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Focus Areas

- Think Tank Wing
- Research and Consultancy Wing
- Education and Learning Wing
- Knowledge Management Wing



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Climate Change – Need or Reform of the Global Climate Governance System

The rapidity and severity of climate change has, over the years, assumed ominous proportions as a result of the irresponsible and climate-insensitive anthropogenic interventions, especially of the industrialized countries. The out of season torrential rainfalls, hurricanes, devastating floods and landslides, recurrent droughts

and daunting rate of deglaciation have already started exacting hefty toll on the vast variety of life on planet earth, its biodiversity, and indeed the entire ecosystems and earth's biomass.

The global temperature in post 1985 period has risen at an alarming rate from 0.4°C to more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial average in 2024 - the hottest year in the recorded history with no indication of this trend abating. Globally, the climate change related events, have already inflicted around \$162 billion losses by the first half of 2025. Pakistan, being the most climate-vulnerable country in the world (Climate Risk Index 2025) is already bearing the brunt of climate change induced torrential rains and devastating floods. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) latest report, the floods have so far destroyed more than 8,400 houses, 239 bridges and nearly 700 kilometers of roads. Over 2.2 million hectares of cropland mostly in Punjab has been inundated damaging about 50 percent of rice and 60 percent of cotton and maize crops. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) estimates that more than six million people have been affected out of whom around 2.5 million have already been displaced.



Lamentably, high-consumption and unsustainable productions patterns in the developed regions and some of the emerging economies like China, India and Brazil, continue to propel global warming and soaring carbon emissions to the great detriment of climate vulnerable countries like Pakistan. To add to the gravity of the situation, the world population of around 8.2 billion is expected to increase to 9.8 billion by 2050 which could lead to horrendous increase in GHG emissions and devastating climate change implications.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 1992, the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris Agreement, (2015) represent global efforts to reduce GHG emissions and limit the increase in the global average temperature to 1.5°C above the pre-industrial levels by the end of this century. All countries are required to submit voluntary national targets or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for emissions reduction to be reviewed every 5 years at the Global Stockade. However, the progress on implementation of the NDCs fall far short of the targets i.e., by end February 2025 deadline to publish climate pledges, just 13 of 195 Parties had done so though this number has increased to 100 in September 2025.

The major problem lies in the inherent design weakness of the existing global climate governance system (GCGS) which continues to vainly reconcile its three interlinked segments i.e., the research and knowledge based scientific universalism; intergovernmental negotiation processes steered by the Conference of Parties (COPs); and the UN institutional path dependence authenticating the supremacy of the principle of state sovereignty. The consensus rule for decision making, tends to override the climate science truth and perpetuate the enduring asymmetries, power differentials, and skewed

burden of responsibility between the Global North and South.

Pakistan therefore, needs to play the lead role in conjunction with the Global South to reform and establish a robust GCGS that is capable of (a) equitably mediating the inextricable connect between the techno-scientific universalism of climate truth and the state sovereignty dynamics; (b) inclusively formulating and implementing the universally agreed targets by galvanizing vertical integration of government, non-government and private sector players from local to national levels; and (c) effectively enforcing legally binding climate action plans, NDCs and financial commitments that transcend the short term state specific political or interest driven exigencies.



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SCO Summit 2025: The New Chapter in the Global Order

The 2025 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Tianjin was a pivotal moment in international geopolitics. With the balance of power tilting further away from Western hegemony, the summit highlighted how multipolarity — an order characterized by several centers of influence — is becoming the global reality.

China and India are also among the world's leading economies today, and emerging groupings like BRICS, ASEAN, and the SCO are disrupting conventional systems of governance. These are not only political

associations; they are creating alternative economic and financial structures intended to minimize dependency on Western institutions such as the IMF and World Bank. The SCO, with more than 40% of world population and almost 30% of world GDP, is developing today into an all-round platform for cooperation in trade, security, technology, and finance.

During the summit, China pushed ahead with plans for an SCO Development Bank and a common payment system — steps that reflect greater efforts towards de-dollarization and financial independence. Leaders also reiterated their pledge of sovereignty, non-interference, and opposition to one-sided sanctions. Cooperation on digital innovation, green technology, and connectivity projects made up another central part of the agenda.

Still, there are obstacles. Internal divides, complicated administrative needs, & Western resistance may stall progress. To be successful, the SCO has to demonstrate tangible dividends beyond promises and rhetoric.

