



# Asim Munir Doctrine: The Hybrid Governance Consolidatio n in Pakistan

## Abstract

The contemporary political and strategic landscape of Pakistan is no longer defined by the traditional, oscillating cycles of civilian rule and military coups that characterized the twentieth century. Instead, the state has transitioned into a sophisticated, permanent structure of governance known as the Asim Munir Doctrine. This doctrine has evolved from a theoretical framework into Pakistan's de-facto and de-jure operating system. It represents a comprehensive consolidation of power that transcends the "hybrid" models of the past, institutionalizing military primacy through constitutional amendments, economic command structures, and a significantly heightened tolerance for calibrated kinetic action in the near abroad. The doctrine posits that in an era of poly-crisis, economic security is indistinguishable from national defence, necessitating a "whole-of-government" approach where the military is not merely an arbiter but a permanent co-owner of the sovereign power structure.

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# Contents

<b>1. Asim Munir Doctrine: The Hybrid Governance Consolidation in Pakistan</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2. February News Summary.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. References.....</b>	<b>11</b>

## Asim Munir Doctrine: The Hybrid Governance Consolidation in Pakistan

The 27th Constitutional Amendment (passed 10–13 November 2025) created the new post of **Chief of Defence Forces (CDF)**, held by the Army Chief, abolished the neutral Chairman Joint



Chiefs post, placed all three services under army primacy, shifted nuclear command to an army-dominant National Strategic Command, and granted **Field Marshal Asim Munir** lifelong immunity and tenure extension until at least 2030.

Military task forces and serving officers are now routinely embedded in Planning, Finance, Energy, Commerce and even provincial development departments, the “dual channel” structure first highlighted in 2025. **Defence Minister Khawaja Asif** publicly defended the model in June and September 2025 as “doing wonders” and “co-ownership of the power structure” until Pakistan is “out of the woods”.

At the apex sits the **SIFC (Special Investment Facilitation Council)**. On the official website and in every recent high-level engagement (Qatar visit 24–26 Feb 2026), Field Marshal Munir is listed alongside the Prime Minister. Within 48 hours

of the Doha meetings, the UAE confirmed rollover of USD 2 billion deposits, explicitly crediting SIFC coordination. Qatar reiterated interest in defence, energy and infrastructure via the same platform.

### Domestic Political Dynamics behind the Doctrine:

Civilian politicians (PML-N, PPP) have actively enabled the model, citing economic stabilisation and post-2022–2025 political turbulence as justification. The Sharif government has repeatedly highlighted SIFC “one-stop-shop” efficiency and military-led project execution as reasons for modest FDI recovery. Opposition, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and smaller parties criticise it as “**constitutional authoritarianism**” and “**funeral of democracy**”,

pointing to the person-specific nature of the 27th Amendment and embedded military officers. Yet no serious parliamentary pushback has materialised, a reflection of the hybrid regime's entrenched consensus that "economic security is defence".

If civilian leaders fail to show tangible FDI or stability dividends by mid-2026, provincial resentment (especially Sindh & Balochistan) or renewed PTI street protests could test the model's cohesion.

### **Election Implications:**

The Asim Munir Doctrine profoundly shapes upcoming elections, likely by mid-2027. With army-embedded officers in key ministries and lifelong immunity for Field Marshal Munir until 2030, civilian polls risk becoming a rubber-stamp for military priorities. PML-N-PPP coalitions will tout SIFC successes like UAE-Qatar inflows, while PTI protests could face suppression, entrenching "constitutional militarism" over democracy. This reduces electoral volatility but heightens provincial unrest risks if FDI falters

### **Foreign Deals and Anti-Iran Policies:**

SIFC has unlocked Gulf deals, including Saudi honours for Munir and UAE's \$1B Fauji stake, converting debt to equity in army firms like Fauji Fertilizer. Qatar's Doha pledges (Feb 2026) and Saudi ties counterbalance IMF reliance, funding military-economic primacy. Aggression vs. Iran—via Jan 2024 strikes and 2026 Rahdari end aligns with Saudi-Gulf interests, risking escalation but validating doctrine's "near-abroad kinetic action"

The US increasingly views Pakistan as a potential counterweight to China's influence via the "India tilt," positioning Munir as a pivotal "*soldier-diplomat*". President Trump hosted Field Marshal Asim Munir multiple times in 2025, including a June lunch at the White House and a September meeting in the Oval Office alongside PM Sharif. These meetings marked unprecedented direct access for a Pakistani Army Chief without civilian intermediaries, securing **\$500 million** in US investments for Pakistan's critical minerals.

