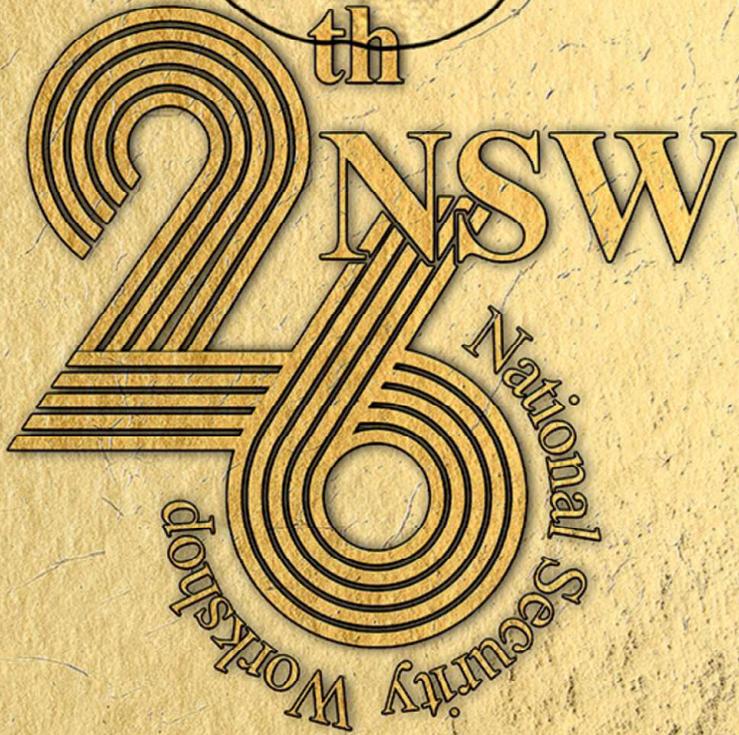


*Looking Beyond Perceptions*



INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES, RESEARCH & ANALYSIS



28 Oct  
to  
29 Nov

2024

**Post Workshop Report**

INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS (ISSRA)  
NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD



**WORKSHOP SPONSOR**

Brigadier Qasim Kayani

Director, Keystone Capstone and Pinnacle Programmes Branch

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# INTRODUCTION

The National Security Workshop (NSW) provides a platform for the participants from various segments of society to comprehend, analyse and discuss the dynamics of the National Security of Pakistan. 26th NSW was held under the overarching theme “Looking Beyond Perceptions” from 28 October to 29 November 2024. The workshop is aimed at enabling senior political, military, and civilian leaders including the representatives from civil society to debate and discuss the issues of national security through interaction with intellectuals, academicians, foreign diplomats, policy makers, and national leadership under Chatham House Rule. It contributes to enhancing connectivity, national cohesion, and understanding across the official spectrum and promotes interprovincial harmony. NSW, being held since 2003, is an annual feature of the Institute for Strategic Studies, Research and Analysis (ISSRA) and have around 1,529 Alumni to date.

The scope of the 26th NSW was to study the global and regional strategic security environment, strategic dynamics of South Asia, Pakistan's foreign policy challenges and response



while addressing comprehensive national security. The programme was structured to bring an in-depth understanding of the human rights, perception building, social sector reforms. It also covered the economic challenges of Pakistan and the role of technologies in modern era. It highlighted analysis of policy options to deal with challenges, and capitalise on the opportunities. During workshop, the participants were exposed to discussions on important issues and visits to the provincial capitals and other civil and military institutions/installations. Participants interacted with Governors, Chief Ministers and Heads of State Institutions to gain first-hand knowledge of structural and organisational aspects.

The workshop was successfully conducted; thanks to the full support and efforts of all the branches of ISSRA and NDU. One would remiss not to acknowledge the efforts of all members of ISSRA research community in recording and preparing the proceedings of the workshop.



# Inaugural Session

October 28, 2024





# Conclusions of 26<sup>th</sup> NSW



- Pakistan's strategic location places it in a complex regional environment, surrounded by emerging geopolitical dynamics. The evolving global order, characterized by shifting alliances and power structures, coupled with the intensifying US-China competition, adds layers of complexity to Pakistan's external challenges. In this context, the country must navigate these changing dynamics while ensuring political stability and continuity of policies to address both external and internal challenges effectively.
- We need to prioritize building strong and resilient institutions that can function independently and effectively. This requires a conscious effort to depoliticize them, ensuring they operate with integrity and efficiency within their respective domains. Only through depoliticization can our institutions focus on their core mandates, free from undue influence, and contribute meaningfully to national progress.
- There is a dire need of putting wise heads together to chalk out an economic path of self-reliance, inward solutions and public consumption. Politically expedient quick fixes with aids/ international borrowings must substitute long term, structurally reformed, export oriented and all inclusive economic system. Economic turn around and growth is the only panacea for state's



capacity to contribute for welfare of the masses, redress provinces' deprivation and strengthen national hard/ soft power which will in turn enhance national harmony, integration and cohesion.

- Equally important is the creation of a socio-economic framework that encourages diversity of thought, innovation and inclusivity. Achieving this requires a persistent commitment to the rule of law, and adherence to transparency and accountability.
- Moreover, we must adopt a balanced approach to public discourse in this era of misinformation and fake news. The state, alongside media outlets, must combat disinformation while fostering hope and positivity. Media has a vital role to play in promoting constructive narratives and highlighting the ways in which our institutions and society are effectively managing challenges, instead of solely focusing on shortcomings.
- Finally, national progress demands collective responsibility. It is not enough to criticise institutions or question others; every individual must actively contribute to the nation's development. By focusing on the positive aspects of our journey and taking ownership of our roles, we can collectively build a stronger, more united Pakistan. The path forward lies in collaboration, accountability, and a shared commitment to progress and hope.



Monday, October 28, 2024

Session-I

# Understanding the Dynamics of the Emerging Global Order



# SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow  
**Ms Hina Rabbani Khar**



Speaker - I  
**Amb Robin Raphael**



Speaker - II  
**Mr Victor Gao**



Speaker - III  
**Amb Sardar Masood Khan**



Moderator  
**Ms Shah Bano**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Powerful nations have always sought to establish hegemony; realizing universal values remain a distant aspiration.
- Fundamental principles such as peace, sovereignty, morality, justice, and fair play are often disregarded in favor of national interests and strategic alliances.
- Western nations advocate for a value-based international order, whereas, China promotes an alternative model emphasizing diversity in national development approaches.
- Differences in values among nations contribute to a more dynamic global community, granting each country the requisite freedom to pursue its developmental path.
- US regards China and Russia as its primary national security threats; reciprocally, these countries perceive US as a significant risk to their security.
- The rapid rise of China as a significant economic power and the establishment of alternative global political and financial institutions, such as the BRICS and the Global South, are reshaping the world order.
- US acknowledges these emerging global realities and recognizes the need for proactive adaptation to maintain its international dominance.
- Pakistan can become a key regional player, provided it maintains political stability and pursues sustained economic growth. With its strategic location and economic potential, it can position itself among nations of geopolitical and economic significance.
- Pakistan must establish partnerships based on its broader national interests to achieve long-term goals rather than aligning itself exclusively with China or US.

Monday, October 28, 2024

Session-II

# Understanding Comprehensive National Security



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Lt Gen Aamer Riaz (Retd)**



Speaker - II  
**Mr Faheem Sardar**



Moderator  
**Ms Aroobah Sarfarz**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Security extends beyond mere defense; it is an ecosystem in which the state remains resilient against internal and external threats.
- A state's security is defined by its ability to maintain independence, protect territorial boundaries, and uphold sovereignty - enabling it to establish a socio-political and economic order aligned with its values.
- The state operates through a social contract, where its territory, people, political government, and institutions collectively contribute to security. It is responsible for safeguarding against traditional and non-traditional threats, thereby maintaining a symbiotic relationship with its citizens.
- Historical challenges, such as the Kashmir conflict and economic constraints, have shaped Pakistan's security strategies, leading to the development of robust deterrence mechanisms, particularly its nuclear program.
- Nontraditional security threats – including economic warfare, cyber-attacks, and environmental crises – are pervasive, often invisible, and have long-term asymmetric impacts on national stability. Additional challenges include inconsistencies of policies, economic instability, judicial inefficiencies, information warfare, and climate-related threats such as floods and water scarcity.
- Economic warfare, characterized by manipulative financial policies, currency devaluation, mismanagement of interest rates, and external economic aggression, poses a severe threat to Pakistan's economic resilience.
- Comprehensive national security requires addressing traditional and non-traditional threats and integrating socio-economic and environmental challenges alongside military considerations.
- A critical analysis of Pakistan's economic history highlights the interplay between economic growth, violent disruptions, and policy missteps, underscoring the need for proactive and strategic policy making.
- Key proposals for mitigating non-traditional security threats include reducing crude oil imports, investing in domestic production, managing immigration through incentivized investment programs, and enhancing market protection and economic diplomacy.

