

Media Coverage

MANIFESTOES WITHOUT SUBSTANCE



Knowledge Brief

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MANIFESTOES WITHOUT SUBSTANCE

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Web Coverage

Dawn

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1787082/pml-n-pti-ppp-score-below-20pc-on-critical-issues>

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1787398/broken-promises>

The News

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1126682-less-than-20pc-of-pakistan-s-issues-find-mention-in-manifestos-of-parties-think-tank>

Business Recorder

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40272031>

Pakistan Today

<https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/11/06/less-than-20-of-pakistans-issues-addressed-in-manifestos-of-major-parties-pide/>

Frontier Post

<https://thefrontierpost.com/less-than-20-of-issues-find-spot-in-manifestos/>

Daily Jang

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1286716>

Geo News

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/517862-pml-n-pti-ppp-failed-to-address-critical-issues-in-party-manifestos>

Samaa News

<https://www.samaa.tv/208734022-pml-n-ppp-pti-have-no-solution-to-18-biggest-issues-of-the-country-report>

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Bol News

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WE News

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Islamabad Post

<https://islamabadpost.com.pk/less-than-20-of-pak-issues-find-a-spot-in-party-manifestoes/>

Urdu Point

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Daily Frontier Star

<https://dailyfrontierstar.com/less-than-20-of-pakistans-issues-find-a-spot-in-party-manifestos-pide/>

Daily Jasarat

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/11/07/pp-pti-pmln/>

Urdu Khabar

<https://urdukhobar.com.pk/%D9%BE%D8%A7%DA%A9%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C-%D8%B3%DB%8C%D8%A7%D8%B3%DB%8C-%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AA%DB%8C%DA%BA%D8%8C-%D9%85%D8%B3%D9%84%D9%85-%D9%84%DB%8C%DA%AF-%D9%86%D8%8C-%D9%BE%DB%8C/>

Khabar Waly

<https://www.khabarwalay.com/%D8%B3%DB%8C%D8%A7%D8%B3%DB%8C-%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AA%D9%88%DA%BA-%D9%85%DB%8C%DA%BA-%D8%B4%D8%AE%D8%B5%DB%8C%D8%AA-%D9%BE%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%AA%DB%8C-%D8%A8%DA%91%DA%BE-%DA%AF%D8%A6/khabarwalay-news-provides-breaking-pakistani-news-and-news/>

Print Coverage

INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

November 07, 2023 – Front Page

Less than 20pc of Pakistan's issues find mention in manifestos of parties: think tank

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), an affiliate of the Planning Commission, has conducted an evaluation of the manifestos presented by three major political parties. The evaluation reveals that less than 20 percent of Pakistan's critical issues have been addressed in these manifestos.

In anticipation of the upcoming general elections, PIDE has compared the manifestos of the leading political parties—Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)—which have historically been at the forefront of forming

Less than 20pc Continued from page 1

governments in the last three terms.

The objective is to ascertain whether the manifestos contain substantive and well-thought-out plans or if they are merely filled with empty promises and broad declarations lacking groundwork for the future.

PIDE has long been advocating for reforms in various dimensions. These reform proposals are the result of extensive research and evidence-based strategies, aligned with global best practices. The institute has identified 18 crucial issues/sectors considered fundamental, including local government, parliament, elections, cabinet, police, bureaucracy, budget-making, debt management, PSDP, real estate, agriculture, energy, taxation, tariffs, trade, state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and the internet. Each area has been scored with a maximum of 100 points.

The PPP scores zero in 17 indicators, the PTI in 13, and the PMLN in 12. Overall, the analysis indicates that the three major political parties have addressed less than 20% of Pakistan's key economic and policy issues in their manifestos.

Further scrutiny of the 20% reveals that out of the country's key issues, only 12% have been addressed in the PMLN manifesto, seven percent in the PPP manifesto, and a mere 1.5 percent in PTI's. This highlights the lack of substantive content in the manifestos concerning the critical issues faced by the nation. These findings suggest that the political parties lack a clear blueprint for action if they assume power.

The absence of substantive

content in manifestos results in a short-sighted approach to governance, characterised by ad-hocism and serving vested interests, neglecting the imperative for long-term national development.

For instance, the promise to strengthen local government is marked as zero. However, proposing the property tax regime as the primary revenue generator for local government is recognized as a concrete point, receiving a score of 25.

PIDE arrives at these scores by summarising its proposals into four points for each theme, giving equal weightage to each point (25%), summing up to 100% for all four points. The institute then compares these points with what each political party proposed concerning the same theme. If the manifestos include one of the points proposed by PIDE, the score will be 25/100. If all proposed points align, the manifesto will receive full marks (100/100). It's crucial to note that manifestos have been evaluated based on actual reform interventions rather than mere promises, slogans, or sweeping statements.

