

CDPR Newsletter

MARCH 2026

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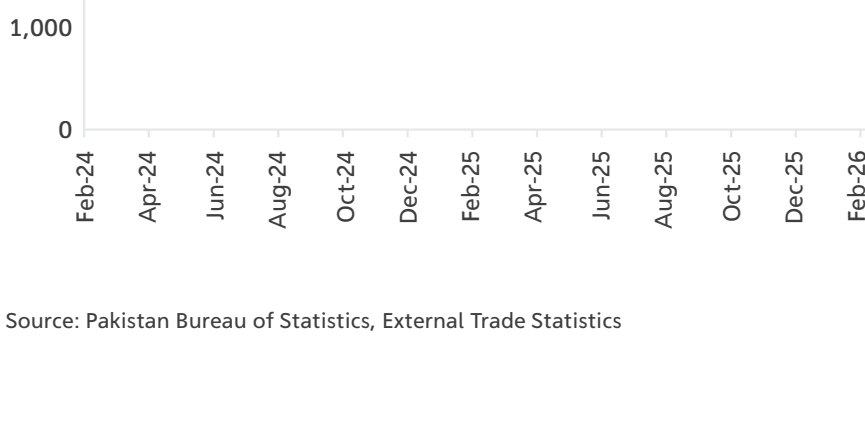
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MACRODATA

- TRADE
- BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
- PRICES
- ENERGY
- AIR QUALITY

TRADE

Exports (Monthly in Million USD)



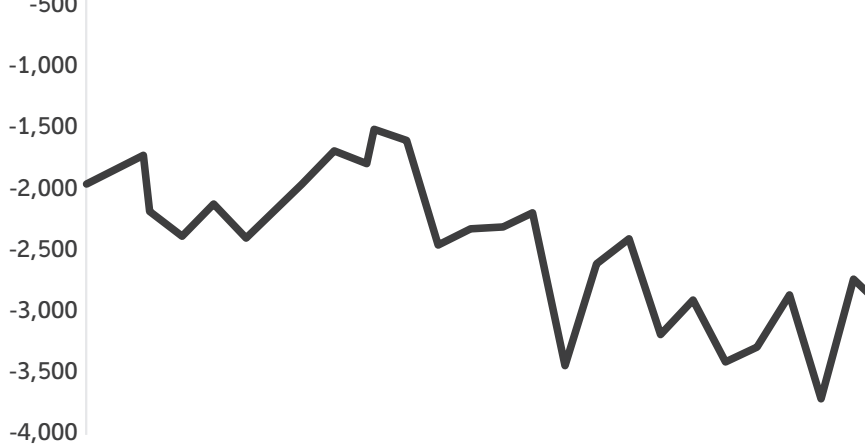
Imports (Monthly in Million USD)



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

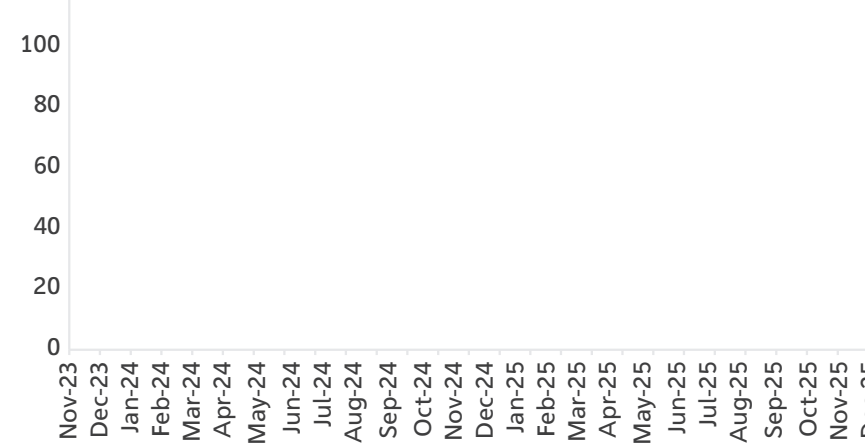
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

Balance of Trade (Monthly in Million USD)



