



**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
CABINET DIVISION**

**REPORT
ON
OBSERVANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF
PRINCIPLES OF POLICY
IN RELATION TO
THE AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERATION
2018-19 & 2019-20**

CONTENTS

Chapter No.	Description	Page No.
	Preface	iii
Chapter-1	Constitutional Provisions regarding Principles of Policy	1
Chapter-2	Islamic Way of Life	5
Chapter-3	Promotion of Local Government Institutions	17
Chapter-4	Parochial and other similar Prejudices to be Discouraged	21
Chapter-5	Full Participation of Women in National Life	35
Chapter-6	Protection of Family	57
Chapter-7	Protection of Minorities	71
Chapter-8	Promotion of Social Justice and Eradication of Social Evils	81
Chapter-9	Promotion of Social and Economic Well-being of the People	143
Chapter-10	Participation of People in Armed Forces	221
Chapter-11	Strengthening Bonds with Muslim World and Promoting International Peace	229

PREFACE

The Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 stipulates ten (10) “Principles of Policy”, which are laid out under Articles 31-40, covering different aspects of governance and policy-making in the country. In essence, these principles provide guidelines to the policy-makers entrusted with the responsibility of catering to the political, economic and social needs and the overall well-being of the people of Pakistan.

2. Article 29 makes it the responsibility of every organ and authority of the State to act in accordance with the Principles of Policy, as far as they relate to functions of that particular organ or the authority. Furthermore, Article 29 has made it mandatory for the State to prepare and submit a progress report on the implementation of Principles of Policy to the Federal Parliament. The responsibility of preparation of the report on various Ministries’ and Institutions’ performance has been entrusted to the Cabinet Division.

3. A wide range of thematic areas covered under the Principles of Policy provide broad guidelines to the State to fulfill its responsibilities in the political, economic and social domains. The thematic areas include promotion of Islamic way of life, discouragement of parochial and other prejudices, enabling women’s participation in national life, protection of family and minorities, promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils and promotion of socio-economic well-being of citizens.

4. The report highlights some of the key aspects of State’s performance in meeting its obligations as laid out in the Principles of Policy. The report is in line with Constitutional requirements set out in

Article 29 for the civil service to inform the Parliament of Pakistan about the progress made in achieving the goals set out in the Principles of Policy.

5. The report for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 is laid before Majlis-i-Shoora (Parliament) in terms of Article 29 (3) of the Constitution.

(SARDAR AHMAD NAWAZ SUKHERA)
Cabinet Secretary

CHAPTER-1

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS REGARDING PRINCIPLES OF POLICY

The Constitutional provisions relating to the Principles of Policy are as under:

29. Principles of Policy.—(1) The Principles set out in this Chapter shall be known as the Principles of Policy, and it is the responsibility of each organ and authority of the State, and of each person performing functions on behalf of an organ or authority of the State, to act in accordance with those Principles in so far as they relate to the functions of the organ or authority.

(2) In so far as the observance of any particular Principle of Policy may be dependent upon resources being available for the purpose, the Principle shall be regarded as being subject to the availability of resources.

(3) In respect of each year, the President in relation to the affairs of the Federation, and the Governor of each Province in relation to the affairs of his Province, shall cause to be prepared and laid before each House of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) or, as the case may be, the Provincial Assembly, a report on the observance and implementation of the Principles of Policy, and provision shall be made in the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly and the Senate or, as the case may be, the Provincial Assembly, for discussion on such report.

30. Responsibility with respect to Principles of Policy.—(1) The responsibility of deciding whether any action of an organ or authority of the State, or of a person performing functions on behalf of an organ or authority of the State, is in accordance with the Principles of Policy is that of the organ or authority of the State, or of the person, concerned.

(2) The validity of an action or of a law shall not be called in question on the ground that it is not in accordance with the Principles of Policy, and no action shall lie against the State or any organ or authority of the State or any person on such ground.

31. Islamic way of life.—(1) Steps shall be taken to enable the Muslims of Pakistan, individually and collectively, to order their lives in

accordance with the fundamental principles and basic concepts of Islam and to provide facilities whereby they may be enabled to understand the meaning of life according to the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

(2) The State shall endeavour, as respects the Muslims of Pakistan—

- (a) to make the teaching of the Holy Quran and Islamiat compulsory, to encourage and facilitate the learning of Arabic language and to secure correct and exact printing and publishing of the Holy Quran;
- (b) to promote unity and the observance of the Islamic moral standards; and
- (c) to secure proper organization of zakat/ushr, auqaf and mosques.

32. **Promotion of local Government institutions.** The State shall encourage local Government institutions composed of elected representatives of the areas concerned, and in such institutions, special representation will be given to peasants, workers and women.

33. **Parochial and other similar prejudices to be discouraged.** The State shall discourage parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices among the citizens.

34. **Full participation of women in national life.** Steps shall be taken to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of national life.

35. **Protection of family, etc.** The State shall protect the marriage, the family, the mother and the child.

36. **Protection of minorities.** The State shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minorities, including their due representation in the Federal and Provincial services.

37. **Promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils.** The State shall—

- (a) promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of backward classes or areas;

- (b) remove illiteracy and provide free and compulsory secondary education within minimum possible period;
- (c) make technical and professional education generally available and higher education equally accessible to all on the basis of merit;
- (d) ensure inexpensive and expeditious justice;
- (e) make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work, ensuring that children and women are not employed in vocations unsuited to their age or sex, and for maternity benefits for women in employment;
- (f) enable the people of different areas, through education, training, agricultural and industrial development and other methods, to participate fully in all forms of national activities, including employment in the service of Pakistan;
- (g) prevent prostitution, gambling and taking of injurious drugs, printing, publication, circulation and display of obscene literature and advertisements;
- (h) prevent the consumption of alcoholic liquor otherwise than for medicinal and in the case of non-Muslims, religious purposes; and
- (i) decentralize the Government administration so as to facilitate expeditious disposal of its business to meet the convenience and requirements of the public.

38. Promotion of social and economic well-being of the people.—The State shall:

- (a) secure the well-being of the people, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, by raising their standard of living, by preventing the concentration of wealth and means of production and distribution in the hands of a few to the detriment of general interest and by ensuring equitable adjustment of rights between employers and employees, and landlords and tenants;
- (b) provide for all citizens, within the available resources of the country, facilities for work and adequate livelihood with reasonable rest and leisure;

- (c) provide for all persons employed in the service of Pakistan or otherwise, social security by compulsory social insurance or other means;
- (d) provide basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief, for all such citizens, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, as are permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment;
- (e) reduce disparity in the incomes and earnings of individuals, including persons in the various classes of the service of Pakistan;
- (f) eliminate riba as early as possible; and
- (g) ensure that the shares of Provinces in all federal services, including autonomous bodies and corporations established by, or under the control of, the Federal Government, shall be secured and any omission in the allocation of the shares of the Provinces in the past shall be rectified.

39. **Participation of people in Armed Forces.**—The State shall enable people from all parts of Pakistan to participate in the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

40. **Strengthening bonds with Muslim world and promoting international peace.** The State shall endeavour to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic unity, support the common interests of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, promote international peace and security, foster goodwill and friendly relations among all nations and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

CHAPTER-2

ISLAMIC WAY OF LIFE (ARTICLE-31 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

- (1) *Steps shall be taken to enable Muslims of Pakistan, individually and collectively, to order their lives in accordance with the fundamental principles and basic concepts of Islam and to provide facilities whereby they may be enabled to understand the meaning of life according to the Holy Quran and Sunnah.*
- (2) *The State shall endeavour, as respects the Muslims of Pakistan—*
 - (a) *To make the teaching of the Holy Quran and Islamiat compulsory, to encourage and facilitate the learning of Arabic language and to secure correct and exact printing and publishing of the Holy Quran;*
 - (b) *To promote unity and the observance of the Islamic moral standards; and*
 - (c) *To secure proper organization of zakat, ushr, auqaf and mosques.*

The Federal Government has been pursuing policies and taking corresponding steps to promote better comprehension, projection and propagation of Islam, its teachings and rituals. Measures taken by various Ministries/Divisions/Departments in this direction are summarized below:

Zakat Disbursement

2. The system of zakat in Pakistan is being managed through the Zakat & Ushr Ordinance, 1980, as per principles of Islam. Zakat is being collected by the banking institutions at national level and disbursed to the provinces as per their share in accordance with the NFC award.

3. Zakat plays a vital role in poverty alleviation and economic stability of the poor. Zakat funds are utilized for assistance to the needy, poor, orphans, widows, handicapped and disabled persons for their subsistence or rehabilitation. These poor segments of society are provided zakat funds either directly through respective local Zakat Committees or indirectly through educational, vocational, social institutions, hospitals, etc.

4. During the financial year 2018-19, an amount of Rs.7377.68 million was collected throughout the country and released to Provinces/Federal Areas for the zakat programmes.

5. During the financial year 2019-20, an amount of Rs.9256.66 million was collected throughout the country and released to Provinces/Federal Areas for the zakat programmes.

6. The Province-wise detail of zakat funds allocated and released during the financial year 2019-20 is as under:

Disbursement of Zakat		(Rs in million)
Federal Areas/ Provinces	%Share	Allocated/Released Budget 2019-2020
Federal Areas	7% of total zakat collection	
ICT	35.14% of 7%	227.70
Gilgit-Baltistan	18.57% of 7%	120.33
FATA	46.29% of 7%	299.94
	Total Federal	647.97
Provincial	93% of total zakat collection	
Punjab	57.36% of 93%	4,937.94
Sindh	23.71% of 93%	2,041.12
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	13.82% of 93%	1,189.72
Balochistan	5.11% of 93%	439.90
	Total Provincial	8,608.69
	G. Total	9,256.66

(Source: Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-20)

7. The zakat funds are distributed through Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) which is significantly contributing toward poverty alleviation through its various services for assistance to destitute women, widows, orphans, disabled and other needy persons, as per eligibility criteria approved by Bait-ul-Mal Board. The support is provided through general assistance, education, medical treatment and rehabilitation. Details are given in Chapter 8. Some of the initiatives of PBM include:

- i. **Individual Financial Assistance** to the poor, widows, destitute women, orphans and disabled persons.
- ii. **Dar-ul-Ehsaas** to provide residential accommodation and necessary facilities to the orphans etc. throughout the country to protect our future generation from the threat of

malnutrition, illiteracy, illness and other poverty-related issues.

- iii. **Women Empowerment Centres** for providing free training to widows, orphans and poor girls in different skills
- iv. **Ehsaas Kada** to provide basic necessities of life, i.e. boarding, lodging, food, clothing, medical case, recreation etc., in a dignified manner and in a family-like environment to the shelterless, invalid, deprived and abandoned senior citizens of Pakistan, including those in the AJK/Gilgit-Baltistan & FATA.

Adopting an effective Hajj Policy for facilitating pilgrimage

8. Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam central to the Muslim belief. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony formulates and implements comprehensive policies and plans to facilitate the Hujjaj to enable them to undertake their religious obligations with ease. Some salient features of the 2018 & 2019 Hajj Policies are as follows:

S. No.	2018 Hajj Policy	2019 Hajj Policy
i.	The Hajj quota allocated to Pakistan was increased to 179,210	The Hajj quota was further increased by 5,000
ii.	Hajj Policy 2018 had two components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hajj Government Scheme: 2/3rd (119,473) of the total Hajj quota, was allocated under this scheme providing an economical package with reasonable facilities for the pilgrims. • Hajj Private Scheme: 1/3rd (59,737) of the total Hajj quota was allocated to the Private Scheme. 	The ratio of Government to Private Hajj Group Organizers was 60:40
iii.	Applications for Hajj 2018 under Government Hajj Scheme were invited through banks and selection of Hujjaj was made through “Computerized Open Balloting” conducted by a third party.	Hajj balloting for the applications received under Government Hajj Scheme was conducted by a third party, i.e. Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), in order to ensure transparency.
iv.	2% of the total seats under the Government Hajj Scheme were reserved for the hardship cases.	1.5% of the total seats under Government scheme were reserved for hardship cases.
v.	Out of the reserved quota, 500 seats were reserved for low paid employees/labourers of public	500 seats were reserved for low paid employees of organizations, companies

S. No.	2018 Hajj Policy	2019 Hajj Policy
	sector/corporate organizations, companies registered with the Employees' Old-age Benefit Institution (EOBI)/ Workers Welfare Fund and sponsored by their respective organizations under their Corporate Social Responsibility	registered with (EOBI)/ Workers Welfare Fund under their Corporate Social Responsibility
vi.	The applicants over 80 years of age along with one physically fit attendant (blood-related) were granted quota of 10,000.	10,000 seats were reserved for senior citizens (above the age of 80 years) with the provision that female pilgrims above the age of 80 years might be accompanied by female helpers along with their joint Mehram while aged male pilgrims might be accompanied by one helper
vii.	10,000 seats were reserved for the applicants who had remained unsuccessful continuously for three or more times in the previous years; they were selected through separate balloting.	10,000 seats were reserved for persons who had been unsuccessful in ballot continuously for the last three years, i.e. 2016, 2017 & 2018.

9. A number of significant reform initiatives were undertaken for bringing improvements in the facilities for Hajj-2019 and beyond. Some of the highlights were:

- i. 216,623 applications were received under Government Hajj Scheme against the Government quota of 179,210 Hujjaj.
- ii. No special quota was reserved for any agency, office or any dignitary.
- iii. Hajj Package for Hajj-2019 without the sacrificial animal was Rs.436,975/- from North Region and Rs.426,975/- from South Region. The Qurbani charges were Rs.19,451.
- iv. Training was provided to both the intending pilgrims and the welfare staff.
- v. Temporary Haji Camp was established in Gilgit.
- vi. Pakistani Welfare staff was deputed in Mina camps for facilitation of Pakistani Hujjaj.
- vii. Urdu-speaking guides were deputed in Pakistani camps at Mashair.

- viii. Hajj Booklet containing administrative and health-related guidelines, and instructions regarding performance of Hajj rituals was reviewed and updated.

Road to Makkah

10. One of the significant interventions was the introduction of Road to Makkah project in 2019. For the first time, Saudi immigration staff conducted immigration process of Pakistani pilgrims at Islamabad International Airport. This initiative was highly appreciated by the Hujjaj. CAA took necessary measures to extend the project to other major airports for the facilitation of passengers.

Propagation of Islamic Thought

11. The following measures were adopted during the period:

- i. **Rahmat-ul-lil-Aalamin (PBUH) Conference** was held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony in the month of Rabiul Awal, 1440 AH and 1441 AH, during the period under review. The participants in the Conference included eminent religious scholars, intellectuals, researchers, diplomats and politicians. The President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan presided over different sessions of the conference. In the conference held in 1441 AH/2019 ideas were shared on:

” ریاست مدینہ اور اسلامی فلاحی مملکت کا تصور سیرت النبی ﷺ کی روشنی میں “

(The State of Medina and the concept of Islamic Welfare State in the light of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)'s life).

- ii. **Seerat Books Competition** for the year 2018/1440AH was arranged by the Ministry. Awards were given to **scholars** on publications relating to the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).
- iii. **Eid Milad ul Nabi ﷺ**: Comprehensive programmes were chalked out and shared with all Federal and Provincial Governments/ organizations to celebrate Eid Milad ul Nabi ﷺ in a befitting manner.

- iv. **Celebration of the Week of Love and Affection for Holy Prophet (PBUH):** In the wake of the rising wave of Islamophobia and publication of blasphemous caricatures of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Rasool Allah Khatam-un-Nabiyeen ﷺ and Islam in some European countries, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, in pursuance of the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, announced countrywide celebration of “The Week of Love and Affection for the Holy Prophet Muhammad Rasool Ullah Khatam ul Nabiyeen ﷺ” from 12th Rabi ul Awwal to 18th Rabi ul Awwal 1442 AH. The focus was to create awareness and spread the teaching of the Holy Prophet among children and adults and help them make it relevant to their lives. A comprehensive programme was prepared and all Federal and Provincial Ministries/Divisions/ Departments were directed to arrange events, conferences, seminars, activities and functions in the organizations/departments under their administrative control.
- v. **Printing and Distribution of Maqalat-e-Seerat:** 2000 copies of Maqalat-e-Seerat were printed for the year 2018/1440 AH and 1500 copies were distributed amongst the libraries, institutions and desiring persons.

Sanctity of Ramzan

12. Under the “Ehteram-e-Ramzan Ordinance 1981”, ICT and Provincial Governments were requested to take measures for observing the sanctity of the holy month of Ramadan.

Moon-sighting and Ruet-e-Hilal Bill 2020

13. To bring harmony and uniformity in celebration of Islamic festivals and start of Islamic months, meetings of Central, Zonal and District Ruet-e-Hilal Committees were held regularly for sighting the moon on the 29th of each lunar month. The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee met on four important occasions to sight the moon for Muharram, Ramzan, Shawal/Eid-ul-Fitr and Zulhaj/Eid-ul-Azha.

14. Ruet-e-Hilal Bill, 2020 was approved by the Cabinet in principle.

Error-Free Printing of the Quran

15. To ensure error-free printing and publishing of the text of Holy Quran and its Ayats in other books/literature, a number of its copies were examined under the Publication of Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act, 1973.

16. An official bill on “The Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) (Amendment) Act, 2018” was prepared for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Constitution of Quran Committee

17. A Quran Committee was constituted at the Federal level under Section 4 of the Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing Errors) Act, 1973 (Act No. LIV of 1973) on the Terms of Reference to authenticate a copy of the Holy Quran for keeping in the archives for safe custody, and to look after the proper disposal of old pages and copies of the Holy Quran.

Establishment of Recycling Plant

18. For sanctity of the holy papers of the Holy Quran, a project namely Establishment of Recycling Plant in Islamabad, has been proposed by the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony. Feasibility report of the project has been prepared.

Countering Anti-Islam, Obscene and Immoral Data on the Internet

19. Dedicated efforts were made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony for countering anti-Islamic, blasphemous, obscene, sectarian or immoral data in either written or pictorial form on the Internet. Any such reported material is blocked through the E-portal maintained by Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).

20. Web Evaluation Cell (WEC) was created on the request of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony for evaluation and examination of blasphemous, sectarian and pornographic web content. The WEC provides its opinion to the PTA for blocking the objectionable content. So far 28404 links have been reported to the PTA.

Propagation of Islamic Ethics

21. Under the umbrella of National School of Public Policy, training at various levels is imparted at its integral and constituent units i.e. from

initial induction level of Grade-17 to strategic policy level of Grade-20 officers. The modules for in-service courses, i.e. Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC), Senior Management Course (SMC) and National Management Course (NMC), contain a significant component of Islamic ethics and its applicability in our daily lives. Besides, lectures, tutorial/syndicate and panel discussions are held in every course encompassing religious, social & cultural history of Islam with a special reference to the subcontinent. Such panel discussions enlighten the participants to enrich their academic profile.

22. The training programme of Management Services Wing of the Establishment Division also includes teaching of Islamic Ethics.

23. Lectures on different important Islamic topics have been included in training courses at Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development:

- (a) Faculty members and guest speakers also keep enlightening the trainees on Islamic way of life/Islamic teachings from time to time.
- (b) Dress code in line with Muslim culture is encouraged in offices. Dedicated arrangements have been made for offering of prayers during office hours.
- (c) Training modules at AHKNCRD include topics elaborating the Islamic ideology, concepts and practical ways of dealing with issues.

24. The Staff Welfare Organization is running 16 Ladies Industrial Homes (LIH) and 11 Trade Training Centres (TTC)/Vocational Training Centres (VTC) throughout Pakistan. In the F.Y. 2018-19, 2930 women were trained in Ladies Industrial Homes while 4365 trainees benefited from training courses of TTC/VTCs. In the F.Y. 2019-20, 1391 women were trained in Ladies Industrial Homes while 3206 trainees benefited from training courses of TTC/VTCs. Appropriate measures were taken to acquaint the students with the fundamental teachings of Islam and to help them lead their life in line with the injunctions of Islam prescribed in the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

25. The facility of teaching the recital and comprehension of the Holy Quran has been provided to the dependents of Federal Government

Employees at Staff Welfare Organization (SWO) premises. SWO encourages and facilitates learning of Arabic to ensure correct recital of Holy Quran.

Quranic Classes

Year	2018-19	2019-20
No of beneficiaries	825	968

- i. To encourage Huffaz-e-Quran, Staff Welfare Organization awarded cash prizes of Rs.8,200/- each to 43 Huffaz in the year 2018-19, which amounted to Rs. 344,400/-. The cash prizes amounting to Rs. 837,200/- were awarded to 101 Huffaz in the year 2019-20.
- ii. Seminars on religious topics were organized regularly at Staff Welfare Organization.
- iii. A facility has been provided for the male & female employees offering Zuhr prayers during office hours.

Focus on Islam in Evaluation for Recruitment

26. The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) has taken the following steps in this regard:

CSS

- i. Islamiat continues to be a compulsory subject carrying 100 marks. Comparative Study of Major Religions is offered as an alternate for Non-Muslims candidates.
- ii. Subjects of Islamic History & Culture, Muslim Law & Jurisprudence and Arabic are offered as optional subjects to CSS aspirants.

General Recruitment

- iii. A dedicated portion of Islamic Studies is included in the examination.

Interviews

- iv. Interview Committees and Viva Voce board constituted by the Chairman FPSC also observe the conduct and qualitative personal traits of the applicants.

27. The mechanism for merit-based recruitment has been circulated by Management Services Wing of the Establishment Division.

Preservation of Islamic Culture and Heritage

28. The National Library of Pakistan (NLP), under the National Heritage & Culture Division Islamabad, contains a valuable collection of books on Islam, commentaries on the Holy Quran, and biographies of Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him). The library is open to public. Academia, researchers and students benefit from the collection. Special book exhibitions are arranged to celebrate the Islamic festivals.

29. The National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage (NIFTH), Islamabad, popularly known as Lok Virsa, in furtherance of its objectives, regularly holds a wide range of cultural activities and programmes to project Pakistan's traditional and Islamic culture. Various dignitaries, diplomats, researchers take a keen interest in Lok Virsa festivals and museum.

30. The Department of Archaeology & Museums, Islamabad is promoting the Islamic cultural heritage through exhibitions on special occasions. Conservation and preservation of Islamic culture heritage sites is also underway in collaboration with sister organizations.

31. The National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi, is promoting the Islamic cultural heritage through exhibitions on special occasions.

32. The Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design believes in adherence to the Islamic ideology. Islamic Studies are compulsory for the students of each degree programme. Proper dress code in line with Islamic values is prescribed for students in the "Students Hand Book" and compliance is also observed. There is a separate mosque for female and male students, faculty and staff on the campus premises. Prayer break of one hour is mandatory for all students and employees. All religious and national events are celebrated and the students take active part in the celebration.

Promotion of Islamic Values

33. Establishment Division, as an apex cadre administrator of the civil services (OMG, PAS, PSP & Secretariat Groups) and human resource manager of the Federal Government, ensures that the Islamic principles of justice and equality are observed in all its policies, rules and regulations.

The Federal Government Training Institutions, i.e. National School of Public Policy, Secretariat Training Institute, Pakistan Academy for Rural Development, Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre, etc. have also been active in promoting Islamic values through training programmes. Some of the interventions made by the training institutions include:

- i. The Training Institutions provide conducive environment for observance of Islamic values. Prayer areas/mosques with all allied facilities have been made an integral constituent unit of the training institutes.
- ii. Prayer breaks are ensured in all scheduled courses.
- iii. Discussions relating to the teaching and concept of Islam as work ethics in Islam, role of accountability in Islamic society and 'Gender and Islam' etc. are some of the main themes of the courses.
- iv. Nazira Quran facilities have been provided at PARD Campus for girls.

34. Some other steps taken in this direction include:

- i. Friday sermons are delivered to promote the Islamic way to life amongst the employees.
- ii. The sanctity of Ramazan is ensured through Ihteram-e-Ramazan Ordinance, 1981. As per Government instructions, special office timings are observed in Ramazan to facilitate the employees to observe all the essentials rituals of the holy month.
- iii. Ministry/Division/Departments adopt a liberal leave policy for allowing officers/officials to perform Hajj, Umra, Aetikaf during Ramzan, observance of Muharrum as well to participate in Tableeghi congregations. Each year, a number of Ministries/Divisions/Departments nominate two employees for Hajj Duty through transparent balloting.
- iv. Special counters were established for facilitation of the passengers during Hajj and Umrah seasons.
- v. All Islamic festivals are being celebrated on organizational level with due reverence and in the true spirit.

Islamization of Economy

35. In line with the requirement of Article 31, banks under the administrative control of Finance Division have introduced the Islamic Banking System and established legal, operational and technological infrastructure of Islamic Banking. Details are discussed in Chapter 9 as part of the efforts to eliminate riba under Article 38(f) of the Constitution.

CHAPTER-3

PROMOTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS (ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall encourage local Government institutions composed of elected representatives of the areas concerned, and in such institutions, special representation will be given to peasants, workers and women.

Meaningful decentralization of state power, manifested in the form of strong systems of local governance, is now recognized as a key prerequisite for facilitating sustainable development and promoting good governance. Moreover, more knowledgeable, informed and assertive citizens demand a more meaningful say in decisions which affect their lives, and think that it can be best achieved through a participatory system of local governance.

2. Local Government is protected by the Constitution in Articles 32 and 140-A. The latter was inserted under the 18th Amendment, which states that “Each Province shall, by law, establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative, and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representatives of the local governments”. Each province has its own Local Government-enabling legislation and departments responsible for implementation.

3. At the Federal level, Departments also provide support and promote the local government systems. Some of the steps taken are as follows:

I. **Local Government: Awareness & Capacity Development through Trainings:** Local Government is an important component of training at the Federal Government Training Institutions. Different modules have been developed to acquaint the participants/trainees with the essentials and working of the Local Government. Some steps taken in this regard are as follows:

- i. National School of Public Policy (NSPP): This objective is being achieved through lecture discussions, tutorial discussions, simulation exercises and Inland Study Tours.

- ii. Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development provides training facilities for the capacity-building of officials of Local Government Institutions. Elected representatives/officials from Local Government institutions of the country, including AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan, are invited for training activities at the Centre and encouraged to participate and share their experiences with the rest of the departments.
- iii. Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), one of the allied organizations of Ministry of Science & Technology, also involves officials of Local Governments in training, workshops, and seminars on various aspects of governance.
- iv. Pakistan Institute of Management under the Industries & Production Division offers training and professional diploma programmes on the subject.

II. Technical Support

- i. As per mandate of Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC) under the Industries & Production Division, it can establish joint ventures with institutions of the Provincial Government to promote and facilitate technical education and economic interests of under-developed areas. PITAC has, accordingly, established a joint venture with Punjab Skills Development Foundation, Government of Punjab, by funding from PSDP. Local Government officials/officers are also benefiting from the technical and managerial courses arranged by this Centre. This Centre is also providing technical assistance to the local industry.
- ii. Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) under the Industries & Production Division interacts with Local Government institutions through its 4 provincial offices and Regional Business Centres located in 22 cities across the country to provide business development services to improve the local industry.

- iii. The Economic Affairs Division (EAD) remains engaged in arranging the financing of Provincial PSDP's foreign component for Local Government institutions from bilateral/multilateral foreign donors.

III. Support for Local Bodies' election

- i. Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PCSIR) assists the Election Commission of Pakistan in holding of elections and establishment of Local Government institutions by manufacture and supply of election material like standardized ink stamp pads, indelible ink vials, etc.
- ii. Departments like Pakistan Steel extend help to the Local Government, as and when required. During local bodies election, Pakistan Steel contributed full support by way of providing manpower as well as other allied facilities like transport etc. to hold the election successfully and peacefully.

CHAPTER-4

PAROCHIAL AND OTHER SIMILAR PREJUDICES TO BE DISCOURAGED

(ARTICLE 33 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall discourage parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices among the citizens.

As an Islamic polity, the State is bound to promote cohesion and harmony among all the people of Pakistan. Abiding inspiration is drawn from the last sermon of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), in which he said:

“O people! All of you belong to one ancestry of Adam, and Adam was created out of clay. There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab and for a non-Arab over an Arab; or for the white over the black or for the black over the white, except in piety and good action.”

2. The enforcement of fundamental rights of all citizens, as enshrined in the Constitution, guarantees the discouragement of parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices. Article 27, for example, provides that all citizens shall be entitled to a job in the service of Pakistan without any discrimination on grounds of race, religion, caste or sex. Article 17 of the Constitution provides that political parties shall not be permitted to promote sectarian, ethnic, regional hatred or animosity or constitute any militant group or section.

3. Lack of participation in the political process or economic development of different regions tends to alienate the communities with an immense sense of deprivation. The Government, therefore, has come up with policies and plans to curb disparities, engage the under-developed areas that remained neglected in the past and provide political and economic opportunities to the people of these areas.

4. For equal and just distribution of resources between the Federation and Provinces and amongst the Provinces, the National Finance Commission exists in terms of Article 160 of the Constitution. The Commission consists of Federal and Provincial Finance Ministers and such other Members as appointed by the President on the recommendations of the Governors concerned.

5. To promote development of the under-developed areas of Balochistan, FATA, AJK and Gilgit Baltistan, the Federal Government provided funds in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) during 2018-19 and 2019-2020 in addition to undertaking vital projects in these regions.

6. The continuation of the regional quota system allows representation from all provinces and regions of the country against various posts in the services, educational institutions etc.

7. For promotion of mutual understanding, civil servants are required to undergo training courses, which promotes harmony and understanding among them. The Civil Service Training Institutions such as National School of Public Policy (NSPP) impart trainings related to Pakistan's socio-cultural environment, human development and public service management that influence public policy formulation and implementation. It also provides a common platform for the senior officers of the Federal and Provincial Civil Services, Armed Forces, allied participants from friendly countries, and senior executives from the private sector to understand factors bearing on formulation and implementation of public policy, with a view to preparing them for assignments at national policy level. The course modules in all the integral and constituent units of the NSPP have been developed in accordance with the provisions of the Principles of Policy to promote inter-provincial, inter-racial and interfaith harmony.

8. The National Defence University (NDU) conducts the National Security and War Course. Senior Officers from the Armed Forces and the Civil Service jointly attend the training. The aim of the training is to develop a comprehensive understanding of national security, elements of national power, military and operational strategies within the framework of contemporary security environment to prepare the course participants as visionary leaders for higher command and staff assignments in military as well as civil departments. The training course brings the rich experience of participants from diverse backgrounds to add value to the process of learning in addition to increased interaction and understanding amongst the participants.

Administrative measures to strengthen and enhance the Federation

9. The 18th Constitutional Amendment has placed important subjects relating to the Federation in the Federal Legislative List (Part-II) for the

consideration of and decision by the Council of Common Interests (CCI). This has strengthened and introduced the concept of participative management both by the Federation and the Federating Units through the forum of CCI.

10. The CCI is a constitutional body set up under Article 153 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In accordance with Article 154, the Council is responsible for formulating and regulating policies in relation to the matters enumerated in Part-II of Federal Legislative List (FLL) and to exercise supervision and control over related institutions.

11. Article 155 of the Constitution extends the purview of CCI to resolution of a dispute among the Federation and the federating units regarding their rights on water from any natural resource and authorizes the Federal or the Provincial Government concerned to make a complaint to CCI which can either decide or recommend to the President to set up a Commission consisting of persons having knowledge and experience in irrigation, engineering, administration, finance and law under the Pakistan Commission of Inquiry Act, 1956.

12. Article 157 while authorizing Federal Government to construct a hydro-electric or thermal power installation in any province in consultation with that province, also authorizes the Provincial Government to draw the bulk supply from the national grid for transmission and distribution within the province, levy taxes on consumption, construct power houses and grid stations and lay transmission lines and determine electricity tariff within the province. In case of any dispute in the matter, the Federal or Provincial Government can approach the CCI for resolution of the dispute.

13. Purview of the CCI (Federal Legislative List Part-II):

- i. Railways;
- ii. Mineral oil and natural gas, liquids and substances declared by Federal law to be dangerously inflammable;
- iii. Development of industries, where development under Federal control is declared by Federal law to be expedient in the public interest; institutions, establishments, bodies and corporations administered or managed by the Federal Government, including Water and Power Development Authority and Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation, and all undertakings, projects and schemes of such institutions, establishments, bodies and corporations; industries, projects and undertakings

- owned wholly or partially by the Federation or by a corporation set up by the Federation;
- iv. Electricity;
 - v. Major ports, that is to say, the declaration and delimitation of such ports, and the constitution and powers of port authorities therein;
 - vi. All regulatory authorities established under a Federal law;
 - vii. National planning and national economic coordination, including planning and coordination of scientific and technological research;
 - viii. Supervision and management of public debt;
 - ix. Census;
 - x. Extension of the powers and jurisdiction of members of a police force belonging to any Province to any area in another Province, but not so as to enable the police of one Province to exercise powers and jurisdiction in another Province without the consent of the Government of that Province; extension of the powers and jurisdiction of members of a police force belonging to any Province to railway areas outside that Province;
 - xi. Legal, medical and other professions;
 - xii. Standards for higher education in research, scientific and technical institutions;
 - xiii. Inter-provincial matters and coordination;
 - xiv. Council of Common Interests;
 - xv. Fees in respect of any of the matters specified in Part-II of the Federal Legislative List but not including fees taken in any court;
 - xvi. Offences against laws with respect to any of matters in Part-II of the Federal Legislative List;
 - xvii. Inquiries and statistics for the purposes of any of the matters in Part-II of the Federal Legislative List;
 - xviii. Matters incidental or ancillary to any matter enumerated in Part-II of the Federal Legislative List.

Achievements of Council of Common Interests

14. In accordance with Article 153(4) of the Constitution, it is mandatory for the Council to meet at least once in ninety days. During the period under review, the Council of Common Interests convened three meetings on 24th September, 2018, 19th November, 2018 and 23rd December, 2019, deliberated upon vital issues and took decisions in matters relating to the Federation, with full participation of the provinces.

Activities	2018	2019
Number of CCI meetings	2	1
i. Number of Agenda Items discussed	09	16
ii. Agenda Items related to Federal Ministries	09	12
iii. Agenda Items related to Provincial Governments	-	04

15. The 39th meeting of CCI was held on 24th September, 2018 with the following items tabled for discussion:

S.No.	Agenda Item	Ministry/Division/ Provincial Government
I.	Status review of decisions made in previous CCI Meetings: i. Matters pertaining to Higher Education in Post-Eighteenth Amendment Scenario ii. Allocation of 1200 cusecs (650.5 MGD) additional water for Karachi City (K-IV Project) iii. Resolution of energy problems of Balochistan province / enhancement of absorption capacity iv. Short supplies of water in Pat Feeder and Khirther canals v. Implementation of Kazi Committee Methodology (KCM) for calculation of Net Hydel Profit	Minister of IPC/ Concerned Ministries & Provincial Government(s)
II.	Devolution of Employees' Old-age Benefits Institution and Workers Welfare Fund to the Provinces	Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development
III.	Amendment in Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Policy 2012	Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division)
IV.	Import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division)
V.	Harmonization of standards and enforcement mechanism between Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) and Provincial Food Authorities	Ministry of Science and Technology
VI.	Establishment of Taskforce to streamline the regulatory functions at the implementation level	Ministry of Interior
VII.	Launching of the National Cleanliness Drive	Ministry of IPC

16. The 40th meeting of CCI was held on 19th November, 2018 with the following items tabled for discussion:

S. No.	Agenda Item	Ministry/Division/ Provincial Government
I.	Consideration and decision on recommendations of the Taskforce in Human Rights in the matter regarding alarmingly high population growth rate in the country	Ministry of National Health Service Regulations and Coordination.
II.	Approval for the privatization of 1230 MW Haveli Bahadur Shah and 1223 MW Balloki Power Plants	Ministry of Privatization

17. In FY 2019-2020, 41st meeting of CCI was held on 23rd December, 2019 with the following agenda items and decisions were taken in matters relating to the Federation and the Provinces, as mentioned below:

S.No.	Subject	Presented by
I.	Progress Review of important decisions of 38 th - 40 th CCI meetings:	
(a)	Implementation of Kazi Committee Methodology (KCM) for calculation of Net Hydel Profit (NHP)	Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives
(b)	Amendment in Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Policy 2012	Petroleum Division
(c)	Import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	-do-
(d)	Harmonization of standards and enforcement mechanism between Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) and Provincial Food Authorities	Ministry of Science & Technology
(e)	Approval for the privatization of 1230 MW Haveli Bahadur Shah and 1223 MW Balloki Power Plants	Ministry of Privatization
(f)	Matter regarding alarmingly high population growth rate in the country	Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination
(g)	Recommendations of the Attorney General for Pakistan concerning the Water Accord, 1991	Attorney General for Pakistan/ Ministry of Water Resources
(h)	Matters pertaining to Higher Education in Post-Eighteenth Amendment scenario	Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training/HEC

2.	Funding of Devolved Vertical Programme of Health and Population Welfare	Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination
3.	Unauthorized deductions by Federal Government on FBR's claim on account of alleged outstanding withholding tax on vehicles and 5% service charges deducted on account of collection of Withholding Tax by the Government of Balochistan	Government of Balochistan
4.	Unauthorized transfer of public money from Provincial Consolidated Fund (PCF) to Federal Consolidated Fund by the SBP on directions of FBR	Government of the Punjab
5.	Unconstitutional and unauthorized deduction by FBR from the Provincial Consolidated Fund	Government of Sindh
6.	No Objection Certificate – CJ Hydro (Private) Limited	-do-
7.	Recovery – through tariff – of markup on bilateral Islamic/commercial loans obtained by WAPDA for payment of Net Hydel Profit (NHP) to the Governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab	Ministry of Water Resources
8.	Draft recruitment regulations for the post of Chairman and Members WAPDA	-do-
9.	Royalty on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by the E&P Companies at the Market Value of LPG	Petroleum Division
10.	Implementation of Article 158 and 172(3) of the Constitution of Pakistan	-do-
11.	Approval of Alternative & Renewable Energy Policy 2019 (“ARE Policy 2019”)	Power Division
12.	Census – Notification of its results	Ministry of Planning, Development and SI / PBS
13.	Future role and functioning of National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) and Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) to promote literacy in the Country	Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training
14.	Report of the Committee constituted by CCI on devolution of Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution and Workers Welfare Fund to the Provinces	Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & HRD

15.	Amendment in OGRA Ordinance 2002 – IMF’s Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan 2019-2022 – Structural Benchmark and Performance Criteria	Cabinet Division
16.	Annual Report of the CCI for the year 2016-17	Ministry of IPC

18. The Federal-Provincial contribution in submitting Agenda Items was as follows:

Year	Federal Government	Provincial Governments			
		Punjab	Sindh	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Balochistan
2019-20	12	1	2	-	1

Implementation Process

19. In terms of Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the CCI, 2010 (available at www.ipc.gov.pk), implementation of the decisions of the CCI rests with the sponsoring Ministries at Federal level and the Provincial Governments at provincial level. The CCI Wing monitors the implementation of the decisions and reports the status to the CCI in its meetings.

Formulation of National Security Policy

20. The National Security Division (NSD) mandate lies in the realm of policy making and policy dialogue. National Security Division and Prime Minister’s Office are working together to analyse security dimensions of various key sectors, such as food security, economic security, energy security etc. The Division is working on a number of activities including economic diplomacy/economic outreach initiatives, a new narrative for the country, strategic communication, identifying threats and opportunities in the post-Covid world, and country growth comparative analysis, etc. The work of NSD involves providing regular and research-based policy input on Pakistan’s vital national interests to the highest authorities in the civil and military setups, besides spearheading initiatives on several critical issues.

