

## Media Tracking

November – December 13, 2018

### Education in Pakistan:

- SC orders 20pc reduction in private school fees over Rs5,000 – in [Dawn](#)  
The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered a 20 per cent decrease in fees charged by upscale private schools, and ordered them to return half the fees they had charged for summer vacations. The court, while hearing a case pertaining to exorbitant fees charged by private schools, had in October ordered the institutes to furnish their respective audit reports, and formed a committee to find an amicable solution to the issue of exorbitant fees being collected from parents.
- Miseducating Pakistan – Dr. Anjum Altaf in [The News](#)  
Education is a big-ticket item. Clarity is needed about its relationship with economic growth and development before betting the house on it. Otherwise a lot of resources would end up being misallocated.
- Government aims for a uniform education system under new policy framework – in [Dawn](#)  
The education ministry in its framework has identified four key areas it shall be focusing on: improving the quality of education, enrolment of out of school children, introducing a uniform education system, and skill development of the youth.
- Health programme launched in 1,700 Punjab schools – in [Dawn](#)  
Punjab ministers Dr Murad Raas and Dr Yasmin Rashid inaugurated the programme at the Government Central Model School, Lower Mall, where Mr Raas said that the programme would provide education to students and take care of their nutrition to improve health.  
  
He said the government had launched an android phone application with the help of the Punjab Information Technology Board and the Secondary Healthcare Commission to monitor the programme.
- Minister lays out five-year plan to ‘transform school education – in [Dawn](#)  
The Punjab government unveiled its five-year programme, titled ‘The New Deal 2023’, to transform school education with a focus on learning, access and equity and governance.
- Madrassas to be integral part of new education policy – in [Pakistan Today](#)  
The federal government is all set to launch a new nationwide education policy with a special focus on madrassas in which they will be convinced to introduce general subjects to increase employment opportunities for their students.
- Balochistan mulling law to declare education an 'essential service' – in [Dawn](#)  
The Balochistan government is mulling legislation to declare education an 'essential service'

with the objective of improving the state of education in the province.

- Technical education a key to success for young Pakistanis and Pakistan – in [Daily Times](#) Pakistan's vocational education and training (TVET) system is facing multiple challenges including access, quality, equity and relevance to industry. According to government estimates, about three million young people enter the job market each year but the TVET sector can accommodate less than half a million trainees annually in its more than 3500 institutes across the country.

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

- How to get maximum benefit from CPEC – in [Pakistan Today](#) (September)  
CPEC has made Pakistan vulnerable to international influence working against Chinese great vision of OBOR. This can be witnessed through latest happenings against Pakistan specially through United States of America that is not only pressurising Pakistan and cutting its aid but also influencing international financial institutions like IMF, a financial watchdog like FATF and rating agencies against Pakistan.
- Strategic confines of CPEC – in [Dawn](#) (October)  
The PTI-led government is still musing over how to deal with CPEC. It has yet to realise CPEC's geo-economic value and strategise how this should figure in its grand policy narrative. Secondly, the policy community's overemphasis on CPEC's regional political and strategic dimensions is causing confusion here and abroad.
- CPEC on the pivot – in [Dawn](#)  
The PTI government came to power promising to bring transparency to Pakistan's dealings with China. They promised to review all agreements because they sounded like they were convinced the projects are riddled with wrongdoing and cost inflation. Lahore's Orange Line Metro was a particular target of this ire.

Now comes the time to redeem this pledge. Already, the PTI government has climbed down from its pledge to place all CPEC agreements before parliament, or to even review them with the aim of bringing about any changes. In his public remarks, Finance Minister Asad Umar now claims that the details are all indeed public, and points to the power sector project details that are on Nepra's website, and the loan agreements that he says have been fully shared with the IMF.

- What does China want from CPEC? – in [Pakistan Today](#) (August)  
In September 2015, The Atlantic magazine in the United States published an article by Harvard political scientist and former US Assistant Secretary of Defense Graham T. Allison, who warned that the United States and China are in danger of falling into the Thucydides trap, the near-inevitable cycle of mistrust that can lead to war between great powers as one rises and the other sees its power challenged.

How is any of this relevant for Pakistan and its relationship with China? Because CPEC is not the result of the supposed friendship between Islamabad and Beijing, but rather the

global chess match that China is playing against the United States.

- 'Agriculture framework under CPEC to focus on JVs' – in [The News](#)  
Federal Minister for Planning Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar has said agriculture framework under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) focused on joint ventures, value-addition, cold chain management, and marketing and branding to overcome socioeconomic weaknesses.