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

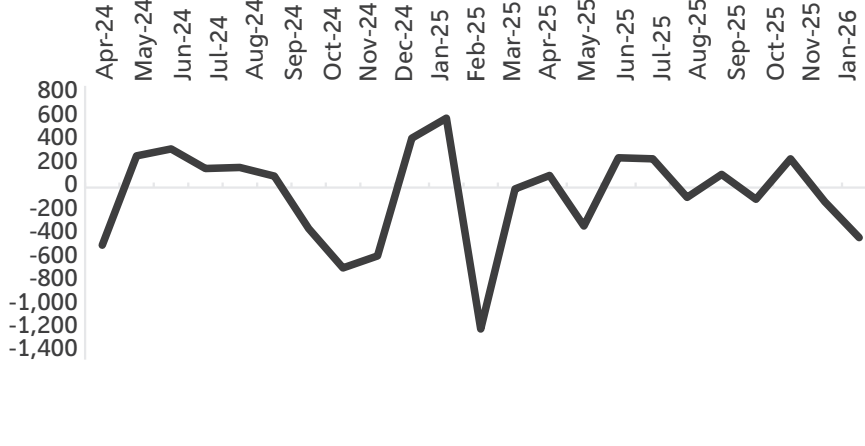
Quantum Index of Manufacturing



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

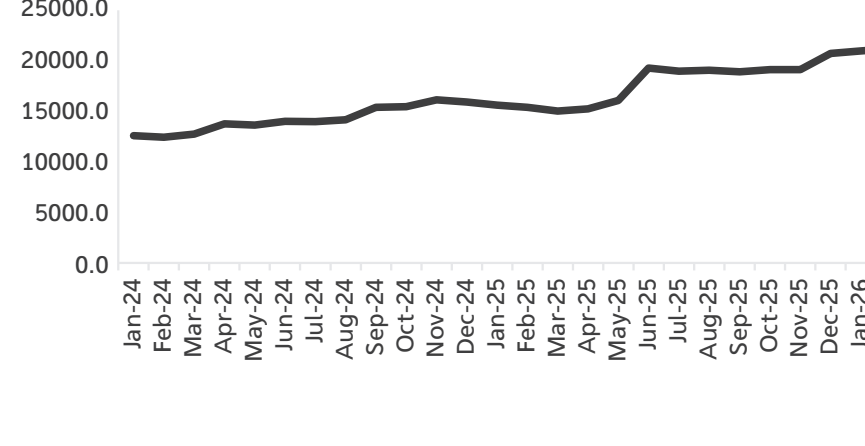
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Balance of Payments (Monthly in Million USD)



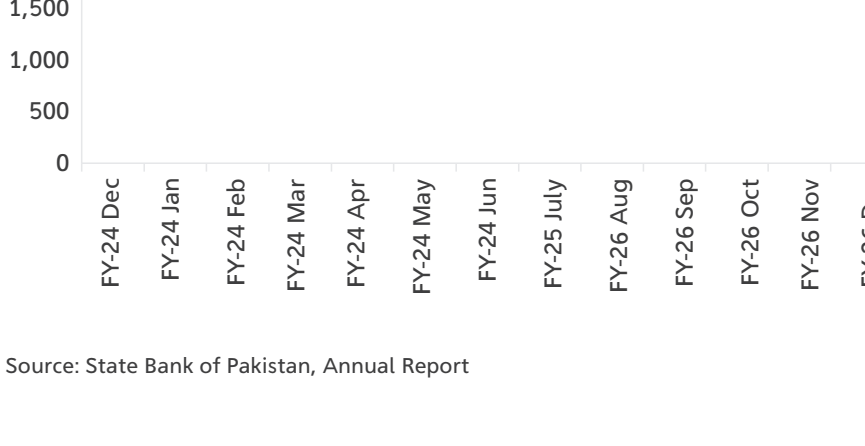
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report

Forex Reserves (Month-End Levels in Million USD)