21. During the period under review, the NSD – as part of its ten-point mandate – was engaged in formulating Pakistan’s first National Security policy (NSP) that would set out the broad framework and guidelines for promoting national security of the State and citizens of Pakistan in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

22. Being a maiden effort in this important area, the NSP would be based on a comprehensive approach to national security beyond its traditional association with military preparedness. Based on wide-ranging consultations with stakeholders, the policy document is being drafted around the importance of taking a holistic route to national security with due emphasis on human security. In the FY 2018-19, this Division carried out consultative meetings with the relevant civil and military stakeholders for drafting of NSP. Eleven inter-ministerial consultative meetings were held.

23. Some relevant details of the prospective policy documents are briefly mentioned with a view to highlighting this Division's contribution to the implementation of the Principles of Policy:

- i. The National Security Policy draft would include a section on national vision defining how Pakistan views itself as a nation state in accordance with the Quranic principles, Constitution and statements of the Quaid. The Islamic way of life forms an integral element in this vision.
- ii. Human Security approach to National Security, adopted in drafting NSP, signifies a people-centred perspective that accords importance to different elements of personal and collective security.
- iii. In a paradigm shift, NSD has contributed significantly towards defining the human security approach to national security that underscores the importance of social and economic welfare of the people of Pakistan.
- iv. In accordance with the views expressed in wide-ranging consultations, the NSP draft would emphasize promotion of Local Government institutions as an important element of good governance.
- v. NSD is promoting national unity as an important pillar of national security and to discourage parochial and other similar prejudices in all aspects of its mandate which relate to Article 33 of the Constitution.
- vi. NSP duly incorporates the gender perspective as an important element from the National Security standpoint.

Inter-Board Coordination

24. Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) is a body of 45 Member Organizations (29 Boards of Intermediate and Secondary

Education, 3 Boards of Technical Education, 5 Text Book Boards, 5 Bureaus/Directorates of Curriculum, Allama Iqbal Open University, Karakorum International University, Agha Khan University Examination Board (AKU-EB), Karachi, & Secretary IBCC, Islamabad), to serve as a forum for its members – through the respective Chief Executive – to discuss and resolve issues relating to policy and planning, academic development and administration of examination, inter-Board/Province migration, attestation of certificates, and equivalence of local and foreign certificates.

25. During 2018-19, IBCC remained engaged in the following activities:

- i. Four meetings each of the 45-member IBCC Forum and 13-member Equivalence Committee (EC) were conducted in order to resolve various issues related to examination system, attestation and equivalence up to Class XII.
- ii. Ten sub-committee meetings were convened and decisions taken regarding matters of public importance.
- iii. A special resolution of IBCC forum was passed regarding the online verification system for the Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education from all over Pakistan to reduce the time of verification from Board from 20-30 days previously to just 5 minutes and on a click.
- iv. A desk/cell was established in IBCC and a permanent telephone line, email, and staff members have been designated to address public inquiries/complaints/grievances.
- v. A time mechanism has been established in IBCC Secretariat and its sub-offices to take prompt action on issues of public importance.
- vi. The court cases against the department have been reduced by solving the litigations through prompt decision-making.
- vii. The equivalence cases from IBCC sub-offices were sent to other sub-offices for signatures to ensure transparency.
- viii. It was observed that attestation companies used to exploit the daily visitors at IBC offices and charged them extra fee in the garb of processing charges. This practice was discontinued

and an open-door policy was introduced in the attestation department of IBCC.

- ix. The draft Act/Ordinance of IBCC was revised according to the guidelines of Ministry of IPC and Law and Justice Division.
- x. Data has been collected, analyzed and disseminated on exams and assessment for quality improvement.
- xi. A total of 40,200 qualification equivalence certificates were issued.
- xii. A total of 99,461 Secondary School and Higher Secondary School certificates, Diploma of Associate Engineer, Asnad (Aama & Khasa) of recognized Wifaq, Tanzeemat and Deeni Madaris and School Leaving Certificates were authenticated/attested.

26. The way forward has been planned as follows:

- i. Automation of IBCC and its networking with all member organizations (45 in number).
- ii. Exchange of expertise among the Boards to improve examination & evaluation system.
- iii. Strengthening of Electronic Information Management System in IBCC for Questions Bank, and data collection on 'Exam results' and its analysis, usage and dissemination.
- iv. Capacity-building of Controllers, Deputy Controllers and Assistant Controllers of Examinations of all BISEs in Pakistan, paper setters, paper checkers of SSC & HSSC examination of Pakistan in the areas of assessment, conduct and examination.
- v. Creation of liaison between IBCC and national & international stakeholders.
- vi. Use of IT-based Communication Technology to further facilitate equivalence/ attestation seekers.

Promotion of Interfaith Harmony

27. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony promotes respect for minorities and discourages religion-based prejudices in the society. Religious events and functions of the minorities are celebrated at official level:

- i. Dewali celebration of Hindu community was arranged on 8th November, 2018 at PNCA, Islamabad.
- ii. Christmas celebration of Christian community was arranged on 21st December, 2018 at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.
- iii. Holi celebration of Hindu community was arranged on 26th March, 2019 at PNCA, Islamabad
- iv. Eid-e-Ridvan celebration of Bahai community was arranged on 26th April, 2019 at PNCA, Islamabad
- v. Easter celebration of Christian community was arranged on 29th April, 2019 at PNCA, Islamabad
- vi. Chelum Jusht celebration of Kalash community was arranged on 1st May, 2019 at Bamborette Valley, Chitral.
- vii. Minority Day was celebrated on 11th August, 2020 at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

28. Some events could not be held due to Covid-19.

29. In addition, the Ministry arranged Conferences on “Dialogue – Key to Interfaith Harmony” at the Provincial Headquarters in coordination with Provincial Governments, as per following detail:

Sr. No.	Place	Date of Conference
i.	Peshawar, KPK	11-05-2019
ii.	Lahore, Punjab	17-05-2019
iii.	Karachi, Sindh	13-06-2019
iv.	Quetta, Balochistan	22-06-2019

Discouraging all Prejudice

30. It is essential to recognize that freedom of speech does not warrant acts of threat, abuse, incitement to violence or religious or ethnic hatred and such other acts. Ethnic or religious harassment which may be defined as ethnically or religiously explicit derogatory or discriminatory remarks, which are offensive to the person involved, or cause the person to feel threatened, humiliated, patronized or insulted, are prohibited and dealt with according to the law. Policies are in vogue to discourage parochial, racial, sectarian and provincial prejudices amongst the employees.

31. Appointments are made in Government Departments/ Institutions through advertisement without any discrimination on the basis of religion, caste and without any gender prejudice. No preferential treatment is accorded on the basis of belief, sect, race or tribe. Officers and officials

are rewarded on the basis of competence and professional excellence. Equal opportunities are provided to all without any discrimination of race, religion, and sex. No employee is discriminated against nor any bias shown against anyone on the basis of provincialism, parochialism, racialism, tribalism or due to religious/sectarian reasons.

32. The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) follows a free, fair, transparent and merit-based system of selection of candidates on posts in BPS-16 and above. No discrimination on the basis of race, religion, caste, sex, or place of birth is allowed.

33. FPSC observes provincial/ regional representation in accordance with the law and rules. The Commission has brought changes in Rule 9(ii) of CSS-2018/ CSS-2019 for establishing a civil service that is inclusive of people with special needs to ensure diversity in the civil services.

34. The MS Wing of Establishment Division ensures posting/transfer/absorption of employees of the devolved Ministries/Divisions and surplus civil servants on merit in a transparent manner without any discrimination on the basis of parochialism or sectarianism, etc.

35. At the Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development, trainees come from all the four provinces as well as the AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. Inter-provincial harmony is fostered by positive discussions on core national issues.

CHAPTER-5

FULL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN NATIONAL LIFE (ARTICLE 34 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

Steps shall be taken to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of national life.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan eliminates all forms of discrimination against women as evident from Article 25. There are adequate reserved seats for women in the National Assembly, Senate and Provincial Assemblies under Articles 51, 59 and 106, respectively. Women can also contest election on general seats. Women in Pakistan are playing a vital role in all walks of life for development of the country

Representation of Women in both Houses

2. The representation of women in both Houses is as follows:

S.#	Name of House	No. of Seats
i	House of Federation (Senate)	17 seats
ii	National Assembly of Pakistan	60 reserved seats

As required vide Article 59(1)(c)(d) of the Constitution, four (04) women members from each Provincial Assembly and one woman from the members of Federal Capital are elected to the Senate.

3. Women acting as Chairpersons of Standing Committees of the Senate during the period under report are mentioned below:

S.#	Name of Chairperson	Standing Committee	House	Total
i.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Maritime Affairs	House of Federation (Senate)	3
ii	Senator Sherry Rehman	Foreign Affairs		
iii	Senator Seemi Ezdi	Climate Change		

4. The following Senators were also elected as Chairpersons of the various Standing Committees/Other Committees of the Senate as under:

Sr. No.	Ministries / Divisions / Departments	Names of the Chairpersons
i.	Federal Education and Professional Training	Senator Rahila Magsi
ii.	Climate Change	Senator Sitara Ayaz

Sr. No.	Ministries / Divisions / Departments	Names of the Chairpersons
iii.	Information Technology & Telecommunication	Senator Robina Khalid
iv.	Parliamentary Affairs	Senator Sassui Palijo
v.	Maritime Affairs	Senator Nuzhat Sadiq
vi.	Cause of decline in Tax Collection of Tobacco Sector	Senator Kalsoom Parveen
vii.	China Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC)	Senator Sherry Rehman

5. The Chairpersons of the Standing Committees of National Assembly were as follows:

S.#	Chairperson	Standing Committee	House	Total
i.	Ms. Kishwar Zehra	Cabinet Secretariat	National Assembly of Pakistan	2
ii.	Ms. Munaza Hussain	Climate Change		

Legislation Pertaining to Welfare and Uplifting the Status of Women

6. The following Legislation was reported by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs:

- (i) The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2018.
(Act No. II of 2018);
- (ii) The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, 2018.
(Act No. XIX of 2018)

Efforts against Gender-Based Violence

7. The Action Plan for Human Rights under Thematic Area II, “Protection of Women Rights and Elimination of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)”, provides for formulation of National Policy Guidelines on Gender-Based Violence, a study to review all discriminatory legislation against women and execution of ‘Engage Men’ model to eliminate GBV. In this regard, the following key steps have been taken by the Ministry of Human Rights to ensure promotion and protection of women’s rights.

I. Legislative Measures:

Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2019

Through the efforts of Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR), the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2019 was referred to the National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights. The National Assembly Standing Committee constituted a sub-committee to discuss the Bill. A meeting of the sub-committee was held wherein the Bill was approved and was ready to be presented in the Assembly in the period under report.

II. Policy and Planning Initiatives:

The following initiatives were reported by MoHR:

- i. **Women in Distress & Detention Fund:** The Ministry of Human Rights undertook amendment in the Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act, 1996 through changes in Section 6 of the Act. The aim of the Fund is to provide financial and legal assistance to women in distress and detention. Since promulgation of the Act, constitution of the high-powered Board of Governors under Section 6 of the Act was pending due to the issue of ensuring necessary quorum. This had kept the fund non-operational for many years. After promulgation of the Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Ministry constituted the Board of Governors, which was notified on 26th July 2019. The Board of Governors in its meeting held on 7th October, 2019 decided to revise the Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Procedure) Rules, 2019.
- ii. **Model Policy on Violence against Women and Girls:** A Model Policy on Violence Against Women and Girls was drafted in 2019 with the aim to highlight different forms of violence against women during different stages of life and to consider preventive measures. This policy aims to provide a framework on how to implement the international conventions and treaties ratified by Pakistan. The Government recognizes that it is imperative that new domestic law and policies are incorporated across relevant sectors to help bring to life the conventions ratified on paper. It is also the aim of

the Government of Pakistan to bring the existing law in line with this policy in order to address the direct and indirect discrimination against women and girls.

- iii. **Family Protection & Rehabilitation Centre for Women (FPRC), Islamabad:** The Ministry of Human Rights has provided shelter and free psychological counselling services to women through its “Family Protection & Rehabilitation Centre for Women (FPRC), Islamabad”. The Centre protects and promotes women rights through refuge, rehabilitation, and legal and medical support. Victims of violence can share their sufferings in strict confidentiality through psycho-social counselling. Through trained and professional staff, the Shelter Home is committed to assisting the victims of violence round the clock.
- iv. **Inter-Provincial Ministerial Group (IPMG):** IPMG, comprised of Ministers of Women Development, respective Secretaries of Provincial Women Development Departments, Chairperson of the National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW) and representatives of MoHR, meets periodically to agree on key priorities for gender equality in line with our national and international commitments.
- v. **Provincial CEDAW Implementation Committees** are working to ensure the implementation of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and to address the issues of women.
- vi. **Treaty Implementation Cells (TICs)** have been established at the National and Provincial levels to monitor the implementation of core international human rights treaties and conventions ratified by Pakistan, including CEDAW.

III. AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS:

The following campaigns were organized:

- i. **Awareness on Women Rights:** On 04 March 2020, Ministry of Human Rights organized celebration of International Women’s Day, engaging female trailblazers from across the country, such as Ms. Ayesha Farooq, a fighter pilot of the Pakistan Airforce, Ms. Samar Khan, a cyclist, Dr. Zareena, a

visually impaired rock climber, and Ms. Shiza Younas, a 22 years old community volunteer. This event was organized by the Ministry of Human Rights to celebrate the achievements of women in all fields of work in Pakistan.

- ii. **Women Inheritance:** The Ministry of Human Rights has also engaged with a range of campaigns on women's issues. One of the most significant campaigns, endorsed by the Chairman of the Islamic Ideology Council, was the Women's Inheritance Awareness Campaign. After conducting substantive research on the bottlenecks faced by women in securing their inheritance and in registration of property, a nationwide campaign was launched to spread awareness and knowledge on women's rights to property and land.
- iii. **Awareness Campaign on Women's Rights and 16 Days of Activism:** As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Ministry of Human Rights launched a campaign on women's fundamental rights through a series of short informational videos covering important topics such as sexual harassment, rape, marriage contracts, filing FIR and women's inheritance. The films were developed in collaboration with the NCSW and Sharmeen Obaid Chinnoy Films.
- iv. **Truck Art Campaign on Rights of the Girl Child:** Ministry of Human Rights held several awareness-raising campaigns with respect to women's rights and empowerment, including an event on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women in November 2019; and an event encouraging education and empowerment of the girl child on 11 October 2019. A very well received campaign was on girls' rights, whereby information was disseminated through truck art in partnership with Ms. Samar Minallah. Twenty trucks, painted with messages encouraging the protection of children, supporting girls' education and opposing early marriages, served as moving billboards spreading the message of gender equality and empowerment throughout Pakistan.
- v. **National Working Women's Day** was celebrated by MoHR on 22nd December, 2019 to pay tribute to the working women. In this regard, an event was arranged by the Ministry of

Human Rights at Kohsar Block, Pak Secretariat, which was graced by the Federal Minister for Human Rights.

IV. INTERNATIONAL REPORTS:

The following Reports were prepared:

- i. **5th Periodic Report to UN Committee (2020):** In line with Pakistan's international human rights commitments, Ministry of Human Rights effectively presented and defended Pakistan's 5th State Party report before the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 12 February 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland. Led by the Secretary to Ministry of Human Rights, the delegation made history by including a transgender person – Ms Aisha Mughal – in the official Government delegation.
- ii. Ministry of Human Rights also prepared a report regarding the national level review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for Women (Beijing+25).

ICTs for Girls

8. The “ICTs for Girls” programme of Ministry of Information Technology is aimed at spurring the socio-economic uplift of girls through digital learning. As part of this programme, 150 digital labs are being established throughout Pakistan at the Women Empowerment Centres at a cost of PKR 300 million. Through this programme, thousands of girls are being trained in digital skills under the Microsoft programme, which include computing skills, coding skills, and communication skills. The programme also includes coaching from industry experts. The second phase of this programme, at a cost of PKR 600 million, is being launched to train over 110,000 girls per year at 245 girls' schools of Islamabad. Through this mega project, the ultimate objective is to increase the employability potential of this disadvantaged section of the society. Women are not only earning foreign exchange as freelancers but also conveying a soft image of the country internationally through their digital participation.

Women's Welfare through Ehsaas Programme

9. The Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Division makes special provisions for women through different organizations under its control. All 4.9 million beneficiaries of the Ehsaas Kifalat programme are women. All beneficiaries of Waseela-e-Taleem Programme are also

mothers. As a matter of policy, 50% of the scholarships under Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship Programme are given to female students. 45% of the loans in Interest Free Loan Programme are given to women. Under the Assets Transfer Programme, 94.9% of beneficiaries are women.

Women Empowerment Centres

10. Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) has established Women Empowerment Centres (WECs) in all the provinces/regions throughout the country, including Azad Kashmir & Northern Areas. These centres are providing free vocational training to widows, orphans & poor girls in professional skills/trades like dress designing, embroidery, basic & advanced computer courses, beautician course, tie & dye and fabric painting skills, etc. So far, 156 WECs are running throughout Pakistan. In addition, trainees are being paid a stipend of Rs.30/day on attendance basis. During the past one year, 27000-plus girls have been imparted trainings and given short-course certificates in respective trades. PBM provides essential kits, utensils and monthly stipend to all trainees to practice the acquired skills after completion of courses.

Women among CSS Toppers

11. The following female candidates were successful in top 20 positions in the CSS examination during 2018:

Merit Position	Name	Group
01	Shanza Faiq	PAS
10	Shiza Rehman	PAS
11	Seema Mushtaq	PAS
12	Ayesha Khan	PAS
17	Anam Fatima	PAS
18	Aamina Ihsan	PAS
19	Qurat ul Ain	PAS

12. Following female candidates were successful in top 20 positions in the CSS examination during 2019:

Merit Position	Name	Group
04	Izza Arshad	PAS
08	Anum Baber	PAS
09	Farwa Batool	PAS
18	Neelam Ali	PAS

Merit Position	Name	Group
19	Fatima Arshad	PAS
20	Maham Mushtaq	PAS

13. Following female candidates were successful in top 20 positions in CSS during 2020:

Merit Position	Name	Allocated to Service
01	Maheen Hassan	PAS
03	Tazeen Zafar	PAS
06	Nimra Awais	PAS
08	Nida Iqbal	PAS

Gender Mainstreaming

14. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has drafted a gender mainstreaming policy, titled 'Banking on Equality'. The goal of the policy is to ensure gender equality in banking and reduce the gender gap in financial inclusion. It identifies five key pillars under which actions are targeted towards improving institutional readiness, product diversification and development capability, customer acquisition and facilitation approaches towards women, robust collection of gender disaggregated data, and prioritizing gender focus in SBP's policies.

15. Specifically, the first pillar pertains to improvement in Gender Diversity in Financial Institutions and Access Points. It will enforce measures to improve the ratio of women staff members and encourage banks to improve women representation within senior management. Further, the policy also stresses on improving the banks' workplace environment and protection mechanisms against workplace harassment.

16. While observing the mandatory female quota as prescribed by the Federal Government, SBP also aims to further improve gender balance in its workforce. SBP has set a target of increasing the number of women in the workforce to 20 percent by 2023. Moreover, SBP is an equal opportunity employer and the transgender persons and candidates from minorities are also encouraged to seek employment opportunities in SBP. Female employees are given equal treatment in terms of opportunities for training, growth and other benefits in their careers. Further, it is ensured that female employees are provided a suitable, congenial and respectable

environment. Rest lounges, Day Care Centre and dedicated prayer rooms have been allocated specially for women within the building of SBP.

17. SBP supports childbirth expenses along with provision for maternity leave for 90 days on full salary that can be availed thrice by the female officer during her service. Moreover, in case of death or divorce of spouse, female employees are afforded 130 days paid Iddat leave.

18. The Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2010 makes it mandatory for the Government Departments to adopt a Code of Conduct prescribed by the Act. In line with the Act, SBP has constituted two separate inquiry committees for the officers and clerical/non-clerical staff respectively.

19. Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU) has provided conducive environment to women employees who are given equal opportunities in all activities of FMU. The HR policies, including recruitment, do not discriminate on the basis of gender. FMU ensures provision of just and humane conditions of work for all employees including women. All employees are given appropriate opportunities for training, growth in career, and they have access to several types of benefits & facilities at workplace. Similarly, policies facilitating women employees like maternity leave etc. are strictly adhered to.

20. Commerce Division/Attached Departments are fully committed to providing women with equal opportunities to participate in the events organized for promotion of Pakistan's trade. Women are also included in all delegations sent abroad by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). Similarly, women entrepreneurs are beneficiary of all programmes being undertaken by TDAP.

21. Gender Mainstreaming is one of the components of the upcoming draft Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) 2020-25. Under this component participation of women in international trade fairs will be encouraged and Women Entrepreneur Facilitation Desks will be established at TDAP.

22. The Economic Affairs Division encourages participation of women in all walks of national life and seeks foreign grants/loans for women empowerment projects on priority basis.

23. During policy-making at Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) under the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination for examination at Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) level, special emphasis is laid on full participation of female candidates.

Financial Inclusion

24. Women in Pakistan are playing an important role in economic development and prosperity in the country. A considerable number of women are working in Finance Division (main) and its entities on various positions and they are significantly contributing towards development of institutions and departments.

- i. Competition Commission of Pakistan is an equal opportunity employer and provides a conducive working environment to the female staff. Female employees have always been encouraged and supported in discharge of their official responsibilities. Since the establishment of CCP, women have been on top management positions like Chairperson, Members and DG. They have contributed significantly in the Commission's success.
- ii. House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFCL) has introduced a special financing product namely "HBFCL Khaas" for widows whereby the customers are being offered financing at a fixed rate of 4% for construction on owned plot and for purchase of plot and construction thereon. HBFCL also offers other relaxations in financing criteria for women/widows. The Company encourages women borrowers, as reflected by the statistics that every fifth borrower is a female in HBFCL.
- iii. The Zarai Taraqiat Bank Limited (ZTBL), as the largest agri-financing institution of Pakistan, has made comprehensive efforts to address gender inequality. It has rolled out several initiatives, encouraging internal diversity. Khawateen Rozgar Scheme has been launched with the sole purpose of encouraging female entrepreneurs across the country. Various training programmes for female employees help them to improve their skills. The Bank has also formed a committee for Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010.

- a. During the fiscal year 2018-19, the Bank disbursed an amount of Rs. 214.051 million among 1,339 loan applicants under Khawateen Rozgar Scheme (KRS). The Bank also disbursed Rs. 3,251 million in 8,364 loan cases under the category of General Credit to Women in the same period.
- b. During the fiscal year 2019-20, ZTBL disbursed an amount of Rs. 185.99 million among 1,442 borrowers under the KRS. The Bank also disbursed Rs. 3,129 million to 14,985 borrowers under the category of General Credit to Women in the calendar year 2020.

Participation in Sports

25. Pakistan Sports Board in coordination with the Ministry of IPC has taken various measures to encourage women's participation in various sports. Under the present institutional framework, the National Sports Federations are responsible for controlling and promoting their respective games both for men and women. To encourage the participation of female players, Women Wings have been formed in various National Sports Federations. In the past, Pakistani women took part in only a few games, i.e. athletics, badminton, tennis, table tennis, but now the situation has changed and women are regularly participating in games like bridge, cycling, football, golf, handball, hockey, sailing, skiing, squash, shooting, swimming, netball, Taekwondo, Judo, Kabaddi, Karate, and Wushu.

Participation in Cultural Programmes

26. Lok Virsa under the National Heritage & Culture Division encourages women to participate in different cultural events. Lok Virsa organized a 3-day special programme with the collaboration of an NGO, Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA), in which women participated from all over the country.

Training Courses for Women

27. The objective of training courses at Directorate of Workers Education (DWE) is to provide conducive environment for the acceptance of female presence in a true sense in the organized sector of industrial establishment. DWE is endeavouring to educate/train/sensitize workers/trade union leaders/employers through different training courses/seminars/ workshops. In the year 2018-19, the target was to sensitize 900 persons including 100 women through seminars/workshops

and meetings with the stakeholders. Thirty-three activities were carried out for workers/trade union leaders/employers in which 860 (792 male and 68 female) representatives of workers participated. Trade union leaders and employers were educated mainly in the areas of HRD, welfare of workers of public and private sector organizations and their rights and privileges, to create a better atmosphere between the proprietors and the workers.

28. There is a reasonable representation of women in the Ministry of Climate Change and its attached departments. The Ministry is providing internship opportunities to female students. The Ministry and its attached departments are also providing trainings in order to encourage women participation in all activities. In the Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) about 27% scientists are females.

29. In order to increase women's economic empowerment, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) established Women Business Development Centres (WBDCs) at Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi, Quetta & Swat. During FY 2018-19, the Government approved a new PC-I for Business Skills Development Centre at D.I. Khan to be implemented by SMEDA.

30. Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM) has strongly advocated the role of women in development throughout its 60-year history. PIM was the first organization to run training courses for women managers like "How Successful Women Manage", "Managerial Skills for Women Managers" etc. To promote the concepts of gender mainstreaming and highlight the role of women in national development, PIM is regularly running 'Gender-based Governance' trainings in collaboration with the UNDP.

31. Pakistan Stone Development Company under the Industries and Production Division has arranged trainings for women in marble & mosaic.

32. The departments under Establishment Division reported as follows:

i. Secretariat Training Institute (STI)

STI offers an equal opportunity training atmosphere. All training programme circulars invite nominations of female

participants. Consequently, 300 female officers/officials participated in various courses held during 2018-2019 whereas 170 participated in the courses held during 2019-2020.

ii. Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD)

- Training Course on “Gender and Development” was conducted in November 2018.
- Training course on Women Empowerment and Economic Development was conducted in June 2019.
- The Academy has established Vocational Training Centre for Women at PARD Campus where women of the adjacent rural areas participate in various courses for income generation for their families.

iii. Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHK-NCRD)

- All female officials nominated for training courses were encouraged to participate in the training productively.
- Special training courses like “Women Empowerment” and “Gender Mainstreaming” were organized for effective female participation in national development.
- Hostel facility was provided to the female participants on AHK-NCRD Campus to encourage women to participate in training courses.

iv. Management Services Wing (MSW)

Twenty-two female participants attended the training workshops conducted by the MS Wing in 2019-20.

v. Staff Welfare Organization (SWO)

- *Ladies Industrial Homes*: To enable the female dependents of Federal Government Employees to acquire useful and remunerating skills, SWO conducts courses on tailoring, knitting, embroidery, cooking, home management and other market-oriented skills like painting, block printing,

leather/wood, thread/bed/mirror work, flower-making and grooming. These courses are of great value in supplementing the income of the family:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
Beneficiaries	2930	1391

- *Work-Order-Centre:* Work-Order-Centres are the primary income-generating units for female trainees of Ladies Industrial Homes. This facility is provided at Islamabad and Peshawar:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
Beneficiaries	2623	1674

- *Trade Training Centre/Vocational Training Centre:* In order to provide career opportunities to the dependents of Government servants these centres are rendering services at Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
Beneficiaries	4365	3206

33. Women's participation in training courses conducted by Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre under the Ministry of Industries & Production for the last three years is as under:

S.No.	Name of the course	No. of courses Conducted	No. of Participants
i.	Human Resource Management	14	14
ii.	PLC	34	0
iii.	AutoCAD Mechanical	32	1
iv.	Spoken English	21	11
v.	AutoCAD Civil	16	2
vi.	Computer Accounting Finance	6	6
vii.	Project Management	6	8
viii.	Project Management for Women Entrepreneurs	4	224
ix.	Computer Foundation	24	61
	Total	157	327

34. Pakistan Institute of Management encourages women to participate in its training programmes. To female participants, the Institute gives a discount of 10% on training fees.

Women's Quota in Employment

35. In the financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20, female candidates were recommended under the CSS Competitive Exam-2018/2019 in accordance with their 10% reserved quota as well as open competition. The same ratio of appointments was implemented in FPSC's general recruitment and other professional examinations.

Recruitment of female candidates for ex-cadre positions:

Year	Nominations made
2018	607
2019	361
2020	241
Total	1209

Vacancies filled by women in CSS Competitive Examination:

Year	Allocated
2018	110
2019	82
2020	79
Total	271

Women in Government Service

36. Establishment Division is not only providing equal opportunities to the employees but has also made rules and policies to ensure strict implementation – in all administrative units of the Federal Government – of the employment quota reserved by the Parliament for different segments of the society, including 10% quota specified for women; similar is the case of its attached departments/ organizations.

i. Establishment Division (Main)

- The policies of Federal Government regarding female quota in recruitment are fully observed. The existing recruitment policy is absolutely discrimination-free.

- The scale-wise number of women officers in Pakistan Administrative Services (PAS), Police Services of Pakistan (PSP), Secretariat Group (SG) and Office Management Group (OMG) is as under:

Grade	PAS	PSP	SG	OMG	Total
22	04	00	00	--	04
21	07	01	02	--	10
20	08	00	18	--	26
19	27	03	12	--	42
18/17	158	43	--	159	360
Total					442

ii. National School of Public Policy (NSPP)

The NSPP ensures that equal opportunities are offered to women. A large number of women are working in human resource, coordination, research, libraries and IT Wings of the NSPP Secretariat and its integral and constituent units. Furthermore, women are also represented at key positions in the NSPP. Besides, many female officers are working on faculty in different units of NSPP. Executive Development Institute (EDI), National Institute of Management, Peshawar and Karachi and Finance Wing of NSPP have been headed by female officers.

iii. Staff Welfare Organization (SWO)

Staff Welfare Organization ensures full participation of women in all its programmes. Most of the Staff Welfare Organization programmes are meant for women, like the Hostel for Working Women, Ladies Industrial Homes, and Work Order Centres, Day Care Centres and Vocational Training Centres.

- *Day Care Centre:* The objective of the project is to provide care to the children of women employees at Islamabad during office hours:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
No of beneficiaries	24	24

- *Hostel for Working Women:* The facility, comprising 48 suites, is provided at Islamabad to encourage the working women to continue their jobs and contribute to their family income as well as economic growth of the country:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
No of beneficiaries	52	50

iv. Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Funds (FEB & GIF)

All the necessary facilities are being provided to women working in the organization to make the office environment conducive, secure and comfortable for them as per the existing infrastructure. The quota fixed for women in the Federal Government services is observed in addition to the general quota.

v. Management Services Wing (MSW)

The female employees of MS Wing in all the units are treated equally and their full participation is ensured in the study teams constituted from time to time. The female employees on the desk as well as at supervisory level play a pivotal role in completion of target assignments.

vi. Pakistan Public Administration Research Centre (PPARC)

Female employees are fully participating in their assigned areas of responsibilities. Moreover, their quota in employment and other areas is also being implemented in letter and spirit. Women are protected under “Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010”.

37. Appointments in the Law & Justice Division are made purely on merit and as per rules without any gender discrimination. Special quota for appointment of women is also observed. Day Care Centre has also been established in the Law Ministry for women employees.

38. National Institute of Health strongly believes in active participation and inclusion of women in all spheres of life to ensure enhanced pace of

development in the country. In the period under report 80 women were working in the NIH.

39. Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design (PIFD) provides equal opportunities of admission and employment to women. There is no age limit for admission or employment as per Regulations/Statutes. The male/female ratio is as under:

Category	Male	Female
Students	30%	70%
Faculty	40%	60%
Staff	89%	11%

Women are provided the following specific facilities at the Institute:

- i. Female Medical Officer and Female Nurse look after the dispensary of the Institute.
- ii. State-of-the-art Day Care Centre has been established in collaboration with Women Development Department, Government of Punjab.
- iii. PIFD prepares all the students especially women to become designers and entrepreneurs and thus fully participate in the national development.
- iv. Almost 180 students from all over Pakistan are residing in eight hostels being administered by the female Warden of PIFD.

40. Women's quota is observed in its true spirit by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). Full security is provided to employees in the office. Participation of women is encouraged in all spheres of life. Steps have been taken by FBR to provide a safe, secure and professional working environment to the female employees for discharging their duties without gender discrimination. Female employees are recruited against the reserved quota as well as on merit. Implementation of Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2010, is ensured. Wedlock policy of the Federal Government is fully implemented while making transfer/posting decisions for female employees. Unmarried employees are not displaced from the stations where their parents/guardians are residing. A Day Care Centre has also been established at FBR to facilitate the female employees.

41. Aviation Division and its organizations are in full compliance with these principles. It is ensured that women quota for employment is observed in the organizations. The number of women employees working in the Aviation Division and its Organizations in the period under review is as under:

Organization	Number of women employees	
	2018-2019	2019-2020
Civil Aviation Authority	583	557
PIA	1817	1817
Airport Security Force	1044	1260
Pakistan Meteorological Department	83	96

42. National Highways Authority (NHA) under Ministry of Communications has fully adhered to this Article as per Federal Government policy. At present 111 women employees are working in NHA, 78 in BS-1 to 16, and 33 in BS-17 and above.

43. National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) is an attached department of Ministry of Communications and it implements the policies of Federal Government in letter and spirit. In order to promote the participation of women at departmental level, the following steps are taken:

- i. 10% quota reserved for women is strictly observed.
- ii. Women are also encouraged to compete in general quota.
- iii. Following facilities are provided to female staff:
 - a. Pick & drop facility.
 - b. Duty in 1st shift only.
 - c. Monthly rotational leave.
 - d. Maternity leave.
 - e. Wedlock policy.
 - f. Congenial working environment.
 - g. Relaxation in hard area posting policy.
- iv. During visits of NHMP Mobile Education Units to schools/colleges/universities, women are encouraged to join the NHMP.

- v. The number of female officers working in the NHMP during the period under report is as under:

Description		2018-19	2019-20
No of Female Employees	BS-17 & above	07	08
	Below 17	301	558
Total		308	566

44. At Pakistan Post:

- i. Women are a large part of the workforce. They are encouraged at all levels.
- ii. Under Harassment of Women at Workplace Act-2010, anti-harassment committees have been established.
- iii. Separate lunch room has been established for women.
- iv. Separate prayer place has been set up for women.
- v. Separate Eid Milad-un-Nabi fund is issued for women.
- vi. Day Care Centres have been established at various offices.
- vii. Requests for maternity/Iddat leave are accepted on priority.

45. Ministry of Energy's Development Wing is headed by a female officer with women working at all levels. At Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) and Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan (HDIP) female officials are holding very important positions like Project Director and are in charge of different laboratories. The following data will substantiate that women are encouraged to be a part of workforce diversity of this Wing and the related organizations:

S#	Organization	Number of Female Employees
i.	Petroleum Division (Development Wing)	2
ii.	Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan (HDIP)	11
iii.	Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP)	35

46. In the Ministry of Industries & Production, participation of women is ensured in all related fields by recruitment/appointment as per

Government's instructions issued from time to time. In the period under review, 16 women were working in the Ministry.

47. Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is an equal opportunity employer and encourages women to apply. Presently, SMEDA has 15 female employees (around 13% of total staff). Similarly, there is no gender discrimination in the EPZA. Approximately 70% of workforce in the KEPZ is comprised of female workers.

48. Women officers/officials posted in the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination were actively participating in official business up to the Additional Secretary level during the period under report.

49. The Ministry of Kashmir Affairs has given due importance to women's participation. The quota reserved for women in recruitment is strictly observed. In the FY 2019-20 there were eight women out of 90 employees from BS-1 to BS-16.

50. Ministry of Narcotics Control is fully committed to ensure full participation of women in the Ministry. There are two (2) female officers and six (06) officials working in this Ministry on different positions.

51. The Anti-Narcotics Force encourages participation of women in the mainstream. Women are given an equal opportunity of selection against all posts on open merit. Moreover, they are selected on the quota prescribed for women. Since 2016, the following appointments have been made in the Ministry of Narcotics Control and Anti-Narcotics Force:

2016-17	2018-19	2020-21
12	07	31

52. The National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi, has ensured that official environment for female staff should be secure and comfortable. In this connection Head of the Department encourages all female members to raise the problems they face in the office without any hesitation. Special attention is given to female dependents of all deceased Government employees for resolution of their problems on top priority basis.

53. Efforts are being made by Ministry of States and Frontier Regions to maintain gender parity in all walks of life in the Merged Areas. Equal opportunities are offered to female candidates for admissions against the

reserved seats for Merged Areas in professional, technical and educational institutions as well as for jobs in public sector organizations. To protect the rights of women and prevent discrimination against them, Women Empowerment Department is working in the Merged Areas Secretariat.

CHAPTER-6

PROTECTION OF THE MARRIAGE, THE FAMILY, THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD

(ARTICLE-35 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall protect the marriage, the family, the mother and the child.

The Government of Pakistan is committed to protect family as an institution besides protection of vulnerable women and children through strengthening of rehabilitation centres and social safety nets.

Legislative Measures

2. The following legislative measures were taken to ensure family protection:

- i. **Maintenance and Welfare of Old Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2019:** Ministry of Human Rights finalized the Maintenance and Welfare of Old Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2019 to cater to the needs of the increasing number of senior citizens in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).
- ii. **Dowry and Bridal Gift (Restriction) Act, 1976:** Miscellaneous references regarding family issues were examined by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony from the Islamic point of view and comments were provided to the referring quarters. Form No. II of Rules under the Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961, i.e. Nikahnama Form, has been amended to the extent of ICT.
- iii. **Muslim Family Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020:** The bill has been approved by the Federal Cabinet and introduced in the Parliament. At present, it is under consideration of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

Family Protection & Rehabilitation Centre for Women

3. This centre serves the following purposes:

- i. Registration of cases of violence against children.

- ii. Early response to the victims of violence for their protection.
- iii. Registration, old cases' follow up and preparation of case history.

Health and Nutrition Programme

4. The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) under Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety (PA&SS) Division has started working on developing a special initiative for the pregnant/lactating women and their children.

- i. The programme will focus on:
 - a) Increase in uptake of health services by BISP beneficiaries;
 - b) Prevention of stunting in new-born children of BISP beneficiaries;
 - c) Provision of specialized nutrition for pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and children (6-23 months); and
 - d) Immunization of pregnant beneficiaries and newborn children up to 2 years of age.
- ii. The initiative will be piloted prior to national rollout.

Protection of the Underprivileged

5. Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal is catering to the needs of the poorest segments of society through the following pro-poor projects/schemes for eradication of poverty:

- i. Individual Financial Assistance
 - a. Medical
 - b. Education
 - c. General
 - d. For Special Friends (disabled persons)
 - e. For Cochlear Implants
- ii. Schools for Rehabilitation of Child Labour (SRCL)
- iii. Women Empowerment Centre (WEC)
- iv. Dar-ul-Ehsaas (Orphanages)

- v. Child Support Programme (CSP)
- vi. Senior Citizens' Home

6. Special attention is being paid to the welfare and health of women and children in the Merged Areas. Mother & Child Health Care Centres have been established in each Agency and Tehsil Headquarters. Similarly, parallel programmes of family welfare and food supplements are being implemented for the female child. The institutions of marriage and family are well protected and the local administration pays full attention to the rights of women.