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Session-I

# Contemporary Global Trends - Opportunities and Challenges



# SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow  
**Amb Shahid Malik**



Speaker - I  
**Mr Saad Rasool**



Speaker - II  
**Ms Linda Hyokki**



Speaker - III  
**Maj Gen Inam-ul-Haque (Retd)**



Speaker - IV  
**Ms Sara Hayat**



Moderator  
**Dr Mariam Fatima**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Climate change is a critical global issue that requires urgent discussion, particularly for Pakistan, which is highly vulnerable to its impacts.
- Overpopulation and limited economic resources exacerbate Pakistan's vulnerability. As part of the Global South, the country suffers disproportionately from climate change despite contributing minimally to global emissions.
- Rising temperatures are expected to reduce labour productivity in outdoor sectors, leading to economic challenges and potential social unrest. Climate-induced migration from rural to urban areas significantly strains cities, increasing the risk of social tensions.
- A global trend in terrorism is the shift from religious extremism to right-wing terrorism. This transition has deepened ideological divides, particularly between secular and religious factions, especially within the Islamic world.
- The role of social media and artificial intelligence in terrorism is expanding, facilitating the spread of fake news and extremist content at an unprecedented pace. Additionally, the rise of populism is undermining the government's ability to manage multiple crises, exposing leadership to heightened scrutiny and criticism, which can further fuel social unrest.
- Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategy employs both kinetic and non-kinetic approaches, emphasizing de-radicalization programs and intellectual responses to extremism.
- Discussions on human rights often lack a clear understanding of their philosophical origins and global application. Classical political theories, such as Hobbes' Leviathan, explore the natural state of society in the absence of law or governance, providing a foundational perspective.
- The manipulation of human rights is a common tactic in international relations. Violations are often perceived strategically, with selective criticism based on geopolitical interests. For instance, Pakistan is frequently criticized for its 2,200 missing persons, while India, despite having 60,000 missing persons, receives comparatively less condemnation. This selective approach exemplifies the "weaponization" of human rights.
- A related phenomenon is the "geopolitics of shaming," where states are criticized or praised for their human rights records based more on political calculations than genuine moral commitments. This practice raises concerns about the effectiveness and impartiality of international human rights institutions.

Tuesday, October 29, 2024  
Session-II  
**Understanding the Neighbourhood**



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Amb Abdul Basit**



Speaker - II  
**Amb Asif Ali Khan Durrani**



Speaker - III  
**Dr Erfa Iqbal, BOI**



Moderator  
**Prof Dr Arshi Saleem Hashmi**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- China's relationship with Pakistan has evolved from an “all-weather friendship” to an “all-weather strategic alliance,” leading to deeper collaboration at all levels.
- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initially focused on infrastructure projects as “early harvest projects” but has since expanded to include industrial cooperation, agriculture, energy, and special economic zones.
- Various narratives exist regarding CPEC - some view it as a game-changer for Pakistan, while others, particularly geopolitical analysts from China, perceive it as part of broader regional dynamics. Meanwhile, skeptics question its feasibility and Pakistan's ability to manage it effectively.
- India has well-defined strategic objectives: making the Jammu and Kashmir dispute irrelevant or resolving it on its terms, maintaining pressure on Pakistan, and exploiting internal fault lines to destabilize Pakistan politically and economically.
- India's policy of minimal engagement ensures that it interacts with Pakistan only when necessary. It effectively uses the narrative of “talks and terror cannot go together” to maintain its strategic upper hand.
- Pakistan's internal challenges, including governance issues, political instability, corruption, and economic mismanagement, are the primary obstacles to its economic progress.
- Trade normalization with India should not be a solution to Pakistan's economic problems. To achieve sustainable growth, the country requires structural and internal reforms.
- Pakistan's approach toward India requires strategic patience and prudence. It must clearly define its strategic objectives regarding the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, establish its red lines, and engage India through backchannel diplomacy where necessary.
- The revolutionary nature of Iran's political system has led to expansionist tendencies, shaping its regional policies and causing tensions with neighboring countries and global powers.
- Iran's post-revolution declaration of Shia Islam as the state religion created ideological rifts with Sunni-majority countries like Pakistan, complicating their bilateral relationship.
- Afghanistan's instability remains a major regional security challenge, compelling Pakistan to adopt a delicate policy balance in managing the refugee influx and potential security threats.

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Session-I

# Understanding the Economic Fundamentals of Pakistan



# SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow  
**Dr Hafeez Shaikh**



Speaker - I  
**Mr Abid Qayyum Sulehri**



Speaker - II  
**Ms Asma Hyder**



Speaker - III  
**Mr Tobias Akhtar Haque**



Speaker - IV  
**Mr Sakib Sherani**



Moderator  
**Ms Afia Malik**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Pakistan's GDP growth has remained inconsistent due to political instability, natural disasters, security concerns, and inadequate economic reforms, causing it to lag behind regional competitors such as India and Bangladesh.
- A low GDP exacerbates poverty, unemployment, and low productivity. Inflation, driven by natural calamities like floods and the COVID-19 pandemic, continues eroding low-income households' purchasing power.
- Since 1980, China's per capita income has grown by 53%, whereas Pakistan's has only increased by 4%.
- Fiscal deficits persist due to a narrow tax base, excessive public spending, and rising debt servicing costs. These contribute to a mounting debt burden and create a cycle of international borrowing to meet financial obligations.
- Addressing the current account deficit is crucial for optimizing the public sector, including its correct size. This should be followed by privatizing state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to enhance efficiency and eliminate elite extraction groups.
- Only 10-15% of the national budget is allocated to infrastructure projects, further compromised by inefficiencies such as poor feasibility studies, project delays, and cost escalations.
- Pakistan ranks 164th out of 193 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) and 143rd on the Human Capital Index (HCI).
- The country faces critical social challenges, including malnutrition affecting 40% of children, 25 million out-of-school children, deteriorating law and order, high population growth, political instability, and a child mortality rate of 61 per 1,000 – the highest in the region.
- The agriculture sector contributes 20-25% of GDP and employs over 40% of the labor force, necessitating the adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) to mitigate the effects of climate change. This includes water conservation, efficient irrigation, drought-resistant crops, crop diversification, climate-resilient seeds, precision agriculture, farmer education, agricultural insurance, and investment in research and development.

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Session-II

## Trade and Investment in Pakistan - Opportunities and Challenges (Part - I)



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Mr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan**



Speaker - II  
**Syed Aftab Haider**



Speaker - III  
**Ms Qurat ul Ain**



Speaker - IV  
**Mr Yousaf Hussain**



Moderator  
**Dr Sarwat Rauf**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The digitization of trade has made trade practices more equitable and efficient; however, it has also increased the threat of cyber-attacks, posing significant risks and challenges.
- Digitization has expanded trade avenues and portfolios, enabling individuals, particularly women, to work remotely from home.
- The global trade landscape is shifting in favor of technologically advanced states. A skilled workforce and cutting-edge technology have become strategic assets in attracting business and investment.
- Pakistan has a negative trade balance of \$24 billion. High energy costs contribute to rising production costs, reducing exporters' competitiveness and leading to higher imports and lower exports.
- The current investment climate in Pakistan has failed to attract the level of foreign direct investment (FDI) and capital inflows necessary for robust economic growth.
- Pakistan struggles to attract investment due to severe security challenges and cumbersome bureaucratic procedures, which are significant impediments.
- The country's governance structure is highly complex, characterized by weak ministerial coordination and fragmentation among federal, provincial, and local governments.
- Pakistan has the lowest FDI-to-GDP ratio in the region. A one-stop investor interface must be established urgently to facilitate and encourage investment.
- Market access, political stability, a secure environment, and strategic narrative-building are key factors in attracting buyers.
- Pakistan's macroeconomic environment is unstable. Long-term policy consistency and political stability are crucial for sustained economic growth and development. A firm foreign policy and government facilitation of the business community would also help Pakistan expand its global business outreach.
- Government institutions must actively resolve inter-provincial disputes and ensure a level playing field for traders to foster a more investment-friendly environment.

Wednesday, October 30, 2024  
Session-III  
Tax Reforms and Monetary Policy



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Mr Khalid Jameel**



Speaker - II  
**Dr Inyat Hussain**



Moderator  
**Ms Anam Saif**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Pakistan's low tax-to-GDP ratio (9.7%) highlights a significant revenue shortfall, necessitating borrowing and undermining fiscal sustainability.
- Industries contribute 53% of tax revenues despite accounting for only 18% of GDP, whereas the agriculture and retail sectors remain under-taxed. This imbalance underscores the need for fairer tax policies across all industries.
- The division of tax collection responsibilities between the federal and provincial governments creates inefficiencies, opportunities for tax evasion, and administrative complexities.
- Initiatives such as online tax filing, real-time tracking, and the proposed National Targeting Centre aim to enhance transparency, enforcement, and revenue collection through technology and data integration.
- A large portion of the economy, tiny businesses, and supply chains remain undocumented. Targeted interventions, such as RFID tracking and improved supply chain visibility, are essential to address this gap.
- Smuggling through border areas leads to significant revenue losses. Measures such as digital enforcement stations and integrated border management systems are crucial to mitigate this issue.
- Global challenges have contributed to worldwide inflationary pressures, including COVID-19, the commodity supercycle, and the Russia-Ukraine war.
- The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) raised the policy rate from 7% to 22%, which helped bring inflation down from a peak of 38% to 6.9%. This demonstrates the effectiveness of monetary policy. Additionally, fiscal and administrative measures, including import restrictions, were crucial in reducing Pakistan's current account deficit from \$17.5 billion to \$1.7 billion.
- Achieving macroeconomic stability requires addressing structural issues, particularly Pakistan's low export levels and heavy reliance on imports, contributing to recurring balance-of-payments crises.
- The SBP's five-year strategic plan focuses on maintaining economic stability, building foreign exchange reserves, and promoting financial inclusion through digital banking. These efforts are expected to drive long-term economic growth and efficiency.