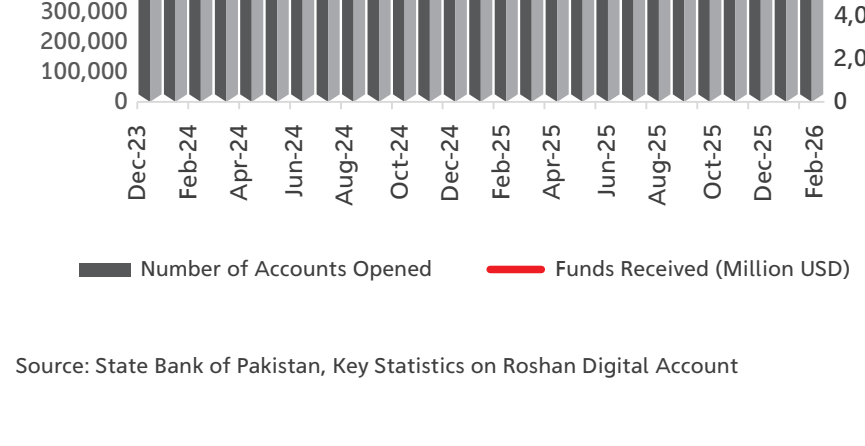
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Foreign Exchange Reserves

Workers' Remittances (Monthly in Million USD)



Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report

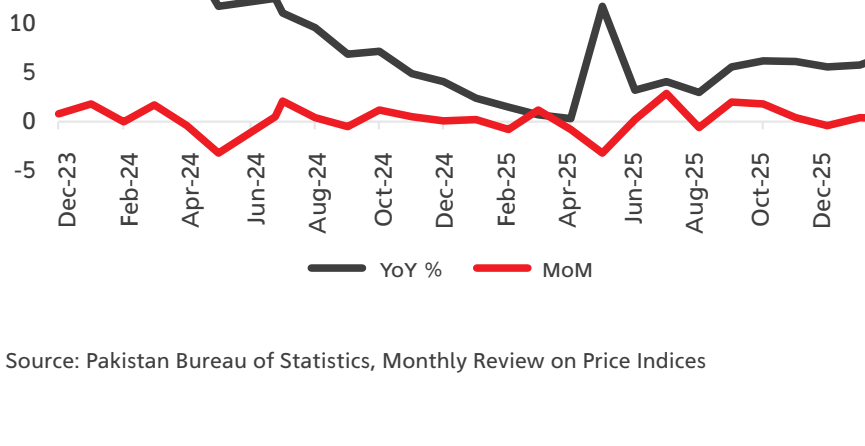
Roshan Digital Account (Monthly)



Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Key Statistics on Roshan Digital Account

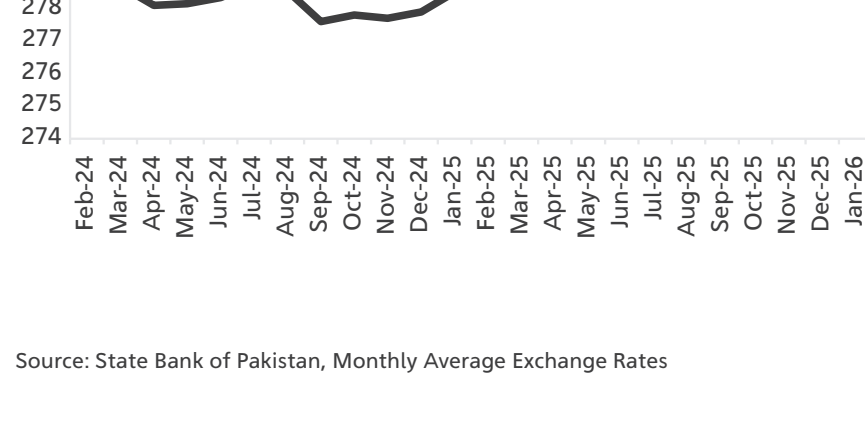
PRICES

Inflation % (Monthly)



