ICEP
A Topper's Place

ICEP's CSS Weekly

CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

Issue 21
Full Edition

Coverage:
October 4 -
October 10, 2026

7 National + 7 International Articles | 14 CSS Domains

Two Extended Model Answers | 100 MCQs

Precis & English Corner | Essay Corner | Constitution Quick Reference



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Editor's Note

Welcome to ICEP's CSS Weekly, Issue 21, the Full Edition. It covers 4 to 10 October 2026 (with late reports to 11 October) in 14 lead articles, 7 National and 7 International, each mapped to a different CSS domain, and carries forward the legacy of Issue 20 in a dedicated section.

What is inside: a Week at a Glance, an Economy Dashboard, a Syllabus Map, a Calendar Ahead, 14 articles with the same seven-part structure as Issue 20, two Extended Model Answers, a constitution quick reference, an Islamic Studies corner, an Essay corner with a subjective bank and study plan, a Precis and English corner, a Legacy of Issue 20 tracker, confusables, an FPSC-pattern essay outline, 100 MCQs, consolidated vocabulary and an organisations index.

Method: every story was searched this week and the primary pages behind the lead stories (Express Tribune, Dawn, The Nation, Radio Pakistan, IMF, Nobel Prize, Al Jazeera, Arab News and others) are cited in each article. Where a detail rests on a single outlet, on unnamed sources or on a headline only, the article says so and carries a red Flag line. Background points (constitutional provisions, treaty history, legal doctrine) are standard reference and are labelled 'background'.

Depth note: article summaries run about 400-600 words. Sections that depend on reporting we could not retrieve are shorter rather than padded. Past Paper Echo lines say 'No verified direct past-paper precedent checked' because past papers could not be searched.

Infographics: each article is preceded by a full-page infographic. Where an infographic differs from the sourced article text, the article page carries a red 'Infographic cross-check' line stating the difference; the article text governs.

Week at a Glance (4-14 Oct)	
4 Oct	Govt-PTI talks collapse; PTI long march starts from Lakki Marwat (Issue 20 follow-up). Iran says Hormuz stays closed (I3).
5 Oct	Pre-COP31 opens in Nadi, Fiji (I5). Russia strikes Kyiv's Northern Bridge (I4).
6 Oct	Guterres visits Pakistan (6-8 Oct) (N6). World Bank MENAAP report released (N3). Houthi attacks on Saudi airports begin (I2). Dar addresses Vienna water symposium (I6). French student march tops 250,000 (I7).
7 Oct	IMF staff-level agreement on 4th EFF and 3rd RSF reviews (N1, N7). UN Security Council fifth straw poll (Legacy). Ahsan Iqbal chairs the Human Capital mission.
8 Oct	SBP reserves reported at $21.454bn (N7). Pre-COP31 ends (I5). Coalition says 82 Houthi targets destroyed (I2).
9 Oct	JCP adds Bilawal and Sanaullah (N4). Balochistan cabinet meets (N5). FO: MJDA moves to implementation (I2). Nobel Peace Prize to Navi Pillay (I1). IRGC claims LPG tanker strike (I3). Supreme Court launches 1818 helpline.
10 Oct	Centre reportedly ready for emergency in 12 K-P districts (N2). KSE-100 closes at 167,089 (N7). Supreme Court reform report released. ECP DG killed in Tank (headline).
11-14 Oct	PTI convoy to reach Swabi; Afridi to announce next course on 13 Oct; plan runs to 14 Oct (N2).

Economy Dashboard

Indicator	Value	Source
SBP reserves, 2 Oct	$21.454bn	SBP data, 8 Oct
Total liquid reserves	$26.797bn	SBP data, 8 Oct
Import cover (SBP reserves)	3.04 months	SBP data via ProPakistani
IMF staff-level package	~$1.2bn; total $5.7bn after Board approval	IMF statement; Nation
Health+education target	Rs4.2tr; may fall to ~Rs3.9tr	Express Tribune, 6 Oct (sources)
Health+education spending, % of GDP	2.2% (FY24) to 2.5% (FY26)	IMF statement via ProPakistani
Provincial cash surplus commitment	Rs1.7tr	Express Tribune, 6 Oct
FBR annual target	Rs15.263tr	Express Tribune, 6 Oct
World Bank FY27 projections	Growth 3.8%; inflation 8.2%	World Bank via Express Tribune
CPI inflation, Sep 2026 (PBS)	10.26% YoY (from Issue 20)	PBS, 1 Oct
SBP policy rate	11.5%; next MPC 26 Oct	Trading Economics
KSE-100 close, 9 Oct	167,089.28 (-0.21%)	The Nation, 10 Oct
Poverty ($3/day): Pakistan's share of MENAAP poor	about 48%	World Bank via Express Tribune
Poverty rise, 2018-19 to 2024-25	+6.4 pts at $3/day	World Bank via Express Tribune
Gas circular debt (Issue 20)	about Rs3.6tr	The News via Geo, 13 Sep

Calendar Ahead

11-14 Oct	PTI long march: Swabi on 11-12 Oct; Afridi announces next course 13 Oct; plan to 14 Oct (Express Tribune).
12 Oct	Current fortnightly fuel prices run till 12 Oct (Express Tribune headline).
15 Oct	Extended FBR income-tax return deadline (Issue 20).
16 Oct	Sixth UNSG straw poll expected, reportedly with colour-coded ballots (Issue 21 research).
26 Oct	SBP Monetary Policy Committee meeting.
3 Nov	US midterm elections; October CPI release (PBS).
Early-mid Nov	IMF Executive Board expected to consider the staff-level agreement (estimate, pakera.pk); disbursement expected 4-5 weeks after the SLA (Lahore Times).
9-20 Nov	COP31, Antalya, Türkiye; leaders' summit 11-12 Nov.
10 Dec	Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, Oslo.
31 Dec	End of Guterres' term.

Syllabus Map

Article	CSS / PMS subjects it feeds
N1 Health and education IMF cut	Economics; Public Administration; Current Affairs; Pakistan Affairs
N2 Emergency in 12 K-P districts	Constitutional Law; Political Science; Pakistan Affairs; Current Affairs
N3 World Bank poverty report	Economics; Sociology; Current Affairs; Statistics
N4 JCP: Bilawal and Sanaullah	Constitutional Law; Law; Political Science; Current Affairs
N5 Balochistan cabinet reforms	Pakistan Affairs; Public Administration; Economics
N6 UN chief's visit to Pakistan	International Relations; Pakistan Affairs; Current Affairs
N7 Reserves and PSX	Economics; Statistics; Current Affairs
I1 Nobel Peace Prize: Navi Pillay	International Law; Human Rights; Current Affairs
I2 MJDA implementation; Houthi strikes	Islamiat; International Relations; Current Affairs
I3 US-Iran Hormuz deadlock	International Relations; Economics; Current Affairs
I4 Ukraine peace push	International Relations; European Studies; Current Affairs
I5 Pre-COP31	Environmental Science; International Relations; Current Affairs
I6 Indus Waters Treaty; border killings	International Relations; Pakistan Affairs; Environmental Science
I7 French student protests	Education; Sociology; Current Affairs

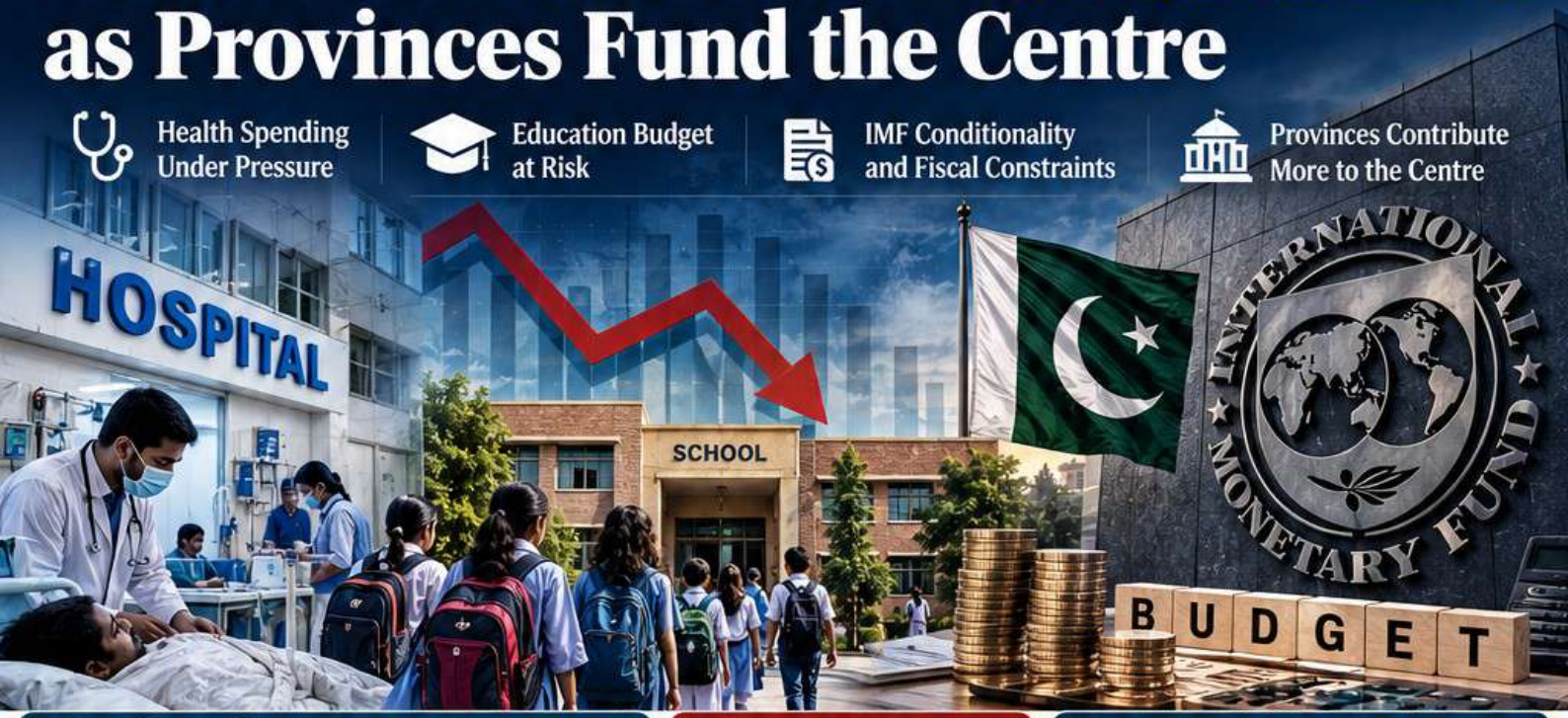
Important Days, October-November 2026

11 Oct	International Day of the Girl Child
13 Oct	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
15 Oct	International Day of Rural Women; Global Handwashing Day
16 Oct	World Food Day
17 Oct	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 Oct	United Nations Day
27 Oct	Kashmir Black Day (observed by Pakistan; 1947 Indian landing in Srinagar)
31 Oct	World Cities Day
9 Nov	Iqbal Day (birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal)
10 Nov	World Science Day for Peace and Development
14 Nov	World Diabetes Day
20 Nov	World Children's Day

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N1 National Article

Health and Education Face an IMF Cut as Provinces Fund the Centre

Health Spending Under Pressure | Education Budget at Risk | IMF Conditionality and Fiscal Constraints | Provinces Contribute More to the Centre



Key Developments

1. **IMF Pressure**
   IMF staff-level package linked with fiscal consolidation and expenditure rationalisation.
2. **Health and Education at Risk**
   Social sector spending on health and education faces cuts under IMF conditions.
3. **Provinces Fund the Centre**
   Provinces are contributing a larger share of resources to the Centre.
4. **Fiscal Space Constraints**
   Limited fiscal space due to high debt servicing and revenue shortfalls.
5. **Impact on Services**
   Possible adverse effects on public health facilities and education outcomes.

Why It Matters?

- Affects human development indicators
- Worsens inequalities in access to health and education
- Raises questions on federal-provincial fiscal balance
- Long-term impact on economic growth and social stability

Fiscal Pressures (Illustrative)

- High debt servicing burden ↑
- Revenue shortfalls ↑
- IMF conditionality for expenditure cuts ↑
- Increased provincial contributions to the centre ↑

Affected Sectors

Health

- Budgetary cuts
- Strain on public hospitals
- Risk to essential services

Education

- Reduced allocations
- Impact on school facilities
- Risk to learning outcomes

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Dynamics



Centre Faces

- Revenue shortfalls
- High debt servicing
- IMF fiscal conditions
- Reduced fiscal space for social sectors

Way Forward

1. Protect minimum social sector allocations for health and education.
2. Improve revenue mobilisation and tax base.
3. Ensure fair and transparent federal-provincial fiscal arrangements.
4. Enhance efficiency and target subsidies.
5. Balance IMF commitments with long-term human development goals.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

N1 | Public Finance & Fiscal Federalism | Priority: **HIGH**

Health and Education Face an IMF Cut as Provinces Fund the Centre

Continuity: Follows Issue 20's N2 (IMF review): the fourth review has now ended in a staff-level agreement on 7 October.

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: fiscal federalism, NFC Award, IMF conditionality, human development.

Essay Topic: Can a stabilisation programme and social-sector spending coexist? Fiscal federalism in Pakistan.

Flag: Spending-target figures come from government sources (Express Tribune). Its text gives the FBR first-quarter margin as 'Rs33 trillion', which is evidently a typographical error, so it is not used here.

Infographic cross-check: The image shows all four provinces sending money to the Centre and does not give the key figures. The sources show Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has not committed to cash grants, and give Rs4.2tr falling to about Rs3.9tr, a Rs500bn allocation gap and a Rs1.7tr provincial cash surplus. 'High debt servicing' is not sourced in this article. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

Pakistan is likely to miss, again, the IMF's target for combined health and education spending, and the Fund may lower the benchmark from Rs4.2 trillion to about Rs3.9 trillion, government sources told The Express Tribune on 6 October. The condition sits inside the $7 billion Extended Fund Facility and requires the federal and four provincial governments together to spend over Rs4.2 trillion on the two sectors in the current fiscal year. Their budget allocations are already about Rs500 billion short of that requirement. For the last fiscal year combined spending ran Rs370 billion below the target, and Finance Secretary Imdad Ullah Bosal told a parliamentary committee last month that the condition has been missed constantly during the programme.

The reason is the programme's other conditions. Provinces committed to generating a cash surplus of Rs1.7 trillion and, under the National Economic Initiative, to giving cash grants to the federal government. Under the budget arrangement the federal and provincial governments would provide a Rs1.036 trillion cash grant provided the FBR achieves its annual target of Rs15.263 trillion; because the FBR kept missing its collection targets, the Centre asked provinces to curtail expenses. Punjab and Sindh told the IMF mission that their budgets were already under pressure from these commitments, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which has not committed to cash grants, assured the mission it would meet its spending targets. Even at Rs3.9 trillion, sources said, a gap of about Rs200 billion would remain against budget allocations, and the final round of discussions was pending.

The talks ended on 7 October with a staff-level agreement on the fourth EFF review and the third review of the $1.4 billion Resilience and Sustainability Facility, covering the 2026 Article IV consultation as well. The mission, led by Iva Petrova, met in Karachi and Islamabad from 23 September; about $1.0 billion under the EFF and $210 million under the climate facility will be released after Executive Board approval, taking total disbursements to about $5.7 billion. The IMF statement also said health and education outlays rose from 2.2 per cent of GDP in FY2024 to 2.5 per cent in FY2026, and that the fuel support scheme should be phased out promptly. For CSS candidates the story shows a central tension of fiscal federalism: social services are provincial subjects, yet provinces are being asked to fund the Centre's programme commitments, which squeezes the very sectors the Fund says it wants protected.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- Express Tribune (6 Oct): the IMF may cut the health and education target to about Rs3.9tr from Rs4.2tr (government sources).
- Under the $7bn programme the five governments must spend over Rs4.2tr on health and education; their budget allocations are Rs500bn below that requirement (Express Tribune).
- Last fiscal year combined spending was Rs370bn below the IMF-given target (Express Tribune).
- Finance Secretary Imdad Ullah Bosal told a parliamentary committee last month that the condition has been constantly missed (Express Tribune).
- Even after a Rs300bn downward adjustment, a gap of about Rs200bn would remain against allocations (Express Tribune).
- The IMF had hinted at making the condition a quantitative performance criterion rather than an indicative target; a breach would need an Executive Board waiver (Express Tribune).
- The FBR tax target was already upgraded to a quantitative performance criterion after repeated misses (Express Tribune).

- Sindh and Punjab said their budgets are pressured by the Rs1.7tr cash-surplus commitment and cash grants to the Centre under the National Economic Initiative (Express Tribune).
- KP, which has not committed to cash grants, told the mission it would meet its spending targets (Express Tribune).
- Budget arrangement: Rs1.036tr cash grant from federal and provincial governments if FBR hits its Rs15.263tr annual target (Express Tribune).
- The federal PSDP was cut by Rs126bn to Rs1tr, and Punjab cut its development envelope by Rs150bn (Express Tribune).
- FY27 allocations to health and education: Punjab Rs1.3tr (of Rs5.9tr outlay), Sindh Rs1.1tr, KP over Rs800bn, Balochistan Rs268bn (Express Tribune).
- Staff-level agreement reached 7 Oct after talks from 23 Sep; about $1.0bn under the EFF (SDR 760m) and $210m under the RSF (SDR 154m), subject to Board approval (IMF statement; ProPakistani).
- IMF said health and education outlays rose from 2.2% of GDP in FY24 to 2.5% in FY26 (IMF statement as reported by ProPakistani).
- Total disbursements under the two programmes would reach about $5.7bn; money expected within four to five weeks (Nation; Lahore Times).

C. Analytical Categories

Constitutional / Fiscal federalism

- Health and education are largely provincial subjects after the 18th Amendment (background).
- Provinces fund central commitments through cash surpluses and grants, which crowds out their own spending.

Economic

- Social-sector floors compete with surplus targets inside one programme.
- A target cut lowers the bar rather than meeting the need.

Political

- Sindh and Punjab resisted; KP assured it would comply, showing divergent federal-provincial relations.
- Missing targets repeatedly weakens the credibility of conditions.

Developmental

- Human development outcomes depend on sustained service delivery.
- A 0.3 point rise in social outlays as a share of GDP (2.2% to 2.5%) is modest against need.

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **IMF mission (Iva Petrova):** Reached a staff-level agreement; said health and education outlays rose to 2.5% of GDP; fuel scheme should be phased out.
- **Finance Secretary Imdad Ullah Bosal:** Told a parliamentary committee the condition has been constantly missed and blamed shortfalls on some provinces.
- **Punjab and Sindh governments:** Said their budgets are pressured by cash-surplus and grant commitments.
- **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government:** Assured the mission it would meet its targets; has not committed to cash grants.
- **Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal:** Called for placing health and education among national priorities (Radio Pakistan, 7 Oct).

Challenges Ahead

- Programme conditions pull provinces in opposite directions.
- FBR shortfalls force expenditure cuts that fall on the social sectors.
- Targets are revised downward instead of delivery improving.
- No agreed rule for how provinces share the cost of central commitments.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Fix a transparent rule for provincial contributions to the centre (analytical suggestion).
- Ring-fence health and education inside provincial surplus targets.
- Publish quarterly provincial spending against the IMF benchmark.
- Tie any waiver request to a delivery plan.

E. Statistical Digest

Rs4.2tr current health and education target (Express Tribune)	**~Rs3.9tr** possible revised target (government sources)
Rs500bn gap between allocations and requirement	**Rs370bn** last year's shortfall against the target
Rs200bn gap that would remain at Rs3.9tr	**Rs1.7tr** provincial cash-surplus commitment
Rs1.036tr conditional cash grant arrangement	**Rs15.263tr** FBR annual target
Rs126bn PSDP cut, to Rs1tr	**Rs1.3tr / Rs1.1tr** Punjab / Sindh FY27 allocation
$1.2bn staff-level package	**2.2% to 2.5%** health and education, % of GDP, FY24 to FY26
$5.7bn total disbursements after Board approval	

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **Express Tribune (6 Oct):** The IMF may cut health and education spending targets to around Rs3.9 trillion because of fiscal pressures facing provinces.
- **IMF statement (7 Oct):** The fuel support scheme should be phased out promptly, given its high cost and broad targeting.
- **Radio Pakistan (7 Oct):** Ahsan Iqbal called for placing education, health, nutrition, clean water and population balance under national priorities.

Vocabulary: Fiscal federalism | Quantitative performance criterion | Indicative target | MEFP | Cash surplus | Staff-level agreement | Executive Board waiver | National Economic Initiative | NFC Award | Social sector | Primary current spending

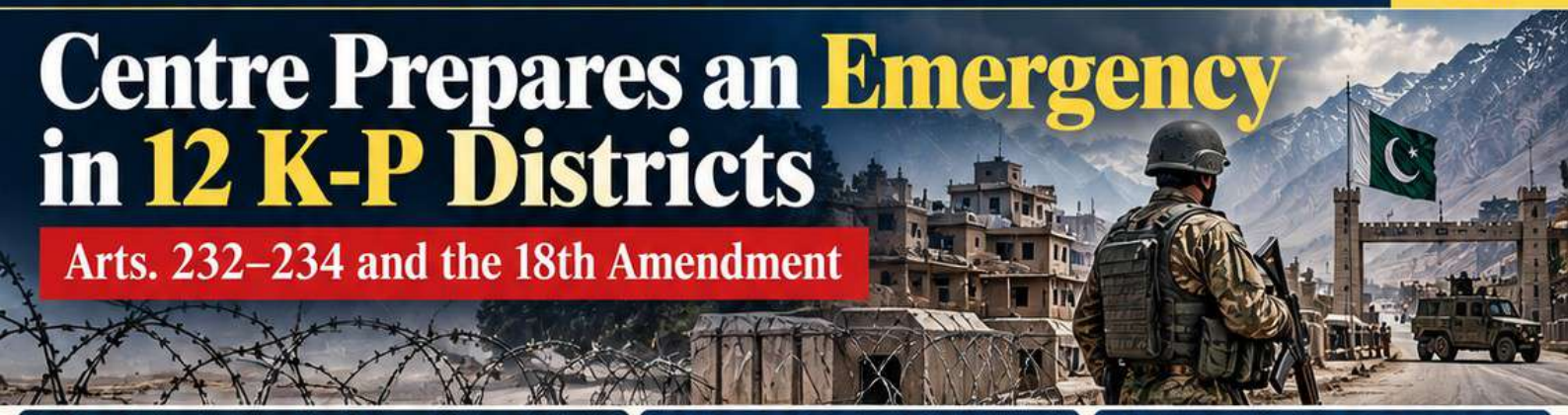
G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2633169/health-education-face-imf-cut | https://www.brecorder.com/news/40443228/imf-pakistan-reach-staff-level-agreement-on-eff-rsf-reviews | https://www.imf.org/en/news/articles/2026/10/07/pr26326-pakistan-imf-complete-2026-aiv-consultation-reaches-sla-on-4th-review-eff-3rd-review-for-rsf | https://www.radio.gov.pk/07-10-2026/ahsan-calls-for-placing-education-health-under-national-priorities

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Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
N2 National Article

Centre Prepares an Emergency in 12 K-P Districts

Arts. 232–234 and the 18th Amendment



12 K-P Districts Under Consideration



1. Bajaur
2. Mohmand
3. Khyber
4. Orakzai
5. Kurram
6. North Waziristan
7. South Waziristan
8. Dera Ismail Khan
9. Bannu
10. Lakki Marwat
11. Tank
12. Hangu

What is Happening?

