

PAKISTAN'S TERRORISM LANDSCAPE: CHALLENGES AND REMEDIES

NO QUICK VICTORIES.
ONLY ENDURING SOLUTIONS.

CSS PLATFORM
NEXUS

Pakistan Affairs
Current Affairs

International Relations
Quality Essay Content

YOUR GATEWAY
TO INSIGHTFUL
NEWSPAPER SUMMARIES

NEXUS – VOL. 3 | ISSUE 6



 dreamsupermall
 @dreamsupermall
 dreamsupermall.pk

cssplatform 
@cssplatform 
cssplatformbytha.com 



CSS
PLATFORM

ABOUT

PATRON-IN-CHIEF

Talib Hussain

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Talib Hussain

EDITOR

Kashaf Malik

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Sana Behain

RESEARCH TEAM

Abdul Muheed Axhk

Muhammad Sami

Adv.Sharyar Axhk

Hamna Zafar

Kashaf Malik

Noman Khan

Abdu Basit

DR.Areeba Arif

PUBLISHED by



All Rights Reserved

This magazine and its contents are protected by copyright. No part may be reproduced or transmitted without prior written permission from the publisher. For permissions, please contact:
admin@cssplatformbytha.com

CSS - PMS Exam Excellence: A Pathway to Quality Content* is designed to be the ultimate resource for CSS and PMS aspirants, bridging the gap between ambition and achievement. Every issue provides you with rigorous, in-depth analysis on topics Current Affairs, Pakistan Affairs, Essay, and International Relations, specifically tailored to meet the evolving demands of competitive exams. Alongside these core articles, the magazine provides comprehensive study tools—structured notes, essential facts and figures, and vocabulary boosters—that sharpen your writing and deepen your understanding. Quality content is what distinguishes top candidates, and CSS - PMS Exam Excellence equips you to stand out, making it the ideal guide to achieving high scores and transforming your hard work into success

CSS PLATFORM'S Nexus covers essential topics, including:

1. Current Affairs
2. Pakistan Affairs
3. International Relations
4. Quality Essay Content

If you're aiming to score high in your CSS/PMS exams, having access to quality content is crucial. A strong score can open doors to your preferred CSS group. At CSS PLATFORM'S Nexus, provides you with quality content and well-researched materials on various subjects.

Our Vision

Bureaucracy is about selfless service to the nation that begins with selfless assistance to potential bureaucrats. Our aim is to fuel aspirants with necessary skill sets for prevailing in competitive exams with a competitive edge. That edge is known as CSS Platform

Our Mission

Shaping graduates into active service bureaucrats

You can submit your article for publication to the email address below. Please ensure you include your name, profession, and email address.

Email:

editor@cssplatformbytha.com

For Collaboration contact us at email:

admin@cssplatformbytha.com

Contents

Dawn –	5
Countering Drones.....	5
Navigating the Hormuz Dilemma	6
Fighting Israel's War	8
Post-Budget Chores	9
Why Do Nations Fail?.....	11
Policies without budget	12
A Tentative Peace.....	14
A Year On, Stalemate Persists	15
The Express Tribune –	17
The cost of never finishing the story	17
Pakistan's Terrorism Landscape: Challenges and Remedies.....	18
New Normal in the US; What About Pakistan?	20
Iran War and the Future of Modern Conflict.....	21
USA, India and Pakistan	23
Deterrence Dynamics in South Asia	24
Iran: Strategic Choices	26
US-Iran Talks: Conclusions and Implications.....	27
National Officers Academy –	30
NATO's 2025 Summit: A Strategic Turn to Militarization	30
Palestine and Commoditized Indifference: Corporate Profit from Human Suffering.....	31
Evolving Pakistan-Iran Alliance	33
Resurgence of Pakistan's Foreign Policy	34
JCPOA: The Rise & Collapse Iran's Nuclear Gamble and Regional Fallout	36
Pakistan Observer –	38
Climate Crisis — Who is Responsible?.....	38
Technology and E-Governance of Societies.....	39
Democracy in the Age of AI	41
Arab News Pakistan –	43

What if Europe loses access to its climate data?.....	43
Can Pakistan’s Diplomatic Triumph Help the Economy?	44
Did Pakistan’s Mediation Just Open a New Regional Order?	45
Pakistan’s Budget of Managed Expectations	47
Diplomatic Capital Is Not Enough: Pakistan’s Next Test in the Gulf.....	48

CSS PLATFORM

COUNTERING DRONES

Summary:

The article argues that the rapid spread of drone technology has fundamentally reshaped the security landscape in Pakistan. Since the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan and the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, militant groups have gained access to commercially available drones and abandoned military equipment. These platforms now serve as inexpensive yet highly effective tools for reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, surveillance, and precision attacks against law enforcement agencies. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has witnessed a sharp rise in drone-assisted militancy, compelling police forces to establish specialised UAV divisions and anti-drone units. The author contends that drones have transformed terrorism from a ground-based threat into a multidimensional challenge that extends across physical, cyber, and aerial domains. Beyond direct attacks, militant groups exploit drone footage for psychological warfare and propaganda, amplifying fear while avoiding direct confrontation. Criminal networks also misuse drones for surveillance, extortion, and other unlawful activities, whereas careless operations near airports and populated areas create serious public safety risks.

The article maintains that banning drones is neither practical nor desirable because they also serve valuable civilian and law enforcement purposes. Instead, governments should establish comprehensive regulatory frameworks covering registration, licensing, pilot certification, restricted airspace, weight-based categorisation, and digital identification systems. Pakistan must strengthen institutional capacity by creating dedicated drone warfare units, equipping security agencies with modern detection technologies, anti-drone weapons, and specialised training. International cooperation is equally important to monitor drone trafficking, regulate online sales, and curb the transfer of advanced drone technologies to militant organisations. Public awareness campaigns, stricter enforcement, and designated no-fly zones around sensitive installations should complement these measures. The article concludes that the challenge lies in striking a careful balance between technological innovation, public safety, and individual privacy. Without timely adaptation, militants will continue to exploit technological advances faster than the institutions responsible for countering them.

Overview:

The article examines the growing security threat posed by drones in Pakistan. It explains how militant organisations have incorporated drone technology into their operations, evaluates its implications for law enforcement and public safety, and advocates a balanced approach based on regulation, technological preparedness, institutional reform, and international cooperation rather than outright prohibition.

NOTES:

The article highlights the growing use of drones by militant groups for surveillance, intelligence gathering, and attacks against security forces. It stresses that modern terrorism now extends beyond conventional battlefields into airspace and cyberspace. Pakistan has responded by establishing specialised UAV divisions and anti-drone units, yet institutional capacity remains inadequate. The writer advocates comprehensive drone regulation through licensing, registration, pilot certification, geofencing, and digital identification instead of banning the technology. International cooperation, stronger legal frameworks, specialised law enforcement training, public awareness, and designated no-fly zones are presented as essential measures. The article also underlines that drones have legitimate civilian and policing applications, making balanced regulation more effective than restrictive prohibition.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Pakistan Affairs: Internal security and counterterrorism
- Current Affairs: Drone warfare and emerging security threats

- International Relations: Technology in modern conflict and transnational security cooperation

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains how drones have become a serious security challenge in Pakistan. Militants now use small drones to observe security forces, collect information, and launch attacks without exposing themselves to danger. For example, modified quadcopters have been used in attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Drones can also spread fear through propaganda videos or threaten civilians by carrying explosives. At the same time, drones are useful for policing, rescue operations, crowd monitoring, and tracing stolen vehicles. The author therefore argues that governments should regulate drone use instead of banning it. Measures such as registration, pilot licences, anti-drone technology, and public awareness can reduce misuse while preserving the benefits of this technology.

Facts and Figures:

- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded more than 380 militant attacks in 2025.
- Bannu alone witnessed around 300 attacks.
- KP Police established Pakistan's first specialised UAV division.
- Punjab created district anti-drone units.
- The Houthis used drones to target Saudi oil infrastructure.
- A FARC drone attack reportedly brought down a Colombian police helicopter, killing 12 personnel.

To sum up, the article presents drone technology as both an opportunity and a threat. Innovation cannot be halted, but its misuse can be contained through sound regulation and institutional preparedness. Security agencies must evolve as rapidly as the threats they confront. Strong legal frameworks, advanced technology, international cooperation, and public awareness together offer the most effective defence. The future of security will depend not only on superior equipment but also on the ability to anticipate change before adversaries exploit it.

Difficult Words and Meanings:

1. Reconnaissance – military observation to gather information
Synonym: surveillance Antonym: ignorance
2. Quadcopter – a drone with four rotors used for aerial operations
Synonym: UAV Antonym: ground vehicle
3. Geofencing – virtual geographic boundary restricting movement
Synonym: geo-restriction Antonym: unrestricted access
4. Shrapnel – metal fragments from an exploding device
Synonym: splinters Antonym: intact object
5. Lethality – ability to cause death or severe harm
Synonym: deadliness Antonym: harmlessness

NAVIGATING THE HORMUZ DILEMMA

Author: Khurram Abbas

Summary:

The article argues that the recent US-Iran conflict has exposed a fundamental weakness in the Gulf Cooperation Council's energy security architecture. The dual blockade of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran and the United States disrupted regional oil and gas exports, with Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait suffering the greatest impact because of their overwhelming dependence on the waterway. Although Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates diverted part of their exports through alternative routes such as Yanbu and Fujairah, these corridors lack the capacity to fully replace Hormuz. The crisis demonstrated that the strait has become an integral part of Iran's deterrence strategy and is likely to remain vulnerable during future regional confrontations. Consequently, the author introduces the concept

of the "Hormuz dilemma," which reflects the persistent uncertainty surrounding the reliability of this vital maritime chokepoint. Gulf exporters and Asian energy importers are therefore exploring alternatives through larger strategic reserves, diversified markets, and new supply mechanisms to reduce dependence on a single maritime route.

The article proposes that Pakistan can convert this regional challenge into a strategic opportunity by hosting strategic petroleum and liquefied natural gas storage facilities for Gulf states. Such reserves would enable Gulf producers to maintain uninterrupted energy supplies to Asian markets during future crises while strengthening confidence among international buyers. Pakistan's balanced relations with both Iran and the Arab Gulf states make it a credible and relatively secure location for these facilities. The proposal would diversify Pakistan's partnership with Gulf countries beyond traditional security cooperation by expanding collaboration in logistics, infrastructure, energy security, and maritime trade. Gwadar Port, Port Qasim, and other coastal hubs could emerge as regional energy logistics centres, attracting investment, generating foreign exchange, and stimulating economic activity in Sindh and Balochistan. The author acknowledges that bureaucratic inefficiency, governance challenges, land acquisition, and infrastructure development remain significant obstacles. Nevertheless, the article concludes that effective implementation could transform Pakistan into a regional energy stabiliser while enhancing both its geo-economic influence and strategic relevance.

Overview:

The article examines the strategic consequences of the Strait of Hormuz crisis and proposes Pakistan as a regional hub for strategic petroleum reserves. It argues that energy diversification, maritime logistics, and regional cooperation can strengthen Gulf energy security while advancing Pakistan's geo-economic ambitions.

NOTES:

The article highlights the strategic vulnerability created by excessive dependence on the Strait of Hormuz for Gulf energy exports. The recent US-Iran conflict demonstrated that future disruptions could threaten regional and global energy security. To address this challenge, the author proposes establishing GCC strategic oil and gas storage facilities in Pakistan, allowing uninterrupted supplies to Asian consumers during crises. Pakistan's balanced diplomatic relations with both Iran and the Gulf states strengthen the feasibility of this proposal. The initiative would promote energy security, maritime cooperation, infrastructure development, and foreign investment while transforming Gwadar and Port Qasim into regional logistics hubs. However, success depends upon efficient governance, regulatory reforms, institutional coordination, and timely infrastructure development. The article concludes that Pakistan can convert geopolitical uncertainty into long-term economic and strategic advantage.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Pakistan Affairs: Geo-economics and regional connectivity
- International Relations: Energy security and Gulf geopolitics
- Current Affairs: US-Iran conflict and the Strait of Hormuz

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains why the Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important energy routes. During the recent US-Iran conflict, oil and gas exports from Gulf countries faced major disruption because many states depend on this single waterway. For example, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait suffered greater difficulties than Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which possess limited alternative export routes. The writer suggests that Pakistan could build strategic oil and gas storage facilities for Gulf countries. If Hormuz closes during another conflict, these reserves could continue supplying Asian countries such as China, Japan, and South Korea. Gwadar Port and Port Qasim could become regional energy hubs, creating jobs, attracting investment, and increasing Pakistan's strategic importance. The article concludes that proper planning and efficient governance are essential for turning this proposal into reality.

Facts and Figures:

- The recent US-Iran conflict created a dual blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.
- Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait remain heavily dependent on Hormuz for energy exports.
- Saudi Arabia diverts some exports through Yanbu.
- The UAE uses Fujairah as an alternative export route.
- The US-Iran conflict continued for more than 100 days.
- Gwadar Port and Port Qasim are proposed as strategic energy hubs.
- The proposal focuses on supplying Asian consumers including China, Japan, and South Korea during future disruptions.

To sum up, The article shows the Hormuz crisis as more than a regional security challenge. It views it as an opportunity to reshape Pakistan's strategic future. Energy security now demands diversification rather than dependence on a single maritime route. If Pakistan strengthens its infrastructure, governance, and institutional capacity, it can transform geography into economic advantage. Strategic foresight, not circumstance, will determine whether this opportunity becomes a lasting national asset.

FIGHTING ISRAEL'S WAR

Author: Zahid Hussain

Summary:

The article argues that the United States has become increasingly entangled in a regional conflict whose direction is largely shaped by Israel's strategic priorities. According to the author, Israel's expanding military operations in Lebanon and Gaza have repeatedly undermined diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions between Washington and Tehran. Although the United States announced ceasefire initiatives, Israel continued its offensives, prompting Iran to suspend indirect negotiations and threaten to block the Strait of Hormuz. The capture of strategic locations in southern Lebanon and the extension of military operations beyond Gaza demonstrate that the conflict has evolved into a wider regional confrontation. The author contends that Israel's actions have transformed a limited security dispute into a broader geopolitical crisis that now directly influences American foreign policy and regional stability.

The article further examines the humanitarian and political consequences of prolonged warfare. Hezbollah, despite suffering heavy leadership losses, continues to resist Israeli military operations, while millions of Lebanese civilians face displacement and worsening humanitarian conditions. In Gaza, Israeli territorial expansion has stalled reconstruction plans and rendered the internationally supported Board of Peace largely ineffective. Financial commitments pledged for Gaza's rehabilitation remain unrealised, while continuing military operations have made reconstruction impossible. The author concludes that the widening conflict has exposed the limitations of American diplomacy and weakened confidence in international peace initiatives. Unless military escalation gives way to meaningful political engagement, the region will remain trapped in a cycle of violence, instability, and humanitarian suffering.

Overview:

The article examines the expanding Israel-Iran conflict, the growing American involvement in regional warfare, the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon and Gaza, and the failure of diplomatic initiatives to secure lasting peace in the Middle East.