Thursday, October 31, 2024

Session-I

# Trade and Investment in Pakistan - Opportunities and Challenges (Part - II)



# SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow  
**Dr Ashfaque Hasan Khan**



Speaker - I  
**Mr Kamran Arshad**



Speaker - II  
**Ms Kanwal Cheema**



Speaker - III  
**Mr Saquib H. Shirazi**



Speaker - IV  
**Mr Shakeel Ahmed Mangnejo**



Moderator  
**Ms Aania Alam**

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Pakistan will struggle to compete in the international market unless the government implements competitive energy tariffs domestically.
- Business people are not inherently dishonest and should not be treated with undue suspicion. Instead, supportive policies are essential to fostering a business-friendly environment.
- Pakistan's rapidly growing population is its greatest asset and most pressing challenge. With 64% of the population under 30, the country has a significant opportunity for economic growth, provided this potential is harnessed effectively.
- There is a substantial gap between Pakistan's technological landscape and advanced economies. Pakistan has already missed several major technological waves, including the rapid adoption of smartphones and cloud computing.
- To prevent falling behind further, Pakistan must capitalize on the current wave of technological advancements, including generative AI, cloud computing, 5G, blockchain, and the digital transformation of key sectors.
- Pakistan ranks as the third most attractive country for IT outsourcing, highlighting its strong potential in the global tech sector.
- Starting a technology business in Pakistan is significantly more cost-effective than in countries like Australia, where a new tech startup might only reach 500 to 1,000 people. In contrast, thanks to its high population density, a new technology business in Karachi can reach 10 to 20 million people.
- A stronger focus on human capital development and vertical investments is essential to driving long-term economic growth.
- Given the current economic climate, private sector investment should be the primary growth driver, with the government acting as a facilitator.
- Despite political and economic challenges over the past five years, Pakistan's average growth rate remains at 5%.
- Tax incentives should be structured to encourage compliance, particularly among major corporations, which must be held accountable in cases of non-compliance.

Thursday, October 31, 2024

Session-II

# Energy Potential of Pakistan - Opportunities & Challenges



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Mr Shahid Hamid**



Speaker - II  
**Mr Kashif Mateen Ansari**



Speaker - III  
**Mr Khushal Khan**



Moderator  
**Ms Sobia Becker**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) aims to ensure food and water security by constructing dams and other water resources by 2050.
- Currently, WAPDA's power generation capacity stands at 35,000 GWh annually. This capacity is expected to increase to 90,000 GWh upon completion of ongoing projects.
- By 2040, renewable energy will contribute 40% to global energy systems, accounting for two-thirds of total investments and generation capacity. While Asia is expected to rely more on solar energy, Europe will likely rely more on wind energy.
- One significant challenge in Pakistan's energy sector is losing over 25% of energy during transmission and distribution. Decentralizing the grid system is a viable solution.
- Nuclear energy holds significant potential for Pakistan. Expanding its share in the energy mix can help stabilize the base load supply within the system.
- Pakistan's energy generation is season-dependent. During summer, northern rivers bear the primary energy load, while in winter, it shifts to coal-powered plants in the South. However, the absence of a reliable transmission network exacerbates seasonal and region-specific energy crises.
- Pakistan's energy transmission infrastructure requires a technological overhaul, focusing on establishing new, efficient transmission lines.
- Investment in hydropower generation remains low. However, funding can be sourced from the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), WAPDA's resources, international development finance, and green Eurobonds.
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the energy sector is not considered a viable financial support mechanism due to unfavorable terms and conditions, making it a low priority for many countries.
- Regarding policymaking, Pakistan's energy policies are heavily data-driven but lack comprehensive analysis. The country has witnessed asymmetrical solarization, resulting in an unexpected boom in the solar industry.
- Greater domestic solarization will lead to higher capacity charges because off-grid consumers will shift grid maintenance costs to a smaller user base. Therefore, policymakers must conduct thorough assessments to mitigate potential backlash.

Thursday, October 31, 2024

Session-III

# Economy of Pakistan: Opportunities & Challenges



# SPEAKER



Speaker  
**Mr Ali Pervaiz Malik**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Economic indicators such as GDP growth, inflation, foreign reserves, and tax revenues must be stabilized. The short-term maturity of foreign debt and high refinancing risks necessitate IMF support to maintain dollar liquidity and reserves.
- To reduce the fiscal deficit, all sources of income must be taxed to achieve a 15% tax-to-GDP ratio. Additionally, a balanced approach to direct and indirect taxation should be pursued through digitalization and consumption mapping.
- Ensuring a climate-resilient economic ecosystem is crucial. Fiscal discipline must protect businesses from election-cycle disruptions and ensure policy continuity. Moreover, establishing commercial courts is necessary to expedite financial dispute resolution.
- Pakistan's export-to-GDP ratio is currently less than 10% and must be increased to 15%. Promoting traditional and non-traditional exports, particularly in emerging frontier markets, while maintaining a realistic exchange rate policy can achieve this.
- To boost economic growth and productivity, Pakistan can adopt India's model of maintaining a 30% investment-to-GDP ratio through large-scale annual investments. Additionally, ensuring financial inclusion and increasing women's economic participation are essential.
- Foreign reserves can be strengthened by adjusting import duties to favor raw materials while discouraging imports of finished goods.
- Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and initiatives to promote energy conservation, encourage fuel indigenization, and boost remittances must be reviewed.
- Independent and credible regulatory bodies free from government influence must be established to ensure regulatory autonomy and enhance institutional capacity building. The role of key regulatory agencies such as the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), NEPRA, OGRA, and PBS should be strengthened.
- Countries such as India, Indonesia, and Vietnam have achieved sustained economic growth through structural reforms, the rule of law, a focus on export-oriented manufacturing, and improvements in agricultural yields.
- Pakistan's economic challenges can be successfully addressed through bold leadership, sustained reforms, a firm commitment to the rule of law, and ensuring contract enforcement.

Friday, November 01, 2024

Session-I

# The Art & Science of Narrative Shaping in the Post Truth Era



# SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow  
**Mr Mushahid Hussain Syed**



Speaker - I  
**Ms Liu Xin**



Speaker - II  
**Ms Anna Belkina**



Speaker - III  
**Syed Talat Hussain**



Speaker - IV  
**Mr Asad Baig**

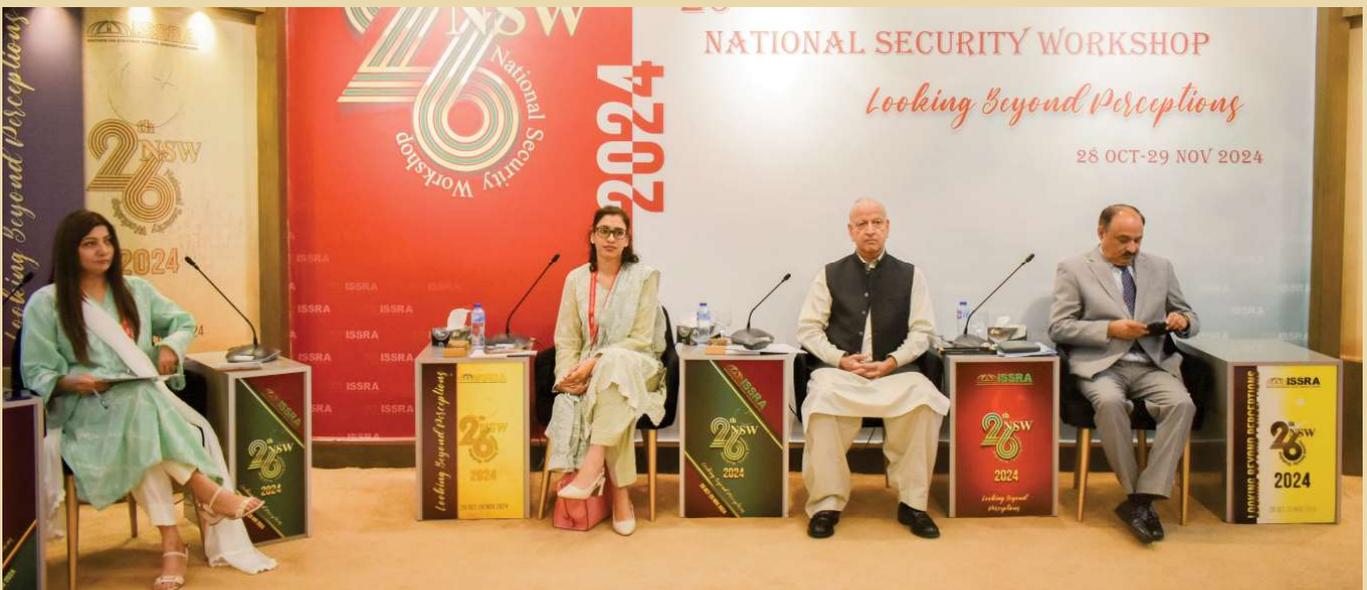


Moderator  
**Ms Aniqah Nisar**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Narratives evolve organically within ecosystems and cannot simply be constructed artificially. Narrative shaping determines how stories are framed and prioritized, influencing public perception, political decisions, social justice movements, and even the control of societal discourse.
- Pakistan's state narratives often fail due to their misalignment with ground realities and factual inconsistencies. Another major flaw is the inability to strategically highlight and utilize facts to foster public trust and engagement, particularly on politically sensitive issues. A clear example is Pakistan's failure to effectively convey its contributions and achievements in the war on terror.
- The post-truth era has intensified the spread of misinformation through social media algorithms prioritizing shock value and emotional reactions. However, misinformation and disinformation are not exclusive to modern technology or media; they have been persistent challenges throughout history.
- Economic and political structures often exploit disinformation to advance specific agendas and polarizations. Narratives also develop through collective participation, sometimes leading to “crowdsourcing violence.”
- Western media has historically deployed simplistic and often misleading narratives to portray countries such as Russia and China in a negative light. In the case of China, an ongoing “cognitive war” aims to distort its global image by misrepresenting its actions and intentions. This selective storytelling has contributed to a global imbalance in information and perception. At the same time, China's initial lack of awareness and storytelling capabilities allowed Western media to dominate its global narrative.
- Media platforms like RT challenge Western dominance by providing alternative perspectives, yet such efforts are often labeled as part of an “information war.” Genuine pluralism in global media remains limited, as alternative voices frequently face resistance.
- Western media also employs narrative tactics to fragment alliances within the Global South, often highlighting disparities within blocs like BRICS to weaken their cohesion.
- Meanwhile, media platforms from the Global South, such as RT, CGTN, and Al Jazeera, are emerging as counter-narratives to challenge the dominance of Western outlets like CNN and BBC.