### **Shift to Overt Military State:**

The 27th Amendment marks a pivot from covert hybrid rule to overt military dominance, creating the army-led CDF post and nuclear command shift. Fauji investments exemplify economic co-ownership, with SIFC as the visible apex. This "constitutional authoritarianism" could stabilize poly-crises short-term but invites 2027 backlash if growth lags

### **What's in it for India?**

The doctrine's nuclear centralisation and cross-border tolerance raise LoC/Afghanistan risks, worsened by US/China strengthening Pakistan militarily via \$500M minerals and CPEC 2.0 mining focus. India must monitor SIFC-driven Phase-2 acceleration (industry/agri/minerals, third-party openness), Gulf/Chinese projects, and Balochistan threats as both powers work against India regionally. New Delhi's pacts and Kabul channels hedge; \$30–50B inflows by 2027 validate the model.

Risks exist in Balochistan-CPEC routes. New Delhi's deepening defence pacts (Mitra Shakti, maritime domain awareness) and back-channel engagement with Kabul are prudent hedges. Any visible success of the doctrine in attracting \$30–50 bn+ Gulf/Chinese inflows by 2027

would validate the hybrid model regionally, something India must factor into long-term strategic planning.

Sudden surge in high-level Gulf visits, SIFC announcements and cross-border kinetic activity confirm Islamabad's determination to operationalise the doctrine fully. Ex-military and diaspora networks are already positioning for defence-export and investment facilitation roles.

## **The Future:**

Pakistan's "*rogue nuclear state*" trajectory intensifies under the doctrine, with army-dominant nuclear command and threats like Munir's 2025 US rhetoric raising miscalculation risks. Gulf/Chinese inflows (30–50B by 2027) may sustain arsenal growth to 200 warheads, but Balochistan unrest and Iran friction threaten isolation. Without reforms, it risks overt militarism, global sanctions, or internal collapse. US minerals funding alongside CPEC 2.0 dual-backing minimizes isolation but pressures Pakistan's tilt, heightening regional tensions.

The Asim Munir Doctrine is poised to deepen overt military control through mid-2027 elections, where **PML-N/PPP alliances, backed by SIFC successes, will likely secure wins amid suppressed PTI opposition**, potentially yielding a hung assembly or engineered majority. Gulf inflows via SIFC (e.g., UAE Fauji stake, Qatar energy) could hit \$30–50B by 2027 if 28 projects materialize, stabilizing debt but fuelling Balochistan unrest over CPEC/minerals.

**Anti-Iran policies may escalate with more strikes or Gulf-aligned sanctions, though diplomatic overtures suggest selective thaw for trade.** As a rogue nuclear state, army-led command over 170+ warheads heighten miscalculation risks, especially vs. India, inviting global isolation or IMF stalls if militarized budgets persist.

Short-term consolidation succeeds if FDI delivers growth; long-term, economic despair or protests could fracture the model by 2030, risking collapse or full martial law.