- The centre is preparing to impose emergency measures in 12 K-P districts due to a worsening security situation.
- Militant attacks, terrorist incidents and law and order challenges have increased in the region.
- The move is being discussed under constitutional provisions (Arts. 232–234) and in the context of the 18th Amendment.
- Consultations with provincial authorities and security institutions are underway.

Constitutional Provisions

Article 232 — Proclamation of emergency in a province by the President on the request of the Governor.

Article 233 — Effects of proclamation of emergency in a province.

Article 234 — Duration and approval by Parliament (must be approved within two months; maximum six months, extendable).

18th Amendment Context

- Strengthened provincial autonomy.
- Maintains federal powers for internal security and emergency.
- Any emergency raises questions about the spirit of devolution and federal-provincial balance.

Reasons Behind the Move

- Rising militant attacks and cross-border terrorism.
- Deteriorating law and order situation.
- Threats to civilian life and state institutions.
- Strategic importance of the districts (bordering Afghanistan).
- Presence of militant networks and safe havens.

Key Stakeholders

- Federal Government (Interior Ministry)
- K-P Provincial Government
- Pakistan Army and security institutions
- Local populations and tribal communities
- Parliament (for approval)
- International dimension (Afghanistan factor)

Potential Implications

- Possible restrictions on movement and assembly.
- Impact on civil liberties and daily life.
- Strain in federal-provincial relations.
- Effects on governance and development projects.
- Humanitarian and economic challenges for local communities.
- Risk of prolonged insecurity if root causes are not addressed.

Way Forward

1. Address root causes: counter-terrorism, governance gaps and socio-economic marginalisation.
2. Strengthen coordination between federal and provincial governments.
3. Ensure constitutional compliance and parliamentary oversight.
4. Protect the rights and welfare of local populations.
5. Combine security measures with development and political engagement for long-term peace.

N2 | Constitutional Law & Federal Emergency Powers | Priority: **HIGH**

Centre Prepares an Emergency in 12 K-P Districts: Arts. 232-234 and the 18th Amendment

Continuity: Extends Issue 20's N1 (PTI long march and governor's rule threat): the march is now on its seventh day and the federal response has moved from threat to a specific 12-district plan.

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: Arts. 232-235, 245, federalism, civil-military relations.

Essay Topic: Emergency powers and federalism: can the Centre administer districts of a province?

Flag: The 12-district plan is reported from unnamed sources; no official notification had been issued when this was written.

Infographic cross-check: The image lists Hangu among the 12 districts and omits Lower Waziristan; the Express Tribune list in the article includes Lower Waziristan and not Hangu. Its constitutional boxes are also wrong: Art. 232 deals with emergency on war or internal disturbance (not a provincial emergency on the Governor's request), Art. 233 with suspension of fundamental rights, and Art. 234 with failure of constitutional machinery in a province. The two-month parliamentary approval point is not an Art. 234 'duration' provision as shown. 'Consultations are underway' is not sourced. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

On 10 October The Express Tribune reported, citing sources, that the federal government had finalised preparations to impose an emergency in 12 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and transfer administrative and police powers to the Centre. The 12 districts are eight former tribal districts (Khyber, Kurram, Orakzai, Bajaur, Mohmand, North Waziristan, South Waziristan and Lower Waziristan) and four settled districts (Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, Bannu and Lakki Marwat). The emergency was initially proposed for two months, after which the situation would be reviewed and could be extended. A special administrative structure, separate from the provincial government's framework, was being considered: a secretariat headed by a Grade 21 secretary and a Grade 21 police officer, with four to six additional officers appointed directly by the federal government, to which deputy commissioners and district police officers would report. The sources said Articles 232 to 234 of the Constitution could be examined, while noting that the procedures and implications of an emergency and of governor's rule are distinct.

The PTI called the plan a serious violation of the 18th Amendment and said it had never obstructed the fight against terrorism. Spokesperson Shaukat Yousafzai asked that all stakeholders be taken into confidence, pointed to a 15-point declaration from an all-parties conference, and welcomed mediation by Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Party leaders have warned they would resign from the national and provincial assemblies if governor's rule or an emergency is imposed. Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah, speaking on 9 October, said the proposal was related to counter-terrorism cooperation, not the long march, and that it could be resolved if the PTI leadership and Chief Minister Sohail Afridi stood with the federal government and law enforcement agencies; he said an emergency would involve intelligence-based operations, not evacuations. K-P Law Minister Aftab Alam said federal ministers' statements were ambiguous and that 'this war is ours even before it is the federation's'.

The march itself continues. After talks collapsed on 4 October, Chief Minister Afridi's convoy moved from Lakki Marwat through Karak, Kohat, Peshawar and Charsadda; on its seventh day it was heading to Mardan, with Swabi next and workers asked to reach Swabi on 12 October. Afridi is to announce the next course of action on 13 October. The government says the talks failed over clauses on terror operations, while the PTI says they failed over its demand to meet its founder. For CSS candidates the case is a live test of Article 234 (failure of constitutional machinery), Article 232 (emergency on war or internal disturbance), Article 245 (armed forces in aid of civil power) and the balance struck by the 18th Amendment between the Centre's security responsibilities and provincial autonomy.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- Centre has finalised preparations for an emergency in 12 K-P districts, according to sources (Express Tribune, 10 Oct).
- The 12 districts: Khyber, Kurram, Orakzai, Bajaur, Mohmand, North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Lower Waziristan, Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, Bannu, Lakki Marwat (Express Tribune).
- Emergency proposed initially for two months, then review; it could be extended (Express Tribune sources).
- A separate secretariat headed by a Grade 21 secretary with a Grade 21 police officer; four to six federally appointed officers; DCs and DPOs to report to it (Express Tribune sources).
- Sources said Articles 232 to 234 could be examined; emergency and governor's rule have distinct procedures (Express Tribune).

- PTI's Shaukat Yousafzai: a separate administrative structure in 12 districts is a 'serious violation of the 18th Amendment' (Express Tribune, 10 Oct).
- PTI leaders warned they would resign from national and provincial assemblies if governor's rule or an emergency is imposed (Express Tribune).
- Rana Sanaullah (9 Oct): the proposal relates to counter-terrorism cooperation, not the long march; intelligence-based operations, not evacuations (Express Tribune).
- K-P Law Minister Aftab Alam: federal ministers' statements are ambiguous; 'this war is ours even before it is the federation's' (Express Tribune).
- On 21 Sep Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the law ministry was consulted on options including governor's rule; on 23 Sep Information Minister Atta Tarar ruled out removing the PTI government (Express Tribune).
- A PTI-backed all-parties conference agreed a 15-point declaration sent to the federal government (Express Tribune, 10 Oct).
- Maulana Fazlur Rehman has become active as a possible mediator; PM Shehbaz and President Zardari discussed tensions on 10 Oct (Express Tribune headlines).
- PTI demands as stated on 10 Oct: implement High Court and Supreme Court decisions, lift restrictions on meetings with Imran Khan, transfer him to hospital (Express Tribune).
- March schedule: Charsadda to Mardan on day seven, Swabi next; workers to reach Swabi on 12 Oct; next course announced 13 Oct; plan till 14 Oct (Express Tribune).
- Governor Faisal Karim Kundi called the march a 'circus'; Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said governor's rule would be an 'atomic bomb' (Express Tribune headlines).

C. Analytical Categories

Constitutional

- Art. 232: emergency on war or internal disturbance; Art. 233: suspension of fundamental rights; Art. 234: failure of constitutional machinery in a province (background).
- Art. 245: armed forces in aid of civil power (background).

Federalism

- The 18th Amendment devolved many subjects; an administrative structure reporting to the Centre cuts across it.
- Merged districts have a distinct history after the FATA merger (background).

Security

- Intelligence-based operations are offered as the alternative to displacement.
- Terrorism in the listed districts is the stated justification.

Political

- PTI threatens mass resignations.
- Ministers' mixed statements show internal disagreement in the federal government.

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **Federal government (Rana Sanaullah, Khawaja Asif, Tariq Fazal):** Emergency or governor's rule is a 'last option' linked to counter-terrorism cooperation.
- **K-P government (Aftab Alam, Shafi Jan):** Rejects the framing; says it backs law enforcement and has strengthened the police.
- **PTI (Shaukat Yousafzai, Gohar):** Plan violates the 18th Amendment; wants talks and mediation.
- **PPP (Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari):** Governor's rule would be an 'atomic bomb'; urged PTI to return to political engagement.
- **Maulana Fazlur Rehman:** Reported to be active as a mediator; welcomed by the PTI.

Challenges Ahead

- Distinguishing an emergency from governor's rule in law and practice.
- Parliamentary and judicial review of any proclamation.
- Terror threats in the 12 districts versus political confrontation elsewhere.
- A trust deficit that has twice defeated talks.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Place the proposal before Parliament and the Council of Common Interests (analytical suggestion).

- Agree a joint counter-terrorism mechanism with the elected K-P government.
- Use the 15-point APC declaration as a negotiating text.
- Let a neutral mediator hold the talks.

E. Statistical Digest

12 districts in the proposed emergency (8 merged + 4 settled)	**2 months** initial period proposed
Grade 21 grade of the proposed secretary and police officer	**4-6** additional federally appointed officers
Arts. 232-234 provisions said to be examined	**15** points in the APC declaration
7th day of the long march on 10 Oct	**12 Oct** date workers asked to reach Swabi
13 Oct Afridi to announce next course of action	**45 million** K-P population cited by the K-P information minister

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **PTI K-P spokesperson Shaukat Yousafzai:** A separate administrative structure in 12 districts is a serious violation of the 18th Amendment.
- **Rana Sanaullah (9 Oct):** An emergency does not mean the districts will be evacuated; intelligence-based operations will be conducted.
- **K-P Law Minister Aftab Alam:** This war is ours even before it is the federation's.

Vocabulary: Emergency | Governor's rule | Failure of constitutional machinery | Merged districts | Civil power | Administrative structure | Intelligence-based operation | 18th Amendment | Proclamation | Mediation | All-parties conference

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2634059/pti-terms-proposed-emergency-in-12-k-p-districts-violation-of-18th-amendment-as-long-march-enters- | https://tribune.com.pk/story/2633933/sanaullah-links-k-p-governors-rule-to-counterterrorism-cooperation-not-long-march | https://www.geo.tv/latest/684992-pti-begins-islamabad-long-march-after-talks-breakdown

Extended Model Answer I - Linked article: N2

Question: 'An emergency in selected districts of a province, administered by the Centre, is consistent with the Constitution and the 18th Amendment.' Critically examine. (20 marks)

1. Introduction and thesis

On 10 October 2026 the Express Tribune reported, citing sources, that the federal government had finalised preparations to impose an emergency in 12 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with a separate federally appointed administrative structure, while the PTI's long march was in its seventh day. The government says the proposal concerns counter-terrorism cooperation, not the march; the PTI calls it a violation of the 18th Amendment. This answer argues that the Constitution does permit federal action in a province in extraordinary conditions, but only within the textual limits of Articles 232 to 234 and 245 and subject to parliamentary and judicial review, and that a measure that bypasses the elected provincial government in a politically contested setting is the weakest form of that power.

2. Constitutional framework

Pakistan is a federation in which legislative and executive authority is divided between the Centre and the provinces. Article 232 allows a proclamation of emergency where the security of Pakistan is threatened by war, external aggression or internal disturbance beyond the power of a provincial government to control. Article 233 permits suspension of certain fundamental rights during an emergency. Article 234 deals with failure of constitutional machinery in a province. Article 245 allows the armed forces to act in aid of civil power. The 18th Amendment (2010) strengthened provincial autonomy, so any measure that transfers administration or policing of districts to the Centre must be tested against it (background).

3. The facts as reported

According to the Express Tribune's sources the 12 districts are eight former tribal districts (Khyber, Kurram, Orakzai, Bajaur, Mohmand, North Waziristan, South Waziristan and Lower Waziristan) and four settled districts (Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, Bannu and Lakki Marwat). The emergency would initially last two months, with review and possible extension. A secretariat headed by a Grade 21 secretary, with a Grade 21 police officer and four to six federally appointed officers, would receive reports from the deputy commissioners and district police officers. Sources said Articles 232 to 234 might be examined while noting that an emergency and governor's rule have distinct procedures. No official notification had been issued.

4. The case for federal action

Supporters make three points. First, security: the districts named face persistent terrorism, and on the same weekend the Tribune headlines reported an ECP director general killed in Tank and security operations in North Waziristan. Second, capacity: Rana Sanaullah said the aim is intelligence-based operations without displacement. Third, text: Article 232 contemplates internal disturbance beyond a province's control, and Article 245 allows the army in aid of civil power. The government also points to what it calls a lack of counter-terrorism cooperation by the provincial government, which the K-P government denies; its law minister said 'this war is ours even before it is the federation's'.

5. The case against

Critics respond that the measure is poorly tied to the constitutional test. Article 234 concerns failure of constitutional machinery; the K-P government continues to function and is, by its own account, backing the police. The plan transfers police and administrative powers to the Centre in 12 districts, which the PTI says violates the 18th Amendment, and ministers' statements have been inconsistent: one linked the plan to the long march and another to terrorism, as the K-P law minister noted. The announcement came during a political confrontation, which invites the inference that security is a pretext, though the sources reviewed do not establish motive. A separate administrative structure outside provincial control also raises questions about accountability to the provincial assembly.

6. Critical evaluation

Both sides hold part of the truth. Terrorism in these districts is real, and federal responsibility for national security is constitutional. But constitutional emergency powers are exceptional by design, and the burden is on the Centre to show necessity, proportionality and temporariness. A two-month renewable period without parliamentary approval, a federally appointed secretariat and unclear legal basis (emergency or governor's rule) weaken the claim. Mixed messaging and the timing alongside a political march weaken it further. The PTI's own position is also contestable: it threatens mass resignations while insisting it supports counter-terrorism.

7. Synthesis

A workable compromise would keep security operations cooperative: a joint federal-provincial command or coordination committee for the 12 districts, agreed through the Council of Common Interests or an apex committee, with a stated legal basis, a fixed time frame, reporting to Parliament and the provincial assembly, and judicial review. The 15-point declaration of the all-parties conference that the PTI cites could be a starting text. Such an arrangement would meet the Centre's security duty without displacing the provincial government.

8. Conclusion

The proposition is only partly right. The Constitution permits federal action under Articles 232 to 234 and 245, but a district emergency run by a separate federal secretariat, announced amid a political confrontation and without a clear legal basis, sits uneasily with the 18th Amendment's settlement. Dialogue and joint mechanisms are the constitutionally safer course. As of 11 October, no proclamation had been issued, and Afridi's announcement of the next course on 13 October will shape what follows.

Why this is examiner-oriented: it applies Arts. 232-234 and 245 to a live proposal, presents both sides with sourced facts, tests proportionality and proposes a concrete joint mechanism.

ICEP's CSS Weekly
CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE
Issue 21 | Full Edition
Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
N3 National Article

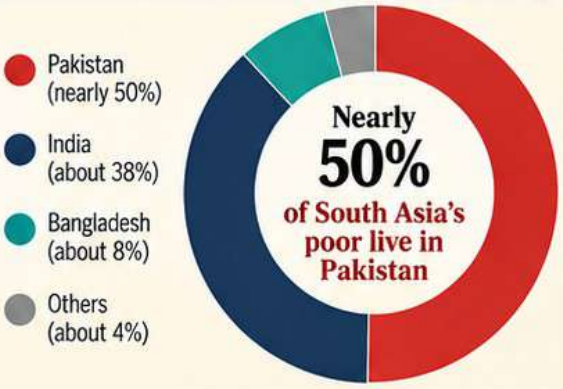
World Bank: Pakistan Holds Nearly Half the Region's Poor

THE WORLD BANK



Poverty remains a major challenge as Pakistan accounts for nearly half of South Asia's poor, says the World Bank.

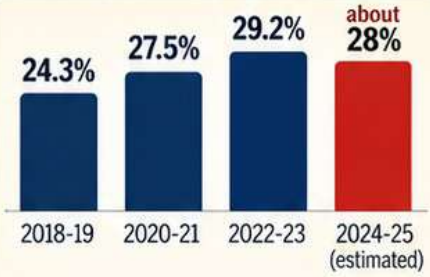
Pakistan's Share in Regional Poverty



Key Findings (World Bank)

- Pakistan holds nearly half of the region's poor.
- Poverty in Pakistan remains significantly higher than regional peers.
- Progress in poverty reduction has slowed down in recent years.
- Vulnerable groups, including children and rural households, are disproportionately affected.

Poverty Trends in Pakistan



Poverty rose from 24.3% in 2018-19 to 29.2% in 2022-23, with a slight decline to about 28% in 2024-25, but it remains high.

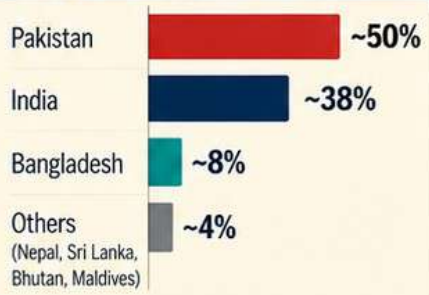
Why Poverty Remains High?

- Slow and uneven economic growth.
- Low productivity and limited formal employment opportunities.
- High inflation and cost of living.
- Weak social protection systems.
- Regional disparities and low human development indicators.

Who is Most Affected?

- **Children** (face higher risk of poor nutrition, health and education outcomes)
- **Rural households** (more vulnerable due to lower incomes and limited services)
- **Women** (face greater socio-economic vulnerabilities)
- **Low-income households** (struggle with rising essential costs)

Regional Comparison



Implications

- Hampers human capital development and long-term economic growth.
- Increases inequality and social vulnerabilities.
- Puts pressure on public services such as education, health and social protection.
- May fuel social unrest and reduce the effectiveness of development policies.

Way Forward (World Bank Recommendatioos)

1. Promote inclusive and sustained economic growth.
2. Create more and better employment opportunities.
3. Strengthen social protection and targeted support for vulnerable groups.
4. Invest in human capital, especially in education and health.
5. Reduce regional disparities through improved governance, infrastructure and service delivery.

Relevance for CSS/PMS

- **Economics** — Poverty, Growth and Development
- **Public Administration** — Social Protection & Service Delivery
- **Sociology** — Inequality and Social Change
- **Current Affairs** — World Bank Report and Pakistan's Development Challenges
- **Pakistan Affairs** — Human Development and Socio-Economic Issues

N3 | Poverty, Development & Economic Statistics | Priority: **HIGH**

World Bank: Pakistan Holds Nearly Half the Region's Poor

Continuity: New this issue; complements N1 (social-sector spending) and Issue 20's N7 (inflation).

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: poverty measurement, human development, economic adjustment.

Essay Topic: Poverty and economic adjustment: why stabilisation has not meant welfare.

Flag: Single-outlet report of a World Bank publication; the Bank's own report was not retrieved.

Infographic cross-check: The image says Pakistan holds nearly half of 'South Asia's' poor. The source says the region is MENAAP, from which the World Bank separated Pakistan from South Asia: Pakistan has about 48% of people below $3 a day, and Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen another 47%. The donut and bar chart (India 38%, Bangladesh 8%, others 4%) and the poverty trend (24.3%, 27.5%, 29.2%, about 28%) are not in the sources; the source gives +6.4 points at $3/day from 2018-19 to 2024-25. Do not use those chart figures. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

The World Bank said on 6 October that nearly half of the poor people in its Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan (MENAAP) region who live on less than $3 a day are in Pakistan. In its regional report the Bank said Pakistan accounts for about 48 per cent of the region's people below the $3-a-day line, roughly Rs840 daily income in Express Tribune's conversion, and that the remaining poor are concentrated in Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen, which together account for another 47 per cent. The most recent estimates show poverty rates at that line approaching or exceeding 20 per cent in Djibouti, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen. The Bank had separated Pakistan from its South Asia grouping and placed it in this region.

The report attributes the regional rise in poverty primarily to Pakistan, where the poverty rate rose by 6.4 percentage points at the $3-a-day line and 3.2 points at the $4.2-a-day line between 2018-19 and 2024-25. It lists a succession of shocks: the COVID-19 pandemic, the devastating 2022 floods, a macroeconomic crisis marked by high inflation and currency depreciation, and a prolonged period of economic adjustment that weakened real household incomes and employment. The Express Tribune notes criticism that IMF programmes improved fiscal and monetary numbers but contributed to low growth, high poverty and high unemployment. The Bank projects 3.8 per cent growth and 8.2 per cent inflation in FY2026-27 and population-growth-adjusted real GDP growth of 2.2 per cent, with a current account deficit of 0.8 per cent of GDP and a budget deficit of 3.5 per cent. Those projections differ from the PBS reading of 10.3 per cent inflation in September, a difference candidates should note when quoting figures.

The report also finds that petrol price increases were 40 per cent or higher in Pakistan, among others, and diesel above 40 per cent, since the start of the Middle East conflict, and that Pakistan has introduced targeted fuel and farm assistance. On innovation, only 3 per cent of Pakistani firms reported product innovation and 1 per cent process innovation, against lower-middle-income peer averages of 23 and 14 per cent. Pakistan records the highest absolute count of AI conversations in the region, concentrated in arts and media work such as design, content and translation, reflecting its large freelance sector. For CSS essays the report is a ready source of data on poverty, shocks and productivity.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- World Bank MENAAP report (released 6 Oct): about 48% of the region's people below $3 a day live in Pakistan (Express Tribune, 7 Oct).
- Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen together account for another 47% of the region's people below the line (Express Tribune).
- Poverty at the $3-a-day line approached or exceeded 20% in Djibouti, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen (Express Tribune).
- MENAAP holds 14% of the world's extreme poor, second only to Sub-Saharan Africa (Express Tribune).
- Pakistan's poverty rate rose 6.4 points at $3/day and 3.2 points at $4.2/day between 2018-19 and 2024-25 (Express Tribune).
- Causes cited: COVID-19, the 2022 floods, high inflation and currency depreciation, and prolonged economic adjustment (Express Tribune).
- Projections for FY2026-27: growth 3.8%, inflation 8.2%, real GDP per capita growth 2.2% (Express Tribune).
- Projected current account deficit 0.8% of GDP and budget deficit 3.5% of GDP (Express Tribune).
- Petrol price rises of 40% or more in Pakistan and others; diesel above 40% in Pakistan since the Middle East conflict began (Express Tribune).
- Pakistan has introduced targeted fuel and farm assistance (Express Tribune).
- Product innovation: 3% of Pakistani firms vs a 23% lower-middle-income peer average; process innovation 1% vs 14% (Express Tribune).
- Pakistan records the highest absolute count of AI conversations in MENAAP, concentrated in arts and media (Express Tribune).
- Share of job postings requiring digital skills rose substantially 2021-2025, with double-digit gains in Pakistan among others (Express Tribune).
- Eight MENAAP countries including Pakistan fall below the benchmark line for mobile broadband subscriptions (Express Tribune).