Friday, November 01, 2024  
Session-II  
**Governance Reforms - Bureaucracy**



# SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow  
**Dr Ishrat Husain**



Speaker - I  
**Ms Syedah Ramallah Ali**



Speaker - II  
**Dr Shoab Suddle**



Speaker - III  
**Mr Inamullah Khan**



Moderator  
**Ms Humaira Zia Mufti**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Street-level bureaucracy is crucial in delivering governance through direct public interaction. However, public expectations for timely problem resolution often clash with financial constraints, leading to delays in addressing issues.
- Grassroots officials face challenges, including inadequate training, limited resources, and outdated management practices. As a result, they often operate in crisis mode rather than implementing systemic solutions.
- Pakistan's government workforce is heavily imbalanced, with 95% support staff and only 5% officers. This imbalance contributes to inefficiency, higher costs, and a lack of accountability.
- The British public-oriented policing model, introduced in London in 1826, was later adopted by the East India Company for major Indian cities like Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay.
- Pakistan inherited its police system from British India, based on the 1861 Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) model. This system was primarily designed for civilian control rather than civilian rights protection. In 1948, Pakistan developed a new police act for Karachi, but it was reversed due to typographical errors, which remain uncorrected.
- In 2002, General Musharraf introduced the Police Order (PO) 2002, emphasizing operational neutrality and good governance to restore public trust in law enforcement. However, its implementation varied across provinces because of the 18th Amendment, which allowed provinces to revert to the 1861 policing model. As a result, Balochistan reverted to the 1861 model, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) followed the Police Act 2017, Punjab and Sindh adopted PO 2002 but with amendments, and Islamabad implemented PO 2002 in 2022.
- Northern Ireland abolished the RUC due to its history of human rights violations. It replaced it with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), now a globally recognized model for police reform. Pakistan could learn valuable lessons from Northern Ireland's successful policing reforms to improve its law enforcement system.
- Political interference in bureaucracy undermines neutrality and professionalism by influencing appointments, promotions, and decision-making based on political loyalty rather than merit. This interference leads to inefficiency, corruption, weakened public services, and poor policy implementation.

Monday, November 04, 2024  
Session-I  
Media Landscape of Pakistan



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Mr Kaiser Rafiq**



Speaker - II  
**Mr Duraid Qureshi**



Speaker - III  
**Mian Aamir Mehmood**



Speaker - IV  
**Ms Ambreen Jan**



Moderator  
**Ms Naila Shuja**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Discover Pakistan is the country's first tourism-focused satellite channel showcasing its scenic beauty. With an impressive daily viewership of 80,000 in Germany, the channel highlights Pakistan's vast tourism potential and the growing international interest in its landscapes.
- There is a pressing need to train media producers to effectively capture and promote Pakistan's natural beauty to enhance tourism. Pakistan Television (PTV) must unify in projecting a positive national identity. With an extensive reach covering 90% of the population, PTV offers diverse content, including regional programming.
- Pakistan's private television channels boast 45 million subscribers and a significant viewership, demonstrating their strong audience appeal. These platforms present valuable opportunities for enhancing Pakistan's soft power and improving its global image.
- Countries like South Korea have successfully leveraged soft power through K-pop and dramas. Pakistan could adopt similar strategies to strengthen its cultural influence.
- There is an urgent need for media literacy programs to help the public distinguish between false and authentic news.
- The digitalization trend in countries such as US and UK has led to the transition of newspapers to paid digital formats.
- Private television channels and public skepticism towards state-run media have created a competitive media landscape. To remain relevant in the digital era, PTV should explore collaborative opportunities with countries such as China, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey to expand its influence and diversify content.

Tuesday, November 05, 2024  
Session-I  
**Governance Reforms - Judicial System  
of Pakistan**



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Mr Asad Rahim**



Speaker - II  
**Ms Sarah Belal**



Speaker - III  
**Mr Ashtar Ausaf**



Moderator  
**Ms Sheherazade Amin**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Land disputes account for 82% of cases heard in lower courts, with many remaining unresolved due to complex ownership and property rights issues.
- Pakistan's current land revenue system is outdated. It originated from an era when the King owned all land. This system prioritized revenue collection over fundamental human rights and individual ownership.
- There is no proper land registry; reforms are urgently needed to establish a centralized land registry, computerized land titles, and a digital revenue system to streamline ownership verification and dispute resolution.
- All public and social issues cases should be directed to the High Courts, while the Supreme Court should focus exclusively on constitutional matters.
- Additionally, the language barrier in court proceedings must be addressed. To ensure broader accessibility and understanding, a transition from English to Urdu should be implemented for spoken and written communications during hearings.
- An independent judiciary is crucial for protecting human rights. To maintain judicial integrity, the judiciary and legislature must operate without interference in each other's domains.
- Judicial reforms are urgently needed, particularly in the criminal justice system. Issues such as inconsistent adherence to legal precedents, incorrect sentencing, and the lack of adequate research in criminal law must be addressed.
- Public safety in courtrooms is often overlooked. Courts lack adequate security arrangements, which can compromise the well-being of litigants and legal professionals. Over the years, Pakistan's death row population has fluctuated, peaking in 2014, decreasing in 2020, and rising again in 2024.
- There is a critical need to enhance judicial accountability to prevent wrongful judgments and misapplication of the law.
- Institutional reforms must focus on reducing litigation backlogs. Establishing a judicial training center, in collaboration with medical experts and the Judicial Service Commission, is essential to educating judges on mental health issues and improving judicial decision-making.

Thursday, November 07, 2024

Session-I

## Higher Education & Technical / Vocational Training in Pakistan



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Mr Muhammad Aamir Jan**



Speaker - II  
**Dr Mukhtar Ahmed**



Speaker - III  
**Dr Arshad Mahmood**



Moderator  
**Dr Henna Karamat**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Total Factor Productivity (TFP) is a key driver of long-term economic growth. However, Pakistan has experienced a persistent decline in TFP growth, indicating a lack of sustained productivity improvements.
- Several factors contribute to Pakistan's low labor productivity, including inadequate skill composition, volatile policies, slow technology adoption, and insufficient research and development (R&D) initiatives.
- The Higher Education Commission (HEC) faces significant challenges, particularly in governance, quality assurance, and financial constraints.
- Pakistan's diaspora, which numbers 10.7 million, remitted \$30.3 billion in FY23/24, with 2.4 million workers in Saudi Arabia alone contributing approximately \$7.5 billion annually.
- The demand for skilled labor in knowledge-based economies is rising. The increasing reliance on skill verification systems like TAKAMOL signals a shift from unskilled labor toward higher competency standards.
- To enhance the national skill set, strategic planning should prioritize improving Pakistan's ranking on the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Labor Productivity Index, making them core economic planning and resource allocation pillars.
- More excellent investment in skills development directly correlates with higher economic growth and progress.
- A comprehensive "Skill Sector Stimulus" should be developed with relevant stakeholders. This initiative should establish centers of excellence through joint ventures and implement financially viable programs to strengthen Pakistan's skill development ecosystem.

Thursday, November 07, 2024

Session-II

## Social Sector Reforms - Health and Population Welfare



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Prof Dr Ghazna Khalid Siddiqui**