Welfare of Overseas Pakistanis' Families

7. The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) reported as follows:

i. Financial Aid

In the event of death or disability of an Overseas Pakistani (OP) during his/her stay abroad, financial aid is provided by OPF to destitute families of deceased/disabled Overseas Pakistanis. This is a one-time grant under which an amount of Rs.400,000/- is given to the families of deceased OPs and Rs.300,000/- to the disabled applicants:

	2018-19	2019-20
No. of Beneficiaries	421	205
Amount Paid	Rs. 164.30 million	Rs. 81.80 million

ii. Dues

OPF processes a large number of cases of blood money, death compensation, disability/family pension, insurance claims and all types of dues of overseas Pakistanis every year in collaboration with the Pakistani Missions abroad:

	2018-19	2019-20
Cases Received	936	652
Cases Settled	234	194
Amount	Rs.301.2 million	Rs.318.6 million

Welfare of Employees' Families by Government Departments

8. According to wedlock policy of the Establishment Division, spouses are posted at the same station to avoid disintegration of the family, and the policy is being implemented by all the Ministries/Divisions. Similarly, the Division offers welfare services to all the Federal Government employees and their dependents through Staff Welfare Organization and Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Fund. Details are given below:

i. Establishment Division (Main)

Establishment Division has developed Standard Operating Procedure for disposal of cases of deputation in Federal Government Department under the wedlock policy. The cases of extension in deputation under the wedlock policy are disposed of accordingly to facilitate the families and female Government servants.

ii. National School of Public Policy (NSPP)

In order to preserve the sanctity of family, married female staff serving in the NSPP is granted maternity leave as prescribed under the rules and the medical expenditure is reimbursed as per rules.

iii. Secretariat Training Institute (STI)

This aspect of the principles of policy was highlighted in the courses focusing on social issues.

iv. Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD)

- a) Training courses are conducted at the Academy for empowerment of women.
- b) A Baby Day Care Centre has been established at the PARD Campus for facilitation of the working women of the local/adjacent areas as well as for the participants involved in the courses.

v. Staff Welfare Organization (SWO)

- a) SWO provides umbrella protection for the Federal Government employees' families. SWO provides marriage halls to Federal Government employees on subsidized rates for the marriage of their dependents. Female spouses and children of Federal Government Employees utilize the facilities of Ladies Industrial Homes and Day Care Centre.
- b) Wedding Hall/Auditorium benefitted the following number of employees in the period under review:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
No of beneficiaries	1479	3906

- c) The Government is working for empowering women and giving them a respectable status. There are plans to educate women, launch skills development programmes and organize women welfare programmes. Staff welfare programmes are steps towards strengthening women as well as families of the Government servants.

vi. Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Funds (FEB&GIF)

The FEB&GIF is providing financial assistance to the Federal Government/autonomous bodies employees and their families under the FEB&GIF Act, 1969 in the shape of eleven (11) welfare schemes, which include the monthly Benevolent Grant, sum-assured scheme, burial charges, lump sum grant on invalidation, educational stipends/reimbursement of fees, marriage grant and an essay-writing competition among the Federal Government employees' children. In the year 2018-19, more than 713,400 Federal Government employees were benefiting from these schemes, and the number increased to 716,034 employees in 2019-20. Disbursement to the Federal Government employees and their families under the FEB&GIF welfare schemes amounted to Rs.6,558.05 million in 2018-19 and Rs.6,438.60 million in 2019-20.

vii. Management Services Wing (MSW)

All policies of the Government are implemented by the MS Wing in letter and spirit in the context of family protection, including timely processing of maternity leave of married female employees, medical reimbursement claims, advance payment sanctions in residential hiring cases and other advances and pay-related issues.

viii. Pakistan Public Administration Research Centre (PPARC)

The assistance package of Government employees who die or become permanently disabled is implemented as fixed by the Government.

ix. Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development

- a) The family protection aspect was highlighted through different courses in human resource management, women empowerment and communication skills.
- b) Family life was also promoted through training programmes in community development, etc.

9. Aviation Division pays special attention to welfare of the families of its employees in accordance with the rules and instructions of the Government:

i. **Detail of pensioners facilitated:**

Organizations	Number of pensioners	
	2018-19	2019-20
Aviation Division	08	-
Civil Aviation Authority	357	262
PIA	15953	15953
Airport Security Force	558	244
Pakistan Meteorological Department	62	-

ii. **Detail of Marriage Grants:**

Organization	Number of employees	
	2018-19	2019-20
Aviation Division	01	-
Airport Security Force	14	09
Pakistan Meteorological Department	05	-
Civil Aviation Authority	-	45

iii. **Detail of appointments made on deceased quota:**

Organizations	Number of appointments	
	2018-19	2019-20
PIA	3	03
PMD	16	-
Civil Aviation Authority	29	30

iv. **Detail of expenditure on account of Medical Reimbursement:**

Organization	Expenditure (Rs.)	
	2018-19	2019-20
Aviation Division	549,027/-	439,934/-
Civil Aviation Authority	719,864,071.82/-	662,009,132/-
PIA	187,105,180/-	187,105,180/-
Airport Security Force	73.66 (M)	74.591 (M)
Pakistan Meteorological Department	203,241,72/-	-

10. The departments under Ministry of Communications reported as follows:

- i. Following facilities are being provided by National Highway Authority to all serving and retired employees and their families:
 - a. Indoor/outdoor medical facility is being provided through designated hospitals/clinics/ consultants.

- b. Monthly medical allowance @ Rs. 5000/- is being provided to all serving employees.
 - c. 11 widows/widowers or children of deceased and medically retired employees were appointed in NHA under the “Assistance Package for families of Government employees who die in service” during the financial year 2018-19.
 - d. A day care centre has been established in the premises of NHA headquarters.
- ii. National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) recognizes the importance of family protection and provides an environment to the employees where their family rights are safeguarded, which is directly related to performance of the Force:
- a. NHMP has a linear jurisdiction: the postings of the officers are, by and large, made near their hometowns.
 - b. Rotational transfers/postings are made in order to discourage discrimination.
 - c. Different welfare measures are also taken through NHMP Regimental & Welfare Fund for the employees, which include:
 - Educational Scholarships
 - Marriage Grants (Self & Daughter)
 - Funeral Charges
 - Burial Charges
 - Maintenance allowance for widows of martyrs
 - d. The amount spent on welfare measures during 2018-19 is mentioned below:

Description		2018-19	2019-20
Scholarships		Rs 79,615,150/-	Rs. 79,595,700/-
Marriage Grants	Self	Rs. 8,700,000/-	Rs. 8,775,000/-
	Daughter	Rs. 14,900,000/-	Rs. 16,900,000/-
Funeral Charges @ Rs. 50,000		Rs. 800,000/-	Rs. 450,000/-
Burial Charges @ Rs. 20,000		Rs. 2,480,000/-	Rs. 2,780,000/-

Description	2018-19	2019-20
Maintenance Allowance (Widows)	Rs. 37,928,500/-	Rs. 42,855,000/-

iii. Pakistan Post offers the following facilities to its employees:

- a. Dispensaries and medical facilities.
- b. Post Office welfare fund.
- c. Financial grant and relief.
- d. Loans and advances.
- e. Marriage grant
- f. Maternity leave
- g. Posting/transfer under Wedlock Policy
- h. Medical Reimbursement

11. All employees of Ministry of Defence Production (MoDP) are facilitated to participate in family functions by grant of leave as and when requested by them. Full security, medication and a friendly atmosphere are being provided by MoDP establishment to the employees in their housing colonies. Relevant policies of the Government in respect of maternity leave and wedlock policy are implemented in the Ministry and the allied establishment.

12. The Finance Division and its entities ensure protection of families of the employees and dispose of the cases pertaining to hiring, pension, medical reimbursement, emergency leave, and the Prime Minister's Assistance Package. Moreover, in many departments of the Finance Division, proper day-care centres have been established in order to facilitate the working women with minors.

- i. House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFCL) offers the option of income clubbing of family members for availing the financing facility. This helps the family members to combine their resources and avail the maximum amount of financing possible. The bank also provides life and property insurance coverage for protection of families.
- ii. The Competition Commission of Pakistan's service regulations provide due importance to the employees and their families. Medical facilities through leading hospitals have

been provided to employees and their dependent family members. A day care centre was established in the Commission to provide support to infants and kids of female officers/officials during duty hours.

13. Employees of Industries & Production Division are discouraged from sitting late & attending/ undertaking official work on Saturdays or Sundays. Medical facility is also provided to families of the employees. Even distribution of work is ensured amongst the employees.

- i. The Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) accords priority to health and safety of workers and protection of environment in all areas of operations. EPZA provides medical cover to families of the employees, including their dependents, and also provides reserved seats for the siblings of its employees. The Authority provides marriage grant for its employees' children as well as assistance/grant to the employees' children/family in case of death of any employee. Maternity leave is allowed to married female employees as per rules. The employees and their dependents, including the parents, are entitled to hospitalization in designated hospitals. The Authority provides green and clean environment to its local/foreign investors and their employees to ensure non-hazardous and healthy working environment which in return ensures prevention of various diseases. In addition to proper gate security, armed guards are deputed on various check-posts to ensure safety of business and employees. The armed security guards not only patrol the fenced area of EPZ but also the surrounding area for some distance.
- ii. Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC) provides the following facilities to its employees:
 - a) PITAC management takes due care of family problems of its employees and facilitates them in resolving their problems.
 - b) A legal cell exists in the Centre to help the employees and their family members in legal matters.
 - c) PITAC has implemented in toto the assistance package for families of Government employees who die in

service, as revised by the Federal Government in 2015. PITAC has appointed children of 10 deceased employees who died in service.

- d) PITAC has been providing free of cost medical facilities to the employees/pensioners and their family members.
 - e) Pension is paid to the pensioners and their families as prescribed under the rules.
 - f) Burial charges @ Rs.10,000 are paid to dependents of deceased employees.
 - g) Special concession in fee is granted to family members of the employees for participation in training courses conducted by PITAC.
 - h) Educational grant @ Rs.10,000 is paid to the employees for their children out of the welfare fund of PITAC.
 - i) Educational grant ranging from Rs.20,000 to Rs. 40,000 is paid to the employees from Benevolent Fund.
 - j) Marriage grant amounting to Rs.20,000 is paid to the employees for their daughters out of the welfare fund of PITAC.
 - k) Marriage grant amounting to Rs.50,000 is paid to the employees/pensioners for their children from Benevolent Fund.
- iii. Following benefits are given to the families by the Utility Stores Corporation:
- a. Payment of funeral expenses.
 - b. Transportation of dead body @ Rs.25 per km.
 - c. Monthly assistance @ Rs.5000 per month to the widow or parents and @ Rs.1500 per month to each child up to 03 children.
 - d. Group insurance amounting to Rs.200000.
 - e. One-time donation amounting to Rs.100000.
 - f. Employment of one son/daughter of deceased regular employee against the family assistance package.

- g. Reimbursement of medical bills for family members of the employees up to Rs.50000.
- h. Reimbursement of medical bills for the treatment of chronic diseases (including paralysis) up to Rs.200000 for the spouse and Rs.100000 for the parents.
- i. Marriage grant @ Rs.100000 for each daughter.
- j. Advance for daughter's marriage as under:
 - For BPS-01 to BPS-07 @ Rs. 100000
 - For BPS-08 to BPS-09 @ Rs. 200000
 - For BPS-10 to BPS-12 @ Rs. 300000
 - For BPS-14 to BPS-16 @ Rs. 400000
 - For BPS-17 to BPS-18 @ Rs. 500000
 - For BPS-19 & above @ Rs. 600000

- iv. The HR Policy of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) allows maternity leave to female employees. Health insurance and medical facility are also available to all employees.

14. Ministry of Information Technology (MoIT) follows the Wedlock Policy in transfer/posting. Medical leave is provided as per rules as special leave to women. Some organizations of MoIT have adopted group life/health insurance of the employees along with spouse & child insurance.

15. Ministry of Narcotics Control (MNC) and its attached department Anti-Narcotics Force are fully committed to treat and rehabilitate the drug addicts and make them valuable members of their families in particular and the society in general. MNC is also endeavouring to protect the families of all employees under the existing Government rules.

16. The National Heritage & Culture Division reported as follows:

- i. National Library of Pakistan, Islamabad
 - a) A committee has been formed to look after women protection by taking up cases of women's harassment and related issues.

b) Every possible facility is given to the staff, like leave for marriages, illness and other issues. Maternity leave and many other incentives are also provided.

ii. National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA)

Health insurance is ensured and cultural activities are undertaken to build cultural and community bonds that add to the resilience of family and community in the face of unfavourable circumstances. NAPA conducted several outreach activities in the community that had benefit around 5000 people up to 2019-20.

iii. Department of Archives and Museums

The Department has established a day care centre for the children of female staff to facilitate them in performing their official assignment/duty without household worries. Furthermore, instructions received through Government forums regarding protection of women rights are circulated to all female staff for awareness. It is ensured that office environment for female staff is secure and comfortable. In this connection, Head of the Department encourages all female members to voice the problems they face in the office without any hesitation. Special attention is given to female members of deceased Government employees to resolve their problems on priority basis.

iv. Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design (PIFD)

The PIFD has a health insurance plan which also covers the family members of its employees. The Assistance Package for families of Government employees in case of in-service death is also implemented by PIFD.

CHAPTER-7

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES (ARTICLE-36 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minorities, including their due representation in the Federal and Provincial services.

The Constitution of Pakistan protects the rights of all citizens, including minorities, under Articles 25 & 27. The minorities in Pakistan are given due representation in the National Assembly, Senate and all Provincial Assemblies under Articles 51, 59 & 106, respectively.

2. The protection of the rights of minorities is one of the major areas of Action Plan for Human Rights, which provides for extensive activities in collaboration with the concerned stakeholders with a view to promote interfaith harmony. Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) is coordinating with the stakeholders for implementation of the following actions in this regard:

I. LEGISLATIVE MEASURES:

- i. **Christian Marriage and Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 2019:** MoHR finalized the Christian Marriage and Divorce Bill, 2019 through a consultative process with relevant stakeholders. The Cabinet accorded approval to contents of the Bill in principle. At present, the Bill is with the Ministry of Law and Justice for vetting.
- ii. **Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020:** The existing legal aid mechanism in Pakistan has remained ineffective due to lack of ownership at the relevant levels, ineffective performance mechanisms, and lack of public awareness about the legal aid mechanism. In this regard, MoHR in consultation with Ministry of Law and Justice prepared a bill for “Establishment of Legal Aid and Justice Authority” to revamp the legal aid mechanism by establishing a statutory body. The Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020 was passed by the Parliament which provided for establishment of Legal Aid and Justice Authority in order to provide legal,

financial and other assistance for access to justice to the poor and vulnerable segments of society in criminal cases and for matters ancillary thereto. In addition, a fund has also been established for free legal aid to the poor victims of human rights violations.

II. POLICY AND PLANNING INITIATIVES:

- i. Effective operation of an independent **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** to monitor violation of minorities' rights through allocation of adequate financial resources as well as placement of technically trained and sensitized human resource at its service.
- ii. **Directorate General of Special Education** is providing equal opportunities to the minorities in terms of admissions and jobs in the special education institutions.
- iii. MoHR coordinated the meeting of **Working Group to End Religious Persecution** headed by the Secretary for Human Rights in 2019. An Action Plan to End Religious Persecution was prepared under the National Action Plan on Terrorism and shared with Ministry of Interior for further process in September 2019.
- iv. MoHR is actively coordinating with other Ministries on initiatives such as the policy on interfaith harmony currently being prepared by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony. MoHR analysed the policy and suggested views/comments from the human rights perspective in December 2019 to make the policy more cohesive and inclusive.

Steps for Minorities' Welfare

3. This subject has been transferred to the Provincial Governments in pursuance of devolution process in the light of the 18th Constitutional Amendment. The Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety (PA&SS) Division is catering to the needs of the poorest segments of society by providing financial assistance to the destitute and needy widows, orphans, invalid, infirm and other needy persons irrespective of their gender, caste, creed,

religion or race, etc. Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal was allocated Rs.6104 million from the Federal Government budget for the purpose.

4. Financial assistance is granted to non-Muslims in the categories of education, general, medical and special friends (disabled persons) as well as on Christmas.

5. Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony deals with issues related to the minorities living in the country. With reference to this Article, the Ministry has made efforts to provide social justice to the minorities through relief activities in case of any unpleasant incident and for their economic well-being. The achievements of the Ministry for utilization of the fund for welfare of minorities during the period under review were as under:

i. **Financial Assistance**

An amount of Rs.12.04 million was distributed among 3135 persons of the minority communities in the country during the financial year 2018-19 and a sum of Rs.13.257 million was distributed among 3815 persons during 2019-20.

ii. **Scholarships**

Scholarships amounting to Rs.37.59 million were awarded to 2934 eligible deserving students belonging to the minority communities in the Government Institutions during 2018-19 and scholarships amounting to Rs.37 million were awarded to 2866 such students during 2019-20.

Promotion of Minorities' Culture and Heritage

6. Lok Virsa under the National Heritage & Culture Division organizes different programmes to promote the minorities' festivals like Holi and Christmas. Minority artisans, artists and musicians are also invited to the regular programme.

7. The National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi, covers various subjects from the history of Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh periods in its displays.

Minorities in Government Service

8. In line with Article 36 of the Constitution to protect the rights of minorities and to give them their due representation in the Federal services, 5% quota was reserved for the minorities in 2009 from the share of provinces/regions in addition to the Merit Quota. The officials belonging to minorities are given due respect and provided equal opportunities for their professional development.

9. Establishment Division ensures provision of equal rights and opportunities to its minority employees without any discrimination. Mutual respect is ensured for all employees, including members of the minority groups. Details are given below:

i. Establishment Division (Main)

Establishment Division impressed upon all Ministries/ Divisions the need for strict implementation of the quota for employment of non-Muslim communities in the Federal Government services across the board.

ii. National School of Public Policy (NSPP)

- a) In all units of the NSPP, appropriate time is allocated for lecture discussions and panel discussions on issues confronting the minorities in Pakistan.
- b) Guest speakers from different minorities are invited to deliver lectures or lead the discussions during the NSPP training courses.

iii. Secretariat Training Institute (STI)

This aspect of the Principles of Policy is always highlighted in different training courses on social issues. Nominations of participants from the minorities are accepted for all training courses without discrimination.

iv. Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC)

- a) Over the years, members of the minority communities have been participating in the competitive examinations to join the Government service.

Recruitment of minorities for ex-cadre positions

Year	Nominations made	Failure Reported
2018	65	57
2019	30	57
2020	32	16

CSS Competitive Examination

Year	Allocated	Unfilled
2018	04	78
2019	03	85
2020	0	98

- b) It is important to mention that despite reservation of seats for the minorities in Federal services, a significant number goes unfilled as suitably qualified candidates are not available against the reserved posts. 98 vacancies were carried over to the next year in 2020.
- v. Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD)
- a) There is a separate colony for the Christian community on PARD campus where all possible facilities are available to the residents.
- b) A unit in the residential colony has been allocated for use as Church.
- c) Upgradation of washrooms/bathrooms as well as other necessary structural improvements have been carried out recently in the Christians' residential colony.
- d) Employees belonging to the Christian and other minority communities are extended every possible facility for celebration of their religious events.
- e) A sizeable area has been earmarked for graveyard of the Christian community adjacent to the colony on PARD Campus.
- vi. Staff Welfare Organization (SWO)

All SWO facilities are equally available to the Federal Government employees belonging to different religions. SWO

follows the regular quota for employment of the minorities without any discrimination.

vii. Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Funds (FEB&GIF)

Minorities working in the organization are being provided all the necessary facilities to make the office environment secure and friendly for them. No discrimination is shown towards non-Muslim employees on the basis of faith. The quota fixed for the minorities in Federal Government services is also implemented. On their religious festivals they are paid their salaries well before the festival.

viii. Management Services Wing (MSW)

Employees from the minorities working in the MS Wing, particularly the sanitary workers, are treated equally and their issues are addressed in a dignified manner.

ix. Pakistan Public Administration Research Centre (PPARC)

Employees belonging to the minority communities are facilitated in observance of their festivals and rituals. The minorities quota for employment is implemented.

x. Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD)

Training courses are organized for capacity-building of officials from the development sector. Nominations for trainings are accepted without any discrimination on the basis of religion and faith and all members of minorities are given equal opportunities.

10. Aviation Division and its organizations recognize and protect the legitimate rights and interests of minorities and observe the employment quota reserved for the minorities. Moreover, employees from the minority communities are given full freedom for observance of their religious festivals like Easter, Diwali, and Christmas, etc.

Detail of minority employees during the financial year 2018-19

Organizations	Number of minority employees
Aviation Division	01
Civil Aviation Authority	876
PIA	255
Airport Security Force	94
Pakistan Meteorological Department	456

11. The quota for the employment of minorities fixed by the Federal Government is observed by the departments under Ministry of Communications:

- i. During the period under report, 76 individuals belonging to minority communities were working in the National Highway Authority, 66 in BS-1 to 16 and 10 in BS-17 and above.
- ii. Being a Federally administered Attached Department, National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) strives hard to implement the Government policy on minorities. The following steps have been taken:
 - a) 5% quota has been reserved for minorities in addition to their participation in the general quota.
 - b) Leave is granted to employees belonging to minorities on their religious festivals.
 - c) Bonus/financial assistance is given to non-Muslim employees on their festivals.
 - d) No discrimination is tolerated against any minority group.
 - e) A comparison of employees from minority groups in the NHMP during the period under discussion is as under:

Description		2018-19	2019-20
Number of employees from minorities	Christians	164	248
	Hindu	40	53
	Ahmadi	7	10
	Sikh	2	4
Total		213	315

12. In the Finance Division (Main) and its entities, minorities' quota is duly observed in recruitment. Non-Muslim employees are given equal rights and opportunities. They are allowed to perform their religious practices with freedom. No discrimination against minorities is tolerated. They are considered part and parcel of the mainstream.

- i. Federal Board of Revenue ensures and safeguards the legitimate rights and interests of minorities and they are granted official holidays on their religious occasions without any discrimination in line with the Government policy.
- ii. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) initiates all recruitment cases based on its organizational needs and annual manpower plan in terms of its Recruitment Policy duly approved by its Board of Directors. The recruitment at SBP is generally made at entry-level positions through different batch-hiring programmes in an open and competitive process as per provincial/regional quota – including the quota for minorities – prescribed by the Government of Pakistan.
- iii. House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFC) offers equal employment opportunities to every citizen of Pakistan without any discrimination on the basis of religion. Furthermore, in order to provide additional safeguards to the minorities, a special quota is also reserved for them in employment.
- iv. Competition Commission of Pakistan believes in protection of legitimate rights and interests of minorities. They are granted holidays and remuneration on their religious occasions as per Government policy.

13. The employees of Industries and Production Division from the minorities are given equal opportunities in services and social activities.

- i. The Export Processing Zones Authority provides employment to the minorities without any discrimination on the basis of religion. The number of minority employees working in the EPZA during the period under reference was as under:

EPZA Minority Workers	
(Male)	(Female)
38	02

- ii. Minorities are duly protected in the Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre. All employees live like family members in complete harmony irrespective of their faith.
 - a. The employees pursue their careers and the trainees participate in training programmes arranged by this Centre without any discrimination.
 - b. PITAC also grants leave to its employees belong to the minority communities and disburses salaries before due date on the occasion of their religious festivals.
 - c. Christmas is celebrated for the Christian employees in PITAC.
- iii. People belonging to any sect or religious group can compete against posts in the State Engineering Corporation under Industries & Production Division, irrespective of their belief, if they otherwise qualify for the job. Special holidays are granted to employees belonging to the minority communities at the time of their religious festivals.
- iv. Minority employees are given equal opportunity/representation to contribute their services at Pakistan Steel. They are also provided facilities to observe their religious ceremonies at workplace and residential area. In the CBA Agreement 2010-2012, various rights of minorities were protected.
- v. At Pakistan Institute of Management, people from all religions are employed and treated equally.

14. Minorities' quota is observed in the Ministry of Narcotics Control in letter and spirit. During the period under report, there was a BS-21 officer belonging to the minorities. There were 10 employees from the minorities working in the Ministry in the year 2019 and 18 in 2020.

15. Pakistan Railways facilitates the minorities in their religious ceremonies at churches, temples & Gurdwaras constructed on Railways premises.

16. National Library of Pakistan ensures equal rights for the minorities. It also provides incentives to motivate the employees from the minority groups, like honoraria for the Christian employees on the occasion of Christmas.

CHAPTER-8

PROMOTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ERADICATION OF SOCIAL EVILS

(ARTICLE-37 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall:

- (a) *promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of backward classes or areas;*
- (b) *remove illiteracy and provide free and compulsory secondary education within minimum possible period;*
- (c) *make technical and professional education generally available and higher education equally accessible to all on the basis of merit;*
- (d) *ensure inexpensive and expeditious justice;*
- (e) *make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work, ensuring that children and women are not employed in vocations unsuited to their age or sex, and for maternity benefits for women in employment;*
- (f) *enable the people of different areas, through education, training, agricultural and industrial development and other methods, to participate fully in all forms of national activities, including employment in the service of Pakistan;*
- (g) *prevent prostitution, gambling and taking of injurious drugs, printing, publication, circulation and display of obscene literature and advertisements;*
- (h) *prevent the consumption of alcoholic liquor otherwise than for medicinal and, in the case of non-Muslims, religious purposes; and*
- (i) *Decentralize the Government administration so as to facilitate expeditious disposal of its business to meet the convenience and requirements of the public.*

The Poverty Alleviation and Social Security (PA&SS) Division is striving hard to promote the educational and economic interests of the backward classes and in pursuance of its objectives it is executing the “Ehsaas

Programme” in the country which aims at assisting the destitute, old, infirm, needy people, widows and orphans irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race. Through its economic empowerment initiatives, the PA&SS Division along with its organizations is contributing towards medical treatment of deprived and needy persons, elimination of child labour, universalization of primary education, expansion of social safety nets and in addition to that provision of basic health facilities to the needy, protection to the helpless elderly citizens and rehabilitation of the disabled for respectable & independent social life. The Ehsaas Policy Statement and Strategy are being implemented.

Ehsaas Policy and Objectives

2. The Prime Minister’s initial Policy Statement on Ehsaas, which was released on April 10, 2019 embodied 115 policy and programme areas. Since Ehsaas is meant to expand and evolve, the framework has expanded over time. Ehsaas is an umbrella initiative of 134 policies and programmes, and the list is growing. The objective of the Ehsaas programme is to reduce inequality, invest in people, and lift the lagging districts.

3. Ehsaas is about the creation of a ‘welfare state’ by countering elite capture and leveraging 21st century tools – using data and technology – to create precision safety nets; promoting financial inclusion and access to digital services; supporting the economic empowerment of women; focusing on the central role of human capital formation for poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable development; and overcoming financial barriers to accessing health and post-secondary education.

4. The programme’s principles and approaches also centre on tapping whole-of-Government multi-sectoral collaboration for solutions; ensuring joint Federal-Provincial leadership; and mainstreaming the role of the private sector through an approach which will provide a level playing field on the one hand and foster locally relevant innovation on the other, to create jobs and promote livelihood in quick-win areas. The programme’s premise is grounded in the importance of strengthening institutions, transparency and good governance.

5. The programme is for the extreme poor, orphans, widows, the homeless, the disabled, those who risk medical impoverishment, the jobless, poor farmers, labourers, the sick and undernourished, students from low-income backgrounds and for poor women and elderly citizens. This plan is also about lifting the lagging areas where poverty is higher.

6. Ehsaas' poverty reduction strategy is articulated in four pillars and it currently embodies 114 policy actions, which may be expanded as the process of consultations on the programme further widens. The four pillars include: addressing elite capture and making the Government system work to create equality; safety nets for disadvantaged segments of the population; jobs and livelihoods; and human capital development.

PILLAR I: ADDRESSING ELITE CAPTURE AND STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

7. It is the prime duty of the Government to cater for those who are left behind, and to build safeguards against elite capture, which is evident in the taxation system, water management, crop choices, land use priorities, labour laws and much more. In this respect, the first pillar encompasses the following policies:

- i. A new Constitutional Amendment to move Article 38(d) from the "Principles of Policy" section into the "Fundamental Rights" section. This change will make provision of food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief for citizens who cannot earn a livelihood due to infirmity, sickness or unemployment, a state responsibility.
- ii. Increase in social protection spending. Additional PKR 80 billion will be added to social protection spending in the budget for 2019-20 and in the next budget (2020-21) there will be a further increase; hence total incremental increase will be PKR 120 billion. At this level, social protection spending will be 1% of the GDP with Federal and Provincial contribution.
- iii. Creation of the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Division to address the current fragmentation. Benazir Income Support Programme, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Zakat, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Trust for Voluntary Organizations, the SUN Network, Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, and secretariats of the Poverty Alleviation Coordination Council and the Labour Expert Group will be under this Ministry.
- iv. Creation of a one-window social protection operation to assist beneficiaries of social protection and to reduce duplication and abuse.
- v. Pro-poor goals and measurable indicators for every Ministry.

- vi. Priority earmarking of resources for pro-poor sectors to prevent channelling of resources to other sectors through adhoc decision-making.
- vii. A need-based system in the framework of the new National Finance Commission Award, promoting poverty reduction and addressing inequalities, requires improvements in mechanisms to regulate allocation of financial resources and creation of right incentives to deliver on services for citizens. To this end, members of the Council of Common Interests will be encouraged to improve the allocation formula to achieve our common goal of making opportunities equal for all Pakistani citizens, irrespective of where they live.
- viii. All Provincial Finance Commissions will be encouraged to base their future awards on need-based systems to remove intra-provincial disparities.
- ix. A policy to maximize the pro-poor impact of the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) resources. For every project, efforts will be made to raise private capital so that PSDP resources are only spent on projects that serve as an equalizer. For this purpose, a policy will be developed to set the order of priority of the projects at the Planning Commission.
- x. A Committee on Innovative Financing and deployment of innovative financing mechanisms to mobilize additional resources and create fiscal space for pro-poor investments.
- xi. Guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility in areas related to voluntary expenditure, its alignment, tax rebates and reporting.
- xii. A new mandatory section in the PC1 **Proforma** (Planning Commission approval document) to screen every PC1 for its impact on poverty and equality.
- xiii. A committee to review the bottlenecks in the justice system for the vulnerable.
- xiv. New policy to guide the use of development expenditure by parliamentarians to promote transparency, independent oversight and accountability.
- xv. Guidelines on conflict-of-interest for State and Government functionaries.
- xvi. Earmarking a share for those below a certain poverty line while allocating Khokhas (cafés), tea shops, newspaper

- stands, shoe polishing booths on Government-owned land or in Government-owned hospitals, parks, and railway stations.
- xvii. Earmarking a share for those below a certain poverty line while auctioning shops in town and tehsil committees.
 - xviii. Earmarking a share for those below a certain poverty line in market committees.
 - xix. Registration of slum and katchi abadi residents to facilitate their transparent inclusion in the event of subsequent commercialization of the area.
 - xx. A policy of community co-ownership where land development follows freeing up of land from land grabbers.
 - xxi. A policy of community co-ownership where the Government gives hunting permits.
 - xxii. For pro-poverty planning, the Government is committed to fixing the local government system, to facilitate need-based community decision-making.
 - xxiii. Enhanced free electronic media air time policy to promote information as a public good related to the Ehsaas programme.
 - xxiv. National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, for strengthening quality and availability of statistics and to ensure the independence of statistics from political and other undue external influence, so that the Government can have access to accurate, reliable, and timely statistics and a solid and credible base of evidence, which is critical to support the design and evaluation of policies.
 - xxv. Data accessibility and transparency policy. Free accessibility of data will be ensured through the District Development Portal in which poverty and other socio-economic indicators across Pakistan's district will be available to policy makers and the public. The Portal will allow tracking differences in performance and will be an important accountability tool in the implementation of Ehsaas.

PILLAR II: EFFECTIVE SAFETY NETS FOR THE MARGINALIZED AND VULNERABLE

8. 38.8% of people in Pakistan suffer from poverty in one or other form, and 24.4% do not have enough money to satisfy their basic food and non-food needs. The Government needs to identify the poor precisely to make the Government subsidies targeted. In this regard the following initiatives have been undertaken or are in the pipeline:

- i. Development of the new 2019 National Socio-economic Registry.
- ii. Multiple validations of the National Socio-economic Registry through follow-up review surveys and use of big data analytics to correctly and precisely identify the real poor.
- iii. Conversion of the National Socio-economic Registry into a live registry.

9. Two new social protection programmes are being introduced – Kifalat and Tahafuz. These will be executed through the agency of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP):

A. Kifalat

- i. The programme Kifalat will ensure financial and digital inclusion of around 6 million women through the one woman one bank account policy.
- ii. Inflation-adjustment in the size of the cash transfer to 6 million women under Kifalat.
- iii. Establishment of 500 digital hubs at the Tehsil level under Kifalat where the Government’s digital resources will be made accessible as a public good (information systems, online curricula, one window social protection interfaces) to create opportunities for poor families to graduate out of poverty.
- iv. Programmes for graduation of BISP beneficiaries in lagging districts through the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund’s National Poverty Graduation Programme, using the outreach of rural support programmes and community organizations.

B. Tahafuz

- i. Launch of the shock-oriented precision safety net Tahafuz for the vulnerable to protect them against shocks. This will involve one-time financial assistance to protect them against catastrophic events.
- ii. Assistance to poor widows who don’t have any earning children through Tahafuz.
- iii. Legal aid through Tahafuz.
- iv. Partnership with NGOs to upscale successful programmes for orphans, street children, seasonal migrants, transgender persons, victims of child and bonded labour and daily wage workers.

C. Housing for the Poor

- i. Ehsaas homes for 10,000 orphans.
- ii. Panahgahs (shelters) in several major cities.
- iii. Housing scheme for the poor (including landless farmers) through interest free loans.

D. Protection against Catastrophic Health Expenditure

- i. Insaf Insurance card in 38 districts for 3.3 million people.
- ii. Ensuring financial access to treatment in defined categories and protecting the poor against catastrophic health expenditures through Tahafaz.

E. Welfare Programmes for the Disabled

- i. Ensuring universal access to assistive devices (e.g., cranes, wheelchairs, tripods, crutches, sticks and other assistive devices).
- ii. 20 centres for the physically challenged in under-privileged districts in the public-private partnership mode.

F. Welfare of the Elderly Poor

- i. Labour pension increased from PKR 5,250 to 6,500 through the Employees Old Age Benefit Institute.
- ii. Biometric payments of pensions through Employees Old Age Benefit Institute.
- iii. Five great Ehsaas homes (old people's homes) through Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal.

G. Labour Welfare

- i. Creation of a Labour Experts Group to develop recommendations to address the following issues: loopholes in existing laws as a result of which a large number of workers remain outside the formal network (e.g., agriculture and livestock sector, artisans, construction workers in informal settings, domestic workers and women whose work is seen as an extension of domestic responsibilities in rural area); fragmentation of labour social safety nets; rampant corruption and institutional failures which result in

- exploitation of labour; and enforcement issues with regard to minimum wage, health and safety regulations.
- ii. Launch of a welfare and pension scheme for the informal sector as a result of the recommendations of the Labour Expert Group

H. Welfare of Workers Abroad

- i. A policy to increase the role and number of Community Welfare Attaches and to involve well-reputed expatriate Pakistanis in that role.
- ii. Increase in the number of Protector of Emigration Offices.
- iii. Initiative to improve quality of pre-departure briefing for intending migrants, and ensuring attendance biometrically so that workers can be made aware about their rights and entitlements (for example insurance), which will ensure that they are not exploited by human resource exporters and employers.
- iv. Protector of Emigration Offices to create one-window for all types of requirements to facilitate migrant workers.
- v. Negotiations with foreign Governments to extend the duration of the first contract agreement for workers to a minimum of 3 years because unskilled workers hardly recover their cost of migration before that time.
- vi. A policy of subsidy on air tickets for the low paid workers abroad who have not returned home in seven years.

PILLAR III: HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

10. Human capital development necessitates prioritizing investments in early years – tackling malnutrition, pre-school or early education, protecting children from harm; ensuring access to quality education, skills and jobs; long-term commitment to Universal Health Coverage, and measures for empowering women and girls. Pakistan is facing a crisis in terms of malnutrition that is among the worst in the world; our country is losing 3 percent of its GDP to stunting every year – a situation in which children cannot grow in height, their brains don't grow, and cognitive abilities don't develop, a major setback in today's knowledge-based economy. Stunting is the result of malnutrition and recurrent infections in early childhood and/or malnutrition before birth brought on by a malnourished mother. Under-nutrition in young children and over-

nutrition later in life lead to higher risk of diseases like hypertension and diabetes. These are impoverishing through healthcare costs and negative impact on economic development due to productivity losses. Therefore, malnutrition has long lasting consequences for families and countries. Several initiatives address malnutrition in this framework:

A. Malnutrition

- i. A new community and health and nutrition initiative to address stunting in children.
- ii. Provision of de-worming drugs, iron, folic acid, micro-nutrient supplements through Government hospitals.
- iii. Awareness regarding breastfeeding and complimentary feeding.
- iv. Multi-sectoral Nutrition Coordinating Body under the Prime Minister's oversight.
- v. Establishment of the first-ever university-hosted National Centre for Human Nutrition.
- vi. Desi chicken assets transfer for poverty alleviation and nutrition.
- vii. Assets transfer of goats to the rural poor along with veterinary cover as part of the graduation initiative's assets transfer programmes.
- viii. A Kitchen Gardening initiative to promote subsidized certified seed and seedlings through the entrepreneurial model as well as CSR to promote fruit and vegetable intake.
- ix. Oil cans to accompany seed packets policy.
- x. Promotion of seed distribution through the Utility Stores Corporation.
- xi. Specialized nutrition to be made available for stunted children in a cost-effective manner.
- xii. Initiative to address the problem of adulterated milk.

B. Pro-Poor Education Initiatives

- i. Awareness drive aimed at Article 25-A so that the disadvantaged become aware of their rights.
- ii. Access to education for the poor through vouchers in places where public schools do not exist, but private schools exist.
- iii. Contracting out primary and secondary education to the private sector in geographic areas where there are no public schools.

- iv. Freely available E-learning content as a public good.
- v. Use of chatbots in local languages to overcome constraints faced by dispersed populations in accessing education.
- vi. Conditional cash transfer programme for education in lagging districts.
- vii. A second chance programme for girls in schools, colleges and universities.
- viii. Need-based undergraduate scholarships by the Higher Education Commission for students from low-income families and lagging districts to ensure that all qualified students have access to undergraduate education regardless of income, gender, or location. This policy will be applicable to public sector and participating non-profit private sector colleges and universities.

C. Health

- i. Universal health coverage policy to be adopted at Federal and Provincial levels with innovative technology tools to increase geographic and financial access to healthcare for communicable and non-communicable diseases and for maternal and child health and mental health services. Priority will be given to conditions where the poor bear higher burden of disease.
- ii. Policy to accelerate reform of public hospitals with increase in budgets.

PILLAR IV: CREATING JOBS AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

11. Employment generation is a major objective of the broader economic reform agenda. A certain set of employment opportunities are included in the Ehsaas framework to promote jobs and livelihood despite the current limitations:

- i. The new policy of Solutions Innovation Challenge, Prize Funding, and venture capital funding to develop value chains and solutions for addressing poverty by identifying private sector partners. Two categories of solutions challenges will be developed; one with public good like effect and others that are specific to Geographic Opportunity Clusters in lagging areas. This approach will help to develop agriculture and industrial value chains and address the drivers of poverty in a local

context. Examples include the Solutions Innovation Challenge:

- a. To develop micro-credit facility for daily wage earners so that they can afford monthly groceries, which they would not be able to afford otherwise.
 - b. To identify online platforms, which can help daily wagers, especially women, earn a living wage with dignity.
 - c. For online content development which can be made available as a public good for all.
 - d. To develop cost effective new models of incubators, less reliant on physical infrastructure, to promote start-ups more broadly.
 - e. To link crafts persons with fashion houses to increase employment and promote culture.
 - f. To develop formal institutions for workers in the informal sector who have not qualified through TVET institutions.
 - g. For clean cooking stoves to address indoor air pollution, which is a major risk for diseases which disproportionately affect poor women.
 - h. To create digital interfaces for the less literate.
- ii. Policy by the Higher Education Commission to support research and evidence-gathering on the drivers of poverty in local settings, as these will assist with the development of locally-relevant solutions challenges.
 - iii. Promotion of microfinance banking services through a policy aimed at increasing liquidity and digitization of phone banking services.
 - iv. The Government's Interest Free Loaning policy and graduation tools (asset transfer and skills development) will be developed around the Solutions Innovation Challenge and Prize Funding policy.
 - v. Promotion of agriculture credit to support the Solutions Innovation Challenge and Prize Funding policy.
 - vi. Promotion of off-grid solutions to electricity to support the Solutions Innovation Challenge and Prize Funding policy.