Moreover, in another research piece, PIDE examines if there is coherence between what has been mentioned in the manifestos and the digital narratives by party leaders. The striking disparity between pre-election promises and the online discourse post-election, as revealed by PIDE, indicates a significant disconnect. The analysis underscores a critical neglect of fundamental issues—such as economic disparities, infrastructure, unemployment, education, healthcare, governance, corruption, security, environment, and human rights—on digital platforms by party leaders, which are vital for the

country's progress.

X formerly Twitter, identified as a potent influencer in shaping political conversations, remains significantly underutilised in addressing Pakistan's socio-economic challenges. Using Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) to analyse tweets of the mentioned party leaders from 2018 to 2022, PIDE finds no alignment between the vision outlined in manifestos and the discourse.

The comprehensive analysis brings to light a troubling trend in the online discourse of opposition leaders: The leadership of the PPP and PMLN are predominantly focused on family legacies and political conflicts.

The discussions by PTI's leaders primarily centers around Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, overshadowing other critical national concerns.

This emphasises the lack of focus and commitment from the country's top political leadership. PIDE's plea to align political discourse with manifesto commitments underscores the urgency for leaders to prioritise substantial policy matters for Pakistan's development and prosperity. Manifestos should not remain as mere paper promises; they should guide the nation's trajectory, offering a clear roadmap for governing parties and presenting feasible policy alternatives for the opposition.

The institute stresses the need to shift discussions from personal grievances, familial legacies, and political mudslinging towards tangible policy matters. It urges leaders to reorient discussions and leverage social media tools for more focused, relevant, and policy-oriented communication to address the perpetual challenges faced by Pakistan.

PML-N, PTI, PPP score below 20pc on critical issues

• Discrepancy found between promises and online discourse • Three major parties' manifestoes lack substance, says Pide report

By Khabeeq Kiari

ISLAMABAD: Although political parties have yet to come up with fresh manifestoes for the next general elections, a state-run think tank has concluded that three major mainstream parties — PML-N, PTI and PPP — have scored less than 20pc on critical macroeconomic, constitutional and social matters of national importance in their past manifestoes and political discourses.

In policy note, "Manifestoes without Substance" and "Digital Dialogues vs Paper Promises: Manifesto Alignment", Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) said it picked 18 key issues or sectors, which it believed were fundamental to the country, including local government, parliament, elections, cabinet, police, bureaucracy, budget-making, debt management, PSDP, real estate, agriculture, energy, taxation, tariff, trade, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and internet. Each indicator had a maximum of 100 score.

Pide concluded that PPP scored zero in 17 indicators, PTI in 13, and PML-N in 12. Overall, the three major political parties scored less than 20pc, which means they talk about or have some solid ideas about only 20pc of the key economic and policy issues.

"Further dissecting the figure 20pc tells us out of the country's key issues, only 12pc of those find space in the PML-N manifesto, 7pc in the PPP manifesto and 3.5pc in PTI," Pide noted.

This demonstrates that manifestoes did not have any substance at large on key national issues. It also "means that political parties don't have any concrete blueprint to work on if they come into power" and "the lack of substance in manifestoes leads to a myopic approach to governance, ad hocism and serving vested interests only, without any regard for doing something for the long-term development of the country".

For instance, strengthening local government is merely a promise and scored as zero. In contrast, allowing the property tax regime to serve as the primary revenue generator for local government is a concrete point. Thus, it had been given a 25 score.

How did Pide arrive at such a score? Pide explained that it had been proposing reforms in various dimensions in line with the global best practices for many years. It summarised its proposals in four points for each theme, having an equal weightage of 25pc to each point, making a 100pc. If then compared to what each political party proposed against that theme, if the party's manifesto propose one of the points that Pide proposed, it received a score of 25 out of 100. If their proposals include all that Pide proposed, then that manifesto secured full marks i.e. 100/100. It is pertinent to note that, manifestoes are being evaluated on actual reform interventions, not mere promises, slogans, and sweeping statements.

In another research project, Pide also compared if there was any convergence

between what was mentioned in manifestoes and the digital narratives by the party leaders. The stark disparity between pre-election promises and the reality of online discourse in the post-election landscape, revealed a critical disconnect. Pide analysis showed a concerning neglect of fundamental issues like economic disparities, infrastructure, unemployment, education, health-care, governance, corruption, security, environment, and human rights in digital narratives by party leaders, which are pivotal for the country's progress.

