

30-08-2024

Good

AI and the gender-based crimes

The rise of AI technology has led to a substantial increase in the menace of gender-based crimes. Women are already the most oppressed individuals on the surface of earth. Unfortunately, the advancing AI is further adding to their traumas. This technology is enabling hostile elements to commit gender-based crimes with greater intensity, especially against the females. The AI-powered tools such as Deepfake and Generative AI are being used to create discriminatory and unscrupulous content, which leads to the blackmailing and harassment of females. Many female journalists and politicians have already fallen victim to the misuse of the AI's power. According to the Pew Research Centre study, 27% female face cyberstalking and online blackmailing as compared to 7% people in 18-24 years of age. In brief, the growing AI is fuelling hate crimes against females.

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CPEC and Pakistan's economy

Upon completion, the CPEC project will become a huge catalyst to bolster Pakistan's long ailing economy. The project has already supported the country's fragile economy by injecting it with more than \$80 billion investments. The country has been benefited in the agriculture sector and power needs. By the time this project completes, the country's capacity to trade at a large scale will become evident as the development of infrastructure and ~~sector~~ will raise the country's productivity many folds. Once it is completed, it will help the country to explore and expand international trade opportunities and volumes. Especially, the CPEC will connect Pakistan with the Africa, central Asia, and Europe. As a result of this connectivity, the government will be able to do more trade, thereby bringing more cash, that will translate into socio-economic ~~site~~.

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Meet the 'renewable' ambitions

Implementation of a revised net metering policy will help the country to meet its renewable energy ambitions of 30% by 2030. The scrapped net metering policy of 2017 produced very encouraging outcomes for not only the states or businesses but also the individuals. Instead of tackling its inherent shortcomings, the country scrapped the policy altogether, which is proving to be a deep dent to the ambitions of 30% renewable energy in the total mix by 2030. Under the earlier policy, the solar energy capacity reached to 100 MW, which meant that the country would be salvaged from producing that amount of thermal energy, improving its carbon footprint. Moreover, individuals under the net metering policy get encouraged to exploit renewable source instead of depending on the grid energy, which in turn prompts solar generation.

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Governance and Energy crisis

The prevailing energy crisis is also attributable to the weak governance structure in the country. For the effective performance of any sector, its effective governance is an essential pre-requisite. Unfortunately, it is due to the derelict governance that the major issues such as pervasive energy theft, line losses, inefficient running of power plants and such forth are unceasingly ongoing, undermining the supply and production of energy to the users. Improving the governance structure will uplift the energy industry, as it will thwart widespread energy theft and ensure timely recovery, reducing the burden of circular debt. The recent report by the Asian Development Bank, has also highlighted that amongst many factors responsible for the energy crisis in Pakistan, it is also ineffective governance, improving which will pave country's way to sustainable energy generation and distribution.

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Stemming terrorism

Kinetic measures are necessary but they can not alone bring about the eradication of terrorism in Pakistan. The newly proposed operation, named Azm-i-Istehkam, is going to be the 10th major military operation. The past nine, though brought a large degree of respite from the menace, failed to completely exterminate the terrorism, underscoring the fact that there is more than only kinetic operations needed to address the threat. Many security analysts and military experts have highlighted the essential need for the political measures. The TTP is being largely aided by internally discontent groups from Pakhtun and Baloch communities. The government must show greater political will by addressing these communities' socio-economic grievances, ending political marginalization and improving governance. This will result in TTP's isolation from these communities and heighten the public resistance to the troublemakers, hence serving blow to the menace of terrorism.