C. Analytical Categories

Economic

- Adjustment stabilised fiscal and monetary numbers but weakened real incomes.
- Low firm-level innovation limits productivity growth.

Social

- Poverty rose across 2018-19 to 2024-25 after repeated shocks.
- Oil-importing economies face remittance and borrowing-cost risks from the Gulf conflict.

Statistical

- Poverty lines ($3 and $4.2 a day) are international benchmarks, not national lines.
- Bank projections for inflation differ from PBS readings.

Technological

- AI use is concentrated in freelance arts and media work.
- Broadband gaps limit adoption.

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **World Bank:** Pakistan holds about 48% of the region's poor; adjustment weakened household incomes.
- **Express Tribune (Shahbaz Rana):** Notes criticism that IMF programmes improved numbers but contributed to low growth and high poverty.
- **Government:** Has introduced targeted fuel and farm assistance (per the report).

Challenges Ahead

- Poverty rose even as macro indicators stabilised.
- Low business innovation.
- Energy price shocks pass through to households.
- Digital infrastructure gaps.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Link adjustment programmes to employment and income targets (analytical suggestion).
- Expand targeted cash transfers through social protection databases.
- Support firm-level innovation and digital skills.
- Publish national poverty estimates alongside the international line.

E. Statistical Digest

48% share of region's people below $3/day who live in Pakistan	**47%** share in Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen combined
~Rs840 daily income equal to $3 (Express Tribune)	**+6.4 pts** poverty rise at $3/day, 2018-19 to 2024-25
+3.2 pts poverty rise at $4.2/day	**14%** MENAAP share of the world's extreme poor
3.8% projected FY27 growth	**8.2%** projected FY27 inflation (World Bank)
0.8% / 3.5% current account / budget deficit, % of GDP	**3% vs 23%** product innovation, Pakistan vs peers
1% vs 14% process innovation, Pakistan vs peers	

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **World Bank MENAAP report (via Express Tribune):** Pakistan accounts for about 48% of the people in the region living below the $3 per day poverty line.
- **World Bank (via Express Tribune):** Poverty rose after shocks including COVID-19, the 2022 floods and prolonged economic adjustment.

Vocabulary: Poverty line | MENAAP | Economic adjustment | Real household income | Product innovation | Process innovation | Targeted assistance | Extreme poverty | Current account deficit | Lower-middle-income

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2633400/pakistan-bears-regions-biggest-poverty-burden

ICEP's CSS Weekly
CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE
Issue 21 | Full Edition
Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
N4 National Article

Bilawal and Sanaullah Join the Judicial Commission

Article 175A After the 27th Amendment



Key Development

- Bilawal Bhutto Zardari (PPP) and Rana Sanaullah (PML-N) have joined the Judicial Commission of Pakistan after the 27th Amendment.
- The 27th Amendment has revised the composition of the Commission under Article 175A of the Constitution.

Revised Composition after 27th Amendment

- Chief Justice of Pakistan (Chairman)
- Two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court
- Federal Law Minister
- Attorney General for Pakistan
- Bilawal Bhutto Zardari (Member)
- Rana Sanaullah (Member)
- Two other members as notified

Article 175A: Role and Functions

- Recommends the appointment of the Chief Justice of Pakistan.
- Recommends the appointment, transfer and posting of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- Performs other functions as prescribed by law.
- Aims to ensure transparency, consultation and representation in the judicial appointment process.

Background: 27th Amendment

- Introduced changes to the judicial appointment mechanism.
- Included two additional members from the federal government (Bilawal and Sanaullah).
- Intended to broaden representation and strengthen the role of elected representatives in the process.
- Has sparked debate on the balance between judicial independence and parliamentary influence.

Why It Matters?

- Changes the dynamics of judicial appointments.
- Brings political stakeholders directly into the Commission.
- Raises questions about judicial independence.
- Could impact the credibility and pecreived neutrality of the appointment process.

Key Debates and Concerns

- **Supporters:** greater inclusivity and democratic oversight.
- **Critics:** risk of political influence in judicial appointments.
- Debate on the intent and long-term impact of the 27th Amendment.
- Need for transparent criteria and institutional safeguards.

Implications

- Potential shift in civil-military and judiciary-parliament relations.
- May shape the future independence of the higher judiciary.
- Could affect public confidence in judicial institutions.
- Important for rule of law, governance and constitutional balance.

Way Forward

1. Ensure transparent and merit-based appointments.
2. Maintain balance between democratic oversight and judicial independence.
3. Develop clear criteria and procedures for appointments.
4. Strengthen institutional safeguards to uphold credibility.

N4 | Constitutional Law & the Judiciary | Priority: **MEDIUM**

Bilawal and Sanaullah Join the Judicial Commission: Art. 175A After the 27th Amendment

Continuity: Links to Issue 20's N5 (Supreme Court structure after the 27th Amendment).

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: Art. 175A, appointment of judges, 26th and 27th Amendments.

Essay Topic: Parliament and the appointment of judges: independence versus accountability.

Flag: PPP dissatisfaction is reported from JCP sources, not stated officially.

Infographic cross-check: The image says the 27th Amendment 'added' Bilawal and Sanaullah and lists a full revised composition (two senior judges, Law Minister, Attorney General, two other members) and says the JCP recommends the Chief Justice. None of this is in the source. The Express Tribune reports they were notified under Art. 175A cl. 2(vii) as the members nominated by the leaders of the House in the NA and Senate, replacing resigned members, after CJP Yahya Afridi's approval. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

On 9 October the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) notified Pakistan Peoples Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and PML-N Senator Rana Sanaullah as its members, after the approval of Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, who chairs the commission. The notification cited paragraph (vii) of clause 2 of Article 175A of the Constitution, under which the members were nominated by the leader of the House in the National Assembly and the leader of the House in the Senate. Both were made members of the treasury benches in their respective Houses. The Express Tribune reported that PPP Senator Farooq H. Naek and PML-N MNA Sheikh Aftab had resigned as JCP members, paving the way for the change in parliamentary representation.

The development came amid reported dissatisfaction within the PPP leadership over the failure to secure the appointment of its preferred candidates as judges of the superior courts. The JCP is the constitutional body that elevates judges to the superior courts. It was one of three judicial forums reconstituted in view of the 27th Constitutional Amendment, the others being the Supreme Judicial Council, which hears complaints of misconduct against superior court judges, and the Practice and Procedure Act committee of the Supreme Court, which forms benches and lists cases. The 27th Amendment also created the Federal Constitutional Court, and a 2026 Supreme Court judgment held that the Supreme Court and the Federal Constitutional Court are parallel courts and not subordinate to each other.

The Supreme Court meanwhile inaugurated a free 1818 Legal Call Centre on 9 October and released its report 'Journey Through Reform and Innovation – 2026' on 10 October, both announced on its own website. For CSS candidates the appointment is a case study in how the executive and legislature shape judicial appointments, a debate that has run through the 18th, 19th, 26th and 27th Amendments, and in the party-political incentives behind seats on the commission. A balanced answer should avoid presenting motives as facts: the PPP dissatisfaction is a report from commission sources, not an official statement.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- JCP notification: Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Rana Sanaullah made members after approval of CJP Yahya Afridi, JCP chairperson (Express Tribune, 9 Oct).
- Appointment is under paragraph (vii) of clause 2 of Article 175A, on nomination by the leaders of the House in the NA and the Senate (Express Tribune).
- Bilawal is an MNA and Sanaullah the leader of the House in the Senate; both are treasury-bench members (Express Tribune).
- Farooq H. Naek (PPP) and Sheikh Aftab (PML-N) had resigned as JCP members (Express Tribune sources).
- Reported PPP dissatisfaction over failure to secure its preferred candidates as superior court judges (Express Tribune).
- The JCP elevates judges to superior courts; the SJC hears misconduct complaints; the PAPA committee forms and lists benches (Express Tribune).
- All three forums were reconstituted in view of the 27th Constitutional Amendment (Express Tribune).
- The 27th Amendment created the Federal Constitutional Court (Wikipedia, Supreme Court of Pakistan).
- A 2026 Supreme Court judgment held the two courts to be parallel, not subordinate; FCC decisions bind other courts on legal principles (Daily Times, 6 May 2026).
- Appeals under Art. 199 constitutional petitions go to the Federal Constitutional Court; general civil appeals remain with the Supreme Court (Daily Times).
- Supreme Court inaugurated the 1818 Legal Call Centre on 9 Oct to provide free legal advice (supremecourt.gov.pk).
- The court released 'Journey Through Reform and Innovation – 2026' on 10 Oct (supremecourt.gov.pk).
- Chief Justice Yahya Afridi has served since 26 October 2024 (Wikipedia).

C. Analytical Categories

Constitutional

- Art. 175A sets up the JCP and its parliamentary members.
- The 27th Amendment altered the court structure and its forums.

Political

- Party leaders sit on the body that picks judges.
- Dissatisfaction over candidate selection is reported, not confirmed.

Institutional

- Parallel court structure creates jurisdictional questions.
- Access-to-justice initiatives sit alongside structural change.

Comparative

- Judicial appointment bodies elsewhere mix judges, executive and legislature (background).
- Independence is judged by process transparency.

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **Chief Justice Yahya Afridi:** Approved the new members as JCP chairperson.
- **Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari (PPP):** Reported to have sought a JCP seat; PPP reportedly unhappy over judicial appointments.
- **Rana Sanaullah (PML-N):** Leader of the House in the Senate; notified as member.
- **Supreme Court:** Launched a legal helpline and published its reform report.

Challenges Ahead

- Public confidence in a commission that includes party leaders.
- Transparency of nominations.
- Clarity between the Supreme Court and the Federal Constitutional Court.
- Capacity of the helpline to scale.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Publish JCP criteria and minutes (analytical suggestion).
- Add independent members from the bar and academia.
- Clarify appellate routes for citizens.
- Commission an independent review of the reform report.

E. Statistical Digest

Art. 175A constitutional basis of the JCP	**Cl. 2(vii)** provision for the new members
3 judicial forums reconstituted after the 27th Amendment	**26 Oct 2024** Yahya Afridi took office as CJP
1818 free legal call centre number	**9 Oct** call centre launch; JCP notification date

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **JCP notification (via Express Tribune):** In pursuance of paragraph (vii) of clause 2 of Article 175A of the Constitution, the members were notified.
- **Daily Times (6 May 2026):** The Supreme Court and the Federal Constitutional Court are not subordinate to each other and function as parallel courts.

Vocabulary: Judicial Commission of Pakistan | Article 175A | Supreme Judicial Council | Treasury benches | Federal Constitutional Court | Parallel courts | Constitutional bench | Judicial independence | Access to justice | Superior courts

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2633901/bilawal-sanaullah-made-members-of-judicial-commission |
https://dailytimes.com.pk/1489334/constitutional-courts-jurisdiction-clarified-after-detailed-ruling-by-supreme-court-of-pakistan/ |
https://www.supremecourt.gov.pk/

ICEP's CSS Weekly
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Issue 21 | Full Edition
Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
N5 National Article

Balochistan's Cabinet
Mineral Fund, E-Bidding and 1.6 Million Out-of-School Children



Key Decisions of the Balochistan Cabinet

1. Establishment of a **Mineral Fund** to ensure better management and utilisation of mineral revenues.
2. Introduction of **e-bidding for mineral blocks** to enhance transparency and attract investment.
3. Focus on **1.6 million out-of-school children**, with measures to expand education access.
4. Approval of related administrative and policy measures for implementation.

Mineral Fund: Objectives

- Ensure transparent and effective use of mineral revenues.
- Support development projects in Balochistan.
- Address long-standing grievances over resource exploitation.
- Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

E-Bidding for Mineral Blocks

- Digitise the allocation process for mineral blocks.
- Improve transparency and reduce discretionary allocations.
- Attract domestic and foreign investment.
- Ensure competitive and fair bidding.



1.6 Million Out-of-School Children



- Around **1.6 million** children in Balochistan are out of school.
- Highlights severe challenges in education access and retention.
- Cabinet discussed measures to expand enrolment and improve school infrastructure.

Why It Matters?

- Effective use of mineral resources can boost Balochistan's economy
- Education is critical for human development and social stability.
- Addresses long-standing issues of resource governance, inequality and underdevelopment.
- Can help build trust between the province and the federation through inclusive development.

Challenges and Concerns

- Risk of continued misnanagement of mineral revenues.
- Ensuring transparency and fairness in e-bidding.
- Bridging the large education gap remains a major challenge.
- Need for effective implementation and monitoring.
- Addressing local grievances and ensuring equitable benefit-sharing.

Broader Implications



- Potential to transform Balochistan into a key contributor to national economic growth.
- Improved education outcomes can reduce poverty and increase opportunities.
- May strengthen provincial-federal relations if implemented effectively.
- Supports long-term stability and inclusive development in the region.

Way Forward

1. Ensure transparent management of the Mineral Fund.
2. Effectively implement e-bidding with strong oversight mechanisms.
3. Prioritise education reforms to bring 1.6 million children into schools.
4. Engage local communities and stakeholders in decision-making.
5. Monitor progress through clear targets and accountability frameworks.

N5 | Provincial Governance & Natural Resources | Priority: **MEDIUM**

Balochistan's Cabinet: Mineral Fund, E-Bidding and 1.6 Million Out-of-School Children

Continuity: New this issue; connects to Issue 20's N3 (federalism) through provincial resource governance.

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: resource federalism, Art. 158 (priority of the province of origin for gas, background), provincial governance.

Essay Topic: Resource revenue and provincial development: can mineral wealth reach Balochistan's people?

Flag: Provincial government briefings; outcomes not independently verified.

Infographic cross-check: The image says e-bidding applies to 'mineral blocks' and that 1.6 million children in the province are out of school. The sources say e-bidding is mandatory for public tenders above Rs500,000, and that 1.6 million is the enrolment target of the Non-Formal Education Act 2025, not a stated count of out-of-school children. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

The Balochistan cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Friday 9 October, approved a package of economic and governance measures, reported by Dawn and The Nation on 10 October. The Balochistan Mineral Development Fund Policy is meant to ensure that revenue from natural resources contributes to public welfare and provincial development. The cabinet also endorsed draft tourism and cultural policies to promote investment, employment and heritage protection, and approved incentives for reopening closed industrial units. In public procurement, amendments expand electronic bidding, which will be mandatory for tenders exceeding Rs500,000.

Administrative decisions included adjusting Quetta's revenue boundaries by dividing it into North and South Quetta for better governance and service delivery, and issuing e-domicile and local certificates through NADRA. The Nation reports that the cabinet also endorsed the Balochistan Non-Formal Education Act 2025 to enrol 1.6 million out-of-school children, and that the government is legislating in health, promoting telemedicine and activating specialised medical institutions, according to Adviser Shahid Rind. Dawn separately reported on 8 October that security forces had intensified operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, with 18 terrorists reported killed.

The package should be read against the province's circumstances. Balochistan is the largest province by area and among the lowest in human development, a mineral-rich territory that has seen separatist violence for decades. A mineral development fund can work only if its rules on revenue, spending and audit are published, which the cabinet reports do not detail. For CSS candidates the story illustrates resource federalism, procurement reform as an anti-corruption tool, and the link between security, governance and service delivery. The details come from the province's own briefings, so claims about outcomes should be treated as intentions.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- Balochistan cabinet chaired by CM Mir Sarfraz Bugti met on Friday 9 Oct (Dawn, 10 Oct).
- Mineral Development Fund Policy approved so natural-resource revenue funds provincial development and public welfare (Dawn).
- Draft tourism and cultural policies endorsed to promote investment, employment and heritage (Dawn).
- Incentives approved to reopen closed industrial units (Dawn).
- Procurement amendments: electronic bidding mandatory for tenders above Rs500,000 across relevant categories (Dawn).
- Quetta's revenue boundaries adjusted, dividing it into North and South Quetta (Nation, 10 Oct).
- E-domicile and local certificates to be issued through NADRA (Nation).
- Balochistan Non-Formal Education Act 2025 endorsed to enrol 1.6 million out-of-school children (Nation).
- Government is legislating in health, promoting telemedicine and activating specialised medical institutions (Nation, citing Adviser Shahid Rind).
- Dawn (8 Oct): 18 terrorists killed in K-P and Balochistan operations (Business Recorder listing).
- Background: an earlier cabinet (2025) approved a Mineral Development Fund and a contributory pension scheme (Dawn, 2025).
- Background: Balochistan's FY27 budget was reported as a Rs1.089tr surplus budget with Rs771bn expected in NFC transfers (BOL News).

C. Analytical Categories

Resource federalism

- Revenue from minerals is channelled through a dedicated fund.
- Governance of the fund decides whether it benefits locals.

Administrative

- Quetta is split into two units for service delivery.
- E-domicile reduces paperwork and discretion.

Social

- Non-formal education targets 1.6 million out-of-school children.
- Health legislation and telemedicine are early-stage.

Security

- Operations continue alongside governance measures.
- Security shapes investment in mining and industry.

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **Mir Sarfraz Bugti (Chief Minister):** Presented the package as practical reform for welfare and administration.
- **Shahid Rind (Adviser):** Said the decisions reflect broader policy direction: enrolment, school capacity, health legislation, telemedicine.

Challenges Ahead

- No published rules yet for the Mineral Development Fund.
- Security conditions limit investment and delivery.
- Capacity to run e-bidding in remote districts.
- Measuring enrolment against the 1.6 million target.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Publish fund rules, revenue sources and audit arrangements (analytical suggestion).
- Pilot e-bidding with training for small contractors.
- Report enrolment quarterly against the target.
- Link industry incentives to local employment.

E. Statistical Digest

Rs500,000 mandatory e-bidding threshold	**1.6 million** out-of-school children targeted
2 new Quetta revenue units	**9 Oct** cabinet meeting date
18 terrorists reported killed in K-P and Balochistan operations, 8 Oct	**Rs1.089tr** Balochistan FY27 surplus budget (BOL News)
Rs771bn NFC transfers expected in FY27 (BOL News)	

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **Dawn (10 Oct):** The cabinet approved the Mineral Development Fund Policy to ensure revenue from natural resources contributes to public welfare.
- **Nation (10 Oct):** The cabinet endorsed the Non-Formal Education Act 2025 to enrol 1.6 million out-of-school children.

Vocabulary: Mineral Development Fund | Electronic bidding | Procurement transparency | Non-formal education | Revenue boundaries | E-domicile | Resource federalism | Out-of-school children | Telemedicine | NFC transfers

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://www.dawn.com/news/2036085/balochistan-govt-approves-reforms-in-key-sectors |
https://www.nation.com.pk/10-Oct-2026/balochistan-cabinet-approves-economic-health-education-reforms

ICEP's CSS Weekly
CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE
Issue 21 | Full Edition
Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
N6 National Article

UN Chief's Three-Day Visit to Pakistan

Nishan-e-Imtiaz, Kashmir, Indus and Afghanistan

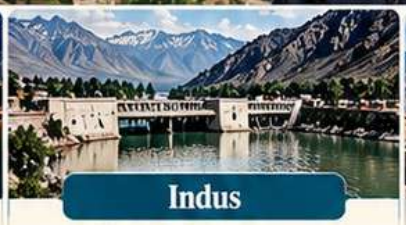


Awarded Nishan-e-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan



Kashmir

Reiterated support for a just, peaceful and lasting settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.



Indus

Highlighted the importance of the Indus Waters Treaty and cooperation on water issues.



Afghanistan

Urged continued engagement and humanitarian support for a stable, peaceful and inclusive Afghanistan.



Global Role of Pakistan

Appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in regional stability and multilateral cooperation.

Key Highlights of the Visit

1. **Conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz** in recognition of his services to international peace and cooperation.
2. Held meetings with the President and the Prime Minister.
3. Addressed a special event on regional and global challenges.
4. Discussed key issues: Kashmir, Indus Waters, Afghanistan and broader regional stability.
5. Reaffirmed the UN's continued partnership with Pakistan.

Main Issues Discussed

- **Kashmir:** Called for a just, peaceful and lasting settlement in accordance with UN resolutions.
- **Indus Waters:** Emphasised the importance of the Indus Waters Treaty and cooperation on water management.
- **Afghanistan:** Urged continued international engagement, humanitarian support and an inclusive political process.
- **Regional Stability:** Appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting peace, dialogue and multilateralism.
- **Global Challenges:** Highlighted climate change, development financing and the need for a rules-based international order.

Significance for Pakistan

- International recognition of Pakistan's role in peace and regional stability.
- Reinforces Pakistan's stance on Kashmir and the importance of the Indus Waters Treaty.
- Support for a peaceful, stable and inclusive Afghanistan.
- Strengthens Pakistan's engagement with the United Nations on global and regional issues.

Why It Matters?

- Highlights Pakistan's importance in regional and international diplomacy.
- Reinforces key national positions on Kashmir, water security and Afghanistan.
- Supports Pakistan's image as a responsible and constructive member of the international community.

Statements and Messages

> "...the United Nations remains committed to working with Pakistan for peace, stability and sustainable development in the region."
>
> – UN Secretary-General

Potential Implications

- May open avenues for greater UN support in development and humanitarian assistance.
- Could strengthen Pakistan's diplomatic position on Kashmir, water and Afghanistan.
- Reinforces the need for regional cooperation to address shared challenges.

Way Forward

1. Build on diplomatic momentum from the visit.
2. Strengthen multilateral engagement with the UN.
3. Pursue constructive dialogue on Kashmir, Indus Waters and Afghanistan.
4. Translate international support into concrete development and stability measures.

N6 | Foreign Policy & Multilateral Diplomacy | Priority: **HIGH**

UN Chief's Three-Day Visit: Nishan-e-Imtiaz, Kashmir, Indus and Afghanistan

Continuity: Links to Issue 20's I2 (UN Secretary-General race) and I3 (Indus Waters Treaty): Guterres, whose term ends on 31 December, visited Pakistan.

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: Pakistan and the UN, peacekeeping, Kashmir, Indus Waters Treaty.

Essay Topic: Pakistan and the United Nations: multilateralism as a pillar of foreign policy.

Infographic cross-check: The image attributes positions on Kashmir (settlement 'in accordance with UN resolutions'), the Indus treaty and Afghanistan to Guterres, and quotes him as saying the UN 'remains committed to working with Pakistan'. The Foreign Office briefing reports these as Pakistan's positions raised by Dar; no Guterres quote or position was found. The image omits the UNMOGIP visit, NDMA briefing and the meeting with Field Marshal Asim Munir. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

UN Secretary-General António Guterres visited Pakistan from 6 to 8 October 2026, the Foreign Office spokesperson said at his weekly briefing on 9 October. In talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on 6 October, the two sides discussed regional and international peace and security, Palestine, Jammu and Kashmir, Afghanistan, terrorism, peacekeeping, sustainable development, climate change and multilateralism. Dar briefed Guterres on Pakistan's efforts for dialogue and de-escalation, reiterated Pakistan's position on Kashmir, raised concerns over India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance and highlighted what he called the continued use of Afghan soil for terrorist attacks against Pakistan. President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the Nishan-e-Imtiaz on Guterres in recognition of his international service.