For Pakistan, the evolving order brings with it opportunities as well as challenges. Increased linkage with Eurasian markets has the potential to open up more trade, investment, and infrastructure ties, especially under the Belt and Road Initiative. Meanwhile, Islamabad also needs to balance increasing ties with China and Russia against established ties with Western allies. Sustained diplomacy, regulatory harmonization, and strategic thinking will be necessary.

The Tianjin summit drove home a distinct message: the unipolar era is over, and the future will belong to competing but collaborative regional blocs. The SCO's transformation from a security forum to a strategic pillar of the multipolar world is a significant step toward a more plural and balanced world order — one in which nations like Pakistan can meaningfully participate.



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Is There a Way Out of the Current Quagmire for Pakistan?

The cut and thrust of politics is deemed a messy, but necessary business. In quasi-democracies like Pakistan, it has become de rigueur for politicians take a lot of flak for bad governance and rightly so. However, to put Pakistan, which is plumbing the depths uncertainty, on track to stability, the role of politicians in addition to other state pillars is sine qua none. Notwithstanding the fact how corroded and unresponsive the current set-up that often resembles a "spoils system", is, the solution has to come from within, at least for now. There isn't a panacea for this menagerie of crises, however a pathway can be rationally drawn, which shepherds the nation out of this mire with consensus across the board on short-term and long-term goals.

The first and foremost topic that comes to mind, is the holding of free, fair and transparent elections, which have seldom not been a subject of contention and controversy in Pakistan's 75 year relatively nascent democratic history. Although, the vires related to issuing the date of the elections reside with the state Election Commission, however in actuality, the imprimatur of the powerful military establishment is required for virtually all important policy decisions. This unfortunate phenomenon of de facto rule persists even after a recent popular torrent of country-wise protests, including the bastions of pro-army

sentiment in Central and Northern Punjab which have generational association with the institute, against the unconstitutional meddling of the military in state affairs. Notwithstanding aforementioned instance etched in the minds of especially the younger, urban populace, the military establishment still holds "actual" power, which is intrinsically indicative of how deeply embedded this institute is as the sole, de facto guardian of Pakistan's ideological frontier along with its intricate web of nation-wide corporate operations.

To reiterate, the military establishment will have a centrally decisive role to steer Pakistan out of the polycrisis. As a prelude of credible electoral process, a comprehensive dialogue process which features all major political parties including the one which was at daggers drawn with the military establishment most recently. This consultative and all-inclusive process needs to set out to achieve consensus amongst the ideologically divergent political parties that may have had bad blood with each other, in order to consolidate the fledgling democracy through signing of a Charter of Pakistan (taking inspiration from the watershed Charter of democracy late Benazir Bhutto and PML-N Supremo, Nawaz Sharif). This charter needs to reemphasize that no matter how big a difference in ideologies or the history of recent squabbles/dispute, all political entity collectively ought to resist against the undemocratic comportment or machinations of the establishment. Moreover, the Charter of economy also needs to be enshrined in it, to ensure the Pakistan has on a long-term economic plan which isn't susceptible to going off-track due to fluctuations or anomalies in the political trajectory. Finally, this document must elucidate the narrative of Pakistan, to have clarity about why did Muhammad Ali Jinnah found a separate homeland in the first place. Charter of Pakistan could determine the future

roadmap for the country, if diligently followed as a guiding set of tenets, it can potentially revitalize Pakistan's global perception.

In the same vein, the notion that the upcoming election cycle is fait accompli or a mere formality, needs to be seriously and honestly addressed through practical steps including the presence of often parroted level playing field. To further expound, leaders of every major political party ought to have equal space for canvassing, organizing jalsas, and receive similar treatment by the state functionaries. Another thing that must be agreed upon by political parties is not to play to the gallery of vengeance driven politics such as during stump speech. Furthermore, as established before, this dialogue would be overseen by the military establishment, however to have semblance of credibility, the oversight committee/ team need to entail a politician without chequered political career, non-partisan and eminent member of the academia, a civil society representative and a scrupulous retired Judge.