- vii. Deployment of a certain percentage of loans under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme to support the Solutions Innovation Challenge and Prize Funding policy.

Pro-Women Agenda

12. The entire Ehsaas agenda is inclined towards the uplift of poor women – from the 6 million women who will benefit from Kifalat to preferential support for women through Tahafuz. More than 50% of the education vouchers and scholarships will be for women. Insaf Card covers health conditions for women preferentially. Not just health and education, but jobs and economic empowerment are crucial for poor women. In this regard, the graduation initiative solely serves women. Through the labour study group the Government will explore ways to recognize the work of rural women, pave the way for equal wage and cover domestic work under legislation.

Ehsaas Strategy

13. In the given context, Ehsaas signifies empathy; it refers to concern for those that are disadvantaged, and as such, it is Government of Pakistan's umbrella initiative to address poverty and inequality. It is an overarching coordinated whole-of-Government umbrella initiative. The Government will work with all stakeholders – public, private, civil society, philanthropists, and expatriate Pakistanis.

14. Ehsaas is in alignment with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Eleven out of the seventeen goals are in alignment with the SDG framework. Especially relevant goals include SDG 1 (Elimination of all forms of poverty – its targets, inter alia, include implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and achievement of substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable); SDG 2 (Zero hunger); SDG 3 (Good health and well-being); SDG 4 (Quality education); SDG 5 (Women's empowerment and gender equality); SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation); SDG 8 (Full and productive work); SDG 9 (Innovation); SDG 13 (Climate action); SDG 10 (Reducing inequality); SDG 17 (Partnerships).

15. The Ehsaas programme was developed by the Poverty Alleviation Coordination Council after extensive consultations: 23 consultations were held over a 45-day planning period in early 2019; 359 experts were formally consulted.

Goals

16. Ehsaas' overarching goals and targets are the following:
- i. Safety net for at least 10 million families
 - ii. Livelihood opportunities for 3.8 million individuals
 - iii. Financial access to healthcare for 10 million families
 - iv. Scholarships and education incentives for 5 million students (50% girls)
 - v. Financial and digital inclusion for 7 million individuals (90% women)
 - vi. Enabling environment for poverty reduction
 - vii. Equality promoting multi-sectoral partnerships and innovations

Operationalizing the Safety Net Pillars of Ehsaas

17. The Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD), now popularly known as the “**Ehsaas Ministry**”, was established in April 2019. All the agencies responsible for executing Ehsaas which were previously reporting to different Ministries are now attached to the Ministry.

Financial resources

18. A significant budget was set aside in the Federal Budget 2019-20 to broaden safety nets.

Data

19. The Government is investing in building a new National Socio-economic Registry to enable precise targeting.

Governance and Integrity Policy

20. To eliminate abuse, misaligned incentives and inefficiencies and ensure effective targeting, a Governance and Integrity Policy has been pronounced.

Systems building

21. New digital payment system backbone and information technology systems are being installed.

One-Window Online Ehsaas portal

22. The One-Window Ehsaas is being established, which will facilitate citizen's access to all the social protection programmes and online public goods.

Implementation

23. At the Federal level its implementation is currently the responsibility of 34 Federal Ministries, Divisions, and Agencies. Provincial Ehsaas plans are evolving and will be dovetailed with the Federal strategy. A 'Pledge to Ehsaas' framework is being firmed up to solicit broader participation in Ehsaas. The implementation of Ehsaas is monitored by a Steering Committee headed by the Prime Minister.

24. The Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD) and departments under its administrative control are responsible for executing a majority of the policies, programmes and initiatives that are part of the Safety Net Pillar and the National Poverty Graduation Initiative under the Jobs and Livelihood Pillar.

25. Work on developing a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MER) framework has commenced in order to monitor, track, evaluate and analyze results and to institutionalize the culture of learning for course correction.

26. The private sector and civil society organizations are expected to play an important role in the implementation of Ehsaas. A new policy and framework of commitments will be developed which will allow the private sector and the civil society to make commitments linked to the pillars and targets of Ehsaas.

New Institutional Window for the Marginalized

27. To safeguard the interests of the most marginalized – orphans, homeless children on the streets, seasonal migrants, transgender, child and bonded labourers and daily wage workers, drug abusers, Trust for Voluntary Organizations (TVO) is being reformed so that partnerships can be forged with NGOs and their successful programmes can be scaled up to serve these marginalized communities. TVO will also be given a new mandate to implement other Ehsaas programmes. PA&SS Division is providing its support in constitution of the Board and planning for

development. Following are the achievements during the financial year 2019-20:

- i. After a gap of 6 years the TVO Board was constituted
- ii. Appointment of CEO
- iii. Approval Conflict of Interest policy
- iv. Approval of Risk Register
- v. Approval of IT Policy
- vi. Approval of Whistleblowing Policy
- vii. Approval of Employees Conduct Rules
- viii. Approval of Procurement Manual
- ix. Initiation of External Audits (8 years)
- x. Approval of HR Policy
- xi. Development of realignment strategy is underway

Immediate Actions

28. The following measures were underway in the period under review:

- i. Development of the Ehsaas strategy – the first coordinated whole-of-Government approach to addressing poverty and inequality
- ii. Development of the Ehsaas Governance and Integrity Policy and a mechanism to ensure compliance
- iii. Establishment of the Ehsaas Implementation Committee, and institutionalization of weekly meetings of the committee to ensure effective implementation
- iv. Development of other institutional arrangements relevant to Ehsaas – Steering Committee, needed expert groups; and monitoring and coordinating mechanisms
- v. Establishment of a Communication Strategy for Ehsaas
- vi. Constitution of the Ehsaas Communication Committee to enable “public benefit” communication, and institutionalize regular meetings
- vii. Development of the Ehsaas Gender Policy to support the economic empowerment of women
- viii. Development of the Ehsaas One-Window Social protection policy and commencement of selected operations
- ix. Acceleration of reform measures within organizations and implementation of Pillar II to ensure better targeting, increased budgetary allocation, enhanced coverage, reduced

- fragmentation and improved governance of social safety nets
- x. Commencement of Federally-led interventions by the Division of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety
 - xi. Development of a unified National Socio-Economic Survey (NSER) for better targeting
 - xii. Commencement of planning for making the NSER live
 - xiii. Acceleration of development of the Kifalat programme in BISP, inclusive of governance and integrity reforms, institutionalization of financial and digital inclusion and horizontal and vertical expansion of the cash transfers
 - xiv. Completion of the procurement process involving hiring of banks to build the digital payment backbone for Kifalat One Woman One Account initiative
 - xv. Launch of the programme to enable access to specialized nutrition for mothers and children up to 2 years
 - xvi. Launch of a food ration/langar scheme as a response to the post-budgetary economic hardship
 - xvii. Upscaling Education Conditional Cash Transfers in lagging districts
 - xviii. Initiation of reform process of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal's schools for the marginalized children
 - xix. Launch of the National Poverty Graduation Initiative and consolidation of fragmented Government resource envelopes into a single consolidated programme
 - xx. Establishment of the board of Trust for Voluntary Organizations to establish a new institutional window of support for the most marginalized
 - xxi. Development of and launch of the District Development Portal and disseminate data widely to influence decision-making
 - xxii. Establishment of the precision safety net Tahafuz to protect individuals from catastrophic risks and open the Tahafuz window for health assistance for those who do not have Insaaf Card
 - xxiii. Development of a merit and needs based undergraduate scholarship programme
 - xxiv. Expansion of the health insurance scheme (Insaaf Card)
 - xxv. Development of a Framework of Agreement Between Federal Agencies responsible for implementing Pillars I, II and IV of Ehsaas (except the National Poverty Graduation Initiative, which is a mandate of PASSD)

- xxvi. Engagement with Provincial Cabinets to catalyse the creation of Provincial Ehsaas frameworks

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

29. As the leading institution focused on eliminating poverty, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) works as an arm to the Government to support interventions directly impacting well-being of the people of Pakistan, thereby contributing to Articles 37 and 38 of the Principles of Policy under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. As the first Government-sponsored social fund which manages investments across a wide range of sectors, PPAF follows processes and procedures that are closely aligned with the Principles of Policy. PPAF has the mandate for “helping the poor, especially women, the landless and the asset-less, in order to enable them to gain access to resources for their productive self-employment, to encourage them to undertake activities of income generation and poverty alleviation and for enhancing their quality of life.”

30. PPAF is present in 144 districts of Pakistan where it has served at least 2.39 million people over 20 years to have access to better income opportunities and basic needs. PPAF has worked in sectors and areas ranging from livelihood, capacity building and skills enhancement to health, education, nutrition, disaster preparedness and management, community physical infrastructure, environment, climate change, water, energy, and a lot more. Over the years PPAF has developed and supported a grassroots network of 134,500 community organizations and 440,000 credit/ common interest groups who have been provided with an array of financial and non-financial services. These include 1,168,100 interest free loans to the poor households, productive assets for 115,000 ultra and vulnerable poor in 60 poorest districts across the country, 8,429 health, education, water and other projects and training opportunities for 435,640 individuals for increased vocational and productivity skills.

31. PPAF has always been in the forefront of relief and rehabilitation efforts. It has facilitated over 1.8 million households affected by natural disasters under relief and early recovery projects & managed reconstruction of seismically safe houses affected by 2005 earthquake. During the current Covid-19 crises PPAF is providing relief to an estimated 63,000 poorest households in 109 union councils of 20 districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to support communities

in maintaining their current occupation and livelihood, beginning small new businesses, and addressing the food insecurity challenges.

Ehsaas Amdan

32. Ehsaas Amdan programme is a Government of Pakistan and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)-funded USD 150 million (GoP USD 50 million and IFAD USD 100 million) initiative to be implemented over a period of six years in 388 union councils of 23 districts of Pakistan in all four provinces. The overarching goal of the programme is to assist the ultra-poor and very poor in graduating out of poverty on sustainable basis while improving their overall food security, nutritional status and resilience to climate change. The programme aims at providing livelihood assets and trainings to 176,947 ultra-poor and vulnerable poor households.

33. Since August 2018, a total of 61,066 productive assets have been transferred to the ultra-poor and vulnerable poor households identified as per set criteria. Of this, over 93% assets have been transferred to women beneficiaries. The categories of these assets include livestock (86.43%), enterprises (6.77%), transportation (5.39%), production (0.59%), services (0.37%), other (0.09%) and intangible assets (0.32%).

Accumulative Sector-wise Assets Transferred

	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
	Punjab		Sindh		KPK		Balochistan		Overall	
Total Assets Transfer	11,522	1,676	36,512	1,180	6,452	730	2,288	706	56,774	4,292
Livestock	30,954	283	33,209	-	6,073	320	1,546	397	71,782	1,000
Enterprise	424	98	2,120	173	355	230	580	157	3,479	658
Transport	35	1,199	1,123	782	-	134	1	3	1,159	2,118
Production	1	1	-	47	4	8	160	145	165	201
Services	108	75	42	-	-	2	1	3	151	80
Others	-	-	18	-	20	16	-	1	38	17
Intangible	-	22	-	178	-	-	-	-	-	200

Interest Free Loan (IFL) Programme

34. IFL is one of the major components of the National Poverty Graduation Initiative being implemented by PPAF through its 24 partner Organizations (POs). The range of interest free loans is Rs.20,000 to Rs.75,000. As many as 2.8 million interest free loans will be provided for the next 4 years to 2.28 million households.

IFL Progress

35. Under this initiative, cumulatively since the start of the programme in July 2019, a total of 1,416,059 interest-free loans (46% loans to women) amounting to PKR 50460 million have been disbursed. The programme is being executed through more than 700 Loan Centres/Branches in about 110 districts across the country.

	Since July 2019		
	Targets	Achieved	% Achievement
Number of loans disbursed to borrowers	1,920,000	1,416,059	74%

Province/Region-wise Number of Loans & Disbursement (since July 2019)

Province	Number of Loans			Amount Disbursed (PKR)		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
AJK	19,059	17,893	36,952	697,094,000	628,444,000	1,325,538,000
Balochistan	3,615	2,223	5,838	106,732,000	61,512,000	168,244,000
GB	21,532	9,741	31,273	878,010,000	382,696,000	1,260,706,000
ICT	1,992	1,890	3,882	65,415,000	62,850,000	128,265,000
KP	91,227	29,485	120,712	2,993,377,500	809,934,299	3,803,311,799
Punjab	610,538	555,939	1,166,477	24,010,979,220	18,147,903,600	42,158,882,820
Sindh	18,075	32,850	50,925	603,018,000	1,012,040,000	1,615,058,000
Total	766,038	650,021	1,416,059	29,354,625,720	21,105,379,899	50,460,005,619

36. The PBM has extended its support to less developed provinces / regions of the country by allocating additional budget of Rs. 303.75 million rupees for disbursement in (28) most neglected districts under the Individual Financial Assistance (IFA) scheme.

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)

37. Through Kifalat, Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and Complementary Initiatives (CI), the BISP has been assisting the State to secure the well-being of the people, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or

race, by raising their standard of living, while promoting, with special care, the educational and economic interests of backward classes or areas.

38. For promoting the educational and economic interests of backward classes BISP has two regular programmes namely Kifalat/UCT and Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), Waseela-e-Taleem (WeT). Ehsaas Kifalat is the Government's programme which provides cash stipends of PKR. 5,000 quarterly to the most deserving and poorest women across the country. Waseela-e-Taleem (WeT) programme aims to financially support the children studying in primary education, aged 4 to 12 years. The primary objective of the programme is to create long term sustainable awareness on the importance of primary education among BISP beneficiary families, increase enrolment of children in schools for primary education, improve school attendance by the children and decrease school drop-out rates.

39. BISP has come to the realization that in order to enable beneficiaries to move beyond dependence on Kifalat/CCT programmes, specialized interventions aimed at enhancing their economic status and overall well-being are imperative. Such interventions are termed as Complementary Initiatives (CI). The CI initiatives contribute meaningfully in graduating beneficiaries out of poverty, through provision of focused support, skill enhancement, market linkages, financial inclusion, public-private partnerships, etc. Two key programmes under CI include: Business Incubation for Self-Employment (BISE) Model and Direct Cash (DC) model.

Ehsaas Kifalat (Unconditional Cash Transfers)

40. The Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT) also called "Ehsaas Kifalat" is the core programme of BISP. The short-term objective of the programme was to cushion the negative effects of slow economic growth, food crisis and inflation on the poor, particularly women, through provision of Unconditional Cash Transfers to eligible families. Its long-term objectives include meeting the targets set by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to eradicate extreme and chronic poverty and empowerment of women. The quarterly cash grant has been gradually enhanced by the Government from Rs. 4,834/- in FY 2016-17 to Rs. 5,000/- in FY 2018-19 and Rs. 6,000/- in FY 2019-20.

41. BISP is now the largest single cash transfer programme in Pakistan's history. BISP's annual disbursement under Kifalat (UCT)

programme rose from Rs. 16 billion in FY 2008-09 to Rs. 169 billion (including Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme) in 2020. Since inception, BISP has transferred approximately Rs. 1,104 billion (including Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme) as UCT to its beneficiaries. Currently, the number of Kifalat beneficiaries stands at around 6.5 million which is to be increased to 8 million by June, 2022.

42. The Government has expressed a strong commitment to reform the Kifalat Programme under the Ehsaas umbrella.

- i. Approximately, 98.5% of beneficiaries are being paid through Biometric Verification System (BVS) in 90 districts across Pakistan.
- ii. PKR 107 billion had been disbursed to beneficiaries by the end of FY 2018-19.
- iii. A total of 7 million beneficiary women are expected to be enrolled in Kifalat by the end of 2020.
- iv. The call centre has been upgraded to improve service delivery and address grievances of the beneficiaries timely.
- v. The BISP started work on revising contracts with partner banks for effective and efficient payment disbursement to its beneficiaries. The key features expected to be included are: In-built verification checks, death cases, doubtful CNICs, aliens etc., standardized BVS devices, geo-fencing of BVS devices, etc.

43. Beneficiaries of Ehsaas Kifalat programme are identified/selected through scientific mode of National Socio Economic (NSER) survey based on Proxy Means Test (PMT) that determines the welfare status of the household on a scale between 0-100. The PMT cut-off score for eligibility is decided on the basis of available fiscal space and all families falling under the approved PMT cut-off score are being provided cash assistance under the programme.

44. BISP in its initial phase started delivering quarterly cash transfers to its beneficiaries using Pakistan Post due to its outreach across Pakistan. But later, in order to improve the efficiency and transparency of payments to its beneficiaries, BISP started using technology based Alternate Payment Mechanisms (APM) in the form of Benazir Smart Card, Mobile Phone Banking, Benazir Debit Cards (BDC) and Biometric Verification

System (BVS). Currently, all BISP beneficiaries are being paid through BVS mode.

**Disbursement details of Unconditional Cash Transfer
(From 2008 till June 2020)**

Fiscal Year	Amount Disbursed in Billions (Rs.)
2008-09	16
2009-10	34
2010-11	26
2011-12	39
2012-13	41
2013-14	65
2014-15	87
2015-16	96
2016-17	103
2017-18	98
2018-19	105
2019-20	225
Total	935

Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme Round-1

45. The first phase of Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme (EECP-1) was launched in April, 2020 to help the poor families affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19). An amount of approximately Rs. 180 billion has been disbursed to around 14.9 million beneficiaries (including Kifalat beneficiaries) @ Rs. 12,000/- per beneficiary.

Summary of Funds Disbursed under EEDP-1

Province/Region	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed (Millions of Rupees)
Punjab	6,619,918	80,033.39
Sindh	4,591,237	55,324.01
KP	2,506,653	30,392.80
Balochistan	701,654	8,515.85
AJK	231,803	2,827.37
GB	110,489	1,346.95
Islamabad	69,122	834.34
Total	14,830,867	179,274.71

Compensation Package for LoC Affectees

46. As approved by BISP Board as well as Federal Cabinet, families living along the Line of Control (LoC) in the AJ&K region are being provided cash assistance by BISP under Special Relief package launched in June, 2020. Under the cited programme, additional beneficiaries (other than Kifalat beneficiaries) are being provided emergency cash assistance @ Rs. 24,000/- in two installments of Rs. 12,000/- each. Till date 35,613 beneficiaries have been identified under the programme. An amount of Rs. 262.64 million has so far been disbursed to 21,887 beneficiaries.

National Poverty Graduation Initiative

47. Business Incubation for Self-Employment (BISE) Model:

- i. Based on international best practices and in consultation with development partners, BISP developed a graduation model namely Business Incubation for Self-Employment (BISE) for providing a low-cost, high impact and sustainable solution to alleviate poverty.
- ii. The programme will enhance income generation opportunities for the poorest of the poor families through asset creation and livelihood opportunities.
- iii. It will include developing the productive asset base through provision of income generating grants and loans, creating employment opportunities through developing their managerial, technical and vocational skills, creating supply chain and market linkages to companies and other consumers that would buy the products of the poor.
- iv. The BISE will be piloted in 5 districts and 65,000 beneficiaries will be targeted in these districts.

48. Direct Cash (DC) Model:

- i. The direct cash initiative is a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) and one of the distinctive features of this initiative is upfront payment to beneficiaries in lieu of their UCT payments for 3 and 4 years.
- ii. The DC model will be implemented in districts of Faisalabad and Chakwal, with financial support of Malinda-Gates Foundation; whereas technical assistance has been provided by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard and London School of Economics (LSE).

- iii. A total of 6,000 beneficiaries will be selected for this initiative.

Improvements in Ongoing System

49. During the period under report BISP has made numerous improvements in its system, policies and procedures by either improving the programmes or by initiating new policies/programmes.

National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER)

50. BISP has started updating the NSER by conducting a fresh socio-economic survey:

- i. The updation exercise has been divided into two parts i.e. Pilot and National Rollout.
- ii. In order to improve validity and reliability of data collected, Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) approach has been adopted instead of Paper Based Personal Interview (PAPI) in 2010-11.
- iii. A third-party firm has been engaged to conduct “Operational Review” of the data collected by survey firms.

Governance and Policy Initiatives

51. Following are some of the major governance and policy initiatives undertaken during the reporting period:

a) Streamlining of Policy Making Processes

Unlike the practice in past years, BISP made significant strides in improving its governance paradigm to align with the culture of greater transparency being promoted by the present Government. One such step was to ensure Board meetings as envisaged in the BISP Act. This has ensured that important policy matters are thoroughly debated and decided upon within due time.

b) Institutionalization of Error, Fraud and Corruption (EFC) Framework

The minimization of fraud and corruption is essential to ensure that BISP achieves its overall goals and objectives in a cost effective and ethical manner. BISP has adopted measures to address the risk of losses through Error, Fraud and

Corruption with the commitment to enhance safeguards by development and implementation of the most effective EFC Framework. BISP has developed and implemented EFC framework to minimize various policy and operational risks.

c) Risk Registers and Work Plans

Detailed operational work plans and risk registers have been developed for internal monitoring of performance. These work plans are used to measure performance and recommend course correction measures.

d) Reforms to Eradicate Corruption

In line with present Government's emphasis on eradicating deep-seated corrupt practices, BISP management has ensured that:

- Disciplinary actions are taken against BISP officials, where applicable.
- Registration of FIRs against the culprits involved in illicit deductions from BISP beneficiaries during payment/disbursement process.

e) Whistle Blowing Policy

The objective of this policy is to provide a platform to BISP employees and other interested parties for identifying any irregularity, embezzlement/malpractice, fraud, wrongdoing in confidential manner without any fear of adverse consequences and to safeguard the BISP's reputation and integrity during disbursement of cash grants/financial assistance to the beneficiaries. This policy elucidates the whistle blowing process for lodging of complaints and redressal thereof.

Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy Programmes

52. In pursuance of Ehsaas Financial Inclusion Strategy, BISP has designed and launched a pilot project for opening of Savings Accounts (Mobile Wallets) and provision of Financial Literacy to Ehsaas Kifalat Beneficiaries. After evaluating the pilot project, a detailed roadmap and action plan will be prepared and Mobile wallet and Financial Literacy

programmes will be launched across the country which will pave the way for formal interaction of Kifalat beneficiaries with the economy.

53. Major Achievements 2019-20:

- i. Financial inclusion of more than 6 million un-banked women.
- ii. Quarterly cash grant enhanced from Rs. 3,000/- in FY 2008-09 to Rs. 6,000/- in FY 2019-20.
- iii. 100% conversion of payment mode to Biometric Verification System (BVS).
- iv. Budget allocation for Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) increased from Rs. 16 billion in FY 2008-09 to Rs. 169 billion in 2020.
- v. Incorporated various service delivery clauses in the contracts signed with partner banks to enhance efficiency and transparency in disbursements to the beneficiaries.
- vi. Positive impacts as per impact evaluation reports of Oxford Policy Management (OPM) and other development partners.
- vii. Developed and implemented automated Payment Complaint Management System (PCMS) with enhanced features.
- viii. Reduction of service charges of banks from 4% to 0.82% (on average).
- ix. Designed and implemented Next of Kin policy for deceased beneficiaries.
- x. The call centre has been upgraded to improve service delivery and also address the grievances of the beneficiaries timely. The call centre can be accessed at Toll free number (080026477) from 9am to 5pm.
- xi. Designed and implemented simple and effective social mobilization and communication campaign for building beneficiary awareness for improvements in service delivery through specially designed messages conveyed through announcements at Mosque and holy places in coordination with respective local communities, broadcasting of FM Radio messages at local levels, utilizing the platform of BISP Beneficiaries' Committees (BBCs) and women leaders etc.
- xii. BISP in coordination with Finance Division and World Bank has developed an institutional mechanism for periodic increase/update of cash transfers. A committee has been constituted which will review the level of cash transfers (unconditional as well as conditional) on annual basis and

propose any increase/adjustment if deemed necessary, keeping in view all relevant factors, such as inflation, available fiscal space, number of beneficiaries, existing division between unconditional and conditional cash transfers, prevailing international best practices, etc. The Committee has proposed an increase of Rs.500 per quarter to Rs.16,633 per month w.e.f. 1st January, 2022 which has been approved by the Federal Cabinet.

- xiii. Keeping in view the vulnerability and sufferings of transgender persons, a policy has been designed and approved by the BISP Board to relax the eligibility criteria for transgender persons.

Ehsaas Taleemi Wazaif Programme

54. The Government of Pakistan is committed to Universal Primary Education as part of its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognizing that many children in BISP beneficiary households and families are not currently attending school, GoP launched a pilot of a Co-Responsibility Cash Transfer known as the Ehsaas Taleemi Wazaif Programme. Benazir Income Support Programme had started Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) called Ehsaas Taleemi Wazaif Programme linked with primary education programme in 2012 in five districts, which was expanded to 27 more districts in 2015 and 18 additional districts in 2018. In December 2019, Waseela-e-Taleem programme was expanded to 100 districts of Pakistan.

55. The overall objective of the programme is to encourage primary education through regular cash transfers for human capital development. In Waseela-e-Taleem programme two types of funds are transferred to the beneficiaries:

- i. A one-time transfer on admission compliance: and
- ii. Recurring quarterly payment on 70% attendance compliance for subsequent quarters till completion of primary education.
- iii. Each beneficiary receives a cash transfer of PKR 750/- per quarter upon meeting the admission verification in the first quarter and attendance requirement of 70% in subsequent quarters till completion of the primary education.

56. Till June 2020, Ehsaas Taleemi Wazaif programme enrolled 3.65 million children and made total disbursements of Rs. 15.71 billion to

beneficiaries whose children have been enrolled in Waseela-e-Taleem programme and are complying with 70% attendance in schools all over Pakistan. Whereas, in FY 2019-20, Ehsaas Taleemi Wazaif Programme enrolled 193,588 children and disbursed Rs. 3.71 billion to the enrolled and complying children as per eligibility criteria. Closure of schools due to COVID-19 pandemic was the reason behind low enrolments in 2019-2020.

Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship Project (EUSP)

57. Steps taken by BISP: Ehsaas Undergraduates Scholarships Project (EUSP) was launched in September 2019 with the aim to eliminate sources of unequal access to higher education. The Project envisages provision of merit and needs-based scholarships over 4-5 years of undergraduate education – including tuition fees and stipend to cover living expenses – to the qualified undergraduate students from low-income families in HEC-recognized 129 public sector Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in all regions of Pakistan, including Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Up to fifty percent (50%) of the scholarships are reserved for female students, while up to two percent (2%) are reserved for students with special needs. Under the EUSP project, the applicant students are chosen from families having a family income of Rs.45,000 per month or less. Besides the tuition fee, the students are given an annual stipend of Rs.40,000. EUSP by far is the largest undergraduate needs based scholarship scheme launched at the national level.

Welfare Programmes under Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal

58. Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) is a social welfare organization, striving hard for poverty alleviation in Pakistan and in pursuance of its objectives, PBM executes projects/schemes to assist the destitute, old, infirm, needy people, widows and orphans irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race through economic empowerment. PBM is joining hands with the deprived needy persons for better treatment, elimination of child labour, universalization of primary education through Conditional Cash Transfer Programme, expansion of social safety nets, provision of basic facilities of health and protection to the helpless old people by providing the seniors a home like environment. Rehabilitation of the disabled for respectable & independent social life is also a hallmark. Establishment of Thalassaemia Centres in collaboration with other stakeholders and provision of medical assistance to poor and deserving patients (irrespective of sex, caste, creed

or race) throughout the country under IFA-Medical are also notable achievements.

59. Pakistan Baitul Mal promotes social justice and eradication of social evils from the country through below-mentioned programmes/schemes:

Programmes	No. of Centres
Women Empowerment Centres (WEC)	156
School for Rehabilitation of Child Labour	159
Dar ul Ehsaas (Orphanages)	55
Child Support Programme	In (05) Districts
Individual Financial Assistance: i. Medical ii. Education iii. General iv. Special Friends	All over Pakistan
Ehsaas Kada (Old People Homes)	1
Thalassemia Centres	04
Civil Society/NGOs (Institutional Rehabilitation)	Providing financial aid to the registered NGOs, under public private partnership, for eye care, cataract surgery, kidney dialysis and community development.
New Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cochlear implants • Payment of fine for jail prisoners

60. PBM has decentralized the administrative and financial powers of the Managing Director to the Regional/Provincial Directors.

61. PBM has established Dar-ul-Ehsaas (DUE) all over the country to provide safe shelter, food, medical and quality education to the orphaned children. In 2019-20, 51 DUEs were functional all over the country in which 4100 children were enrolled.

Initiatives against Child Labour

62. The “Child Domestic Labour” has been inserted in the list of occupations listed in Part-I of the Schedule of Employment of Children’s Act, 1991. A notification has been issued by the Ministry of Human Rights.

63. PBM has established 159 Schools for Rehabilitation of Child Labour (SRCLs) all over the country to provide free universal education to child laborers. It is an initiative to pull out the children from bonded labor and to import them into education in line with the UN & International Labour Organizations conventions. The children involved in labour are enrolled in these schools and imparted free education up to primary level. They are provided free books, stationery, uniform/shoes and Rs.10/- daily stipend with a parents' subsistence allowance of Rs. 300/- per month. Out of 159 SRCLs, 46 are in Punjab, 20 in South Punjab, 37 in Sindh, 24 in KPK, 14 in Balochistan, 13 in ICT/AJK and 5 in G.B. About 18,258 children are enrolled in these schools. An amount of Rs.834.585 million has been utilized in F.Y. 2019-20.

Women Empowerment Centres

64. PBM established Women Empowerment Centres (WECs) all over the country to make the poor widows and orphan girls self-reliant, to train low-income group of women and to increase the capacity of trainees in traditional and non-traditional skills along with their needs and market realities and thus increase their financial security and improve their standard of living. Admission is made on first-come-first-served basis. Facilities are provided free of cost. Six-month vocational training is provided in modern professional skills like dress designing, embroidery, basic & advance computer courses, tie & dye and fabric painting besides a 3-month beautician course. Raw material is provided free of cost. A daily stipend of Rs. 50 is paid to a trainee on attendance basis. 160 WECs are functional: 36 in Punjab, 18 in South Punjab, 33 in Sindh, 30 in KPK, 22 in Balochistan, 15 in ICT/AJK and 6 in G.B. 120 trainees are trained in a WEC in each session. An amount of Rs. 566.207 million was utilized in F.Y. 2019-20.

Financial Assistance

65. PBM also provides financial assistance to poor patients for medical treatment and education stipends/scholarships to deserving students. Detail of disbursement for F.Y. 2019-20 is as under:

Year	Education		Medical		Total	
	No. of students	Amount Rs.	No. of patients	Amount Rs.	No.	Amount Rs.
2019-20	5683	155,099,375	21661	2,740,040,139	27334	2,895,139,514

Ehsaas Kada

66. PBM has established 01 “Ehsaas Kada” at Lahore (Punjab) where 42 senior citizens are being given accommodation, food, clothing and medical facilities etc.

Orthopaedic Workshop

67. Establishment of Orthopaedic Workshop at National Special Education Centre for Physically Handicapped Children, G-8/4, Islamabad: The project was developed to provide affordable and international standard orthotics and prosthetics to persons with disabilities.

Model Child Welfare Centre Hummak, Islamabad

68. Main activities of the Centre include:

- i. Pre-school nursery classes: facilitating out-of-school children aged 6 to 18 years through non-formal means of education.
- ii. Extra-curricular activities for children of nursery and non-formal education section.

Initiatives for Special Children

69. For training, rehabilitation and education of special children, initiatives for special children were funded through 03 development schemes amounting to Rs. 78.61 million under the auspices of Capital Administration & Development Division (CADD).

Feasibility Study for Establishment of Rehabilitation Centre

70. The Ministry of Human Rights carried out the Feasibility Study for Establishment of Rehabilitation Centre for Multiple Disabilities at Primary Level at H-11/4, Islamabad: PC-II of the project was approved by DDWP on 06-05-2020 at a total cost of Rs.15 million. Main objectives of the project are as follows:

- i. To provide early intervention and diagnostic / assessments services to children with multiple disabilities aged 0-5 years
- ii. To provide education and pre-vocational and vocational training/skills to children with multiple disabilities aged 6-16 years
- iii. To provide vocational/technical trainings and employment to adults in the age group of 17 to 33 years.
- iv. To provide boarding facility to students aged 6-16 years.

Resource Unit for Autistic Children

71. Establishment of Resource Unit for Autistic Children at National Special Education Centre for Mentally Retarded Children, H-8/4, Islamabad: The project was developed to provide a platform to fulfil the educational needs of children and young people on the autism spectrum. Main objective of the project is assessment of needs and early intervention to help the autistic children.

National Special Education Centre

72. Upgradation of National Special Education Centre for Visually Handicapped Children, Islamabad: PC-I of the project was approved by DDWP on 06-05-2020 at a total cost of Rs.36.8 million. Main objective of the project is to provide technological tools and equipment to make both Braille and conventional text more accessible to the visually impaired people.

Education of Hearing-Impaired Children

73. Upgradation of National Special Education Centre for Hearing-Impaired Children H-9/4, Islamabad: The project was developed to upgrade the existing Special Education Centre from Higher Secondary to Graduation Level for 100 students per annum.

Inclusive Education for Children with Disability

74. Pilot Project for Inclusive Education for Children with Disability in Public & Private Schools at ICT Islamabad: PC-I of the project was approved by DDWP on 06-05-2020 at a total cost of Rs.30. million. Main objectives of the project are:

- i. To attain the goal of mainstreaming the children with disabilities (mild & moderate) in public and private Schools.
- ii. To create awareness and educate the local community on inclusion of children with disabilities in the mainstream.
- iii. To provide educational facilities to children with disabilities under a syllabus modified according to their needs and requirements in a cost-effective manner.

Special Friends Project

75. PBM assists persons with disabilities under the Special Friends Project (SFP). As many as 5204 beneficiaries were granted financial

assistance of Rs. 608.56 million and 94 wheel chairs were issued during FY 2019-20.

Pakistan Citizens' Portal

76. The complaints lodged on PCP portal are continuously monitored and addressed in an amicable manner within due course. Out of total 62,431 complaints received by CT wing since June 2019, 61,528 complaints were resolved whereas 1,864 complaints were dropped.

Protection of Human Rights

77. The Government of Pakistan attaches high priority to promotion and protection of human rights of all its citizens as envisaged under the Constitution as well as international commitments. Accordingly, efforts are underway to safeguard human rights of all citizens with a special focus on vulnerable groups (women, children, minorities, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and transgender persons etc.) with the coordination of relevant stakeholders at the Federal, Provincial and regional level by adopting all possible measures.

78. Special initiatives for protection, promotion and realization of the rights of citizens as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan were funded through 06 development schemes for which funds amounting to Rs.300 million were allocated in PSDP 2018-19 for Ministry of Human Rights.

79. The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) at Islamabad and its four Regional Offices at provincial headquarters (Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta) are taking various measures to ensure protection and promotion of human rights. The following policy and planning initiatives were undertaken by the Ministry of Human Rights during the period under review:

- i. **National Action Plan on Human Rights:** The Action Plan on Human Rights 2016 was prepared by the Ministry of Human Rights to improve the human rights situation in the country. On the basis of progress review, lessons-learned and new dimensions of international human rights priorities, the Government has modified the Action Plan in the following major areas under the same 06 thematic priorities and 60 Actions:

- a. Immediate enactment of 10 laws related to: rights of persons with disability, prevention of torture and custodial death, Christian marriage, domestic violence, rights of senior citizen, prohibition of corporal punishment, criminalization of enforced disappearances, child marriage restraint, and reproductive health care and rights.
 - b. Effective enforcement of 18 major laws, including the newly enacted Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2020, ICT Child Protection Act, 2018, Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018 and Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018.
 - c. Establishment of Legal Aid Authority and Fund under the Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020 for free legal aid to the poor victims of human rights violations.
 - d. Implementation of the National Action Plan on protection of religious minorities against their persecution formulated by MoHR Working Group.
 - e. Implementation of the recommendations on Jail Reforms-2020 made by Implementation Commission, which was constituted by Islamabad High Court.
 - f. Working on UDHR Article 26(2): Education to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; education to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups,
 - g. Designed and launched a comprehensive media awareness campaign on child abuse, women's rights including violence against women, women's inheritance rights and protection of women and children from abuse and exploitation.
- ii. Establishment of Legal, Research and Monitoring Unit in MoHR for a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.
 - iii. The Directorate General of Special Education is providing the services of education, training and rehabilitation for children with disabilities, whereby Islamiyat is taught as a subject and many other Islamic practices are carried out to improve the lives of children.

- iv. Helpline “1099” for Legal Advice to the Victims of Human Rights Violations: The helpline provides referral services to address grievances of the victims. Public Notices have been issued in newspapers to create awareness among the masses in this regard.
- v. Upgradation of National Special Education Centre for Visually Handicapped Children, Islamabad (2020)
- vi. Inclusive Education for Children with Disability in Public & Private Schools at ICT Islamabad (2020)
- vii. Torture, Custodial Death & Custodial Rape (Prevention & Punishment) Bill 2020
- viii. ICT Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020

Human Rights Awareness Programme

80. The Ministry of Human Rights has initiated public awareness campaign on human rights education and sensitization under the action plan for human rights through seminars as well as advertisements in print and electronic media. The campaign’s target is general public, civil society, researchers, academia, students, Government functionaries and different segments of society. The campaign focuses on promotion of human rights social justice, tolerance, peace and respect, besides prevention of social evils and anti-human rights practices.

81. PC-I of the project was approved by DDWP on 12-09-2019 at a total cost of Rs.55 million. Objectives of the project are as follows:

- i. To increase the people’s understanding and knowledge about respect of human rights in Islam, fundamental human rights enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan and the domestic laws for human rights;
- ii. To sensitize rural and urban communities for behavioural change towards certain human rights issues, particularly gender-based violence;
- iii. To develop communication strategy to address major human rights issues particularly violence against women, women’s inheritance rights, child abuse, transgender persons, minorities and PWDs, etc.

- iv. To raise awareness on international human rights principles, protection mechanism and democratic governance for a peaceful society;
- v. To promote tolerance, respect for human rights and inter-faith harmony to combat religious intolerance for a peaceful society.
- vi. To disseminate information on human rights in schools, colleges, universities and public & private sector organizations.

Capacity Building

82. Young Experts Programme: In collaboration with HeP, the Ministry of Human Rights launched an innovative Young Experts Programme to give fresh graduates an opportunity to gain experience and skills in the areas of human rights and governance while working with state institutions in Pakistan.

83. Sessions were organized by MoHR at the Federal, Provincial and Regional level GB and AJK during 2019 to build the capacity of officials of relevant departments about UNCPRD, Incheon Strategy pertaining to disability and the required legislative and policy measures in response to these commitments. As a result of consultative process, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and BISP have committed to collect data on PWDs through their ongoing/upcoming surveys. Action Plan for Implementation of Incheon Strategy with the technical support of UNESCAP is under process.

Human Rights Coordination and Monitoring

84. Human Rights Coordination and Monitoring Unit for National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF): PC-I of the project was approved by DDWP on 06-05-2020 at a total cost of Rs.43.9 million. Main objectives of the project are:

- i. To establish a Human Rights Coordination and Monitoring Unit for Reporting and Follow-up as per UN guidelines for member states on HR Covenants
- ii. To establish online/digital platform and computer software for coordination and communication amongst Federal and Provincial stakeholders

- iii. To develop an outreach mechanism for inclusion of non-Governmental/ civil society entities/ individuals for mandatory inclusion and participation under the UN mechanism for reporting and follow-ups
- iv. Training and exposure of core staff/ officers of MoHR to the UN mechanisms, including online courses and coordination visits to Human Rights Council/ Treaty bodies.