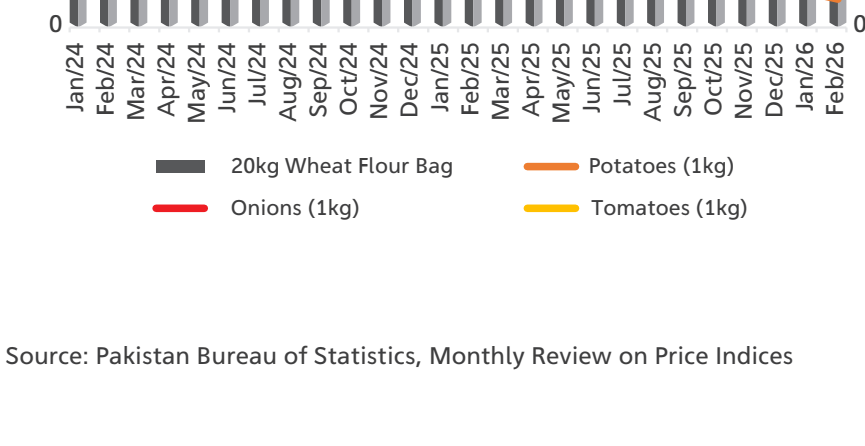
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

Exchange Rate (Monthly Average in PKR)



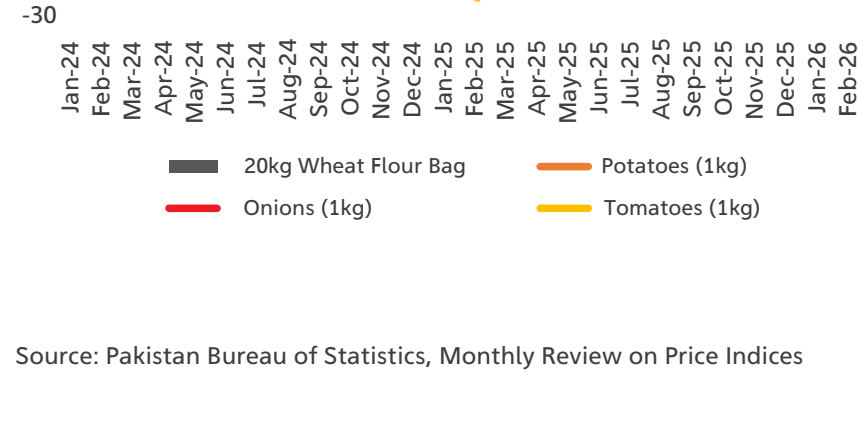
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Monthly Average Exchange Rates

Monthly Prices



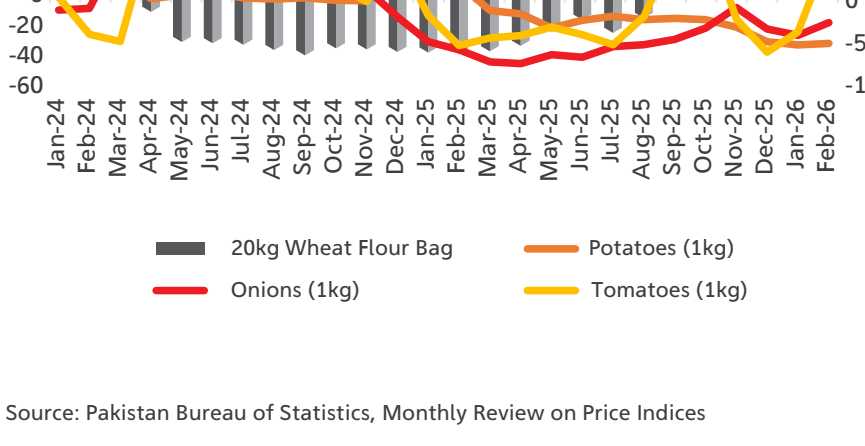
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