## News Summary:

Sr. No	Date	Sector	News Headline	Source
1	02-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Balochistan attacks: Security forces eliminate 22 more terrorists, bringing tally to 177 in three days</a>	Geo News
2	03-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">FIA directed to submit challan in PTI prohibited funding case</a>	Dawn
3	03-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">PTI gives list of six lawyers to Adiala Jail officials for meeting with Imran Khan</a>	Duniya News
4	03-2-26	Politics	<a href="#">No negotiations with terrorists targeting women and children: Khawaja Asif</a>	Duniya News
5	03-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Balochistan Agriculture Minister Ali Hassan Zehri resigns, citing personal constraints</a>	ARY News
6	03-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Pakistan declares public holiday on Feb 5</a>	The Nation
7	06-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">PTI, TTAP urge nation to participate in Feb 8 protest</a>	Duniya News
8	06-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Customs warns KICT of legal action</a>	Tribune
9	10-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Ruckus in Sindh Assembly as opposition protests activists' detention</a>	Dawn
2	10-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Govt decides to release all PTI workers held under MPO</a>	Dawn
3	10-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Furious Junaid Akbar separates himself from PTI's parliamentary party</a>	Duniya TV
4	10-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Khawaja Asif calls for unity as NA unanimously adopts resolution against Islamabad attack</a>	Geo TV
5	10-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">India waging proxy war against Pakistan, defence minister tells NA</a>	The Nation
6	12-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Net-metering shift sparks debate in National Assembly</a>	Daily Times
7	12-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">KP govt focusing on education, healthcare, infrastructure development: CM</a>	Dawn
8	12-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Police step up actions against illegal Afghan nationals in Rawalpindi</a>	Dawn
9	12-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Senate panel to probe alleged fund misappropriation in National Vocational and Technical Training Commission</a>	Dawn
10	12-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">PIA privatisation finalised</a>	Dawn
11	12-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Balochistan insurgents use women fighters to boost recruitment: Talal</a>	Geo TV
12	13-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Medical board to examine Imran's right eye after '85% vision loss'</a>	Daily Times
13	13-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Senate passes media, citizenship amendment bills</a>	Daily Times
14	13-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Govt launches PM's fan replacement scheme to cut power consumption</a>	The Nation
1	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Rana Sanaullah rules out another deal with Imran Khan</a>	Geo TV

2	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Senate panel warns water crisis deepening</a>	The Nation
3	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Govt land sale scandal: Another case registered against Farhat Shahzadi</a>	Duniya TV
4	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Food exports hit steep decline as imports surge</a>	Dawn
5	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Railways facing huge sustainability gap, NA committee told</a>	Dawn
6	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">OGDCL makes discovery in Sindh</a>	Dawn
7	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">CM approves acceleration of SWEEP to modernise Karachi's waste management system</a>	Geo TV
8	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Karachi airport upgrades central runway to handle Airbus 380</a>	The Nation
9	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Pakistan increases Reko Diq investment to \$244 million</a>	Duniya TV
10	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Balochistan Governor removes Ali Hassan Zehri from ministry</a>	Dawn
11	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">CM Bugti approves 46 new SDPOs</a>	Dawn
12	20-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Efforts underway to tackle female student dropouts, says Balochistan minister</a>	Dawn
1	24-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Achakzai's opposition role challenged in FCC</a>	Tribune
2	24-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">Achakzai's appointment challenged under constitutional provisions</a>	TheNation
3	24-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">PTI submits list of leaders for meeting with Imran Khan</a>	DunyaNews TV
4	24-02-26	Politics	<a href="#">IHC declares Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri appointment unconstitutional</a>	Dawn
5	27-02-06	Politics	<a href="#">New assembly building in two years: CM</a>	Dawn
6	27-02-06	Politics	<a href="#">Govt to eradicate terrorism at all costs, vows PM</a>	DunyaNews TV
7	27-02-06	Politics	<a href="#">President Zardari, PM Shehbaz say armed forces fully capable of crushing aggression</a>	Dawn
8	27-02-06	Politics	<a href="#">Husband can't dictate terms of dowry return, rules court</a>	DunyaNews TV
9	27-02-06	Politics	<a href="#">Health emergency declared in Chaman District amid Pak-Afghan tensions</a>	DunyaNews TV
11	27-02-06	Politics	<a href="#">Our patience reaches its limit; now it will be open war: Khawaja Asif</a>	Dawn
12	27-02-06	Politics	<a href="#">Afghan regime aggression to get strong response: Barrister Gohar</a>	DunyaNews TV
1	03-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Field Marshal reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to strengthening ties with Libya</a>	The Nation
2	03-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Kazakhstan president arrives in Islamabad today</a>	The Nation
3	03-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Discussions underway to sign FTA with Iran, Senate panel told</a>	The Nation
4	03-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Iran-US tensions delay ferry service</a>	Tribune