Along with this, as a short-term but highly crucial objective, the aforementioned political dialogue need to expedite the process of holding free, fair and transparent elections in Pakistan, in order to put a kibosh on the political uncertainty that descends particularly over the virtual basket case economy. More importantly, in terms of long-term objective, this dialogue could be used as a platform to hash out how democratic forces need to prioritize value-driven governance and make good on the promises made to the common man of this country. If civilian governments are able to gradually build credibility through ensuring peace and security, development with equity and rights based approach, naturally this will buttress the reputation of politicians as the constitutional "managers" of state affairs. If politicians are genuinely favored by the public, unconstitutional intervention or more subtle

versions of "doctrine of necessity" could be resisted by the people. Turkey is a textbook example; in 2016, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan survived a possible assassination attempt and ouster by Gulenists within the military and bureaucracy with the support of the large portion of the masses.



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Technology Haves and Have-Nots

The Technology Dilemma

The world is victim of many social ills reflected by terrorism, crimes, poverty and very poor health in less privileged communities. The have-nots part of world carries all the indicators of these social ills. Technology and innovation also divides both part of the world giving leap-frog progress to those who have resources and leaving behind who do not have resources.

We appreciate the technology and innovation impact on developed society at the cost of rising difference with less developed world. The correlation of per-capita income and innovation index endorses this theory. The vicious circle of technology is backed by non-supporting actors in less developed world. The speed of new technologies is very fast and disables the runner-ups to catch the winners.

The fundamental rules of technology rights need to be changed to ensure its role for creating equality in the world.

The Technology Birth

New inventions and innovation mostly occur in the developed societies. The phenomenon of innovativeness is backed by quality education systems, sophisticated markets, high level of networking, supporting infrastructure, well equipped and functioning laboratories, compliance of standards, Governmental proactive support and numerous financial aid programs present in the society. The less developed world very much lacks in these enablers of the society. This blocks the birth of frequent innovativeness. Conversely, the presence of these enablers in advanced world produces the unmatched speed of technology birth.

The Technology Consumption

The advanced world has higher per capita income and resultantly the larger disposable income. This leads to higher likelihood of spending on new technologies. The people buy high tech gadgets and daily life things. The high per capita income creates higher sophistication in the society which increases consumption of new innovations. Contrarily the poor part of the world has less sophisticated life and no disposable income to spend on new technologies. They go for cheap solutions. The ever growing debt on the people of less developed world also discourages use of advanced technologies. The governments pay big pie of revenue for debt services and little is left for development projects in the country.

The Technology Exploitation

The conversion of new ideas into innovative products and services also requires strong supporting factors in the society. They all exist in the developed world prominently. They include very strong IP protection, good governance, availability of venture capital,

capacity building and mentoring of startups, and high tech universities to help in technology exploitation. Most importantly, the people are risk takers and the failure is rewarded and appreciated. The less developed world misses all these enablers which make the technology exploitation very difficult.

The Piracy and Corruption

The less developed world lacks resources and face the serious issue of corruption and piracy. The governments of less developed world are known for corruption which trickles down to the society. The people find out their way into technology through piracy and imitation. This reduces the quality of products and also weakens the growth in innovativeness. The developed world loses the big market due to IP protection, high prices of technology and licensing fee. The imitation does not bring good prices for anyone in production process from owner to labors and poverty remains intact in the society. Exceptionally, the China and few countries did break the vicious circle by inviting production of innovative products and exploited their cheap labor. The rest less developed countries are large in numbers and could not replicate this success example.

Special Technology Rights

The vicious circle of technology dominance by advanced world needs to have a break. The very less developed world needs to be marked as "technology preferred countries". They need to be offered technology through license but at no-cost. There should be a program of international donors to support technology capitalization and diffusion in these "technology preferred countries". The program should also provide finance and build capacity of local investors to invest and market new technologies in their countries.

Why is there need for Special Technology Rights?

The piracy and imitation of innovative products keep the poor countries poor and make the original innovators to lose the big market. The speed of new technologies in the market is increasing the divide between original innovators and imitators. This leads to vicious circle of technology divide between haves and haves-not.

Alternatively, the less developed world needs to be supported to get out of technology poverty and become original thinker and innovators. This requires rise of the society to get accustomed to high tech products and services.

The technology cost should be lowered to minimum level or set free. The investors of "technology preferred countries" need financial and non-financial support to produce original products and sell at cheaper prices. This will increase technology level equality in the world and transfer the same impact of equality in other aspects of the society. This will increase innovative capacity of the society to turn from imitators to original thinkers and inventors.

This will reduce the divide between haves and haves-not and alleviate technology poverty.