NOTES:

The article argues that Israel's military actions have increasingly shaped American policy in the Middle East, making Washington a direct participant in a broader regional conflict. Israeli operations in Lebanon and Gaza have undermined ceasefire agreements and complicated US-Iran diplomacy. Iran has responded by suspending

negotiations and threatening strategic maritime routes such as the Strait of Hormuz. Hezbollah continues to resist despite substantial military losses, while humanitarian conditions in Lebanon and Gaza continue to deteriorate. The article also questions the effectiveness of international reconstruction efforts, arguing that continuing military occupation has rendered peace initiatives and rehabilitation programmes largely ineffective. The central message is that military dominance cannot substitute for political settlement, and lasting peace requires diplomacy rather than prolonged confrontation.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- International Relations: Middle East conflicts and regional security, US foreign policy in the Middle East
- Current Affairs: Israel-Iran confrontation
- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan's Middle East policy

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that the United States has become deeply involved in the Middle East conflict because of its close support for Israel. The writer argues that Israeli military operations in Lebanon and Gaza have disrupted peace efforts with Iran. For example, Iran suspended negotiations with the United States after Israel expanded its attacks in Lebanon and warned that it could block the Strait of Hormuz. The article also explains that reconstruction plans for Gaza have failed because fighting continues despite ceasefire agreements. Another example is the displacement of more than one million people in Lebanon due to military operations. Military action alone cannot solve regional conflicts. Durable peace requires diplomacy, ceasefire implementation, and respect for international agreements.

Facts and Figures:

- Israel captured the 900-year-old Beaufort Castle in southern Lebanon.
- More than one million people have been displaced in Lebanon.
- Over 300,000 displaced people are children.
- Reports indicate that 26 Israeli soldiers have been killed during the Lebanon operation.
- More than 1,000 people have reportedly been killed in Gaza after the ceasefire.
- Israel aims to extend control to 70 percent of the Gaza Strip.
- Gaza's reconstruction is estimated to require around 70 billion dollars and approximately 10 years.
- Only 25 countries joined the proposed Board of Peace initiative.

To wrap up, the article presents a critical assessment of the expanding Middle Eastern conflict and its growing international consequences. Military victories may alter the battlefield, but they rarely secure lasting peace. Diplomatic initiatives lose credibility when ceasefire commitments remain unfulfilled and humanitarian crises deepen. The conflict has revealed the limits of coercive power and the fragility of international peace mechanisms. Sustainable regional stability depends upon political dialogue, respect for international law, and genuine commitment to negotiated solutions rather than endless cycles of escalation.

POST-BUDGET CHORES

Author: Ishrat Husain

Summary:

The article argues that a budget should not be treated as an annual financial exercise but as part of a long-term policy framework that links national priorities with implementation. Once the budget is approved, the government's real responsibility begins. Policymakers should immediately prepare for the next budget by finalising evidence-based policies on industrial development, taxation, energy, education, and skills development. The author contends that Pakistan's persistent gap between policy announcements and actual outcomes stems from weak implementation,

poor institutional coordination, and the absence of long-term planning. Sustainable economic progress requires continuity, policy predictability, and stronger governance rather than yearly budgetary debates.

The article identifies four post-budget priorities: setting clear national priorities, strengthening oversight, assigning responsibility, and measuring performance effectively. Digitisation should become Pakistan's foremost priority because digital governance, AI, integrated databases, and digital payments can improve efficiency, transparency, and tax collection. Institutional reforms, empowered local governments, stronger parliamentary oversight, and performance-based accountability are equally essential. The author concludes that economic growth depends not only on government spending but also on stronger institutions, private investment, and measurable outcomes. Unless these structural reforms accompany future budgets, fiscal planning will remain an accounting exercise rather than a driver of national transformation.

Overview:

The article examines why Pakistan's budget should function within a medium-term policy framework and explains the institutional, administrative, and governance reforms required to translate fiscal planning into sustainable economic growth.

NOTES:

The article emphasizes that Pakistan must move beyond short-term fiscal stabilisation towards long-term economic growth through better governance and institutional reforms. Digitisation is identified as the country's highest priority, capable of modernising public administration, expanding the tax base, improving service delivery, and increasing productivity. The author also advocates stronger institutions, empowered local governments, improved parliamentary oversight, clear accountability mechanisms, and evidence-based policymaking. Future budgets should reflect already-approved national policies rather than serving as isolated annual exercises. Sustainable growth depends on implementation, policy continuity, private investment, and performance measurement rather than budget announcements alone.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Pakistan Affairs: Economic governance and public administration
- Current Affairs: Federal Budget 2026–27

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that approving the federal budget is only the beginning of economic policymaking. The author believes Pakistan should prepare for future budgets through long-term planning instead of treating each budget as a separate event. Digitisation is presented as the most important reform because technologies such as AI, e-governance, and digital payments can improve efficiency, reduce corruption, and increase tax collection. The article also stresses stronger institutions, empowered local governments, and clear accountability for ministers and senior officials. For example, hospitals can use AI to reduce doctors' workloads, while digital government systems can speed up decision-making by replacing slow paper-based procedures. The main message is that implementation, not budget announcements, determines economic success.

Facts and Figures:

- The 2010 NFC Award targeted a tax-to-GDP ratio of 15%.
- Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio remains around 10–11% after 15 years.
- AI-assisted pre-consultations at JPMC Karachi have reduced specialists' workload.
- The existing bureaucracy is described as a seven-tier administrative hierarchy.
- The National Economic Council generally meets only once or twice each year.

In conclusion, the article argues that Pakistan's future budgets must become instruments of long-term national development rather than annual financial statements. Fiscal stability alone cannot generate sustainable growth without strong institutions, effective implementation, digital transformation, and accountable governance. By

setting clear priorities, strengthening oversight, assigning responsibility, and measuring meaningful outcomes, Pakistan can narrow the gap between policy intentions and practical results while building a more productive and resilient economy.

WHY DO NATIONS FAIL?

Author: Zafar Mirza

Summary:

The article argues that nations fail when political and economic institutions become exclusive and serve the interests of a small ruling elite rather than the broader population. Drawing upon the ideas of Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson in *Why Nations Fail*, the author explains that extractive political systems create extractive economic institutions, allowing powerful groups to monopolize wealth, weaken competition, and prevent inclusive development. Pakistan's persistent governance failures, weak institutions, and policy inconsistencies reflect this pattern, making institutional reform essential for sustainable economic progress.

The author rejects geography, culture, religion, and natural resources as the primary explanations for national prosperity. Instead, historical evidence shows that inclusive political institutions, the rule of law, secure property rights, and broad political participation create innovation, investment, and long-term economic growth. Examples such as South Korea and North Korea, Nogales in the United States and Mexico, and Bangladesh and Pakistan demonstrate how institutions shape national outcomes despite similar historical or geographical conditions. The article concludes that Pakistan can reverse its economic decline only by establishing pluralistic political institutions and inclusive economic policies that benefit society as a whole.

Overview

The article examines why some nations prosper while others remain trapped in poverty. It argues that inclusive political and economic institutions, rather than geography or culture, determine long-term national development. Using historical and contemporary examples, the author stresses that Pakistan's future depends on meaningful institutional reforms that promote accountability, political participation, and equal economic opportunity.

NOTES:

The article highlights institutional quality as the foundation of national prosperity. According to Acemoglu and Robinson, political exclusion creates extractive economic institutions that concentrate wealth and power in the hands of a privileged minority. Inclusive political systems, on the other hand, encourage innovation, investment, competition, and economic growth. The author applies this framework to Pakistan, arguing that weak governance and institutional failures have prevented sustainable development. Historical comparisons between South Korea and North Korea, Bangladesh and Pakistan, and Nogales in the United States and Mexico demonstrate that strong institutions, rather than geography or culture, determine national success. The article concludes that Pakistan requires deep institutional reforms rooted in pluralism, accountability, and the rule of law.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Pakistan Affairs: Institutional reforms and governance in Pakistan
- Current Affairs: Economic development and public policy
- Political Science: Inclusive versus extractive institutions
- International Relations: Comparative political development

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that countries become prosperous when political and economic institutions serve all citizens rather than a privileged few. The author uses the ideas of *Why Nations Fail* to show that poverty is often the result of weak institutions rather than geography, religion, or culture. For example, South Korea became a prosperous democracy through inclusive institutions, while North Korea remained poor under authoritarian rule. Similarly,

Bangladesh has achieved higher economic and social indicators than Pakistan despite starting from a weaker position in 1971. The article also highlights Britain's constitutional development after the Magna Carta and the Glorious Revolution as an example of how the rule of law and political participation encouraged industrialization and long-term economic growth. The core message is that institutional reform is the key to national prosperity.

Facts and Figures:

- Daron Acemoglu, James Robinson, and Simon Johnson received the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.
- South Korea's per capita income is approximately \$35,000–40,000.
- North Korea's per capita income is estimated between \$700 and \$2,000.
- Bangladesh's per capita income has reached approximately \$2,500–2,800, while Pakistan's is around \$1,600–1,800.
- Adult literacy stands at approximately 75–77% in Bangladesh and 60–62% in Pakistan.
- The Magna Carta was signed in 1215.
- Britain's Glorious Revolution took place in 1688.

To wrap up, the article demonstrates that national prosperity depends less on geography or natural resources and more on the quality of political and economic institutions. Nations succeed when governments ensure political inclusion, the rule of law, secure property rights, and equal economic opportunity. Pakistan's long-term progress therefore requires comprehensive institutional reforms that replace extractive systems with inclusive governance capable of promoting innovation, investment, and sustainable development.

POLICIES WITHOUT BUDGET

Author: Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

Summary:

Pakistan's climate finance problem stems less from a shortage of funds than from weak policy architecture. In this article, Ali Tauqeer Sheikh argues that climate policies cannot receive budgetary allocations unless they are formally approved and legally notified. Under Pakistan's public financial management system, only policies enacted through the proper constitutional and legal channels can be financed through the Federal Appropriation Act. However, many climate strategies promoted by the government exist only as ministerial documents, cabinet decisions without gazette notification, or donor-oriented policy papers. Although they are frequently presented at international forums and cited as national commitments, they carry little or no legal authority within Pakistan. As a result, ambitious climate commitments remain disconnected from the budgetary process.

The author illustrates this institutional weakness through several examples, including the National Climate Change Policy, the National Climate Finance Strategy, and the National Adaptation Plan. Despite their significance, most have never completed the legal approval process required for implementation and funding. Climate governance is further complicated by overlapping institutional mandates, constitutional ambiguities between the federation and provinces, and fragmented sectoral responsibilities. To resolve these structural problems, the writer proposes three reforms: gazette notification of the National Adaptation Plan, constitutional endorsement of climate commitments through the Council of Common Interests, and revision of the Rules of Business to establish clear institutional authority. He concludes that Pakistan's climate ambitions will remain unfunded until legal and administrative reforms align policy with the national budgeting framework.

Overview:

The article examines why Pakistan consistently fails to translate climate commitments into budgetary allocations. Rather than blaming inadequate climate finance alone, the author argues that the absence of legally approved and

enforceable policies prevents meaningful funding. The article emphasizes that institutional reform, constitutional clarity, and proper legal procedures are essential for integrating climate policy into Pakistan's budgeting process.

NOTES:

The article argues that Pakistan's climate finance challenge is fundamentally an institutional problem rather than simply a financial one. Most climate policies have not been approved through the constitutional and legal procedures required for budgetary allocation. Ministerial documents, donor-funded strategies, and international commitments often lack gazette notification, preventing them from becoming enforceable public policy. Consequently, climate initiatives remain disconnected from the Public Sector Development Programme despite repeated international commitments. The author also shows fragmented governance as a major obstacle to effective climate policy. Responsibilities are divided across ministries, provinces, and regulatory bodies without a clear legal hierarchy. Climate-related frameworks covering forestry, biodiversity, electric vehicles, agriculture, finance, and disaster management frequently overlap or conflict with one another. To establish effective climate governance, the article recommends gazette notification of key policies, endorsement through the Council of Common Interests, and reforms to the Rules of Business so that climate commitments become legally binding, constitutionally coordinated, and financially supported.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Current Affairs: Climate change governance and climate finance
- Pakistan Affairs: Federal-provincial relations and public policy implementation

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that government policies cannot receive public funding unless they are legally approved. In Pakistan, many climate policies are announced internationally or by ministries but are never formally notified through the legal process. Because of this, they cannot become part of the national budget. The author argues that the problem is not simply a lack of climate finance but weak governance and incomplete policy implementation. The writer recommends simple institutional reforms, such as legal notification of climate policies, constitutional approval through the Council of Common Interests, and clearer division of responsibilities, so that climate commitments can finally be translated into funded government programmes.

Facts and Figures:

- Pakistan's National Climate Change Policy (2021) remains a ministerial document without gazette notification.
- The National Forest Policy (2015), Biodiversity Strategy (2015), Urban Policy (2021), and Clean Air Policy (2023) also lack full legal status.
- The National Climate Finance Strategy was launched at COP29 in Baku (2024) but has never received formal cabinet approval.
- The National Adaptation Plan received cabinet approval in July 2023 but has not been gazette-notified, preventing dedicated budget allocations.
- The proposed National Electric Vehicles Policy has remained stalled for approximately seven years because of institutional disputes.

To sum up, Pakistan's climate finance challenge is rooted less in financial scarcity than in institutional weakness. Policies that lack legal approval cannot receive budgetary support regardless of their international significance. Until climate governance is strengthened through proper legislation, constitutional coordination, and administrative reform, ambitious environmental commitments will remain promises on paper rather than funded national priorities.

A TENTATIVE PEACE

Author: Zahid Hussain

Summary:

The framework agreement between the United States and Iran offers a rare opportunity to end a costly and prolonged conflict through diplomacy. The author argues that the tentative agreement, achieved after months of backchannel negotiations mediated by Pakistan with support from regional states, marks an important diplomatic breakthrough but falls short of guaranteeing lasting peace. The 60-day framework creates space for negotiations on unresolved issues, including Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions relief, the release of frozen Iranian assets, and the future of the Strait of Hormuz. However, Israel's opposition to the process and its continued military operations in Lebanon remain serious obstacles that could derail the negotiations.

The author further contends that the war exposed the limits of American military power and strategic planning. Despite extensive military operations, economic sanctions, and naval blockades, the United States failed to achieve its objectives or force Iran into submission. Instead, Iran strengthened its negotiating position while President Donald Trump faced mounting domestic political pressure, economic challenges, and declining public support. The conflict also strained America's relations with its European and Gulf allies, prompting many regional states to reconsider their security arrangements. The article concludes that diplomacy has succeeded where military force failed. Although the opening of the Strait of Hormuz and the beginning of formal negotiations offer hope, sustainable peace will depend on the willingness of all parties to overcome deep political divisions and honour future commitments.

Overview:

The article examines the US-Iran framework agreement as a significant diplomatic breakthrough after months of conflict. It argues that military confrontation failed to resolve the crisis, while diplomacy created an opportunity for peace. The author emphasizes that lasting regional stability now depends on successful negotiations, mutual trust, and the ability to address unresolved political and security issues.