MoM% Change in Prices



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

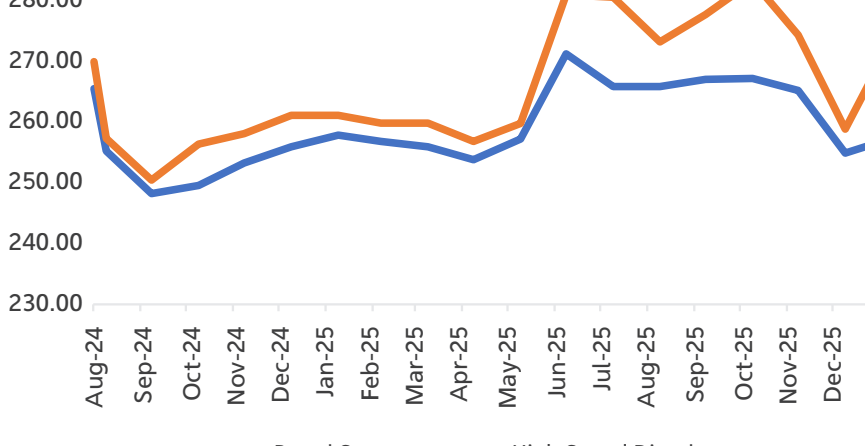
YoY% Change in Prices



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

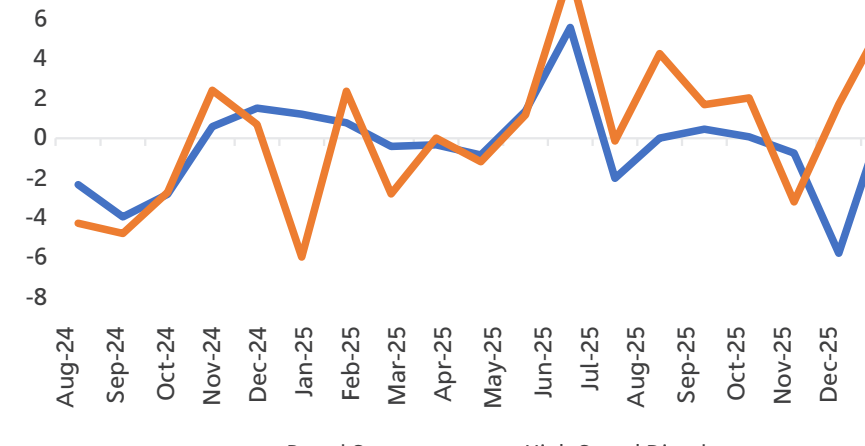
ENERGY

Prices



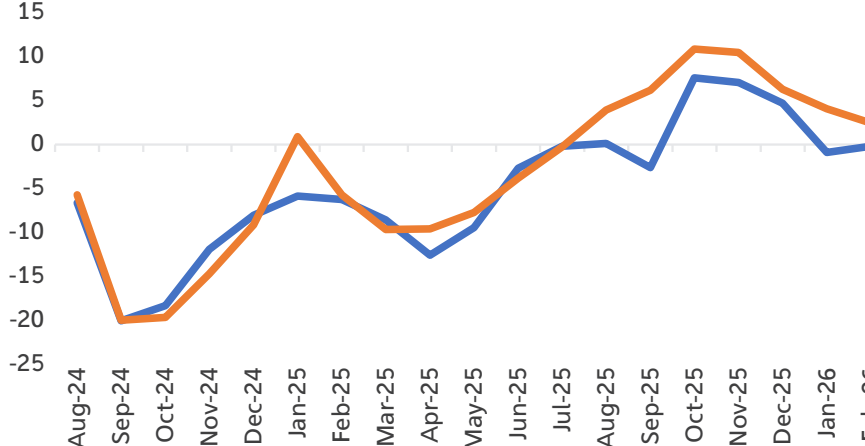
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

