

Media Tracking

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Education in Pakistan

- Why education reforms fail – Dr. Shahid Siddiqui in The News
According to a recent report, 22.6 million children are out of school in Pakistan. The education crisis was never tackled with the required political will. A number of political governments announced education policies with lofty claims and promises.
- Prime Minister briefed on uphill task to reform education sector – Hamid Khan Wazir in Pakistan Today
Standard of education could be judged from the fact that downslide trend has been witnessed in the literacy rate which went down from 60% to 58% and more than 41% of the enrolled children in primary school drop out before completing grade 5.
- Physical Education and Sports Promotion – Aamir Bilal in The News
Lack of physical fitness culture, due to poor physical education methods taught and practiced in our education institutions is a major factor behind poor performance. Standard of physical education and sport sciences in Pakistan is much lower than what is desired at the international level.
- UNICEF expresses desire to work on welfare policy for Pakistani children – in Daily Times
HEC plans to establish a regional research fund to promote research culture at grassroots level which will help people of different districts of Pakistan find solutions to their local problems.
- Baloch for uniform education system – in The News
Government had not devised any strategy for regulating private educational institutions and some decisions of courts which conflicted with the government's apathy were causing confusion. There was a need for a comprehensive and concrete policy for education at each and every level
- Pakistan education religious bias claimed – Kamran Chaudhry in UCA News
There is an over-emphasis on religion in Pakistan's education system, often with a bias against non-Muslims. "Subjects like social studies and languages have almost 40 percent religious material which non-Muslim students have to study," "Except Islam, no other religion or its concepts, are part of education policy."
- Human rights education for a vision – Shagufta Gul in Daily Times
Human Rights education if imparted with a true spirit can lead to a cohesive society, integrated, stable. It builds respect for non-violent conflict resolution, peace, positive social transformation, economic development, tolerance, and access to justice.
- Success story of Japanese higher education – Dr. Muhammad Tufail in Daily Times
The success of Japanese HES is indeed an outcome of the significant reforms implemented during the last two centuries (19th-20th) by adapting, accommodating and attaining the beneficial and advantageous knowledge, information and technology from a diverse education systems.

Infrastructure: The political costs and economic benefits of collaborating with China

- Philosophy of CPEC, KSA and Iran – by Naveed Aman Khan in Pakistan Observer
There are two reasons of Saudi Arabia's investment in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Firstly, the Saudi Arabia's decision to invest in an infrastructure project would surely offer it significant stakes in the Pakistani economy. Additionally, the new leadership in the KSA doesn't want to deteriorate ties with Pakistan as the former may still expect Pakistan's military support in case of any future domestic security challenge.
- JCC may permit other countries in CPEC projects – by Mehtab Haider in The News
The CPEC is regional cooperation project and that the coming JCC at Beijing would consider seeking approval of international cooperation framework to involve third party countries into CPEC projects. The CPEC would provide benefits to all with far reaching impacts.
- Afghanistan hosts Pakistan and China for talks on security and trade – in Al Jazeera
Afghanistan's Rabbani said his country also wants to participate in the Chinese initiative.
- Impact of CPEC on Pakistan – by Amna Javed in Pakistan Today
CPEC will create job opportunities inside Pakistan along with the improvement of the infrastructure and communication services proving a step forward for the overall development of the country.

Reducing Pakistan's public sector: How can we maintain public services and minimize backlash while we make the cuts demanded by the IMF?

- Government bringing new national tax agency – by Mehtab Haider in The News
Government was not undertaking austerity by reducing public sector spending for development, but it was implementing austerity by cutting down spending on perks and privileges for public representatives.
- Finance minister, SBP deny devaluation of rupee on IMF demand – Khalid Mustafa in The News
The government will further place the massive cut in development budget to achieve the budget deficit target that is to be agreed with IMF.
- Government offers IMF Rs190b in new taxes for bailout – by Shahbaz Rana in Express Tribune
Pakistan has proposed that it will increase sales tax rate on petroleum products in addition to further increasing petroleum development levy rates. The federal excise duty on beverages will be imposed. Compared to increase in tax revenues, the expenditures have been proposed to slash from 17.4% of the total size of economy to 16.5% in three years. The PSDP spending will be drastically slashed from 4.2% of the GDP last year to 3.5% by end of the IMF programme. In absolute terms, the PSDP spending will not be more than Rs850 billion even after four years.
- To go to IMF or not? - By Ajaz Haque in Express Tribune
Funding from the IMF will do no more than provide a band aid, so ideally such a treatment should be avoided. This government's efforts are already under way to curb money laundering and increase home remittances through legal channels. All solutions lie within, what is required is a serious effort to lift the economy by increasing revenue collection, productivity and exports; reviving the struggling industries; and diversifying exports from traditional goods.
- Stabilization measures – in DAWN

In the months to come, should the government embark upon the steep climb it has committed to the IMF, there will be temptation to resort to gimmickry to increase the burden on compliant taxpayers.

Reforming the Civil Service Pakistan

- Bureaucrats reject PM's proposed civil service reforms body – in Express Tribune
Meeting mostly pertained to the illegal and unconstitutional apportionment formula of 1993 — formula distributes seats among the PAS and PMS/PCS officers in the province — where the federal government had usurped slots in the provincial government.
- Are civil services reforms imminent – in Global Village Space
Major issue faced by civil servants is low salaries compared with the corporate sector. We thus have a situation where bureaucrats are sitting in powerful positions but meager salaries. This leads to two possibilities; either induced corruption or the officer begins a part-time job to make ends meet.