

Pakistan's Goeconomic Pivot: Strategies, Opportunities, and Challenges

In December 2021, Pakistan's Federal Cabinet approved the country's first '[National Security Policy of Pakistan, 2022-26](#).' The NSP addresses a broad spectrum of non-traditional and traditional security threats under the concept of 'Comprehensive National Security.' Centred on the idea that the ultimate objective of national security is to ensure the '[safety, security, dignity, and prosperity](#)' of all citizens, it broadens the horizon of national security – addressing a longstanding concern that Pakistan's approach has been too narrowly skewed in favour of hard security. The country's historical reliance on external aid failed to yield sustained economic growth, leaving it trapped in cycles of economic volatility, debt, and limited development. Moving away from the conventional guns versus butter debate, the policy highlights the need to augment economic security to achieve improved human and traditional security outcomes. In articulating economic security as a central pillar, it emphasises the goeconomic paradigm as one of the avenues to strengthen the country's economic muscle and supplement its efforts to address its geopolitical challenges.

This report '[Pakistan's Goeconomic Pivot: Strategies, Opportunities, and Challenges](#)' looks at the concept of goeconomics in Pakistan's context, the broadening of the definition of national security, and two essential factors, namely connectivity and development partnerships, that underpin the idea of goeconomics as articulated and presented in the NSP. This session will discuss the report and generate a nuanced discourse on goeconomics and what it may mean for Pakistan going forward.

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