NOTES:

The article presents the US-Iran framework agreement as an important diplomatic achievement that temporarily halts hostilities and opens the door for comprehensive peace negotiations. Pakistan played a central mediating role by facilitating dialogue between the two adversaries with support from several regional countries. The agreement establishes a 60-day negotiating period during which contentious issues such as Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions, frozen assets, and maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz must be resolved. Nevertheless, Israel's opposition to the agreement and its continued military actions in Lebanon remain significant threats to the peace process. The author argues that the conflict demonstrated the limitations of military power in achieving political objectives. Despite extensive military operations and economic pressure, the United States failed to secure Iran's surrender or accomplish its strategic goals. The war also imposed heavy economic and political costs on Washington while strengthening Iran's regional standing. In addition, relations between the United States and several Gulf and Western allies became increasingly strained as they bore the economic consequences of the conflict. The article concludes that diplomacy offers the only realistic path toward long-term peace, although many political and regional challenges remain unresolved.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- International Relations: US-Iran relations and conflict resolution
- Current Affairs: Middle East peace process and regional diplomacy
- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan's diplomatic mediation in international conflicts

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains how diplomacy can sometimes achieve what military force cannot. After several months of war, the United States and Iran agreed to begin formal peace negotiations through a framework mediated by Pakistan and supported by regional countries. The agreement temporarily extends the ceasefire while both sides negotiate difficult issues such as Iran's nuclear programme, economic sanctions, and regional security. Although the negotiations represent important progress, the author warns that Israel's opposition and continuing conflict in Lebanon could still threaten the peace process. The article also argues that the war weakened America's international standing. Despite superior military power, the United States failed to achieve its objectives, while Iran strengthened its negotiating position through resistance and strategic leverage. The conflict also strained relations between Washington and its allies and imposed significant economic costs on the global economy. According to the author, diplomacy remains the most effective path toward regional stability and lasting peace.

Facts and Figures:

- The US-Iran framework agreement provides 60 days to negotiate a comprehensive peace settlement.
- The first round of negotiations, known as the Islamabad Talks, was held in April 2026.
- Operation Epic Fury was launched jointly by the United States and Israel on February 28, 2026.
- The agreement includes reopening the Strait of Hormuz to international shipping and easing the US naval blockade.
- Pakistan, supported by several regional countries, mediated months of backchannel diplomacy that led to the framework agreement.

To sum up, military superiority alone cannot guarantee political success or lasting peace. The US-Iran framework agreement demonstrates that sustained diplomacy can achieve outcomes that prolonged conflict cannot. Although the path ahead remains uncertain, dialogue has reopened channels for cooperation and reduced immediate regional tensions. Durable peace, however, will depend on mutual trust, political compromise, and the commitment of all parties to uphold the agreements reached through negotiation.

A YEAR ON, STALEMATE PERSISTS

Author: Maleeha Lodhi

Summary:

A year after the May 2025 conflict, relations between Pakistan and India remain locked in a dangerous stalemate with no meaningful diplomatic engagement in sight. In this article, Maleeha Lodhi argues that bilateral ties have deteriorated to one of their lowest points despite occasional speculation about reviving dialogue. Although influential voices within India have advocated renewed engagement, the Modi government has shown no willingness to alter its policy of disengagement. Formal diplomacy remains suspended, backchannel communication has stalled, and both countries continue exchanging hostile rhetoric over issues such as Kashmir and water. This prolonged deadlock has deepened mistrust and increased the risk of future crises.

The author identifies India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty as the most alarming development in the bilateral relationship. By attempting to weaponise water through new diversion projects and expanded storage infrastructure, India has introduced a new strategic pressure point with serious implications for Pakistan's agricultural economy and water security. Simultaneously, India's accelerated military modernisation, including increased defence spending, acquisition of advanced weapon systems, and deployment of nuclear warheads with operational forces, has heightened regional instability. Against this backdrop, the author argues that neither country can afford another military confrontation. Reviving discreet backchannel diplomacy remains the most practical mechanism to manage crises, reduce tensions, and gradually rebuild the conditions necessary for future dialogue.

Overview:

The article examines the continuing deterioration of Pakistan-India relations one year after the May 2025 conflict. It argues that frozen diplomacy, disputes over the Indus Waters Treaty, military competition, and the absence of communication have increased the danger of another regional crisis. The author emphasizes that restoring backchannel diplomacy is essential to prevent escalation and preserve regional stability.

NOTES:

The article highlights the persistent diplomatic stalemate between Pakistan and India following the May 2025 conflict. Despite occasional calls within India for renewed dialogue, the official policy of the Modi government remains unchanged, leaving both formal negotiations and unofficial contacts suspended. Frequent exchanges over Kashmir and water disputes continue to intensify bilateral tensions while opportunities for confidence-building have steadily diminished. The author considers India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and efforts to divert river flows as the most serious challenge facing Pakistan. These measures threaten Pakistan's long-term water security and agricultural economy while undermining established principles of international water law. At the same time, India's expanding defence budget, procurement of advanced military systems, and changes in its nuclear posture have further destabilised the regional security environment. The article concludes that sustained communication through a confidential backchannel remains the most effective means of preventing future crises and eventually restoring diplomatic engagement.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan-India relations after the 2025 conflict
- International Relations: Water diplomacy and conflict management in South Asia
- Current Affairs: Indus Waters Treaty and regional security

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains why relations between Pakistan and India remain tense despite the absence of active warfare. Following the 2025 conflict, both countries stopped meaningful diplomatic engagement and continued exchanging accusations over issues such as Kashmir and the Indus Waters Treaty. The author argues that India's decision to suspend the treaty and pursue projects affecting river flows has created a serious challenge for Pakistan's water security and agriculture. The article also discusses how increasing military competition has made the regional environment more dangerous. India continues to expand its defence capabilities while changing aspects of its nuclear deployment. Without regular communication between the two governments, misunderstandings could quickly escalate into another crisis. According to the author, restoring confidential backchannel diplomacy offers the best opportunity to reduce tensions, prevent conflict, and create conditions for future negotiations.

Facts and Figures:

- The India-Pakistan military conflict occurred in May 2025.
- The Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960, had survived more than six decades of conflict before India placed it in abeyance.
- India increased its defence budget to approximately 85 billion US dollars in 2026.
- India has ordered more than 100 Rafale fighter aircraft from France.
- According to SIPRI's 2026 Yearbook, India has begun deploying a limited number of nuclear warheads with operational missile forces during peacetime.

To sum up, the prolonged diplomatic freeze combined with growing military competition and disputes over water has made South Asia increasingly fragile. Neither Pakistan nor India can afford another crisis with such high strategic stakes. Restoring backchannel diplomacy offers the most realistic path to managing disputes, preventing escalation, and eventually rebuilding the trust necessary for meaningful dialogue and lasting regional stability.

THE COST OF NEVER FINISHING THE STORY

Author: Syed Jalal Hussain

Summary:

The article uses the story of Reko Diq to illustrate Pakistan's long-standing inability to convert economic opportunities into lasting prosperity. Beneath the deserts of Chagai lies one of the world's largest copper and gold reserves, yet a project that once promised billions of dollars in investment became entangled in political disputes, legal battles, and international arbitration. The rejection of the mining lease eventually exposed Pakistan to a penalty of nearly six billion dollars before the project was revived under a revised framework. Throughout this prolonged dispute, the country's natural resources remained untouched while governments, policies, and legal positions changed repeatedly. The author argues that the real issue extends beyond mining rights. It reflects a national pattern where political transitions repeatedly interrupt long-term economic initiatives. Drawing upon the ideas of Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, the article maintains that sustainable economic growth depends not on natural resources alone but on institutions capable of providing stable and predictable rules for investment.

The discussion broadens to Pakistan's wider economic experience, where policy inconsistency has undermined investor confidence and encouraged capital and skilled professionals to seek opportunities abroad. The experiences of independent power producers, repeated contract revisions, rising circular debt, and growing electricity costs demonstrate how unstable policy frameworks discourage long-term investment. The migration of entrepreneurs, engineers, doctors, and technology professionals reflects a deeper search for certainty rather than merely higher incomes. The author therefore supports the idea of a Charter of Economic Development that would protect core economic policies from political turbulence, preserve contracts across governments, strengthen independent regulators, and ensure continuity in taxation, energy, and investment policies. Pakistan already possesses abundant resources, a youthful population, strategic geography, and a global diaspora. The missing ingredient is institutional confidence. The article concludes that national prosperity depends not only on discovering opportunities but on creating a stable environment where investors believe that policies will survive political change.

Overview:

The article argues that Pakistan's greatest economic weakness is not the absence of resources but the absence of policy continuity. Using the Reko Diq project as a case study, it demonstrates how institutional instability, political transitions, and contractual uncertainty discourage investment, weaken economic growth, and accelerate capital and talent flight. It advocates a long-term national economic consensus to ensure policy stability and investor confidence.

NOTES:

The article emphasizes that institutional consistency is the cornerstone of sustainable economic development. The Reko Diq project demonstrates how political instability, legal disputes, and policy reversals can transform promising investments into costly national setbacks. Stable institutions encourage long-term investment because businesses require predictable rules that extend beyond electoral cycles. The article also highlights repeated policy reversals in sectors such as energy, where changes to IPP agreements created uncertainty and increased economic costs. Investor confidence depends less on resource abundance than on contractual security and regulatory stability. The migration of entrepreneurs, professionals, and skilled workers reflects a growing search for predictable environments where long-term planning remains possible. The proposed Charter of Economic Development seeks to protect core

economic policies from political interference, strengthen independent regulators, and establish broad political consensus so that economic progress continues regardless of changes in government.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Pakistan Affairs: Economic development and Reko Diq project
- Current Affairs: Investment climate and economic reforms
- International Relations: International arbitration and investment confidence

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains why Pakistan struggles to attract long-term investment despite having valuable natural resources. The Reko Diq project is the main example. Although it promised billions of dollars in investment, political disputes and legal battles delayed the project for many years. Investors prefer countries where laws and contracts remain stable regardless of changes in government. The article also mentions how policy uncertainty affected independent power producers and encouraged many Pakistani entrepreneurs, engineers, and doctors to move abroad. For example, textile businesses expanded into Bangladesh because investors sought greater certainty. The writer believes Pakistan needs a long-term economic agreement that protects important policies from political conflict so that development can continue without interruption.

Facts and Figures:

- Reko Diq contains one of the world's largest copper and gold deposits.
- Pakistan faced an international arbitration penalty of nearly six billion dollars.
- The original Reko Diq investment plans emerged around 2011.
- Wasim Akram served under 13 captains, 10 coaches, and 9 PCB chairmen during his career.
- Textile investors expanded operations into Bangladesh because of greater policy certainty.
- Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif proposed a Charter of Economy to improve long-term policy continuity.

To sum up, Nations progress when institutions inspire confidence and policies outlive governments. Political rivalry should never become an obstacle to economic continuity. Pakistan's greatest resource is not buried beneath Chagai but lies in its ability to build stable institutions that protect contracts, encourage investment, and reward long-term vision. Lasting development begins when certainty replaces inconsistency and national interest rises above political transition.

PAKISTAN'S TERRORISM LANDSCAPE: CHALLENGES AND REMEDIES

Author: Dr Syed Akhtar Ali Shah

Summary:

The article argues that Pakistan's internal security environment has deteriorated in 2026, with terrorism resurging despite earlier counterterrorism successes. The author contends that the country's security challenges are concentrated primarily in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, where the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) and Baloch separatist groups continue to expand their operational capacity. While acknowledging that Afghanistan has become an important sanctuary for militant organisations following the Taliban's return to power in 2021, the author rejects the simplistic view that cross-border factors alone explain Pakistan's security crisis. Instead, he argues that terrorism is rooted in a combination of external support and internal weaknesses, including poor governance, political alienation, poverty, social injustice, misuse of religion for political purposes and the failure to address extremist narratives. These structural problems have created an environment in which militant organisations continue to recruit, organise and spread their ideology, reversing many of Pakistan's earlier gains against terrorism.

The article shows that terrorism cannot be defeated through military force alone because the conflict is sustained by ideological indoctrination, digital radicalisation and long-standing socio-political grievances. The growing use of social media to spread hate speech, sectarian intolerance and extremist propaganda, coupled with the recruitment of adolescents into militant organisations, demonstrates that radicalisation has become a societal challenge rather than merely a security problem. In Balochistan, the insurgency is linked not only to violence but also to historical grievances, political exclusion, weak governance, inequitable resource distribution and low human development. Similarly, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa requires reforms that address governance failures alongside intelligence-based security operations. The author proposes a comprehensive national strategy that includes reassessing past policies, strengthening border management with Afghanistan, modernising policing and intelligence institutions, preventing youth recruitment, regulating online extremist content while protecting legitimate freedoms, and promoting rational thinking, constitutionalism, tolerance and critical inquiry through education and civil society. The article concludes that terrorism is fundamentally a governance challenge that can only be overcome through a lawful, people-centred and multidimensional approach rather than reliance on force alone.

Overview:

The article examines the resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan and argues that military operations alone cannot eliminate extremist violence. It identifies governance failures, ideological radicalisation, socio-economic deprivation, political grievances and cross-border sanctuaries as interconnected drivers of terrorism. The author advocates a comprehensive counterterrorism strategy that combines security measures with institutional reform, education, community engagement and the promotion of democratic values to achieve lasting peace.

NOTES:

The article emphasises that terrorism is not merely a law-and-order issue but the outcome of deep-rooted governance, political and social failures. While militant groups continue to exploit sanctuaries across the border, internal factors such as weak institutions, poverty, digital radicalisation, intolerance and political alienation sustain extremist recruitment. The author argues that Pakistan must complement intelligence-driven security operations with governance reforms, educational improvements, community participation and constitutional values. Only a holistic strategy that addresses both the symptoms and causes of extremism can produce durable internal security.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Current Affairs: Terrorism and internal security challenges in Pakistan
- Pakistan Affairs: Extremism, governance and provincial security issues
- International Relations: Afghanistan-Pakistan security dynamics and border management
- Criminology: Violent extremism, organised militancy and preventive policing

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that terrorism in Pakistan is caused by more than militant violence or cross-border infiltration. It is also driven by weak governance, political grievances, poverty, extremist propaganda and ineffective institutions. The author argues that lasting peace requires better policing, educational reform, stronger intelligence, improved governance and the promotion of tolerance and critical thinking alongside military operations.

Facts and Figures:

- The article identifies 2026 as a year marked by worsening internal security in Pakistan.
- Terrorist activity is concentrated mainly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.
- The Afghan Taliban's return to power in August 2021 is described as a factor that strengthened militant networks.
- It notes reports of militant recruitment involving boys as young as 14 years in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- The emergence of female militant leadership in Balochistan is presented as a new development in insurgent recruitment and propaganda

To sum up, The article suggests that Pakistan's terrorism challenge is rooted in a combination of cross-border militancy, governance failures, ideological extremism and socio-economic grievances. Sustainable peace cannot be achieved through military force alone but requires a comprehensive strategy centred on effective governance, rule of law, educational reform, community engagement, intelligence-led policing and the promotion of tolerance. By addressing both the structural causes and operational manifestations of terrorism, Pakistan can strengthen its internal security and build long-term stability.

NEW NORMAL IN THE US; WHAT ABOUT PAKISTAN?

Author: Imtiaz Gul

Summary:

The article highlights that the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), achieved after Pakistan-led mediation, marks a significant shift in regional geopolitics and signals the emergence of a new American approach towards Israel. According to the author, the agreement represents more than a ceasefire framework; it reflects Washington's growing recognition that prolonged military confrontation with Iran has become strategically costly and politically unsustainable. President Donald Trump's unusually critical remarks about Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are presented as evidence of a departure from the long-standing pattern of unconditional American support for Israel. Rather than endorsing continued military escalation in Iran and Lebanon, the United States appears to be prioritising regional stability, uninterrupted global energy supplies and diplomatic engagement. Iran, meanwhile, is portrayed as having emerged from the conflict with strengthened bargaining power, insisting that any future negotiations must respect its security concerns, secure the release of frozen financial assets and guarantee broader regional de-escalation. Together, these developments indicate the beginning of a more pragmatic regional order shaped less by ideology and more by strategic necessity.

