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## Empowering local governments for better governance

Devolutions of power to the grass roots <sup>by</sup> through strengthening the local governments is essential to extricate Pakistan out of the prevailing quagmire of bad governance. All across the world, countries where local governments are strong have a robust governance system. Unfortunately, Pakistan is in the throes of bad governance because the power ~~has not been~~ not effectively devolved to the local governments. Consequently, the country is facing the issues such as uneven distribution of resources, derelict delivery of public services, stagnated growth, lack of public participation and such forth. However, once the local governments are adequately empowered especially under the stipulations of Article 140 of the Constitution, the society as a whole will begin to have a paradigm shift formation, resulting in effective allocation of resources, rapid progress, protection of fundamental rights, socio-economic uplift of masses, and such forth.

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## Increasing agricultural productivity

There is a dire need ~~for~~ <sup>of</sup> taking robust measures to increase the agricultural productivity, which will result in burgeoning of Pakistan's economy. Undoubtedly, agriculture still constitutes a large chunk of the country's overall GDP. However, agricultural output is not yet at the optimal level.

To exploit this sector's potential to the utmost, the country can take a wide array of measures including the subsidizing the solar panels, which will help farmers to install solar-powered tubewells to meet the scarcity of irrigation water. Moreover, the farmers need to be equipped and educated about the modern agricultural practices. Besides, the AI technology has been transforming the agriculture sector all across the world; Pakistan must also expand its adoption and use that will help the farmers in not only detection of diseases but also in making data-driven decisions. Implementation of these measures will indeed give a much-needed impetus to the agriculture sector.

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## Societal divisions and democracy

The widespread divisions on the basis of language, race, ethnicity, religion and sects are ~~is~~ significantly undermining the effective growth of democracy in Pakistan. Basically, Pakistan is a composite society which is home to a large range of diverse people. This diversity is not much harmonious and does not share same goal of helping prosper the country, especially hunking its democracy. The public does not cast vote on the merit basis and cruelly judge the candidates from the segregationist lens. A member of one ethnicity, language, religion or race does not support the member of other community in the electoral process. The division has now so intensified that the venous nature of communal acts are rife in Pakistani society, which are weakening the root of embryonic democracy. Ergo, democracy in Pakistan is on the back foot due to the prevailing rifts in the society.

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## Institutional reforms for better governance

Improving the system of governance in Pakistan requires a holistic approach of reforming various institutions. A nation's well-being in terms of politics, economy and society as a whole hinges on the effective and efficient running of its institutions. Pakistan is in the throes of bad governance because of its institutions' being ineffective and ill-developed. The country needs to shepherd a wide range of reforms aimed at transforming its institutions, which will result in the betterment of its governance. First and foremost, police and justice system needs to be reformed by widening the use of advanced technologies, building workforce capacity and providing all modern essential necessities. Bureaucracy needs to be reformed, especially by equipping the individuals in civil services with modern skills and increasing their accountability. Thus, these reforms will propel the country to uplift its woe-begone governance system.

## Poor governance and economic fragility

The economic fragility in Pakistan is largely attributable to the ineffective governance. The role of governance institutions is extremely essential for the sound performance of an economy. Pakistan is, unfortunately, submerged in economic woes because various institutions are underperforming or have become severely sluggish. The FBR is immensely criticized for being unable to expand the tax revenues by ensuring inclusion of non-filers and preventing tax evasions amounting to huge sums. Similarly, there are a large number of cases lingering in the tribunal appellate pertaining to tax cases, owing to the ineptness of the judicial domain. In the same way, law and enforcement institutions are pathetically handicapped in warring of terrorism, extremism and sectarianism which are hindering tourism, FDI, industry growth. In essence, weak governance is hurting Pakistan's economy.