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The AI Copyright Challenge: Pakistan's Moment to Lead or Fall Behind

Suppose a young singer or a composer friend of yours, in Lahore creates a hit song using AI, or similarly a Pakistani startup develops a groundbreaking AI tool that could save lives, only to discover later that they can't protect their invention. These situations are not thought experiments, but rather they're happening right now around the world. Artificial intelligence is creating music, inventing medicines, and producing art that rivals human creativity. But legal systems have no idea who should own these AI creations. Even courts in America and Europe are scratching their heads, trying to figure out the rules of this new game.

For us in Pakistan, this isn't just an interesting legal puzzle, it's about our future. We have a large pool of young people who understand technology, and a startup scene with a huge potential. This should matter to every Pakistani entrepreneur, artist, and innovator. IP laws give people the confidence to invest in new ideas.

Our copyright culture started very late in 1962 with an ordinance whereas United States copyright Act was passed in 1790. The Pakistan copyright law was amended notably by the Copyright (Amendment) Act of 1992 and lately by the Copyright (Amendment) Ordinance of 2000. These old rules don't even mention AI, which means that brilliant AI creations might legally belong to no one at all. Pakistan is facing

a double threat. First, when Pakistani innovators create something amazing with AI, it might immediately become free for anyone to use, giving them zero return on their hard work. Secondly, international AI companies could freely use Pakistani artists' and writers' work to train their systems, without paying a single rupee in compensation. We need to act now by updating our IP laws and extend them to include AI-generated content. The opportunity before us is enormous. We can either be the country that adapted quickly and secured its place in the AI economy, or the one that woke up too late to find all the best opportunities taken.

When a software engineer in Islamabad knows her code is protected, when an artist in Karachi can profit from his digital creations, when a startup founder can attract investors because her AI innovation is legally hers, only then the innovations will thrive in the country.



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The Fusion of Robotics Hardware & AI-Based Software – A New Era in Technological Innovation

In recent years the world has witnessed dramatic advancements in the field of science and technology and in particular AI based systems. AI has and will continue to bring about a total transformation at industrial and commercial levels and at the same time impacting our personal lives in ways unthinkable.

Nevertheless, AI is software based and needs integration with hardware systems for utilizing its full potential. A milestone achieved in the quest for integrating AI with cutting edge hardware systems has been brilliantly showcased in the first ever Robotic Olympics, officially referred to as 'World Humanoid Robot Games 2025' held in China from August 15-17, 2025, highlighting the advancements made in AI, hardware mobility and adaptive learning. This seamless fusion of AI software with the robotic hardware, as demonstrated in the Robotic Olympics, is nothing short of a technological marvel, and opens possibilities which appear straight out of science fiction movies. The Olympics underscored the sophistication achieved in the manufacturing of robotic systems and in the human-like performance of complicated tasks carried out by robots in an extremely accurate and superbly intelligent manner. The event in China showcased the progress made in technological aspects and related applications including: (a) Depth perception and 3D mapping (b) Dynamic Balancing and Control, where robots demonstrated high degree of mobility and balance which allowed them to operate on complex terrain and perform acrobatic movements (c) Object Recognition and Manipulation, where robots use advanced computer vision and machine learning algorithms to ensure precise recognition and handling of objects and (d) Real time processing and decision-making, enabling robots to process vast amounts of information in real time and make effective and rapid decisions accordingly, taking into account the variable and dynamic environment, such as that which usually exists at playgrounds during a sporting event.

The Robotics Olympics is indeed a reflection on the massive technological advancements which robotics have made and complex tasks

they can perform, feats which were considered beyond the capabilities of robots only a few years ago. The advanced hardware + AI software interface has increased manifold the precise movements and execution of AI based actions never witnessed before. AI assisted robotic advancements are likely to have major implications for industries such as the manufacturing, health care, logistics, services and even sports.

In conclusion, the Robotic Olympics in China showcased remarkable advancements, not only in the field of robotics, but also, more importantly, a fusion between robotic hardware and the AI software. This seamless integration is likely to usher in a new era of technological innovation incorporating the power of the robotic hardware with the AI intelligence. The Robotic Olympics has highlighted the potential for using AI intelligence powered robots in new innovative ways. The onus is upon us to recognise and harness the full potential of this new blend of robotic hardware with AI intelligence software and its capacity to bring about total transformation. Only by embracing the technology can we hope to leverage the huge benefits that it offers.