Human Rights Information Management System

85. The HRIMS project has been envisaged under the Action Plan for Human Rights to institutionalize the mechanism for disaggregated data collection and technical analysis of data to monitor and evaluate the patterns of emerging human rights trends across Pakistan. PC-I of the project was approved by DDWP on 12-09-2019 at a total cost of Rs.59 million. Main objectives of the project are:

- i. To establish an integrated and computerized database on human rights for data collection, management and reporting;
- ii. To streamline data entry for easy accessibility and availability of reports at all levels;
- iii. To collect and analyse data, disseminate reliable information for interventions and formulate policy to protect and promote human rights;
- iv. To create a repository of indicators and maintain national level human rights database;
- v. To institutionalize a mechanism for disaggregated data collection, and technical analysis of data to monitor and evaluate the patterns of emerging human rights trends across Pakistan;
- vi. To provide support for evidence-based planning, development and administrative interventions for promotion and protection of human rights.

Strengthening Regional Directorates of Human Rights (RDHRs)

86. The project has been developed to strengthen and equip the RDHRs at Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta for efficient and quick disposal of business through upgradation of the existing infrastructure and necessary staff in order to provide a more efficient working environment. PC-I of the project was approved by DDWP on 12-09-2019 at a cost of Rs.59.5 million. Main objectives of the project are as follows:

- i. To equip the provincial administrative formations with logistic and administrative resources to implement the expanding mandate of Ministry of Human Rights.
- ii. To improve the human rights situation in the provinces through strengthening institutional capacities of the Regional Directorates by providing them adequate human and financial resources to carry out their mandate effectively and independently;
- iii. To build liaison with the provincial key stakeholders for obtaining data on provincial legal, policy and administrative interventions and budgetary allocations for human rights;
- iv. To connect HRIMS and collection of data on human rights from public and private institutions – including the civil society – and maintain a databank for the main depository of MIS. This will be supportive of effective strategic planning and reporting of UN Human Rights Treaties and GSP-Plus.

International Commitments

87. The Ministry of Human Rights constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Minister for Human Rights at the national level to monitor the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and other international commitments pertaining to disabilities, including the Incheon Strategy. The Committee consisted of representatives from the relevant ministry, Provincial Departments, Parliament, Civil Society, NGOs and relevant UN Agencies. Mainstreaming women with disabilities is one of the major priorities of the Government.

- i. Initial Periodic Report on CRPD to UNCRPD Committee (2019): Initial report on implementation of United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) was prepared by Ministry of Human Rights in consultation with the relevant Federal and Provincial stakeholders and submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 18th October 2019 for onward submission to concerned UN Committee.
- ii. 24th-26th combined CERD Report to UN Treaty Body (2020): The 24th-26th Combined Report on UN CERD, prepared in consultation with Federal and Provincial stakeholders was forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in

January 2020. After reviewing the CERD Report, MoFA shared its comments/observations on the Report with MoHR.

- iii. Follow-up Report on UN CAT Report: The follow-up Report was forwarded to MoFA in January, 2020 and accordingly submitted to the concerned UN Committee.

Prison Reforms

88. In November 2019, the Islamabad High Court issued an order in *Khadim Hussain v. Federation of Pakistan* (Writ Petition No. 4037/2019), establishing the Commission on Jail Reforms under the Ministry of Human Rights to investigate prison conditions and make recommendations for reform. The Ministry of Human Rights accordingly submitted reports on prison reforms for the Islamabad High Court's assistance, inter alia containing data on: the number of prisoners in each province categorized as Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs), Convicted Persons and Condemned Prisoners; the number of female inmates (including the number of mothers with children); the number of juveniles incarcerated in each province; and the number of seriously ill or terminally ill prisoners in each province (prison-wise). A comparison was made between Pakistan Prison Rules and the Mandela and Bangkok Rules with recommendations for improving the conditions in jails.

89. The Ministry of Human Rights also submitted a legal brief before the Supreme Court of Pakistan in *Raja Muhammad Nadeem v. The State* (Criminal Petition No. 299/2020), to assist the Supreme Court on the condition of prisoners across the country, and to recommend release of certain categories of prisoners. Other recommendations made by the Ministry of Human Rights in this brief included: immediate filling of vacant posts (of the 193 posts of medical officers in jails of Pakistan, 108 are vacant); reduction in overcrowding by releasing model prisoners on probation, parole and remissions; external audits of prisons; digitization of data; creation of SOPs to quicken the process for transfer of ill prisoners; and encouraging judicial visits for grant of bail and other relief to deserving prisoners. The recommendations of the Commission are being implemented and quarterly reports are being taken.

Transgender Protection Centre

90. Pilot Project for Establishment of Transgender Protection Centre, Islamabad: PC-I of the project was approved by DDWP on 06-05-2020 at a total cost of Rs.35.8 million. Main objectives of the project are:

- i. To establish Transgender Protection Centre to ensure rescue, protection and rehabilitation of transgender persons.
- ii. To provide emergency medical facilities to the transgender victims of gender-based violence and refer them to PIMs Transgender Ward or other hospitals for proper medical treatment.
- iii. To provide social and psychological counselling to cope with trauma resulting from violent incidents.
- iv. To provide legal counselling and assistance to the transgender persons in litigation.
- v. Periodic sensitization and awareness of the public servants – in particular, but not limited to – law enforcement agencies and medical institutions on issues involving the transgender persons and the requirement of protection and relief for such persons).

Community Development Centre

91. Pilot Comprehensive Community Development Centre, Sohan: The Centre played a vital role to improve socio-economic conditions of Sohan community by helping the unprivileged segment of the society with skills /craftsmanship and advocacy through vocational trainings (male & female) and awareness programmes. Special tasks include conducting TOT (Training of trainers) of the female service delivery staff on current issues e.g. disaster management, environmental protection, consumer rights etc.

Promotion of Social Justice in Government Departments

92. Establishment Division maintains a high level of discipline and ensures strict implementation of rules and regulations so that there is no case of social injustice within the Division. Besides, the Division follows proactive approach and continuously monitors the cadres it controls. The following has been reported by the attached Departments/Organizations under the administrative control of Establishment Division:

- i. National School of Public Policy (NSPP)
 - a. In all the courses being conducted at NSPP, lecture discussions and panel discussions have been added pertaining to education, children and women rights, agricultural and industrial development and decentralization of Government administration to

familiarize the participants with the challenges related to these issues.

- b. As a part of training, case studies and simulation exercises have been conducted to curb the menace of injurious drugs.
- c. As a policy matter, there is no discrimination in the NSPP, either among the participants or its employees on the basis of domicile or the social class to which they belong.
- d. Consumption of liquor and narcotics in any form remained strictly prohibited. Besides, strict discipline is enforced in the hostels as well.
- e. Administration of the NSPP performed its duties according to the rules, enabling every tier to discharge its duties efficiently and effectively.

ii. Secretariat Training Institute (STI)

Various courses of STI ensure the objective through sensitizing the participants about good governance, anger management and stress management; consequently, information on these issues helps them to reform attitudes at individual level.

iii. Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC)

The said Article of the Constitution does not directly relate to FPSC; however, the following steps taken by the Commission are relevant to clause (a), (d), (e) and (f) through employment in service of Pakistan to provide adequate representation to under-developed areas and people for promotion of economic well-being and provision of social justice:

- a) FPSC has introduced online system of recruitment due to which relevant information is available at the door step of the candidates. As the apex Federal recruiting agency, it recruits human resource against the various posts in BS-16 and above through the CSS/General Recruitment. Details are as follows:

General Direct Recruitment

Year	Applications received	Nominations made
2018	741508	2191
2019	877300	1008
2020	621157	1016

CSS Competitive Examination

Year	Applications received	Posts Allocated
2018	24010	278
2019	23403	214
2020	39630	221

- b) To provide inexpensive and expeditious justice, the Commission addresses the grievances of candidates through a prescribed mechanism. Under Section 7(3) of the FPSC Ordinance 1977, a candidate aggrieved by any decision of the FPSC may make a representation or review petition to Commission within the stipulated period. In this context, the Commission has dealt with representations and review petitions filed by various candidates during the period under report:

Year	2018	2019	2020
Representations	451	351	262
Personal Hearing	275	219	24
Review Petitions	39	28	47
Relief provided	235	184	74

iv. Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD)

- a) The PARD took lead to introduce non-formal education by establishing Masjid Maktab Schools. The prime objective of the project was to devise base and means for quick and inexpensive spread of education in the rural areas by utilizing locally available resource potential, human and material. The Academy identified Pesh Imam as a teacher and the mosque as the venue for holding classes. Intended

as a pilot project, it is still continued due to its huge contribution towards educating the rural poor.

- b) At present, this low cost project consists of 05 non-formal schools for girls and boys in the villages around district Peshawar. The Academy provides nominal remuneration to the teachers, textbooks, notebooks and some stationary to the students. A total of 142 girls and 210 boys have benefited from it over the last six years.
- c) The Academy is providing pick & drop facility exclusively for girls students of the PARD campus from the colony to various schools, colleges and universities.

v. Staff Welfare Organization (SWO)

SWO created awareness among the community of FG Employees for promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils through its cultural and social programmes and:

- a) Facilitated the low paid Federal Government Employees through its welfare services on merit.
- b) Made technical and professional education available to all on merit.
- c) Ensured equitable sharing and accessibility between all its beneficiaries.
- d) Promoted awareness of social justice, eradication of social evils by fostering cross-cultural understanding through its different programmes, seminars, symposiums, functions. Through these programmes SWO enhanced communication and interpersonal skills, open mindedness, and exposed beneficiaries to their cultural identity.

vi. Management Services Wing (MSW)

The recruitment policy circulated by MS Wing of the Establishment Division inter-alia contains a provision that attempting any extraneous influence in the recruitment process shall render the candidate liable to disqualification. No categorization exists in the employees of MS Wing on the basis of social class.

vii. Pakistan Public Administration Research Centre (PPARC)

Social evils are being eradicated: smoking is strictly disallowed in the office premises.

viii. AHK, National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD)

- a) The aims of this principle of policy were achieved through different training sessions to eradicate social evils and promote awareness on the issue.
- b) Government officials and development practitioners from all areas of the country are provided an equal opportunity to learn the various aspects of development and to contribute this knowledge and experience in the development of their regions.
- c) Training courses on issues like “Socio-economic Justice for Women Empowerment” and “Gender Mainstreaming for Rural Development” are regularly conducted to promote social justice and basic human rights.
- d) Resource persons from the Ministry of Human Rights and other relevant departments are invited to deliver sessions on human rights situation in Pakistan and deliberate on the way forward to bring improvement in social justice as per constitutional rights of the citizens of Pakistan.

93. Other Departments reported under this head as follows:

- i. Federal Board of Revenue: FBR considers social justice as the bedrock of its organizational ethos and espouses an egalitarian organizational culture whereby no discrimination whatsoever is meted out to its employees due to sexual, racial, ethnic and religious prejudices. However, if any such discrimination is reported at any level, FBR has a robust internal judicial mechanism to dispense expeditious and inexpensive justice to the aggrieved employees. All employees are taken care of through provision of facilities such as social insurance, education, stipends to the children of the employees, equal representation through regional quota and financial incentives for improvement of the living standards.

- ii. First Women Bank Limited: FWBL has in place the approved employment policy which provides equal opportunity to all the citizens and aims to discourage gender, sectarian, ethnic, religious, tribal or any other kind of discrimination. FWBL has its own approved policy for employees' leave. Under the said policy employees are provided a minimum of 15 days mandatory leave in a year and are encouraged to avail this opportunity of leisure and recreation.
- iii. Directorate General MIS/FABS took the following steps in this regard:
 - a. Equal chances are given to all staff of MIS/FABS Directorates for trainings arranged by Pakistan Audit & Accounts Academy.
 - b. Suitable conditions of work are thoroughly implemented in this office. Special measures have been adopted to save the working staff from Covid-19 pandemic.
 - c. Encouraging participation in national activities.
 - d. Use of injurious drugs, consumption of alcohol smoking in office premises, printing publication, circulation and display of obscene literature and advertisement are strictly prohibited in line with the Government guidelines.
 - e. Decentralization of administrative controls has been implemented.
- iv. National Highways Authority: NHA has performance-based policy for grant of honorarium to eradicate social injustice. Further, NHA has introduced Time Scale Promotion Policy for career progression of employees and to uplift their social standard different loans and advances are provided, i.e. loans from the Provident Fund and House Building and Car Advance. In order to promote social justice and eradicate social evils, proper training is being imparted and courses are conducted in which social, moral value, ethics and honesty are refreshed with special emphasis on delivery of optimum performance in accordance with the principles of social justice and equality. NHA has a proper accountability system which is evident from the fact that no case of harassment has so far been reported.

- v. Pakistan Post: An educational institution has been set up by Pakistan Post at P&T Colony, Lahore, in order to promote literacy and provide low cost education to children of departmental employees. Scholarships are provided to outstanding children of the employees. Healthy working environment is being provided to the employees. Officials are nominated for technical/ professional training in the various educational/technical institutes. Brochures aimed at creating awareness amongst the employees regarding injurious drugs are displayed at the Departmental Medical Centres/ dispensaries. Representations of officials seeking justice are promptly disposed of in accordance with the rules.

Protection of Consumers

94. The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has been mandated by the Competition Act to enhance economic efficiency and to protect consumers from anti-competitive behaviour. The CCP seeks to promote fair competition to ensure efficient allocation of resources in the economy through Competition Law. From the consumer perspective, it would result in the best possible choice of quality, reasonable prices and adequate supplies.

95. The Competition Act 2010 prohibits undertakings from abusing a dominate position in the market, participating in anti-competitive agreements, and resorting to deceptive marketing practices that could result in a transaction based on incorrect or inaccurate information. It also reviews mergers between undertakings that could result in significant impediments to effective competition.

96. During the period under review, the Commission's performance in terms of enforcement activities remained as follows:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
Show Cause Notices issued	24	78
Orders passed	14	16
Penalties imposed	Rs.68.25 million	Rs.246 million
Enquiry Reports	12	14
Hearings conducted	22	50
Policy Notes	02	05
Opinions	02	01

The Commission also carried out a number of advocacy related events for creating awareness and compliance of competition culture in the economy. During 2019-20, the Commission also processed 57 pre-merger clearance applications and cleared 42 exemptions.

Inclusive Financial Policy

97. Other departments under the Finance Division reported the following steps in pursuance of this principle of policy:

- i. The House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFCL) is providing finances to the citizens of Pakistan with a particular focus on low and middle-income segments of the society. HBFC is playing an active role in the economic development of Pakistan by financing the citizens purely on merit and without any bias/prejudice. HBFC has its branches in 48 cities, including Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, to ensure provision of equal opportunity of housing finance facilities in the remote areas of Pakistan. Moreover, the economic interest of all citizens, especially the lower and middle-income segments, is taken into account while designing new policies/products. During COVID-19, in order to safeguard the interest of customers, HBFC has revised the policy rate of its products to give economic relief to its customers.
- ii. The Controller General of Accounts, Directorate General MIS/FABS, ensured training on new functionality development in SAP ECC-6 (F1&HR) to the employees in all field Accounting offices through FABS' SAP experts.
- iii. The summary of initiatives undertaken by the State Bank of Pakistan is as under:
 - (a) Financial Inclusion: The SBP launched a comprehensive National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) in 2015 with clear targets of increasing adult population's access to formal financial accounts from 16 percent in 2015 to 50 percent by 2020. Moreover, it aimed to increase bank account ownership of adult women from 11 percent to 25 percent by 2020. As a result, the total number of accounts reached to around 82 million with around 65 percent active accounts as of December 2020, thus surpassing the target of 50 percent of adults with a bank

account well before the original deadline of year 2020. Female accounts from 26 percent share of the total. Other key achievements under the NFIS include the following:

- Scheme for promotion of home remittances through Mobile Wallets
- Automation of Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS)
- Launching of National Financial Literacy Programme (NFLP)
- National Financial Literacy Programme for Youth (NFLP-Y): SBP in collaboration with National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF), initiated the rollout of this 5-year programme, to be implemented in 45 districts, aiming to train 1.6 million children, adolescents and youth by March 2023. As of 2020, the programme has reached 617,595 beneficiaries. Moreover, more than 51,000 youth have been trained through E-Learning Portal, etc.

- (b) Financial Literacy of Farming Communities: Farmers' Financial Literacy Programme (FFLP) is the flagship programme of SBP. To date, four phases under this programme have been successfully completed whereby farming communities in agricultural intensive districts have been trained through awareness sessions.
- (c) Increasing Access to Finance for Agriculture: SBP continued to work closely with the banking industry for improving financial access by removing regulatory, operational and policy hurdles. In this respect, different refinance schemes aimed at increasing financial access for farming community and agro-based business units, were continued. The crop loan insurance scheme and livestock insurance scheme are amongst other initiatives.
- (d) The prudent approach of SBP and its various initiatives for promotion of agriculture finance has paid dividends in the form of robust increase in agri credit disbursement from PKR 705 billion in FY 2017 to PKR 1,215 billion in FY 2020. As a result, the institutional credit is

meeting 80 percent of the estimated demand for agricultural credit of PKR 1,518 billion in FY 2020, compared to 57 percent during FY 2017.

- (e) For FY 2020-21, SBP assigned an unprecedented indicative target of PKR 1,500 billion to agriculture financing institutions, which is 24 percent higher than last year's achievement of PKR 1,215 billion.

- iv. Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU): Employees of FMU are given several opportunities for different domestic and foreign trainings for development of their skills and knowledge.

Technical Education

98. Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC) is an autonomous body under the administrative control of Ministry of Industries & Production which provides technological backup, support and advisory services to the industrial units to facilitate industrial growth in the country besides providing entrepreneurship training and development services to young professionals for their own start-ups. The functions of PITAC are very important contributions in the growth of national economy through sustainable industrial development. PITAC indirectly provides services to alleviate poverty by the following means:

- i. Technical education to produce technologists for the industry & development of technical entrepreneurship. Resultantly, creation of job opportunities and reduction in unemployment by development of human resources.
- ii. Entrepreneurship training to facilitate the youth to develop their skills and expertise to start-up/nurture their own small business as self-sufficient successful entrepreneurs to contribute to creation of jobs rather than becoming job seekers.
- iii. Technical Assistance to young entrepreneurs in establishment of their own manufacturing workshops.
- iv. Technical Assistance to youth in running the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- v. Development of youth as vendors to industry, especially in the automobile sector.

99. Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC) has provided technical trainings to all segments of the society for employment generation. Further the company has established projects in under-developed/deprived areas of the country.

100. The National Fertilizers Corporation (NFC) under the Industries & Production Division has established a chartered university in Multan named the NFC Institute of Engineering & Technology (IET) and one Technical Institute in Faisalabad named the NFC Institute of Engineering and Fertilizer Research (IEFR). Both Institutions are imparting BSc Engineering in various disciplines, BSc Computer Sciences and BBA etc. The aforesaid Institutions are open to all persons of whatever religion, race, caste, creed, class, colour or domicile on the basis of merit and no person is denied the privileges of the University on the aforesaid grounds. All recognized teaching methods in various courses are employed by the Institutions in the prescribed manner including lectures, tutorials, discussions, seminars, demonstrations, distance learning and other methods of instruction as well as practical work in laboratories, hospitals, workshops, and other government or private organizations to enable the people of different areas to participate fully in all forms of national activities, including employment in the services of Pakistan.

Industrial Development

101. The primary aim of establishment of Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) was to set up industries in such fields where the private sector was reluctant and where a large amount of capital outlay with long gestation period was required. Secondly the object was to set up industries in backward areas with a view to generate employment opportunities and remove regional disparities in terms of development.

102. SMEDA encourages good practices that are beneficial for the society. SMEDA clients are facilitated equally, without discrimination or regional disparity.

Educational Reform

103. The promotion of social justice and the eradication of social evils has been one of the priority areas of Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) under the Ministry of IPC in terms of policy-making up to the Secondary School Certificate/Higher Secondary School Certificate (SSC/HSSC) level. In view of the above the IBCC Forum has passed a

resolution to remove the restriction of chances for students attempting to pass the SSC examination. However, such candidates will have to pass the exam in the current scheme of studies/pattern of the Boards in case of any change during the period. This resolution will prevent drop-out ratio of students who leave schooling due to weakness in some particular subject and help remove illiteracy and eradicate social evils in the society of Pakistan.

ICT Reforms

104. Ministry of Information Technology (MoIT) has promulgated Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 in order to align laws of Pakistan with technological advancements and to deal with the threats faced by the information systems in cyberspace.

105. Federal Government Determination of Underserved Areas under Rule-2 (XXIV) of USF Rules, 2006 has been invoked for the launch of next generation broadband in under-served areas of Pakistan.

106. E-Services are being established across Pakistan through Ordinance by amendments in the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-Organization) Act-1996.

107. MoIT through Universal Service Fund (USF) has initiated several infrastructure projects for the provision of Internet access in the country, particularly in the un-served and under-served areas, to mitigate the digital divide and launch special programmes for women empowerment to reduce gender inequality to promote social justice in the community.

108. To minimize the information and communication gap (digital divide) between the rural and urban communities, more than 500 Universal Telecentres are being established through the USF across the country.

109. Unemployment of ICT graduate is a major challenge being faced by Pakistan. Further, the potential employers / companies are **many a time** reluctant to hire the unemployed fresh ICT graduates due to the costs and related risks involved. In this regard, the National ICT Internship Programme has been envisioned to provide opportunities to unemployed ICT youth to get professional experience as well as develop their potential for future job placement. Further, it shall also encourage the ICT

companies to utilizing the services of these graduates by paying for the internees' stipends.

Just and Humane Working Conditions

110. It has been ensured by the Export Processing Zones Authority that no child labour should be employed in any industrial/trading units operating in the EPZs. Female employees have been provided secure & safe working environment with dignity & self-respect. No social evils are tolerated in the EPZA as well as in units operating in the EPZs.

111. At Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC), all the matters of trainees/employees are dealt on merit. There is no favouritism /discrimination meted out to any employee on any basis in the spirit of by-laws of PITAC.

- i. No one is allowed to take injurious drugs, gamble or publish and display obscene literature and advertisements on the premises of PITAC.
- ii. PITAC recruited 79 candidates on merit during the last three years.
- iii. For securing the rights of the employees of PITAC an employees' union has been registered as Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

112. NFC ensures just and humane working conditions. NFC also observes the legal provisions as per its Memorandum and Articles regarding employment of children and women.

- i. Women employees of the Company have been provided just and humane conditions of work and they are given maternity benefits i.e. leave with pay and medical cover, etc.
- ii. Illegal and immoral activities are strictly prohibited in the company. Corridor, Board Room and offices of the company have been declared as no smoking areas. Strict adherence to no smoking rules is ensured in office.

113. At Pakistan Steel we have a large setup for educational institutions/ colleges, cadet college, training and sports facilities for the employees as well as the people of surrounding area in order to address illiteracy and enable the people to participate in all forms of national and sports activities, etc.

114. Conducive environment has been provided to officers/staff at National Heritage & Culture Division. Children and women are not employed in sections/branches of the Division and its allied departments/organizations unsuited to their age or sex. People of different walks of life and areas have been given opportunity to participate fully in all forms of national activities being conducted in the Division and its allied departments/organizations. Every effort is made for prevention of printing, publication, circulation and display of obscene literature and advertisement.

Welfare of Overseas Pakistanis

115. The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development has reported the following measures in this regard:

- i. There are about 8.6 million Overseas Pakistanis (OPs) living, working and studying around the globe. In order to ensure their welfare and resolve their problems, the Ministry has established 24 offices of Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) in 16 countries. These offices maintain a close liaison with the Pakistani community as well as the concerned authorities of the host country to resolve the problems of Pakistani expatriates.
- ii. The Ministry is in process of finalization of the “National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis”. The major objectives of the policy are:
 - To promote safe, orderly and regular emigration of Pakistani workers for employment;
 - To provide a sustainable system for improving the provision of welfare services to overseas Pakistanis (particularly emigrant workers) in destination countries and support their families in Pakistan;
 - To engage Pakistani diaspora in the core development of the State as equal partners;
 - To facilitate the economic and social reintegration of returning migrants into Pakistani society and economy through relevant support mechanisms.

Promotion of remittance through normal banking channels

116. The Overseas Pakistanis are contributing in the development of the country’s economy by sending remittances, which is the second largest source of national foreign exchange for the country after exports.

117. The remittances amounted to US \$21.84 billion during the financial year 2018-19 and US \$23.12 billion during the financial year 2019-20.

118. To incentivize the Overseas Pakistanis to use formal / legal channels to send their remittances, the Federal Government has designed a “National Remittance Loyalty Programme (NRLP)” to be launched by Ministry of Finance, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI) with the collaboration of major Commercial Banks and Government agencies i.e. FBR, NADRA, OPF, Utility Stores Corporation, and the Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment, etc. through which various incentives would be given to remitters through mobile apps and cards. Remitters will be offered debit and loyalty cards in addition to a smartphone-based incentive product.

119. Earlier, State Bank of Pakistan, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Ministry of Finance had launched a joint initiative called Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI) in 2009. This initiative was undertaken to achieve the objective of facilitating/supporting, faster, cheaper, convenient and efficient flow of remittances. Under the scheme, the following incentives are being provided to the remitters/beneficiaries:

- i. No charges on sending money to Pakistan through banking channels;
- ii. Remittances can be received from Bank in cash instantly without the beneficiary having a bank account;
- iii. Remittance can also be received swiftly in beneficiary’s bank account throughout Pakistan;
- iv. Countrywide network of bank branches ensures total convenience in receipt of money by the beneficiary;
- v. In case of delayed payments, the beneficiary will receive 65 paisas per Rs1000/day for the delayed period;
- vi. One hundred free PIA air tickets per month through lucky draw; winners will be entitled to Business Class services, in-flight services, and airport assistance on arrival/departure.

Redressal of Grievances

120. To provide social justice to the employees, “E-Khuli Kacheri” has been arranged by Pakistan Railways (P.R.) Administration in all Divisional Offices as well as in Headquarters Office, Lahore. Pakistan Railways has also established the Human Resource Department, headed

by the Chief Personnel Officer at Headquarters and Divisional Personnel Officer at Divisional level. Every employee is free to seek justice. To help out the needy, a department for welfare of the employees is also working round the clock. The welfare department works as a bridge between employees and the Administration. Similarly, Grievance Committees have been constituted at Headquarters and divisional level for redressal of grievances of employees. The P.R. Inter-Divisional Sports Competition is held every year to promote the sports culture which helps in eradication of social evils.

Disposal of Cases under Land Reforms

121. Federal Land Commission, being a judicial organization, hears cases related to land reforms. Quick disposal of cases is being ensured on monthly basis for speedy justice. No partiality in respect of justice is adopted in the Commission and decisions are made after hearing the parties according to the record and merits of the case. According to the ratio of cases filed in this Commission, hearings are made on weekly and daily basis.

Development of Backward Areas

122. Balanced development is essential for sustainable economic growth; it requires efficient allocation of resources between the developed and less developed parts of the country. After the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, the Government is making all out efforts to accelerate the development of less developed areas in general and of special areas, i.e. the merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan, in particular.

123. To promote with special care the educational & economic interests of backward classes or areas and to improve socio-economic condition of the people of less developed regions, development activities were undertaken by Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI) in critical areas, i.e. communication, health, education, power, water resources, agriculture, housing, rural development and minerals. To achieve development targets, block allocation was provided for these regions.

124. During FY 2018-19, an amount of Rs. 61.5 billion was allocated for development activities in the Less Developed Regions, including Special Areas. The amount allocated for development activities in these areas was fully utilized. Details are given below:

Agency/Ministry/Division	Allocation	Utilization	%Utilized
Special Areas			
(Rupees in billions)			
Azad Jammu & Kashmir (Block Allocation)	22.0	22.5	100
Gilgit Baltistan (Block Allocation)	15.0	15.0	100
Merged Districts of KP (Block Allocation)	24.5	24.0	100
Sub Total Block Allocation	61.5	61.5	100

The funds were provided through respective Ministries/Divisions i.e. Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan Division & Finance Division. The amount is over and above the amount spent on Federally funded development projects of less developed regions of provinces.

125. During 2019-20, an amount of Rs 63.5 billion was allocated (through block allocation) for developmental activities in the less developed special areas. The amount was utilized fully. Details are given below:

(Rs. billion)	
Area	Allocation
Azad Jammu & Kashmir	24.5
Gilgit – Baltistan	15.0
Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	24.0
Total	63.5

126. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), an attached department of MoPD&SI, facilitated Government institutions in formulation of development plans & policies through generation of socio-economic data collected for different sectors via different surveys (Household Integrated Economic Survey, Labour Force Survey) and special studies.

Single National Curriculum

127. During the year 2018-19, the project titled “Establishment of National Curriculum Council (NCC) Secretariat” remained under implementation. The project is aimed at Single National Curriculum (SNC) and Teacher Training Modules to be followed by all educational institutions nationwide along with textbooks based on SNC for Grades Pre-I to XII and assessment framework on SNC for all Pakistan.

Basic Education Community Schools

128. The projects titled “Establishment and Operation of Basic Education Community Schools (BECS)” in the country, including the Federal Areas, continued its operations with support from the Federal Government while awaiting its smooth transition to the provinces following devolution of education after the 18th Amendment.

Poverty Reduction Programmes

129. Under Ehsaas programme, three (3) initiatives were assigned to M/o PD&SI to finance poverty reduction programmes:

- i. M/o PD&SI is coordinating with various Ministries/Divisions to devise pro-poor goals/Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- ii. A committee was notified to mobilize additional resources, create fiscal space for pro-poor investments and save the Government money earmarked for pro-poor projects.
- iii. A checklist was drafted to track the impact of funds allocated to various development projects on poverty and inequality.

Report on SDGs

130. Voluntary National Review report which is part of the follow-up and review mechanism of SDGs at the high-level Political Forum (HLPF), United Nations, was prepared in 2018-19.

Development of Tribal Areas

131. The following steps were reported by Ministry of States & Frontier Regions (SAFRON):

- i. Educational facilities and scholarships are being provided to the tribal students throughout the Merged Areas.
- ii. Technical Education Institutes and Skill Development Centres are available in the Merged Areas. Special attention needs to be paid to the youth in the National Programmes. Merged Areas Youth Policy is under process of approval.
- iii. For inexpensive and expeditious justice, amendments in the FCR were made back in August 2011 in consultation with the tribal people. During the year under report the local tribes allowed to settle their issues/disputes locally under Frontier Crimes (Amendments) Regulation 2011.

- iv. The Merged Areas Tribunal stands established and is functioning properly. Besides, report of Merged Areas Reforms Committee has also been under consideration of the Federal Government/Parliament.

132. Ministry of SAFRON deals with the issues relating to Afghan refugees, States and Levies as per Articles 90 and 99 of the Constitution.

RAHA Projects

133. Ministry of SAFRON is primarily responsible for the management of Afghan refugees during their temporary stay in Pakistan and to facilitate them in their voluntary repatriation. The Ministry as well as the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CCAR), in close collaboration with Provincial Commissionerates, are implementing the Refugees Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) project which benefits 80% of the local population besides the Afghan Refugees.

Summary of RAHA Projects 2019-2020 (PKR Millions)								
Year	Education		Infrastructure		WASH		Total	
	Project	Funds	Project	Funds	Project	Funds	Project	Funds
2019	5	52.06	1	15	1	25.4	7	92.46
2020	12	238.532	0	0	2	50.367	14	288.90
Total	17	290.592	1	15	3	75.767	21	381.36

GIZ Projects in Balochistan 2020

Sector	No. of Projects	Total Cost	Beneficiaries Afghan	Beneficiaries Afghan	Total Beneficiaries
Health	2	55,473,890	125,008	280,035	405,043
WASH	2	55,440,740	5,486	21,287	26,773
Livelihood	2	43,320,760	160	160	320
Youth Empowerment	1	132,803,320	8,807	13,210	22,017
Total	7	287,038,710	139,461	314,692	454,153

Acceded/Merged States

134. Ministry of SAFRON, as per business allocated under Rules of Business 1973 has the mandate, inter-alia, to deal with the affairs of former and acceded states. At the time of independence of Pakistan in 1947, sovereign States of the sub-continent were given the option either to merge with Pakistan or India. The following States decided to accede to Pakistan and signed the Instruments of Accession with the Government of Pakistan: Bahawalpur, Khairpur, Dir, Swat, Amb, Chitral, Kalat, Kharan, Lasbella, Makran, Hunza and Nagar. Subsequently, they conceded their sovereign rights to the Government of Pakistan under the Merger Agreements.

Privy Purses/Maintenance Allowance:

135. During the financial year 2019-20, maintenance allowance to the tune of Rs.42 million was disbursed to the following ex-rulers of merged and acceded states and their dependents as per provisions of the Presidential Order called “The Rulers of Acceding States (Abolition of Privy Purses and Privileges) Order, 1972”:

A. Merged States:

1.	Ameer of Bahawalpur
2.	Mir of Khairpur
3.	Dependents of Ex-Nawab of Dir
4.	Dependents of late Khan of Kalat
5.	Dependents of late Nawab of Makran

B. Acceded States:

1.	Nawab of Junagadh
2.	Khan of Manavadar
3.	Widow of late Nawab Dilawar Khan of Junagadh
4.	Dependents of late Nawab of Junagadh
5.	Sheikh Sahib of Mangrol
6.	Shareholder of Bantva Taluka
7.	Talukadar of Sultanabad

Narcotics Control

136. Ministry of Narcotics Control (MNC) is involved in various social activities like awareness campaign, seminars, walks, talk shows, rallies,

public service messages, stage dramas, Mohalla meetings, dialogues, etc. to prevent the abuse of drugs.

Drug Demand Reduction Activities

137. Information material was also distributed to educate the general masses, especially the youth and students, about the ill effects of drugs. A total of 610 anti-drug activities were conducted in 2019-20. A few of the most important were as under:

Sr.#	Anti-Drug Awareness Activities	2019-20
1.	Anti-Drug Awareness Lecture	194
2.	Anti-Drug Awareness Seminar/ Meeting	90
3.	Anti-Drug Awareness Stall	08
4.	Anti-Drug Awareness Walk	18
5.	Anti-Drug Awareness Programme on FM Radio 101	158
6.	Anti-Drug Sports 7 Yoga Activities	20
7.	Anti-Drug Awareness Session	25
8.	Anti-Drug Awareness Campaigns	14
9.	Anti-Drug Internship	02
10.	Distribution of Awareness Material	52
11.	Anti-drug awareness advertisements published on 6 th September 2019 & 26 th June 2020.	02
12.	Anti-Drug Speech / Painting Competition	02
13.	Anti-Drug Awareness through Social Media	11
14.	Anti-Drug Awareness message by promotional material	03
15.	Anti-Drug Awareness Posts on Social Media	01
16.	Display of Awareness Material Manners, Streamers/Flayers	50
17.	Anti-Drug Awareness Workshops	04
18.	Free Medical Camp	06
19.	Anti-Drug Awareness: Stage Dramas arranged by HQ & RDs	05
20.	Anti-Drug Awareness Puppet Show	11
21.	Anti-Drug Poster Competition/ Exhibition by HQ & RDs	05
22.	Anti-Drug Awareness Musical Concert	02
23.	Youth Conventions/Meetings/ Interactive sessions	06

Sr.#	Anti-Drug Awareness Activities	2019-20
24.	Anti-drug message on Mobiles through PTA on 26 th June 2019	02
25.	Drug addicts treated in Model Addiction Treatment & Rehabilitation Centres at Islamabad, Karachi & Sukkur	1008

138. The Anti-Narcotics Force has been given the mandate to counter narcotics drugs, psychotropic substances and controlled substances. Hence, ANF is playing an active role in preventing the use of injurious drugs and consumption of alcoholic liquor through drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction. The performance of ANF during 2019-20 is as under:

Convicted Cases	Acquitted Cases	Dormant Cases	Total Convicted	Conviction Rate
628	227	208	750	73%

CHAPTER-9

PROMOTION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE

(ARTICLE-38 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall–

- (a) *secure the well-being of the people, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, by raising their standard of living, by preventing the concentration of wealth and means of production and distribution in the hands of a few to the detriment of general interest and by ensuring equitable adjustment of rights between employers and employees, and landlords and tenants;*
- (b) *provide for all citizens, within the available resources of the country, facilities for work and adequate livelihood with reasonable rest and leisure;*
- (c) *provide for all persons employed in the service of Pakistan or otherwise, social security by compulsory social insurance or other means;*
- (d) *provide basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief, for all such citizens, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, as are permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment;*
- (e) *reduce disparity in the incomes and earnings of individuals, including persons in the various classes of the service of Pakistan;*
- (f) *eliminate riba as early as possible; and*
- (g) *ensure that the shares of Provinces in all Federal services, including autonomous bodies and corporations established by, or under the control of, the Federal Government, shall be secured and any omission in the allocation of the shares of the Provinces in the past shall be rectified.*

Pakistan was among the first countries to commit to the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The four global goals directly related to social protection – SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 3 (good health), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reducing inequalities) – are

of national importance and relevance to the prevailing socio-economic conditions in the country.

2. Considerable efforts to implement SDGs in four key areas i.e. institutionalizing, advocacy, mainstreaming and localization are underway. A Sub-Committee of the National Economic Council (NEC) on SDGs was constituted under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI) for continuous strategic stewardship and oversight of the Agenda 2030 at the highest level.

3. Pakistan presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report to High-level Political Forum in July 2019, which can be accessed at: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/sdg_en.pdf. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) acknowledged the progress made so far by Pakistan on SDGs and appreciated the institutional arrangements made thereof as a guide for other regional countries.

4. In November 2020, M/o PD&SI hosted SAARC Planning Ministers and SAARC Planning Secretaries meetings on 'Shaping the SAARC Vision 2030' for achieving SDGs, fighting against challenges like COVID-19 pandemic and poverty, and bringing shared prosperity based on mutual trust and cooperation.

5. Planning Commission has updated its guidelines on project formulation so that the PC-Is present data in gender-segregated manner. This step will improve informed decision-making and women empowerment initiatives will reflect the initiatives in a more transparent manner.

Public Sector Development Programme

6. Core functions of the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (PD&SI) under Schedule-II of the Rules of Business 1973, include formulation of the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), release of funds to various executing agencies and monitoring of development projects/programmes for socio-economic growth and equitable development in the country. PSDP has a pivotal role in mobilization of indigenous and foreign resources in the economy. Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) is an integral part of public investment which is prepared through a consultative process by engaging all stakeholders to achieve the development objectives planned for

economic growth, keeping in view a strong correlation between them. In order to integrate the national resources, all stakeholders including Provincial Governments and Special Areas are engaged with and persuaded to design development programmes as per regional and sectoral priorities.

7. The Economic Plan & PSDP are formulated in consultation with stakeholders and processed for approval by the NEC.

8. To improve health status of the people and to reduce burden of diseases, a series of programmes and projects were on track for which funding was provided by the Federal Government through PSDP. Allocations were made mainly to Ministry of National Health Services Regulation & Coordination (M/o NHSRC), Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. There were 35 projects of health sector at a total cost of Rs. 182,957.636 million and an amount of Rs. 17,206.445 million was allocated with releases of Rs. 8,140.414 million.

9. Following the 18th Amendment and devolution of health to provinces, the Federal funding to vertical health programmes, financed through PSDP, continued till 30th June, 2018. Henceforth, the financing of the vertical health programmes is now being dealt by respective provincial/Area Government's development budget.

10. An amount of Rs.4.00 billion was allocated in the PSDP 2018-19 for the Prime Minister National Health Programme (Sehat Sahulat Programme) in an effort to provide Universal Health Coverage to over 100 million families in the country in a phased manner.