MoM% Change in Prices



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

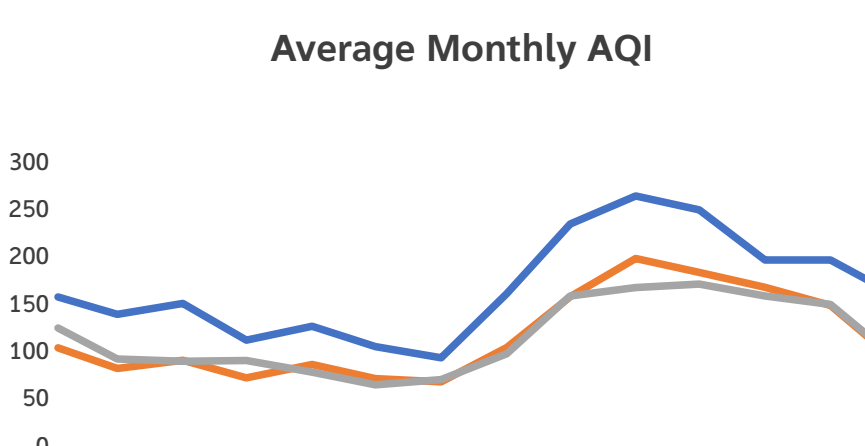
YoY% Change in Prices



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

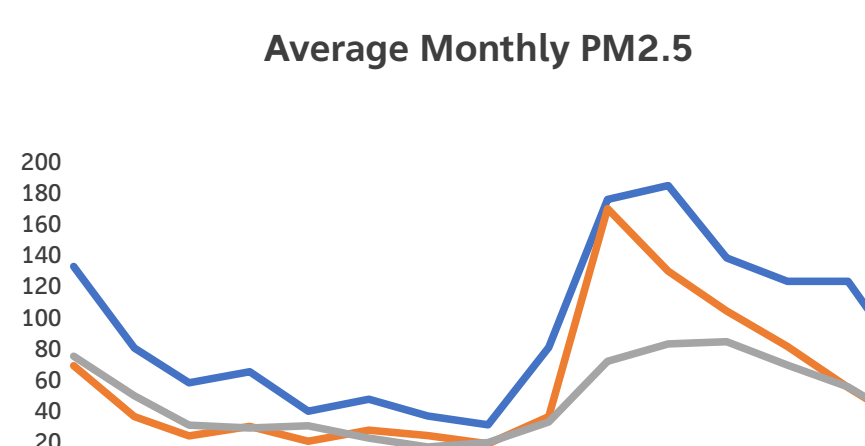
AIR QUALITY

Average Monthly AQI



Source: Air Quality Index (AQI)

Average Monthly PM2.5



Source: Air Quality Index (AQI)

INSIGHTS FOR CHANGE

What Behaviour Change Communication Can and Cannot Do in Pakistan

Behaviour change communication (BCC) is often overestimated as a standalone solution. This article outlines what it can realistically achieve - shifting knowledge, norms, and service uptake - and what it cannot, while offering a practical framework for designing effective, context-sensitive campaigns and measuring real behavioural outcomes.

This article is authored by Fasi Zaka (Strategic communications and Behavior change leader)

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POLICY ANALYSIS

Strengthening Female Inheritance Rights in Punjab: Impacts on Marriage Markets and Human Capital

In rural Pakistan, women often face barriers to land ownership because of patriarchal norms, unfair inheritance practices and weak land administration. This month's policy analysis features new IGC research that finds that strengthening women's property rights can result in economic and social benefits, not just for women, but for their families too. To maximize impact and avoid unintended consequences, policies should consider social norms and be paired with measures like providing legal ID to women and investing in girls' education.

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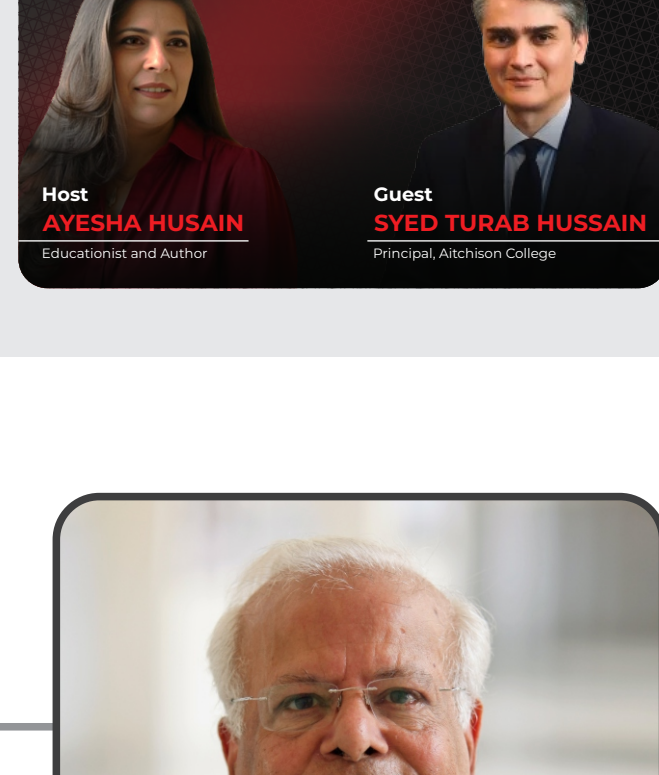
LET'S TALK DEVELOPMENT