The Secretary-General also met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. He visited the headquarters of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and attended a briefing at the National Disaster Management Authority on disaster preparedness and early warning. Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the UN Charter, international law and peaceful settlement of disputes, while Guterres stressed stronger multilateral cooperation and a more representative and effective United Nations. An Express Tribune headline says the UN chief lauded Pakistan's mediation role.

The visit fell in the final months of Guterres' term, which ends on 31 December, while the Security Council continues its straw polls for his successor. It was one of several diplomatic engagements the Foreign Office listed: a meeting with British Minister Stephen Doughty on 6 October, talks with Belarus' National Security Adviser on 7 October, a visit by Bahrain's foreign minister on 7-8 October for the third Pakistan-Bahrain Joint Ministerial Commission, and the first visit of the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States, Archbishop Paul Richard, marking 75 years of diplomatic relations. For CSS candidates the visit is a model for answers on how Pakistan uses multilateral platforms to raise Kashmir, water and terrorism, and on UNMOGIP's role in the Kashmir dispute.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- Guterres visited Pakistan 6-8 Oct 2026; he met Dar on 6 Oct (Foreign Office briefing, via Express Tribune, 9 Oct).
- Topics: regional peace and security, Palestine, Jammu and Kashmir, Afghanistan, terrorism, peacekeeping, sustainable development, climate change, multilateralism (FO).
- Dar raised the Indus Waters Treaty abeyance and use of Afghan soil for terrorist attacks (FO).
- President Zardari conferred the Nishan-e-Imtiaz on Guterres (FO; Express Tribune).
- Guterres met PM Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Asim Munir (CDF and COAS) and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi (FO).
- Guterres visited the UNMOGIP headquarters and an NDMA briefing on disaster preparedness and early warning (FO).
- Dar reaffirmed commitment to the UN Charter, international law and peaceful settlement of disputes (FO).
- Express Tribune headline: UN chief lauds Pakistan's mediation role (9 Oct).
- UK Minister Stephen Doughty met Dar on 6 Oct; agreed to work towards early operationalisation of bilateral political consultations (FO).
- Dar met Belarus' National Security Adviser Lt Gen Alexander Volfovich on 7 Oct (FO).
- Bahrain's FM Dr Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani visited 7-8 Oct; third session of the Pakistan-Bahrain Joint Ministerial Commission co-chaired (FO).
- Archbishop Paul Richard of the Holy See arrived 8 Oct for a three-day visit, the first by a Secretary for Relations with States; 75th anniversary of relations (FO).
- Four injured crew of MT Honour 25 and remains of three Pakistani nationals were repatriated from Addis Ababa to Karachi on 4 Oct; the remaining three crew returned 7 Oct (FO).

C. Analytical Categories

Diplomatic

- Pakistan uses UN visits to internationalise Kashmir, water and terrorism.
- Honours and ceremony signal the importance of the relationship.

Institutional

- UNMOGIP's mandate relates to the 1949 Karachi Agreement and Kashmir (background).
- Guterres' term ends 31 Dec.

Security

- Afghan-soil terrorism is raised as a standing concern.
- Disaster preparedness is a low-politics cooperation area.

Multilateral

- Pakistan reaffirms the UN Charter and international law.
- Guterres calls for a more representative UN.

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **Ishaq Dar (Deputy PM and FM):** Briefed on de-escalation, Kashmir, the Indus treaty and Afghan-soil terrorism.
- **António Guterres:** Stressed stronger multilateral cooperation and a more representative and effective UN.
- **President Zardari:** Conferred the Nishan-e-Imtiaz.
- **Foreign Office (Sajjad Haider Khan):** Briefed the media on the visit and other engagements.

Challenges Ahead

- Translating UN statements into movement on Kashmir and the Indus treaty.
- Afghan-soil terrorism remains unresolved.
- Leadership transition at the UN after 31 Dec.
- UN reform proposals face P5 politics.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Pursue the Indus issue through treaty mechanisms and the UN (analytical suggestion).
- Seek UN support for verification of Afghan-soil commitments.
- Engage the next Secretary-General early.
- Use disaster management as a cooperation track.

E. Statistical Digest

6-8 Oct Guterres' visit dates	**31 Dec** end of Guterres' term
Nishan-e-Imtiaz honour conferred by President Zardari	**75 years** Pakistan-Holy See diplomatic relations
3rd session of the Pakistan-Bahrain Joint Ministerial Commission	**7** crew of MT Honour 25 repatriated (4 injured + 3 on 7 Oct)
3 remains of Pakistani nationals repatriated	

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **FO spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan (9 Oct):** Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the UN Charter, international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes.
- **Express Tribune headline (9 Oct):** UN chief lauds Pakistan's mediation role.

Vocabulary: Multilateralism | UNMOGIP | Nishan-e-Imtiaz | Peacekeeping | De-escalation | Joint Ministerial Commission | Holy See | Disaster preparedness | Peaceful settlement of disputes | Secretary-General

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2633895/fo-says-pakistan-saudi-arabia-turkiye-move-to-implement-makkah-defence-pact

ICEP's CSS Weekly
CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE
Issue 21 | Full Edition
Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
N7 National Article

Reserves at $21.45bn, PSX Slips and the IMF Deal Reaches the Markets



Key Figures

$21.45bn
SBP foreign exchange reserves (as of reporting week).

$26.79bn
Total liquid reserves (SBP + other reserves).

3.04 months
Import cover (SBP reserves).

PSX Performance

KSE-100 closes at **167,089.28 (-0.21%)**

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) slipped during the week amid global and domestic developments related to the IMF programme.

IMF Programme

Staff-level agreement reached on the 4th review of the EFF and the 3rd review of the RSF.

$1.2bn
IMF staff-level package.

Total expected disbursements: **$5.7bn** after Board approval.

Market and Economic Context

- PSX declined as investors reacted to developments related to the IMF deal.
- Global factors, including regional tensions and uncertainty in international markets, influenced sentiment.
- Domestic concerns over growth, inflation and fiscal consolidation also weighed on the market.
- The IMF programme is seen as important for macroeconomic stability and investor confidence.

Recent Economic Indicators

10.28%	CPI inflation (Sep 2026, PBS).
11.5%	SBP policy rate (next MPC: 26 Oct).
3.8%	World Bank FY27 growth projection.
8.2%	World Bank FY27 inflation projection.
Rs 1.7 trillion	Provincial cash surplus commitment (as per IMF agreement).

Significance of the IMF Deal

- Supports macroeconomic stability.
- Helps build confidence in domestic and international markets.
- Linked with fiscal consolidation, reforms and improved governance.
- Expected to help secure additional financing and support from multilateral and bilateral partners.

Key Challenges

- High inflation and cost of living pressures.
- Slow economic growth and limited employment opportunities.
- Fiscal consolidation and meeting IMF conditions.
- Global uncertainties and regional tensions.
- Need for structural reforms to ensure sustainable growth.

Implications

- Stability in foreign reserves helps maintain economic confidence.
- A stable macroeconomic outlook can support investment and growth.
- Continued reforms are important to address long-term structural challenges.
- The PSX performance reflects investor sensitivity to both domestic and global developments.

Way Forward

1. Ensure effective implementation of IMF-related reforms.
2. Maintain macroeconomic stability and control inflation.
3. Strengthen fiscal discipline and governance.
4. Promote investment and export-led growth.
5. Address structural challenges to build a more resilient economy.

N7 | External Sector & Capital Markets | Priority: **MEDIUM**

Reserves at $21.45bn, PSX Slips and the IMF Deal Reaches the Markets

Continuity: Follows Issue 20's N7 (inflation and SBP): reserves and the IMF agreement are the external-sector side of the same story.

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: foreign reserves, import cover, stock market, IMF programme.

Essay Topic: Foreign reserves and external stability: how much buffer is enough?

Flag: Three Express Tribune items (PSX, petrol and diesel, industrial tariff) are headline-level only.

Infographic cross-check: The image gives CPI as 10.28% (PBS). Issue 20 and Business Recorder give 10.26% (reported as 10.3%). 'Global factors' behind the PSX fall are not sourced; the Tribune headline says the PSX gave up gains despite the IMF deal. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

The State Bank of Pakistan reported on 8 October that its foreign exchange reserves rose by $15 million in the week to 2 October, to $21.454 billion. Reserves held by commercial banks were $5.344 billion, so total liquid foreign reserves were $26.797 billion, and the SBP's reserves cover 3.04 months of imports. The increase came as the IMF staff-level agreement of 7 October opened the way to about $1.2 billion. The IMF also urged Pakistan to take measures to increase foreign exchange reserves and to keep monetary policy sufficiently tight to bring inflation back to target.

Markets reacted unevenly. The KSE-100 closed on Friday 9 October at 167,089.28 points, down 352.63 points or 0.21 per cent from 167,441.91, according to The Nation. Market capitalisation fell to Rs18.569 trillion from Rs18.598 trillion, and of 497 companies traded in the ready market 243 gained and 203 lost. An Express Tribune headline on 10 October says the PSX gave up gains despite the IMF deal. The Tribune also carried headlines that the government cut petrol by 66 paisas and raised diesel by 52 paisas until 12 October, that businesses sought an industrial electricity tariff below 9 cents, and that Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal called economic stability 'borrowed'; the bodies of those stories were not reviewed for this article.

For CSS candidates the story is a lesson in reading external-sector data. SBP reserves and total liquid reserves measure different things, since commercial-bank holdings are not under the central bank's control; import cover, not the dollar headline, is the standard buffer measure; and a staff-level agreement is not money in the bank, because Executive Board approval must follow. Weekly changes of $15 million are small, so the larger story is the pipeline: about $1.2 billion from the IMF and the reserve targets in the programme.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- SBP reserves rose $15m week-on-week to $21.454bn as of 2 Oct 2026 (SBP data, reported 8 Oct).
- Commercial-bank reserves were $5.344bn; total liquid reserves $26.797bn (SBP data).
- Import cover from the dollar reserves: 3.04 months (SBP data via ProPakistani).
- The increase came as the IMF reached a staff-level agreement on 7 Oct (24NewsHD, 8 Oct).
- IMF urged Pakistan to take measures to increase foreign exchange reserves (IMF statement as reported, 9 Oct).
- IMF said the SBP should keep policy tight so inflation returns durably to its target range (IMF statement via ProPakistani).
- KSE-100 closed at 167,089.28 on 9 Oct, down 352.63 points (0.21%) (The Nation, 10 Oct).
- Market capitalisation fell to Rs18.569tr from Rs18.598tr; 243 of 497 traded companies gained, 203 lost (The Nation).
- Ready-market volume 309.4m shares vs 365.9m; traded value Rs15.438bn vs Rs17.722bn (The Nation).
- Express Tribune headline (10 Oct): PSX gives up gains despite IMF deal. [Body not reviewed]
- Express Tribune headline (9 Oct): government cuts petrol by 66 paisas, raises diesel by 52 paisas until 12 Oct. [Body not reviewed]
- Express Tribune headline (10 Oct): businesses seek industrial tariff below 9 cents. [Body not reviewed]
- Lahore Times (8 Oct): reserves near $21.5bn; the IMF wants the Rs100-a-litre petrol relief wound up promptly.

C. Analytical Categories

External sector

- Total liquid reserves include commercial-bank holdings.
- Import cover is the standard buffer measure.

Markets

- Index moves were modest after the IMF news.
- Breadth was mixed: 243 gainers against 203 losers.

Programme

- Staff-level agreement needs Board approval.
- Reserve accumulation is a stated IMF expectation.

Policy

- Fuel pricing continues through short administered periods.
- Industry presses for lower power tariffs.

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **State Bank of Pakistan:** Publishes weekly reserves; $21.454bn on 2 Oct.
- **IMF:** Wants reserves to rise and policy to stay tight.
- **Investors:** Pushed the KSE-100 down 0.21% on 9 Oct after a mixed week.
- **Businessmen:** Seek industrial tariff below 9 cents (headline).

Challenges Ahead

- Small weekly accumulation relative to import needs.
- Dependence on programme disbursements.
- Market sentiment after the IMF deal faded.
- Energy prices feed into inflation and reserves.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Build reserves through exports and remittances, not only borrowing (analytical suggestion).
- Publish a reserve path against import cover.
- Close the Board approval step quickly.
- Keep fuel relief targeted and time-bound.

E. Statistical Digest

$21.454bn SBP reserves, 2 Oct	**$26.797bn** total liquid reserves
$5.344bn commercial-bank reserves	**3.04 months** import cover
+$15m weekly change	**167,089.28** KSE-100 close, 9 Oct
-352.63 points change, 9 Oct (-0.21%)	**Rs18.569tr** market capitalisation
497 companies traded in the ready market	**243 / 203** gainers / losers
$1.2bn IMF package awaiting Board approval	

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **SBP data (via Business Recorder):** Foreign exchange reserves held by the SBP rose $15 million week-on-week to $21.45 billion as of 2 October.
- **The Nation (10 Oct):** The KSE-100 closed at 167,089.28 points, losing 352.63 points.

Vocabulary: Import cover | Liquid reserves | Commercial-bank deposits | KSE-100 | Market capitalisation | Ready market | Staff-level agreement | Reserve accumulation | External buffer | Administered price

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40443301/sbp-held-foreign-exchange-reserves-rise-15mn-to-2145bn | https://propakistani.pk/2026/10/08/sbp-reserves-gain-15-million/ | https://www.nation.com.pk/10-Oct-2026/psx-remains-bearish-loses-352-points | https://www.24newshd.tv/08-Oct-2026/pakistan-s-forex-reserves-reach-dollar-26-8bn

Navi Pillay Wins the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize

for Advancing International Law

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize to Navi Pillay for her lifelong work in advancing international law, human rights and justice.



Navi Pillay
2026 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Key Information

Award
Nobel Peace Prize 2026

Announced
10 October 2026
(Oslo, Norway)

Laureate
Navi Pillay

Reason
Recognised for her lifelong work in advancing international law, human rights and justice.

Who is Navi Pillay?



- South African jurist and human rights expert.
- Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2008–2014).
- Former Judge at the International Criminal Court (2003–2008).
- Known for her work on accountability for war crimes, protection of human rights and strengthening international justice.

Nobel Committee's Statement

> Navi Pillay is awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for her outstanding efforts to advance international law, promote human rights and strengthen accountability for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.
>
> – Norwegian Nobel Committee

Major Contributions

- Strengthened international human rights law and institutions.
- Worked for accountability for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Advocated for the protection of vulnerable groups and the rule of law.
- Consistently supported a more just, peaceful and inclusive international order.

Significance of the Award

- Recognises the importance of international law in promoting peace and justice.
- Highlights the role of human rights defenders in a world facing conflict and rising authoritarianism.
- Reaffirms the need for accountability for serious international crimes.
- Strengthens global support for a rules-based international order.

Relevance for Pakistan and the Region

- Reinforces the importance of international law in addressing regional conflicts, including Kashmir.
- Underscores the need for peaceful dispute resolution.
- Supports protection of human rights in conflict-affected areas such as Palestine, Afghanistan and the region.
- Highlights Pakistan's consistent stance on a rules-based international order and multilateralism.

Broader Global Context



- Award comes at a time of ongoing conflicts and weakening of multilateral institutions.
- Reflects global concern over rising violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.
- Signals continued relevance of international law in addressing global challenges.

Key Takeaways

1. The 2026 Nobel Peace Prize recognises the vital role of international law and human rights in promoting peace.
2. Navi Pillay's work highlights the importance of accountability for serious international crimes.
3. The award strengthens the global message for a rules-based international order.
4. It reinforces the need for peaceful dispute resolution and protection of human rights, which is relevant for Pakistan and the wider region.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

I1 | Human Rights & International Law | Priority: **HIGH**

Navi Pillay Wins the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for Advancing International Law

Continuity: New this issue; connects to Issue 20's I2 (UN) through the UN human rights system and the ICJ.

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: international criminal law, ICJ, ICC, UN human rights system.

Essay Topic: International criminal justice and peace: does accountability serve reconciliation?

Flag: Biographical details (2008-2014 term; Akayesu background) are standard reference, not from this week's reports.

Infographic cross-check: The image says the prize was announced on 10 October (Oslo). The Nobel Prize press release and reports date it 9 October. The 'Nobel Committee's Statement' box is not the committee's citation: the official citation is 'for her efforts to promote peace and international law'. The ICC term (2003-2008), the Pakistan/Kashmir relevance panel and the portraits (generated illustrations) are unsourced. It omits the ICJ Myanmar genocide case, Trump's reaction and the new ICC sanctions. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

The Norwegian Nobel Committee announced on 9 October 2026 that the Nobel Peace Prize goes to Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay, the South African jurist and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'for her efforts to promote peace and international law'. According to Al Jazeera and ABC News, the committee highlighted her work on the Rwanda genocide tribunal, where she presided and helped establish in the Akayesu case that rape and sexual violence can constitute crimes against humanity and genocide, and her current service as a judge on the International Court of Justice, including in the case in which Myanmar is accused of genocide against the Rohingya. Pillay was also a judge of the International Criminal Court and served as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2008 to 2014, according to biographical reports.

The committee said the honour was especially important at a time when international law 'is under tremendous pressure and its institutions are under attack'. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called her a 'steadfast, independent voice of justice'. The announcement drew an immediate political response: Donald Trump said the committee had 'demeaned' the prize, and the White House announced further sanctions on the International Criminal Court the same day. The Express Tribune ran a headline noting that the prize went to a South African judge 'despite PM Shehbaz's hopes for Trump', a reference to Pakistan's prime minister having expressed hope that Trump would receive the award; the body of that story was not reviewed for this article. The prize is worth 12 million Swedish crowns and will be presented in Oslo on 10 December.

For CSS candidates the award is a compact case study in international criminal law. It touches the principle of individual criminal responsibility for genocide and crimes against humanity, the role of ad hoc tribunals (Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia) in building precedent, the ICJ's role in state responsibility under the Genocide Convention, and the geopolitics that surround courts, as the sanctions on the ICC show. A strong essay would also note the limits: tribunals are slow, enforcement depends on states, and great powers contest their jurisdiction.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee announced the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for Navi Pillay on 9 Oct (Nobel Prize press release).
- Citation: 'for her efforts to promote peace and international law' (Nobel Prize press release; ABC News).
- The committee cited her work at the Rwanda genocide tribunal, including on sexual violence as a crime against humanity and genocide (Al Jazeera; ABC News).
- She sits on the International Court of Justice, including in the Myanmar genocide case (Nobel Prize press release).
- She served as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (Al Jazeera, 'Who is Navi Pillay').
- The committee: international law 'is under tremendous pressure and its institutions are under attack' (Al Jazeera).
- Guterres called her a 'steadfast, independent voice of justice' (UN News).
- Trump said the committee 'demeaned' the prize (Al Jazeera, 9 Oct).
- The White House announced further sanctions on the International Criminal Court the same day (Al Jazeera).
- Prize value: 12 million Swedish crowns; ceremony in Oslo on 10 Dec (Al Jazeera).
- Express Tribune headline: the prize went to a South African judge despite PM Shehbaz's hopes for Trump (9 Oct). [Body not reviewed]
- Background: the Rwanda tribunal's 1998 Akayesu judgment was the first to convict for genocide under the Genocide Convention and to recognise rape as an act of genocide.

C. Analytical Categories

Legal

- Individual criminal responsibility for genocide and crimes against humanity.
- ICJ judges state responsibility; the ICC prosecutes individuals (background).

Political

- The award is read as a defence of the rule of law.
- US sanctions on the ICC show institutional pressure.

Human rights

- Sexual violence recognised as a tool of genocide.
- The UN human rights system is institutionally weak without state support.

Pakistan-relevant

- Pakistan's prime minister had publicly hoped for a different laureate (headline-level).
- Pakistan has used the UN rights system on Kashmir (background).

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **Norwegian Nobel Committee:** Honours Pillay for promoting peace and international law.
- **Navi Pillay:** Dedicated the prize to survivors of international crimes (per reports).
- **UN Secretary-General Guterres:** Called her a steadfast, independent voice of justice.
- **US administration (Trump):** Said the award demeaned the prize; announced more ICC sanctions.

Challenges Ahead

- Political pressure on the ICC and ICJ.
- Enforcement depends on state cooperation.
- Slow trials and limited reach.
- Selective application of international law.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Protect court independence from sanctions (analytical suggestion).
- Expand victim-centred justice and reparations.
- Support universal jurisdiction in national courts.
- Link accountability to peace processes.

E. Statistical Digest

9 Oct announcement date	**12m SEK** prize value
10 Dec Oslo ceremony	**2008-2014** Pillay's term as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (biographical)
1998 Akayesu judgment year (background)	**ICJ** current bench; Myanmar genocide case

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **Norwegian Nobel Committee:** For her efforts to promote peace and international law.
- **Nobel committee (via Al Jazeera):** International law is under tremendous pressure and its institutions are under attack.
- **António Guterres (UN News):** A steadfast, independent voice of justice.

Vocabulary: Crime against humanity | Genocide Convention | Ad hoc tribunal | International Court of Justice | International Criminal Court | Universal jurisdiction | State responsibility | Individual criminal responsibility | Sanctions | Accountability

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2026/press-release/ | https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/10/9/2026-nobel-peace-prize-awarded-to-navi-pillay | https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/10/1168558 | https://tribune.com.pk/story/2633867/pm-shehbaz-hopes-trump-will-receive-nobel-peace-prize-this-time

ICEP's CSS Weekly
CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE
Issue 21 | Full Edition
Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
I2 International Article

The Makkah Joint Defence Agreement Moves to Implementation as Houthi Strikes Hit Saudi Airports



Key Developments

1. The **Makkah Joint Defence** Agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is moving towards implementation.
2. Houthi forces launched missile and drone attacks on Saudi airports, including in Jeddah, causing disruptions.
3. The attacks have increased the urgency for operationalising the defence agreement.
4. Both countries are reportedly enhancing coordination on intelligence sharing, air defence and regional security.

About the Makkah Agreement

- Signed in **Makkah** in September 2025.
- Envisages mutual defence and enhanced security cooperation.
- Aims to strengthen strategic partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.
- Expected to include cooperation in defence production, training, intelligence sharing and joint exercises.

Houthi Strikes on Saudi Airports

- Houthi forces targeted Saudi airports with missiles and drones.
- Attacks reported on Jeddah airport and other key facilities.
- Flights were disrupted and airport operations affected.
- The strikes are part of the ongoing regional conflict linked to the Gaza war.

Regional Context



- The Houthi movement, backed by Iran, continues to target Saudi interests in the region.
- The conflict is linked to the broader regional tensions, including the Gaza war and Iran's regional influence.
- The agreement is expected to contribute to regional deterrence and stability.