The author further argues that this geopolitical transformation carries important implications for Pakistan. Islamabad's successful mediation between Washington and Tehran has restored its diplomatic relevance and enhanced its international standing after years of diminished influence. The article notes that Pakistan's role was widely acknowledged by major international actors, projecting the country as a credible facilitator of dialogue in a highly polarised region. At the same time, the author cautions that diplomatic success abroad cannot compensate for persistent domestic political instability, democratic backsliding and economic hardship. He also highlights the strengthening partnership between Iran and China, suggesting that evolving regional alignments could create new geo-economic opportunities for Pakistan through closer cooperation with both countries. Nevertheless, these opportunities will only yield lasting benefits if Pakistan accompanies its foreign policy achievements with internal political reconciliation, democratic stability and economic reform. The article concludes that while Pakistan has regained international visibility through diplomacy, its long-term success depends on translating external credibility into inclusive governance and sustainable national development.

Overview:

The article examines the geopolitical consequences of the US-Iran MoU and argues that it reflects a fundamental shift in American policy towards Israel and the wider Middle East. It highlights Pakistan's diplomatic contribution to the agreement and explores how changing regional alliances could create new strategic opportunities. However, the author maintains that Pakistan can only fully benefit from this diplomatic success by addressing its domestic political divisions, strengthening democratic institutions and pursuing long-term economic reforms.

NOTES:

The article presents the US-Iran MoU as a turning point in Middle Eastern diplomacy and a sign that the United States is adopting a more pragmatic approach towards regional conflicts. While Pakistan has earned international recognition for facilitating negotiations, the author argues that foreign policy achievements alone cannot guarantee

national progress. Sustainable gains require political stability, democratic reconciliation and economic resilience at home. The article concludes that Pakistan should seize this diplomatic moment to strengthen both its international role and its domestic governance.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Current Affairs: Pakistan's foreign policy and Middle East diplomacy
- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan's diplomatic role in regional peace
- International Relations: US-Iran relations, Middle East geopolitics and strategic realignments

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that the recent US-Iran agreement has changed political dynamics in the Middle East. It argues that the United States is becoming more willing to restrain Israel and pursue diplomacy instead of prolonged conflict. Pakistan is presented as an important mediator whose diplomatic efforts improved its international image. However, the author stresses that Pakistan must also resolve its domestic political and economic challenges if it wants to convert diplomatic success into lasting national progress.

Facts and Figures:

- The US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 18 June 2026.
- The agreement provides a 60-day framework for detailed technical negotiations between the United States and Iran.
- Pakistan played a central mediating role in facilitating dialogue between the two countries.
- The article notes that the United States provides approximately \$4 billion annually in military assistance to Israel.
- Iran demands the unfreezing of its financial assets, a complete ceasefire and changes to the US military presence in the region.

To sum up, The article suggests that the US-Iran MoU represents a new phase in Middle Eastern diplomacy, marked by a more pragmatic American approach and greater willingness to pursue negotiation over confrontation. Pakistan's successful mediation has enhanced its global standing and opened new strategic opportunities. However, the author concludes that these diplomatic gains will only produce lasting national benefits if Pakistan strengthens democratic governance, promotes political reconciliation and addresses its internal economic and institutional challenges.

IRAN WAR AND THE FUTURE OF MODERN CONFLICT

Author: Dr Muhammad Ali Ehsan

Summary:

The article argues that the recent Iran war demonstrates a fundamental transformation in the nature of modern warfare, where economic resilience increasingly shapes strategic outcomes alongside military capability. The conflict revolved around Iran's nuclear programme, the Strait of Hormuz, uranium enrichment facilities and the war in Lebanon, leaving the United States with three possible choices: continue military operations, maintain sanctions and the status quo, or pursue negotiations. According to the author, Washington ultimately opted for diplomacy because prolonged conflict threatened global economic stability, energy security and domestic political interests. However, the article rejects the view that economic pressure alone compelled the United States to negotiate. Instead, it argues that diplomacy emerged from the convergence of several factors, including strategic overstretch, the escalating costs of war, domestic political calculations, Iran's own economic vulnerabilities and the recognition that military power has practical limits. Drawing on Henry Kissinger's understanding of diplomacy, the author maintains that successful states convert battlefield realities into political settlements rather than pursuing endless

confrontation. The resulting agreement therefore reflects strategic pragmatism rather than outright military victory by either side.

The article suggests that future wars will increasingly be determined by the interaction of military, economic, technological, informational and industrial power rather than battlefield success alone. Contemporary conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war illustrate that sustaining military operations depends heavily on industrial production, economic endurance, technological innovation and external financial support. Similarly, the Allied victory in the Second World War owed much to superior industrial and economic capacity rather than tactical superiority alone. Nevertheless, the author cautions that economic strength cannot fully compensate for catastrophic military defeat if a state loses its territory, political leadership or sovereignty. In the twenty-first century, therefore, military power remains essential for survival, while economic resilience determines whether a nation can sustain prolonged conflict and achieve its political objectives. Future wars are likely to feature sanctions, cyber warfare, information campaigns, supply-chain disruptions and competition over critical technologies and energy resources, making the global economy an extension of the battlefield itself. The article concludes that although the US-Iran agreement opens a temporary window for diplomacy, its success will depend on political pressures within both the United States and Israel, where domestic politics may yet determine whether peace endures or conflict resumes.

Overview:

The article analyses the Iran war to argue that modern warfare is no longer determined solely by military superiority. Instead, economic resilience, technological capability, industrial production, information control and political cohesion have become equally decisive. While diplomacy ended the immediate conflict, the author suggests that future wars will increasingly be won by nations capable of sustaining both their economies and their strategic resolve over time.

NOTES:

The article highlights the changing character of twenty-first-century warfare, where economic endurance has become as important as military strength. It argues that diplomacy often emerges when the economic costs of conflict exceed its strategic benefits. The Iran war illustrates that future conflicts will involve multiple dimensions of national power, including industry, technology, cyber capabilities and information warfare. The author concludes that successful states will be those capable of combining military readiness with economic resilience, political stability and diplomatic flexibility.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Current Affairs: Iran conflict and changing global security dynamics
- International Relations: Diplomacy, deterrence and great-power competition
- Pakistan Affairs: Regional security and Pakistan's strategic environment

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that wars today are not decided only by armies and weapons. Countries also need strong economies, industries, technology, political unity and international support to sustain prolonged conflicts. The Iran war shows that diplomacy often becomes the preferred option when the economic costs of fighting outweigh the expected military gains. Future wars are therefore likely to combine military operations with economic competition, cyber warfare and information campaigns.

Facts and Figures:

- The Iran conflict centred on four major issues: Iran's nuclear capability, the Strait of Hormuz, uranium enrichment facilities and the war in Lebanon.
- The United States considered three strategic options: continue military action, maintain sanctions and the status quo, or negotiate a settlement.

- The agreement establishes a 60-day interim period for finalising negotiations.
- Approximately one-fifth of global seaborne oil trade passes through the Strait of Hormuz.
- The article identifies five forms of power that will shape future wars: military, economic, technological, informational and industrial power.
- The Russia-Ukraine war and the Second World War are cited as examples demonstrating the importance of economic and industrial capacity in sustaining military campaigns.

To sum up, The article suggests that the Iran war reflects a major shift in the nature of modern conflict, where economic resilience has become as important as military strength. Although military power remains essential for national survival, sustained success increasingly depends on industrial capacity, technological innovation, information dominance and economic endurance.

USA, INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Author: Shahid Javed Burki

Summary:

The article suggests that President Donald Trump's foreign policy has significantly reshaped the strategic landscape of South Asia by recalibrating America's relations with both India and Pakistan. According to the author, Pakistan's diplomatic role in facilitating communication between the United States and Iran has strengthened Islamabad's standing in Washington, marking a notable shift after years of strained relations. Pakistan's reported mediation efforts, supported by its military leadership, have enhanced its international profile and created fresh opportunities for bilateral cooperation with the United States. At the same time, this development has unsettled India, which has long viewed its strategic partnership with Washington as a cornerstone of its foreign policy. Although American officials continue to reassure New Delhi that ties remain strong, tensions have emerged over trade disputes, tariff policies, Washington's evolving engagement with China and President Trump's public appreciation of Pakistan's diplomatic contributions. The article suggests that the United States is increasingly pursuing a pragmatic foreign policy driven by national interests rather than fixed alliances, compelling both India and Pakistan to reassess their strategic calculations.

The author further contends that broader geopolitical and demographic trends are also reshaping relations between the three countries. India's concerns extend beyond diplomacy to issues such as restrictive American immigration policies, negative rhetoric surrounding Indian immigrants and the uncertain future of economic cooperation under Trump's "America First" agenda. Meanwhile, the United States continues to face demographic challenges associated with an ageing population, making immigration from younger regions such as South Asia increasingly important despite rising domestic political resistance. The article also highlights America's efforts to improve relations with China, a development that further complicates India's strategic outlook. Discussions at the G7 Summit reflected these interconnected concerns, where issues ranging from global security to demographic change underscored the growing complexity of international politics. The author concludes that South Asia is entering a new geopolitical phase in which traditional alignments are becoming more fluid, diplomacy is increasingly shaped by strategic pragmatism, and regional powers must adapt to an international order driven more by evolving national interests than by enduring political loyalties.

Overview:

The article examines the changing dynamics of US policy towards South Asia under President Donald Trump. It argues that Washington's renewed engagement with Pakistan, evolving relations with India and efforts to stabilise ties with China reflect a more pragmatic and interest-based foreign policy. The author concludes that these developments are redefining regional geopolitics and require both Pakistan and India to adjust their diplomatic and strategic approaches accordingly.

NOTES:

The article emphasises that contemporary international relations are increasingly guided by strategic interests rather than permanent alliances. Pakistan's diplomatic engagement in facilitating US-Iran dialogue has enhanced its global standing, while India's privileged relationship with Washington faces new pressures arising from trade disputes, immigration policies and changing American priorities. The author argues that demographic realities, geopolitical competition and economic considerations will continue to reshape South Asian diplomacy, requiring regional states to pursue flexible and pragmatic foreign policies.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Current Affairs: US foreign policy and South Asian geopolitics
- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan-US relations and regional diplomacy
- International Relations: Great-power competition, strategic alliances and diplomacy

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that American foreign policy towards South Asia is changing under President Trump. Pakistan has gained diplomatic importance because of its reported role in facilitating communication between the United States and Iran, while India faces new challenges arising from trade disputes, immigration policies and America's changing strategic priorities. The author argues that countries can no longer depend solely on traditional alliances because global politics is becoming increasingly driven by practical national interests.

Facts and Figures:

- Pakistan reportedly played a significant mediatory role in facilitating dialogue between the United States and Iran.
- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited India in May 2026 to reaffirm bilateral relations.
- President Trump had earlier imposed tariffs of up to 50 per cent on selected Indian imports.
- India attended the 2026 G7 Summit in France as an invited observer.
- The G7 consists of seven major industrial economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- Russia was removed from the former G8 following its invasion of Ukraine.

To sum up, The article shows that US policy towards South Asia is undergoing a significant transformation driven by strategic pragmatism rather than fixed alliances. Pakistan's enhanced diplomatic role, India's emerging concerns over trade and immigration, and Washington's evolving engagement with China collectively signal a changing regional order. The author suggests that both Pakistan and India must adapt to this new geopolitical environment by pursuing flexible diplomacy and recognising that international partnerships increasingly depend on national interests rather than historical alignments.

DETERRENCE DYNAMICS IN SOUTH ASIA

Author: Zamir Akram

Summary:

The article argues that India's reported operational deployment of nuclear weapons marks a significant shift in South Asia's strategic environment and poses fresh challenges to regional stability. Referring to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's latest assessment, the author contends that India's transition from a recessed nuclear posture to deploying warheads on delivery systems represents an important escalation in its nuclear doctrine. This development, coupled with India's earlier deployment of nuclear-capable submarines and growing sea-based second-strike capability, departs from its previously declared policy of maintaining de-mated nuclear forces. The author rejects claims that recent military confrontations between India and Pakistan have reduced the importance

of nuclear deterrence. Instead, he argues that Pakistan's doctrine of Full Spectrum Deterrence has successfully prevented India from expanding conventional conflicts despite India's attempts to create space for limited military operations below the nuclear threshold through doctrines such as Cold Start. According to the author, India's restraint during crises in 2019 and 2025 demonstrates that credible nuclear deterrence continues to shape strategic decision-making in the region.

The article further maintains that advances in military technology have increased rather than diminished nuclear risks. The growing integration of artificial intelligence, precision-guided weapons, drones, cyber capabilities and dual-use missile systems has blurred the distinction between conventional and nuclear warfare, making accidental or unintended escalation far more likely. The author highlights India's previous launch of a BrahMos missile into Pakistan in 2022 and its continued deployment of dual-capable delivery systems as examples of the dangers arising from such entanglement. He also expresses concern over the absence of effective crisis-management mechanisms between the two countries, warning that extremely short reaction times heighten the risk of miscalculation during future crises. Concluding that India's expanding nuclear posture is primarily directed towards Pakistan rather than China, the author argues that Pakistan must preserve credible deterrence by strengthening its second-strike capability, enhancing its sea-based nuclear forces, integrating conventional and strategic capabilities, and adopting emerging military technologies. While cautioning against entering a quantitative arms race, the article advocates qualitative modernisation to preserve strategic stability and prevent coercion in South Asia.

Overview:

The article examines the changing deterrence dynamics in South Asia following India's reported deployment of operational nuclear weapons. It argues that nuclear deterrence remains central to regional stability despite evolving military technologies and limited conventional conflicts. The author concludes that Pakistan should respond by strengthening its second-strike capability, modernising its deterrence posture and maintaining strategic balance without engaging in an unrestricted arms race.

NOTES:

The article emphasises that operational deployment of nuclear weapons significantly alters the strategic balance in South Asia and increases the possibility of unintended escalation. It argues that India's conventional military doctrines have been constrained by Pakistan's Full Spectrum Deterrence, while emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, drones, cyber warfare and dual-use missile systems have complicated crisis management. The author believes that credible deterrence continues to be the principal factor preventing large-scale war and recommends qualitative military modernisation rather than numerical expansion of nuclear arsenals.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Current Affairs: Strategic stability in South Asia
- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan's nuclear policy and national security
- International Relations: Nuclear deterrence and arms control

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that nuclear deterrence remains an essential element of peace between India and Pakistan. The author argues that India's reported deployment of operational nuclear weapons has increased strategic risks and that new military technologies make conflicts more difficult to control. He believes Pakistan should maintain credible deterrence by improving its defensive capabilities while avoiding an expensive nuclear arms race.

Facts and Figures:

- SIPRI reported that India has approximately 190 nuclear weapons, with 12 reportedly deployed on operational delivery systems.
- India conducted its first credible sea-based deterrence patrol in 2019 using the INS Arihant.

- India accidentally launched a BrahMos cruise missile into Pakistan in March 2022, highlighting risks associated with dual-capable weapon systems.
- Pakistan's security doctrine is based on Full Spectrum Deterrence (FSD), covering operational, tactical and strategic levels.

To sum up, The article suggests that India's reported operational deployment of nuclear weapons has altered South Asia's deterrence environment and increased the risks of accidental escalation. Despite advances in conventional military technology, credible nuclear deterrence remains the primary guarantee of strategic stability between India and Pakistan.