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

- IMF wants Pakistan to tackle circular debt: Questions failure to fully implement last strategy – [The News](#)  
“The reversal of policies on many fronts is the main cause of existing quagmire which Pakistan's economy is witnessing currently,” the IMF team assessed
- Taking care of export-oriented investment – in [Dawn](#)  
In receding economic growth and substantial reduction in public sector development spending, the opportunities for investment are unlikely to grow. The State Bank's forecast for growth for this financial year is just over 4pc despite CPEC investments.
- Devalued rupee, hiked power, gas tariff even before IMF's conditions: Asad Umar – in [Express Tribune](#)  
Umar said both the monetary and fiscal policies were moving in direction of reforms that are required by the IMF. “There is no difference of opinion with the IMF in terms of what needs to be done ... it is the pace, the sequence in the extent which is being discussed,” he added.
- \$37b trade potential can reduce inequalities in Pakistan, India: Dr Ishrat – in [Express Tribune](#)  
“Inequalities, such as gender, income, and social, coupled with poverty are hindering development and growth of regional countries,” said Husain stressing the need for improving quality of education in Pakistan so as to create job opportunities.
- Is Pakistan on the way to living without the IMF? - CADTM  
...Nevertheless, the question is – how long it may be able to resist? Will Pakistan be able to divorce from the IMF?  
The conditions reportedly included; increased energy tariffs from 20 to 22%, imposition of more taxes and sharing details related to Chinese financial assistance. The mission also asked for further devaluation of the Pakistani rupee, already depreciated more than 27% since the start of this year and 15% in the last five months alone. As far as the contractual agreements with China are concerned, this is something Pakistan does not want to share with the IMF citing financial or national security reasons. China has pledged some \$60 billion in financing for ports, railways and roads under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

agreements.

## Reforming the civil service Pakistan

- 'We will strengthen you and you will strengthen the nation,' PM Khan tells civil servants – in [Dawn](#) (September)  
"There is a dire need to fix the way the police works and to depoliticise bureaucracy. Merit needs to be brought in and laws need to be practiced in letter and spirit," he stressed.  
"Never again, during any other government's tenure, will you be given the freedom to do your job professionally," he said.
- Govt determined to reform civil service structure: Dr Ishtat – in [The News](#)  
The Adviser to the Prime Minister on Civil Service Reforms and Austerity said that the government is fully determined to reform the Civil Service of Pakistan so as to bring the standards and quality of service delivery at par with those of developed world countries.
- Why Imran idealises Ayub era? – in [The News](#)  
He thinks that Pakistan was progressing in the right direction and institutions got stronger particularly the Civil Service in the 60s. Keeping that era in mind, the prime minister after assuming power had constituted a 'Task Force' for reforming the Civil Service.
- Adjustments or reforms? – in [The News](#)  
So far, the PTI government has opted for incremental adjustments in the political, economic and administrative systems instead of bringing about any real reforms to create Naya Pakistan. The only visible change in the last 100 days is that new faces now occupy the highest political offices.
- Reforming the civil service — avoiding the pitfalls – Raza Rumi in [Daily Times](#)  
Researchers have also noted that it is critical to identify what would motivate stakeholders – both [political and bureaucratic](#). Taking a technocratic approach – like pushing change through a national reconstruction bureau – is not likely to succeed. The assumption that new formal rules are enough to alter behaviour has failed in many parts of the world. This is why focus on conflict management, political coalitions and workable compromises are important to ensure implementation of any reform effort.
- Govt to amend law to discourage political loyalties – in [Express Tribune](#)  
The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has decided to amend rules under the Civil Servants Act to post the civil servants on probation basis in a bid to discourage their loyalties with political parties.
- Govt all set for parliament's approval over proposed legal reforms – in [Pakistan Today](#)  
Sources in PTI informed Pakistan Today that after its first 100 days, the government is all set to get parliament's approval for fulfilling its promise of introducing the judicial reforms to root out the menace of corruption from government institutions and to ensure justice-based

social system. The government has completed necessary preparations and will introduce six new laws and amendments in the two existing laws, sources added. Sources also said that the PTH government is in contact with different political parties to ensure their support in getting the approval from parliament over the proposed legal reforms.

- Task force considering slashing ministries from 50 to 37 in [The News](#)  
The Task Force on Institutional Reforms and Austerity is considering for slashing down number of ministries/ divisions from 50 to 37 at federal level in a bid to reduce expenditures, The News has learnt... The official sources said that the task force on institutional reforms and austerity is considering a proposal for reducing number of divisions to 37 but some members of the task force raised questions about the rationale of reducing number of divisions to this level in the aftermath of 18th Constitutional amendments.

### **The psychology of safety nets: Understanding how the poor can actually exclude themselves from social welfare programs – and how program design can draw them in**

- Imran Khan envisions a Pakistani welfare state. Is it possible? – in [Dawn](#)  
This means that, if we were to make a move towards becoming a welfare state, we would need to radically expand the tax system — not only taxing more people but also taxing more the (higher income) people who do pay taxes.
- The state of welfare – in [The News](#)  
The concept of a welfare state is a remote dream for the people of Pakistan. It would be an illusion to revive the welfare state that existed in the past under the present circumstances.