Speaker - II  
**Mr Amer Ali Ahmad**



Speaker - III  
**Mr Iftikhar Ali Shallwani**

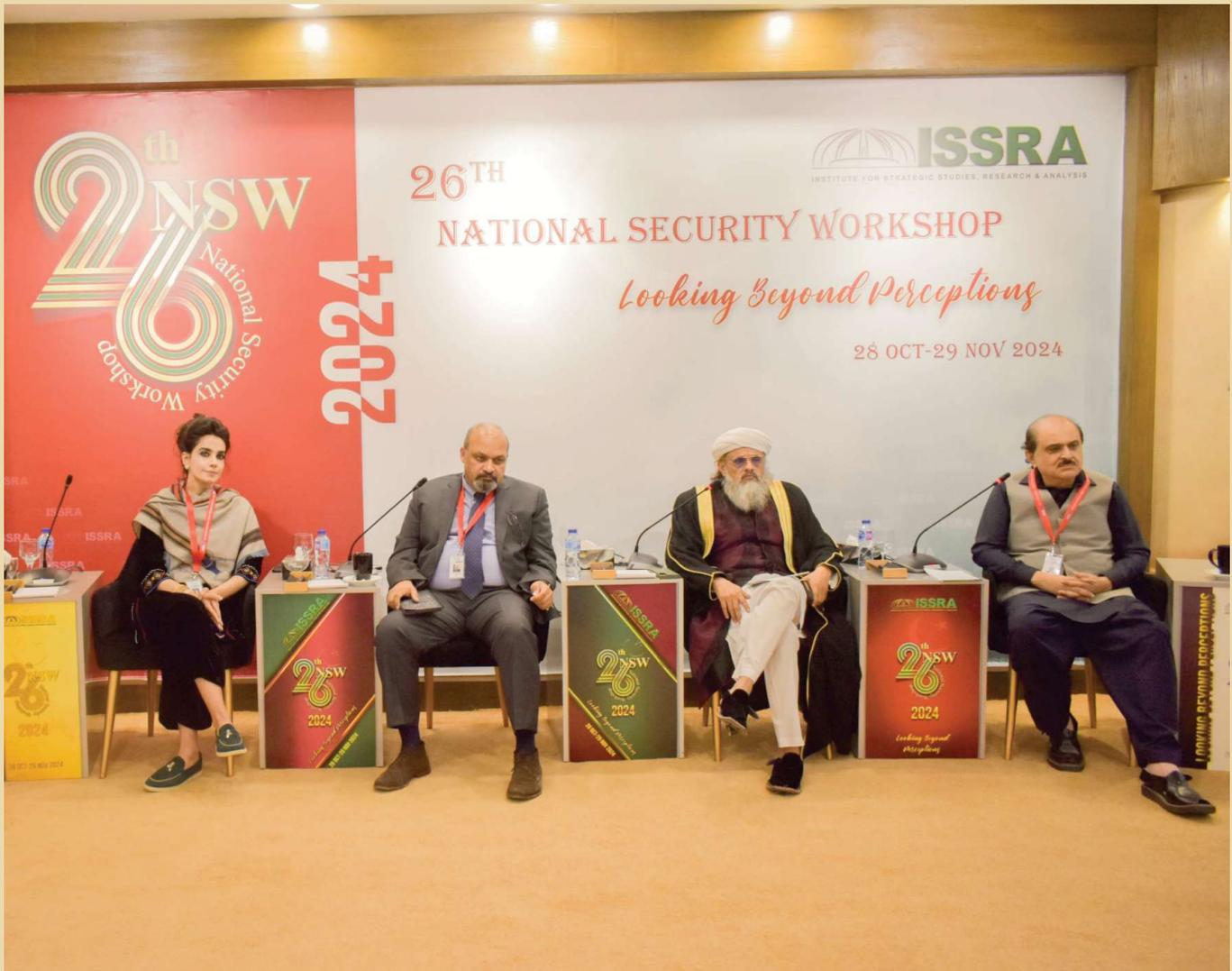


Moderator  
**Dr Shimail Daud**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Following the 18th Amendment, healthcare in Pakistan became a devolved subject, managed independently by provincial governments.
- Donor funding for Pakistan's health sector remains exceptionally low at just 1%, significantly lower than in other developing countries.
- The private healthcare sector provides 80% of health services in Pakistan, yet most people lack access to quality healthcare. Additionally, inefficiencies in primary healthcare centers have driven people toward larger hospitals, resulting in overcrowding and inefficient service delivery.
- Lady Health Workers (LHWs) play a pivotal role in healthcare outreach, yet they only reach 2% of the population, forcing greater reliance on community-level healthcare providers.
- The government aims to achieve universal healthcare access by 2030, ensuring affordability for all. Strategic purchasing is emphasized to enhance system efficiency and service delivery.
- A well-developed health and education sector is a prerequisite for economic growth. However, Pakistan, among the 43 poorest nations, faces considerable challenges. The country's 35% out-of-school rate and rapidly growing population strain limited resources.
- Weak institutional capacity has resulted in poor accountability, lack of responsibility, and ineffective participatory governance.
- Addressing financial shortages, enhancing professional training, and ensuring the availability of modern technology are essential to meeting growing demands.
- Operational expenses should be aligned with demand and supply dynamics, while income support programs must be developed to aid vulnerable populations.
- Stronger collaboration among stakeholders is crucial for strengthening social sectors. Both public and private sectors must work together to address pressing challenges in healthcare and education.
- There is an urgent need to rebuild public trust in government services. At the same time, the government must focus on enhancing institutional capacity and leveraging innovative programs to improve healthcare and education outcomes.

Friday, November 08, 2024  
Session-I  
**Social Sector Reforms - Education**



# SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow  
**Ms Zubaida Jalal**



Speaker - I  
**Ms Anna Faisal**



Speaker - II  
**Dr Faisal Bari**



Speaker - III  
**Mufti Imran Javed**



Speaker - IV  
**Mr Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani**



Moderator  
**Dr Ayesha Malik**

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Private-sector educational institutions contribute to developing knowledge-based societies, while universities are the foundation of a knowledge economy.
- Three significant factors impact Pakistan's education sector: poverty and lack of economic capacity, overpopulation, and low government priority on education.
- Pakistan's educational progress depends on addressing the challenges its three parallel education systems pose: Private, Public, and Religious (Madrassas).
- Harmonizing these systems through a standardized curriculum, equitable resource allocation, and quality assurance can bridge disparities, promote inclusivity, and ensure holistic development.
- Climate change-related school closures due to floods, pandemics, and extreme weather conditions pose a significant challenge. Online education infrastructure needs to be enhanced to serve as an effective alternative.
- However, online learning has challenges, such as cyber threats, data privacy risks, and online exposure hazards for children and young learners.
- Malnutrition, affecting nearly 40% of Pakistani children, threatens the nation's socio-economic future. Implementing nutrition programs tailored to underprivileged areas is crucial to address this issue.
- A national education emergency must bring all stakeholders on board for significant reforms and effective implementation.
- The first step toward improving the education sector is conducting a thorough assessment to formulate an appropriate strategy. Increasing government investment is necessary to address deficiencies in infrastructure, human resources, logistics, and curriculum development.
- Public education should focus on the underprivileged, as Pakistan's future economic and social progress is directly tied to the development of its education sector.
- The religious education system (Madrassas) should be integrated with mainstream education, incorporating modern subjects such as science, vocational training, and skill-based education. Similarly, mainstream education should include a religious curriculum to ensure a balanced approach.
- Ulema and scholars should collaborate through a joint forum to facilitate dialogue, planning, and coordination, improving religious and mainstream education systems.

Friday, November 08, 2024  
Session-II  
**Governance in AJ&K and  
Gilgit Baltistan**



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Mr Dawood M. Bareach**



Speaker - II  
**Capt Ali Asghar (Retd)**



Speaker - III  
**Mr Jamal Aziz**



Moderator  
**Ms Musarat Jabeen**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- AJK government operates under the 1974 Interim Constitution, which establishes a parliamentary system of governance similar to Pakistan's 1973 Constitution.
- AJK boasts Pakistan's highest Human Development Index (HDI), with a literacy rate of nearly 80%, a 23-year polio-free status, and a strong primary healthcare system.
- However, significant challenges remain, including revenue-expenditure mismatches and rising salary and pension costs. The absence of a robust private sector further exacerbates reliance on public funds, necessitating innovative approaches for sustainable development and employment generation. As a response, strict austerity measures have been implemented to curb unnecessary expenses.
- The Kashmir dispute requires a comprehensive approach that acknowledges its multifaceted nature. India has violated UN commitments by attempting to integrate Kashmir into its constitutional framework, portraying the issue as an internal matter and a counterterrorism concern.
- Pakistan must counter India's terrorism narrative by emphasizing human rights violations and the illegality of unilateral actions, such as the revocation of Articles 370 and 35A. Diplomatic efforts should focus on maintaining Kashmir's status as an international dispute and leveraging third-party mediation where possible.
- GB operates under the 2018 Governance Order and faces challenges balancing regional autonomy, mobilizing resources, and addressing infrastructural deficits. GB is divided into three administrative regions: Gilgit, Diamer-Astore, and Baltistan.
- Law and order in GB remain generally stable. Baltistan has the lowest crime rates but faces emerging political and religious tensions. Gilgit, historically affected by sectarian violence, has seen improvements due to increased vigilance and a growing tourism sector.
- Education levels vary significantly across GB, ranging from 100% literacy in Hunza to a mere 7% female literacy rate in Diamer.
- Undocumented land and unsettled territories hinder development efforts. Land reforms and record digitization are expected to unlock vast agricultural and developmental potential.
- GB's key development priorities include enhancing air connectivity, promoting sustainable tourism, addressing energy shortages, and resolving constitutional ambiguities.

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Session-I

# Media Regulations, Code of Conduct & Ethics



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Mr Wakeel Khan**



Speaker - II  
**Mr Wasi Ullah Khan**



Speaker - III  
**Mr Abbas Ahsan**



Moderator  
**Ms Sumera Khan**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) aims to enhance the standards of information, education, and entertainment while ensuring the free flow of information through accountability, transparency, and good governance.
- Electronic media is divided into broadcast and distribution networks. PEMRA is responsible for issuing licenses through an open and transparent bidding process.
- Key challenges in media regulation include broadcasting ethical content, adhering to a code of conduct, and preventing fake news and hate speech while ensuring the dissemination of credible news.
- The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) protects consumer interests, promotes competition, and safeguards local and foreign investors from monopolization.
- Regulating web TV and over-the-top (OTT) content remains a significant challenge for regulatory authorities.
- Pakistan's telecom sector has experienced steady growth. Broadband usage increased by 142% in 2024, and data consumption surged by 932% since 2018. Pakistan has 138 million broadband users, with over 70 million active on social media platforms.
- Social media platforms are a defining feature of the digital age, yet they lack editorial oversight, allowing the spread of misinformation and fake news without proper fact-checking mechanisms.
- The government has struggled to regulate social media, alternating between strict enforcement and a hands-off approach. However, blocking access to social media is impractical. Instead, awareness campaigns for children and parents and regulatory interventions offer a more practical approach.
- Pakistan ranks among the top three global freelance service providers. However, freelancers face several challenges, including poor connectivity, difficulties securing clients, and exploitation in payment processes.
- The telecom sector faces multiple obstacles, such as high taxation rates, rising business costs, and deteriorating economic and security conditions.
- Both state and non-state actors use social media platforms to shape public opinion. Therefore, developing online content regulations that comply with international standards is essential.
- The government must enhance the capacity of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and police departments to combat cybercrime effectively.

Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
Session-II

## Role of Art, Culture and Heritage (Soft Power) in National Cohesion and Narrative Shaping



# SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow  
**Mr Shahid Nadeem**



Speaker - I  
**Mr Shehzad Roy**



Speaker - II  
**Ms Feryal Ali Guahar**



Speaker - III  
**Dr Najeeba Arif**



Speaker - IV  
**Ms Nighat Ch**



Moderator  
**Ms Hira Mustafa**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Art is a fundamental component of Pakistan's cultural identity. It is crucial to recognize art as an integral aspect of culture rather than a taboo and highlight the performing arts' role in enhancing the country's soft power.
- The lack of adequate infrastructure and avenues for artistic expression has led to a disconnect between the youth and their rich cultural heritage.
- Pakistan's education landscape has benefited from remarkable contributions by various individuals and NGOs. These efforts should be leveraged as part of the country's soft power strategy to foster national cohesion.
- Challenges in education quality persist, including poor teacher qualifications, a high rate of out-of-school children, and the prevalence of corporal punishment. This underscores the urgent need to incorporate critical thinking into the curriculum.
- Strong policy advocacy is urgently needed to improve teacher evaluation processes and safeguard students. This advocacy should emphasize the crucial role of education in fostering a progressive society.
- Narratives must be rooted in strong philosophical foundations, reflecting reality rather than mere perceptions.
- Research highlights the significance of inner happiness, suggesting that the arts and literature play a vital role in personal fulfillment and societal well-being.
- Pakistani literature should be globally promoted to strengthen its connection with universal human values.
- Advocating for greater recognition of Pakistan's rich and diverse historical and cultural pluralism will address misconceptions about its identity.
- Understanding the significance of historical sites such as Mohenjo-Daro and the impact of the Silk Route on Pakistan's cultural evolution is crucial for understanding the nation's heritage.
- These factors highlight the importance of embracing and celebrating Pakistan's diverse heritage as a unifying force for its people.
- References to the "Dancing Lady," which symbolizes Pakistan's vibrant historical legacy, exemplify the role of cultural narratives in shaping national identity.

Thursday, November 14, 2024  
Special Session  
**Evolving Global Order  
& South Asia**



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Mr Steve Coll**



Speaker - II  
**Mr Victor Gao**



Speaker - III  
**Mr Mushahid Hussain Syed**



Moderator  
**Ms Aiza Azam**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The world is at a critical juncture, with increasing risks of conflict, making global peacebuilding efforts more essential than ever.
- A Third World War would have catastrophic consequences, underscoring the urgent need to prevent large-scale conflicts.
- If upheld, former US President Donald Trump's stance on avoiding wars during his tenure could be a significant milestone in global peace efforts.
- China's rapid advancements in military technology, nuclear capabilities, and space exploration reshaped the global strategic landscape.
- US is expected to significantly increase defense spending, emphasizing nuclear modernization and advanced military technology.
- Strategic realignments include reallocating military resources from the Middle East and Ukraine to counter China's expanding influence.
- India's approach toward the US is marked by strategic autonomy, making it a less reliable partner in Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy.
- The unpredictability of US foreign policy under Trump arises from inconsistent and contradictory stances, creating global uncertainty.
- China's dominance in drone manufacturing and technological innovation is transforming modern warfare.
- Efforts to restrict China's technological advancements through sanctions have backfired, strengthening its self-sufficiency.
- US-China rivalry intensifies in the trade, defense, and technology sectors, with far-reaching global consequences.
- Pakistan is encouraged to actively participate in China's expanding space and technological initiatives for mutual strategic and economic benefits.
- Connectivity and regional cooperation are shaping the future of South Asia and global stability.
- The militarization of Asia contradicts the region's increasing focus on connectivity, integration, and economic development.
- The Global South is strengthening its position through enhanced economic partnerships and connectivity initiatives.

Friday, November 15, 2024

Session-I

# Looking into the Future - Technology & Human Society



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Alexey Kuznetsov**



Speaker - II  
**Dr Umar Saif**



Speaker - III  
**Mr Muhammad Zohaib Khan**



Speaker - IV  
**Dr Maria Sultan**



Moderator  
**Dr Nudrat Nida**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Modern security paradigms now prioritize protecting digital infrastructure, countering cyber threats, and maintaining technological advancements. These evolving challenges necessitate revised policies tailored to the digital age.
- Technological advancements are blurring the lines between civilian and military applications, leading to hyper-personalized warfare in which everyday objects can be weaponized.
- AI-driven systems are increasingly handling tactical and strategic decisions at unprecedented speeds, making it essential to develop countermeasures against AI-driven threats while ensuring practical human-AI collaboration.
- AI is as transformative as gunpowder and the Internet. It enhances efficiency, automates complex tasks, and revolutionizes governance and public administration.
- In governance, AI applications are involved in land reforms and monitoring educational outcomes. However, human intervention remains critical for ensuring ethical decision-making and contextual understanding.
- AI cannot fully replace human intuition, creativity, or moral judgment. This underscores the need for human oversight in complex decision-making processes.
- Pakistan's technology sector, led by organizations such as the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT), P@SHA, and PSEB, aims to position the country as a global tech exporter by training youth and fostering innovation.
- However, regulatory constraints hinder the growth of Pakistan's tech industry, forcing companies to retain earnings abroad. Reforms are required to promote local adoption of home-grown technologies.
- Despite producing 75,000 IT graduates annually, only 2,000 - 3,000 secure jobs in the industry. This gap highlights the need to enhance education and skills training to align with global market demands.

Friday, November 15, 2024

Session-II

Talk by MoSIT&T



# SPEAKER



Speaker  
**Ms Shaza Fatima Khawaja**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Human resources are the most valuable capital in the information technology sector. Providing high-tech training to 100,000 individuals requires an investment of hundreds of billions of PKR, making it a crucial step toward a skilled workforce.
- This investment will yield significant results over the next five years, strengthening Pakistan's IT industry and enhancing its global competitiveness.
- Pakistan's tech industry has experienced substantial growth over the past two years, positioning the country as a rising player in the global IT landscape.
- Pakistan has key advantages in the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, including a favourable time zone for Western clients, strong linguistic capabilities, and professionals whose accents closely match those of American and British clients.
- The primary challenge facing Pakistan's IT sector is not brain drain but the limited availability of skilled professionals. Addressing this issue requires focused efforts on training more individuals to prevent a talent shortage from hindering growth.
- Pakistan is set to advance its national digitalization efforts through the anticipated enactment of the Pakistan Digital Authority legislation. This initiative focuses on three key areas: E-Economy, E-Governance, and E-Everyday Life.
- While digitalization in Pakistan offers limitless potential, it presents significant challenges for the IT sector. Key issues include adapting to a global technological paradigm shift, ensuring citizen privacy, and Regulating AI.
- Addressing these challenges proactively is essential for ensuring the sustainable growth of Pakistan's IT sector.