11. A comprehensive Strategy Paper on Population and Family Planning was prepared by Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives and later on discussed with World Bank. A consultative session on 'Establishment of a network of Think Tanks on Population and Cross-Sectoral Development' was organized, which was attended by top professionals of the sector. The draft Population Chapter for 12th Five Year Plan (2018-23) was prepared in consultation with all the stakeholders.

12. The projects of Population Welfare Programme of AJK, GB and Merged Areas continued to receive financial support from the Federal

Government and an amount of Rs. 510.919 million was allocated for population sector projects.

13. M/o PD&SI approved various initiatives to implement training for skills development to enhance socio-economic well-being.

14. According to World Bank's Doing Business Report 2019, published in October 2018, Pakistan's ranking improved by 11 notches (from 147 to 136) mainly due to reforms in three areas i.e. starting a business, resolving business insolvency, and registration of property. Starting a business has been made easier by enhancing the online one-stop registration system.

15. Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), using a poverty scorecard, identified 7.7 million eligible families for single cash transfer programme. In March 2019, the Prime Minister of Pakistan launched "Ehsaas programme" to reduce inequality, investing in people and to lift lagging districts. The stringent measures adopted to correct economic fundamentals and pro-poor initiatives to protect vulnerable sections of the population from the adverse impacts will bear positive results in short to medium/ long term on the economic well-being of the populace.

16. Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) was formulated in line with the overall development agenda of the Government with special emphasis on people friendly policies for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The development plan is people-centric, prioritizing areas which trigger long-term development model. PSDP was formulated by adopting an inclusive, consultative and participatory approach. The PSDP was in accordance with the division of subjects between the Federal and Provincial Governments in the Constitution.

PSDP 2018-19

17. The Federal PSDP 2018-19 was considered by National Economic Council (NEC) in its meeting held on April 24, 2018, which recommended Rs. 800 billion, including foreign project assistance of Rs 162 billion. The new Federal Government tabled the Finance Bill in the Parliament during September 2018 carrying adjustments in the Budget 2018-19. As a result, Federal PSDP was rationalized from Rs800 billion to Rs. 675 billion, including foreign project assistance of Rs. 144 billion.

Federal PSDP 2018-19

Sector	Allocation (Rs. Billion)
<u>Infrastructure</u>	406.6
Power	72.7
Water	64.2
Transport & Communications	250.8
Physical Planning & Housing	18.9
<u>Social</u>	62.7
Education & Training	7.0
Higher Education	31.0
Health	19.0
Population Welfare	0.5
Culture, Sports, Tourism & Youth Affairs	2.3
Environment	1.3
Manpower & Employment	0.7
Mass Media	0.5
Rural Development	0.1
Social Welfare	0.04
Block Allocation	0.3
<u>Science & Information Technology</u>	7.9
<u>Governance</u>	11.8
<u>Special Areas</u>	61.5
<u>Production Sectors</u>	3.0
Industries	1.6
Food & Agriculture	1.3
Minerals	0.1
<u>ERRA</u>	6.5
<u>Special Federal Development Programme for Provinces and Special Areas</u>	37.0
Total (For Ministries/Divisions):	597.0
New Development Initiatives	-
TDPs Programme	67.0
Prime Minister's Youth and Hunarmand Pakistan	7.0
Gas Infrastructure Development Fund	4.0
Total:	675.0

Salient Features of PSDP 2018-19:

18. While rationalizing PSDP 2018-19, the following strategy was adopted:

- i. All un-approved projects were deferred except those on priority.
- ii. Projects with expenditure moved above 20% of the approved cost were protected for funding. In certain cases, allocation was adjusted both ways to speed up implementation for timely completion of the projects.
- iii. The above strategy helped to manage the shortfall as well as to maintain sustainable level of throw-forward in PSDP 2018-19.
- iv. Allocation for ongoing projects of water sector were protected including Bhasha and Mohmand Dams.
- v. Approved allocations for CPEC, education and health sectors were protected.
- vi. Allocations for AJK, Gilgit Baltistan and erstwhile FATA were kept intact.
- vii. Allocation of Rs.10 billion for erstwhile FATA under its ten years' development plan was also protected.

19. After rationalization, the features of PSDP 2018-19 emerged as under:

- i. The sectoral priorities were maintained during the FY 2018-19.
- ii. In the revised PSDP, total number of projects was reduced from 1212 to 822. Throw-forward level was also rationalized from Rs 6.4 trillion to Rs 4.4 trillion.
- iii. As per funds release strategy notified by the Finance Division, 20% of the allocated funds were released in each of the first two quarters and 30% each in 3rd and 4th quarters (rupee component only) during the financial year 2018-19.
- iv. To ensure transparency, project-wise released amount in rupees was uploaded on weekly basis on the website of M/o PD&SI.
- v. A total of Rs.677 billion was released against revised allocation of Rs.675 billion.
- vi. Excessive foreign aid was disbursed at Rs 246 billion against the budgeted allocation of Rs 144 billion during 2018-19.

Foreign aid is directly disbursed by the donors and reported by the Economic Affairs Division.

20. However, an amount of Rs. 562 billion was reported to have been utilized by the Finance Division in the fiscal operations for 2018-19.

PSDP 2019-20

21. To improve macroeconomic fundamentals and achieve stability, the Government implemented fiscal consolidation and demand management in a consumption-driven economy. This helped bring fiscal and current account deficits under control.

22. The fiscal year started on a positive note as the exchange rate stabilized, primary surplus was maintained amidst massive revenue shortfall. Current account contracted by 78% and forex reserves increased by USD 3.5 billion in June 2020 as compared to the previous year. Inflation after peaking at 14.6% in January 2020 started to decelerate and reached 8.6% in June. Fiscal deficit declined from 9.1% of GDP to 8.1% despite COVID-19.

23. Despite macroeconomic adjustments, economy contracted by 0.4% due to extreme weather conditions, sequencing of reform-related interruptions and closure of economic activity due to Covid-19. Agriculture sector grew by 2.7% in 2019-20 over 0.6% last year. Manufacturing sector posted a negative growth of 5.6% as compared to -0.7% last year. Services sector posted a negative growth of 0.6% as compared to positive growth of 3.8% last year.

24. Despite difficult economic conditions, Pakistan made great progress in improving its business ranking primarily due to integration of E-services with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the Employees Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) at the Federal level and with business registration portals.

25. Keeping in view the exigencies arising out of pandemic, policy rate was reduced to 7% and a construction package was announced to kick-start economic activity.

26. According to World Bank's Doing Business Report 2020, Pakistan's ranking further improved by 28 notches (from 136 to 108) due

to reforms in starting a business, registering property, construction permits, paying taxes, getting electricity and trading across borders.

27. Federal PSDP 2019-20 was approved by the NEC on 29th May, 2019 with a size of Rs 701 billion, including foreign assistance of Rs 128 billion. To expedite the pace of utilization of allocated funds, the procedure of release was made simple and transparent with upfront authorization and flexible quarterly ceilings during 2019-20. Ministries/ Divisions were empowered with enhanced approving powers of Divisional Development Working Party (DDWP) from Rs 60 million to Rs2,000 million.

Federal PSDP 2019-20

Sector	Allocation (Rs billion)
Infrastructure	383
Power	79
Water	71
Transport & Communications	197
Physical Planning & Housing	36
Social	61
Education /Higher Education	33
Health & population	18
Climate change	8
Others	2
Science & Information Technology	16
Governance	3
Special Areas (AJK and GB)	40
Production Sectors	13
Industries	2
Food & Agriculture	11
ERRA	5
Special Programmes – SDGs	30
Total (For Ministries/Divisions):	551
Programmes managed by Finance Division including the ADP of Merged Districts and 10 years Devolution Programme	150
Total:	701

28. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and changing international economic and social landscape, the focus of PSDP programme remained

on social sector along with infrastructure development and regional connectivity, human resource development, energy, water & food security, promotion of industrialization/SEZs, knowledge-based economy, youth & women empowerment, tourism and climate change. Authorization/ disbursement against allocations have remained up to 93 percent as of June 2020. To rationalize the demands for funds and to meet the requirement of fast-moving/important projects, PSDP progress has been reviewed three times during the year 2019-20. During the year, a sum of Rs136 billion was additionally allocated through re-appropriation/ adjustment to about 148 projects within the existing size of PSDP 2019-20.

29. To facilitate the Ministries/ Divisions, the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives in consultation with Finance Division took decisions to simplify the procedure for release of funds, fast track approval of re-appropriation proposals, making the budget available in the SAP system etc. The updated position of allocations and releases for the PSDP 2019-20 emerged as under:

(Rs billion)

Agency	Budget	Releases
Rupee Component	573	522
Foreign Aid	128	128
Total	701	650

National Internship Programme (NIP)

30. Keeping in view the varied outcomes of work-based learning component of such experiential learning opportunities for young graduates is currently one of the most influential ideas in public higher education and workforce development policies across the world. Fresh graduates have knowledge of only an academic nature and lack the experience that organizations need for intake. Internships not only provide the needed skills and practical training to the youth for gainful employment, but also provide them income until they can find a regular job. An internship is a part-time job for specific period, paid modestly, in which the interns gain knowledge while contributing to the organization in a win-win situation with ultimate benefit to the economy. Internships are highly likely to lead to employment opportunities in the organizations employing the interns. The benefit of bringing an intern into full-time employment is that he is

already familiar with the organization and usually needs little to no training.

31. The provinces have been taken on board in management of the programme for its widespread acceptability and effective implementation as the scheme is meant for whole of Pakistan (all provinces and the erstwhile FATA, GB, AJK and ICT areas).

Prime Minister's Youth Training Scheme (PMYTS)
(With NIP as implementation agency of PMYTS)

32. The NIP office under the Ministry of IPC formulated PC-I of the Prime Minister's Youth Training Scheme (PMYTS) which was approved by ECNEC on 04-09-2015 at a cost of Rs.23,594.911/- million for three years 2015-18. The stipend amount was enhanced from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.15,000/- per month w.e.f July 01, 2017 with the approval of CDWP/ECNEC. Accordingly, the total project cost enhanced to Rs. 26,690.911/- million. Further, the age limit for candidates from Balochistan, GB, FATA, AJK and southern Punjab was increased to 30 years. For the rest of Pakistan, the age limit was 25 years. The main features of PMYTS are as under:

- i. One-year paid internship for unemployed educated youth (degree/diploma holders), as a solution to their joblessness due to inexperience
- ii. Interns are placed with various public & private sector organizations all over Pakistan having functional similarity with their academic qualifications and area of specialization
- iii. The interns are at liberty to leave the programme at any stage on 15 days advance notice
- iv. The interns are entitled to a monthly stipend of Rs. 15,000/- during the course of internship
- v. The interns are issued experience certificates after successful completion of their internship as graded on a formal performance-rating mechanism.

33. Allocation of interns was made in accordance with the provincial/regional quotas. The selection is made as per their domicile but they can be placed in any organizations outside their domicile/region based on demand profile and matching of applicant profile. Annual allocation of interns in accordance with the provincial/regional quotas is as under:

Province/Region	Quota	Allocation of Interns
ICT	7.5	3750
Punjab	50%	25000
Sindh	19%	9500
Balochistan	6%	3000
KP	11.5%	5750
GB/FATA	4%	2000
Azad Kashmir	2%	1000
Total		50,000

PMYTS Achievements in 2018-2019

34. The PC-I of the Prime Minister's Youth Training Scheme was approved by the ECNEC for a period of three years (01.11.2015 to 30.10.2018) and funded under block allocation for Prime Minister's Youth Initiative. The last batch of 33,458 interns was engaged for one year training by the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination. The interns had been paid out of quarterly releases of funds. However, payment of stipend for the months of April-June 2018 could not be made on account of non-release of funds for the fourth quarter of FY 2017-18. During the financial year 2018-2019, funds to the tune of Rs.971.444 million were released to clear the outstanding liabilities of interns on account of stipend out of which an amount of Rs.866.201 million have been paid to approximately 29,000 interns having active bank accounts. The Prime Minister's Office vide a letter dated 1st January, 2019, addressed to the Ministry of Finance, directed for release of funds for payment of outstanding liabilities on account of stipend to the interns of PM's Youth Training Scheme.

35. In response to directive of the P.M Office, Finance Division has agreed to release the funds amounting to Rs. 971.444 million as Technical Supplementary Grant (TSG) for clearance of the above said liabilities. It was an achievement of the present Government to clear the outstanding liabilities of interns on account of stipend for the months of April-June 2018, amounting to Rs.866.201 million, to approximately 29,000 interns. The present Government has emphasized the urgency of payment on account of hue & cry of the interns and increasing number of legal notices from judicial forums regarding the payment of dues.

36. PC-I of the scheme was extended up to 30-06-2019 for the purpose with the approval of Secretary, IPC as per the guidelines of Planning, Development & Reforms Division.

National Youth Development Framework

37. During Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) presentation to the Prime Minister on 11-09-2018, “the Chair was pleased to express the need for revamping the PSDP portfolio and appreciated the need for continuity & expansion in scope of the ongoing Youth Development Programme, National Internship (NIP). It was also advised to involve the SECP in placement of interns in corporate sectors”.

38. On a summary submitted by the M/o IPC, the Prime Minister has been pleased to approve the proposal of “National Youth Development Framework”. Thematic areas of the framework –with internship as one of the intervention areas – are as under:-

- i. Mainstreaming marginalized Youth
- ii. Employment and Economic Empowerment
- iii. Civic Engagement
- iv. Social Protection
- v. Health & Well-being
- vi. Youth-focused Institutional Reforms

39. As per said framework, a National Youth Development Programme has been launched to implement the framework’s vision and mission at national, provincial and grassroots levels.

40. It is worthy to mention that PMYTS is in line with the vision of the present Government for enhancing the skills and capacity of the educated youth to address the ever-increasing unemployment in the country. The scheme is vital in its design, execution and result orientation which has successfully provided not only job training but prospective employees in various sectors of the public & private organizations. It also provides the much-needed financial cushion to the unemployed youth while at the same time improving their skills for future employment thus making them useful for economic integration plan.

41. The expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 11,289.920/- million. Detail of funds received from Finance Division and expenditure incurred are mentioned below:

(Rupees in Millions)

Financial Year	Funds Position (out of PSDP block allocations)		
	Released	Incurred	Surrendered
2015-16	2,500.000	240.756	2,259.244
2016-17	4,830.000	4,078.524	751.476
2017-18	6,105.077	6,104.434	-
2018-19	971.444	866.201	95.000
Total	14,406.520	11,289.920	3,105.720

Mera Pakistan Mera Ghar

42. The House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) is working to raise living standards of the population, particularly the low-income segment. HBFC is actively disbursing Mera Pakistan, Mera Ghar scheme which is subsidized for the low-income segment.

43. The low-income segment (with individual income less than Rs. 100,000/-) is being offered financing rate of one year at Karachi Interbank Offered Rate (KIBOR) plus 2% with the condition that the maximum financing rate shall not exceed 12% under any circumstances. Whereas middle income segment (with individual income less than Rs. 200,000/- is being offered a financing rate of one year at KIBOR plus 2.5 % with the condition that the maximum financing rate shall not exceed 13%. HBFC financing rate for other customers is KIBOR plus 3.0% and KIBOR plus 3.5% for salaried persons and businessmen/professionals respectively.

Implementation of Land Reforms

44. The purpose of land reforms is to uplift the economic well-being of tenants/peasants:

- i. A progressive relationship amongst the landlord and tenants is ensured so as to protect the rights of tenancy in the country through land reforms.
- ii. The Land Reforms introduced in the country are being implemented expeditiously to carry out the purpose of this Article of the Constitution.
- iii. Land resumed under land reforms is being speedily disposed of through the judicial process. The judicial cases are being decided in the Federal Land Commission to meet the overt purpose of the land reforms.

Subsidies for Consumers

45. The following items were subsidized for the consumers:

i. Petroleum Products

In order to protect the consumer during 2019-20, the Government did not pass on the hike in oil prices in the international market. It was decided to adjust the increase in prices of petroleum products through reduction in petroleum levy rates and give a subsidy of about Rs.19.68 billion during 2019-20.

ii. Electricity

Pursuant to this Article of the Principles of Policy, subsidy was being provided on electricity bills for agricultural tube wells as well as for the consumers who use up to 300 units during the period under review.

iii. Essential Items

The basic objective of the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) is to provide essential items of daily use to the poor segments of society on prices lower than those prevailing in the open market. The Corporation has decentralized the administrative work through its Head Office, 9 Zonal Offices and 64 Regional Offices to facilitate the disposal of its business. USC has more than 4000 outlets throughout the country, even at Union Council level to provide subsidized items to the community. The USC provided 5 essential commodities under the PM Relief Package worth Rs. 21 billion.

Digital Development

46. The Ministry of Information Technology is placing fresh IT graduates from various Universities in the IT industry through Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB). In addition to this, Rural Telephony & E services Programme Broadband Programme, Optical Fiber Cable Programme and special projects have been launched through Universal Service Fund (USF). The objective is to promote economic and social

well-being of the public particularly the youth. Ignite National Technology Fund and USF are striving hard for digital well-being of the society.

Transport Sector

47. Being custodian of the highway assets of Pakistan's road network, National Highways Authority is committed to provide a safe, modern and efficient transportation system. National highways function as the backbone of Pakistan's transportation system, play an important role in the development of economy and also enhance national integration by increasing social and economic interdependence among the Provinces.

48. NHA is constructing roads to link the remote areas to the main highways and motorways, which will improve the agriculture sector due to easy access to the main markets and also improve inter-provincial harmony.

49. NHA has been striving to provide safe and smooth commuting within the country by providing the national highways and motorways network all over the country with improved facilities i.e. service areas, rest areas, food corners, washrooms and auto workshops. NHA is also providing a conducive environment to its employees at headquarters and field offices.

50. Roads play a pivotal role in economic growth of any country. NHA has been entrusted with the responsibility to provide unhindered and safe road network to commuters. Therefore, NHA is committed to striving for excellence. Prominent among all big projects of motorways, and highways to connect remote areas and seaports, CPEC is an example of excellence as a game changer in the region, which will also make Pakistan a hub of economic activity in the world, particularly in the Central Asian States which are full of natural resources.

Promotion of Trade

51. Under the Rules of Business, 1973, Commerce Division has been mandated to promote foreign and domestic trade. In compliance with its mandate Commerce Division has been negotiating agreements with trading partners to gain Preferential Market Access for Pakistani exports in global markets. This plays a crucial role in social and economic wellbeing of the people of Pakistan. The ultimate purpose of these trade agreements

is to open the market to healthy competition and provide best quality products and services to the consumers. These market access initiatives also aim to increase employment opportunities in the country.

52. A number of trade agreements have been negotiated bilaterally with important trade partners which include important Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia and a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Indonesia. In addition, FTA negotiations are under way with Thailand, and Pakistan is also looking forward to bilateral trade arrangements with Japan, South Korea and Vietnam. Regionally, Pakistan is also committed to increase trade among the SAARC member countries and is part of both the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and the SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS).

53. The following amendments were made in Export Policy Order (EPO)/Import Policy Order (IPO) 2020 for facilitation of trade and industrialization in the country in order to remove the operational bottlenecks:

- i. Export of Covid-19 related items was banned to avoid possible shortages in the country.
- ii. Export of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was allowed after meeting the demand of local market.
- iii. Import of conventional disposable syringes was banned to avoid their misuse
- iv. It was made compulsory for poultry and meat products to be accompanied by Halal Certificate from an agency approved by Pakistan Halal Authority.
- v. Import/Export Authorizations were issued in the following domains:
 - a. 119 authorizations were issued for the import of duty-free cars to the disabled persons under the scheme.
 - b. Import of raw material was allowed for vaccine manufacturing by Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Government of Punjab.
 - c. Import of duty-free sugar was allowed to the tune of 300,000 tons to address the shortage of sugar in the country.
 - d. Export of wheat and wheat products was banned to avoid food crisis.

National Tariff Policy

54. Keeping in view the importance of trade for job creation and socio-economic well-being of the people, the Federal Cabinet approved the first ever National Tariff Policy, 2019-24. Through this policy. Tariff Policy Board (TPB) has been established with representations from the Finance Division, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industries and Production, Federal Board of Revenue, Board of Investment and National Tariff Commissioner. In line with the spirit of Article 38 of the Constitution, the TPB had taken the following decisions from 19th November, 2019 to 30th June, 2020:

- i. Additional Customs Duty on 1623 Tariff Lines, consisting of basic raw materials, was removed.
- ii. Customs Duty on 90 Tariff Lines, consisting of intermediate goods/inputs, not manufactured locally, was reduced from 11% to 3% and 0%.
- iii. In order to implement the “Made in Pakistan” initiative of the Government, tariffs were rationalized on 112 tariff lines.
- iv. Regulatory Duty on 36 Tariff Lines of iron & steel sector was reduced.

55. In order to curb smuggling, tariffs on smuggling-prone items were rationalized by reducing import duties.

Technical Training Programmes

56. Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC) provided techno-managerial training and technical education to the individuals as per details below:

Sr. No.	Outcomes	Selected Performance Indicators	TARGETS ACHIEVED		
			2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
i.	Provision of Technical and Managerial Training Services to Public and	No. of Courses conducted in Technical and Managerial Training	244	251	196
		No. of Trainees	2116	2055	1474
		No. of Workshop/Seminars/Symposiums for Technical and Managerial	66	72	64

Private Sector Organizations, Industries, Industrial personnel and Individuals	Training			
	No. of Participants	2518	2525	2262
	No. of Courses / Seminars for Entrepreneurship Development	2	9	2
	No. of Participants	150	1490	23
	No. of trainees in Apprenticeship Training Programme (for Engineers and Technicians) and Internship Training Programme (for Students)	100	68	58
	No. of technologists under Technical Education Programme of Three (03) Years Diploma of Associate Engineer (DAE) in PITAC College of Technology	150	293	416
Total		5346	6763	4495

Support for industries

57. The detail of technological backup and advisory services provided to the industries by PHAC in respect of Engineering-related jobs (manufacturing/designing) is as under:

Sr. No	Outcomes	Selected Performance Indicators	Targets Achieved (in Nos.)		
			2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
i.	Provision of Technological Backup Support and Advisory Services to Industry.	Computer Aided Designing (CAD) of engineering products, precision parts, prototypes & production tooling (including dyes, moulds, jigs, fixtures, precision inspection gauges etc.)	102	236	77
		Computer Aided Machining (CAM) of above-mentioned engineering products	167	390	1281
		Reverse engineering of the engineering products	38	70	46
		Conventional machining of the engineering products	1026	1078	1438
		Inspection services of the engineering products	339	903	773
		Heat treatment of the engineering products	266	386	81
		Super-finishing of the engineering products	39	370	64
		Tool Room Machining of the engineering products	288	706	209
		Refrigeration & air conditioning	0	0	12

Sr. No	Outcomes	Selected Performance Indicators	Targets Achieved (in Nos.)		
			2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
		services			
ii.		Development of engineering parts through press working, casting, molding, welding etc.	0	0	1943
iii.		Advisory services to industries	26	12	15
Total			2291	4151	5939

Efforts to Enhance Industrial Productivity

58. The National Productivity Organization works for promotion of social and economic well-being of the people through capacity building programmes on productivity and by executing projects of entrepreneurship development.

- i. National Productivity Master Plan: NPO acquired the support of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan, in developing a National Productivity Master Plan on the basis of PQI Framework.
- ii. PSDP project on “Improving Competitiveness through Sustainable National Productivity”: NPO developed the PSDP to complement the productivity master plan funded by APO.
- iii. PSDP Plus on Mobilizing Private Sector investment for Establishment of Micro Hydro Power Plants: The concept clearance was acquired from Prime Minister Office during the period under report.
- iv. Establishment of Centre of Excellence on Digital Learning for Enhancing Productivity in Higher Education: NPO developed the project jointly with the HEC, Virtual University & National Institute for Higher Education (NIHE).
- v. Special Account for Business Recovery & Resilience: APO Secretary-General Dr. AKP Mochtan proposed that a Special Account be established to assist member countries in strengthening the resilience of economies and businesses in recovery from the impact of COVID-19. APO allocated special budget for each country under the Special Account.

There would be three programme initiatives under the Special Account for Business Recovery and Resilience.

- Resource Persons
 - Equipment
 - Logistics/ Operational Expenses
- vi. APO initially allocated USD 90,000 for SMEs and other critical sectors including health sector development and productivity improvement in Pakistan.
- vii. Earlier, following projects / programme were carried out by NPO to support social and economic well-being of the people through promotion of productivity:
- a. The project “Made in Gilgit” was successfully completed for providing training and platform to the entrepreneurs of Gilgit to display their products in the market by organizing exhibitions in Lahore and Islamabad
 - b. Women Entrepreneurship Development System (WEDS) was established in Multan
 - c. NPO Organized Exhibition for Women Entrepreneurs project was organized.
 - d. Two Trade Fairs & Mega Exhibitions were organized for young entrepreneurs of South Punjab
 - e. Development of Productivity Practitioners course was organized.
 - f. Bench-marking studies were conducted on Fan, Textile, Cotton and Surgical sectors to identify gaps relating to Corporate Social Responsibility & Productivity.
 - g. Development of Productivity Practitioners Programme (based on APO curricula) was successfully launched.
 - h. NPO Service Rules were revised for the well-being of its employees and rationalized the employees’ salaries keeping in view the inflation.

59. The role of Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) was redefined during 2004-05 with a view to facilitate the pace of industrialization in the country and in line with Government’s initiative for strategic development & competitiveness and to develop non-traditional

and unorganized sectors for accelerated growth in exports from Pakistan through the private sector.

60. Karachi Export Processing zone (KEPZ) is the first project of Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA). It is established on an area of 305 acres in two phases (Phase-I & II). Both Phase-I & II have been fully colonized. For further expansion of KEPZ, Phase-III development work on 80 acres of land is in progress. It is likely to create around eight to ten thousand jobs and accelerate industrial development. The project completion timeline will be around three (3) years from the date of approval of PC-I on the appropriate forums.

Privatization Programme

61. The implementation of Privatization Programme of the Government for economic reforms and restructuring is aimed at creating a private sector with better employment opportunities, providing efficient & cost-effective services to the citizens/consumers and ultimately contributing to economic & social well-being of the people of Pakistan. Privatization is an important policy tool for generating growth and addressing structural imbalances by removing artificial barriers, attracting investment, and opening up the economy to competition. The programme is a part of economic reforms agenda which aims to create a dynamic and vibrant environment of deregulation, good governance and restructuring of public entities. It is aimed at harnessing the private sector's capital and managerial expertise as an engine of growth that ultimately supports development and productivity in the economy. The initiative is fruitful for provision of efficient & cost-effective services to the citizens/ consumers, leading to economic & social well-being of the people of Pakistan.

62. Focus of the Privatisation Programme is four-fold:

- i. Revival and turn-around of the loss-making Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) by bringing in strategic partnerships from the private sector concerns possessing requisite technical, financial and management expertise;
- ii. Divestment of shares of the profitable PSEs to broaden the investor base ensuring the benefits of enhanced corporate governance to more people;
- iii. Unlock the true commercial potential of better performing PSEs by bringing in strategic private sector partners

- possessing sectoral, financial and management expertise;
and
- iv. Disposal of unutilized/under-utilized real estate assets of the Government and PSEs.

63. Pursuant to provisions of the Privatisation Commission Ordinance, 2000, the privatisation proceeds are utilized by the Federal Government for poverty alleviation programmes (10%) and retirement of Federal Government debt (90%).

64. The Government is focusing on Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) reforms agenda and implementing the privatisation programme, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCoP) on 31st October 2018 and ratified by the Cabinet on 1st November 2018. The programme is being reviewed periodically by the Privatisation Commission and the CCoP. At present, Ministry of Privatisation is processing privatisation/divestment of the following nineteen (19) PSEs, pertaining to different sectors like energy, banking, insurance, and industries. Concurrently, privatization of twenty-eight (28) properties/assets, owned by various Ministries/ Divisions, was also being processed.

Active Privatisation Programme

S#	Name of PSEs
1.	1223 MW Balloki Power Plant
	1230 MW Haveli Bahadur Power Plant
2.	SME Bank Limited
3.	First Women Bank Limited
4.	Services International Hotel, Lahore
5.	Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad
6.	Mari Petroleum Limited (divestment of remaining shares)
7.	Pakistan Steel Mills

S#	Name of PSEs
8.	Pakistan Engineering Company (PECO)
9.	Heavy Electrical Complex (HEC)
10.	Sindh Engineering Limited (SEL)
11.	House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC)
12.	Pakistan Re-Insurance Co. Ltd. (PakRe)
13.	State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC)
14.	Oil and Gas development Company Limited (OGDCL)
15.	Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL)
16.	Guddu Power Plant (747 MW) - Central Power Generation Company Ltd – CPGCL (GENCO – II)
17.	Nandipur Power Plant (425 MW) – Northern Power Generation Company Ltd – NPGCL (GENCO – III)
18.	PIA-IL – Roosevelt Hotel, NY
19.	Sale of Identified Properties/ Assets of Federal Government Organizations

65. Ten (10) under-utilized properties were auctioned in 2020, fetching proceeds of Rs.920 million. This activity created investment opportunities for the domestic investors.

66. The Privatisation Commission is actively pursuing the privatisation process of entities like 02 Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) Power Plants, sale of 03 financial institutions (SME Bank, First Women Bank and House Building Finance), sale of 02 real estate entities (Services Int'l Hotel, Lahore and Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad), revival of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM), Privatisation of Heavy Electrical Complex and divestment of minority shares of Pakistan Re-Insurance Co. Ltd.

67. During 2019-20, transaction structures of above-mentioned entities were approved by the Federal Cabinet. Investors were also pre-qualified for participation in bidding processes of 02 RLNG Power Plants, SME Bank, Services International Hotel, Lahore and Heavy Electrical Complex.

68. Expression of Interests for Investors for First Women Bank, House Building Finance Corporation, Pakistan Steel Mills and PakRe will be invited in the first quarter of 2021-22.

Development of Power Sector

69. The Ministry of Energy (Power Division) is playing its role for the social and economic well-being of the general public in accordance with its assigned functions. In order to provide relief to the general public from load-shedding, the present Government has taken a number of initiatives to enhance the generation capacity of electricity through various short and long term plans. The vision of the Ministry is to develop the most efficient and consumer-centric power generation, transmission, and distribution system that meets the needs of its population and boosts its economy in a sustainable and affordable manner.

Redressal of Complaints

70. In order to provide direct access to the general public for redressal of their complaints, complaint centres have been established which are working 24/7 to deal with public complaints. Cloud-Based Mobile Customer Relationship Management (CRM) facility commonly known as ‘‘ROSHNI’’ has been set up for rapid complaints redressal within target time. The CRM service includes SMS, Voice & Email-based services. Automated alert for planned power outage, bill payment information and load shedding schedules are provided to the consumers through this facility. Resultantly, complaint redressal time has been significantly reduced.

71. A Federal Complaint Cell (FCC) has also been established in the Ministry to ensure fairness in dealing with public complaints. The FCC is working 24/7 in the Ministry for handling public grievances related to electricity.

72. A project of mobile meter-reading is being carried out in various power distribution companies, as per guidelines and directions of the Ministry of Energy (Power Division), to ensure enhanced transparency

and to eliminate overbilling, wrong billing and theft of electricity. Amendments in the anti-electricity theft law under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2016 have also been introduced through the Parliament, whereby stringent punishments have been provided against those involved in power theft. To ensure uninterrupted power supply to consumers, various steps were taken like tree trimming, tightening of jumpers, bus bar of distribution transformers on 100KVA & 200KVA, sagging of loose spans, replacement of HT/LT joints, balancing of transformers, augmentation of transformers, bifurcation & reconditioning of feeders and creation of new grid stations. Online system has been introduced to enable the general public to submit applications for new connection through the Internet. The safety department is playing an active role to ensure safety SOPs and to redress complaints regarding safety measures and identify and remove hazardous points. GIS project has been started by some DISCOS which will help the companies to reduce technical losses and address consumer complaints. In order to provide relief to the general public, cheap and efficient power generation projects based on water and coal are in process. PPIB managed to add about 17551 MW of electricity in the national grid which is about 50% of the country's present installed capacity. Furthermore, power projects of around 12,028 MW based on water and coal are in pipeline to provide relief to general public.

Development of Oil Sector

Oil production

73. Annual consumption of petroleum products in the country was around 20.03 million tons during 2018-19 and around 17.60 million tons during 2019-20. Indigenous crude oil meets only 17% of the total requirements while 83% requirements are met through imports in the shape of crude oil and refined petroleum products. The indigenous and imported crude is refined by six major and two small refineries. During 2018-19 indigenous oil refineries produced 11.7 million tons and 12 million tons of POL products respectively. The oil refineries processed imported crude amounting to around 8.9 million tons and 3.5 million tons indigenous crude/condensate.

Oil Marketing Policy

74. In pursuance of deregulation, liberalization and privatization reforms policy of Government of Pakistan, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources has adopted phase-wise deregulation of petroleum sector.

75. As per policy, locally produced HSD has the ‘first right of consumption’ i.e. production of local refineries has to be uplifted first. Only the deficit balance demand is met through imports. Import of deficit petroleum products has been deregulated under the Government policy. Pakistan State Oil (PSO) imports about 1.5 million tons of HSD and 100% of Furnace Oil. Import of MS (Petrol) is also arranged by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to meet the demand. OMCs are importing Mogas (Petrol) and Diesel oil from the international market on the cost competition basis through open tenders. The major supply of diesel oil is arranged from Kuwait on long-term contract basis by PSO while the remaining balance is procured by OMCs through open tenders from the Gulf region.

76. Pakistan offers good opportunity for establishment of new oil marketing companies and new oil refinery project in view of the fast-growing petroleum products market. In order to create a healthy competition, achieve efficiencies and attract investment in downstream oil sector, following steps have been taken by the Government:

- i. Import of deficit fuel oil is deregulated and Oil Marketing Companies, Power Plants, Industrial Consumers, traders and private parties are allowed to import deficit fuel oil, as determined by the Oil Companies Advisory Committee and product review meetings.
- ii. Import of deficit HSD has been outsourced to OMCs whereby OMCs are responsible to manage the import on competitive prices. Besides, bulk consumers are also allowed to import deficit HSD for their own consumption.
- iii. Criteria has been developed for establishment of new oil marketing companies in the country which requires a minimum investment of Rs.500 million over a period of three years after obtaining the marketing licence for infrastructure/storage and retail outlets development with upfront equity of Rs.100 million at the time of grant of licence.
- iv. A new state of the Art oil refinery project with a capacity of 100,000 barrels per day, set up at Coastal Area of Balochistan – especially at Gawadar, can avail a 20 years tax holiday.

Collection of Revenue

77. During the period 2018-19 to 2019-20, the Government earned revenue on petroleum products as follows:

(Rs. in billions)		
Earning through	Financial year (2018-19)	Financial year (2019-20)
Petroleum Levy	206.28	292.09
Discount	13.93	13.45
Windfall Levy	7.17	5.17

Fuel efficiency/quality achievements

78. Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) considered the proposal for import of Euro-V Diesel (35% of the demand) /Petrol (70% of the demand) in its meeting held on 4th June, 2020, and decided as under:

- i) The process of switching of petrol imports to Euro-V specification shall be initiated forthwith. Imports of petrol below Euro-V specification shall not be allowed to any OMC beyond 1st September, 2020.
- ii) All imports of diesel shall conform to Euro-V specification with effect from January 2021. In the interim period, efforts shall be made to import Euro-V; however, in case of non-availability, diesel of Euro -1V specification shall be imported under the long-term agreement with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

79. Subsequently, the entire import of petrol and diesel was shifted to Euro V.

Upgradation of existing refineries

80. To move the local products to Euro V, the current refineries require major upgradation into deep conversion refineries. Therefore, the Government is striving to upgrade the existing oil refineries and has directed refineries to upgrade their infrastructure to produce Euro-V fuels and to convert furnace oil into valuable products.

- i. The ARL and NRL refineries have recently upgraded the old plants with an investment of over Rs.35 billion for producing Euro-2. PARCO switched to Euro-3 over a few months back while Byco and PRL are still under the process of upgradation
- ii. Up-grading to deep conversion would require considerable time (about 4 years) and a substantial investment of about

- Rs.100 billion for each refinery, and also require Government support.
- iii. Petroleum Division has established a committee to facilitate the refineries' funding from financial institutions as well as incentivize them for payback through oil pricing.
 - iv. The existing refineries are meeting 50% of the country's fuel demand, saving forex of about US\$ 500 to \$700 million per annum.
 - v. Upgradation of the existing refineries to meet Euro-V specifications would require considerable time (about 5 years) and substantial investment, about Rs 3.5 billion i.e Rs 560 billion), besides Government support.
 - vi. Consequently, on the directives of Prime Minister Office, the Petroleum Division has formulated a draft Refinery Policy, offering an attractive fiscal package to encourage the existing refineries to upgrade and produce Euro-V standard fuels.

Upcoming Refinery Project

81. Pak Arab Refinery Limited (PARCO) is implementing the PARCO Coastal Refinery project at Khalifa Point near Hub, Balochistan as a state-of-the-art deep conversion oil refinery having a capacity of 250,000-300,000 (11 million tons per annum).

- i. Estimated cost of the project is US\$5 to 7 billion. The project sponsors are in process of selection of Process Licensor for implementation.
- ii. On the directive of the Prime Minister, 1811 acres of land has been transferred to PARCO for the establishment of PARCO Coastal Refinery at Khalifa Point.
- iii. PARCO has completed the Techno-Economic Feasibility Study and is expecting target completion by year 2024-2025.

Development of Gas Sector

82. Natural Gas is a clean, efficient, economical and environment friendly fuel. Its indigenous supplies contribute about 38% of the total primary energy mix in the country. The Government is pursuing its policies of enhancing gas production to meet the increasing demand of energy in the country through aggressive exploration activities. Natural Gas consumption including Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) remained 3,930 MMCFD during 2018-19.

Sectoral Gas Consumption

83. The sector-wise gas consumption in Million Cubic Feet per Day (MMCFD) alongwith percentage during 2018-19 is mentioned below:

Unit: MMCFD

Sectors	Natural Gas (Indigenous)	RLNG	Total	Percentage
Power	892	624	1,516	38.6%
Domestic	849		849	21.6%
Commercial	81	6	87	2.2%
Transport (CNG)	133	45	178	4.5%
Fertilizer	611	40	651	16.6%
General Industry	471	178	649	16.5%
Total	3,037	893	3,930	100%

New Connections

84. With the intention to benefit maximum households, gas utility companies have set their objective to enhance consumer base. The company-wise and category-wise new gas connections provided during Fiscal Year 2017-18, 2018-19 and the accumulative status as on 30.06.2019 is given below:

SNGPL

Sectors	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Status as on 30.06.2019
Domestic	602,057	427,768	6,622,551
Commercial	2,746	2,523	58,822
Industry	116	120	5,991
Total	604,919	430,411	6,687,364

SSGCL

Sectors	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Status as on 30.06.2019
Domestic	89,070	114,761	2,990,311
Commercial	311	1,232	24,597
Industrial	17	94	4,270
Total	89,398	116,087	3,019,178

Extension in Transmission and Distribution Network

85. The gas utility companies are focused on extending their infrastructure by laying additional transmission & distribution pipelines. The company-wise details of gas network extended during fiscal year 2017-18, 2018-19 and its accumulative status as on 30.06.2019 is given below:

SNGPL

(Figures in Km)

Gas Pipeline Network	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Status as on 30.06.2019
Transmission Network	330	141	9,017
Distribution Mains	12,933	5,130	105,836
Services	2,044	1,461	26,832
Total	15,307	6,732	141,685

SSGCL

(Figures in Km)

Gas Pipeline Network	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Status as on 30.06.2019
Transmission Network	57	-	4,054
Distribution Mains	458	476	36,365
Services	231	308	10,628
Total	746	784	51,047

1st LNG Terminal Commissioning:

86. Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) and Engro Energy Terminal (Pvt) Limited (EETPL) executed a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Services Agreement (LSA) on 30th April 2014 for provision of LNG receiving, storage and re-gasification services for 15 years under a levelled tolling fee of US\$ 0.66/ MMBTU. The first LNG re-gasification terminal was commissioned on 27th March 2015. The terminal has re-gasification capacity of 600 MMCFD. In the period under report the tolling tariff was US\$ 0.48/ MMBTU for 600 MMCFD. A total of 395 LNG cargoes have been handled at the 1st LNG Terminal.