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Silenced in Plain Sight

They say a video never lies. But in Pakistan, even when the truth is caught on camera can be twisted. When Samiya Hijab shared a video of her former fiancé attempting to abduct her, she expected outrage, support, and justice.

Instead, she faced judgment. People questioned her character, her choices, and her relationship with the man even though the evidence was clear: he pushed her and tried to drive away with her. This was abduction, yet people debated everything else except the crime.

The young woman had broken off her engagement after discovering his abusive behaviour. For many, that alone became a ground to shift blame onto her. Rather than condemning the violence, the public asked why she walked away instead of why he resorted to force.

This reaction is not surprising when seen against Pakistan's standing in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025, where the **country ranks 148** out of 148 the very bottom with an overall gender **parity score** of just **56.7%**. Behind this number are countless lives like hers, where inequality is not only measured in wages or education but also in everyday dignity.

The problem runs deep. Violence against women has been normalized, justified through cultural narrative, misused religious interpretation and even entertainment. The Council of Islamic Ideology once declared that a husband could "lightly beat" his wife (Washington Post), trivializing abuse and shaping social norms. Al Jazeera reported that a child is sexually abused every two hours in Pakistan, yet such tragedies rarely stir collective outrage for reform. Each year, over 1,000 women are murdered in the name of "honour." Workplace harassment is rampant, and psychological abuse within homes is dismissed as if invisible wounds are not real.

Media also reinforces this culture. Dramas and films romanticizing toxic relationships and violence, portraying male aggression as a form

of love, normalizing abuse for millions of viewers. Society then expects women to "understand" such behaviour, accept gifts and favours as silent contracts, and compromise their safety for relationships. But gifts do not entitle men to women's bodies or choices. Consent matters. No means no.

Her case exposed this conditioning once again. Instead of outrage at her abduction, she was accused of seeking attention or provoking the act. From public figures to clerics to make casual remarks that entrench these attitudes further, forgetting how many look to them as authority.

Under immense social and family pressure, she withdrew her case. This was not weakness, but survival. In Pakistan, the cost of seeking justice is often unbearable for women. Such stories expose what statistics already show: Pakistan fails to protect women not only through weak enforcement of laws but also through entrenched cultural attitudes. A recent study among female healthcare workers found that 72.9% had experienced verbal violence, 18.6% physical violence, and 23.6% reported sexual harassment in the past year (PubMed). The Home-Based Women Workers Federation reports a staggering 85% of women workers experience harassment at work. Regarding domestic violence, studies show nearly 70% of women report psychological abuse, over a third report physical abuse, and around 20% report sexual abuse.

These figures confirm what her story illustrates: gender inequality in Pakistan is systemic. Laws exist, but enforcement is selective, filtered through cultural expectations. When women step outside prescribed norms, their access to justice becomes conditional. Society does not ask why crimes against women occur; it asks why women "allowed themselves" to be harmed.

The video showed the truth. But what society chose to see was far more disturbing: Pakistan does not only fail women in law, education, or work it fails them in dignity. Until women are respected as individuals rather than treated as a property, until leaders and clerics speak responsibly, and until victims are heard with fairness rather than blamed, Pakistan will continue to silence its women even when the truth is plain to see.



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Fiction Cosplaying Reality

The biggest lie a writer can tell is that they write fiction' a sentence on social-media that got me thinking why? Whatever a writer writes, is an extension or a projection of real world events and/or social norms and practices. No matter how imaginative and innovative, every idea stems from the observations, and desires of a conscious and subconscious mind. As the world's progressing, I find the world I am living in, resonate more and more with the world I often escape to for relief. With just three decades into this world, and Gen Z has become a witness to a pandemic, catastrophic natural disasters, nuclear arms race, a genocide, world's ignorance towards a genocide, wars, looming threat of AI advancements without check and balance in a blind pursuit of technological control, rapidly changing allegiances, multipolar shift, extreme climate conditions and erratic weather patterns, toppling governments, civil and military wars, and economic stresses –has made it feel like

we are the subjects of a movie or a dystopian novel. Modern world has countries forging transactional relationships, where often, (morally and ethically) most pressing events, like a livestreamed genocide or not acknowledging climate change, are eclipsed by single national interests with faster return rates. As one changes the actors or lens to observe events, one finds themselves sifting through different genres of fiction, but with real-world risks:

- **Grimdark** because there are no pure heroes — every major actor has contradictory roles (the U.S. champions democracy while weaponizing finance; China pushes development but also surveillance; Russia claims multipolarity but wages aggressive war).
- **Cyberpunk dystopia** because the battles increasingly center on tech, data, AI, and financial flows, with ordinary populations caught in systemic inequality and climate disasters. Tech and AI dominance (semiconductors, algorithmic power, surveillance states) mirror cyberpunk themes of megacorporate-style states fighting for data supremacy.
- **Dystopian Political Thriller** where wars redesigned alliances, sharpened authoritarian vs liberal divides. Surveillance tech, AI weaponization, and cyber influence campaigns create a backdrop of control, mistrust, and manipulation.
- **Multi-Kingdom Struggle –multipolar**, with powerful “houses” (U.S., China, Russia, EU, India, Gulf powers) each with bannermen and contested borders, struggle for resources (oil, rare earths, semiconductors), with climate change a looming threat that none can ignore but many downplay until it's at the gates.

- **Ensemble Coming-of-Age Drama** –the rise of middle powers (India, Gulf states, ASEAN, Africa, Pakistan) that are no longer “side characters” but slowly writing their own storylines, learning to assert independence from superpower scripts (Pakistan-KSA defence pact, climate diplomacy etc)
- **Political Satire / Dark Comedy** — where countries juggle alliances, sanctions, and climate pledges, while the absurdity of “sponsor gifts” (IMF bailouts, aid packages, sudden arms sales) plays out on stage with summits full of lofty speeches but often undercut by contradictions. For instance: U.S. restricting China's chips while still trading billions in consumer goods; Gulf states mediating conflicts while also buying weapons from all sides.

As much as I am an enthusiast of fiction, ironically enough, the prospect of fiction morphing into my reality does not seem exciting as far as the geopolitical and geo-economic landscape is concerned. This is due to the fact that power struggle never ceases and a hero rarely arrives. The world order is currently in transition, environmentally and politically, and the process of change always brings with itself uncertainty, chaos, conflicts, and unrest. This does not mean any hope and with it, everything, is doomed. After all, nations survived two world wars in a single century. It is a matter of how countries decide to manage and lead this change. Every decision has a compromise. What trade-offs countries decide to make will decide their future.



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Will AI Take Our Jobs? The Truth Behind the Hype

"The robots are coming for our jobs!" We've all heard this phrase, often accompanied by dramatic headlines and futuristic images of machines taking over. But how much of this fear is based on fact, and how much is simply hype? The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) is real, but the story isn't as one-sided as it may seem.

AI Is Already Here

AI isn't a far-off concept. It's already part of our daily lives. When you shop online and see product recommendations or when your phone autocorrects your spelling, or when you ask Siri or Alexa a question—AI is at work. In offices, AI helps analyze data, schedule meetings, and even handle customer service chats. Naturally, this raises fears that humans may become less needed.

Jobs That Might Change

Yes, AI is capable of taking over certain repetitive or routine tasks. For example:

- Customer service bots answering simple questions.
- Algorithms scanning thousands of documents faster than lawyers or researchers.
- Machines handling tasks in factories with speed and precision.

These changes can sound threatening, but history shows that technology often eliminates

some jobs while creating new ones. When ATMs became common, many thought bank tellers would disappear—but instead, banks expanded and tellers shifted to customer service roles.

New Opportunities Ahead

AI may take away parts of jobs, but it also creates opportunities for new kinds of work. Someone has to build, train, and maintain AI systems. More importantly, humans are still essential for creativity, empathy, strategy, and ethical decision-making—areas where machines simply can't compete.

For instance, doctors now use AI tools to detect diseases earlier, but it's the human doctor who explains the diagnosis, comforts the patient, and makes complex treatment decisions. Similarly, writers might use AI to brainstorm ideas, but the storytelling and emotional connection still come from people.

The Real Future: Human + AI

Instead of humans versus AI, the future looks more like humans working with AI. Think of AI as a smart assistant, not a replacement. Just as calculators didn't end mathematics but made it faster and more reliable, AI is set to make our jobs easier and more efficient.

Conclusion

So, will AI take our jobs? The honest answer is: some tasks, yes—but not our humanity. Routine, repetitive work may be automated, but this opens the door for people to focus on more creative, meaningful, and strategic roles.

The truth is, AI isn't here to replace us—it's here to work with us. And the better we learn to adapt and collaborate with it, the brighter our future will be.



