Critically, these developments are unfolding at a time when Pakistan is also seeking to leverage its geopolitical positioning for economic and diplomatic gains. The contrast is striking: externally, the state projects itself as a credible mediator and **stabilising actor**; internally, it continues to grapple with institutional inefficiencies, contested reforms, and uneven governance outcomes.



Source: The Friday Times

Thus, Pakistan's current political trajectory is defined less by the absence of reform and more by the nature of reform itself. Legislative and institutional initiatives are increasingly ambitious and wide-ranging, but their impact remains constrained by implementation gaps, centralisation tendencies, and unresolved structural tensions. The real test for the state will not be in introducing new frameworks, but in ensuring that these frameworks translate into tangible improvements in governance, rights protection, and institutional credibility.

Economic Updates

Pakistan's economic outlook in early 2026 reflects a fragile stabilisation phase shaped by external geopolitical shocks and modest macroeconomic recovery. The economy is navigating a complex interplay between short-term relief derived from diplomatic positioning and longer-term vulnerabilities rooted in fiscal imbalances and external dependence.

At the macro level, Pakistan has maintained a degree of stability under its ongoing IMF-supported reform programme, with growth projected at approximately **3.1% in FY2026**, marginally higher than the previous year. Inflation, while significantly lower than the crisis levels of FY2024, is expected to average around **7.9%**, though recent data indicates renewed upward pressure driven primarily by energy prices and supply-side disruptions. Weekly inflation has already reached over **9% year-on-year**, with energy costs, particularly fuel and gas, emerging as the dominant drivers. This highlights Pakistan's continued exposure to global commodity cycles, particularly through its heavy reliance on imported energy.



Source: The Diplomatic Insight

On the topic of external influences, external sector dynamics remain the central determinant of economic stability. Pakistan's current account is expected to revert to a deficit of around 1.1% of GDP after a brief surplus, while foreign exchange reserves are projected to decline modestly, covering less than three months of imports. This limited buffer demonstrates structural vulnerabilities, especially in the context of rising **external debt obligations**, which are expected to increase significantly in FY2026. The repayment of **\$3.5 billion** to the UAE, alongside other obligations, highlights ongoing liquidity pressures despite temporary inflows and rollovers.

One such temporary inflow and short-term relief has emerged through anticipated bilateral support, including a **\$5 billion** financial package from Saudi Arabia and Qatar, aimed at stabilising reserves and easing immediate financing constraints. These inflows, combined with IMF disbursements and multilateral financing, are likely to provide a temporary cushion. However, they also reinforce Pakistan's continued reliance on external financing rather than endogenous growth drivers.

Remittances, a critical pillar of Pakistan's external account, accounting for nearly 9-10% of GDP, present a mixed outlook. While cumulative inflows remain strong, recent data shows a **5% year-on-year decline** in March 2026, with analysts warning of increased vulnerability due to geopolitical tensions in the Gulf. Given that a significant proportion of remittances originates from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, any prolonged instability in the region could reduce inflows by **\$3-4 billion annually**, exposing a critical concentration risk. This points towards the structural fragility of an economic model heavily reliant on overseas labour income rather than export competitiveness.

Trade dynamics further compound these pressures. The trade deficit has widened significantly, driven by rising imports and stagnant exports, with exports struggling to break out of a narrow range despite currency depreciation and policy interventions. Energy imports, which constitute a large share of the import bill, remain highly sensitive to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, through which Pakistan sources up to 90% of its oil. Consequently, any escalation in regional conflict translates directly into inflationary pressures, exchange rate volatility, and fiscal strain.

Domestically, fiscal performance remains constrained by revenue mobilisation challenges. Despite strong tax growth in FY2025, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has recorded a shortfall of over **Rs610 billion** in the first three quarters of FY2026, reflecting both structural inefficiencies and deviations from macroeconomic assumptions. The tax-to-GDP ratio, though improved, remains low, and achieving ambitious revenue targets will require politically challenging reforms, particularly at the provincial level. Persistent reliance on indirect taxation and limited expansion of the tax base continue to constrain fiscal sustainability.