IRAN: STRATEGIC CHOICES

Author: Shahzad Chaudhry

Summary:

The article highlights that Iran has reached a decisive strategic crossroads following its confrontation with the United States and Israel, where its future will depend less on military symbolism and more on economic and political choices. The author suggests that although issues such as support for Hezbollah and influence over the Strait of Hormuz remain strategically important, neither constitutes Iran's true existential challenge. Hezbollah has long served as a regional instrument for diverting Israeli attention, but preserving a foreign militia cannot outweigh Iran's own national interests and long-term stability. Similarly, while the Strait of Hormuz has provided Tehran with geopolitical leverage through its control over a critical maritime chokepoint, this advantage is neither permanent nor sufficient to secure Iran's future. Global energy markets are gradually diversifying through alternative routes, pipelines and renewable energy sources, reducing dependence on Hormuz over time. The author emphasizes that Iran would benefit far more by transforming this geographic advantage into a source of economic cooperation than by using it as an instrument of coercion. Rather than relying on temporary leverage or wartime prestige, Iran should recognise the limits of military power and redirect its national strengths towards sustainable economic development and international engagement.

The article reflects that Iran now faces two fundamentally different strategic paths. One option is to continue pursuing nuclear weapons capability, thereby joining the ranks of isolated nuclear states that enjoy deterrence but remain economically marginalised and politically constrained. Such a path would likely preserve sanctions, prolong international isolation and prevent Iran from fully exploiting its considerable human and natural resources. The alternative is to abandon nuclear ambitions, reintegrate into the global economy and utilise its vast reserves of oil and gas during the limited period in which fossil fuels remain globally significant. The author emphasises that Iran possesses a highly educated, entrepreneurial and historically resilient population capable of driving national prosperity if provided with opportunities rather than isolation. However, achieving this transformation requires political leadership willing to prioritise national development over ideological rigidity and regime preservation. The article concludes that Iran's greatest challenge is not external pressure but reconciling economic progress with political objectives. Its long-term security and prosperity will depend on choosing constructive engagement over confrontation, converting national potential into economic strength and ensuring that strategic wisdom prevails over emotional triumphalism following the recent conflict.

Overview:

The article examines the strategic choices confronting Iran after its conflict with the United States and Israel. It argues that military resilience alone cannot guarantee long-term national success and that Iran's future depends on balancing security, economic development and international engagement. The author concludes that abandoning prolonged confrontation in favour of economic integration would better serve Iran's national interests and regional influence.

NOTES:

The article emphasises that geographical advantages and military deterrence can provide temporary strategic leverage but cannot substitute for economic prosperity and international legitimacy. While the Strait of Hormuz and support for Hezbollah have enhanced Iran's regional influence, these instruments carry diminishing strategic value and increasing political costs. The author argues that Iran should capitalise on its educated population, abundant energy resources and civilisational heritage by embracing economic reform, reducing international isolation and pursuing sustainable national development rather than relying on nuclear ambitions or regional confrontation.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Current Affairs: Iran-US relations and Middle East geopolitics
- International Relations: Nuclear proliferation, regional security and strategic diplomacy
- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan-Iran relations and regional cooperation

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that Iran's future depends more on wise political and economic decisions than on military achievements. The author believes that controlling strategic locations or supporting regional allies cannot substitute for economic growth and international cooperation. Iran must decide whether to remain isolated through continued confrontation or integrate into the global economy by prioritising development, trade and peaceful engagement.

Facts and Figures:

- The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most strategically important maritime routes for global energy supplies.
- Iran possesses some of the world's largest reserves of oil and natural gas, providing significant long-term economic potential.
- The article argues that global dependence on fossil fuels is expected to decline as renewable energy technologies continue expanding.
- Iran has remained under extensive international sanctions for several decades because of geopolitical disputes and concerns regarding its nuclear programme.

To sum up, the article suggests that Iran's post-war future will be determined not by military prestige but by strategic wisdom. Rather than relying on temporary geopolitical leverage or pursuing prolonged nuclear confrontation, Iran should harness its human capital, energy resources and geographical advantages to achieve economic growth and international integration. The author suggests that lasting national strength lies in balancing security with prosperity, making constructive engagement the more sustainable path for Iran's future.

US-IRAN TALKS: CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Author: Inam Ul Haque

Summary:

The article suggests that the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), reached after intense diplomatic efforts and subsequent negotiations in Switzerland, marks a significant geopolitical shift in the Middle East. According to the author, the initial talks produced encouraging progress by establishing a framework for a comprehensive peace agreement while offering Iran immediate economic relief through temporary sanctions waivers, the release of frozen assets and mechanisms to ensure maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz and maintain the ceasefire in Lebanon. Although disagreements remain regarding Iran's nuclear programme and missile capabilities, the negotiations demonstrated that diplomacy had become preferable to continued military confrontation. The author contends that the United States was compelled to negotiate because prolonged conflict threatened global energy markets, exposed military limitations and failed to achieve its declared objectives of

regime change, denuclearisation, curbing Iran's missile programme and permanently securing Israel. In contrast, Iran emerged from the conflict with enhanced strategic confidence, having successfully resisted superior military pressure while preserving its political system and regional influence. The negotiations therefore reflected not merely a ceasefire but a recognition that military power alone could not resolve the underlying strategic contest.

The article examines that the consequences of the conflict extend well beyond US-Iran relations and have reshaped regional geopolitics. Iran's strengthened strategic position, combined with prospective sanctions relief, expanded oil exports and anticipated reconstruction assistance, is expected to reinforce its political influence across the Gulf and the wider Middle East. Pakistan also emerges as a significant diplomatic beneficiary because its mediation efforts have strengthened bilateral relations with Iran while enhancing Islamabad's international standing and creating opportunities for deeper political, economic and security cooperation. At the regional level, the author argues that Iran continues to remain a formidable counterweight to Israel despite military losses suffered by its regional allies. He further contends that the war exposed shortcomings in American and Israeli strategic planning, as enormous military expenditure failed to produce decisive political or military gains. The article concludes that successful military campaigns require realistic war-termination strategies aligned with achievable political objectives. Without such planning, even overwhelming military superiority may fail to secure strategic success, leaving diplomacy to accomplish what force alone could not achieve

Overview:

The article evaluates the outcomes of the US-Iran negotiations following their recent military confrontation and analyses their broader regional implications. It argues that diplomacy ultimately succeeded where military pressure failed, strengthening Iran's strategic position while enhancing Pakistan's diplomatic importance. The author concludes that future regional stability will depend upon sustained negotiations, realistic strategic objectives and greater political cooperation rather than continued military confrontation.

NOTES:

The article emphasises that modern conflicts are increasingly shaped by political endurance, economic resilience and diplomatic engagement rather than military superiority alone. It argues that the United States failed to achieve its principal strategic objectives despite extensive military operations, whereas Iran emerged with greater geopolitical influence and improved bargaining power. The author also highlights Pakistan's successful mediation role, suggesting that it has created new opportunities for regional cooperation. Finally, the article stresses that effective military planning must include realistic political objectives and credible exit strategies to translate battlefield operations into lasting strategic success.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Current Affairs: US-Iran relations and Middle East diplomacy
- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan's diplomatic role in regional conflict resolution
- International Relations: Conflict resolution, mediation and strategic negotiations

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that diplomacy eventually replaced military confrontation in resolving the US-Iran conflict. The author acknowledges that Iran strengthened its regional position by resisting external pressure, while the United States was unable to achieve its major strategic goals through force alone. Pakistan also gained diplomatic recognition because of its reported role in facilitating negotiations. Overall, the article argues that political negotiation, economic considerations and realistic strategic planning are often more effective than prolonged military conflict.

Facts and Figures:

- The first high-level follow-up negotiations were held in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, on June 22, 2026.
- The agreement established a 60-day roadmap for negotiating a comprehensive peace settlement.

- The United States granted Iran a 60-day sanctions waiver, allowing oil sales until August 21, 2026.
- Washington agreed to release \$12 billion in frozen Iranian assets for approved purchases.
- Negotiators established a direct communication mechanism to reduce risks in the Strait of Hormuz and a joint de-confliction cell for Lebanon.
- According to the article, Iran is expected to benefit from a proposed \$300 billion reconstruction fund, strengthening its post-war recovery.
- Pakistan's mediation efforts reportedly enhanced its diplomatic standing and strengthened bilateral relations with Iran.

To wrap up, The article highlights that the US-Iran negotiations demonstrate the limits of military power and the enduring importance of diplomacy in resolving international conflicts. While the United States failed to secure several of its declared strategic objectives, Iran emerged with greater geopolitical influence and improved negotiating leverage. The author concludes that Pakistan also benefited diplomatically through its mediation role, while the broader lesson of the conflict is that lasting strategic success depends upon realistic political objectives, effective diplomacy and carefully planned conflict termination rather than military force alone.

National Officers Academy –

NATO'S 2025 SUMMIT: A STRATEGIC TURN TO MILITARIZATION

Author: Hilal Khan

Summary:

The article argues that the 76th NATO Summit marked a decisive shift toward greater militarization in response to an increasingly unstable international order. The return of Donald Trump reshaped transatlantic relations through his America First doctrine, which challenged the traditional foundations of NATO by demanding that European allies assume a larger financial burden. Trump viewed security alliances through an economic lens and repeatedly criticized Europe for depending excessively on American protection. Faced with the continuing Russia Ukraine war and fears of reduced American commitment, NATO members accepted an ambitious agreement to raise defence spending to 5 percent of GDP by 2035. The summit therefore became a strategic compromise. Europe agreed to shoulder greater military responsibility, while the United States reaffirmed its commitment to collective defence and continued support for Ukraine. The Hague Declaration institutionalized these decisions, emphasizing resilience, cyber security, hybrid threats, and stronger military preparedness. Although Ukraine continued to receive military assistance, the alliance deliberately avoided offering a definite timetable for its membership, preserving strategic flexibility while preventing direct escalation with Russia.

The article further argues that the summit extends NATO's strategic outlook beyond Europe into the Indo Pacific, reflecting growing concern over China's expanding influence. The participation of Japan, Australia, South Korea, and New Zealand demonstrates NATO's intention to strengthen political and technological cooperation outside its traditional geographical boundaries. The increased defence budget also carries far-reaching consequences for global geopolitics. It strengthens deterrence against Russia, reinforces NATO's eastern flank, and enables the alliance to invest heavily in advanced military technologies. At the same time, the author warns that such unprecedented militarization may deepen the security dilemma by encouraging Russia and China to intensify strategic cooperation against what they perceive as Western bloc politics. The summit therefore represents both unity and uncertainty. While it reinforces collective defence and Western cohesion, it also raises concerns about a new era of military competition, global polarization, and diminishing prospects for international arms control.

Overview:

The article examines the strategic outcomes of NATO's 2025 Summit and explains how the alliance has embraced higher defence spending, stronger military cooperation, and wider geopolitical engagement. It evaluates the implications of these decisions for transatlantic relations, the Russia Ukraine conflict, China, global security, and the future balance of power.

The article highlights NATO's transformation into a more militarized alliance through its historic decision to raise defence **NOTES:**

spending to 5 percent of GDP by 2035. Trump's pressure compelled European allies to assume greater responsibility while preserving American security commitments under Article 5. The summit reaffirmed support for Ukraine without offering immediate membership and strengthened NATO's focus on cyber security, hybrid warfare, and critical infrastructure protection. The Hague Declaration emphasized resilience and long-term military preparedness against emerging threats. NATO also expanded strategic cooperation with Indo Pacific partners, reflecting growing concern over China's global influence. Higher military spending strengthens deterrence against Russia but simultaneously increases the risk of an international security dilemma by encouraging closer China Russia cooperation. The article concludes that lasting security depends not only on military capability but also on balancing deterrence with strategic restraint.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- International Relations: NATO, collective security, balance of power
- Current Affairs: Russia Ukraine war and NATO Summit 2025

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains how NATO changed its defence strategy at the 2025 Summit. Member countries agreed to increase military spending from 2 percent to 5 percent of GDP by 2035. This decision followed pressure from Donald Trump, who argued that Europe should contribute more to its own security. NATO also continued military assistance to Ukraine but did not promise immediate membership. For example, member states pledged greater investment in cyber security, infrastructure, and modern defence technology. The summit also welcomed cooperation with Japan, Australia, South Korea, and New Zealand because developments in the Indo Pacific increasingly affect European security. The article argues that stronger military alliances may improve deterrence but can also trigger greater rivalry as Russia and China strengthen their strategic partnership.

Facts and Figures:

- The 76th NATO Summit was held in The Hague, Netherlands.
- The alliance consists of 32 member states.
- NATO members agreed to raise defence spending to 5 percent of GDP by 2035.
- The spending target includes 3.5 percent for military capability and 1.5 percent for resilience.
- The summit reaffirmed Article 5 as the foundation of collective defence.
- Four Indo Pacific partners attended the summit including Japan, Australia, South Korea, and New Zealand.
- NATO's future defence spending could exceed 3 trillion dollars annually by 2035.

To sum up, the article portrays the 2025 NATO Summit as a defining moment in the evolution of the Western alliance. Greater military preparedness may strengthen deterrence, yet it also carries the danger of intensifying geopolitical rivalry. Security cannot rely upon military power alone. It also requires strategic wisdom, diplomatic engagement, and responsible statecraft. The summit has undoubtedly reshaped NATO's future, but whether it produces lasting stability or deeper confrontation will depend upon how wisely its commitments are translated into action.

PALESTINE AND COMMODITIZED INDIFFERENCE: CORPORATE PROFIT FROM HUMAN SUFFERING

Author: Saad Nawaz

Summary:

The article argues that the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza cannot be understood solely through military confrontation. It is sustained by a broader global structure where political inertia, corporate interests, financial networks, and selective morality reinforce the continuation of violence. The writer challenges the idea of neutrality, asserting that silence in the face of injustice strengthens systems of oppression. Through a dialectical framework, the article examines how corporations become structural participants in conflict by supplying weapons, surveillance technologies, logistics, and machinery that facilitate destruction. The military industrial complex transforms war into an economic enterprise where each conflict serves as a showcase for advanced weaponry. Surveillance technologies further deepen control by enabling biometric monitoring, targeted operations, and restrictions on civilian freedoms. Heavy machinery used to demolish homes and infrastructure also becomes an instrument of domination rather than development. Even humanitarian aid, though presented as relief, often functions within systems that manage rather than resolve suffering, reinforcing dependency instead of restoring dignity.

The article further explores how global media, international law, and digital technology shape the politics of the Palestinian struggle. Media coverage often converts human suffering into repetitive spectacle that generates sympathy without meaningful political action. Likewise, international law claims universality but, according to the author, frequently bends before geopolitical interests, resulting in selective justice. Despite these limitations, the Palestinian diaspora, civil society, and citizen journalists continue to preserve memory and resist erasure through advocacy, documentation, and global activism. Digital platforms become both instruments of surveillance and tools of resistance, allowing evidence of violations to reach international audiences. The article concludes that liberation is neither a single event nor an immediate destination but a continuous struggle against domination. Genuine justice requires reclaiming international law from political selectivity, rejecting corporate complicity, and restoring human dignity above commercial and strategic interests.

Overview:

The article critically examines the relationship between corporate interests, militarization, technology, media, humanitarian aid, and international law in the Gaza conflict. It argues that modern warfare extends beyond the battlefield into economic, political, and technological systems that sustain violence while emphasizing the importance of justice, accountability, and human dignity.