5	03-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Pakistan invited to participate in upcoming US-Iran talks: FO</a>	Dawn
6	03-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">ICC seeks resolution as Pakistan boycotts high-profile India encounter</a>	The Nation
7	06-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Security for Chinese enhanced: Naqvi</a>	Tribune
8	06-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Preferential trade agreement to be signed with Jordan to boost trade</a>	Dawn
9	06-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">PM Shehbaz announces Pakistan's highest civil award for Uzbek president</a>	Duniya News
10	06-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Pakistan calls for respect of UN resolutions, human rights in occupied territories</a>	Duniya News
11	06-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Pak-China agri ties deepen as multiple MoUs inked</a>	The Nation
12	06-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Thanks to Bangladesh for standing by Pakistan</a>	The Daily Inqalab
13	06-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Four-way corridor connecting Central and South Asia discussed in Islamabad -Kyrgyz national news agency</a>	en.kabar.kg
1	10-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Italy, EU slam Islamabad suicide attack; express solidarity</a>	Daily Times
2	10-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Uzbek envoy calls on Nawaz Sharif, discusses economic cooperation</a>	Duniya TV
3	10-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">ICC T20 World Cup: Pakistan to play India after boycott called off</a>	Prothom Alo
4	10-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Pakistan ended boycott because Bangladesh's demands were met: PCB chief</a>	UNB
5	12-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Pakistan offers raw material to aid Cambodia supply chain diversification</a>	Daily Times
6	12-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">US affirms Pakistan as key partner in South Asia strategy</a>	Daily Times
7	12-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">US trade office removes controversial map of India</a>	The Nation
8	12-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Pakistan launches second indigenous Earth observation satellite EO-2 from China space centre</a>	Duniya TV
9	12-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Pakistan demands Sawalkot Dam details, cites Indus Waters Treaty</a>	The Nation
10	13-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Pakistan, US to boost partnership in mining, minerals and energy sectors</a>	Daily Times
11	13-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">CDF, Saudi defence minister discuss efforts to promote global peace</a>	Daily Times
12	13-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Mashreq launches digital cross-border accounts for Pakistanis in UAE</a>	Daily Times
4	20-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Rubio appreciates Pakistan's support, participation in Board of Peace</a>	Duniya TV
1	24-02-2026	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">PM Shehbaz Sharif reaches Qatar on two-day official visit</a>	DunyaNews TV

2	24-02-2026	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Interior Minister visits Italy for talks on illegal immigration</a>	Tribune
3	24-02-2026	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Pakistan, Uzbekistan set \$2bn trade target; sign 28 agreements</a>	TheNation
4	24-02-2026	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Kazakhstan consul backs revival of direct flights with Pakistan</a>	Tribune
5	24-02-2026	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Meezan Bank, Bank CenterCredit sign MoU to boost bilateral trade</a>	TheNation
6	24-02-2026	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">PAF airstrikes kill 100 terrorists in Afghanistan, Senate told</a>	TheNation
7	24-02-2026	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Al-Qaeda, Hafiz Gul Bahadur commanders killed in PAF strikes</a>	TheNation
8	27-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Forces repel 'miscalculated' attacks by Afghan Taliban</a>	
9	27-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">PAF airstrikes destroy military installations in Kabul, Paktia, Kandahar</a>	TheNation
10	27-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">No Pakistani posts captured or damaged: PM foreign media spokesman</a>	DunyaNews TV
11	27-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Afghan regime has become proxy of India: Khalid Maqbool</a>	DunyaNews TV
12	27-02-26	Foreign Policy	<a href="#">Shelling from Afghan Taliban damages mosque in Bajaur</a>	DunyaNews TV
1	03-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Pakistan's trade with Italy witnesses over 23pc surplus in six months</a>	The Nation
2	03-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Gold price plunges by Rs21,500 to Rs490,362 per tola</a>	The Nation
3	03-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Rupee gains 1 paisa against dollar</a>	The Nation
4	03-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">FinMin reaffirms macroeconomic stability as Wafi Energy plans \$100m investment</a>	Duniya News
5	03-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Pakistan's inflation rises in January as 2026 begins, PBS says</a>	Duniya News
6	03-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Pakistan, Uzbekistan eye \$2bn trade in two years</a>	Dawn
7	03-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">UAE rolls over \$2b Pak loan for a month</a>	Tribune
8	06-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Kazakh firm plans \$20m gold mining in G-B</a>	Tribune
9	06-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Karachi industrialists propose solar-powered charity model</a>	Dawn
10	06-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">FinMin pledges to resolve pharmaceutical sector issues</a>	Duniya News
1	10-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">China-Pakistan boost citrus industry for changing climate</a>	Daily Times
2	10-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Balochistan official discusses investment prospects with UAE envoy</a>	Dawn
3	10-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Govt finalises Pakistan Steel Mills revival plan</a>	The Nation
4	10-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Pakistan loses 1pc of GDP annually to climate impacts, 4th Pakistan Climate Conference reveals</a>	The Nation
5	12-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Pakistani rupee strengthens as dollar weakens interbank</a>	Daily Times
6	12-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">PSX suffers sharp losses as KSE-100 falls 1,488 points amid cautious trading</a>	Daily Times