Energy sector dynamics represent another critical pressure point. Rising fuel costs have translated into **higher electricity tariffs**, with additional burdens being passed on to consumers through fuel cost adjustments. While recent policy measures have reduced industrial tariffs, the overall cost structure remains high, affecting competitiveness and industrial viability. Energy price volatility, combined with circular debt and inefficiencies in distribution, continues to act as a drag on economic performance.



Source: Getty Images

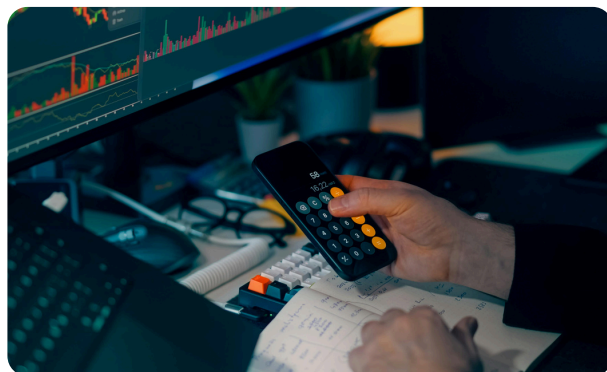
Despite these constraints, sectoral opportunities are emerging, particularly in logistics, connectivity, and trade facilitation. The reconfiguration of global shipping routes due to Gulf tensions has led to a surge in transshipment activity at Pakistani ports, with volumes increasing dramatically in **early 2026**. Gwadar Port, in particular, is gaining traction as a **regional trade hub**, supported by improvements in infrastructure, security, and operational efficiency. These developments, if complemented by structural reforms in logistics and governance, could enhance Pakistan's integration into regional and global trade networks.

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Similarly, the textile sector, Pakistan's largest export industry, has received renewed support through **international partnerships** aimed at improving compliance, labour standards, and competitiveness. Such initiatives are critical for sustaining market access and enhancing value addition within global supply chains.

Geopolitically, Pakistan's role as a mediator in the Middle East conflict has created a unique window of opportunity to convert diplomatic capital into economic gains. Potential benefits include preferential energy arrangements, revival of regional connectivity projects such as the Iran-Pakistan pipeline, and improved access to multilateral financing. However, the sustainability of these gains depends on the government's ability to implement complementary domestic reforms. As highlighted in multiple [analyses](#), diplomatic success cannot substitute for structural transformation.

Looking ahead, Pakistan's economic trajectory will depend on its ability to transition from a [stabilisation-driven](#) model to a growth-oriented framework. This requires addressing deep-rooted structural issues, including low export diversification, weak industrial productivity, limited financial inclusion, and overreliance on debt financing. The current economic structure, characterised by high public debt, risk-free returns, and limited entrepreneurship, continues to constrain long-term growth potential.



Source: Pexels

In this context, building economic resilience will necessitate a shift toward productive investment, export-led growth, and diversification of external inflows. Strengthening foreign exchange buffers, enhancing energy security, and improving governance in key sectors such as taxation, trade, and logistics will be critical. Without such reforms, Pakistan risks remaining caught in a cyclical pattern of external crises, temporary stabilisation, and renewed vulnerability.

While Pakistan's economy has entered a phase of cautious recovery, the outlook remains highly contingent on external developments and domestic policy responses. The convergence of geopolitical opportunity and structural constraint presents a critical point. Whether Pakistan can translate short-term stability into sustainable growth will depend on the pace and depth of reforms undertaken in the coming months, especially in April, which is traditionally marked by pre-budget deliberations.

Social and Humanitarian Updates

Recent social and humanitarian developments in Pakistan reveal a widening disconnect between policy intent and lived realities, particularly across education, digital inclusion, agriculture, and household welfare. While the state continues to pursue reform-oriented initiatives, its uneven implementation and distributional consequences are intensifying concerns around equity, access, and social protection.