NOTES:

The article argues that corporations have become active participants in modern conflicts by supplying weapons, surveillance technology, logistics, and infrastructure that sustain warfare. The military industrial complex links commercial profit with prolonged violence, while surveillance systems expand control over civilian populations through digital monitoring and biometric technologies. Humanitarian aid often operates within restrictive political frameworks that manage suffering instead of resolving its causes. Global media increases the visibility of conflict but frequently reduces human tragedy to temporary spectacle, limiting meaningful international action. The article also questions the impartial application of international law, arguing that geopolitical interests often override universal legal principles. The Palestinian diaspora, citizen journalism, and digital documentation preserve historical memory and strengthen global solidarity. The central argument stresses that justice requires accountability, ethical governance, corporate responsibility, and consistent application of international law rather than selective political interests.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- International Relations: Israel Palestine conflict and global power politics
- Current Affairs: Gaza crisis, humanitarian law, corporate accountability

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that wars are not sustained by weapons alone. Many corporations earn profits by supplying military equipment, surveillance systems, and other technologies used during conflicts. For example, advanced surveillance tools help monitor civilian populations, while military industries benefit from increased demand for weapons. The article also argues that humanitarian aid sometimes eases immediate suffering but does not remove the political conditions that create it. Another example is international media, which broadcasts images of destruction worldwide but often fails to generate lasting political action. Citizen journalists and members of the Palestinian diaspora use digital platforms to preserve evidence and raise global awareness. The central message is that modern conflicts involve economic interests, political decisions, technology, and international institutions alongside military operations.

Facts and Figures:

- The article examines the Gaza conflict through a dialectical analytical framework.
- It identifies corporations as suppliers of weapons, surveillance technology, logistics, and heavy machinery.

- The military industrial complex is presented as a major beneficiary of prolonged conflicts.
- Digital surveillance includes biometric systems, data analytics, and algorithmic monitoring.
- Humanitarian aid is discussed as a controlled mechanism operating through checkpoints and conditional access.
- Citizen journalism and digital archives are identified as important tools for documenting violations.

To sum up, The article argues that violence survives not only through military force but also through economic interests, political silence, and institutional selectivity. Justice loses meaning when law bends before power and profit overshadows humanity. Lasting peace demands more than humanitarian relief. It requires accountability, ethical governance, and unwavering respect for human dignity. Only then can international law fulfil its promise as a universal safeguard rather than an instrument shaped by political convenience.

EVOLVING PAKISTAN-IRAN ALLIANCE

Author: Habiba Malik

Summary:

The article argues that Pakistan-Iran relations have entered a new strategic phase as shifting regional dynamics encourage closer cooperation between the two neighbours. Although historical ties have often been constrained by sectarian perceptions, geopolitical rivalries, border security concerns, and differing foreign policy alignments, both countries have consistently preserved diplomatic engagement. Recent developments have accelerated this rapprochement. Iran played an active diplomatic role during the Pakistan-India crisis, while Pakistan openly condemned Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities and expressed support for Iran's right to pursue peaceful nuclear technology. Islamabad also maintained balanced relations with Washington, Tehran, Riyadh, and the Gulf states, reinforcing its image as a credible regional mediator. High-level exchanges, including President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Pakistan and regular military and diplomatic contacts, further strengthened political trust. The article contends that both countries now view cooperation as a strategic necessity rather than a diplomatic preference.

The article further examines the expanding geo-economic dimension of the partnership. Pakistan and Iran pledged to increase bilateral trade from three billion dollars to ten billion dollars while signing multiple agreements covering science, technology, border management, maritime cooperation, tourism, judicial assistance, and trade facilitation. Iran also expressed interest in linking with CPEC and extending regional connectivity towards Europe through the Belt and Road Initiative. Joint border security operations, intelligence cooperation, and efforts to combat terrorism have strengthened stability along their shared frontier, while proposals such as the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline, border markets, and a future Free Trade Agreement offer substantial economic potential. Nevertheless, significant challenges remain. International sanctions on Iran, informal cross-border trade, smuggling, regional rivalries, Balochistan's insurgency, and Pakistan's strategic ties with Saudi Arabia continue to complicate deeper integration. The article concludes that the future of Pakistan-Iran relations depends upon careful diplomacy, economic pragmatism, and the ability of both states to balance regional competition with long-term strategic cooperation.

Overview:

The article explores the gradual transformation of Pakistan-Iran relations from cautious coexistence to strategic partnership. It examines the diplomatic, economic, security, and regional factors driving this shift while assessing the opportunities and challenges that will shape future cooperation.

NOTES:

The article highlights the growing strategic convergence between Pakistan and Iran amid changing regional geopolitics. Diplomatic engagement has expanded through high-level visits, mediation efforts, and mutual support during regional crises. Both countries seek to strengthen trade, border security, counterterrorism cooperation, and

economic integration through CPEC, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the proposed Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline. Joint border markets, intelligence sharing, and plans for a Free Trade Agreement further reflect this evolving partnership. However, US sanctions, informal trade, sectarian sensitivities, regional rivalries, and security challenges continue to constrain progress. The central argument maintains that sustained cooperation, balanced diplomacy, and economic connectivity can transform Pakistan-Iran relations into a stable pillar of regional peace and development.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations, CPEC and regional connectivity
- International Relations: Regional diplomacy and strategic alliances
- Current Affairs: Middle East geopolitics and Iran's foreign policy

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains why Pakistan and Iran are becoming closer despite many past disagreements. Earlier, both countries faced differences over regional politics, border security, and relations with other powers. However, recent events have encouraged greater cooperation. For example, Pakistan supported Iran diplomatically during the Iran-Israel conflict, while Iran played a constructive role during tensions between Pakistan and India. Both countries now plan to increase trade, improve border security, and complete projects such as the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline. Iran also wants stronger cooperation through CPEC and regional trade corridors. At the same time, challenges such as US sanctions, smuggling, and regional rivalries continue to slow progress. The article shows that mutual trust, economic cooperation, and balanced diplomacy can strengthen regional stability.

Facts and Figures:

- Pakistan and Iran aim to increase bilateral trade from 3 billion dollars to 10 billion dollars.
- Both countries exchanged 12 agreements and Memorandums of Understanding.
- The Preferential Trade Agreement entered into force in 2006.
- Joint border operations reportedly reduced cross-border militant activity by about 40 percent.
- Saudi Arabia has pledged around 20 billion dollars in CPEC-related investments.
- Informal Pakistan-Iran trade is estimated at nearly 4 billion dollars annually.
- Iran and Pakistan are considering replacing the Preferential Trade Agreement with a Free Trade Agreement.

To wrap up, shared security concerns, economic interests, and regional uncertainty have created fresh opportunities for cooperation. Lasting success, however, requires both countries to overcome sanctions, political mistrust, and institutional barriers. If guided by pragmatic diplomacy and sustained economic engagement, this evolving partnership can contribute to regional stability while strengthening Pakistan's strategic position in an increasingly competitive geopolitical landscape.

RESURGENCE OF PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

Author: Bakhtawar Iftakhar Mehdi

Summary:

The article argues that Pakistan's foreign policy regained momentum during 2025 through a series of diplomatic and strategic achievements. Improved ties with the United States, stronger defence cooperation with Saudi Arabia, renewed engagement with China, progress under CPEC, and participation in major international initiatives enhanced Pakistan's global relevance. The military success against India in May 2025 strengthened Islamabad's diplomatic position and enabled it to project itself as a responsible advocate of dialogue, regional stability, and international law. Simultaneously, Pakistan expanded engagement with Washington through cooperation in counterterrorism, critical minerals, and emerging technologies while maintaining its traditional strategic partnership

with Beijing. These developments, alongside active diplomacy on Kashmir and Palestine, indicate a more confident and balanced foreign policy. However, the article cautions that diplomatic achievements alone cannot guarantee lasting success without effective governance and policy continuity at home.

The article further argues that the true measure of foreign policy lies in its ability to produce sustainable national gains rather than temporary diplomatic victories. Pakistan's constitutional principles and Quaid-e-Azam's vision provide the foundation for a foreign policy based on peace, friendship, and mutual respect. The Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia, constructive relations with Iran, and active participation in multilateral institutions reflect Islamabad's effort to maintain strategic balance without joining competing power blocs. Yet domestic weaknesses, institutional shortcomings, governance challenges, and indicators such as Pakistan's weak passport ranking expose the gap between diplomatic ambition and national capacity. The article concludes that foreign policy and internal development are inseparable. Enduring credibility depends not only on external engagement but also on political stability, economic reform, and consistent implementation of national priorities.

Overview:

The article evaluates Pakistan's foreign policy achievements during 2025 while emphasizing that lasting diplomatic success depends upon strong domestic institutions, economic stability, policy consistency, and sustained strategic engagement with regional and global partners.

NOTES:

The article highlights Pakistan's renewed diplomatic relevance through stronger relations with major powers and regional partners. Military success against India enhanced diplomatic confidence and strengthened Pakistan's international narrative on peace and regional stability. Relations with the United States improved through cooperation in counterterrorism, critical minerals, and emerging technologies, while strategic ties with China gained fresh momentum through CPEC and defence collaboration. Pakistan also deepened defence cooperation with Saudi Arabia while preserving balanced relations across the Middle East. Active diplomacy on Kashmir, Palestine, and multilateral forums reinforced Pakistan's commitment to international law and peaceful conflict resolution. Despite these gains, the article stresses that governance reforms, institutional strength, economic stability, and policy continuity remain essential for transforming temporary diplomatic achievements into long-term foreign policy success.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan's foreign policy objectives, Pakistan-India relations and Kashmir
- International Relations: Major power diplomacy and strategic partnerships, Multilateral diplomacy and global governance
- Current Affairs: Pakistan's diplomatic developments in 2025

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that Pakistan's foreign policy became more active and visible during 2025. Better relations with the United States, China, Saudi Arabia, and other partners improved Pakistan's diplomatic position. For example, after the military confrontation with India, Pakistan used diplomacy to promote peace, dialogue, and the Kashmir issue before international forums. Cooperation with the United States expanded in counterterrorism and critical minerals, while CPEC regained attention through stronger engagement with China. Pakistan also signed a defence agreement with Saudi Arabia and continued supporting the Palestinian cause. However, the article explains that diplomacy alone cannot secure long-term success. Economic reforms, political stability, and effective governance are equally important for building international credibility.

Facts and Figures:

- Pakistan adopted the term "Six-Nil" after the May 2025 military confrontation.

- More than 40 Pakistani aircraft reportedly engaged over 80 Indian aircraft during the conflict.
- Pakistan exported its first shipment of critical minerals under a 500 million dollar investment framework.
- The Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia was signed in September 2025.
- Pakistan assumed the chair of the United Nations Security Council 1988 Sanctions Committee.
- Pakistan ranked 103rd on the Henley Passport Index.
- The Constitution of Pakistan outlines foreign policy principles under Article 40.

In a nutshell, diplomatic achievements have strengthened Pakistan's international standing, yet lasting success requires much more than favourable geopolitical circumstances. Strong institutions, consistent governance, economic resilience, and credible implementation must reinforce diplomatic efforts. Foreign policy flourishes when domestic foundations remain firm. If Pakistan sustains internal reforms alongside balanced international engagement, today's diplomatic momentum can evolve into enduring strategic influence,

JCPOA: THE RISE & COLLAPSE | IRAN'S NUCLEAR GAMBLE AND REGIONAL FALLOUT

Author: Dr. Urooj Bahadur Awan

Summary:

The article examines the rise and eventual collapse of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), presenting it as one of the most significant diplomatic efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. The agreement placed strict limits on Iran's uranium enrichment, nuclear stockpiles, and reactor development under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It emerged after years of economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and negotiations between Iran and world powers during the Obama administration. Initially, the deal reduced tensions and strengthened global non-proliferation efforts. However, the author argues that the agreement remained politically fragile. President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018 fundamentally altered its trajectory. His maximum pressure campaign restored severe sanctions, deepened mistrust, and encouraged Iran to gradually abandon many of its nuclear commitments. As uranium enrichment accelerated and advanced centrifuges entered service, Iran's nuclear breakout time shrank considerably, raising fears that Tehran had moved closer to acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

The article further evaluates the strategic consequences of the JCPOA's collapse for regional and international security. Israel consistently opposed the agreement, arguing that it merely delayed Iran's nuclear ambitions rather than eliminating them. Subsequent military confrontations between Iran, Israel, and the United States intensified instability across the Middle East, damaging critical infrastructure, disrupting energy markets, and increasing the risk of a wider regional conflict. Iran's growing reliance on nuclear deterrence reflects its belief that strategic capability is essential for regime survival after repeated external attacks and diplomatic failures. The article also explores the wider implications of possible nuclearization, including an arms race among Gulf states, renewed sanctions, instability in global oil markets, and heightened tensions around the Strait of Hormuz. It concludes that although diplomacy remains the most sustainable path, the future of nuclear negotiations depends upon rebuilding trust, addressing broader regional security concerns, and balancing deterrence with meaningful diplomatic engagement.

Overview:

The article analyses the evolution and collapse of the JCPOA, the expansion of Iran's nuclear programme, and the resulting geopolitical, security, and economic consequences for the Middle East and the wider international system.

NOTES:

The article explains that the JCPOA initially limited Iran's nuclear programme through international monitoring and diplomatic engagement but gradually collapsed after the United States withdrew from the agreement. Iran subsequently accelerated uranium enrichment and expanded its nuclear infrastructure, increasing concerns about regional security. The article highlights the impact of the maximum pressure campaign, Israeli opposition, military escalation, and deteriorating Iran-West relations. It also stresses that Iran's nuclear ambitions have reshaped Middle Eastern geopolitics by increasing the risk of an arms race, threatening energy security, and complicating future diplomatic efforts. The central lesson is that sustainable regional stability requires credible diplomacy, effective non-proliferation mechanisms, and mutual strategic confidence.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Pakistan Affairs: Middle East and Pakistan's foreign policy
- Current Affairs: Iran nuclear programme
- International Relations: United States-Iran relations, Middle East security, Nuclear diplomacy and non-proliferation

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains why the Iran nuclear agreement became one of the most important diplomatic agreements in modern international politics. The JCPOA restricted Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief and international acceptance. However, the withdrawal of the United States from the agreement revived tensions and encouraged Iran to increase uranium enrichment. For example, Iran expanded its use of advanced centrifuges and enriched uranium beyond previous limits after 2018. Israel continued to oppose the agreement and later carried out military strikes against Iranian targets, while Iran responded through direct and indirect means. The article also explains that the Strait of Hormuz remains strategically important because a large share of global oil passes through it. Diplomacy remains more effective than confrontation in preventing nuclear proliferation and maintaining regional stability.

Facts and Figures:

- The JCPOA was signed in 2015 after negotiations between Iran and world powers.
- The United States withdrew from the agreement in 2018.
- Iran enriched uranium to approximately 60 percent purity after reducing compliance with the JCPOA.
- The Strait of Hormuz carries nearly 20 percent of global oil trade.
- Iran's economy contracted by more than 6 percent in 2019 following renewed sanctions.
- Israel's reported assessment suggested Iran's breakout time had declined to around four months.
- Iran would require an estimated 21 to 24 months to develop a nuclear weapon after acquiring sufficient fissile material, according to the assessment discussed in the article.