More Than Marks: What Education Owes the Next Generation

In this episode of Let's Talk Development, Ayesha Hussain and Dr. Syed Turab Hussain discuss if Pakistan's education system is keeping up with the world. Drawing on nearly three decades of teaching at institutions including LUMS, and now leading Aitchison College, Dr. Hussain makes a compelling case for returning to educational fundamentals: critical thinking, strong writing, and above all, character development. The conversation explores where AI fits into the classroom and where it does not, why good teachers remain irreplaceable and what it will truly take to equip Pakistan's youngest generation for a rapidly shifting world.

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FELLOWS' ARTICLES

Dealing with Vulnerabilities by Ishrat Husain

EVERY crisis presents an opportunity to reflect upon underlying weaknesses and take corrective action. The current turmoil in the Gulf should be examined from this angle. It highlights long-existing vulnerabilities in Pakistan's economic structure that haven't always received adequate policy attention. The situation is particularly significant as it coincides with a broader transformation in the global economic environment.

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Absorbing Population Growth by Zeba Sathar

FINALLY, the debate about whether rapid population growth is beneficial or pernicious for the economy appears to be settled. While the evidence was extensive and categorical, it has taken several decades for the numbers to be absorbed by our leading economists. In the meantime, we have potentially lost billions of dollars in GDP, experienced the tragedy of several thousand maternal and child deaths, and seen a decline in per capita income as the cost of not pursuing sound population policies and actions to bring down our rapid population growth rate.....

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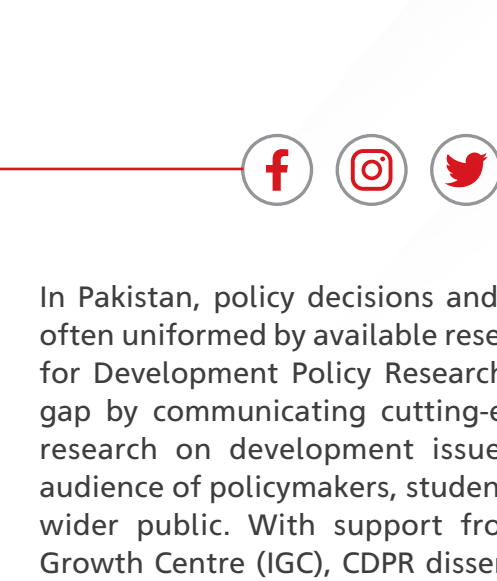


BLOG

An Empirical Analysis of Pricing Strategies for Water in Agricultural Punjab

This blog examines how pricing mechanisms for canal and groundwater can curb over-extraction and reduce wastage among farmers.

Efficient water use for agriculture is an important topic for economics study. Crucially, overuse and water wastage happens worldwide, but are dependent on local systems and policies. Punjab, a province in Pakistan, experiences a lack of holistic, manageable legislation in policy and regulation in the water sector.



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In Pakistan, policy decisions and public discourse are often uninformed by available research. The Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) bridges this gap by communicating cutting-edge, evidence-based research on development issues in Pakistan to an audience of policymakers, students, the media and the wider public. With support from the International Growth Centre (IGC), CDPR disseminates policy briefs, hosts events, engages with the media and produces digital content to make topics in development research such as economic growth, energy, education, health and governance intelligible to both decision makers & the public.

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