"The analysis of discourse by Pakistan's major political parties from 2018 to 2022 reveals a disheartening trend of limited engagement with substantive issues outlined in their manifestoes. Therefore, to varying degrees, all three do a poor job of reiterating and propagating most of their policy positions envisaged in their manifestoes", it said.

X, formerly known as Twitter, identified as a significant influencer in shaping political conversations, remains largely underutilised in addressing Pakistan's socio-economic challenges. Leveraging Latest Deciphered Allocation to analyse party leaders' tweets from 2018 to 2022, Pide found no convergence between the vision outlined in manifestoes and the propagation or discourse on X.

For example, the PPP and PML-N leadership focused mostly on family legacies and political conflicts while PTI leader's discussions generally revolved around Imran-uhd Jinnah and Kashmir overlooking other essential national concerns. "This underlines the lack of focus as well as commitment from the country's top political leadership".

Pakistan, like many developing nations, faces multifaceted challenges ranging from economic disparities to inadequate infrastructure to abysmal investment, tepid economic growth, poor taxation, high unemployment, and a broken education system along with a host of other problems. Consequently, the dearth of substantial discussion on policy matters in the online discourse of Pakistan's major political parties reflects the warped priorities of our leaders and has the potential to exacerbate Pakistan's socio-economic woes and turn Pakistan into a completely failed state, it said.

Pide said there was an urgency for political parties to realign political discourse with manifesto commitments and prioritise substantive policy matters for Pakistan's development and prosperity and better manifestoes should not remain as mere paper promises; they should guide the nation's trajectory, providing a clear roadmap for governing parties and feasible policy alternatives for the opposition. It called for the need to shift conversations from personal grievances, familial legacies and political mudslinging to tangible policy matters and urged leaders to re-come discussions and leverage social media tools like Twitter for more focused, relevant, and policy-based communication, to address the perpetual challenges faced by Pakistan.

November 07, 2023

Less than 20% of Pakistan's issues find a spot in party manifestos: PIDE

MT REPORT

PESHAWAR: In the wake of upcoming general elections, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has drawn a comparison of manifestos amongst three mainstream political parties - Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) - that have been front-runners in formulating governments during the last three tenures.

The aim was to evaluate if the manifestoes have any substance and concrete plan or are these just comprise hollow promises and sweeping statements, without any

homework for the future, said in a press release issued here on Monday.

In this regard, PIDE has been proposing reforms in various dimensions for quite a long time. These targeted reform proposals are based on years of research and evidence and are in line with the global best practices. So, PIDE has picked 18 key issues/sectors that it thinks are fundamental.

These include: local government, parliament, elections, cabinet, police, bureaucracy, budget making, debt management, PSDP, real estate, agriculture, energy, taxation, tariff, trade, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and

internet. Each indicator has a maximum of 100 score. PPP scored zero in 17 indicators, PTI in 13 and PML-N in 12.

Overall, the three major political parties scored less than 20%, which means that they talk about or have some solid ideas about only 20% of the key economic and policy issues of Pakistan.

Further dissecting the figure 20% tells us of the country's key issues, only 12% of these find space in the PML-N manifesto, 7% in the PPP manifesto and 1.5% in PTI. This demonstrates that manifestoes don't have any substance at large on key issues of the nation.

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p DNA
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Besides, the Institute, in another research product, has also compared if there is any convergence between what is mentioned in manifestoes and the digital narratives by the party leaders. The stark disparity between pre-election promises and the reality of online discourse in the post-election landscape, as unveiled by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), reveals a critical disconnect.

PIDE's analysis reveals a concerning neglect of fundamental issues like economic disparities, infrastructure, unemployment, education, healthcare, governance, corruption, security, environment, and human rights on digital narratives by party leaders, which are pivotal for the country's progress.

Twitter, identified as a significant influencer in shaping political conversations, remains largely underutilized in addressing Pakistan's socio-economic challenges. Leveraging Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) to analyze afore

mentioned party leaders' tweets from 2018-2022, PIDE found no convergence between the vision chalked out in manifestoes and the propagation or discourse on Twitter.

The comprehensive analysis shed light on a worrying trend in the online discourse of opposition leaders: PPP and PML-N leadership focused mostly on family legacies and political conflicts. PTI's leader's discussions primarily revolved around Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir overshadowing other essential national concerns.

This underlines the lack of focus as well as commitment from the country's top political leadership. PIDE's call for realigning political discourse with manifesto commitments echoes the urgency for leaders to prioritize substantive policy matters for Pakistan's development and prosperity. Manifestoes shouldn't remain as mere paper promises; they should guide the nation's trajectory, providing a clear roadmap for governing parties and feasible policy alternatives for the opposition.