To wrap up, the article demonstrates that the collapse of the JCPOA transformed a diplomatic success into a prolonged strategic crisis. Nuclear capability, economic sanctions, military confrontation, and regional rivalry have become deeply interconnected. Sustainable peace cannot emerge through coercion alone, nor can deterrence permanently replace diplomacy. The future of the Middle East depends upon restoring credible negotiations, strengthening international verification mechanisms, and addressing the broader security concerns of all regional actors. Without political trust and consistent diplomacy, the nuclear question will continue to cast a long shadow over regional and global stability.

CLIMATE CRISIS — WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Author: Waqar Hassan

Summary:

The article argues that the climate crisis is the result of decades of unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, unchecked industrialisation, deforestation, and weak political commitment to environmental protection. While climate change is a global challenge, its consequences are not equally shared. Wealthy industrialised countries have historically produced the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions, whereas developing countries contribute relatively little yet suffer the most severe environmental, economic, and humanitarian consequences. The author contends that political interests, inadequate international cooperation, and delayed climate action have allowed the crisis to intensify.

The author further emphasizes the principles of climate justice by arguing that countries least responsible for global warming should not bear its greatest burden. Pakistan's devastating floods illustrate this imbalance, causing thousands of casualties and billions of dollars in economic losses despite the country's minimal contribution to global emissions. The article concludes that meaningful climate action requires international cooperation, environmental responsibility, and greater public awareness. Unless governments collectively prioritise sustainable development over short-term political and economic interests, climate change will continue to threaten global peace, prosperity, and human survival.

Overview:

The article examines the causes of the global climate crisis and identifies historical industrialisation, environmental degradation, and political inaction as its principal drivers. It highlights climate justice, showing how developing countries suffer disproportionately despite contributing the least to global emissions. The author calls for stronger international cooperation, environmental accountability, and sustainable resource management to prevent further ecological and humanitarian disasters.

NOTES:

The article explains that climate change has emerged from centuries of excessive exploitation of natural resources, rapid industrialisation, deforestation, and unsustainable urbanisation. Political disagreements and weak international cooperation have slowed global efforts to address the crisis. The concept of climate justice receives particular attention, arguing that developed nations bear greater historical responsibility because of their disproportionately high carbon emissions. Pakistan is presented as a clear example of climate injustice, where severe floods caused extensive human and economic losses despite the country's relatively low contribution to global greenhouse gases. The author concludes that environmental sustainability, responsible resource management, and collective international action are essential for protecting future generations.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Pakistan Affairs: Climate change and environmental challenges in Pakistan
- Current Affairs: Global climate crisis and climate justice
- Environmental Studies: Sustainable development and climate mitigation
- International Relations: Global environmental governance and international cooperation

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that climate change is caused mainly by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, pollution, and uncontrolled industrial growth. Although climate change affects every country, poorer nations suffer the greatest damage because they have fewer resources to respond. Pakistan's recent floods

demonstrate this reality, causing thousands of casualties and billions of dollars in losses despite the country's minimal contribution to global emissions. The article also introduces the idea of climate justice, which argues that developed countries should accept greater responsibility because they produced most of the historical carbon emissions. The author concludes that protecting the environment requires global cooperation, sustainable development, and greater public awareness.

Facts and Figures:

- The United States accounts for more than 25% of historical global carbon emissions.
- Africa contributes less than 3% of global carbon emissions.
- The United Kingdom's historical emissions represented more than 50% of global carbon emissions until 1882.
- Pakistan's floods caused approximately 1,600 deaths and around 13,000 injuries.
- The World Weather Attribution Report estimated Pakistan's flood-related economic losses at approximately US\$32 billion.
- Pakistan currently contributes only about 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

To wrap up, the article argues that climate change is both an environmental and moral challenge requiring immediate global action. Nations that contributed most to global warming must accept greater responsibility for mitigation and financial support, while developing countries should strengthen environmental resilience and sustainable resource management. Lasting solutions depend on international cooperation, climate justice, and collective commitment to preserving the planet for future generations.

TECHNOLOGY AND E-GOVERNANCE OF SOCIETIES

Author: Waqar Hassan

Summary:

Technology has transformed governance by making public administration more efficient, transparent, and responsive to citizens' needs. The rise of e-governance, e-democracy, and e-rights has enabled governments to digitize public services, encourage citizen participation, protect digital identities, and improve access to information. Digital governance also strengthens disaster management, public health, economic planning, and administrative efficiency by using data-driven decision-making and modern communication technologies. When supported by adequate infrastructure and digital inclusion, technology becomes a powerful tool for improving governance and public service delivery.

Despite its immense benefits, digital governance also presents serious challenges. Excessive reliance on automation, misuse of personal data, digital surveillance, misinformation, algorithmic bias, and political manipulation threaten democratic values and individual freedoms. The concentration of digital power in governments and technology companies raises concerns about accountability and transparency. For countries like Pakistan, the successful adoption of e-governance requires investment in digital infrastructure, public awareness, institutional reforms, cybersecurity, and balanced regulation that maximizes technological benefits while protecting citizens' rights.

Overview:

The article examines how technological advancement has reshaped governance across the world through e-governance, e-democracy, and digital rights. It argues that digital governance improves efficiency, transparency, economic growth, disaster management, and citizen participation while reducing corruption and bureaucratic delays. At the same time, the author warns against the misuse of technology through surveillance, misinformation, data exploitation, and digital authoritarianism. The article concludes that countries, particularly Pakistan, must adopt e-governance responsibly by investing in digital infrastructure, strengthening institutions, promoting digital literacy, and ensuring ethical regulation so that technology remains a tool for public welfare rather than political control.

NOTES:

The article emphasizes that technology has fundamentally changed the nature of governance by introducing digital platforms that improve transparency, efficiency, and public participation. E-governance simplifies administrative procedures, reduces paperwork, strengthens digital identity systems, and improves access to government services. The author argues that digital technologies also contribute to economic growth, disaster management, healthcare, and evidence-based policymaking through data-driven governance. However, the article also highlights the dangers of excessive digitalization, including privacy violations, surveillance, misinformation, algorithmic bias, and political manipulation. Concentrating digital power in a few institutions may weaken democratic accountability and individual freedoms. Pakistan, therefore, must strengthen digital infrastructure, improve technological literacy, train public officials, and establish effective legal safeguards to ensure that technology supports inclusive and accountable governance.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics

- Pakistan Affairs: Digital governance and public sector reforms
- Current Affairs: E-governance in Pakistan and digital transformation
- International Relations: Cyber governance, digital security, and technology diplomacy
- Governance and Public Policy: Institutional reforms and digital policymaking

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains how technology is changing the way governments serve people. Instead of relying on paperwork and lengthy procedures, governments now use digital systems to provide faster and more transparent public services. For example, digital identities help citizens access government services securely, while online platforms encourage public participation in policymaking. Technology also helps governments manage disasters, improve healthcare, and make better decisions using data. However, the article warns that technology can also be misused for surveillance, spreading misinformation, and influencing public opinion. Therefore, governments must use technology responsibly by protecting privacy, strengthening cybersecurity, and ensuring that digital systems remain transparent and accountable.

Facts and Figures:

- E-governance promotes digital public services, e-democracy, and digital rights.
- Digital identities reduce paperwork, fraud, and identity theft.
- Data-driven governance improves policymaking and public service delivery.
- Technology supports disaster management through real-time monitoring and early warning systems.
- AI and digital technologies improve efficiency in healthcare, education, taxation, and public administration.
- Pakistan continues to face challenges including low digital literacy, inadequate infrastructure, and limited awareness regarding e-governance.

In a Nutshell, technology has become one of the most powerful drivers of modern governance. When used responsibly, it strengthens transparency, public participation, economic growth, and efficient service delivery. Yet the same technology can also threaten democracy through surveillance, misinformation, and concentration of digital power. The future of governance therefore depends not only on technological innovation but also on strong institutions, ethical regulation, cybersecurity, and informed citizens. For Pakistan, embracing e-governance with accountability and inclusivity offers a practical path toward effective governance and sustainable national development.

DEMOCRACY IN THE AGE OF AI

Author: Waqar Hassan

Summary:

Artificial intelligence is transforming democratic governance by creating new opportunities for citizen participation, administrative efficiency, and transparent public service delivery. In this article, Waqar Hassan argues that digital technologies have strengthened democracy through e-governance, online consultations, digital identities, and AI-driven public administration. These innovations make governments more responsive, improve service delivery, expand access to information, and encourage broader civic participation. AI also enhances disaster management, strengthens national security, improves resource allocation, and supports evidence-based policymaking, making it a valuable tool for modern governance.

The author also warns that the same technology can threaten democracy if left unchecked. Artificial intelligence can enable surveillance, manipulate elections, spread misinformation, deepen political polarization, and concentrate power in the hands of governments or technology companies. Algorithms that exploit personal data can shape public opinion and undermine democratic institutions. The writer argues that countries such as Pakistan should adopt AI responsibly by establishing strong regulatory frameworks, preserving human oversight, protecting freedom of expression, and ensuring transparency. Democracy in the age of artificial intelligence will remain resilient only if technological progress is balanced with democratic values, accountability, and the rule of law.

Overview:

The article examines the opportunities and challenges that artificial intelligence presents for democratic governance. It explains how AI can improve public administration, increase transparency, and strengthen citizen participation while also highlighting risks such as misinformation, digital authoritarianism, election manipulation, and excessive concentration of power. The author concludes that responsible regulation and human oversight are essential for ensuring that artificial intelligence strengthens rather than weakens democracy.

NOTES:

The article highlights how artificial intelligence has become an essential component of modern democratic governance. E-governance, digital identities, online consultations, and AI-assisted decision-making improve administrative efficiency, public service delivery, transparency, and citizen participation. Artificial intelligence also strengthens disaster management, security monitoring, economic development, and evidence-based policymaking by enabling governments to respond more effectively to public needs. The article warns that AI can undermine democracy through misinformation, deepfakes, algorithmic manipulation, political polarization, surveillance, and the concentration of technological power. Social media algorithms and targeted data collection can influence elections, distort public opinion, and weaken democratic institutions. The author stresses that democratic societies must establish ethical regulations, maintain human oversight in decision-making, protect digital rights, and ensure that artificial intelligence serves public welfare rather than political or commercial interests.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Current Affairs: Artificial intelligence and digital governance
- International Relations: Cybersecurity and information warfare

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that artificial intelligence can improve democracy by making governments more efficient and accessible. Online voting systems, digital identities, public consultations, and AI-assisted services help citizens participate more actively in governance. AI can also predict disasters, improve healthcare, strengthen security, and assist governments in making better decisions through data analysis. However, the same technology can also be misused. Artificial intelligence may spread fake news, manipulate elections, invade privacy, and increase political

polarization through social media algorithms. Governments and technology companies may accumulate excessive power if proper regulations are absent. Therefore, the article emphasizes that AI should always operate under human supervision, ethical standards, and democratic laws to ensure that technological progress strengthens rather than threatens democratic governance.

- **Facts and Figures:**

- Governments across the world are increasingly adopting AI-powered e-governance to improve public service delivery.
- AI supports online voting systems, digital consultations, and digital identity programmes that expand citizen participation.
- Artificial intelligence assists in disaster prediction, crisis management, and national security monitoring.
- AI-driven algorithms can create filter bubbles and echo chambers, contributing to political polarization.
- Social media platforms increasingly rely on AI algorithms to personalize content and influence public engagement.

In a nutshell, artificial intelligence is reshaping democracy by creating both unprecedented opportunities and serious risks. While AI can improve governance, public services, and citizen participation, it can also undermine democratic institutions through manipulation, surveillance, and misinformation. The future of democracy therefore depends on maintaining a careful balance between technological innovation, ethical regulation, and the enduring principles of transparency, accountability, and human freedom.

Arab News Pakistan –

WHAT IF EUROPE LOSES ACCESS TO ITS CLIMATE DATA?

Authors: Bertrand Badré and Stéphane Voisin

Summary:

Climate leadership depends not only on ambitious environmental policies but also on control over the data that supports them. These authors argue that Europe's climate agenda faces a hidden but serious challenge: dependence on foreign-owned data infrastructure and analytical tools. Although the European Union has enacted strong digital regulations through measures such as the GDPR, the AI Act, and the Data Act, most climate-related datasets and digital platforms remain under the control of non-European actors. This dependence weakens Europe's digital sovereignty because access to essential scientific information can be altered or restricted by external powers. The authors warn that without control over climate data, Europe risks losing the ability to shape its own environmental policies and scientific research.

The article further explains that artificial intelligence is accelerating this imbalance as advanced models increasingly rely on foreign-controlled datasets. More than eighty per cent of the ESG data used within the European Union is already owned or managed outside Europe, creating long-term dependence on external infrastructure. Meanwhile, several European initiatives designed to establish public climate data repositories have stalled or lost momentum. The authors therefore advocate building modular, interoperable, and locally governed data ecosystems instead of pursuing digital isolation. They conclude that protecting data sovereignty is essential not only for Europe's technological competitiveness but also for preserving its scientific independence, climate leadership, and democratic values.

Overview:

The article examines Europe's growing dependence on foreign-controlled climate data and digital infrastructure. It argues that despite strong regulatory frameworks, the European Union lacks operational control over the information systems that support climate research and policymaking. The authors contend that securing data sovereignty is essential for maintaining scientific independence, technological competitiveness, and effective climate governance.

NOTES:

The article highlights data sovereignty as an emerging pillar of climate security. Although the European Union generates vast amounts of climate-related information through sustainability regulations, the analytical tools and digital infrastructure processing these datasets are largely controlled by foreign companies. This creates strategic dependence that may compromise scientific autonomy and policy implementation. Artificial intelligence further intensifies this challenge because advanced AI systems depend upon large datasets and continuously improve through scale. Europe's delayed implementation of public climate data platforms and its reliance on external digital infrastructure weaken its long-term competitiveness. The authors argue that Europe should develop interoperable, locally governed data ecosystems that ensure independent access to climate information while maintaining international cooperation rather than pursuing technological isolation.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- International Relations: Digital sovereignty and technological competition
- Current Affairs: Climate governance and data security

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that climate leadership is no longer based only on environmental policies. It also depends on who controls the data, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence systems used to study climate change. Although

Europe has introduced strong digital laws, much of its climate data is processed and managed by foreign companies. The authors argue that this dependence could weaken Europe's ability to make independent scientific and political decisions. They recommend creating European-controlled climate databases and digital systems while continuing to cooperate internationally. In their view, data sovereignty is becoming as important as energy security because reliable access to information determines how effectively governments can respond to climate challenges.

Facts and Figures:

- More than 80 per cent of the ESG data used in the European Union is controlled by non-European actors.
- The Climate Data Utility, originally launched as the Net-Zero Data Public Utility in 2022, has largely stalled.
- The European Single Access Point is scheduled to become operational in 2027.
- The European Union has introduced major digital regulations including the GDPR, Data Act, and AI Act to strengthen digital governance.
- The PARC Foundation found significant differences among AI models in their handling of climate misinformation.

To sum up, climate leadership depends as much on controlling information as on reducing emissions. Without secure access to climate data, analytical tools, and artificial intelligence systems, Europe risks weakening its scientific independence and strategic autonomy. Protecting data sovereignty through resilient and locally governed digital infrastructure is therefore essential for preserving Europe's leadership in climate policy and sustainable development.

CAN PAKISTAN'S DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH HELP THE ECONOMY?