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BIPP Round Up

During the month of August, 2025, Dr Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah, Consultant at The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public policy at Netsol (BIPP), attended SEE Pakistan 2025 as an evaluator and assessed start-ups in functional foods, healthcare, and agriculture. He also assessed and ranked ideation and growth-stage ventures based on his experience in sustainability, innovation, and agri-health solutions. His participation reflects that BIPP remains focused on developing entrepreneurship, supporting knowledge-based programs to promote the socio-economic development of Pakistan.



On August 25, 2025, Team BIPP participated in the opening of the 3rd National School of Public Policy (NSPP) Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Public Policy and Governance, in partnership with the Information Technology University (ITU) and BIPP. The discussions covered the role of AI in socio-economic change, environmental sustainability, and innovation in the public sector with a focus on the potential of AI to enhance institutional capacity and governance.



The following day, BIPP participated in the session titled *Establishment of AI Valley*, moderated by Mr. Shahid Najam, Vice Chairman BIPP. The discussion brought together leading academics and professionals, including Prof. Dr. Wajahat Mahmood Qazi (Assistant Professor of Computer Science, COMSATS University), Prof. Dr. Suleman Aziz Lodhi (Dean, University of South Asia, Lahore), and Mr. Rahmatullah (CEO Techno-hub and Executive Director, Institute of Research Promotion, Lahore), to deliberate on the vision, challenges, and opportunities associated with developing AI Valley in Pakistan. During the session, BIPP shared insights on its initiative to establish AI Valley at Namal Institute, envisioned as a hub for digital innovation, research collaboration, and technology-driven policy design to accelerate the country's digital transformation.





Moreover, under BIPP's collaboration with Namal Institute, a large-scale plantation drive of approximately 500 xerophytic species was earlier carried out to promote environmental sustainability. Recent progress shared by Mr. Faisal Haroon (Consultant Agroforestry, BIPP) from the ongoing NER project indicates promising results, with dike plantations showing an average germination rate of 9–11 plants per dike—exceeding expectations—and nursery plantations recording over 80 percent success, with plant heights reaching up to 21 inches. These encouraging outcomes demonstrate the success of this pilot initiative in promoting ecological restoration and sustainable land management.



Apart from this, on September 3, 2025, BIPP released a new episode of its Policy Hub series titled *"Punjab Budget 2025 Analysis: Agriculture, Climate & Fiscal Reforms."* The discussion, led by Ms. Atr-un-Nisa, Research Fellow at BIPP, provided an insightful analysis of Punjab's Rs. 5.3 trillion budget for the fiscal year 2025–26, including its Rs. 1.2 trillion development outlay. The episode examined major social and economic allocations, such as funding for health, education, and social protection programs like the Green Tractor Scheme and solar panel distribution. It also analyzed agricultural reforms, including off-budget allocations of Rs. 80 billion and the Rs. 36.5 billion Kisan Cards program, while highlighting gaps in value chain development and climate adaptation. The discussion concluded with policy recommendations for broadening the tax base, improving debt management, and adopting climate-smart budgeting to ensure long-term fiscal stability. Watch the full episode on the following link: <https://youtu.be/u1rsvmH4iFU?si=sRmszpEN3Xqdp7sc>



Lastly, on August 25, 2025, Prof. Dr. Shahid Imtiaz (HOD, English Department at Riphah International University Lahore.) published an article in *The Nation* examining Pakistan's economic challenges and future direction. The article discussed the book *"Towards a Knowledge Economy – National Innovation and Technology System of Pakistan"*, authored by Mr. Shahid Najam, Dr. Athar Mansoor

and Mr. Rahmatullah. Dr. Imtiaz recognized the publication as a valuable contribution to the discourse on economic transformation, noting its practical framework for steering Pakistan toward a technology-driven, knowledge-based economy. He highlighted the authors' call for political commitment, investment in science and technology, and innovation-led growth. The article also referenced the foreword by Mr. Shahid Javed Burki, Chairman BIPP, who emphasized the vital role of science and technology in addressing national development challenges. Read the full article on the following link:

<https://www.nation.com.pk/25-Aug-2025/developing-innovating-pakistan>



Mission Statement

BIPP's mission is to improve the welfare of the citizenry with particular emphasis on identifying policy measures that will lead to inclusive, people-centered growth with equity, political stability and sustainable development besides fully harnessing the potential for regional and global integration of the country. BIPP primary areas of interest encompass social, economic, environmental and political development and security, trade and foreign policy-related issues.

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