Less than 20% of Pak issues find a spot in party manifestoes

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MAHNOOR ANSAR

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The Frontier Post

November 07, 2023

Less than 20% of issues find spot in manifestos

F.P. Report

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Less than 20% of Pakistan's issues find a spot in party manifestos: PIDE

FRONTIER NEWS

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For instance, strengthening local government is merely a promise and scored as zero. In contrast, allowing the property

tax regime to serve as the primary revenue generator for local government is a concrete point. Thus, this point had been given a 25 score. How did PIDE arrive at such a score? PIDE summarized its proposals in four points for each theme, having equal weightage for each point i.e. 25%, making it 100% for all four points. It then compared it with what each political party proposes against the same theme. If the manifestoes propose one of the points that PIDE proposes then the score will be 25/100 and if their proposals include all that PIDE proposes, then that manifesto will get full marks i.e. 100/100. It is pertinent to note that, manifestoes are being evaluated on actual reform intervention, not mere promises, slogans and sweeping statements.

November 07, 2023

Less than 20% of Pakistan's issues find a spot in party manifestos

T.M. Report

PESHAWAR: In the wake of upcoming general elections, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has drawn a comparison of manifestos amongst three mainstream political parties - Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) - that have been front-runners in formulating governments during the last three tenures.

The aim was to evaluate if the

manifestoes have any substance and concrete plan or are these just comprise hollow promises and sweeping statements, without any homework for the future, said in a press release issued here on Monday.

In this regard, PIDE has been proposing reforms in various dimensions for quite a long time. These targeted reform proposals are based on years of research and evidence and are in line with the global best practices. So, PIDE has picked 18 key issues/sectors that it thinks are fundamental.

These include: local government, parliament, elections, cabinet, police, bureaucracy, budget making, debt management, PSDP, real estate, agriculture, energy, taxation, tariff, trade, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and internet. Each indicator has a maximum of 100 score. PPP scored zero in 17 indicators, PTI in 13 and PML-N in 12.

Overall, the three major political parties scored less than 20%, which means that they talk about or have some solid ideas about only 20% of the key economic

and policy issues of Pakistan. Further dissecting the figure 20% tells us of the country's key issues, only 12% of these find space in the PML-N manifesto, 7% in the PPP manifesto and 1.5% in PTI. This demonstrates that manifestoes don't have any substance at large on key issues of the nation.

This means that political parties don't have any concrete blueprint to work on if they come into power. The lack of substance in manifestoes leads to a myopic approach to governance, ad-ho-

cism and serving vested interests only, without any regard for doing something for the long-term development of the country.

For instance, strengthening local government is merely a promise and scored as zero. In contrast, allowing the property tax regime to serve as the primary revenue generator for local government is a concrete point. Thus, this point had been given a 25 score. How did PIDE arrive at such a score? PIDE summarized its proposals in four points for each theme, having equal weigh-

tage for each point i.e. 25%, making it 100% for all four points. It then compared it with what each political party proposes against the same theme.

If the manifestoes propose one of the points that PIDE proposes then the score will be 25/100 and if their proposals include all that PIDE proposes, then that manifesto will get full marks i.e. 100/100. It is pertinent to note that, manifestoes are being evaluated on actual reform intervention, not mere promises, slogans and sweeping statements.

‘Major parties have just 20pc idea of key issues’: PIDE

ISLAMABAD: Overall Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the three major political parties scored less than 20 percent, which means that they talk about or have some solid ideas about only 20 percent of the key economic and policy issues of Pakistan.

In the wake of upcoming general elections, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has drawn a comparison of manifestos among three mainstream political parties - the PML-N, the PPP, and the PTI - that have been front-runners in formulating governments during the last three tenures.

The aim was to evaluate if the manifestoes have any substance

and concrete plan or are these just comprise hollow promises and sweeping statements, without any homework for the future.

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According to PIDE, further dissecting the figure 20 percent tells

us out of the country's key issues, only 12 percent of these find space in the PML-N manifesto, seven percent in the PPP manifesto, and 1.5 percent in the PTI.

The PIDE further said, "This demonstrates that manifestoes don't have any substance at large on key issues of the nation. This means that political parties don't have any concrete blueprint to work on if they come into power. The lack of substance in manifestoes leads to a myopic approach to governance, ad-hocism and serving vested interests only, without any regard for doing something for the long-term development of the country. For instance, strengthening local government is merely a promise and scored as zero. In contrast, allowing the property tax regime to serve as the

primary revenue generator for local government is a concrete point. Thus, this point had been given a 25 score."