Monday, November 25, 2024  
Session-I  
**National Cohesion and Harmony**



# SPEAKERS



Speaker - I  
**Mr Javed Jabbar**



Speaker - II  
**Mr Uxi Mufti**



Speaker - III  
**Dr Anis Ahmed**

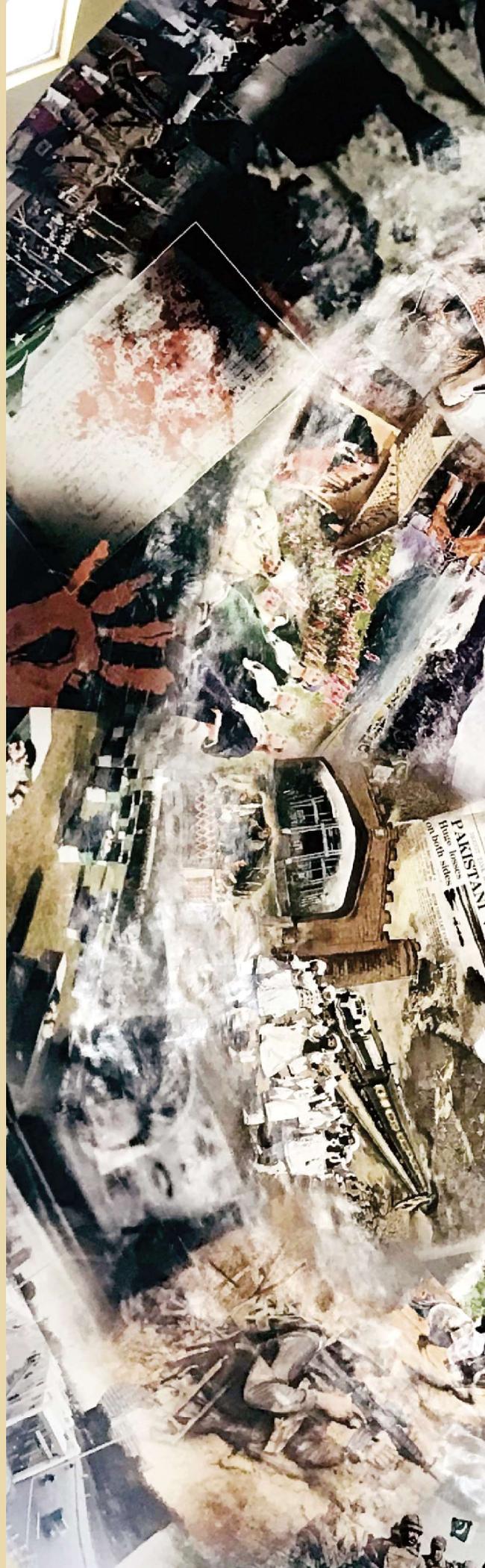


Moderator  
**Ms Gulandam Mian**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Cohesion refers to harmony, concord, unity, and unanimity. The foundation of this harmony is often rooted in shared racial, ethnic, or linguistic origins.
- However, the true essence of cohesion is contingent upon a common objective and purpose, shared ethical values, faith, and culture. Humanity shares a universal heritage based on ethics that transcend borders.
- The main obstacles to fostering national cohesion and harmony in Pakistan breed from the promotion of sub-national identities based on territory, race, and ethnicity. This divide is further reinforced by Pakistan's education system, political structure, and governance framework, leading to provincial and federal discord.
- In Pakistan, identity is often defined by ethnicity and language, leaving little space for pluralism. Judicial discrimination and social injustices, usually influenced by ethnic and regional biases, exacerbate these divisions. Additionally, at times, separatist ideologies manipulate religion to further their agendas.
- Key measures to cultivate a stronger national identity include inter-provincial student and teacher exchange programs, youth de-radicalization through dialogue and engagement, and fostering a shared ideology and national narrative and character building through Quranic teachings.
- We live in an era of rapid transformation, and managing this change is one of humanity's most significant challenges. Instead of advocating for sudden and disruptive revolutions, efforts should focus on gradual and positive change.
- Pakistan's ideology has always pursued unity, yet challenges persist. Fostering a positive socio-cultural environment is crucial for aligning our national journey with our ultimate vision and bringing about meaningful societal change.

# INLAND VISITS





U.S. ALL JACK AN

WILHELM KROHN ENGINEER TORONTO

India r. Rule

LAHORE

THE QUAIDE-AZAM'S LONG LIVE PAKISTAN

THE AUSTRALIAN VICTORY

PIA

NS AGAIN FOREIGN

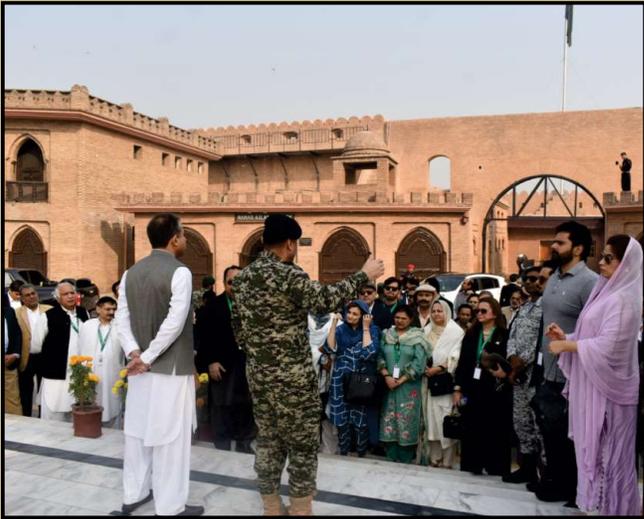
# Ministry of Foreign Affairs



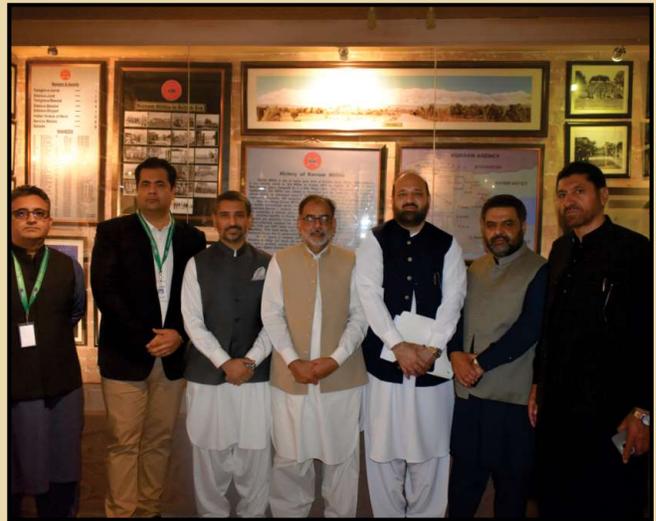
# National Aerospace Science & Technology Park (NASTP)



# Peshawar



# Peshawar



# Quetta



# Quetta



# Gwadar



# Gwadar



# Lahore



# Lahore



# Kamra, HIT



# Kamra, HIT



# Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (PINSTECH), Nilore



# Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA)



# EXERCISE PAKISTAN PAINDABAD

During the final week, the participants undertook an exercise “Pakistan Painsdabad”. Eight broad themes were identified and allocated to each group comprising specialists, technocrats, professionals and the politicians, to carry out an in-depth assessment of the themes:-

- Gaps Between Policy Formulation and Implementation and Measures to Improve Governance Structure in Pakistan
- The Post Truth Era Created New Opportunities and Challenges for Pakistan's Information Landscape and What can be the Future Roadmap?
- Pakistan's Key National Interests (not more than 5) and Outline the Strategy to Safeguard them Amidst Emerging Global Order
- The Government Develop a Strategy for Ease of Doing Business in Pakistan?
- Harness the Potential of Youth and Technology in Pakistan?
- Pakistan Capitalize on its Soft Power Potential to Improve its Global Outreach?

For the purpose of exercise, participants of each group were tasked to explore the challenges and opportunities of respective theme, while devising pragmatic recommendations for sustainable policies.



## THEME - 1: IDENTIFY THE GAPS BETWEEN POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION AND MEASURES TO IMPROVE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE IN PAKISTAN



Ms Amna Imran



Syed Mansoor Ali Shah



Abdul Shakoor Khan



Shahid Saud Ul Hassan



Sarah Ahmad



Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur



Hameed Hussain



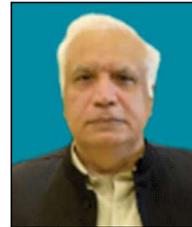
Imtiaz Nasim



Suraiya M. Zaman



Maj Gen Noor Wali



Tariq Rashid



Rameez Ahmed Mela



Faqir Hamim Masoom



Ahsan Ali Malik



Abaidullah Ansar



Mr Sajid Kiani

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The gap between policy formulation and implementation in Pakistan can be addressed by focusing on strengthening political stability, bureaucratic efficiency, and accountability mechanisms.
- There is a need to strengthen bureaucratic capacity through merit-based recruitment, regular training, and performance evaluations.
- Introduce public sector reforms such as inter-ministerial coordination frameworks, regular audits, and performance-based incentives.
- Conduct realistic budget analyses during policy design and enhance financial management systems with transparent budgeting and procurement processes.
- Ensure transparent governance by implementing independent audits and public reporting mechanisms.
- Empower local governments with autonomy and resources for tailored, faster decision-making and increased accountability.
- Implement e-governance tools for streamlined policy execution, transparency, and efficient monitoring using data analytics for informed decision-making.
- Enhance judicial mechanisms to ensure government actions comply with laws and policy frameworks, holding the executive accountable.

## THEME - 2: HOW HAS THE POST TRUTH ERA CREATED NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR PAKISTAN'S INFORMATION LANDSCAPE AND WHAT CAN BE THE FUTURE ROADMAP?



Hassan Waqar Raja



Izzat Javaid Khan



Dr Anam Javed



Syed Hussain Tariq



Dr Shaista Khan



Mohammad Abdullah Gul



Muhammad Rasheed



Ali Sohail Chaudhry



Sajjad Ullah



AVM Shahid Mansoor



Farman Ullah



Khalid Bin Sagheer



Ali Bin Nadeem



Dr Hamid Khan



Dr Wasima Shehzad



Dr Anila Sadaf

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Pakistan's large consumer base makes it an attractive market for technology and technology driven entrepreneurship. Decision-makers should focus on partnerships with technology and social platforms to harness opportunities effectively.
- Develop local tech zones at universities to foster collaboration among global tech players, state entities, and local stakeholders in areas such as AI, education, and agriculture.
- Formulate a National Technology Policy focusing on technology indigenization, standards, and regulations aligned with national security and international alliances.
- Partner with tech platforms to create AI-powered fact-checking systems for content verification and combating misinformation.
- Appoint Chief Information Officers (CIOs) in federal and provincial departments to regulate information policies and track key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Standardize and integrate governance KPIs across provinces, linking the Pakistan Citizen Portal with provincial and district reporting systems.
- A fusion of hard and soft measures is critical for leveraging opportunities in the technology sector while addressing associated challenges.
- Harmonize media, technology, digital platform, and data protection laws with international standards for uniform regulations.
- Establish high-level special tribunals to resolve cases of misuse of online content, swiftly and effectively. Create a national offender registry to track violators and restrict their employment in public and private sectors.