The ongoing privatisation of public education in Punjab represents one of the most consequential shifts in the social sector. The launch of the third phase of the Public School Reorganisation Programme, transferring an additional [4,500 schools](#) to private management, reflects a clear policy direction toward outsourcing service delivery. With over [12,500 schools](#) already handed over in earlier phases, the scale of this transformation is unprecedented. However, this shift is occurring alongside a critical institutional failure: nearly [50,000](#) vacant teaching positions in the public system.



Source: The News Pakistan

Rather than addressing capacity gaps through recruitment and investment, the state appears to be substituting public provision with private management. This [policy brief](#) by [Accountability Lab](#) on school privatisation in Punjab highlights that while public-private partnerships are being pursued to address funding and quality gaps, they risk weakening the state's responsibility to deliver free and equitable education, and emphasises that sustainable reform requires strengthening, not substituting, the public education system

Critics argue that privatisation risks deepening educational inequality, particularly in low-income and rural areas where private operators may prioritise cost recovery over inclusivity. Early evidence cited by teachers' unions suggests declining enrolment in privatised schools, alongside reductions in public-sector employment. If substantiated, this would indicate not a reform of the system, but a gradual withdrawal of the state from its constitutional responsibility to provide universal education. The policy, therefore, sits at the intersection of fiscal constraint and governance choice, where efficiency is being prioritised over equity without adequate safeguards.

In contrast, developments in digital inclusion offer a more positive trajectory, albeit with limitations. The narrowing of the gender gap in mobile internet usage, from approximately 36-38% to 25%, and the creation of over 800,000 digital wallets for women signal meaningful progress in financial and digital inclusion. These gains are particularly significant in a context where informal economic participation remains high, and women's access to financial systems has historically been limited. Expanding digital access not only enhances economic participation but also strengthens resilience by integrating more households into formal financial networks.



Source: World Bank

However, this progress must be contextualised within broader structural realities. Nearly half of Pakistan's economy remains informal, and digital inclusion alone cannot address underlying barriers such as low female labour force participation, social norms, and limited access to education and skills. Without complementary investments in human capital and labour market opportunities, digital tools risk becoming enablers without pathways for substantive economic mobility.

The agricultural sector presents a more acute humanitarian concern, particularly for smallholder farmers. Recent developments highlight a deepening crisis driven by rising input costs, declining crop prices, and inadequate state support. The subsidy of [Rs1,500 per acre](#), criticised by farmer organisations as insufficient, covers only a fraction of small growers and fails to offset escalating production costs. With fuel price increases expected to raise cultivation costs by up to [Rs12,000 per acre](#), the gap between input expenses and farm incomes is widening rapidly.



Source: Getty Images

Broader structural analyses further underscore the urgency of reform. The World Bank's roadmap for modernising the wheat sector highlights persistent productivity gaps, inefficient subsidy regimes, and weak institutional coordination as key barriers to sustainable agricultural growth. Importantly, these challenges are not merely economic; they have direct implications for food security, rural livelihoods, and nutrition outcomes. With wheat accounting for a significant share of caloric intake, inefficiencies in its production and distribution have far-reaching social consequences.

At the household level, economic pressures are increasingly translating into social strain. The salaried class continues to bear a disproportionate tax burden, contributing **Rs420 billion** in income tax within just nine months, while also facing rising costs of fuel, transportation, and essential utilities. This dual pressure is eroding disposable incomes and reducing purchasing power, particularly for middle-income groups that fall outside targeted social protection schemes. The result is a gradual squeeze on consumption, with implications for both welfare and economic demand.