Author: Dr. Vaqar Ahmed

Summary:

Pakistan's recent diplomatic success in helping mediate peace in the Middle East has created an opportunity to strengthen its fragile economy. In this article, Dr. Vaqar Ahmed argues that diplomacy alone cannot generate economic prosperity unless it is followed by effective policy implementation. The easing of regional tensions promises lower oil prices, improved shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, stronger investor confidence, and more stable supply chains. These developments can reduce inflation, improve the balance of payments, strengthen foreign exchange reserves, and support Pakistan's ongoing IMF programme. However, these gains remain potential rather than guaranteed outcomes.

The author emphasizes that the next ninety days will determine whether Pakistan converts diplomatic goodwill into lasting economic progress. He recommends maintaining fiscal discipline, accelerating energy sector reforms, attracting Gulf investment, expanding trade with GCC countries, and strengthening engagement with the Pakistani diaspora. Debt refinancing, privatization, regulatory reforms, and greater efficiency in public development spending are also identified as priorities. At the same time, Pakistan should prepare contingency measures in case regional peace proves temporary. The article concludes that economic success depends not merely on diplomatic achievements but on disciplined governance, political stability, and sustained structural reforms.

Overview:

The article examines how Pakistan can transform its diplomatic success in mediating regional peace into long-term economic benefits. It argues that lower energy costs, improved investor confidence, stronger regional trade, and continued economic reforms can strengthen Pakistan's economy, provided the government acts quickly and maintains fiscal discipline.

NOTES:

The article argues that regional peace creates favourable economic conditions but does not automatically guarantee growth. Lower oil prices, stable shipping routes, and renewed economic activity in Gulf countries can reduce Pakistan's import costs, strengthen exports, improve remittances, and support external financial stability. These developments also reinforce the objectives of Pakistan's IMF-supported economic reforms. The author proposes several policy priorities to maximize these opportunities. These include fiscal discipline, energy sector reforms, attracting foreign investment, expanding trade with GCC countries, improving development spending, and mobilizing diaspora investment. He also stresses the importance of maintaining strong foreign exchange reserves and preparing for renewed regional instability should the peace process collapse.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan's economic reforms and regional diplomacy
- Current Affairs: Pakistan's mediation in the Middle East and economic recovery
- International Relations: Economic diplomacy and regional cooperation

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that successful diplomacy can improve a country's economy only when supported by effective government policies. Pakistan's role in reducing tensions in the Middle East may lower oil prices, improve trade routes, and increase investor confidence. These developments can reduce inflation, strengthen exports, and improve foreign exchange reserves.

However, the author argues that these opportunities will disappear without timely reforms. Pakistan must strengthen fiscal management, improve the energy sector, attract Gulf investment, expand trade with GCC countries, and encourage overseas Pakistanis to invest at home. According to the author, economic progress depends on converting diplomatic achievements into practical economic reforms.

Facts and Figures:

- Pakistan's economy remained on track under the IMF programme despite regional instability.
- The next 90 days are identified as the critical period for converting diplomatic success into economic gains.
- The Strait of Hormuz reopening is expected to reduce energy import costs and improve supply chains.
- The Naya Pakistan Certificates already provide sovereign-backed investment products in Saudi Riyal and UAE Dirham.
- The Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement offers significant export opportunities for Pakistani textile, agriculture, livestock, and MSME sectors.

To sum up, diplomatic success creates opportunities, but economic transformation requires disciplined policymaking and effective implementation. Pakistan's mediation has opened a valuable window for investment, trade, and economic stability. Whether this becomes a lasting turning point or a missed opportunity will depend on timely reforms, fiscal responsibility, political stability, and sustained economic governance.

DID PAKISTAN'S MEDIATION JUST OPEN A NEW REGIONAL ORDER?

Author: Nasim Zehra

Summary:

The recent 14-point Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Iran represents more than a diplomatic settlement over nuclear issues. The author suggests that the agreement should be viewed through a regional rather than a purely Western perspective. While Western countries focus on Iran's nuclear programme, missile capabilities, and freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, regional states see a broader opportunity to reshape security, economic cooperation, and political relations. The author contends that the

agreement has the potential to reduce long-standing regional rivalries, encourage dialogue, and replace confrontation with cooperation. Pakistan's mediation played a significant role by helping maintain communication between opposing sides and preventing the conflict from escalating into a wider regional war.

The article further explains that Pakistan's diplomatic credibility with both Iran and Saudi Arabia enabled it to facilitate constructive engagement during a highly volatile period. Alongside Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan contributed to a regional approach that prioritised restraint over military confrontation. The MoU also extends beyond nuclear negotiations by addressing sanctions, the Strait of Hormuz, Lebanon, reconstruction, and regional connectivity. According to the author, these provisions could transform the political landscape by encouraging investment, economic integration, and shared security rather than permanent hostility. The article concludes that the agreement offers an opportunity to establish a more stable and less militarised regional order, provided all parties remain committed to its implementation.

Overview:

The article examines the broader geopolitical significance of the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding from a regional perspective. It argues that Pakistan's mediation has helped create an opportunity for lasting regional stability by promoting diplomacy, economic cooperation, and collective security instead of prolonged confrontation.

NOTES:

The article argues that the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding should not be viewed solely as a nuclear agreement. Instead, it represents an opportunity to reshape regional politics through dialogue, economic cooperation, and shared security. Regional countries increasingly recognised that continued confrontation would threaten their economies, energy infrastructure, and long-term stability. Pakistan emerged as an effective mediator because of its trusted relations with both Iran and Gulf countries. Working alongside regional partners, Pakistan helped reduce tensions and maintain diplomatic communication. The agreement also includes issues such as sanctions, reconstruction, Lebanon, and maritime security, indicating a broader vision for regional cooperation. The author believes that successful implementation could gradually replace conflict with investment, connectivity, and economic interdependence.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- International Relations: Conflict resolution and regional diplomacy
- Current Affairs: Pakistan's mediation between the United States and Iran
- Pakistan Affairs: Pakistan's role in regional peace and foreign policy

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that peace agreements can create opportunities beyond ending military conflict. According to the author, the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding may become the starting point for a new regional order based on diplomacy, trade, and cooperation rather than confrontation. Pakistan played an important role because it maintained good relations with both Iran and Saudi Arabia, allowing it to facilitate dialogue during a dangerous regional crisis. The agreement also addresses issues such as sanctions, reconstruction, maritime security, and Lebanon, making it much broader than a nuclear settlement. The author argues that if regional countries continue cooperating, the Middle East may gradually shift from conflict toward economic integration and collective security.

Facts and Figures:

- The agreement is based on a 14-point Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Iran.
- Pakistan helped facilitate diplomatic communication between Iran and Saudi Arabia during the regional crisis.
- The MoU addresses issues including the Strait of Hormuz, sanctions, Lebanon, reconstruction, and regional security.
- Regional mediators included Pakistan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

- The agreement aims to reduce military confrontation while promoting trade, connectivity, and regional cooperation.

To put it simply, the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding represents more than a ceasefire; it gives an opportunity to reshape regional politics through diplomacy and cooperation. Pakistan's successful mediation demonstrated the growing importance of regional leadership in conflict resolution. If implemented sincerely, the agreement could lay the foundation for lasting peace, economic integration, and a more stable Middle East.

PAKISTAN'S BUDGET OF MANAGED EXPECTATIONS

Author: Javed Hassan

Summary:

Pakistan's FY2026–27 budget projects stronger growth, higher revenues, and increased private investment, but these targets rest more on optimism than on structural reforms. The government has repeatedly announced ambitious economic goals that the economy has failed to achieve. This year's 4 per cent growth target follows the same pattern, despite weak investment, low productivity, and persistent governance challenges. With the investment-to-GDP ratio stuck at around 14 per cent and private investment constrained by government borrowing, the conditions required for sustained economic expansion remain absent.

The budget also sets an ambitious revenue target for the Federal Board of Revenue despite its inability to meet previous collection goals. Proposed measures, including a fixed tax on retailers and an agricultural income tax, are unlikely to generate significant revenue because of weak implementation and political resistance. While Pakistan has successfully stabilized its economy by reducing inflationary pressures and restoring macroeconomic stability, stabilization alone cannot deliver long-term growth. Without higher investment, productive public spending, and meaningful tax reforms that broaden the tax base, the budget remains a statement of hope rather than a credible roadmap for economic transformation.

Overview:

The article critically evaluates Pakistan's FY2026–27 budget, arguing that it relies on optimistic projections rather than structural reforms. Although macroeconomic stability has improved, the budget fails to address the deeper weaknesses limiting investment, productivity, and sustainable economic growth.

NOTES:

The author argues that Pakistan's growth targets lack a realistic foundation because investment remains too low to support sustained economic expansion. Government borrowing continues to crowd out private investment, while productivity remains weak due to governance inefficiencies and an uncompetitive economic environment. Similarly, the ambitious revenue target depends on reforms that are unlikely to be fully implemented. Political resistance will probably weaken the agricultural income tax, while fixed taxes on retailers cannot generate sufficient revenue. As a result, the government may once again rely on indirect taxation that disproportionately burdens salaried workers, consumers, and small businesses. Although economic stabilization is a notable achievement, genuine development requires structural reforms rather than optimistic fiscal projections.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Economics: Fiscal policy, taxation, investment, and economic growth
- Current Affairs: Pakistan Budget FY2026–27
- Pakistan Affairs: Economic reforms and fiscal management

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that economic growth cannot be achieved simply by announcing ambitious targets. Sustainable growth depends on higher investment, better productivity, efficient governance, and a fair taxation system.

Although Pakistan has improved its economic stability by reducing inflation and avoiding a financial crisis, the author argues that these achievements alone are insufficient. Without reforms that encourage private investment, improve tax collection, and increase productive spending, economic growth will remain below expectations and living standards will improve only slowly.

Facts and Figures:

- Pakistan's GDP grew 0.3% in FY2023.
- GDP growth reached 2.7% in FY2025, below the 3.6% target.
- FY2026 growth stood at 3.7%, below the 4.2% target.
- The FY2027 budget targets 4% GDP growth.
- Pakistan's investment-to-GDP ratio remains around 14%, compared with approximately 22% in Bangladesh and over 30% in Vietnam.
- The FBR has been assigned a revenue target of Rs15.3 trillion, representing a 17.6% increase.
- Salaried employees paid over Rs605 billion in income tax during FY2025.

In a nutshell, Pakistan's latest budget reflects cautious optimism but offers few concrete reforms capable of delivering its ambitious economic targets. While macroeconomic stability has improved, sustainable growth requires stronger investment, higher productivity, and a broader, more equitable tax system. Until these structural weaknesses are addressed, the budget remains an exercise in managing expectations rather than transforming the economy.

DIPLOMATIC CAPITAL IS NOT ENOUGH: PAKISTAN'S NEXT TEST IN THE GULF

Author: Mehreen Durrani

Summary:

Pakistan has strengthened its diplomatic engagement with the Gulf through high-level visits, investment partnerships, and closer strategic cooperation. However, diplomatic goodwill alone cannot secure long-term economic benefits. The real challenge is whether Pakistan can modernize its workforce and training system to meet the growing demand created by the Gulf's ambitious development projects. As countries across the GCC expand infrastructure, technology, healthcare, and renewable energy sectors, they increasingly seek workers who are highly skilled, internationally certified, and ready for rapid deployment.

Pakistan possesses significant advantages, including a large labor force, demographic strength, geographic proximity, and longstanding ties with Gulf states. Yet competing countries have invested more effectively in vocational training, internationally recognized certifications, language skills, and efficient labor deployment systems. To transform diplomatic success into economic gains, Pakistan must prioritize skills development, modernize training institutions, strengthen partnerships with Gulf employers, and prepare workers for emerging industries. Diplomatic capital can open opportunities, but only a capable workforce can convert them into sustainable economic growth.

Overview:

The article argues that Pakistan's growing strategic partnership with Gulf countries offers an important economic opportunity. However, lasting benefits will depend not on diplomacy alone but on building a competitive workforce capable of meeting the evolving labor demands of Gulf economies.

NOTES:

The author emphasizes that Gulf economies are entering a period of rapid expansion driven by projects such as Saudi Vision 2030 and economic diversification across the GCC. These developments will create significant

demand for skilled professionals in engineering, healthcare, technology, logistics, hospitality, renewable energy, and construction. Pakistan has a strong labor presence in the Gulf, but outdated training systems, weak certification standards, and slow deployment processes reduce its competitiveness. Countries such as India, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Egypt have strengthened vocational education and labor export strategies, giving them an advantage. Pakistan must therefore modernize its workforce architecture by improving technical education, language proficiency, certification standards, and institutional coordination. The author concludes that diplomatic achievements will only produce economic dividends if they are matched by workforce readiness.

Relevant CSS Syllabus Subjects and Topics:

- Current Affairs: Pakistan-GCC relations and regional economic cooperation
- Pakistan Affairs: Overseas employment and labor migration
- International Relations: Gulf diplomacy and economic partnerships

Notes for Beginners:

The article explains that Pakistan's improved diplomatic relations with Gulf countries create valuable economic opportunities, but these opportunities cannot be fully utilized without a skilled workforce. As Gulf economies increasingly demand certified professionals with technical expertise and language skills, Pakistan must modernize vocational training, improve certification systems, and strengthen labor institutions. By investing in human capital, Pakistan can increase overseas employment, boost remittances, and deepen its long-term economic partnership with the Gulf.

Facts and Figures:

- Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 includes major projects such as NEOM, Qiddiya, the Red Sea Project, Diriyah, and ROSHN.
- Pakistan has one of the largest expatriate workforces in the GCC.
- Approximately two million Pakistanis enter the labor force each year.
- Skilled workers in GCC countries typically earn two to four times more than unskilled workers.
- Countries including India, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Egypt have strengthened their vocational training and overseas employment systems to compete effectively in Gulf labor markets.

To sum up, Pakistan's expanding diplomatic influence in the Gulf presents an opportunity to strengthen its economy through overseas employment and investment. However, diplomatic success alone is insufficient. Long-term gains will depend on developing a highly skilled, internationally certified, and deployment-ready workforce capable of meeting the Gulf's rapidly changing labor market demands. Sustainable economic partnerships are built not only on goodwill but also on institutional strength and human capital.

CSS PLATFORM NEXUS

CSS - PMS EXAM EXCELLENCE:

A PATHWAY TO QUALITY CONTENT* IS DESIGNED TO BE THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE FOR CSS AND PMS ASPIRANTS, BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN AMBITION AND ACHIEVEMENT. EVERY ISSUE PROVIDES YOU WITH RIGOROUS, IN DEPTH ANALYSIS ON TOPICS CURRENT AFFAIRS, PAKISTAN AFFAIRS, ESSAY, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SPECIFICALLY TAILORED TO MEET THE EVOLVING DEMANDS OF COMPETITIVE EXAMS. ALONGSIDE THESE CORE ARTICLES, THE MAGAZINE PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE STUDY TOOLS STRUCTURED NOTES, ESSENTIAL FACTS AND FIGURES, AND VOCABULARY BOOSTERS—THAT SHARPEN YOUR WRITING AND DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING. QUALITY CONTENT IS WHAT DISTINGUISHES TOP CANDIDATES AND CSS -PMS EXAM EXCELLENCE EQUIPS YOU TO STAND OUT, MAKING IT THE IDEAL GUIDE TO ACHIEVING HIGH SCORES AND TRANSFORMING YOUR HARD WORK INTO SUCCESS.



Get in Hard Copy

<https://dreamssupermall.pk>

Get in Soft Copy

<https://cssplatformbytha.com>