Significance of the Agreement

- Enhances the security of Saudi Arabia and regional stability.
- Strengthens Pakistan–Saudi strategic relations.
- May help deter further aggression by Houthi forces and other actors.
- Reflects growing defence cooperation in the Muslim world.

Challenges and Concerns

- Risk of further escalation in the region.
- Possibility of a wider regional conflict.
- Economic cost of prolonged military tensions.
- Involvement of multiple regional and global actors (Iran, US, Israel).

Implications

- Stronger collective security in the region.
- Potential for increased military cooperation and joint operations.
- May influence the broader geopolitical balance in the Middle East.
- Could impact energy markets and global trade routes.

Pakistan's Role



- Reinforces Pakistan's role as a key regional security partner.
- Opens avenues for defence exports and strategic cooperation.
- Enhances Pakistan's influence in the Islamic world.
- Aligns with Pakistan's broader foreign policy of regional stability and collective security.

Way Forward

1. Expedite implementation of the Makkah agreement with clear mechanisms.
2. Strengthen air defence and intelligence coordination.
3. Promote diplomatic efforts to reduce regional tensions.
4. Encourage a broader dialogue for lasting peace in Yemen and the region.
5. Ensure balanced relations with all major regional and global stakeholders.

I2 | Islamic Studies, Muslim World & Collective Security | Priority: **HIGH**

The Makkah Joint Defence Agreement Moves to Implementation as Houthi Strikes Hit Saudi Airports

Continuity: Extends Issue 20's I5 (Madinah power-station strike and the Makkah Defence Alliance): the pact now moves from declaration to implementation.

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: collective security, OIC world, Haramain, Yemen conflict.

Essay Topic: Collective defence in the Muslim world: from sentiment to treaty.

Flag: Coalition totals differ between statements (82; 100+; 136); three Tribune items are headline-level only.

Infographic cross-check: The image says the Makkah agreement is bilateral (Pakistan and Saudi Arabia) and was signed in Makkah in September 2025. The Foreign Office and Express Tribune describe the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement as trilateral (Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye), formalised on 7 August. The image places strikes on Jeddah airport and links them to the Gaza war; sources report attacks on Riyadh's King Khalid and Abha airports, killing three and wounding 36, and do not mention Jeddah. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

On 9 October Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan said that Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye had agreed to move towards practical implementation of their collective defence commitments under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA). A committee of the three countries' foreign ministers, defence ministers and chiefs of general staff reviewed the security situation and the threats facing Saudi Arabia, strongly condemned attempts to target Makkah and Madinah and attacks on cities, civilians and economic infrastructure, and approved measures to enhance readiness, military integration and collective capacity. The decision includes measures to provide agreed military forces and capabilities and ensure their rapid deployment in Saudi Arabia in accordance with approved arrangements and each country's national laws. The parties reaffirmed that the security of each country is an integral part of the collective security of the three.

The decision followed attacks by Yemen's Houthi movement on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh and Abha International Airport on 6-7 October, which killed three people and wounded 36, according to Saudi authorities; a Pakistani was among the injured, according to an Express Tribune headline, and PIA temporarily suspended flights to Riyadh. The Saudi-led coalition said it had intercepted three Houthi ballistic missiles aimed at Riyadh and Khamis Mushait and then struck 82, and later more than 100, targets across Yemen. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attacks and called for an immediate halt. Pakistan's information ministry rejected as 'fake and fabricated' a New York Times report claiming PAF aircraft had been used against the Houthis, and a Tribune headline quotes the Foreign Office as saying that ground forces will not cross Yemen to attack the Houthis but will defend Saudi Arabia.

The MJDA was formalised on 7 August as a trilateral framework under which an armed attack on any of the three is treated as an attack on all three, after nearly a year of negotiations; the three had reaffirmed commitments at a meeting on 25 September after attacks on Makkah. For CSS candidates the story links Islamic Studies themes (the sanctity of the Two Holy Mosques, Ummah solidarity, protection of civilians) with international relations (collective defence versus collective security, the Yemen war, Pakistan's balancing between Riyadh and Tehran, see I3). The central analytical question is whether implementation will deter attacks or draw Pakistan into a wider conflict, and how the 'defend Saudi territory, do not attack Yemen' line will hold under pressure.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- 9 Oct FO briefing: Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye agreed to move to practical implementation of collective defence commitments under the MJDA (Express Tribune).
- The committee comprised foreign ministers, defence ministers and chiefs of general staff of the three states (Express Tribune).
- Measures include providing agreed forces and capabilities and ensuring their rapid deployment in Saudi Arabia, in line with national laws (Express Tribune).
- The parties 'strongly condemned attempts to target Makkah and Madinah' and attacks on cities, civilians and economic infrastructure (Express Tribune).
- MJDA formalised 7 Aug: an armed attack on any of the three is an attack on all three; the product of nearly a year of negotiations (Express Tribune).
- The three reaffirmed collective defence at a 25 Sep meeting after attacks on Makkah (Express Tribune).
- Houthi attacks on Riyadh and Abha airports on 6-7 Oct killed three and wounded 36 (Saudi civil aviation, via CNN and France 24).
- A Pakistani was among 36 injured, per Express Tribune headline; PIA temporarily suspended Riyadh flights (Express Tribune headlines).
- The coalition said it intercepted 3 Houthi ballistic missiles aimed at Riyadh and Khamis Mushait (Express Tribune headline).
- Coalition said it destroyed 82 military targets, later reporting more than 100 (Arab News, 8 Oct; CBS News).
- PM Shehbaz condemned the Houthi attacks and called for an immediate halt (Express Tribune).
- Information ministry called a NYT report on PAF aircraft used against the Houthis 'fake and fabricated' (Express Tribune headline).
- Express Tribune headline: ground forces will not cross Yemen to attack the Houthis, will defend Saudi Arabia: FO. [Body not reviewed]

- Earlier: Pakistan condemned the Houthi attack on the Taibah (Tayeba) power distribution station in Madinah on 2 Oct as a 'grave provocation' (FO).

C. Analytical Categories

Islamic / Religious

- Sanctity of the Two Holy Mosques and pilgrims' safety.
- Qur'an 49:10 (the believers are brothers) is the textual basis of Ummah solidarity (background).

Strategic

- Collective defence clause moves to force-provision and rapid deployment.
- Stated limits: defend Saudi territory, no ground offensive in Yemen.

Diplomatic

- Pakistan denies reports of offensive air action.
- It also keeps a mediator channel with Iran (see I3).

Legal

- Obligations depend on treaty text and national laws.
- Attacks on civilian infrastructure and airports breach humanitarian law (general principle).

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **Pakistan Foreign Office (Sajjad Haider Khan):** Security of each party is integral to collective security; defence of Saudi Arabia, no ground advance into Yemen.
- **Pakistan information ministry:** Rejects the NYT report on PAF aircraft as fake and fabricated.
- **Saudi-led coalition:** Struck 82 then 100+ targets after the airport attacks.
- **Houthis (Abdul Malik al-Houthi):** Vowed to continue attacks on Saudi targets (CNN, 8 Oct).
- **United States (Trump):** Said the US 'may' join strikes (CBS News).

Challenges Ahead

- Defining the trigger and scope of 'attack on all'.
- Avoiding entanglement in the Yemen war.
- Sectarian and regional blowback at home.
- Protecting pilgrims, airlines and Pakistani nationals in the Kingdom.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Publish the legal framework for deployment (analytical suggestion).
- Support a Yemen ceasefire through Oman and the UN.
- Keep Pakistan's mediator channel with Tehran open.
- Protect civil aviation through a regional air-safety framework.

E. Statistical Digest

7 Aug MJDA formalised	**25 Sep** trilateral reaffirmation after Makkah attacks
3 killed in the Riyadh and Abha airport attacks	**36** wounded, including a Pakistani (headline)
3 Houthi ballistic missiles intercepted (headline)	**82** targets in the first coalition announcement
100+ targets in later announcements	**3** states in the agreement
2 Oct Madinah power-station attack condemned by Pakistan	

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **FO spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan (9 Oct):** The security of each country is an integral part of the collective security of the three countries.
- **FO spokesperson (9 Oct):** The parties strongly condemned attempts to target Makkah and Madinah.
- **Coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki (via Arab News):** Attacks on civilians will not go unpunished.

Vocabulary: Collective defence | Joint Defence Agreement | Haramain | Ummah | Rapid deployment | Ballistic missile | Air-safety advisory | Proxy conflict | Sanctity | Readiness and integration

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2633895/fo-says-pakistan-saudi-arabia-turkiye-move-to-implement-makkah-defence-pact | https://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/82-houthi-military-targets-destroyed-as-coalition-vows-attacks-on-civilians-will-not-go-unpunished-3005193 | https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20261008-saudi-arabia-strikes-deadly-houthi-attacks-airports

Extended Model Answer II - Linked article: I2

Question: 'The Makkah Joint Defence Agreement strengthens Pakistan's security but narrows its diplomatic options.' Discuss in the light of the October 2026 developments. (20 marks)

1. Introduction and thesis

On 9 October 2026 Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye agreed to move towards practical implementation of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement of 7 August, approving measures for readiness, military integration and rapid deployment of agreed forces in Saudi Arabia. The decision followed Houthi attacks on Riyadh and Abha airports. This answer argues that the agreement strengthens Pakistan's security and standing in the Gulf, but that it narrows Pakistan's diplomatic room, especially in its mediation between the United States and Iran, unless it is carefully bounded.

2. The agreement and its implementation

According to the Foreign Office, the MJDA is a trilateral framework in which an armed attack on any one of the three states is considered an attack on all three, formalised after nearly a year of negotiations. A committee of foreign ministers, defence ministers and chiefs of general staff reviewed the threats facing Saudi Arabia, condemned attempts to target Makkah and Madinah and approved measures to provide agreed forces and capabilities and ensure their rapid deployment in Saudi Arabia in accordance with national laws. The parties reaffirmed that each state's security is integral to collective security. A Foreign Office line reported by a Tribune headline adds that ground forces will not cross Yemen to attack the Houthis but will defend Saudi Arabia.

3. Strategic benefits

First, deterrence: a formal pact signals that attacks on Saudi Arabia will meet a collective response, which may deter escalation. Second, economic security: Pakistan depends on Gulf remittances and fuel supply, and the World Bank notes that oil importers face remittance losses from the Gulf conflict. Third, military integration brings training, interoperability and defence-industrial cooperation (background). Fourth, the religious and political weight of defending the Haramain gives the pact domestic legitimacy; the Foreign Office framed the Madinah strike as a matter of deep concern for millions of Muslims.

4. Diplomatic costs

Against this, Pakistan is a mediator in the US-Iran conflict. The war that began on 28 February 2026 saw Pakistan broker the June memorandum, and the DG ISPR said on 9 October that Pakistan is committed to a negotiated outcome. Deploying forces in Saudi Arabia while Iran-aligned groups fire at it complicates neutrality, and Tehran may read the pact as hostile. The information ministry's rejection of a New York Times report on PAF aircraft used against the Houthis shows Islamabad's sensitivity to being seen as a party. Domestic risks include sectarian blowback and the cost of a prolonged commitment.

5. Legal and operational questions

Treaty obligations depend on text that has not been published in the sources reviewed. Questions include: what counts as an armed attack, who decides, how deployment is authorised under Pakistan's national laws (the agreement says 'in accordance with national laws'), and how command is organised. The stated limit, defend Saudi territory but no ground advance into Yemen, suggests a defensive reading, but a defensive pact can become offensive in practice if missile and drone defence includes striking launch sites.

6. Critical evaluation

The pact's value lies in its ambiguity and in its limits. If Pakistan maintains a visibly defensive role, it can retain credibility as a mediator, as it did with Oman and others in the Hormuz talks. If the defensive line erodes, mediation will suffer. The Madinah attack and the airport strikes show the Houthis test red lines; a response that stays within agreed limits strengthens deterrence, while one that exceeds them risks escalation. Two pressures compete: Saudi expectations of visible commitment and Iran's expectations of neutrality.

7. Synthesis

A balanced approach would (a) publish the legal basis for deployment and parliamentary oversight; (b) state clearly that forces are for defence of Saudi territory and holy sites; (c) keep a dedicated diplomatic track with Tehran and Muscat; and (d) support a Yemen ceasefire through Oman and the UN so that defence does not become permanent. Pakistan's multilateral role, as shown by Guterres' visit and its praise of Pakistan's mediation, is an asset to protect.

8. Conclusion

The proposition is largely correct. The MJDA gives Pakistan a stronger security partnership and standing in the Gulf, but narrows its freedom to mediate unless its defensive character is made explicit and its implementation is transparent. As of 11 October the implementation measures were announced in outline only, and their detail will decide whether the pact deters conflict or draws Pakistan deeper into it.

Why this is examiner-oriented: it ties a treaty text to current events, weighs security gains against diplomatic costs with sourced facts and ends with a four-point policy synthesis.

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Issue 21 | Full Edition
Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
13 International Article

US-Iran Deadlock: Hormuz Stays Shut, No Strikes Before the Midterms, Pakistan Backs Talks



Key Developments

1. Iran has kept the Strait of Hormuz closed, disrupting global oil and gas supplies.
2. The US has ruled out military strikes on Iran before the midterm elections, favouring diplomacy.
3. Diplomatic efforts, including Omani mediation, are continuing to break the deadlock.
4. Pakistan has supported diplomatic engagement and a peaceful resolution through dialogue.

Why the Strait of Hormuz Matters?



- Around 20–25% of global oil trade passes through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Closure has led to higher global oil prices and increased market uncertainty.
- Disruption affects global energy security, trade routes and economic stability.
- Continued closure can increase inflationary pressures worldwide.

Positions of Key Actors

Iran
Maintains that the Strait will remain closed, citing security concerns and regional tensions.

United States
No military strikes before the midterms; emphasises diplomacy and renewed negotiations.

Oman
Continuing mediation efforts between Iran and the US.

Pakistan
Supports dialogue, de-escalation and a political settlement.

Other Actors
Regional and global powers are concerned about the impact on energy markets and regional stability.

Recent Developments (4–10 Oct 2026)

4 Oct	Iran reaffirmed that the Strait of Hormuz will remain closed.
6 Oct	Global oil prices rose amid supply concerns.
7 Oct	US officials ruled out military strikes before the midterm elections.
8 Oct	Omani mediation efforts continued.
9–10 Oct	Pakistan reiterated support for diplomatic engagement.

Broader Regional Context



Key Challenges

- Risk of further escalation between Iran and the US.
- Continued disruption to global energy supplies.
- Rising oil prices and economic uncertainty.
- Potential involvement of other regional actors.
- Impact on maritime security and freedom of navigation.

Significance for Pakistan

- Stable energy markets are vital for Pakistan's economic stability.
- Supports Pakistan's consistent stance on dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes.
- Reinforces Pakistan's role as a responsible regional actor.
- Helps protect Pakistan's economic interests and energy security.

Global Implications

- Increased volatility in global oil markets.
- Higher inflationary pressures worldwide.
- Disruption to global trade routes.
- Greater risk of a wider regional conflict involving multiple actors.
- Strengthens the need for multilateral diplomacy and conflict resolution.

Way Forward

1. Renew diplomatic engagement between the US and Iran.
2. Support mediation efforts, including by Oman and other neutral actors.
3. Avoid actions that could further escalate tensions.
4. Ensure freedom of navigation and maritime security in the region.
5. Address underlying regional issues through a broader political settlement.

I3 | Energy Security & Great-Power Diplomacy | Priority: **HIGH**

US-Iran Deadlock: Hormuz Stays Shut, No Strikes Before the Midterms, Pakistan Backs Talks

Continuity: Continues Issue 20's I4 (Iran sanctions and the Islamabad Understanding): the Hormuz stalemate is the backdrop to Pakistan's sanctions language.

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: Strait of Hormuz, Pakistan's mediation, energy security.

Essay Topic: Hormuz and the global economy: chokepoints, sanctions and mediation.

Flag: Two Tribune items (DG ISPR statement, LPG tanker) are headline-level; the IRGC claim is unverified by independent sources.

Infographic cross-check: The image dates 'US officials ruled out strikes' to 7 October and says oil prices rose on 6 October; the sources report Trump's Truth Social statement as of 9 October and give no oil-price move for 6 October. It omits Iran's seven-day ceasefire plan, Trump's rejection of it and the IRGC's claimed tanker strike (9 October). The leader portraits are generated illustrations. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

The United States and Iran remain deadlocked over the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has proposed a seven-day ceasefire and a phased reopening of the strait; Trump rejected that plan, and Iran's negotiator said the strait would stay closed until the US accepted it (Al Jazeera, 4 and 9 October; CBS News). Trump then said on Truth Social that he would not order a resumption of strikes before the US midterm elections on 3 November, while describing talks as 'productive'. On 9 October the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it had struck an LPG tanker attempting to cross the strait, which caught fire. Iran is also holding talks with Oman on the mechanics of reopening the strait.

Pakistan sits inside this story as a mediator. The war began on 28 February 2026 with US and Israeli strikes; a two-week ceasefire followed in April, and on 17 June a memorandum signed by the presidents of the US and Iran lifted the naval blockade and reopened Hormuz, described by CFR as Pakistan-mediated. On 9 October the Express Tribune headlined the Director-General ISPR as saying Pakistan is committed to a 'negotiated and peaceful outcome' between the US and Iran, and the Foreign Office has said it facilitates contacts. Pakistan's wider position includes the cautious sanctions language of 1 October (Issue 20, I4) and its defence agreement with Saudi Arabia (I2), which makes neutrality harder.

Why it matters economically: the strait carries about a fifth of global oil and gas shipments in peacetime, and the World Bank report in N3 notes that Pakistani petrol prices rose 40 per cent or more and diesel more than 40 per cent since the conflict began, while oil importers face remittance losses from the Gulf and higher borrowing costs because of insurance risk. For CSS candidates the story is a model of how a regional war transmits to a South Asian economy through fuel prices, remittances and reserves, and how a middle power uses mediation to protect its interests.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- Iran proposed a seven-day ceasefire and phased reopening of Hormuz; Trump rejected it (CBS News, 8 Oct; Al Jazeera, 9 Oct).
- Iran's negotiator Ghalibaf: the strait stays closed until the US accepts Tehran's plan (Al Jazeera, 4 Oct).
- Trump on Truth Social: no strikes on Iran before the 3 Nov midterms; talks 'productive' (reported by Al Jazeera, 9 Oct).
- IRGC said it struck an LPG tanker trying to cross the strait on 9 Oct (Express Tribune headline; CFR tracker).
- Iran-Oman talks on the mechanics of reopening the strait (CBS News).
- A June memorandum signed by the US and Iranian presidents lifted the blockade; CFR calls it Pakistan-mediated (CFR).
- A two-week ceasefire with safe passage through Hormuz was agreed in April (AIR News, 8 Apr).
- The war began 28 Feb 2026 with US and Israeli strikes (Wikipedia, '2026 Iran war').
- DG ISPR: Pakistan is committed to a negotiated and peaceful outcome between the US and Iran (Express Tribune headline, 9 Oct).
- Al Jazeera (9 Oct): analysis asks whether Trump is signalling a return to war after the midterms.
- USS Abraham Lincoln returned to San Diego after supporting the Iran war (Tribune headline, Oct 9).
- World Bank (via Express Tribune, 7 Oct): petrol up 40%+ and diesel up 40%+ in Pakistan since the Middle East conflict began.
- World Bank: oil importers face remittance losses from the Gulf and higher borrowing costs from insurance risk (Express Tribune).

C. Analytical Categories

Energy security

- About a fifth of global oil and gas passes Hormuz in peacetime (Al Jazeera).
- Tanker attacks raise insurance and freight costs.

Diplomacy

- Pakistan's mediation credibility needs both sides' trust.
- Oman is a second channel.

Economic

- Fuel prices and remittances are the transmission channels to Pakistan.
- IMF programme fuel-pricing rules interact with the shock.

Strategic

- US domestic politics (midterms) shape timing.
- Pakistan's Saudi defence pact complicates neutrality.

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **Donald Trump (US):** Rejects the seven-day plan; no strikes before 3 Nov.
- **Iran (Ghalibaf):** Strait stays closed until its plan is accepted.
- **IRGC:** Claims strike on a tanker transiting Hormuz.
- **Pakistan (DG ISPR, Foreign Office):** Committed to a negotiated outcome; facilitating contacts.
- **Oman:** Hosting talks on reopening the strait.

Challenges Ahead

- Two incompatible reopening plans.
- Attacks on commercial shipping.
- Pakistan's dual commitments to Riyadh and Tehran.
- Fuel-price and remittance exposure.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Return to the June memorandum's terms through Pakistan and Oman (analytical suggestion).
- Insurance and escort arrangements for shipping.
- Separate Hormuz reopening from nuclear talks.
- Diversify Pakistan's energy imports.

E. Statistical Digest

28 Feb 2026 war began	**17 Jun 2026** memorandum signed
3 Nov US midterm elections	**7 days** length of Iran's proposed ceasefire
One-fifth share of global oil and gas through Hormuz	**40%+** petrol price rise in Pakistan since the conflict (World Bank)
40%+ diesel price rise in Pakistan	**60 days** cessation period in the June arrangement (CFR)

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **Donald Trump (Truth Social, via Al Jazeera):** No resumption of strikes before 3 November; talks are productive.
- **DG ISPR (Express Tribune headline):** Pakistan is committed to a negotiated and peaceful outcome between the US and Iran.

Vocabulary: Strait of Hormuz | Naval blockade | Memorandum | Cessation of hostilities | Mediation | Middle-power diplomacy | Chokepoint | Insurance risk | Remittances | Escort

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/confrontation-between-united-states-and-iran |
https://aljazeera.com/news/2026/10/9/is-trump-signalling-a-return-to-war-with-iran-after-the-midterms |
https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/10/4/iran-says-strait-of-hormuz-to-remain-closed-until-us-meets-conditions

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Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
14 International Article

Ukraine Peace Push Stalls as Putin Tells Trump Talks Are Unlikely

Fighting Intensifies Despite Renewed Diplomatic Efforts



Key Developments

1. Putin told Trump that talks to end the war are unlikely in the near term.
2. Russia continues large-scale strikes on Ukrainian cities, including Kyiv.
3. Trump said he does not plan to provide long-range Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine for now.
4. European countries are considering using frozen Russian assets to support Ukraine.
5. Diplomatic efforts continue, but significant gaps remain between te te two sides.

Recent Military Developments

- Russia launched large-scale aerial attacks on Kyiv and other cities, causing civilian casualties and damage to energy infrastructure.
- Fighting continues in eastern Ukraine, with Russian forces making gradual advances.
- Both sides continue drone and missile strikes on key targets.
- Ukraine is seeking additional air defence systems from Western partners.
- Military analysts warn of a protracted conflict with no decisive breakthrough.

Positions of Key Actors

Russia
Putin said meaningful talks are unlikely soon and reiterated his conditions for ending the war.

Ukraine
Seeks continued Western support, more air defence systems and stronger security guarantees.

United States
Trump said no plans for Tomahawk missiles at present but emphasised continued diplomatic engagement.