2nd LNG Terminal Commissioning:

87. To establish the 2nd LNG re-gasification Terminal, PLTL signed an operation and services agreement (OSA) with Gas Port Consortium Limited (PGPCL) on 01-07-2016 for a period of 15 years, at a levelled

tolling fee of US\$ 0.4177/MMBTU for 600 MMCFD. The terminal was commissioned on 4th January, 2018. The terminal has a re-gasification capacity of 600 MMCFD. Since January 2018, 170 LNG cargoes have been handled at the 2nd LNG Terminal.

LNG Imports

88. Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL), through a bid process, has also awarded a term contract to M/s ENI in April, 2017 for supply of 0.75 MTPA for a period of fifteen (15) years, at a price of 11.6247% of Brent during year 1-2, 11.95% of Brent during year 3-4 and 12.14% of Brent during years 5-15. PLL is also importing LNG through spot tenders to meet additional gas demands in the country.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

89. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is produced through either extraction from raw natural gas or at oil refineries. It consists of mainly propane (40%) and butane (60%). LPG is a portable, clean and efficient energy source which is readily available to consumers around the world.

- i. In order to meet LPG demands in the country, nearly 48% of total LPG supplies were imported during 2019-2020 with details given below:

Source	Metric Tons (MT)	MT/day	Share %
Local	754,496	2,067	52
Sea	337,194	924	24
Land	350,495	960	24

- ii. There are 6 Exploration & Production companies (OGDCL, PPL, MOL, UEPL, POL and OPL) which are producing LPG from 12 plants on field-sites. Besides, there are 5 refineries (ARL, PRL, NRL, PARCO & BYCO) producing LPG. In addition, Jamshoro Joint Venture Limited (JJVL) was also producing LPG till June, 2020 from its extraction plant installed on SSGCL's gas transmission pipeline. During FY 2019-20, the average production of domestic LPG was around 2,067 Metric Tons per day (MT/day) as follows:

Source	Metric Tons (MT)	MT/day	Share %
E&P	502,984	1,378	67

Refinery	161,434	442	21
Plant	90,078	247	12

- iii. Nearly 26 companies are involved in import of LPG in the private sector. Import of LPG through sea is handled mainly on LPG terminals in Karachi and Gwadar.
- iv. LPG marketing companies are required to develop adequate LPG storage facilities in the country in accordance with the provisions of licence granted by OGRA. The detail of storages of LPG Marketing Companies, Producers and Terminals are as under:

Sr. No.	Category	Storage Capacity (MT)	Share %
1	E&P Companies	7,757	12
2	Refineries	5,520	8
3	LPG Marketing Companies	41,364	61
4	Import Terminals	13,120	19
Total		67,761	100

Development of Mineral Sector

90. As per Constitutional provisions, all minerals other than mineral oil, natural gas and nuclear substances are a Provincial subject. Executive authority for exploration & development, its regulation and grant of exploration licences/mining leases rests with the Provinces. The Federal Government is mandated with geological surveys, national policies/plans formulation, facilitation and coordination at national and international levels.

91. The Government of Pakistan has been encouraging investment in the minerals sector. It announced first National Mineral Policy in 1995. With a view to ensure alignment with the contemporary practices and enhance international competitiveness of the sector, the National Mineral Policy was updated in 2013 in consultation with all the stakeholders/Provinces.

92. As per its Constitutional mandate, the Federal Government facilitates investment in development of indigenous mineral resources through information dissemination, declaration of special economic/export processing zone and protection of investment under treaties etc. During 2019-20, the following activities were carried out for development of mineral sector:

- i. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Pakistan on 17.02.2019 regarding bilateral economic cooperation in the mineral resources sector. In follow-up of this MoU, Pakistani delegation visited the KSA to ascertain mining and processing expertise of the Saudi side. After due consultation with the Provinces and concerned Federal organizations, the following implementation proposals have been identified for possible joint ventures with the KSA in the first phase:
 - a) Establishment of Steel Mill based on iron ore of Chiniot in Punjab and Chagai in Balochistan.
 - b) Development of Barite-Lead-Zinc Project of Balochistan and setting up of a processing facility/metals refinery in combination with the production of Duddar Lead-Zinc Project.
 - c) Surface Coal Gasification of Thar Coal, Sindh; and
 - d) Exploration and development of metallic mineral resources of Chagai District, Balochistan, other than Reko-Diq and Saindak.
- ii. Working continued to establish Balochistan Minerals Exploration Company Limited (BMEC) as a joint venture with the Provincial Government to promote large-scale mining in the mineral rich province.
- iii. An investment facilitation project called “Establishment of National Minerals Data Centre (NMDC)” has been prepared at Federal level through PSDP at a cost of Rs.295 million to maintain data repository encompassing the available geo-technical data as well as administrative details about licensing, granted mineral titles and the areas applied for mining concessions. The NMDC will comprise an integrated system of the units located in each Province and other concerned organizations (Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP), etc.) and connected to a central setup managed by the Mineral Wing of Petroleum Division. This arrangement would enable ready access to the basic data required by the

prospective investors and is thus a step for facilitation of doing business.

- iv. GSP carries out resource mapping and mineral investigation surveys on regular basis and also assists other organizations (local or foreign) for such jobs. GSP is carrying out geo-chemical investigation of Pakistan in collaboration with China.
- v. Action is underway for revamping of Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) and restructuring of GSP for better service delivery to help exploration and development of indigenous mineral resources.
- vi. Continued support for smooth operation of mineral sector projects like Saindak Copper-Gold, Duddar Lead-Zinc, Barite-Lead-Zinc, Chiniot Iron Ore and mining projects of rock salt and coal.
- vii. Consultation process with stakeholders was initiated for formulation of policy framework to promote the use of indigenous coal resources for synthesis of gas and liquid fuels.
- viii. Preparation and processing of mineral sector project portfolios and suggestions for bilateral cooperation with international aid agencies, including technical cooperation between Pakistan, China, Turkey, Iran, Thailand, Nepal and Sri Lanka, etc.
- ix. The national and international mineral sector companies were facilitated in obtaining security clearance and work visas for their expatriates to enable them to work at mineral fields/sites for the projects of copper, gold, lead, zinc, barite, iron, marble and granite etc. in Pakistan.

93. Geological Survey of Pakistan is an attached department of Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division). GSP is a premier national organization in the field of geosciences. The organization is responsible for investigations in earth resources/natural resources of the country through geological, geophysical & geochemical studies and drilling all over the country. The GSP, under its charter and mandate, undertakes

geological mapping of the country on appropriate scales for scientific assessment of its mineral potential. For the financial year 2018-19, a total of Rs. 489 million was allocated in the regular budget and Rs. 573.175 million in the PSDP for four ongoing development projects. The efforts have been concentrated towards mineral exploration projects (including iron ore, coal, copper, gold, chromite) Geological mapping projects in different areas of the country, as well as geotechnical/geo-hazards, medical geology, geochemical, stratigraphy and paleontological studies. An area of about 4,480 sq. km has been geologically mapped for mineral exploration. Around 487 samples were taken in this time period while conducting the geological field work/survey and geochemical analysis has been done on them in state-of-the-art Laboratories of GSP. Metallic & metallic mineral exploration projects were carried out in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Sindh and Punjab with the objective to tap the hidden resources. Geo-hazards and medical geology studies in Punjab and Balochistan were aimed to know the impacts of mining/mineral extraction to the masses and to demarcate the geohazard areas. Furthermore, a total of four ongoing development projects have been executed in the year 2018-19. Two in the fuel (coal) sector, in Sindh (Badin) & Balochistan (Kohul-Barkhan), with the objective to explore the coal reserves of the country, and two in the mineral sector in the province of Balochistan (Quetta & Uthal, Bela areas) with the aim to explore the mineral resources.

94. GSP reported for the fiscal year 2018-19 as follows:

i Regional Geological Mapping on 1:50,000 Scale

GSP has completed the geological mapping of the entire outcrop area of the Balochistan and adjacent areas of Sindh and Punjab on 1:250,000 scale. In 2018-19, the preliminary geological mapping of approximately 4,480 sq/ km area on 1:50,000 scale has been completed in different parts of the country. The mapping covers 1920 sq. km. area in Balochistan; 640 sq. km. in Punjab, 640 sq. km. area in KPK, 640 sq. km. in Northern Areas / Gilgit Baltistan and 640 sq. km area in Sindh.

ii Economic Geology

During this period, investigations were carried out for the following Economic Geology project:

- Exploration studies of Metallic and Non-metallic Mineralization along the Turkho River and its surrounding area in Upper Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.
- Exploration and Evaluation of Metallic Minerals & Non-Metallic Minerals along Indus Suture Zone (ISZ) in Swat and Shangla District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Salt Lake occurrences and their significance in coastal areas of Sindh province.
- Evaluation of resources for construction material in Sulaiman Range, DG Khan.

iii Research Studies

- Studies to prepare “Landslide Susceptibility Map of Gahkuch, District Ghizer, GB”.
- Geo-Hazard studies carried out in Mirpur area AJK entitled “Geological setting, geohazard assessment, and geotechnical aspects of the Mirpur earthquake 2019”.
- Impact of Lead/Zinc Mining on environment and human health in Duddar, Lasbela.
- Landslide hazard mapping along the Muzaffarabad Athmuqam Trunk road in Neelum and Muzaffarabad District, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan.
- Study of environmental contaminants in effluents, surface and ground water, flora and fauna of Kasur area due to tanning industry.
- Updating of geological map of Ranikot, district Jamshoro, Sindh.
- Updating & Digitization of Mineral Map of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

iv. Geophysical Exploration

More than 200 sq. km area has been mapped by magnetic survey in Muslim Bagh, Khanozai and Qilla Saifullah area under the approved annual programme of GSP Resistivity Survey carried out in Nosham Area under the PSDP Project

‘‘Exploration and Evaluation of Coal in Nosham and Bahlol Areas, Balochistan’’.

v Chemical Analysis

487 samples analysed by using XRD/DTA, ED-XRF, Scanning Electronic Microscope (SEM) EDS for 1367 estimations at Geoscience Labs, Islamabad, Quetta and Lahore.

vi Drilling Operations

Geological Survey of Pakistan undertakes drilling operations under PSDP and Annual Field Programme. During this period, GSP executed drilling operation under PSDP project for coal exploration and completed drilling of 1st borehole (BNCP#01) at Nosham area, District Barkhan, down to the depth of 297 meters (under the PSDP project).

vii Geochemical Mapping: Pak-Sino Geological Surveys

A collaborative project between GSP and China Geological Survey (CGS) was initiated during the 2015-16 under an MoU between two countries, with an objective to geochemically map the country and to collect the geochemical stream sediments from all over Pakistan. Up till now more than 4,980 stream sediment samples were collected from 360,000 sq.km. area on 1:1,000,000 scale from Punjab, Sindh, KPK, Balochsitan, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. The potential anomalies will be chosen for further work on 1:250,000 scale to extend the investigations. The collected samples are being analysed for 69 elements.

viii. Appraisal of Newly Discovered Coal Resources of Badin and its Adjoining Areas

The main objective of the project is to discover new coal resources buried under alluvium in Badin and its adjoining areas. The total cost of the project is 170.633 million.

- Fifteen bore holes with a cumulative depth of 5877.2 meters have been completed in different regions of Badin and Mirpur Khas Districts, covering an area of 2200 square kilometres.

- Coal seams have been encountered in all drill holes at various depths. Geological logging of boreholes has been completed.
- Analysis of core samples has been completed.

ix. Acquisition of Four Drilling Rigs with Accessories

Two, new, 275 HP, hydraulic, Truck Mounted Multipurpose Drilling Rigs with drilling capacities of 1300, 2000 meters HQ and 2000, 3000 meters NQ, with accessories and spare parts of rigs and trucks have been purchased from Italy The tender and specification has been prepared for remaining two rigs and accessories.

x Exploration and Evaluation of Metallic Minerals.

To explore the metallic mineral reserves, like lead, copper, gold, manganese, chromite and iron in the unexplored areas of District Lasbela. The project area falls in the Ophiolite Belt, well known as the Bela Ophiolites, which portrays one of the largest Ophiolite Belt in Pakistan and consists a number of metallic and non-metallic minerals.

- Induced Polarization and Magnetic Surveys have been carried out at the Sukhan, Sap Dohro and Shumali areas near Uthal town.
- Geophysical Maps. Geological Map of the project area on a scale of 1:40,000 have been completed with full structural details.
- Detailed geomagnetic surveys have been conducted in project area on the basis of recently prepared structural map.
- Geochemical sampling has been completed from whole of the project area.

xi Exploration and Evaluation of Coal in Balochistan

To prove the presence of coal, establish its grade and make a preliminary assessment of reserves through large-scale mapping, exploratory drilling and collection of representative samples for chemical analyses and petrographic studies in Nosham and Bahlol Areas.

- 100% Geological Mapping of Nosham area has been completed.
- Drilling of 1st borehole at Nosham area, District Barkhan has been completed to the depth of 297 meters, coal seams encountered at different depths.

Exploration Sector in 2019-20

95. The present Government is giving high priority to develop indigenous hydrocarbon resources to minimize the demand and supply gap. The Government has undertaken various measures to create an investment friendly environment in the Exploration & Production (E&P) sector to attract foreign as well as local investment. The Government is taking steps to accelerate oil and gas exploration and production activities in the country.

96. During the financial year 2019- 2020 the following milestones were achieved:

Licences Granted	5
Leases Granted	5
Wells Spudded	58
Exploratory	25
Development	33
Discoveries Announced	10
Initial Flow from these Discoveries	
Oil (BOPD)	976
Gas (MMCFD)	84
Production added from these discoveries	
Oil (BOPD)	1,013
Gas (MMCFD)	29

Forty (40) exploration blocks were planned to be awarded to the E & P companies in the next three fiscal years as under:

Financial Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Exploration Blocks	20	10	10

Mechanized Mining

97. Pakistan Stone Development Company under the Industries and Production Division is facilitating the mine owners of marble and granite sector through provision of mining machines, which also contributes in socio-economic development of these areas and employment generation.

Civil Aviation

98. Aviation Division spearheads strategy, policy and oversight of all matters related to civil aviation. It has the primary focus on matters concerning civil aviation by virtue of its structural and human-resource oriented acumen. A developed civil air transport system is vital to economic development. Important economic centres like trade, tourism and agriculture rely on the functioning of air transport system. This Division's activities are hence geared indirectly towards supporting the existing national economic growth plans.

Data for research

99. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has been facilitating the Government institutions through provision of daily price/socio-economic data collected through different censuses/surveys and special studies for formation of socio-economic development plans and their monitoring for well-being of the public. Data generated by PBS is widely used by the Federal Government, international agencies & private entities for policy/decision making, development planning, monitoring / evaluation & research purposes.

Development of Agriculture

100. The Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited (ZTBL), in line with the Government's policy, has catered to financial leverage needs of farming community for their sustainability through socio-economic opportunities' creation for the rural household. The Bank is actively playing a pivotal role by boosting its efforts to reduce poverty in rural areas, maintaining its focus to the marginalized (bottom of the pyramid) rural segment – especially small and subsistence farmers –through its field force of 1341 Mobile Credit Officers (MCOs), providing services at their door step.

101. During the fiscal year 2018-19 the Bank facilitated 353,275 borrowers with an amount of Rs. 71,478 million for both development and production purposes under its various schemes at comparatively lower financing rates. The Bank disbursed an amount of Rs. 67,932 million, maintaining a clientele base of approximately 0.9 million farmers (on outstanding basis) across the country.

102. During the fiscal year 2019-20, the Bank facilitated 305,204 borrowers with an amount of Rs. 64,083 million for both development and production purposes under its various schemes.

Regulation of Banking

103. The State Bank of Pakistan, being a dynamic regulator, has always endeavored to remain aware of the changing market dynamics and issues faced by bank customers in availing banking services/facilities and issues necessary regulations whenever such need arises. The SBP has issued instructions to protect public against all sorts of discrimination in rate of return on deposits and financing activities of all kinds.

104. SBP has also issued necessary instructions to banks to increase their deposit taking and lending activities in remote and under-served areas of the country. For the year 2020, the banks are required to open at least 24% of all new branches in rural and under-served areas of the country. Besides, the SBP has continued issuing instructions /regulations to banks as and when needed to address the potential problems that bank customers or public at large may face while dealing with banks or availing any banking services. The regulations of SBP, inter alia, require banks to provide banking services to all citizens of Pakistan in a fair and transparent manner without discriminating against any caste, creed, sex, religion, age, profession, ethnicity and marital status as enshrined in the Constitution.

Efforts for elimination of Riba

105. The following steps have been taken in this regard:

- i. Issuance of Guidelines
State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has issued guidelines for conversion of a conventional bank into an Islamic Bank, include eligibility criteria, necessary measures and the process of conversion comprising three stages:
 - In-principle approval to start conversion process
 - Conversion of existing conventional branches into Islamic banking branches
 - Issuance of full-fledged Islamic bank license.
- ii. Strengthening Shari'ah Governance Framework (SGF)

The main components of the SGF for Islamic Banking Institutions are:

- Shari’ah Advisory Committee at the Central Bank
- Shari’ah Board comprising of at least three members at bank's level
- Mandatory Internal Shari’ah Audit
- Shari’ah Inspections by the Central Bank.

The function of Shari’ah compliance has been strengthened through SGF.

iii. Adoption of International Shariah & Prudential standards

In order to increase standardization and to elevate the local Islamic banking industry to international standards, various standards issued by international standard setting bodies (e.g. Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) and Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) have been adopted after customizing the same in accordance with the local market.

iv. Issuance of Islamic Refinancing Schemes during COVID-19

SBP issued Islamic versions of refinance schemes like Islamic Temporary Refinancing Facility (ITERF); Islamic Refinancing Facility for Combating COVID-19 (IRCC); and Islamic Refinance Scheme for Payment of Wages & Salaries to the Workers and Employees of Business Concerns.

v. Guidelines for Implementation of Regulatory Relief to Dampen the Effects of COVID-19

With a view to facilitate the customers of IBIs and smooth implementation of relaxation provided in respective prudential regulations related to deferment of principal or rescheduling/ restructuring of financing facilities, SBP developed and issued guidelines for rescheduling/ restructuring of Islamic financing facilities in April 2020.

vi. Islamic Long-Term Financing Facilities

During FY 2019-20, SBP issued 'Islamic Financing Facility for Renewable Energy (IFRE)', 'Islamic Financing Facility for Storage of Agricultural Produce (IFFSAP)', and 'Islamic Refinance Facility for Modernization of SMEs (IRFMS)'. Further, in order to facilitate the availability of long-term affordable funding to some of the low-income segments, SBP launched 'Islamic Financing Facility for Low Cost Housing for Special Segments'.

106. Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) has hired the Shariah Board and established legal, operational and technological infrastructure of Islamic banking. Currently, the Bank is operating with five branches under the Islamic mode.

Efforts to improve Educational Standards

107. At each meeting of Inter Board Committee of Chairmen an open discussion of all Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISEs) in Pakistan is held for sharing the best practices in each BISE for improvement in the education system all over Pakistan.

108. The IBCC has established its regional office in Bahawalpur to facilitate the students of far-flung areas of southern Punjab in getting equivalence and attestation services near their hometowns.

Promotion of Social Well-Being

109. For innovative solution of social issues and to promote social entrepreneurship in the country, a Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms was established with allocation of Rs. 50.0 million.

Welfare of Overseas Pakistanis

Establishment of Emergency Cell at OPF Head office Islamabad

110. The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation works under the auspices of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development. An Emergency Cell has been established in the OPF on the direction of Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and HRD for round the clock provision of information and all possible assistance to overseas Pakistanis who were stranded in different countries due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Cell responded to well over 13,850

telephonic/WhatsApp calls and approximately 17,447 messages from overseas Pakistanis stranded abroad for provision of relief in coordination with the Pakistani Missions abroad.

Hospitals

111. OPF has established 02 eye hospitals at Mirpur (AJK) and Yaro Khoso, D.G. Khan, where the patients are treated on subsidized rates:

	2018-19	2019-20
Patients Treated	3,748	3,748
Patients Operated	151	104

112. OPF provides ambulance service for transportation of dead bodies:

	2018-19	2019-20
Dead bodies Transported	255	397

Complaint Cell

113. Complaint Cell has been established in OPF to address the grievances/ problems of overseas Pakistanis and their families in Pakistan:

	2018-19	2019-20
Complaints Received	2,110	3,673
Complaints Settled	1,152	2,250

114. Foreign Exchange Remittance Card (FERCs) were issued as follows:

	2018-19	2019-20
No. of Cards Issued	12,524	12,864
Amount	US\$. 513,056,209	US\$ 522 million

115. Educational Institutions

- i. OPF has established twenty-five (25) educational institutions (schools/colleges) throughout the country, including AJK, to impart quality education to children of overseas Pakistanis as well as the general public. In the year 2018-19, construction of OPF Primary School Peshawar was expedited and the school was made operational from July 2019.
- ii. OPF had launched a need-cum-merit based scholarship programme for the children of overseas Pakistanis studying in

intermediate, graduation, master and professional degree courses in various colleges/universities across the country. In this regard, an amount of Rs.10 million was allocated in FY 2018-19 and scholarships amounting to Rs.6.17 million were granted to the children of overseas Pakistanis. In FY 2019-20, an amount of Rs.10 million was allocated and scholarships amounting to Rs.12.3 million were granted to the children of overseas Pakistanis under this programme.

- iii. In order to extend fee concession facility to larger number of children of overseas Pakistanis studying at OPF Educational Institutions, the policy has been revised from 25% fee concession for up to 02 children to 50% fee concession for up to four children.
- iv. In 2018, the OPF Education Division initiated online lectures for providing quality education to students of OPF Educational Institutions located in far-flung areas of the country. These online lectures are delivered from fully equipped E-learning studio rooms established at OPF's flagship institutions in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The following OPF educational institutions are benefitting from online lectures delivered by experienced teachers of OPF Girls College Islamabad, OPF Boys College Islamabad and OPF Girls Higher Secondary School, Rawalpindi:
 - a) OPF Public School, Sheikhpura
 - b) OPF Public School, Sanghar
 - c) OPF Public School, Quetta
 - d) OPF Public Schools, Hangu
 - e) OPF Public School, Kotli
- v. During the year 2019-2020, E-learning programme was further extended to the following six (06) OPF Educational Institutions:
 - a) OPF Public School, Karachi
 - b) OPF Public School, Muzaffarabad
 - c) OPF Public School, Dadu
 - d) OPF Public School, Bhalwal
 - e) OPF Public School, Multan
 - f) OPF Public School, D.I. Khan

- vi. In 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the OPF and the British Council to conduct a comprehensive Faculty Development Programme and International School Awards Training. Three training programmes have been conducted by British Council where teachers of OPF Educational Institutions from Islamabad, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir were trained.
- vii. Seven OPF educational institutions in Rawalpindi, Karachi, Sheikhupura, Multan, Hangu, Muzaffarabad and Bhalwal have been awarded International School Awards by the British Council. These institutions are now allowed by the British Council to use its logo on their publicity materials.
- viii. Construction work for establishment of OPF educational institution at Sector F-11/2, Islamabad was started in 2018. The construction of building is in its last phase and the work will be completed in August 2020.
- ix. In addition to the existing 50% concession in tuition fee for children of overseas Pakistanis at OPF educational institutions, OPF Board of Governors has resolved to approve 20% Sibling Discount in Transport Fare as an additional direct benefit to the children of overseas Pakistanis availing school/college transport service.
- x. In addition to grant of OPF Scholarships to the children of overseas Pakistanis, the Board has resolved to approve grant of OPF scholarships to the spouses of overseas Pakistanis.
- xi. With the approval of OPF Board of Governors, 3% quota has been allocated for admission of disabled students at OPF Educational Institutions. Wheelchairs have been provided at all OPF Educational Institutions to facilitate disabled students and visitors/parents.
- xii. Subsequent to approval of OPF Board of Governors, 20% fee discount is being provided to children of disabled persons studying at OPF Educational Institutions.

- xiii. To provide financial relief and to facilitate parents in the current pandemic, 20% concession in tuition fee has been granted to students of OPF educational institutions.

Housing Schemes

116. During the period under review, OPF has taken the following initiatives to uplift its housing schemes:

- i. Initiation of projects i.e. construction of 50 houses (country homes) and 120 apartments at OPF housing scheme, Zone-V, Islamabad. (Construction work in progress)
- ii. Digitization and automation of record of OPF Housing Schemes for efficient processing of plot transfer cases.
- iii. Provision of access road from Gulberg Greens to OPF Housing Scheme, Zone-V, in Islamabad.
- iv. Revamping of OPF Housing Schemes in Islamabad, Peshawar, Mirpur and Lahore.
- v. OPF has also initiated the project of development / establishment of OPF Farm Housing Scheme, Lahore, with the approval of its Board of Governors.
- vi. Initiation of planning/designing by renowned engineering consultants for the construction of apartment buildings at 58 Kanals of land and a high-rise commercial complex at 8.17 Kanals of land at OPF Housing Scheme, Raiwind Road, Lahore.
- vii. Development of OPF Farm Housing Scheme, Raiwind Road, Lahore
- viii. Completion of development works and handing over possession of plots at OPF Housing Scheme, Zone-V, Islamabad.
- ix. Construction of society offices at OPF Housing Schemes in Lahore and Mirpur.

Overseas Pakistanis Children Internship Programme

117. Under Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR), OPF has launched an “Internship Programme” for children of overseas Pakistanis. This training programme enables the youth to unleash their full potential and employ fresh ideas for attaining the OPF goals. Under this programme, 12 children of overseas Pakistanis were given internship in OPF during 2018-19.

Manpower Export

118. Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BE&OE) is an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, and it functions according to the Emigration Ordinance 1979 and Emigration Rules. The Bureau has its headquarters in Islamabad and nine Regional offices i.e. Protectorates of Rawalpindi, Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi, Quetta, Multan, Sialkot, Dera Ghazi Khan and Malakand.

119. From 1971 to July 2020, around 11.29 million Pakistanis proceeded abroad for employment out of whom more than 96% Pakistanis proceeded to GCC countries. BE&OE registered 382439 and 625203 emigrants for overseas employment during the years 2018 and 2019 respectively. The manpower export from Pakistan is reducing the pressure of unemployment along with strengthening the national economy at micro and macro level.

120. Overseas Pakistanis have sent US \$48.86 billion in lieu of remittances during the period 2018-19 to 2019-20. Bureau is also facilitating all intending emigrants with reference to their wellbeing and protection as required under Article 38 of the constitution.

121. One stop services/facilities were provided to those persons who proceeded abroad for employment through the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) under the administrative control of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

i. Facilitating Overseas Employment:

The corporation sent 737 persons to the following countries in professional, skilled and semi-skilled categories:

S. No.	Name of Country	Financial Year 2018-19
i.	U.A.E.	62
ii.	Saudi Arabia	50
iii.	Oman	03
iv.	Malaysia	04
v.	South Korea	568

S. No.	Name of Country	Financial Year 2018-19
vi.	Qatar	48
vii.	Hong Kong	01
viii.	Norway	01
Grand Total:		737

ii. Free of charge IELTS preparation classes for nurses:

National Health Services (NHS) of UK gave a demand of 500 nurses to OEC. Passing IELTS with Score 7 or OET with Band-B was a prerequisite. In order to enable the nurses to pass the required examination, the OEC started imparting free of charge IELTS preparation classes for the nurses at its office in Islamabad. The Australian Education Office provided a professional IELTS trainer for the purpose. 200 nurses obtained free of charge IELTS preparation training under the said initiative.

iii. Establishment of Occupational English Test (OET) Centre in Pakistan.

As a result of continuous efforts of OEC on different forums, the Occupational English Test (OET) centre was opened in Pakistan by the concerned OET authorities in collaboration with the Australian Education Office in Pakistan. Previously, the interested candidates had to travel to the UAE for appearing in the OET.

iv. Establishment of online portal for overseas employment:

The purpose is to facilitate potential emigrants and returning migrant workers to get foreign jobs abroad. More than 35,000 job seekers have been registered in different categories (i.e., doctors, staff nurses, teachers, security guards, etc.) on OEC Online Job Portal. More than 41500 returnees have registered themselves on the portal.

v. 45 days Korean Language Training:

Korean language training was imparted to 2369 persons during the period.

vi. 10 days Pre-Departure Training:

Pre-departure training was imparted to 300 workers who went to Korea for employment during the period.

vii. Documentary on OEC:

A documentary on OEC was developed with the purpose to highlight the strengths of human resource of Pakistan and to attract foreign employers.

viii. Development of OEC Flyer:

A pictorial flyer highlighting the expertise of OEC in the fields of overseas recruitment and promotion was developed and distributed among the stakeholders.

Workers' Education

122. Due to 18th Constitutional Amendment, 13 Regional Centres of the Directorate of Workers Education (DWE) have been transferred to the Respective Provinces.

123. The target for the year 2018-19 was fixed by DWE to train / educate 350 workers/ trade union leaders/employees in the area of HRD, welfare of the workers of public and private sector organizations, their rights/privileges to create a better working atmosphere between the proprietor and the worker. 57 activities of workers education were conducted and 1532 representatives of public and private sector organizations trained through seminars and workshops on economic and social issues. Furthermore, 5 computer training courses of one month duration were completed during 2018-19 in which 122 workers participated. 3 English language courses were conducted whereby 94 participants were trained.

124. In the year 2019-20, 217 activities of workers education were conducted and 5739 representatives of public and private organizations trained through seminars, workshops etc. computer training courses of one month duration were completed during the period 341 participants were trained. Furthermore, twelve English language courses were conducted whereby 315 participants were trained.

Employees Old Age Benefits

125. Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) provides the following benefits under the EOB Act 1976 to the employees of all

industrial, commercial and other organizations employing five or more workers/ employees registered under the EOB Act, 1976:

- a) Old Age Pension
- b) Invalidity pension
- c) Survivor Pension
- d) Old Age Grant

126. Under the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973, the legislative powers of the Federation with respect to the subjects of “welfare of labour”; “conditions of labour”, “provident funds”; “employer’s liability” and “workmen’s compensation”, “health insurance including invalidity pensions, old age pension” and “trade unions; industrial and labour disputes” were devolved to the Provinces in June 2011. Several petitions have since been filed challenging the federal status of EOBI. However, it was decided in the Council of Common Interests meeting in December 2019, that “EOBI and WWF shall remain with the Federal Government till such time that mutually agreed mechanism is developed”.

127. During the period under reference, EOBI executed its mission under Article 38 of the Constitution for social well-being of the people of Pakistan as under:

Year	Employers Registered	Insured Persons registered	No. of Pensions/Grant approved	Contributions Collected (Rs. in millions)	Pension/Grant disbursed (Rs. In millions)
2018-19	5,347	474,133	33,019	19,063	31,696
2019-20	6,102	475,261	34,019	21,159	35,151

128. The Federal Government enhanced the amount of minimum monthly EOBI pension from Rs.3,600/- to Rs. 5,250/- w.e.f April 1, 2015 & Rs. 6500/- w.e.f. September 2018. Accordingly, EOBI is paying minimum pension to pensioners at the enhanced rate from May 1, 2015, However, the employers are denying contributions at enhanced wage rate due to multiple litigations.

129. In order to register the employers and eligible employees, exercises of data analysis were undertaken which yielded the figures of 15089 establishments and over 12,92,306 potentially eligible employees. The

task of registration is a continuous process and is being carried out effectively.

130. The institution has digitized its pensioners' data after biometric verification through banking services of Bank Alfalah Ltd for collection of contributions and disbursement of pensions through BAFL Wallet Accounts and payment through ATM Cards. This technological shift has eliminated the long quest of pensioners who can now obtain their pensions across the country through Union Pay Linked ATM network.

Workers Welfare Fund

131. The Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) is financing projects related to establishment of housing estates besides construction of houses for the industrial workers, education of workers children, health, technical education and other welfare measures like marriage grant @ Rs.100,000 per daughter per workers, death grant @ Rs.500,000. The Governing Body in its 144th meeting held in March 2020, approved the enhancement of annual scholarships/ stipends for children of workers as per rates below:

Upto Higher Secondary level @ Rs.3500/-
 Graduation level @Rs.4500/-
 Post Graduate upto Ph.D level @Rs.5500/-

i. **Achievements of WWF During 2018-19**

a) Marriage Grant:

(Rs. in millions)

YEAR	PUNJAB	KPK	BALUCHISTAN	ISLAMABAD
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount
2018-2019	1,927.88	45.00	3.00	17.80

b) Death Grant:

(Rs. in millions)

YEAR	PUNJAB	KPK	BALUCHISTAN	ISLAMABAD
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount
2018-2019	502.00	53.25	41.50	24.00

c) The Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) releases funds to Provincial Workers Welfare Boards (WWBs) for death & marriage grant on demand basis while disbursement of

marriage & death grant to the industrial workers of ICT is made on case to case basis.

d) Disbursement of Scholarships:

Year	Amount Distributed (Rs. in Millions)
2018-19	265.477

ii. Achievements of WWF during 2019-20

a) Disbursement of Marriage & Death Grant 2019-20:

Province	Head of Account	No. of Cases	Amount Released (Rs. In Millions)
Islamabad	Marriage Grant	100	10.00
	Death Grant	31	15.50
Punjab	Marriage Grant	3750	375.00
	Death Grant	750	375.00
KPK	Marriage Grant	400	40.00
	Death Grant	80	40.00
Balochistan	Marriage Grant	73	7.27
	Death Grant	91	45.50
Total	Marriage Grant	4323	432.27
	Death Grant	952	476.00

b) Hajj Scheme:

No. of Beneficiaries	Amount (Rs. in million)
57	In Process

c) Disbursement of Scholarships:

Province/ Territory	Number of Cases.	Amount Rs. in Million
Islamabad	2274	70.251
Punjab	29810	1769.252
Khyber PakhtunKhawa	2379	527.952
Balochistan	131	58.851

Province/ Territory	Number of Cases.	Amount Rs. in Million
Total	34,594	2426.306

d) On-going Development Projects:

Sr. No.	Name of Schemes	Cost (Rs. Million)	Start	Expected completion	Physical progress (in percentage)
Executed by WWF Punjab					
01.	Construction of workers complex at Sunder Industrial Estate Kasur.	2465.077	April 2018	Aug 2020	720 flats; 70% completed; 219 flats remaining; Revised PC-I cost Rs.11059.980m under consideration.
Executed by WWF KPK					
01	1200 family flats at Regilalma, Peshawar (Phase-I)	2817.41	April 2011	June 2020	94%
02.	1200 family flats & allied works at Regilalma (Phase-II)	2276.20	Nov 2013	June 2020	93%
03.	Folk Grammar School at Shahbaz Azmatkhail, Bannu	219.920	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	52%
Executed by WWF Balochistan					
01.	Girls High School with staff residence at Sor-Range, Quetta	187.942	March 2018	June 2021	20%
02.	Girls High School / staff residence, Sibi	184.546	March 2018	December 2020	80%
Executed by Fund Secretariat					
01.	Labour colony (Phase-I) at Zone-V Islamabad.				
a)	1008 Flats (G+3)	1511.239	Aug 2012	Sep 2020	90%
b)	500 Houses	869.064	Aug	Dec 2020	72%

Sr. No.	Name of Schemes	Cost (Rs. Million)	Start	Expected completion	Physical progress (in percentage)
			2012		
c)	Amenities, building parks, play area	118.924	March 2018	June 2020	90%
d)	Boundary wall, gate, guardroom, tubewell	111.034	Aug 2018	June 2020	95%
02.	Infrastructure for 504 flats (Phase-I) Labour Colony Hattar Road, Taxila	180.362	Feb 2013	June 2020	95%
03.	Boys High School at Sanghar, Sindh	159.190	June 2018	In process	90%
04.	50-bed Hospital Choundko, Sindh	447.621	March 2015	September 2020	90%

iii. **Proposed New Schemes (In Financial Year 2020-2021)**

Sr. No.	Name of Schemes	Cost (Rs. In Million)
Executed by WWF Punjab		
01.	Establishment of Labour Colony (576 Flats G+3, near Sector B-17) at Taxila District Rawalpindi.	2094.000
02.	Establishment of workers welfare complex (Phase-I) adjacent to Sunder Industrial Estate Kasur.	11059.980
03.	Rehabilitation of infrastructure, Labour Colony Saho ki Mallian, District Sheikhpura.	329.670
Executed by WWF Balochistan		
01.	Construction of Girls High School at Duki.	192.714
02.	Construction of Boys High School at Duki.	192.714
03.	Construction of Boys High School at Loralai.	237.647
04.	Construction of High School at Mekhtar.	215.188
05.	Construction of High School at Harnai.	192.714
06.	Construction of Girls High School with staff residences and external development works at Sibi.	154.178
07.	Construction of pre-fabricated classrooms at Boys high School at Gai Khan Chowk, Quetta.	15.660
08.	Construction of Boys High School at Zhob.	209.730
09.	Construction of Girls High School at Zhob.	188.488
10.	Construction of Girls Poly technical Institute at Zhob.	470.636
11.	Construction of 50 quarters in Labour Colony, Mosque,	186.035

	Community Centre, Main Boundary Wall and external development work at Sibbi	
Executed by Fund Secretariat		
01.	Dismantling and Reconstruction of Workers Welfare Fund Office/Commercial Building at Plot No.16, Sector F-6 Markaz, Islamabad.	284.300
02.	Construction of 1000 flats (Phase-II) at Zone-V Islamabad.	PC-I under preparation

iv. **Collection & Release of Funds (2014 to 2019)**

Year	Province wise Collection of Funds (Rs. in Billion)						Released by Finance Division	Released by WWF to WWBs
	Federal Area	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	Total		
2014-15	13.92	2.795	9.097	0.0322	0.0301	25.874	10.000	8.254
2015-16	10.892	4.525	6.791	0.007	0.0332	22.248	15.645	12.395
2016-17	8.044	3.982	4.513	0.014	0.036	16.589	6.200	6.200
2017-18	6.062	6.367	3.956	0.0022	0.0302	16.417	10.835	10.748
2018-19	8.596	3.339	2.279	0.0874	0.054	14.355	20.593	15.746
Total	47.514	21.008	26.636	0.1428	0.1835	95.483	63.273	53.343

Merit-based Recruitment

132. Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) advertises various posts/vacancies through open advertisement and selects candidates through open competition. Results of CSS Competitive Examination during the years 2018-20 were as follows:

Year	Vacancies	Allocated
2018	466	278
2019	410	214
2020	447	221

- i. Nominations made by General Recruitment in BS-16 and above were as follows:

Year	Fresh Vacancies	Nominations
------	-----------------	-------------

2018	3127	2191
2019	3603	1008
2020	2327	1016

- ii. The Commission also conducted following examinations during 2018-19:
 - a. Initial recruitment for Gilgit-Baltistan Government.
 - b. Ministerial staff recruitment.
- iii. The Commission also processed advertisements for following examinations during financial year 2019-20:
 - a. Assistant Director, Survey of Pakistan.
 - b. Section Officers Promotional Examination
 - c. Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate Competitive Examination, Ministry of Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan

Welfare of Federal Government Employees

133. The Establishment Division provides a number of facilities for the economic well-being of Federal Government servants and their dependents through its attached departments and organizations. Details are given below:

- i. National School of Public Policy (NSPP)
 - A policy of non-discrimination is being practiced in line with the guidelines provided.
 - Pension and medical facilities are made available to the retired employees as per Government policy.
 - Federal Government Assistance Package for Families of Government Employees who Die in Service is also provided at NSPP.
 - All serving employees are provided medical facilities under the rules, without hindrance or inconvenience.
 - Several facilities have been provided to improve the quality of life of lower grade employees:
 - Paint work / Renovation of residential quarters,

- Improved and better medical facilities, provision of ambulance, medication with staff and equipment in the dispensary,
- Grant of advances, loans and welfare fund as per Government policy,
- Stipends for outstanding children of employees as per Government policy,
- Congenial and comfortable office environment.

ii. Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD)

- The Academy is regularly conducting farmers' conventions in order to secure the well-being of the people, especially the marginalized group of poor farmers.
- In 2018, a 3-day 'Farmers Convention' was successfully arranged during December 18-20, 2018. The theme of the Convention was "Khushal Kissan Mazboot Pakistan". Their field visits were also organized to Research Institutions. A total of 114 farmers from all over Pakistan attended the Convention.
- A three-day course on "Kitchen Gardening for Income Generation" on March 5-7, 2019.
- A three-day course on Fundamentals of Digital Marketing on August 7-9, 2019.
- A three-day course on "Income Generation opportunities for Rural Youths" in July 2019.
- A three-day course on "Income Generation Opportunities" on March 29-31, 2021.

iii. Staff Welfare Organization (SWO)

The Staff Welfare Organization is working for promotion of social and economic well-being of Federal Government Employees and their dependents. Brief description of some programme/schemes is as under:

a. *Ladies Industrial Homes*

At Ladies Homes, wives and daughters of the Government servants are being taught various

handicrafts/skills to supplement the income of the family by self-employment:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
No of beneficiaries	2,930	1391

b. *Federal Staff Relief Fund*

Provision of emergency relief to low paid individual employees in the event of such distress as TB, prolonged sickness or death in the family under Federal Staff Relief Fund:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
No of beneficiaries	1033	2753

c. *Rehabilitation Aid*

Under this scheme Staff Welfare Organization provides tricycles, wheel chairs, special heal shoes, artificial limbs, hearing aids, walking aids, medical jackets, neck collars and crutches to the Federal Government employees and their dependents:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
No of beneficiaries	322	294

d. *Award of stipend to School-going Children*

- Stipend are awarded to the children of Federal Government employees.
- (BS-1-4): students from 5th class onwards are also entitled to a specified amount for purchase of books and stationery.
- (BS-5-16): 6th class onwards.
- (BS-17 & above): 11th class onwards.
- Cash awards of Rs.7,500/- for Huffaz-e-Quran upto the age of 20 years.
- Cash award to those who obtain 80% and above marks in the classes listed below:

Class	Amount (In Rupees)
Matric	5,500
F.A/F.Sc.	7,700
B.A/B.Sc.	10,000

In total Rs.89,845,700/- were disbursed among 40455 beneficiaries during 2019-20 under the category of cash award to Hafiz-e-Quran up to the age of 20 years, cash award to those who obtained 80% and above in matric, F. A/F.Sc and B.A/B.Sc classes and as regular scholarship for Class V to PhD – including professional education.

e. *Holiday Homes*

SWO provides the recreational facility of Holiday Homes to the Federal Government employees and their dependents at subsidized rates at picnic resorts and places of historic and scenic beauty. The Organization is also promoting recreational and sports activities among the Government servants through sports clubs formed by the employees:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
No of beneficiaries	2680	2069

f. *Entertainment Programme*

Staff Welfare Organization also arranges entertainment programmes for Government servants and their families such as Mushairas, Qawwalis, Milad, variety shows/film show, Meena Bazaars at SWO auditoriums throughout the country.