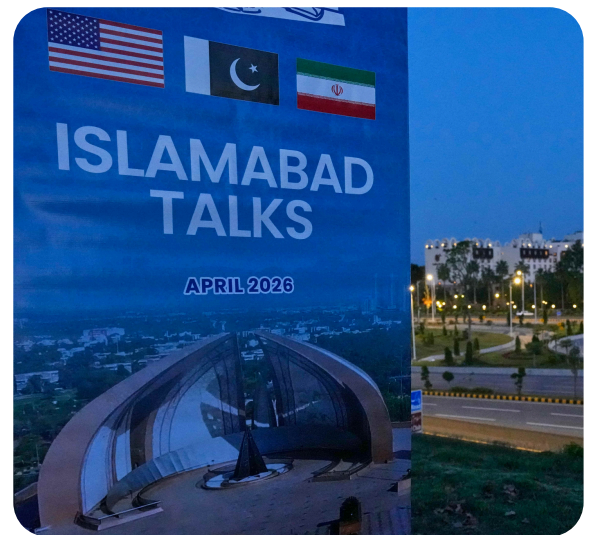


Source: Pakistan Today

Addressing these challenges will require not only targeted interventions but a more integrated approach, one that aligns social policy with economic reform, prioritises equity alongside efficiency, and ensures that the benefits of growth are both inclusive and sustainable.

Diplomatic Landscape

Pakistan's recent diplomatic engagements suggest a moment of heightened international relevance, but a closer analysis reveals a more nuanced reality, one where tactical success coexists with structural limitations. The country's role in mediating between the United States and Iran, culminating in a **temporary ceasefire**, has elevated its standing as a credible diplomatic actor. This was not merely a symbolic achievement; it required a delicate balancing act between competing regional and global interests, demonstrating Pakistan's ability to operate simultaneously within multiple geopolitical spheres. However, such influence is largely contingent on crisis conditions, raising questions about its durability once regional tensions subside.



Source: China Daily Asia

The operationalisation of the **Pakistan-Iran transit corridor** further reflects an attempt to convert diplomatic capital into economic leverage. By linking Gwadar through Iran to Central Asia, Pakistan is positioning itself as a critical node in emerging regional trade networks. This initiative holds significant promise in reducing logistics costs, diversifying trade routes, and enhancing connectivity. Yet, its long-term viability remains uncertain, constrained by external factors such as sanctions on Iran and internal challenges, including infrastructure gaps and policy inconsistency. As with many of Pakistan's connectivity ambitions, the corridor represents potential that must still overcome structural bottlenecks.

At the same time, Pakistan's western diplomatic front highlights a more restrictive and security-driven posture. Engagements with [Afghanistan](#), facilitated through China, remain narrowly focused on counterterrorism demands, particularly the dismantling of militant networks operating across the border. While this approach is rooted in legitimate security concerns, it limits the scope of broader political and economic engagement. The absence of trust and the conditional nature of dialogue underscore the fragility of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, which continue to act as a constraint on regional integration efforts.



Source: Tribune

A defining feature of Pakistan's diplomacy at present is its reliance on [strategic balancing](#). It maintains ties with the United States while deepening coordination with China, engages Iran while reassuring Gulf partners, and participates in regional dialogue while pursuing unilateral security objectives. This multi-vector approach enhances flexibility but also creates inherent tensions. The risk is that Pakistan's diplomacy becomes reactive, adapting to external pressures, rather than proactive, driven by a coherent long-term vision anchored in economic and institutional strength.

Pakistan's diplomatic landscape is characterised by a paradox: it has achieved a level of strategic visibility that exceeds its underlying economic capacity. The current moment offers a rare opportunity to reposition itself within regional and global systems, particularly through connectivity and mediation. However, without parallel domestic reforms and a shift toward sustained, strategy-driven diplomacy, these gains may remain episodic. The challenge for Pakistan is not merely to be present at the negotiating table, but to ensure that its presence translates into lasting geopolitical and economic dividends.

Environmental Updates

Pakistan's climate vulnerability has once again been exposed by the recent spell of [extreme weather](#), which has resulted in over 26 deaths, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alone reporting dozens of fatalities, many of them children. The destruction of homes, damage to critical infrastructure, and isolation of entire communities due to severed road links highlight not only the intensity of these events but also the persistent fragility of local resilience systems. These impacts extend far beyond immediate loss of life, disrupting agricultural cycles, livelihoods, and local economies that were already under strain. The concentration of casualties among poorer populations, particularly those living in vulnerable housing and hazard-prone areas, underscores the deeply unequal burden of climate shocks.