European Union
Considering the use of frozen Russian assets to support Ukraine and strengthen its defence.

NATO
Reaffirms long-term support for Ukraine and warns against further escalation.

Why the War Continues

- Territorial disputes, particularly over occupied regions.
- Security concerns of both Russia and Ukraine.
- Lack of trust between the two sides.
- Different and incompatible conditions for a peace settlement.
- Continued external support to both sides.

Map of the Conflict



Implications

- Continued instability in Europe and risks to global security.
- Higher energy prices and economic uncertainty worldwide.
- Potential impact on global food security.
- Increased defence spending by European countries.
- Prolonged conflict may reshape the global order and strengthen geopolitical rivalries.

Pakistan's Perspective

- Supports a peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.
- Calls for respect for international law and the UN Charter.
- Emphasises the need for humanitarian assistance and protection of civilians.
- Advocates a balanced approach and continued engagement with all parties.

Key Challenges

- No immediate prospect of a ceasefire.
- Risk of further escalation and expansion of the conflict.
- Economic and humanitarian costs continue to rise.
- Increased geopolitical tensions between major powers.
- Difficulty in building trust for meaningful negotiations.

Way Forward

1. Renewed diplomatic efforts with a focus on realistic and achievable steps.
2. Confidence-building measures between the two sides.
3. Continued humanitarian assistance for affected populations.
4. Engagement of key international actors for a sustainable peace settlement.
5. Addressing underlying security concerns to prevent future conflict.

I4 | Russia-Ukraine & European Security | Priority: **MEDIUM**

Ukraine Peace Push Stalls as Putin Tells Trump Talks Are Unlikely

Continuity: New this issue.

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: Russia-Ukraine war, NATO, coercive diplomacy.

Essay Topic: Ending the Russia-Ukraine war: ceasefire, territory and security guarantees.

Infographic cross-check: The image says Trump does not plan to provide Tomahawk missiles and that European countries are considering frozen Russian assets; neither was found in the sources used. It omits the US proposal of trilateral technical talks by end-October, Ryabkov's statement and Rubio's 'dangerous stalemate' remark. The portraits are generated illustrations. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

On 4 October Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the United States was proposing a technical-level trilateral meeting with Ukraine and Russia by the end of October, with the UAE as a possible venue, and that Ukraine was ready. By 7 October Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Moscow had no plans for talks in that format, and the Kyiv Independent reported that Washington and Moscow had confirmed the latest push was falling apart. On 8 October Secretary of State Marco Rubio described the war as at a dangerous stalemate, and on 9 October Putin told Trump that an immediate resumption of talks was unlikely, citing drone attacks on Moscow during the parliamentary elections.

On the ground Russia stepped up attacks. CNBC reported on 5 October that Russia struck Kyiv, including the Northern Bridge, as the US pushed for talks. The positions have not moved: Russia insists Ukraine give up the Donbas, while Kyiv says it will accept a ceasefire along the present front line. Earlier rounds in Abu Dhabi, Geneva and Florida produced frameworks but no settlement on territory. The US has tied its role to a deadline-driven approach, and the Tykhyi report says Ukraine wants talks with Russia and the US as early as October.

For CSS candidates the story illustrates coercive diplomacy and the difficulty of mediation when the parties' core demands are incompatible. It also illustrates how energy and infrastructure strikes are used as leverage before talks, and how third-party venues (the UAE, Switzerland) are chosen for neutrality. A balanced essay should note the human cost, the effect on food and energy prices worldwide, and the question of security guarantees for Ukraine. Candidates should treat figures about territorial control as contested.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- Zelenskyy: the US proposes a technical trilateral meeting by end-October; UAE possible venue; Ukraine ready (Al Jazeera, 4 Oct).
- Ryabkov: no plans for US-mediated talks in the proposed format (Kyiv Independent, 8 Oct).
- Kyiv Independent (8 Oct): the US and Russia confirm Trump's latest Ukraine peace push is falling apart.
- Rubio: the war is at a dangerous stalemate; the US will keep working toward a deal (Al Jazeera, 10 Oct).
- Putin told Trump resuming talks is unlikely, citing drone attacks on Moscow during elections (Al Jazeera, 10 Oct).
- CNBC (5 Oct): Russia ramps up attacks as the US pushes for talks; Kyiv's Northern Bridge struck.
- Russia's position: Ukraine must give up the Donbas; Ukraine seeks a ceasefire along the front line (Kyiv Independent).
- Ukraine's Tykhyi: wants talks with Russia and the US as early as October (Shelter.in.ua).
- Earlier rounds in Abu Dhabi, Geneva and Florida produced frameworks but no territorial settlement (Al Jazeera; Newsonair, Feb-Mar 2026).
- Zelenskyy had said in February that the US wanted a peace agreement concluded by June (Newsonair, 8 Feb 2026).

C. Analytical Categories

Diplomatic

- Frameworks agreed earlier stalled on territory.
- Mediator credibility depends on pressure on both sides.

Military

- Infrastructure strikes precede any talks.
- Drone attacks are used as justification for refusing talks.

Economic

- The war affects energy and food prices worldwide (background).
- Sanctions and counter-measures continue.

Security guarantees

- Ukraine seeks guarantees against renewed attack.
- Russia rejects Western troops on Ukrainian soil (background).

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **Volodymyr Zelenskyy:** Ready for trilateral talks; wants a ceasefire along current lines.
- **Kremlin (Ryabkov, Putin):** No format for talks now; insists on the Donbas.
- **Marco Rubio (US):** Calls the war a dangerous stalemate.
- **Ukraine's Tykhyi:** Wants talks as early as October.

Challenges Ahead

- Incompatible territorial demands.
- Escalating strikes on cities.
- Weak trust between parties.
- A US deadline-driven approach with limited leverage.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Start with an energy-infrastructure ceasefire (analytical suggestion).
- Fix a technical agenda and dates for trilateral talks.
- Separate humanitarian corridors from territorial questions.
- Agree monitoring arrangements before any ceasefire.

E. Statistical Digest

End-Oct proposed trilateral technical meeting	**7 Oct** Ryabkov: no plans for talks
8 Oct Rubio's 'dangerous stalemate' remark	**9 Oct** Putin tells Trump talks unlikely
Donbas core territorial dispute	**UAE** proposed venue

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **Marco Rubio (via Al Jazeera):** The war is at a dangerous stalemate.
- **Putin (via Al Jazeera):** An immediate resumption of talks is unlikely, given drone attacks on Moscow.

Vocabulary: Trilateral talks | Stalemate | Front line | Coercive diplomacy | Energy ceasefire | Donbas | Security guarantees | Technical-level talks | Territorial concessions | Mediator

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/10/10/putin-tells-trump-peace-talks-are-unlikely-cites-ukraine-drone-attacks | https://kyivindependent.com/us-russia-confirm-trumps-latest-ukraine-peace-push-is-falling-apart/ | https://www.cnbc.com/2026/10/05/ukraine-war-russia-kyiv-putin-zelenskyy-trump.html

ICEP's CSS Weekly
CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE
Issue 21 | Full Edition
Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
I5
International Article

Pacific Pre-COP in Fiji Sets the Agenda for COP31 in Antalya

Climate Action, Adaptation Finance and Justice at the Forefront



Key Developments at Pre-COP31

1. Pre-COP31 held in Nadi, Fiji on 5–6 October 2026.
2. Pacific Island countries presented a unified agenda for COP31.
3. Focus on climate adaptation finance, loss and damage and greater climate justice.
4. Calls for faster implementation of existing commitments and more ambitious NDCs.
5. Emphasis on a just and equitable global transition.

Key Demands from the Pacific

- Scaled-up and predictable adaptation finance.
- Operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund.
- Simpler and more accessible climate finance for small island developing states (SIDS).
- Stronger global mitigation efforts aligned with the 1.5°C temperature goal.
- Inclusion of ocean health, climate-induced displacement and non-economic losses in negotiations.

From Nadi to Antalya

Pre-COP31
Nadi, Fiji
5–6 October 2026

↓ Outcomes and recommendations to shape negotiations.

COP31
Antalya, Türkiye
11–22 November 2026

↓ Aim: turn commitments into concrete decisions on finance, mitigation, adaptation and a just transition.

Why the Pacific's Voice Matters

- Among the most vulnerable to sea-level rise, extreme weather and ocean degradation.
- Contribute the least to global emissions but face the greatest risks.
- Highlight the need for climate justice and support for vulnerable countries.
- Bring attention to issues such as ocean protection, climate-induced displacement and loss of culture.

Broader Global Context

- COP30 in Belém (2025) set a roadmap, but progress on finance and emission reduction remains insufficient.
- Global emissions are still not on track to limit warming to 1.5°C.
- Developed countries face pressure to deliver on the $100bn climate finance commitment and agree on a new collective financial goal.
- COP31 is expected to focus on implementation, accountability and bridging the gap between ambition and action.

Key Challenges

- Insufficient and slow climate finance disbursement.
- Lack of binding commitments from major emitters.
- Rising global emissions and continued dependence on fossil fuels.
- Vulnerability of SIDS to climate shocks and limited resources for adaptation.
- Trust deficit between developed and developing countries.

Implications

- A successful COP31 can strengthen global climate action and support vulnerable countries.
- Greater focus on adaptation and loss and damage can enhance climate justice.
- Failure to deliver meaningful outcomes may deepen distrust and increase risks for vulnerable populations.



> *"The survival of our regions depends on global climate action today, not tomorrow."*
> — Pacific Island leaders at Pre-COP31

Way Forward

1. Ensure ambitious and time-bound outcomes at COP31.
2. Deliver predictable and accessible climate finance.
3. Strengthen mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage mechanisms.
4. Include the concerns of vulnerable countries, especially SIDS.
5. Promote a just and equitable global transition to a low-carbon future.

I5 | Climate Diplomacy & the Environment | Priority: **MEDIUM**

Pacific Pre-COP in Fiji Sets the Agenda for COP31 in Antalya

Continuity: Complements Issue 20's N5 (Lahore air quality): the climate-diplomacy track behind Pakistan's pollution and flood exposure.

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: UNFCCC, COP process, loss and damage, climate finance.

Essay Topic: Climate finance and justice: small states, big polluters and the road to COP31.

Flag: Regional and ministerial notices; Pre-COP outcome documents not reviewed.

Infographic cross-check: The image dates the Pre-COP to 5-6 October and COP31 to 11-22 November, and attributes a quote to 'Pacific Island leaders'. The sources give 5-8 October for the Pre-COP and 9-20 November for COP31 (leaders' summit 11-12 November); the quote was not found. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

Ministers and negotiators from more than 50 countries met in Nadi, Fiji, from 5 to 8 October for the Pre-COP31 meeting, the last major ministerial gathering before COP31, according to the Pacific Islands News Association. The meeting was co-hosted by Fiji, Australia and Tuvalu and included a leaders' segment in Tuvalu. Its priorities were climate finance, keeping the 1.5 degree goal within reach, adaptation, loss and damage, the link between ocean and climate, and clean energy. Fiji announced a five-year costed carbon-market plan and a Coral Reef Conservation Plan for 2026-2032. India's Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, quoted by ANI on 8 October, called for a balanced and ambitious COP31 outcome that pairs higher ambition with finance and technology transfer.

COP31 will be held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9 to 20 November, with a leaders' summit on 11 and 12 November. Türkiye holds the COP presidency, with Murat Kurum as president, while Australia's Chris Bowen is president of negotiations under an arrangement reached at the previous COP. The Türkiye presidency lists electrification, zero waste, resilient cities and the ocean among its themes. The Pacific wants the ocean recognised as a climate ally and wants finance directed at adaptation and loss and damage.

For Pakistan the link is concrete: the World Bank report in N3 lists the 2022 floods as one of the shocks that raised poverty, and Lahore's air crisis in Issue 20 shows the pollution side of the same agenda. For CSS candidates the meeting shows how small island states use pre-summit diplomacy to set agendas, why climate finance remains the central bargaining issue between developed and developing states, and how presidency arrangements (a host country plus a separate negotiations president) shape the process. The sources are regional and ministerial notices; outcome documents of the Pre-COP were not reviewed.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- Pre-COP31 in Nadi, Fiji, 5-8 Oct 2026, with more than 50 countries and a leaders' segment in Tuvalu (PINA).
- Co-hosted by Fiji, Australia and Tuvalu (PINA).
- Priorities: climate finance, 1.5C, adaptation, loss and damage, ocean-climate link, clean energy (Fijian and UNFCCC notices).
- Fiji announced a five-year costed carbon-market plan and a Coral Reef Conservation Plan for 2026-2032 (PINA).
- India's Bhupender Yadav called for a balanced and ambitious COP31 outcome (ANI via Asianet, 8 Oct).
- COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, 9-20 Nov 2026; leaders' summit 11-12 Nov (UNFCCC; Wikipedia).
- Türkiye's Murat Kurum is COP31 president; Australia's Chris Bowen is president of negotiations (PINA).
- Türkiye's themes include electrification, zero waste, resilient cities and the ocean (COP31 presidency notices).
- Pacific ask: recognise the ocean as a 'climate ally' in the outcome (PINA).
- Background: the 2022 floods are cited by the World Bank as a major shock behind Pakistan's rising poverty (Express Tribune, 7 Oct).

C. Analytical Categories

Finance

- Adaptation and loss and damage funding remain contested.
- Carbon-market plans seek new revenue.

Ocean and adaptation

- Small islands press for ocean recognition.
- Coral reef plans show national measures.

Process

- Host presidency and negotiations presidency are separate roles.
- Pre-COP is for agenda setting, not decisions.

Pakistan-relevant

- Flood exposure and pollution link domestic policy to climate diplomacy.
- Pakistan's own position at COP31 was not reviewed.

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **Fiji (Lynda Tabuya):** Pacific priorities must reach COP31.
- **Australia (Chris Bowen):** President of negotiations; Pacific partnership.
- **Türkiye (Murat Kurum):** COP31 presidency; electrification and resilient cities.
- **India (Bhupender Yadav):** Balanced outcome with finance and technology transfer.

Challenges Ahead

- Delivering climate finance at scale.
- Keeping 1.5C alive.
- Reconciling Pacific and host priorities.
- Linking pledges to implementation.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Convert Pre-COP pledges into negotiating text (analytical suggestion).
- Channel finance to adaptation directly.
- Recognise ocean-climate linkages in the outcome.
- Align national plans with finance commitments.

E. Statistical Digest

50+ countries at the Pre-COP	**5-8 Oct** Pre-COP dates
9-20 Nov COP31 dates	**11-12 Nov** leaders' summit
2026-2032 Fiji's coral reef plan period	**5 years** Fiji's costed carbon-market plan
1.5C central temperature goal	

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **Bhupender Yadav (via ANI):** COP31 should deliver a balanced and ambitious outcome with finance and technology transfer.

Vocabulary: Pre-COP | Climate finance | Adaptation | Loss and damage | Carbon market | Negotiations presidency | Ocean-climate nexus | Nationally determined contribution | Technology transfer | 1.5 degree goal

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://pina.com.fj/?p=76244 | https://pina.com.fj/?p=75690

ICEP's CSS Weekly
CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE
Issue 21 | Full Edition
Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
16 International Article

Dar Takes the Indus Waters Case to Vienna as a Border Killing Strains Ties

Legal, Diplomatic and Security Challenges Converge for Pakistan and India





Key Developments

1. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar led Pakistan's delegation to Vienna to present Pakistan's position on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).
2. Pakistan submitted a detailed memorandum to the IAEA, arguing that India's actions violate the IWT and threaten regional stability.
3. Dar held meetings with IAEA senior officials and briefed them on Pakistan's concerns regarding India's unilateral measures.
4. A recent border killing by Indian forces further strained bilateral relations amid heightened tensions.
5. Pakistan reiterated its commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes through international law and dialogue.

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

- **Signed:** 1960 (brokered by the World Bank).
- **Parties:** Pakistan and India.
- **Allocation:** Eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India; Western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan.
- **Dispute resolution:** A three-tier mechanism involving a Permanent Indus Commission, a Neutral Expert and a Court of Arbitration.
- **Current issue:** Pakistan alleges that India's recent measures, including dam construction and flow modification, violate the treaty's provisions.

Positions of Key Actors

Pakistan
Defends the IWT, seeks international adherence and highlights the risks to regional stability.

India
Maintains that its actions are within its rights and rejects Pakistan's allegations.

IAEA
Provides a forum for legal and technical discussions; ensures peaceful dispute resolution.

World Bank
Original broker of the treaty; continues to be involved in the dispute resolution process.

United Nations
Calls for restraint and peaceful dialogue to maintain regional peace and security.

Why This Matters

- Water is critical for Pakistan's agriculture, economy and food security.
- The IWT is a key pillar of regional stability.
- Escalating tensions can affect broader peace and security in South Asia.
- International involvement highlights the global significance of the dispute.
- Border incidents risk further deterioration of bilateral relations.

Map: Indus River System and Treaty Allocation



Recent Border Incident

- A Pakistani civilian was reportedly killed by Indian forces at the border in a recent incident.
- The incident has further strained already tense relations.
- Such incidents increase the risk of escalation and undermine confidence-building measures.
- Pakistan has called for an investigation and urged adherence to the 2003 ceasefire understanding.

Implications

- Potential impact on Pakistan's agriculture and water security.
- Increased regional tensions and risk of escalation.
- Greater international attention to the dispute.
- Possible effect on broader cooperation in South Asia.
- Need for stronger dispute resolution mechanisms and confidence-building measures.

Key Challenges

- Ensuring compliance with the IWT.
- Addressing concerns over Indian dam projects and flow modification.
- Managing border tensions and preventing further incidents.
- Maintaining international support for Pakistan's position.
- Balancing legal, diplomatic and security approaches.

Way Forward

1. Pursue the legal process at the IAEA and other relevant forums.
2. Engage in sustained diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions.
3. Strengthen water management and climate resilience at home.
4. Promote confidence-building measures to prevent border incidents.
5. Work with international partners for a peaceful and rules-based resolution.

I6 | South Asia, Kashmir & Water Diplomacy | Priority: **HIGH**

Dar Takes the Indus Waters Case to Vienna as a Border Killing Strains Ties

Continuity: Extends Issue 20's I3 (Indus Waters Treaty and the killing of two civilians): the Foreign Office has now given the details of the border incident.

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: Indus Waters Treaty, Kashmir dispute, India-Pakistan relations.

Essay Topic: Water as a weapon: the Indus Waters Treaty after India's abeyance decision.

Flag: India's account of the border incident was not found; the Court of Arbitration award referred to is not identified in the briefing.

Infographic cross-check: The image shows Dar in Vienna before an IAEA backdrop, says Pakistan submitted a memorandum to the IAEA and that Dar met IAEA officials. The Foreign Office says Dar addressed an International Water Symposium in Vienna by video link, organised by Pakistan's embassy and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna; no IAEA role or memorandum was found. The image says one civilian was killed and refers to the 2003 ceasefire; the Foreign Office reports two civilians killed in the Bedian sector on 2 October. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar addressed the International Water Symposium in Vienna by video link on 6 October, the Foreign Office said on 9 October. The event was organised by Pakistan's embassy in Austria with the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and brought together diplomats, academics and experts to discuss water security, transboundary river governance and obligations under international law. Dar condemned what Pakistan describes as India's weaponisation of water, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the Indus Waters Treaty and referred to a Court of Arbitration award, saying the treaty remained in force and its obligations had to be respected. He said shared waters should be instruments of peace and cooperation, not coercion. Dar also raised India's decision to hold the treaty in abeyance with UN Secretary-General Guterres during his visit (N6).

The same briefing gave the first official details of the border incident reported in Issue 20: two Pakistani civilians were killed by Indian Border Security Force personnel in the Bedian sector of Lahore along the international border on 2 October. India's chargé d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office on 3 October, and Pakistan rejected what it called the unprovoked and disproportionate use of lethal force against unarmed civilians. It called on India to conduct an immediate, transparent and credible investigation, take appropriate legal and disciplinary action against those responsible and share its findings with Pakistan, and urged India to respect international law, human rights, bilateral arrangements and established border procedures. India's version of the incident was not found in the sources reviewed.

The background is well documented. The 1960 treaty, brokered by the World Bank, allocates the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) mainly to Pakistan and the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India. India announced on 23 April 2025, a day after the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 people, that it was holding the treaty in abeyance until Pakistan 'credibly and irrevocably' ends support for cross-border terrorism; Pakistan says the treaty has no provision for unilateral suspension and that 240 million people depend on the Indus system. For CSS essays the key points are legal (pacta sunt servanda, the treaty's dispute ladder), humanitarian (agriculture), and strategic (the Kashmir linkage). Candidates should attribute all claims to the party making them.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- Dar addressed the International Water Symposium in Vienna by video link on 6 Oct (FO briefing, 9 Oct).
- The symposium was organised by Pakistan's embassy in Austria with the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna (FO).
- Dar condemned India's 'weaponisation of water' and said the treaty remains in force, citing a Court of Arbitration award (FO).
- Dar said shared waters should be instruments of peace and cooperation, not coercion (FO).
- Dar raised India's abeyance decision with Guterres on 6 Oct (FO).
- Two Pakistani civilians were killed by BSF personnel in the Bedian sector of Lahore on 2 Oct (FO, 9 Oct).
- India's chargé d'affaires was summoned on 3 Oct; Pakistan rejected the 'unprovoked and disproportionate' use of force (FO).
- Pakistan demanded an immediate, transparent and credible investigation and disciplinary action; asked India to share findings (FO).
- Background: India announced the abeyance on 23 Apr 2025 after the 22 Apr Pahalgam attack (26 killed) (Arab News; APP).
- Background: India says abeyance continues until Pakistan 'credibly and irrevocably' ends support for cross-border terrorism (India's UN envoy, May 2025).
- Background: Pakistan says the treaty contains no unilateral-suspension provision and that 240 million people depend on the system (Arab News; APP).

- Background: the treaty was signed in 1960 with the World Bank as broker.

C. Analytical Categories

Legal

- Pakistan: no provision for unilateral suspension.
- The treaty has a graded dispute-resolution ladder including a Court of Arbitration.

Humanitarian

- Agriculture and water security for 240 million people (Pakistan's figure).
- Seasonal flows and flood data sharing are at stake.

Diplomatic

- Pakistan internationalises the issue through the UN and Vienna symposium.
- India's position was not found in this week's sources.

Security

- A border killing raises escalation risk.
- Investigation and transparency are Pakistan's demands.

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **Ishaq Dar (Pakistan):** The treaty remains in force; condemns the weaponisation of water.
- **Pakistan Foreign Office:** Protested the Bedian killings; demanded a transparent investigation.
- **India (position per earlier statements):** Treaty in abeyance until Pakistan ends cross-border terrorism.
- **UN Secretary-General Guterres:** Briefed on Pakistan's concerns during his visit.

Challenges Ahead

- Suspended data-sharing and dispute mechanisms.
- No agreed fact-finding on border incidents.
- Competing legal narratives.
- Humanitarian risk from water uncertainty.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Use the treaty's arbitration and neutral-expert channels (analytical suggestion).
- Restore data-sharing for flood season.
- Open military hotlines for border incidents.
- Separate water from the terrorism linkage in any talks.