**THEME - 3 IDENTIFY PAKISTAN'S KEY NATIONAL INTERESTS  
AND OUTLINE THE STRATEGY TO SAFEGUARD THEM AMIDST  
EMERGING GLOBAL ORDER**



**Aneela Rabbani Khar**



**M Ahmad Khan**



**M.Faisal Malik**



**Umair Babar Chishti**



**Aasia Ishaque Siddiqui**



**Salma Saeed**



**M. Zarain Khan Magsi**



**Adnan Afzal Chattha**



**Muhammad Mahmood**



**Dr Saveera Parkash**



**Prof Dr Jan Muhammad**



**Dr Ehsan Ullah**



**Dr M. Hassan Khan**



**M. Arsallah Khan**



**Yaser Manzoor**



**Zohair Majeed**

## **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Pakistan, like any sovereign nation, has a complex set of national interests. As the global political landscape continues to shift, five key priorities emerge:- Economic Development & Prosperity, National Cohesion (Inter provincial and Federal Harmony), Human Resource Development through Skill Upgradation, Energy/Water Security & Climate Change (Engine of Growth), Internal Security & Territorial Integrity.
- Achieve sustainable economic growth by international trade, empowering youth, and reforming inefficient policies. Replace sectoral policies with universal incentives to boost entrepreneurship, optimize city land use, and reduce compliance burdens.
- Reform vocational training curricula to align with industry needs and establish skill development centers, particularly in underserved areas.
- Promote public-private partnerships for industry-specific workforce training and incentivize private sector investment in upskilling.
- Invest in renewable energy projects like solar, wind, and hydropower while modernizing the power grid to reduce energy losses and improve efficiency.
- Build water storage infrastructure, such as dams and reservoirs, and regulate groundwater extraction through licensing to address water scarcity.
- Strengthen law enforcement agencies to combat terrorism and militancy in Baluchistan and KPK. Engage with political and tribal leaders to build trust, address grievances, and leverage youth potential.

## THEME - 4 HOW CAN THE GOVERNMENT DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN PAKISTAN?



Mirza Salman Beg



Muzaffar Ahmed Mirza



Sabheen Ghoury



Khalil Tahir



Sabeen M Sultan



Fateh Ullah Khan



Farah Naz Akbar



Jamal Raisani



Javaid Ali Manwa



Karni Singh Sodha



Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari



Yasir Ilyas Khan



Dr Nasseer ud Din



Ahad Khattak



Umar Hussain Malik



Dr Razia Sultana



Hafiz Shamas Hameed

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Develop a Vision 2050 Charter of Business, free from political influence, to provide a long-term, stable economic framework for business growth.
- Implement a Single Window Interface through BOI, SIFC, and Pakistan Single Window to simplify business processes and enhance operational efficiency.
- Address delayed justice issues by establishing streamlined dispute resolution mechanisms and efficient insolvency frameworks.
- Foster a culture of policy predictability by avoiding sudden, unplanned policy changes that disrupt business operations.
- Ensure the provision of critical infrastructure, including utilities, roads, and water, to support industrial and commercial activities.
- Strengthen regulations by SBP, FBR, and SECP, focusing on corporate governance, efficient tax refunds, licensing, and seamless cross-border transactions.
- Drive economic growth and recovery through export promotion, leveraging incentives and international market integration.
- Establish unified digital platforms to improve IT infrastructure and streamline interactions between businesses and government.
- Involve academia and think tanks through university incubators and start-up ecosystems to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

## THEME - 5 HOW TO HARNESS THE POTENTIAL OF YOUTH AND TECHNOLOGY IN PAKISTAN?



Syed Kausar Abbas



Meena Baloch



Dania Rabbani Awan



Salahuddin Junejo



Ms Bisma Bader



Dr Sham Sunder



Rajab Ali Abbasi



Mir Ghulam Dastagir



Dr Anila Kamal



Haroon Ikram Sheikh



Dr Aisha Kashif



Mr Abdul Basit



Syed M. Taqi Rizvi



Syed Rehan Bin Waris



Mr Naeem Karim



Mr Ali Hamra

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Leverage Pakistan's youth dividend by integrating technology into education, entrepreneurship, and the labor market to drive economic growth and social development.
- Improve internet access through collaborations with telecom companies, offering subsidized smartphones and affordable, student-focused data packages.
- Establish regional tech hubs at leading STEM universities like PIEAS, UET, and GIKI, equipped with advanced tools, mentorship programs, and industry partnerships.
- Provide interest-free loans and seed funding through government-backed schemes with streamlined processes to support youth-led tech startups.
- Incorporate compulsory tech education in school curriculums, creating computer labs and training teachers, especially in rural areas, to build foundational digital literacy.
- Attract expatriate tech professionals by offering tax exemptions and relocation benefits to bring global expertise to local industries.
- Collaborate with embassies to create international STEM exchange programs, exposing youth to global technological practices.
- Organize youth innovation challenges at national and provincial levels to encourage tech-driven solutions for local issues, offering funding and mentorship for winners.
- Focus on Agri-Tech development, investing in water-saving technologies, startups, and sustainable agricultural practices to modernize and enhance productivity in agriculture.
- Adopt advanced tech ecosystems inspired by countries like Japan and Singapore, emphasizing education, skill development, and integration of technology into the economy.

## THEME - 6: HOW CAN PAKISTAN CAPITALIZE ON ITS SOFT POWER POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE ITS GLOBAL OUTREACH?



Manahil Duraid Qureshi



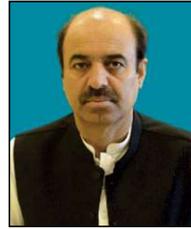
Dr. Najeeba Arif



Mr Nadir Gabol



Tahir Rasheed



Pullain Baloch



Muhammad Daniyal



Dr Sikandar Ali Shoro



Ms Shehla Bano



Ms Sadia Javed



Rear Admiral M. Khalid



Dr Nasir Mahmood



Mr M. Waleed Hassan



Mr Shahmir Shunaid



Syed Mughees Hassan



Mr Danish Aman



Mr Saifullah Sajjad

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Pakistan lacks a unified strategy and effective mechanisms to integrate efforts from relevant departments for leveraging its soft power.
- Poor infrastructure, limited funding, and weak policies hinder key areas like tourism, cultural industries, and education, restricting global exposure.
- Inconsistent national branding and insufficient investment in public diplomacy weaken Pakistan's ability to project its strengths internationally.
- Security concerns and perceived risks deter tourism, foreign investment, cultural exchanges, and sports diplomacy, perpetuating a negative global image.
- There is a dire need of establishing a Soft Power Promotion Board (SPB) under the Prime Minister, supported by a task force to develop an integrated policy, strategy, and action plan for soft power enhancement.
- Investment in branding and marketing by organizing international cultural festivals, showcasing tech hubs, leveraging the diaspora, and fostering global tech partnerships.
- Strengthen media and entertainment through global content projection, international collaborations, and utilizing social media to highlight Pakistan's cultural richness and beauty.
- Promote sports diplomacy by focusing on established sports like cricket and hockey while investing in global-reaching Olympic sports like athletics and boxing.
- Address law and order challenges by implementing the National Action Plan (NAP) and consistently projecting improvements in security at national and international levels.

# Certificate Ceremony













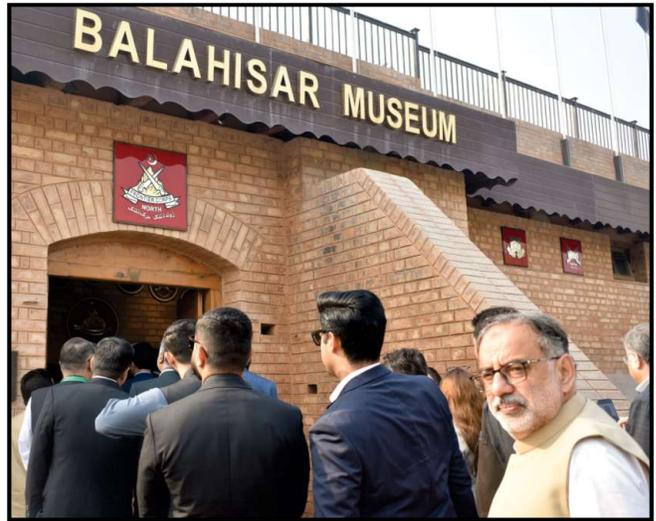


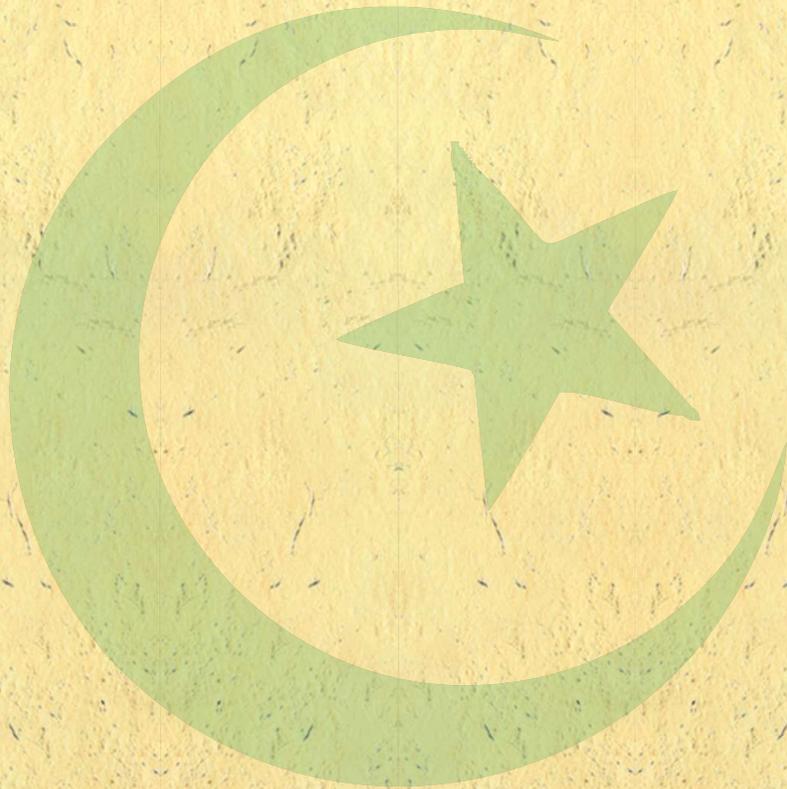
# Picture Gallery











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