By: ICMA Research and Publications Department

Pakistan Introduces National Data Governance Policy 2026

Pakistan's Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication has introduced the National Data Governance Policy 2026 under the Digital Nation Pakistan initiative, establishing a comprehensive framework for managing public-sector data. The policy classifies government data as a strategic national asset, mandates that sensitive government and personal data remain hosted within Pakistan, promotes a "once-only" principle for citizen data sharing through the WASL National Data Exchange, and strengthens digital privacy rightsalong with governance standards for artificial intelligence.

SECP Advances Business Formalization and ESG Framework

SECP has strengthened Pakistan's corporate and financial sector through reforms, registering 3,161 new companies and achieving a record 415 incorporations in one day. Total registered companies reached 297,239, with 52% of new registrations from Punjab. Private limited companies made up 60% of incorporations, mostly in IT and e-commerce. Foreign investors from 17 countries participated, with China leading in capital contribution. Additionally, SECP introduced Pakistan's first ESG Mutual Funds Framework for sustainable investment, requiring ESG funds to invest at least 50% in ESG-aligned assets, aiming to attract responsible investment and enhance the sustainable finance ecosystem.

FBR Introduces Data-Driven Tax Forecasting Expands Digital Taxpayer Facilitation

FBR has adopted a buoyancy-based tax forecasting framework for FY2026–27 to improve the accuracy of revenue projections. The new model recalibrates tax estimates using 20 years of historical data on GDP, large-scale manufacturing (LSM), imports, and tax collections, enabling more reliable forecasting and evidence-based fiscal planning. In parallel, FBR has strengthened its digital taxpayer services by establishing a dedicated Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) Front Desk at the Large Taxpayers Office (LTO) in Karachi. Operational since 5 June 2026, the facilitation centre provides technical support for the IRIS tax portal and other digital systems, assisting taxpayers with registration, online payments, and system-related issues.

SBP Unveils First Research Agenda (2026–2029)

The SBP has launched its Research Agenda 2026–2029 to strengthen evidence-based policymaking, focusing on inflation and monetary policy, financial sector stability, and structural transformation. Aligned with SBP Vision 2028, the agenda also aims to enhance collaboration with academia and policymakers to improve macroeconomic research and regulatory decision-making.

Pakistan Introduces Insurance Bill 2026

The Federal Government has introduced the Insurance Bill 2026 to modernize Pakistan's insurance sector by replacing the Insurance Ordinance, 2000. The Bill facilitates foreign investment, introduces perpetual licensing, supports digital insurance and insurtech, strengthens consumer protection, and promotes a more competitive and innovation-driven insurance market.

Pakistan Launches Strategic Oil Reserve and Storage Expansion Plan

Pakistan has launched a strategy to strengthen energy security by establishing strategic petroleum reserves and expanding fuel storage. The plan includes bonded storage facilities, international partnerships, and mandatory stockholding, supported by a Rs. 10 per litre allocation from petroleum levies to enhance energy resilience and supply security.

Pakistan Reviews Cotton Sector Challenges

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb met with the Pakistan Cotton Ginners' Association to discuss challenges facing the cotton sector, including high input costs and taxation. The government reaffirmed its commitment to tax reforms, improving value addition, strengthening the supply chain, and supporting exports and investment.