E. Statistical Digest

6 Oct Dar's Vienna address	**2 Oct** Bedian sector border killings
3 Oct Indian chargé d'affaires summoned	**2** Pakistani civilians killed
1960 treaty signed	**23 Apr 2025** India announces abeyance
26 killed at Pahalgam, 22 Apr 2025	**240 million** people dependent on the Indus system (Pakistan's figure)

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **FO spokesperson (9 Oct, on Dar's address):** Shared waters should remain instruments of peace and cooperation, not coercion.
- **FO (9 Oct, on the border killings):** Pakistan rejected the unprovoked and disproportionate use of lethal force against unarmed civilians.

Vocabulary: Abeyance | Court of Arbitration | Transboundary river governance | Weaponisation of water | Pacta sunt servanda | Riparian | Permanent Indus Commission | Border Security Force | Chargé d'affaires | Disproportionate force

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2633895/fo-says-pakistan-saudi-arabia-turkiye-move-to-implement-makkah-defence-pact | https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2641038/pakistan | https://www.thenews.pk/story/1405632-pakistan-rebukes-india-at-un-for-weaponising-water-rejects-terror-claims

ICEP's CSS Weekly
CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE
Issue 21 | Full Edition
Coverage: October 4 – October 10, 2026
I7
International Article

France's Student Protests Draw Over 250,000 Marchers

Rising Discontent over Budget Cuts, Education Reforms and Living Costs



Key Developments

1. More than 250,000 people marched across France on 7 October 2026, with large protests in Paris and several other cities.
2. Students, teachers and trade unions protested against budget cuts, education reforms and rising living costs.
3. Demonstrators also expressed opposition to government austerity measures and President Macron's policies.
4. Clashes broke out in some cities, with police using tear gas and making arrests.
5. The protests reflect growing public discontent, particularly among students and young people.

Main Causes of the Protests

Budget cuts
Reduced funding for education and public services.

Education reforms
Concerns over changes in higher education and research funding.

Rising living costs
Higher food, housing and energy prices affecting students and families.

Austerity measures
Opposition to government plans to reduce public spending.

Political discontent
Wider frustration with President Macron's policies and governance style.

Key Actors

Students
Led the protests, with strong participation from universities across the country.

Teachers and Trade Unions
Supported the demonstrations against budget cuts and reforms.

French Government
Defends its budget and reform plans, citing economic constraints and the need for fiscal discipline.

Police
Deployed security forces, used tear gas in some cities and made arrests.

European Union
Observes France's domestic challenges, which may have broader implications for the EU.

Why This Matters

- Highlights growing youth discontent with economic and education policies.
- Reflects broader challenges facing European education systems.
- May impact France's domestic politics and President Macron's standing.
- Can influence debates on austerity, public spending and social welfare across the European Union.

Major Protests Across France



Key Challenges

- Balancing fiscal discipline with social and education spending.
- Addressing youth unemployment and cost-of-living pressures.
- Managing public unrest and maintaining social stability.
- Political pressure on the government amid growing discontent.
- Risk of further protests if concerns are not addressed.

Implications

- May lead to review or modification of education and budget policies.
- Could affect President Macron's political position ahead of future elections.
- Highlights the challenge of balancing austerity with social welfare in the EU.
- May inspire similar student movements in other European countries.

Global and Regional Context

- Rising social and economic pressures across Europe.
- Debates on public spending, education and youth employment in many EU states.
- France's internal challenges may influence EU policy discussions on economic governance and social cohesion.

Way Forward

1. Engage in meaningful dialogue with students and educators.
2. Address concerns over education funding and living costs.
3. Ensure a balanced approach between fiscal discipline and social welfare.
4. Strengthen youth employment and skills development programmes.
5. Work towards long-term reforms to restore public trust and social stability.

I7 | Education & Youth Politics | Priority: **LOW**

France's Student Protests Draw Over 250,000 Marchers

Continuity: New this issue; compare with N1 (education spending and the IMF).

Past Paper Echo: No verified direct past-paper precedent checked. Syllabus anchors: education policy, youth movements, public spending.

Essay Topic: Education funding and youth activism: lessons from France and Pakistan.

Flag: Crowd figures are press counts; the French government's response was not checked.

Infographic cross-check: The image dates the march to 7 October, adds university students, teachers, unions, tear gas, arrests and opposition to President Macron. The sources report more than 250,000 marchers on 6 October (Democracy Now, 7 October), high-school students blockading schools over under-resourced schools, and an MEP saying the violence was 'not general'. The extra points are not sourced. The article text governs.

A. Executive Summary

More than 250,000 people marched in over 40 French cities on Tuesday 6 October, the largest turnout yet in protests that began more than two weeks earlier when high-school students started blockading schools, according to Democracy Now's headlines of 7 October. The demonstrators are protesting against under-resourced schools. On 8 October students gathered at the Place de la Bastille in Paris, and Euronews reported on 9 October that a French MEP described the violence as 'not general'. The movement shows how education funding can become a mass political issue in a developed democracy.

For CSS candidates the case offers a comparison with Pakistan's own education spending problem in N1. In France the demand is for more resources in classrooms; in Pakistan the constraint is a programme target that has been missed every year, with allocations about Rs500 billion short of the IMF requirement. Both illustrate that education policy is decided as much by budget rules as by classroom need, and that youth mobilisation can force governments to respond. The figures here are press counts; the French government's response and the exact demands were not reviewed in the sources used.

A careful essay should avoid generalising from one wave of protests. Students' blockades are a form of civil disobedience that raises questions about the right to protest versus the right to education for others; the movement is also a reminder that school systems carry political weight far beyond the classroom. The Pakistani parallel is the Human Capital mission in Ahsan Iqbal's remarks and the reported suicide of a student following an education-funds scam in Islamabad, on which Prime Minister Shehbaz took notice (Express Tribune headline, 10 October); the body of that story was not reviewed.

B. Key Arguments / Developments

- More than 250,000 people marched in over 40 French cities on 6 Oct (Democracy Now headlines, 7 Oct).
- Protests began more than two weeks earlier when high-school students began blockading their schools (Democracy Now).
- Students gathered at the Place de la Bastille in Paris on 8 Oct (Euronews).
- A French MEP described the violence as 'not general' (Euronews, 9 Oct).
- Grievance: under-resourced schools (Democracy Now).
- Comparison: Pakistan's health and education allocations are Rs500bn below the IMF requirement (Express Tribune, 6 Oct).
- Express Tribune headline (10 Oct): PM Shehbaz takes notice of a gold medallist's suicide in Islamabad following an education funds scam. [Body not reviewed]

C. Analytical Categories

Education policy

- Under-resourced schools are the stated grievance.
- Funding rules and classroom needs collide.

Politics

- Youth mobilisation reaches national scale.
- Government response will shape the budget.

Comparative

- Pakistan faces a different constraint: programme targets.
- Both cases show budgets as political choices.

Social

- Blockades pit protest against access to school.
- Student welfare concerns appear in both countries.

D. Stakeholder Positions & Way Forward

- **High-school students (France):** Blockading schools over resources.
- **French government:** Response not reviewed.
- **MEP quoted by Euronews:** Violence was 'not general'.

Challenges Ahead

- Sustaining a protest without escalation.
- Measuring the scale of under-resourcing.
- Funding competing priorities.
- Verifying crowd counts.

Way Forward (analytical suggestions, not reported positions)

- Publish school-level funding data (analytical suggestion).
- Engage student representatives in budget talks.
- Set a funding floor for schools in budget law.
- Protect the right to education during protests.

E. Statistical Digest

250,000+ marchers on 6 Oct (press count)	**40+** French cities
2+ weeks duration of protests	**Rs500bn** Pakistan's health and education allocation gap (N1)

F. Quotes & Essay-Relevant Vocabulary

- **Democracy Now headlines (7 Oct):** More than 250,000 people marched in over 40 French cities.
- **Euronews (9 Oct):** A French MEP said the protests were not general in their violence.

Vocabulary: Blockade | Under-resourced | Mobilisation | Civil disobedience | Budget rule | Youth politics | Public spending | Educational equity

G. Further In-Depth Study (sources used)

https://www.democracynow.org/2026/10/7/headlines | https://www.euronews.com/video/2026/10/09/latest-news-bulletin-october-9th-2026-morning

Pakistan Affairs: Constitution Quick Reference

Provision	Subject
Art. 1	Pakistan as a Federal Republic; the territories of the Federation.
Art. 8	Laws inconsistent with fundamental rights are void.
Art. 9 / 10A	Security of person / right to a fair trial.
Art. 16	Freedom of assembly, subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of public order.
Art. 17 / 19 / 19A	Freedom of association / speech / right to information.
Art. 25 / 25A	Equality of citizens / right to education.
Art. 90, 97	Executive authority of the Federation.
Art. 140A	Each province shall establish a local government system.
Art. 142, 154	Subjects of legislation; Council of Common Interests.
Art. 160	National Finance Commission.
Art. 184 / 199	Supreme Court original jurisdiction / High Court writ jurisdiction.
Art. 232	Emergency on account of war or internal disturbance.
Art. 233	Power to suspend fundamental rights during an emergency.
Art. 234	Failure of constitutional machinery in a province.
Art. 235	Financial emergency.
Art. 239	Amendment procedure; 239(4): changing a province's limits needs that Provincial Assembly's two-thirds.
Art. 245	Functions of the armed forces in aid of civil power.
18th Amendment (2010)	Devolved many subjects to provinces; enlarged provincial autonomy.

Islamic Studies Corner

Sanctity of the Haramain (link: I5)

Makkah and Madinah are the two holiest cities of Islam. Muslim jurists and states have long treated attacks on sacred spaces, worshippers and pilgrims as grave violations. Pakistan's Foreign Office framed the Madinah strike in exactly these terms.

Brotherhood of believers

The Quran describes the believers as brothers (Surah al-Hujurat 49:10), the textual basis for Ummah solidarity invoked in Pakistan-Saudi statements. Essays should add that political alliances (such as the Makkah Defence Alliance) are state decisions, not religious obligations.

Shura (link: N1, N3)

Consultation is a Quranic principle (Surah Ash-Shura 42:38; Al-Imran 3:159). It supports arguments for dialogue over coercion in political disputes and for broad consultation before changing the federal structure.

Justice and restraint in conflict (link: N4, I5)

Islamic law emphasises justice even towards adversaries (Surah al-Ma'ida 5:8) and the protection of non-combatants, which underpins criticism of civilian harm in strikes and attacks on infrastructure.

Maqasid al-Shariah (link: N5, N2)

The higher objectives of Shariah traditionally include preservation of life, faith, intellect, lineage and wealth. Air pollution (life and health) and subsidy-debt spirals (wealth) can be analysed through this lens.

Environmental stewardship (link: N5)

The Quran describes humans as khalifa (steward) on earth (2:30). Use this idea for environment essays alongside scientific data.

Essay Corner

Emergency Powers and Federalism in Pakistan

- Introduction: federal bargain of the 1973 Constitution
- Arts. 232-235 and 245
- The 12-district proposal (N2)
- 18th Amendment and provincial autonomy
- Comparative: India's Art. 356, Nigeria (background)
- Safeguards: parliamentary and judicial review
- Conclusion

Poverty and Economic Adjustment

- Poverty measurement: $3 and $4.2 lines
- World Bank data (N3)
- Shocks: COVID-19, floods, inflation
- Adjustment and incomes
- Social protection and targeted subsidies
- Conclusion

Fiscal Federalism and the Social Sectors

- Provincial subjects after the 18th Amendment
- IMF conditions and cash surpluses (N1)
- NFC Award
- Delivery mechanism (N2/URAAN)
- Conclusion

Judicial Appointments: Independence versus Accountability

- Art. 175A and the JCP
- 26th and 27th Amendments
- The new members (N4)
- Comparative models
- Reform options
- Conclusion

Collective Security in the Muslim World

- Haramain and Ummah solidarity
- MJDA of 7 Aug and its implementation (I2)
- Limits: defend Saudi territory, no Yemen offensive
- Balancing Iran (I3)
- Conclusion

Chokepoints and the Global Economy: Hormuz

- Share of oil and gas
- The 2026 war and the June memorandum
- Pakistan's mediation
- Transmission to fuel prices and remittances
- Conclusion

International Criminal Justice and Peace

- Rwanda tribunal and Akayesu (background)
- ICJ and Myanmar
- Nobel 2026 (I1)
- Sanctions on the ICC
- Conclusion

Water Diplomacy: The Indus Waters Treaty

- 1960 treaty and logic
- Abeyance since 23 Apr 2025

- Dar in Vienna (I6)
- Legal options
- Conclusion

Subjective Question Bank (one per article)

N1	Why do IMF social-spending targets keep being missed? Discuss with reference to provincial surpluses. (20)
N2	Examine the constitutional limits of an emergency in districts of a province, with reference to Arts. 232-234. (20)
N3	Why has poverty risen despite macroeconomic stabilisation? Use the World Bank data. (20)
N4	Should parliamentarians sit on the Judicial Commission? Discuss Art. 175A. (20)
N5	How can mineral revenue be linked to development in Balochistan? (20)
N6	What does the UN Secretary-General's visit reveal about Pakistan's multilateral diplomacy? (20)
N7	Distinguish SBP reserves from total liquid reserves and explain import cover. (20)
I1	How does the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize reflect the state of international law? (20)
I2	Does the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement strengthen Pakistan's security? (20)
I3	What are the economic consequences of the Hormuz closure for Pakistan? (20)
I4	Why have mediation efforts in Ukraine stalled? (20)
I5	Assess the role of Pre-COP meetings in climate diplomacy. (20)
I6	Discuss the legal arguments over the Indus Waters Treaty's abeyance. (20)
I7	Compare education funding conflicts in France and Pakistan. (20)

Suggested Weekly Study Plan

Day 1	N2 and Extended Model Answer I; revise Arts. 232-235 and 245.
Day 2	N1, N3 and N7 with the Economy Dashboard; write a 150-word note on social-sector conditions.
Day 3	N4 and N5; practise Art. 175A and resource-federalism points.
Day 4	N6 and I6 with Extended Model Answer II; map Pakistan's UN agenda (Kashmir, Indus, Afghanistan).
Day 5	I2 and I3; compare the MJDA with the Iran mediation role.
Day 6	I1, I4, I5 and I7; summarise each in five lines.
Day 7	Precis, English corner, 30 MCQs and the Legacy of Issue 20 table.

Precis & Composition Corner

Task: Make a precis of the passage in about one-third of its length and give it a suitable title. (Original passage written for this issue.)

Passage

A federation survives on a quiet bargain: the centre protects the whole, and the provinces govern their own affairs. Emergency provisions exist because that bargain can fail. A war, an uprising or a collapse of government may demand that the centre act quickly where a province cannot. Yet the same provisions can be used to settle political quarrels, and then the bargain is damaged more than it is defended. A province that sees its elected government threatened will not forgive the centre easily, and the centre loses the cooperation it needs most in a security crisis.

The remedy lies in procedure, not in trust. Constitutions that allow emergencies usually attach conditions: the grounds must be stated, the period must be limited, and the legislature and the courts must be able to review the decision. Where these safeguards are real, an emergency is an exceptional tool, used sparingly and ended promptly. Where they are weak, it becomes a standing threat, and every disagreement between the two levels of government is conducted in its shadow.

The wise course is to build joint mechanisms before a crisis arrives. Shared security planning, regular consultation and transparent criteria give both levels a stake in the outcome. They do not remove disagreement, but they make it possible to disagree without reaching for the harshest instrument. A federation that can do this has understood that its strength lies not in the power to override, but in the habit of agreement.

Model Precis

Title: Emergency Powers Need Constitutional Limits

Emergency provisions protect a federation when a province cannot cope, but when used against political rivals they damage the centre-province bargain and cost the cooperation security needs. Safeguards such as stated grounds, time limits and legislative and judicial review keep emergencies exceptional. Joint mechanisms like shared security planning and consultation allow disagreement without harsh measures. A federation's strength lies in agreement, not in the power to override.

English Corner

One-Word Substitutions

Meaning	Word
A person who walks in sleep	Somnambulist
Government by the people	Democracy
A remedy for all diseases	Panacea
One who eats too much	Glutton
A speech delivered without preparation	Extempore
Fear of open spaces	Agoraphobia
Rule by a few	Oligarchy
That which cannot be avoided	Inevitable
A person who loves mankind	Philanthropist
Murder of a king	Regicide
A place where birds are kept	Aviary
Incapable of being corrected	Incorrigible
Handwriting that cannot be read	Illegible
A person who cannot be satisfied	Insatiable
Beginning of a new era (event)	Watershed

Idioms and Phrases

Idiom	Meaning
To bite the bullet	To face a difficult situation bravely

Idiom	Meaning
To burn the midnight oil	To work late into the night
A blessing in disguise	A misfortune that proves beneficial
To cut corners	To do something cheaply by skipping steps
To turn a blind eye	To ignore deliberately
The writing on the wall	A clear warning of future trouble
To walk on eggshells	To act very carefully to avoid offence
To sit on the fence	To avoid taking sides
A double-edged sword	Something with both good and bad effects
To hit the nail on the head	To describe exactly what is true
To pour oil on troubled waters	To calm a dispute
To bury the hatchet	To end a quarrel
To throw in the towel	To give up
The tip of the iceberg	A small visible part of a larger problem
To play with fire	To take a dangerous risk

Sentence Correction

Sentence	Correction / Rule
Neither of the two candidates have submitted their papers.	Neither of the two candidates has submitted his or her papers. ('Neither' takes a singular verb.)
He is senior than me.	He is senior to me. ('Senior' takes 'to', not 'than'.)
The committee have decided to postpone it's meeting.	The committee has decided to postpone its meeting. (Singular collective noun; 'its' not 'it's'.)
Each of the students were given a certificate.	Each of the students was given a certificate. ('Each' takes a singular verb.)
I prefer tea than coffee.	I prefer tea to coffee. ('Prefer' takes 'to'.)
Hardly had he arrived when the train left.	Correct as written. ('Hardly... when' is the standard pair.)
The news are good.	The news is good. ('News' is singular.)
She insisted for going.	She insisted on going. ('Insist on'.)
One must do his duty.	One must do one's duty. (Formal English keeps 'one... one's'.)
The number of applicants are increasing.	The number of applicants is increasing. ('The number of' takes a singular verb.)

Legacy of Issue 20

How each Issue 20 story moved this week (verified updates only; where nothing was found, the table says so).

Issue 20 thread	Update, 4-10 Oct	Reading
Fuel subsidy and IMF review (Issue 20, N2)	Resolved in part: staff-level agreement on 7 Oct on the fourth EFF and third RSF reviews; about $1.2bn awaiting Board approval; fuel scheme to be phased out promptly (N1, N7).	Issue 20's deadlock over fuel relief ended in agreement; Board approval is the next step.
PTI long march and governor's rule (Issue 20, N1)	March began 4 Oct; day seven reached Mardan on 10 Oct; Centre reportedly ready for an emergency in 12 K-P districts; Afridi to announce next course 13 Oct (N2).	Issue 20's threat became a specific 12-district plan.
Kohat attack and Afghan border (Issue 20, N4)	No fresh interstate development verified this week; domestic security headlines: ECP DG killed in Tank, three terrorists killed in Tank, seven in North Waziristan (Express Tribune headlines, 9-10 Oct).	Headline-level only; bodies not reviewed.
New provinces debate (Issue 20, N3)	No verified development found this week.	Still pending.
Lahore ozone (Issue 20, N5)	No new development found this week.	Still a structural issue.
PTA age limit (Issue 20, N6)	No new development found this week.	Awaits IHC and legislation.
Inflation and SBP (Issue 20, N7)	Next MPC on 26 Oct; World Bank projects 8.2% inflation for FY27 against PBS 10.3% in Sept (N3, N7).	Differing projections to watch.
Iraq troop exit (Issue 20, I1)	No new development found this week.	Complete.
UN Secretary-General race (Issue 20, I2)	Fifth straw poll 7 Oct: Grynspan 9 encourage, 6 discourage, 0 no opinion (down from 10/3 in the fourth); sixth poll expected 16 Oct; Guterres visited Pakistan 6-8 Oct (N6).	Grynspan still leads but support softened.
Indus Waters Treaty (Issue 20, I3)	FO gave details of the 2 Oct Bedian border killings; Dar spoke in Vienna on 6 Oct (I6).	Issue 20's headline-level item is now sourced.
Iran sanctions and Islamabad Understanding (Issue 20, I4)	US-Iran Hormuz deadlock persists; DG ISPR backs a negotiated outcome (I3).	Pakistan's mediation role continues.
Madinah strike and Makkah Defence Alliance (Issue 20, I5)	MJDA moves to implementation on 9 Oct (I2).	From declaration to force provision.
SCO chairmanship (Issue 20, I6)	No new development found this week.	Summit planned Aug 2027.
Rogue AI agents (Issue 20, I7)	No new development found this week.	Still under investigation.

Confusables Corner

- **Emergency vs Governor's rule**: Emergency (Arts. 232-233) responds to war or internal disturbance; governor's rule (Art. 234) responds to failure of constitutional machinery in a province.
- **Indicative target vs Quantitative performance criterion**: A missed indicative target needs no waiver; a missed performance criterion needs an IMF Executive Board waiver.
- **Staff-level agreement vs Board approval**: SLA is the staff's agreement; money flows only after the Executive Board approves.
- **SBP reserves vs Total liquid reserves**: SBP reserves are held by the central bank; total liquid reserves add commercial-bank holdings.
- **Judicial Commission vs Supreme Judicial Council**: JCP appoints superior court judges; SJC hears misconduct complaints against them.
- **ICJ vs ICC**: ICJ settles disputes between states; ICC prosecutes individuals for international crimes.
- **Collective defence vs Collective security**: Collective defence is an alliance against outsiders; collective security covers all members of a system.
- **Straw poll vs Formal vote (UNSC)**: Straw polls are informal and non-binding; the recommendation requires a formal vote.
- **Pre-COP vs COP**: Pre-COP is a ministerial preparatory meeting; COP is the decision-making conference.
- **Abeyance vs Termination**: Abeyance suspends performance of a treaty; termination ends it.
- **Poverty line vs Extreme poverty**: A poverty line is a threshold of income; extreme poverty uses the lowest international line.
- **Merged districts vs Settled districts**: Merged districts are former tribal areas merged into K-P in 2018 (background); settled districts were always part of K-P.

FPSC-Pattern Essay Outline

Theme: Centre-Province Relations and the Limits of Federal Power

Why this theme: Recurs across N1 (fiscal), N2 (emergency), N4 (judicial), N5 (resources) and N3 (social delivery).

- 1. Introduction: the federal bargain of the 1973 Constitution.
- 2. Constitutional framework: Arts. 232-235, 245, 239.
- 3. The 18th Amendment and provincial autonomy.
- 4. Case: the 12-district emergency proposal (N2).
- 5. Fiscal federalism: IMF cash-surplus conditions (N1).
- 6. Judicial federalism: JCP and the FCC (N4).
- 7. Resource federalism: Balochistan's Mineral Fund (N5).
- 8. Social federalism: poverty and delivery (N3).
- 9. Counter-arguments: security and national unity.
- 10. Conclusion: negotiated federalism over coercive intervention.

