In this Issue

The latest issue of *Policy Perspectives* publication presents research, analyses, and reviews on various topics concerning national, and international issues from policy experts, academics, and practitioners.

Pakistan is currently undergoing serious political and economic crises. However, these crises point towards symptoms of the problem, the cause lies in governance. The paper ‘The Challenge of Governance and Public Representation: How Electoral System Matters?’ discusses the governance conundrum and how it is exacerbating political and economic crises in the country. It recommends reforming the electoral system, as one of the key moves, to achieve better governance and overcome political and economic challenges, among others. Moreover, the problems of political instability, polarization, corruption, etc., continue to afflict all countries including Pakistan. The paper contends that a more representative, multi-tier system of governance can resolve such problems more efficiently and effectively with genuine public participation.

The paper ‘Civil-Military Relationship in a Democratic Pakistan’ explores the futuristic calibration of Pakistan’s constitutional development and its interpretation through precedents in the face of multiple sociopolitical, socioeconomic, and legal challenges. In particular, it analyzes the essential normative characteristics of a constitutional legal framework based on the separation of powers between pillars of the state vis-à-vis civil-military relationship.

The next paper ‘Decentralization of Environmental Governance in Pakistan and its Impact on Sustainable Development’ evaluates the post-18th Amendment scenario regarding achievement of sustainable environment through better environmental governance in Pakistan. While Pakistan has made progress in devising legislations and laws to manage major environmental issues, it is still not as close to its target of achieving sustainable development despite several decades of efforts at environmental regulation and governance.

The paper on ‘Pakistan’s External Debt Unsustainability and the Required Approach’ discusses financial and non-financial variables that prompt external debt distress in Pakistan. It explicates that the economic vulnerability emanates from macroeconomic imbalances and structural problems. It proffers formulating a publicly available blueprint i.e. theory of change to resolve Pakistan’s increased reliance on transnational lenders, including IMF.
The final paper ‘Chinese Investments in Maritime Sectors of Oman and UAE: Transitioning Realities’ reviews Chinese investments in the maritime sectors of the two important Gulf countries—Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)— focusing on the potential challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It highlights China’s increasing influence in the Middle East (ME) and Africa, with a focus on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the development of key ports and infrastructure projects at Duqm and Khalifa ports.

The issue also includes two reviews of the recent books: Iskander Mirza: Pakistan’s First Elected President’s Memoirs from Exile reviewed by Adnan Aamir and Economics and Economic Policy – Islamic Perspective reviewed by Dr Salman Ahmed Shaikh. Lastly, the ‘Dialogue at IPS’ section deals with important themes from some discussions held at the Institute of Policy Studies during recent months.