1	20-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Pakistan expands crypto engagement with appearance at Mar-a-Lago finance forum</a>	Duniya TV
2	20-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Liquid foreign reserves stand \$21.30 billion</a>	The Nation
3	20-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">SBP reserves rise to \$16.19bn</a>	Dawn
1	24-02-2026	Economics	<a href="#">Stocks plunge nearly 5,500 points amid panic selling</a>	Tribune
2	24-02-2026	Economy	<a href="#">Food commodity exports fall 35% in seven months</a>	TheNation
3	24-02-2026	Economy	<a href="#">NA body calls for urgent export reforms</a>	TheNation
4	24-02-2026	Economy	<a href="#">OGDCL quarterly profit drops 17%</a>	Dawn
5	24-02-2026	Economy	<a href="#">Nepra flags Rs80bn transmission loss, urges NGC reforms</a>	Dawn
6	24-02-2026	Economy	<a href="#">Trade deficit widens 42% with nine regional countries</a>	Dawn
7	27-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Tax authorities can raid without notice, FCC rules</a>	Dawn
8	27-02-26	Economy	<a href="#">Tensions slow Pakistani investment in Dubai real estate</a>	Dawn
1	10-02-26	Society	<a href="#">KSrelief Distributes 4,800 Winter Kits in Pakistan</a>	alriyadhaily
2	12-02-26	Society	<a href="#">Vaccination of 237,000 children missed in polio drive ordered in Sindh</a>	Dawn
3	12-02-26	Society	<a href="#">Ruthless Redesign Of Islamabad: A Capital Without Its Workers</a>	The Friday Times
1	20-02-26	Society	<a href="#">LPG bowser explosion kills two in Taftan</a>	Dawn
2	19-02-26	Society	<a href="#">ECC okays release of Rs19 billion for PM's Ramzan Relief Package</a>	Pak observer
1	24-02-2026	Society	<a href="#">Ramazan inflation drives sharp rise in meat prices</a>	Tribune
2	24-02-2026	Society	<a href="#">Sindh Food Authority approves major food safety reforms</a>	TheNation
3	24-02-2026	Society	<a href="#">Punjab CM announces free ambulance service for deceased transport</a>	TheNation
4	24-02-2026	Society	<a href="#">Kazakh journalists fined over referendum opinion surveys</a>	TheDiplomat
5	24-02-2026	Society	<a href="#">Security in Red Zone reviewed by ICT Police</a>	TheNation
6	24-02-2026	Society	<a href="#">3 FC personnel martyred in Karak ambulance ambush</a>	TheNation
7	27-02-26	Society	<a href="#">Seven children die, 22 hurt in Chaman gas cylinder blast</a>	
8	27-02-26	Society	<a href="#">Doctors warn of nationwide protests over colleague's murder</a>	TheNation
9	27-02-26	Society	<a href="#">New report reveals 26.2 million children still out of school</a>	Dawn
10	27-02-26	Society	<a href="#">Social worker shot dead in Dera Ismail Khan</a>	Dawn

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