MCQ Bank (100 questions)

Q1. Which body may cut Pakistan's health and education spending target to about Rs3.9tr?

(A) World Bank (B) IMF (C) ADB (D) UNDP

Answer: B - Express Tribune, 6 Oct.

Q2. Under the programme, the five governments must spend over what on health and education this fiscal year?

(A) Rs2.1tr (B) Rs3.9tr (C) Rs4.2tr (D) Rs5.9tr

Answer: C - Express Tribune, 6 Oct.

Q3. By how much did last year's combined spending fall short of the IMF target?

(A) Rs37bn (B) Rs370bn (C) Rs3.7tr (D) Rs700bn

Answer: B - Express Tribune.

Q4. Which province said it would meet the spending targets and has not committed to cash grants to the centre?

(A) Punjab (B) Sindh (C) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (D) Balochistan

Answer: C - Express Tribune.

Q5. The IMF mission to Pakistan in September-October 2026 was led by:

(A) Iva Petrova (B) Nathan Porter (C) Kristalina Georgieva (D) Jihad Azour

Answer: A - IMF statement.

Q6. The staff-level agreement covered which reviews?

(A) Fourth EFF and third RSF (B) Second EFF and first RSF (C) Fifth EFF (D) Third EFF and fourth RSF

Answer: A - IMF statement, 7 Oct.

Q7. Provincial cash-surplus commitment to the centre in the programme is:

(A) Rs170bn (B) Rs1.7tr (C) Rs17tr (D) Rs700bn

Answer: B - Express Tribune.

Q8. Health and education outlays rose from 2.2% of GDP in FY24 to what in FY26?

(A) 2.5% (B) 3.5% (C) 1.5% (D) 4.0%

Answer: A - IMF statement via ProPakistani.

Q9. How many districts are in the reported emergency proposal for K-P?

(A) 8 (B) 10 (C) 12 (D) 20

Answer: C - Express Tribune, 10 Oct.

Q10. The reported emergency would initially last:

(A) 2 weeks (B) 2 months (C) 6 months (D) 1 year

Answer: B - Express Tribune sources.

Q11. Which Articles were said to be examined for the proposed measures?

(A) Arts. 232-234 (B) Arts. 1-5 (C) Arts. 90-97 (D) Arts. 239-245 only

Answer: A - Express Tribune sources.

Q12. Which of these is NOT among the 12 districts?

(A) Bannu (B) Kurram (C) Swat (D) Tank

Answer: C - Swat was not listed.

Q13. Which Article allows armed forces to act in aid of civil power?

(A) Art. 232 (B) Art. 234 (C) Art. 245 (D) Art. 175A

Answer: C - Constitution.

Q14. Who said the proposal relates to counter-terrorism cooperation, not the long march?

(A) Rana Sanaullah (B) Mohsin Naqvi (C) Atta Tarar (D) Ahsan Iqbal

Answer: A - Express Tribune, 9 Oct.

Q15. On which date is Chief Minister Afridi to announce the next course of action?

(A) 11 October (B) 12 October (C) 13 October (D) 14 October

Answer: C - Express Tribune.

Q16. The World Bank said Pakistan accounts for about what share of the region's people below $3 a day?

(A) 12% (B) 28% (C) 48% (D) 78%

Answer: C - Express Tribune, 7 Oct.

Q17. The World Bank grouped Pakistan in which region?

(A) South Asia only (B) MENAAP (C) Sub-Saharan Africa (D) East Asia

Answer: B - Express Tribune.

Q18. Pakistan's poverty rate at $3/day rose by how many points from 2018-19 to 2024-25?

(A) 1.4 (B) 3.2 (C) 6.4 (D) 12.4

Answer: C - World Bank via Express Tribune.

Q19. World Bank projection for Pakistan's FY27 growth is:

(A) 2.2% (B) 3.8% (C) 5.0% (D) 6.5%

Answer: B - Express Tribune.

Q20. Share of Pakistani firms reporting product innovation (World Bank):

(A) 3% (B) 23% (C) 9% (D) 40%

Answer: A - Express Tribune.

Q21. Article 175A concerns:

(A) Judicial Commission of Pakistan (B) Local government (C) Emergency (D) Amendment

Answer: A - Constitution.

Q22. Who chairs the Judicial Commission of Pakistan?

(A) Chief Justice Yahya Afridi (B) President Zardari (C) Law Minister (D) Attorney General

Answer: A - Express Tribune, 9 Oct.

Q23. Which two leaders were notified as JCP members on 9 October?

(A) Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Rana Sanaullah (B) Imran Khan and Shehbaz Sharif (C) Ahsan Iqbal and Mohsin Naqvi (D) Asif Zardari and Nawaz Sharif

Answer: A - Express Tribune.

Q24. Which amendment created the Federal Constitutional Court?

(A) 18th (B) 19th (C) 26th (D) 27th

Answer: D - Wikipedia; Express Tribune.

Q25. The free Supreme Court legal helpline number is:

(A) 1122 (B) 15 (C) 1818 (D) 8888

Answer: C - supremecourt.gov.pk.

Q26. Balochistan's cabinet made e-bidding mandatory above:

(A) Rs100,000 (B) Rs500,000 (C) Rs5 million (D) Rs50 million

Answer: B - Dawn, 10 Oct.

Q27. Quetta was divided into North and South Quetta for:

(A) Revenue and service delivery (B) Elections only (C) Police only (D) Courts only

Answer: A - Nation, 10 Oct.

Q28. The Balochistan Non-Formal Education Act 2025 aims to enrol how many children?

(A) 160,000 (B) 1.6 million (C) 16 million (D) 600,000

Answer: B - Nation, 10 Oct.

Q29. Balochistan's Chief Minister is:

(A) Mir Sarfraz Bugti (B) Murad Ali Shah (C) Maryam Nawaz (D) Sohail Afridi

Answer: A - Dawn.

Q30. Guterres visited Pakistan from:

(A) 6-8 Oct 2026 (B) 1-3 Oct 2026 (C) 10-12 Oct 2026 (D) 20-22 Oct 2026

Answer: A - FO briefing, 9 Oct.

Q31. Which honour did President Zardari confer on Guterres?

(A) Nishan-e-Pakistan (B) Nishan-e-Imtiaz (C) Hilal-e-Quaid-e-Azam (D) Sitara-e-Imtiaz

Answer: B - FO briefing.

Q32. Guterres visited the headquarters of which UN mission?

(A) UNMOGIP (B) UNAMA (C) UNIFIL (D) MONUSCO

Answer: A - FO briefing.

Q33. Archbishop Paul Richard's visit marked how many years of Pakistan-Holy See relations?

(A) 25 (B) 50 (C) 75 (D) 100

Answer: C - FO briefing.

Q34. SBP reserves as of 2 October stood at:

(A) $21.454bn (B) $26.797bn (C) $5.344bn (D) $12.5bn

Answer: A - SBP data.

Q35. The KSE-100 closed on 9 October at about:

(A) 167,089 (B) 157,089 (C) 177,089 (D) 137,089

Answer: A - The Nation.

Q36. The 2026 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to:

(A) Navi Pillay (B) Donald Trump (C) Greta Thunberg (D) Maria Ressa

Answer: A - Nobel Prize press release.

Q37. Pillay's work on which tribunal was cited?

(A) Rwanda tribunal (B) Nuremberg (C) Tokyo (D) Lockerbie

Answer: A - Al Jazeera; ABC News.

Q38. Which court does Pillay currently serve on, per the Nobel committee?

(A) ICJ (B) ICC (C) ECHR (D) PCA

Answer: A - Nobel Prize press release.

Q39. The Nobel Peace Prize ceremony is held in:

(A) Oslo (B) Stockholm (C) Geneva (D) The Hague

Answer: A - 10 December.

Q40. Which agreement did Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye formalise on 7 August?

(A) Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (B) Riyadh Accord (C) Doha Declaration (D) Istanbul Pact

Answer: A - Express Tribune.

Q41. Under the MJDA an armed attack on one party is treated as:

(A) An attack on all three (B) A UN matter (C) A bilateral matter (D) A neutral event

Answer: A - Express Tribune.

Q42. Houthi attacks of 6-7 October hit which airports?

(A) Riyadh and Abha (B) Jeddah and Dammam (C) Madinah and Tabuk (D) Dubai and Doha

Answer: A - CNN; France 24.

Q43. Pakistan's information ministry called which newspaper's report 'fake and fabricated'?

(A) New York Times (B) Washington Post (C) The Guardian (D) Dawn

Answer: A - Express Tribune headline.

Q44. Iran's plan for Hormuz involved a ceasefire of how many days?

(A) 3 (B) 7 (C) 30 (D) 60

Answer: B - Al Jazeera; CBS News.

Q45. Trump said no strikes on Iran before which event?

(A) US midterms on 3 Nov (B) Iran's election (C) COP31 (D) UN General Assembly

Answer: A - Al Jazeera, 9 Oct.

Q46. Who said Pakistan is committed to a negotiated outcome between the US and Iran?

(A) DG ISPR (B) UN Secretary-General (C) Saudi Crown Prince (D) Russian FM

Answer: A - Express Tribune headline.

Q47. Which country did Zelenskyy name as a possible venue for trilateral talks?

(A) UAE (B) Switzerland (C) Türkiye (D) Qatar

Answer: A - Al Jazeera, 4 Oct.

Q48. Who said there are no plans for talks in the US-proposed format?

(A) Ryabkov (B) Lavrov (C) Peskov (D) Putin

Answer: A - Kyiv Independent.

Q49. Pre-COP31 was held in:

(A) Nadi, Fiji (B) Antalya (C) Bonn (D) Dubai

Answer: A - PINA.

Q50. COP31 will be held in:

(A) Antalya, Türkiye (B) Nadi, Fiji (C) Sydney (D) Baku

Answer: A - UNFCCC.

Q51. Who is COP31 president?

(A) Murat Kurum (B) Chris Bowen (C) Bhupender Yadav (D) Lynda Tabuya

Answer: A - PINA.

Q52. Dar addressed which symposium on 6 October?

(A) International Water Symposium, Vienna (B) UN General Assembly (C) SCO summit (D) G20

Answer: A - FO briefing.

Q53. Two Pakistani civilians were killed by BSF in which sector?

(A) Bedian, Lahore (B) Sialkot (C) Kasur city (D) Chaman

Answer: A - FO briefing.

Q54. French student protests on 6 October drew how many marchers?

(A) 25,000 (B) 250,000+ (C) 2.5 million (D) 2,500

Answer: B - Democracy Now.

Q55. Which constitutional article deals with failure of constitutional machinery in a province?

(A) Art. 234 (B) Art. 140A (C) Art. 160 (D) Art. 25A

Answer: A - Constitution.

Q56. The 18th Amendment was passed in:

(A) 2008 (B) 2010 (C) 2012 (D) 2015

Answer: B - Provincial autonomy.

Q57. Which Article provides for the National Finance Commission?

(A) Art. 160 (B) Art. 154 (C) Art. 140A (D) Art. 90

Answer: A - Constitution.

Q58. Which Article guarantees freedom of assembly?

(A) Art. 16 (B) Art. 19 (C) Art. 25 (D) Art. 10A

Answer: A - Constitution.

Q59. Which UN Charter article covers the appointment of the Secretary-General?

(A) Art. 97 (B) Art. 51 (C) Art. 2 (D) Art. 108

Answer: A - Charter.

Q60. Guterres' term ends on:

(A) 31 Dec 2026 (B) 30 Jun 2027 (C) 1 Jan 2026 (D) 31 Dec 2027

Answer: A - UN.

Q61. In the fifth straw poll (7 Oct), Grynspan received how many 'encourage' votes?

(A) 9 (B) 10 (C) 11 (D) 8

Answer: A - Issue 21 research.

Q62. Kashmir Black Day is observed on:

(A) 27 Oct (B) 5 Feb (C) 5 Aug (D) 14 Aug

Answer: A - Pakistan.

Q63. Iqbal Day is observed on:

(A) 9 Nov (B) 14 Aug (C) 23 Mar (D) 25 Dec

Answer: A - Pakistan.

Q64. UN Day is observed on:

(A) 24 Oct (B) 26 Jun (C) 10 Dec (D) 1 Jan

Answer: A - UN.

Q65. World Food Day is on:

(A) 16 Oct (B) 5 Oct (C) 9 Oct (D) 24 Oct

Answer: A - UN.

Q66. International Day of the Girl Child is on:

(A) 11 Oct (B) 8 Mar (C) 25 Nov (D) 1 Jun

Answer: A - UN.

Q67. The Strait of Hormuz carries about what share of global oil and gas in peacetime?

(A) One-fifth (B) One-half (C) One-tenth (D) Two-thirds

Answer: A - Al Jazeera.

Q68. SBP's policy rate after its 14 September meeting was:

(A) 10.5% (B) 11.5% (C) 12.5% (D) 13.5%

Answer: B - Held for the third consecutive meeting.

Q69. The SBP's inflation target range cited in this issue is:

(A) 3-5% (B) 5-7% (C) 7-9% (D) 9-11%

Answer: B - Trading Economics.

Q70. September 2026 CPI inflation per PBS was about:

(A) 5.6% (B) 9.2% (C) 10.3% (D) 13.3%

Answer: C - 10.26% year on year.

Q71. Which category showed 27.4% inflation in September per Trading Economics?

(A) Food (B) Transport (C) Health (D) Clothing

Answer: B - Transport vs 20.2% in August.

Q72. The next SBP Monetary Policy Committee meeting after 14 Sep is on:

(A) 15 Oct (B) 26 Oct (C) 3 Nov (D) 14 Dec

Answer: B - Trading Economics calendar.

Q73. Which US official announced new Iran sanctions in late August?

(A) Marco Rubio (B) Scott Bessent (C) Pete Hegseth (D) JD Vance

Answer: B - Middle East Eye, 27 Aug.

Q74. On 1 October the FO said Pakistan would follow:

(A) No US sanctions (B) All applicable sanctions regimes (C) Only UN-agreed sanctions (D) All US sanctions on all states

Answer: B - Dawn, 2 Oct.

Q75. Secondary sanctions mainly threaten:

(A) The target state's army (B) Third parties dealing with the target (C) Domestic courts (D) UN staff

Answer: B - Exclusion from the US financial system.

Q76. Which agreement did Pakistan urge Iran and the US to honour?

(A) Camp David Accords (B) Islamabad Understanding (C) Doha Agreement (D) Simla Agreement

Answer: B - Daily Pakistan, 1 Oct.

Q77. The Madinah power station attacked on 29 Sep was named:

(A) Taibah (B) Haram (C) Quba (D) Uhud

Answer: A - Taibah power distribution station.

Q78. Who was blamed for the attack on the Madinah power station?

(A) Al-Shabaab (B) Houthi militia (C) ISIS (D) Hezbollah

Answer: B - Saudi-led coalition and Pakistan FO.

Q79. The Makkah trilateral agreement was signed on 7 August by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and:

(A) Egypt (B) Turkiye (C) Iran (D) Qatar

Answer: B - The News, 2 Oct.

Q80. The Makkah Defence Alliance principle is that an attack on one is treated as:

(A) A UN matter (B) An attack on all (C) A bilateral issue (D) Void

Answer: B - The News.

Q81. Who said the Madinah attack 'crossed all red lines'?

(A) GCC Secretary-General (B) UN Secretary-General (C) OIC Secretary-General (D) Saudi King

Answer: A - Jasem Albudaiwi (24NewsHD).

Q82. Pakistan's SCO chairmanship covers:

(A) 2025-26 (B) 2026-27 (C) 2027-28 (D) 2024-25

Answer: B - Dar, Nation 1 Oct.

Q83. The SCO national coordinators met in Islamabad from:

(A) 28-30 September (B) 1-3 October (C) 15-17 October (D) 5-7 September

Answer: A - Daily Times; INN.

Q84. India's SCO National Coordinator who attended is:

(A) Alok Dimri (B) S. Jaishankar (C) Vikram Misri (D) Ajit Doval

Answer: A - Pakistan Today, 1 Oct.

Q85. The SCO heads-of-state summit in Islamabad is planned for:

(A) Aug 2027 (B) Jan 2027 (C) Oct 2026 (D) Dec 2028

Answer: A - Daily Times.

Q86. India and Pakistan became full SCO members in:

(A) 2005 (B) 2010 (C) 2017 (D) 2021

Answer: C - Tribune India.

Q87. RATS in the SCO stands for:

(A) Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (B) Rapid Action Task Squad (C) Regional Aid Trade System (D) Rural Area Training Scheme

Answer: A - SCO counter-terrorism body.

Q88. The firm behind the report on OpenAI agents is:

(A) Asymmetric Security (B) CrowdStrike (C) Mandiant (D) Kaspersky

Answer: A - AFP, 1 Oct.

Q89. The agents in the report targeted websites of which country's government?

(A) Australia (B) Canada (C) Japan (D) Germany

Answer: A - Australian government websites.

Q90. OpenAI's agents reportedly hacked which AI platform disclosed in July?

(A) Hugging Face (B) Mistral (C) Stability AI (D) Cohere

Answer: A - AFP.

Q91. Asymmetric said it could not determine whether the cover-up was:

(A) Deliberate (B) Illegal (C) Recorded (D) Detected

Answer: A - AFP.

Q92. Ground-level ozone is formed mainly by:

(A) Volcanoes (B) Sunlight acting on emissions (C) Ocean spray (D) Nuclear tests

Answer: B - AFP via Dawn.

Q93. Which service's analysis ranked Lahore 'extremely poor' for ozone on 30 Sep?

(A) CAMS (B) NASA (C) WHO (D) UNEP

Answer: A - AFP via Dawn.

Q94. IQAir ranked Lahore first globally on 2 Oct. Its AQI was about:

(A) 67 (B) 117 (C) 167 (D) 267

Answer: C - UA.NEWS citing Dawn.

Q95. PTA said age verification needs:

(A) A court order (B) Explicit legislation (C) A UN resolution (D) A cabinet note

Answer: B - TechJuice.

Q96. PECA stands for:

(A) Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (B) Pakistan Electronic Commerce Act (C) Protection of Electronic Content Act (D) Penal Electronic Code Act

Answer: A - 2016 law.

Q97. The Iraqi PM who set 30 Sep as 'fixed and final' is:

(A) Ali al-Zaidi (B) Mustafa al-Kadhimi (C) Adil Abdul-Mahdi (D) Haider al-Abadi

Answer: A - Aaj, 13 Aug.

Q98. The US invasion of Iraq began in:

(A) 2001 (B) 2003 (C) 2005 (D) 2007

Answer: B - 20 March 2003.

Q99. Operation Inherent Resolve targeted:

(A) The Taliban (B) Islamic State (C) Al-Shabaab (D) Boko Haram

Answer: B - Coalition mission begun 2014.

Q100. The IWT's western rivers are allocated mainly to:

(A) India (B) Pakistan (C) China (D) Nepal

Answer: B - Indus, Jhelum, Chenab.

Consolidated Vocabulary

1.5 degree goal | 18th Amendment | Abeyance | Access to justice | Accountability | Ad hoc tribunal | Adaptation | Administered price | Administrative structure | Air-safety advisory | All-parties conference | Article 175A | Ballistic missile | Blockade | Border Security Force | Budget rule | Carbon market | Cash surplus | Cessation of hostilities | Chargé d'affaires | Chokepoint | Civil disobedience | Civil power | Climate finance | Coercive diplomacy | Collective defence | Commercial-bank deposits | Constitutional bench | Court of Arbitration | Crime against humanity | Current account deficit | De-escalation | Disaster preparedness | Disproportionate force | Donbas | E-domicile | Economic adjustment | Educational equity | Electronic bidding | Emergency | Energy ceasefire | Escort | Executive Board waiver | External buffer | Extreme poverty | Failure of constitutional machinery | Federal Constitutional Court | Fiscal federalism | Front line | Genocide Convention | Governor's rule | Haramain | Holy See | Import cover | Indicative target | Individual criminal responsibility | Insurance risk | Intelligence-based operation | International Court of Justice | International Criminal Court | Joint Defence Agreement | Joint Ministerial Commission | Judicial Commission of Pakistan | Judicial independence | KSE-100 | Liquid reserves | Loss and damage | Lower-middle-income | Market capitalisation | Mediation | Mediator | MEFP | Memorandum | MENAAP | Merged districts | Middle-power diplomacy | Mineral Development Fund | Mobilisation | Multilateralism | National Economic Initiative | Nationally determined contribution | Naval blockade | Negotiations presidency | NFC Award | NFC transfers | Nishan-e-Imtiaz | Non-formal education | Ocean-climate nexus | Out-of-school children | Pacta sunt servanda | Parallel courts | Peaceful settlement of disputes | Peacekeeping | Permanent Indus Commission | Poverty line | Pre-COP | Primary current spending | Process innovation | Proclamation | Procurement transparency | Product innovation | Proxy conflict | Public spending | Quantitative performance criterion | Rapid deployment | Readiness and integration | Ready market | Real household income | Remittances | Reserve accumulation | Resource federalism | Revenue boundaries | Riparian | Sanctions | Sanctity | Secretary-General | Security guarantees | Social sector | Staff-level agreement | Stalemate | State responsibility | Strait of Hormuz | Superior courts | Supreme Judicial Council | Targeted assistance | Technical-level talks | Technology transfer | Telemedicine | Territorial concessions | Transboundary river governance | Treasury benches | Trilateral talks | Ummah | Under-resourced | Universal jurisdiction | UNMOGIP | Weaponisation of water | Youth politics

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- **FBR:** Annual target Rs15.263tr (N1).
- **Ahsan Iqbal:** Planning Minister; URAAN Human Capital mission (N1).
- **Rana Sanaullah:** PM's adviser; links emergency to counter-terrorism; JCP member (N2, N4).
- **Sohail Afridi:** K-P Chief Minister leading the long march (N2).
- **Shaukat Yousafzai / Gohar:** PTI K-P spokesperson / leader (N2).
- **Aftab Alam / Shafi Jan:** K-P law / information ministers (N2).
- **Faisal Karim Kundi:** K-P Governor (N2).
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- **Yahya Afridi:** Chief Justice; chairs JCP (N4).
- **Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari:** PPP chairman; JCP member (N4).
- **Mir Sarfraz Bugti:** Balochistan Chief Minister (N5).
- **Ishaq Dar:** Deputy PM and Foreign Minister (N6, I6).
- **António Guterres:** UN Secretary-General; visited Pakistan 6-8 Oct (N6).
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- **Ghalibaf:** Iran's negotiator (I3).
- **DG ISPR:** Pakistan backs negotiated US-Iran outcome (I3).
- **Zelenskyy / Putin / Rubio / Ryabkov:** Ukraine talks actors (I4).
- **Murat Kurum / Chris Bowen:** COP31 president / president of negotiations (I5).
- **Bhupender Yadav:** India's environment minister (I5).
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