Source: Reuters

While the state's emergency response mechanisms, such as Provincial Disaster Management Authorities' activation, Rescue 1122 deployments, and coordinated relief efforts, have been visibly mobilised, the overall approach remains largely reactive. Disaster management continues to function at the level of post-crisis response rather than anticipatory planning, with preparedness and resilience-building still underdeveloped. The recurrence of such events, combined with warnings of further weather disturbances, suggests that Pakistan remains caught in a cycle of repeated shocks without meaningful structural adaptation. Moving beyond emergency relief toward long-term resilience will require sustained investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, and community-level preparedness. Without such a shift, the humanitarian and economic costs of climate-related disasters are likely to continue rising.

Security and Governance Updates

Pakistan's current security landscape is a convergence of humanitarian distress, internal militancy, and structural governance gaps that continue to reinforce one another. The recent Mediterranean boat tragedy, in which dozens of migrants, including an estimated [20 Pakistanis](#), went missing, is not merely an external crisis but a domestic governance failure manifesting beyond borders. Individuals from districts such as [Gujranwala](#), [Gujrat](#), and [Mandi Bahauddin](#) undertaking such perilous journeys point to persistent deficits in economic opportunity, weak regulation of human smuggling networks, and the absence of credible, safe migration pathways. At the same time, the lack of coordinated and timely institutional response, as seen in the uncertainty around confirming identities and numbers, highlights gaps in inter-agency coordination and citizen protection mechanisms.



Source: TRT World

Concurrently, the internal security situation remains fragile, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where attacks such as the recent [IED blast](#) targeting a police patrol in Lakki Marwat demonstrate the continued operational presence of militant networks. Despite tactical successes by security forces in neutralising militants in regions like [North Waziristan](#) and Khyber, the persistence and geographic spread of such incidents suggest that kinetic responses alone are insufficient. Militancy has evolved into a decentralised and adaptive threat, exploiting governance vacuums, porous borders, and limited state presence in peripheral regions. The rising trend in violence, as indicated by recent security data, underscores the need for a more integrated approach that combines enforcement with local governance strengthening, intelligence coordination, and community engagement.

State responses are largely crisis-driven rather than preventive. Whether in managing migration, countering terrorism, or ensuring citizen safety, Pakistan's policy architecture continues to operate in silos, constrained by fiscal pressures and limited institutional cohesion. A sustainable pathway forward requires reframing security as a function of governance, investing in human development, strengthening local institutions, and fostering regional cooperation, particularly on border management. Without such a shift, the cycle of vulnerability, exploitation, and instability is likely to persist, with both human and institutional costs continuing to rise.

Reading Recommendations

- Battleground Algorithms: How Artificial Intelligence is Shaping Modern Conflict Narratives ([Click Here](#))
- Reimagining Civil Society Action in Pakistan ([Click Here](#))
- Building Digital Resilience of Civil Society ([Click Here](#))
- Why Pakistan's Entrepreneurial Landscape Has Struggled to Deliver for Its Youth: A Critical South Asian Comparison ([Click Here](#))
- Mental Health Access for Women: Cultural Stigma and Systemic Barriers ([Click Here](#))
- Concrete Over Canopy: The Unmaking of Islamabad's Green Capital Dream ([Click Here](#))
- Menstrual Health Management: Policy Gaps, Access to Hygiene Products and Cultural Taboos ([Click Here](#))
- Climate Change and Food Security in Pakistan: A Crisis on Our Plate ([Click Here](#))
- Environmental Health Risks: Gendered impacts of air pollution, water contamination, and climate change on women ([Click Here](#))
- Imagination as the Blueprint of Reality ([Click Here](#))
- Constitution for All: Rethinking Gender Inclusive Governance in Pakistan ([Click Here](#))
- Rethinking Reforms Process in Balochistan: Innovation and Leadership at BCSA ([Click Here](#))
- Sports as a Tool for Preventing Violent Extremism in Pakistan ([Click Here](#))
- Groundwater Recharge: Reviving the Hidden Lifeline ([Click Here](#))
- Selling Misinformation ([Click Here](#))
- Data-Driven Cities: Lessons from World for Pakistan ([Click Here](#))
- 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](#))
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- 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](#))