How did PIDE arrive at such a score? PIDE summarized its proposals in four points for each theme, having equal weightage for each point i.e. 25 percent, making it 100 percent for all four points. It then compared it with what each political party proposes against the same theme. If the manifestoes propose one of the points that PIDE proposes then the score will be 25/100 and if their proposals include all that PIDE proposes, then that manifesto will get full marks i.e. 100/100. It is pertinent to note that, manifestoes are being evaluated on actual reform intervention, not mere promises, slogans and sweeping statements.

The PIDE further described as "besides, the Institute, in another research product, has also compared if there is any convergence between what is mentioned in manifestoes and the digital narratives by the party leaders." The stark disparity between pre-election promises and the reality of online discourse in the post-election landscape, as unveiled by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), reveals a critical disconnect. PIDE's analysis reveals a concerning neglect of fundamental issues like economic disparities, infrastructure, unemployment, education, healthcare, governance, corruption, security, environment, and human rights on digital narratives by party leaders, which are pivotal for the country's progress.

PIDE's call for realigning political discourse with manifesto commitments echoes the urgency for leaders to prioritize substantive policy matters for Pakistan's development and prosperity. Manifestoes shouldn't remain as mere paper promises; they should guide the nation's trajectory, providing a clear roadmap for governing parties and feasible policy alternatives for the opposition.

The institute stresses the need to shift conversations from personal grievances, familial legacies and political muddling to tangible policy matters, urging leaders to re-center discussions and leverage social media tools like Twitter for more focused, relevant, and policy-based communication, to address the perpetual challenges faced by Pakistan.—PR



Less than 20% of Pakistan's issues find a spot in party manifestoes: PIDE

PNP

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of upcoming general elections, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has drawn a comparison of manifestoes amongst three mainstream political parties – Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)—that have been front-runners in formulating governments during the last three tenures. The aim was to evaluate if the manifestoes have any substance and concrete plan or are these just comprise hollow promises and sweeping statements, without any homework for the future.

In this regard, PIDE has been proposing reforms in various dimensions for quite a long time. These targeted reform proposals are based on years of research and evidence and are in line with the global best practices. So, PIDE has picked 18 key issues/sectors

that it thinks are fundamental. These include: local government, parliament, elections, cabinet, police, bureaucracy, budget making, debt management, PSDP, real estate, agriculture, energy, taxation, tariff, trade, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and internet. Each indicator has a maximum of 100 score.

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Overall, the three major political parties scored less than 20%, which means that they talk about or have some solid ideas about only 20% of the key economic and policy issues of Pakistan.

Further dissecting the figure 20% tells us out of the country's key issues, only 12% of these find space in the PML-N manifesto, 7% in the PPP manifesto and 1.5% in PTI.

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if they come into power.

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Besides, the Institute, in another research product, has also compared if there is any convergence between what is mentioned in manifestoes and the digital narratives by the party leaders. The stark disparity between pre-election promises and the reality of online discourse in the post-election landscape, as unveiled by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), reveals a critical disconnect. PIDE's analysis reveals a concerning neglect of fundamental issues like economic disparities, infrastructure, unemployment, education, healthcare, governance, corruption, security, environment, and human rights on digital narratives by party leaders, which are pivotal for the country's progress.

Twitter, identified as a significant influencer in shaping political conversations, remains largely underutilized in addressing Pakistan's socio-economic challenges. Leveraging Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) to analyze aforementioned party leaders' tweets from 2018-2022, PIDE found no convergence between the vision chalked out in manifestoes and the propagation or discourse on Twitter.

The comprehensive analysis shed light on a worrying trend in the online discourse of opposition leaders:

PPP and PML-N leadership focused mostly on family legacies and political conflicts

PTI's leader's discussions primarily revolved around Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir overshadowing other essential national concerns

This underlines the lack of focus as well as commitment from the country's top political leadership.

PIDE's call for realigning political

discourse with manifesto commitments echoes the urgency for leaders to prioritize substantive policy matters for Pakistan's development and prosperity. Manifestoes shouldn't remain as mere paper promises; they should guide the nation's trajectory, providing a clear roadmap for governing parties and feasible policy alternatives for the opposition.

The institute stresses the need to shift conversations from personal grievances, familial legacies and political mudslinging to tangible policy matters, urging leaders to re-center discussions and leverage social media tools like Twitter for more focused, relevant, and policy-based communication, to address the perpetual challenges faced by Pakistan.

Both research products i.e. "Manifestoes without Substance" and "Digital Dialogues vs Paper Promises: Manifesto Alignment" in the form of knowledge briefs can be assessed on the PIDE's website (www.pide.org.pk).