Year	2018-19	2019-20
No of Sports Programmes	10	12
No of Cultural Programmes		55

g. *Provision of Libraries*

SWO provides libraries to promote the reading habit:

Year	2018-19	2019-20
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No of beneficiaries	15588	2079
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iv. Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Funds (FEB & GIF)

- The FEB&GIF is providing financial assistance to the Federal Government / autonomous bodies employees and their families covered under the FEBF&GI Act, 1969 in the shape of its eleven (11) welfare schemes, which include the monthly Benevolent Grant, Sum Assured scheme, payment of burial charges, lump sum grant on invalidation, educational stipends/reimbursement of fee, marriage grant, and prizes on essay writing competition among the Federal Government employees' children. More than 713,400 Federal Government employees benefitted from these schemes in 2018-19 and the numbers increased to 716,034 in the following year.
- In the FY 2018-19, the contribution received from the Federal Government employees on account of Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance was Rs.9,598.89 million whereas disbursement against the FEB&GIF welfare schemes was Rs.6,558.05 million.
- In the FY 2019-20, the contribution received was Rs.12,154.52 million, and disbursement against the welfare schemes was Rs. 6,438.60 million.

v. Akhtar Hameed Khan, National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD)

- Training courses have been designed on the changing role of public administration, good governance, decision making and economic development for employees of the Government/non-Government Organizations to ensure well-being of the people.
- Assistance Package for the Families of Government employee who Die during Service is being implemented.

- Medical allowance is being issued to employees and scholarships to their children as per Government policy.
- A number of training programmes were conducted at the Centre for the socio-economic well-being of the rural communities in particular.

Financial Monitoring Unit:

134. Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU) of the Finance Division has always ensured better facilities & working conditions for all its employees. Under its Staff Service Regulations-2016, the FMU has mandated rest & recreation leave for all employees during the year. FMU employees' related benefits have been made part of the Regulations. These benefits include group insurance & medical insurance, etc. FMU's salary scales have been revised in November 2019 with other corresponding benefits, to make it compatible with other related institution and for retention of trained and technical human resources.

Controller General of Accounts, Directorate General MIS/FABS, Islamabad:

135. Computerization of payroll & Direct Credit System has been implemented.

Pakistan Post:

136. Pakistan Post has provided the following facilities for welfare of its employees:

- i. Posting of the postal employees within their resident district.
- ii. Posting of both husband and wife at one station under the wedlock policy.
- iii. Provision of official transport as per Government policy.
- iv. Provision of uniform to the liveried staff for both seasons.

Pakistan Post also provides free delivery of literature for the blind within country.

Export Processing Zones Authority

137. The Authority takes into consideration the well-being and leisure of its employees. Sick, Casual and Earned Leave is allocated for all the

employees, and they are encouraged to avail the Earned Leave. Employees are provided with Benevolent Fund, Provident Fund, Group Insurance and Employees Welfare Fund for maximum social security. In addition, hospitalization and medical tests for the employees and their family, including parents, is also provided for.

Pakistan Steel

138. Pakistan Steel Mill (PSM), under the Industries and Production Division, has taken measures to uplift the standard of living of its employees by extending various types of loans and good salary packages.

- i. CSD shop has been established at Steel Town where the employees can purchase everything at lower rates.
- ii. An attractive package of terminal benefits is granted to the employees on cessation of employment, i.e. Gratuity on gross salary for workers and on basic pay for officers, Contributory Provident Fund, EOBI Pension on retirement and invalidation/disability during service and welfare grant to family on death of employees, and leave encashment.
- iii. Pakistan Steel also provides insurance coverage, welfare grant/loan, compensation on death, Benevolent Fund in case of invalidation of employees / death during service, and scholarship to outstanding children of the employees as well as medical facility for the spouse after retirement.
- iv. The management of PSM has also allowed life time medical facilities to mentally retarded children of officers / staff.
- v. At Pakistan Steel workers/staff are governed under the IRA and pay & allowances/facilities are negotiated through CBA. The new CBA has presented its Charter of Demands, negotiations on which are under way.
- vi. Officers Club is available within PSM premises.
- vii. All Government policies are followed in letter and spirit. The employees working at hazardous places are provided safety equipment and Hazard Allowance.
- viii. Efforts are being made to pull out the PSM from financial crisis and a business development programme is under study with the Board of Directors.

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)

139. SBP has developed a comprehensive compensation and benefits management system for its employees:

- i. SBP has put in place Rest & Recreation (R&R) policy for employees of the bank to allow them time off work to rest and balance their professional and personal life. Every employee is encouraged to avail 22 days mandatory leave in every calendar year.
- ii. SBP employees are provided with mandatory group insurance along with additional optional life insurance benefits and accidental death cover.
- iii. SBP has also established an Employees Welfare Trust for the well-being of its employees and their dependents in case of their death during or after service.
- iv. SBP offers generous provident fund and gratuity schemes to the employees.
- v. The pay scales are revised every two years on the basis of inflation in prices of commodities and market surveys based on industry-wide trends in order to enable the SBP employees to have reasonable income and purchasing power to sustain a fair living standard.

Pakistan Institute of Management

140. At Pakistan Institute of Management:

- i. Employees are encouraged to increase their educational qualifications. Once a year, special outdoor activities are arranged for recreation.
- ii. Every year, three Muslim employees are sent to perform Umra. Non-Muslim employees are given similar incentives according to their religious requirements.

Pakistan Industrial & Technical Assistance Centre

141. At PITAC a canteen has been established with a system of checks and balance to ensure sale of food items on nominal charges. Moreover, one-hour lunch break also facilitates the employees in saying prayers and taking rest/refreshment. Apprentices who do not belong to Lahore city are provided PITAC's hostel facility free of cost. In case of emergency, medical first aid is provided to the employees/trainees while an official vehicle is also available for shifting them to the nearest hospital.

Pakistan Railways

142. Pakistan Railways has taken the following steps for welfare of its employees:

- i. A network of hospitals and dispensaries has been established all over the rail network to facilitate patients. Competent doctors are available to serve the patients. Clinical investigations and tests are conducted free of cost.
- ii. Pakistan Railways has taken measures for protection of its employees and their families by introducing a group insurance policy to provide financial assistance to the families in case of an employee's death during service.
- iii. The Benevolent Fund scheme also ensures financial assistance to the families in case of Railways employees who die or are declared medically unfit.
- iv. Women are also encouraged to serve in Pakistan Railways.
- v. Adequate number of canteens have been provided on Railway Stations to facilitate the passengers.
- vi. A large number of schools have been established all over the network for almost free education of the children of Pakistan Railways employees.
- vii. Playgrounds have been provided in the cities where the Railways infrastructure exists.
- viii. Residential accommodation has been provided to a majority of Railway employees.
- ix. A break in working hours is observed daily for afternoon prayers.
- x. Racism, sectarianism and provincial prejudices are discouraged.

Federal Board of Revenue

143. FBR has taken a number of steps for promoting the social and economic well-being of its employees as follows:

- i. Equal job opportunities are provided irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race.
- ii. Open door policy is adopted whereby all employees can access the concerned officers / authorities for redressal of their issues.
- iii. Opportunities of professional and technical training are ensured strictly on the basis of merit.

- iv. Upgradation of office space is carried out to provide secure, adequate, just and humane conditions of working.
- v. Recruitments are made on the basis of merit as well as on Provincial quota and at lower levels on regional basis.
- vi. The department is organized on functional dimensions whereby administrative powers are decentralized.
- vii. Special pay and allowance are granted to the eligible employees after due process of selection.
- viii. FBR Foundation has been entrusted with a proactive mandate to look after the educational, medical and housing needs of its employees.

Reduction of Disparity in Pay Packages

144. The Finance Division has taken steps to reduce disparity in the income of individuals, including persons in the various classes of the service of Pakistan, during the period under report:

- i. Granted Adhoc Relief Allowance-2018@ 10% of basic pay to the executives/supervisory staff of autonomous/ semi-autonomous bodies and corporations etc.
- ii. Granted Adhoc Relief Allowance @ 10% of basic pay.
- iii. The rate of minimum pension has been enhanced from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- and minimum family pension from Rs.4500/- to Rs. 7500 for Civil and Armed Forces pensioners of the Federal Government w.e.f 01.07.2018.
- iv. The rate of minimum pension has been increased from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 15,000/- for the pensioners whose age is 75 years or above w.e.f 01.07.2018.
- v. Overtime allowance admissible to staff car drivers and dispatch riders has been enhanced from Rs. 40/- per hour to Rs. 80/- per hour to maximum of Rs. 480 on working days and Rs. 100/- per hour on closed holidays to maximum of Rs. 600/- per day w.e.f. 01.07.2018.
- vi. The House Rent Allowance has been increased by 50% of the existing amount w.e.f 01.07.2018.
- vii. The Government has decided that third House Building Advance may be granted to Government employees with interest thereof,
- viii. The Government has decided that budgetary allocation for House Building Advance shall be distributed for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd advances as under:

Advance	Percentage
1 st	70%
2 nd	20%
3 rd	10%

- ix. Ad-hoc Relief Allowance @ 10% on the running basic pay of Basic Pay Scale 2017 has been allowed to all Federal Government civil and Armed Forces employees in BPS 1-16, and @ 5% to officers in BPS 17-20.
- x. The Government has granted Adhoc Relief Allowance@ 5% to M-Grade.
- xi. An increase in Net Pension @ 10% has been allowed to all Civil and Armed Forces pensioners of the Federal Government.
- xii. The Government has granted Adhoc Relief Allowance @ 5% and 10% to the employees of autonomous/semi-autonomous bodies, corporations.
- xiii. The Federal Investigation Authority has been granted FIA Allowance @ 20%, Utility Allowance @ 25%, Investigation Allowance @ 60% and Anti Organized Crime Allowance @ 50% of the Running Basic Pay.
- xiv. The Government has increased the Special Pay admissible to the Personal Secretaries (SPS/PS/APS) to Ministers, Ministers of State, Parliamentary Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries, by 25%, w.e.f 01-07-2019.
- xv. The Government has increased the Mess Allowance admissible to Nurses of BPS-16 and below, from Rs.500/- per month (p.m) to Rs. 8,000/- p.m. and Dress Allowance from Rs. 600/- to Rs. 3,000/- p.m.
- xvi. The Government has increased the stipend admissible to Diploma Student Nurses from Rs.6,860/- p.m to Rs. 20,000/- p.m
- xvii. The Government has revised the Ration Allowance admissible to the Pakistan Rangers Punjab/Sindh, Gilgit Baltistan Scouts and Pakistan Coast Guards from the existing Rs. 92/- per day to Rs. 264/- per day w.e.f. 01-01-2020/.
- xviii. The Government has enhanced the Special Conveyance Allowance for disabled employees from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2000/- w.e.f 01-07-2019.

Preservation of Culture and Heritage

145. National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH/Lok Virsa), under National Heritage & Culture Division, has established the first ethnological museum in Pakistan, known as National Heritage Museum, which depicts the living cultural traditions and lifestyles of the people of Pakistan. NIFTH has worked out unique and sustainable business and socio-economic systems in the form of National Design Emporium and Museum of Culinary Heritage and Artisan Village.

146. Through training received at National Academy of Performing Arts, students belonging to low-income families are able to increase their economic potential by gainful employment as artistes and teachers.

147. Special areas have been reserved by the Department of Archives & Museums for gardening and horticulture in the vicinity of office building and at the archaeological sites in pursuance of the Green Pakistan concept.

Quaid-i-Azam Mazar Management

148. Quaid-i-Azam Mazar Management Board (QMMB) reported as follows:

i. Vision of QMMB:

Operation, Maintenance and beautification of mausoleum complex in a befitting manner in accordance with Quaid-i-Azam's Mazar Protection & Maintenance Ordinance Act 1971.

ii. Baseline of The Sector: "Where We Were":

The main focus of the present Government is to improve upon the performance of the departments by assigning tangible, focus oriented tasks to the departments and their monitoring through continuous review and evaluation.

Before the inception of present government the Quaid-i-Azam Mazar Management Board (QMMB) which is responsible for all the decisions regarding Quaid's Mausoleum Complex held only four meetings from 2013 to 2018, whereas in the tenure of present Government 10 QMM Board meetings have already been convened.

iii. Key Objectives behind the Vision:

- a) Upkeep, beautification, landscaping, development and maintenance of Quaid-i-Azam Mazar Complex (including the peripheral area);
- b) Security of Quaid-i-Azam Mazar Complex;
- c) To make necessary arrangements for celebration/commemoration of national days/events of Pakistan and hold functions/seminars/lectures/conferences on these occasions;
- d) Development, preservation, care and upkeep of relics of Quaid-i-Azam;
- e) To archive, preserve and digitize the rare books and documents related to Quaid-i-Azam, history of Pakistan and Pakistan Movement;
- f) Management of ceremonial guards of Pakistan Armed Forces posted at Mazar;
- g) Arrangement of wreath-laying ceremonies for national and foreign delegations/ dignitaries;

iv. Updates on Initiatives / Projects:

- a) QMM Board organized a nation-wide architectural competition for the development of peripheral area of Mazar-e-Quaid. The best design has been selected by the QMM Board, and further work on the design is in progress.
- b) The following events were organized in connection with the Kashmir Solidarity Week:
 - Sketch competition by students:
 - Special tableaux to commemorate the struggle of Kashmiri people:
 - Performance on Kashmiri folk songs:
 - Speech competition among students:
 - Kashmir Solidarity Walk:
 - Special documentary on the struggle of Kashmiri people:
 - Processions by various organizations:

- c) Clean and Green Pakistan Initiatives: QMMB carried out the entire project through its own resources; all the work was done by department labour, whereas plants were arranged through donation from participation of NGOs; the project is hundred percent complete.

Promotion of National Language

149. The National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) has been developing material for the promotion of the National Language to comply with the Article-251 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973.

- i. The department has been promoting the national language through its publications, seminars, conferences, workshops and translation services.
- ii. NLPD is also providing translation services for urgent and classified documents to National Assembly, President's Office, PM Office, and other important organizations.
- iii. The NLPD has published ten issues of "Akhbar-e-Urdu" Magazine. The current and archived online versions are available at the website www.nlpd.gov.pk.
- iv. A three-day National Calligraphy Exhibition was held in September 2019. The art works by calligraphers across the country were exhibited in the galleries of the PNCA. Works of calligraphy were collected for display in the exhibition across the country. The Conference was inaugurated by the President of Pakistan.
- v. The department has been providing its lingual resources to promote the national language through E-books. During the given period 24 more books, including two dictionaries, have been made available online for free access through our website. Working is under way for development of mobile apps to facilitate the end users on modern platforms.

Promotion of Literary Activities

150. Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL), Islamabad, has established its provincial offices at Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta and a regional office at Multan. These offices are meant to maintain liaison between

writers of the provinces and to organize literary programmes, seminars and other literary events under guidance of the head office.

i. Publications

More than 500 titles have been published so far while work on several titles under different series is under way, covering the fields of research & reference, translations and selections from Pakistani literature in Urdu and other Pakistani languages as well as in major international languages, including the annual selection and bibliography of Pakistan literature, on a series of books on makers of Pakistani literature, mystic poetry, translations from Pakistani literature and Encyclopedia of Pakistan literature. PAL also publishes quarterly journals: Adabiyat (Urdu) and bi-annual Pakistani Literature (English) and a monthly Newsletter (Urdu).

ii. Literary Programmes

It is the objective of PAL to organize literary programmes and conferences at Islamabad as well as at its five Regional Offices to keep the public interest alive in literary activities and to provide a participating forum to the people who are interested in literature. During the period, more than 150 programmes, seminars, conferences and Mushairas were organized by PAL Head Office Islamabad and Regional Offices at Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta and Multan. However, the pace of organizing literary programmes remained slow due to Covid-19.

iii. Allama Iqbal Birthday Celebrations

Keeping in view the Prime Minister of Pakistan's vision and instructions by the Federal Minister, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and National History & Literary Heritage Division, regarding promotion of thoughts and teachings of our national poet Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) organized "Allama Iqbal Birthday Celebrations" on the occasion of 142nd birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal from November 20 (Wednesday) to November 24 (Sunday), 2019 at PAL, Islamabad. Besides participation of local writers, poets, intellectuals, teachers,

students and general public in the five-day activities, the PAL also invited one scholar of Iqbaliyat from each province in the inaugural ceremony and Iqbal Seminar.

iv. Seminars on International Mother Language Day

Seminars were organized by PAL on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, i.e. February 21. Senior writers, poets and scholars were invited to read the papers. A large number of writers and general public participated in the events. Similarly, Mushairas in all mother languages have also been arranged on the occasion.

v. “Meet a writer over a cup of tea”

In order to recognize the services of senior writers and poets, PAL has started a series of literary programmes titled “Meet a Writer over a cup of Tea” at Islamabad. Such programmes have also been organized by PAL’s regional offices.

vi. National Literary Awards

To encourage the production of creative works and promote literary artistic excellence, recognition of meritorious works is accorded to authors by conferring the following National Literary Awards to the best books in all languages of Pakistan:

- a. Baba-e-Urdu, Molvi Abdul Haq Award (Urdu Prose)
- b. Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Award (Urdu Poetry)
- c. Syed Waris Shah Award (Punjabi)
- d. Shah Abdul Latif Bhitayee Award (Sindhi)
- e. Khush’hal Khan Khattak Award (Pushto)
- f. Mast Tawakli Award (Balochi)
- g. Khwaja Ghulam Fareed Award (Saraiki)
- h. Taj Muhammad Tajal Award (Brahui)
- i. Saien Ahmed Ali Award (Hindko)
- j. Pitras Bokhari Award (English)
- k. Muhammad Hassan Askari Award (Translation)

The cash money for each award is Rs. 200,000. The awards for the year 2018 were announced in June 2020.

vii. Kamal-e-Fun Award

Kamal-e-Fun Award for life time achievement in literature is being conferred on senior Pakistani writers and poets since 1997. The award money has been enhanced from Rs. 500,000 to Rs. 1,000,000. The Kamal-e-Fun Award for the year 2018 was announced in June 2020 for Muneer Badeeni.

viii. Welfare of Writers' Community

The PAL pays monthly honoraria to indigent writers and poets and bereaved families of deceased writers, who are facing hardships or economic distress. An amount of Rs.140.5 million was paid under this head of account during the financial year 2019-20.

ix. Financial Assistance

Besides monthly stipends, lump-sum financial assistance is also paid to the ailing writers and their families for medical treatment on the recommendations of local literary organizations. An amount of Rs.0.675 million was paid to 15 ailing writers during the financial year 2019-20.

x. Writers' House

Pakistan Academy of Letters is maintaining a ten-room Writer's House for providing accommodation to the writers and scholars visiting Islamabad at nominal rates.

xi. Writers' Cafe

A Writers' Cafe has been established in the Writers' House to provide a corner to writers, scholars, poets, intellectuals and students to sit and discuss literary issues.

xii. Book Shop

In order to ensure public access to PAL's publications, a bookshop has been set up on PAL Islamabad premises where the publications are sold on special discount. The publications of other learned bodies and leading publishers of the country are also available at the bookshop.

xiii. Grant-in-Aid to Learned Bodies

In order to give impetus to literary activities in the country, the Government provides an annual grant to literary bodies throughout the country, including Anjuman-e-Tarraqi-e-Urdu, Karachi; Institute of Islamic Culture, Lahore; Punjabi, Adabi Board, Lahore; Sindhi Adabi Board, Jamshoro; Pushto Academy, Peshawar; Balochi Academy, Quetta; Brahui Academy, Quetta and Saraiki Adabi Board, Multan. An amount of Rs.9 million has been released to 31 bodies during the financial year 2019-20.

xiv. Facilitation To Literary Organizations

Pakistan Academy of Letters also encourages other literary organizations such as Halqa-e-Arbab Zouq, Daira, Josh Memorial Committee, Anjuman Tarraqi Pasand Musanefeen, Imkan, Zavia, Istaara, Inhiraaf, Pushto Adabi Society and Punjabi Adabi Parchar etc. to hold their functions and literary programmes at PAL Islamabad and its Regional Offices at Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and Multan, where the organizations held 186 literary programmes during the period under reference.

Promotion of Healthy Infotainment

151. Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has been established under PEMRA Ordinance 2002, as amended by the PEMRA (Amendment) Act 2007, to facilitate and regulate private electronic media in Pakistan and to improve the standards of information, entertainment and to expand the choice of channels available to the people. The Authority is responsible for facilitating and regulating the establishment and operation of all types of broadcast media and distribution services established in Pakistan for the international, national, provincial, district, and local area community-based or special target audiences. PEMRA is primarily mandated for licensing and regulating the establishment and operation of all broadcast media (satellite TV & FM radio) and distribution services (Cable TV, DTH, IPTV, Mobile TV etc.) in Pakistan. The mandate of PEMRA is:

- i. To improve the standards of information, education and entertainment.
- ii. To enlarge the choice available to the people of Pakistan in the media for news, current affairs, religious knowledge, art,

culture, science, technology, economic development, social sector concerns, music, sports, drama and other subjects of public and national interest.

- iii. To facilitate the devolution of responsibility and power to the grass roots level by improving the access of people to mass media.
- iv. To ensure accountability, transparency and good governance by optimization of the free flow of information.

Present Status of Private Electronic Media

152. The private electronic media has come a long way since 2002 when Pakistan was dominated by the state-run Pakistan Television and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation. Now, with almost 98 Pakistani electronic media channels and more than 42 channels with Landing Rights Permission in Pakistan, the role of PEMRA has never been more important. This boom is due to the Government's unequivocal commitment to free media and the proactive role played by PEMRA in facilitating the growth of the electronic media. The growth of TV channels, Cable TV and launch of FM Radio stations has indeed contributed remarkably in raising the standards of public awareness and literacy locally and portraying a progressive image of Pakistan globally. A glance at the following facts and figures on licensing of media amply substantiates the growth in electronic media in the private sector in the last seventeen years:

i. *Licensing Status (till 30th June 2020):*

a) Satellite TV Licences Issued:	<u>98</u>
• News & Current Affairs:	28
• Entertainment:	39
• Regional Languages;	20
• Specialized Subjects:	05
○ Health:	01
○ Sports:	02
○ Agriculture:	01
○ Education:	02
b) FM Radio Licences Issued:	<u>256</u>
• Commercial:	195
• Non Commercial:	61
c) Cable TV Licences Issued:	4,101

d) Landing Rights Permissions Issued:	42
e) Mobile TV (Video & Audio Content Provision) Service Licensing:	06
f) Internet Protocol TV (IPTV) Licences Issued:	11
g) Direct-to-Home (DTH)	01

ii. *Licensing from July 2019 To June 2020*

a) Satellite TV Licences	09
b) FM Radio Licences	11
c) Cable TV Licences	433
• New Licences	115318
• Renew	
d) Internet Protocol TV (IPTV) Distribution Service Licences	03
e) Mobile TV (Video & Audio Content Provision) Service Licensing	01
f) Landing Rights Permission (LRP)	05

Tourist Safari Trains

153. The Minister for Railways and the Senate Chairman inaugurated a tourist safar train aimed at promoting the culture and natural beauty of the Potohar region. The safari train is operated three days a week, namely Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The route includes the picturesque landscape of Potohar, passing through Margalla Hills, Sangjani Tunnel and bridges like Chablal Bridge, Haro Bridge, Ghazi Barotha and Attock Khurd. The train passes through the old iron girder bridge on the Indus between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces.

154. Another train is operated weekly between Quetta and Kolpur for promotion of tourism.

Participation in Sports

155. Pakistan Sports Board in collaboration with the Ministry of IPC is striving hard to ensure maximum participation of the general public in sports whereby one develops many useful skills like discipline, cooperation, tolerance, sacrifice, mutual respect etc. which are conducive to one's overall well-being.

CHAPTER-10

PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE IN ARMED FORCES (ARTICLE-39 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall enable people from all parts of Pakistan to participate in the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

For national integration, induction of soldiers in Pak Army is carried out on district-wise quota ensuring representation of all provinces/regions proportionate to the male population of respective district based on statistics of the Census. Selection/induction for technical courses is carried out on merit.

2. Information related to prescribed population or regional quota in case of Pakistan Navy Cadets/Sailors and Civilians is as under:

- (i) PN Cadets & Short Service Commission (SSC) Officers:
There is no regional quota allocated for induction in PN Cadets & Officers. All induction of Cadets & SSC Officers is being done on open merit.
- (ii) Sailors: There is no prescribed quota for any region in sailor induction. However, following relaxations are given to candidates of respective region / area during induction:

	Marks Relaxation	Age Relaxation
Son / Daughter of Shaheed PN Personnel	15% Marks	01 Year
Retired Naval Personnel (Uniformed/ Civilian)	5% Marks	01 Year
Sindh	15% Marks	01 Year
Balochistan	15%	01 Year
AJK for Far-Flung Areas	15%	01 Year
Ex-FATA/PATA	15%	01 Year
Gilgit Baltistan	15%	01 Year

3. Following is a comparison of induction/recruitment made during the last 3 years:

Sr.	Service	2018	2019	2020	Remarks
1	AC	836	1052	840	Despatch of 2020 batch was under process
2	Arty	4658	4538	2450	“
3	AAD	1742	1303	945	“
4	Engrs	2650	2008	1181	“
5	Sigs	1991	1864	1400	“
6	Punjab	2780	854	2100	“
7	Balochistan	3673	1807	1382	“
8	FF	739	641	1377	“
9	AJK	1780	1610	1200	“
10	Sindh	2304	1017	840	“
11	NLI	1003	668	450	“
12	ASC	1655	1238	422	“
13	AMC	1341	537	465	“
14	ORD	454	582	185	“
15	EME	2406	1725	1288	“
16	RV&FC	28	0	50	“
17	CMP	9	170	137	“
	TOTAL	30049	21614	16712	

4. Distribution of vacancies as advised by MS Branch/MT Department from the F.Y. 2017-18 to 2019-20:

Yrs	* PMA Kakul/ College	Vacancies Allotted by MT / MS Branch	Selection/Induction by PA Department
2017	* PMA Kakul	@1202	1202
	Total	1202	1202
2018	* PMA Kakul	@1141	1141
	Total	1141	1141
2019	* PMA Kakul	@1078	1078
	Total	1078	1078
Grand Total		3421	3421
2017	MCE	70	37
	MCS	70	32
	EME	80	43
	Avn EME	10	10
	Total	230	122

Yrs	* PMA Kakul/ College	Vacancies Allotted by MT / MS Branch	Selection/Induction by PA Department
2018	MCE	70	70
	MCS	60	60
	EME	100	100
	Avn EME	10	10
	Total	240	240
2019	MCE	70	67
	MCS	72	72
	EME	100	90
	Avn EME	10	10
	Total	252	239
2017	MCE	As Per AI-9/90	1
	MCS	“	1
	EME	“	-
	Total	-	2
2018	MCE	“	3
	MCS	“	2
	EME	“	8
	Total	-	13
2019	MCE	“	1
	MCS	“	4
	EME	“	9
	Total	-	14
2017	MCE	As Per AI-1/2015	18
	MCS	“	21
	EME	“	35
	Total	“	74
2018	MCE	“	18
	MCS	“	20
	EME	“	42
	Total	-	80
2019	MCE	“	24
	MCS	“	35
	EME	“	61
	Total	-	120
2017		-	-
2018		-	-
2019	Sigs (ICTOs)	20	5
	Total	20	5

5. Comparison of induction during the last 3 years is as under:

Sr.	Province / Region	Enrolled from 1-7-17 to 30-6-18		Enrolled from 1-7-18 to 30-6-19		Enrolled from 1-7-19 to 30-6-20	
		Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age

PMA Long Course							
1.	Punjab	691	58	670	58.7	666	61.7
2.	KPK/FATA	212	18	214	18.7	163	15.4
3.	Sindh	101	8	56	4.9	93	8.5
4.	Balochistan	111	9	101	8.9	87	8.0
5.	AJK & GB	87	7	100	8.8	69	6.4
Total		1202	-	1141	-	1078	-
Technical Cadet Course							
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	76	62.30	169	70.4	150	62.76
2.	KPK including FATA	23	18.85	38	15.8	52	21.75
3.	Sindh	11	9.01	13	5.4	14	5.85
4.	Balochistan	2	1.64	5	2.1	13	5.44
5.	AJK / GB	10	8.20	15	6.3	10	4.20
Total		122	-	240	-	239	-
Conversion of PCs/ASCs/NCs into TCs							
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	1	50	8	61.5	12	85.70
2.	KPK including FATA	-	-	4	30.8	2	14.30
3.	Sindh	1	50	0	0	0	0
4.	Balochistan	-	-	0	0	0	0
5.	AJK / GB	-	-	1	7.7	0	0
Total		2	-	13	-	14	-
Voluntary Military Service (VMS)							
1.	Punjab	62	83.80	59	73.75	95	79.20
2.	KPK including FATA	10	13.50	15	18.75	16	13.30
3.	Sindh	-	0	3	3.75	1	0.80
4.	Balochistan	-	0	0	0	0	0
5.	AJK / GB	2	2.70	3	3.75	8	6.70
Total		74	-	80	-	120	-
ICTOs							
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	-	-	-	-	4	80.00
2.	KPK including FATA	-	-	-	-	1	20.00
3.	Sindh	-	-	-	-	0	0
4.	Balochistan	-	-	-	-	0	0
5.	AJK / GB	-	-	-	-	0	0
Total		-	-	-	-	5	-

NAVAL HEADQUARTERS
INDUCTION – SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (SSC)

Province	2017		2018		2019	
	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age
Punjab	20	37.73%	86	39.44%	184	41.35%
Sindh	15	28.30%	55	25.23%	125	28.09%
KPK	07	13.21%	43	19.72%	95	21.35%
Balochistan	01	1.89%	6	2.75%	8	1.80%
AJK	04	7.55%	9	4.13%	8	1.80%
Gilgit-Baltistan	01	1.89%	2	0.92%	2	0.45%
Federal	03	5.66%	12	5.50%	20	4.49%
FATA	02	3.77%	5	2.29%	3	0.67
Total:	53	100%	218	100%	445	100%

INDUCTION DURING LAST THREE YEARS: PN CADET

Province	2017		2018		2019	
	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age
Punjab	59	37.11%	93	43.87%	90	40.91%
Sindh	49	30.82%	59	27.83%	63	28.64%
KPK	19	11.95%	28	13.21%	39	17.73%
Balochistan	16	10.06%	20	9.43%	13	5.91%
AJK	04	2.51%	4	1.83	5	2.72%
Gilgit-Baltistan	02	1.26%	2	0.92%	3	1.36%
Federal	09	5.66%	4	1.89%	7	3.18%
FATA	01	0.63%	2	0.94%	0	0.00%
Total:	159	100%	212	99.92%	220	100%

INDUCTION DURING LAST THREE YEARS-SAILORS

Province	2017		2018		2019	
	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age
Punjab	1729	65.72%	3084	60.67%	3379	55.00%
Sindh	182	6.91%	530	10.42%	855	13.91%
KPK	481	18.28%	1041	20.48%	1347	21.92%
Balochistan	102	3.87%	177	3.48%	168	2.73%
AJK	53	2.01%	103	2.02%	174	2.83%
Gilgit-Baltistan	49	1.86%	48	0.94%	68	1.10%
Federal	11	0.41%	26	0.51%	37	0.60%
FATA	24	0.91%	74	1.45%	115	1.87%
Total:	2631	99.97%	5083	99.97%	6143	99.96%

INDUCTION DURING LAST THREE YEARS-PN CIVILIANS

Province	2017		2018		2019	
	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age
Punjab	834	53.8%	652	49.32%	1225	51.30%

Province	2017		2018		2019	
	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age
Sindh	319	20.6%	292	22.09%	536	22.45%
KPK	243	15.7%	167	12.63%	341	14.28%
Balochistan	76	4.91%	97	7.33%	121	5.06%
AJK	24	1.55%	27	2.04%	53	2.21%
GB/ FATA	49	3.16%	57	4.31%	92	3.85%
Capital	04	0.26%	30	2.26%	20	0.83%
Total:	1549	100%	1322	100%	2388	100%

INDUCTION DURING LAST THREE YEARS									
Province	2017		2018		2019		2020		Remarks
	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age	
Punjab	195	60.00	217	64.58	211	67.63	104	72.73	Limited Induction Due to COVID-19 in 2020
Sindh	36	11.08	34	10.12	22	7.05	13	9.09	
KPK	57	17.54	48	14.29	44	14.10	19	13.29	
Balochistan	15	4.62	9	2.68	9	2.88	5	3.50	
AJK	6	1.85	4	1.19	12	3.85	2	1.40	
GB	4	1.23	14	4.17	8	2.56	0	0	
FATA	5	1.54	1	0.30	2	0.64	0	0	
Federal	7	2.15	9	2.68	4	1.28	0	0	
Total:	325	100	336	100	312	100	143	100	

PAKISTAN AIRFORCE (PAF) OFFICERS PAF AIRMEN

INDUCTION DURING LAST THREE YEARS									
Province	2017		2018		2019		2020		Remarks
	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age	Enrolled	%age	
Punjab	2487	76.90	2806	75.82	2179	64.72	1039	71.46	Approx. 1900 Candidates to report in December, 2020
Sindh	38	1.18	51	1.38	36	1.07	18	1.24	
KPK	611	18.89	656	17.72	575	17.08	267	18.36	
Balochistan	32	0.99	57	1.54	101	3.00	48	3.30	
AJK	26	0.80	33	0.89	41	1.22	24	1.65	
Gilgit-Baltistan	17	0.53	10	0.27	39	1.16	32	2.20	
FATA	23	0.17	88	2.38	396	11.76	26	1.79	
Total:	3234	100	3701	100	3367	100	1454	100	

6. Information for the year 2019-20 is as follows:

INDUCTION STATE OF OFFICERS- 1 JULY 2019 TO 30 JUNE 2020

Ser	Province / Region	Enrolled from 1-7-19-to 30-6-20	
		Officers	Total %age
<u>PMA L/C</u>			
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	976	59.58
2.	KPK including FATA	285	17.39
3.	Sindh	125	07.63
4.	Balochistan	135	08.24
5.	AJK / GB	117	07.14
Total		1638	-
<u>Technical Cadet Course</u>			
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	150	62.76
2.	KPK including FATA	52	21.75
3.	Sindh	14	5.85
4.	Balochistan	13	5.44
5.	AJK / GB	10	4.20
Total		239	-
<u>Conversion of PCs/ASCs/NCs into TCs</u>			
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	12	85.70
2.	KPK including FATA	2	14.30
3.	Sindh	0	0
4.	Balochistan	0	0
5.	AJK / GB	0	0
Total		14	-
<u>Voluntary Military Service (VMS)</u>			
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	95	79.20
2.	KPK including FATA	16	13.30
3.	Sindh	1	0.80
4.	Balochistan	0	0
5.	AJK / GB	8	6.70
Total		120	-
<u>ICTOs</u>			
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	4	80.00
2.	KPK including FATA	1	20.00
3.	Sindh	0	0
4.	Balochistan	0	0
5.	AJK / GB	0	0
Total		5	-
<u>DSSC</u>			
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	25	64.10
2.	KPK including FATA	10	25.64
3.	Sindh	2	5.13
4.	Balochistan	0	0
5.	AJK / GB	2	5.13
Total		39	-
<u>LCC</u>			
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	20	66.66
2.	KPK including FATA	6	20.00
3.	Sindh	1	3.33

Ser	Province / Region	Enrolled from 1-7-19-to 30-6-20	
		Officers	Total %age
4.	Balochistan	0	0
5.	AJK / GB	3	10
Total		30	-
Medical Cadets			
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	137	91.94
2.	KPK including FATA	11	7.38
3.	Sindh	0	0
4.	Balochistan	0	0
5.	AJK / GB	1	0.671
Total		149	-
AFNS (BSc Nursing/Trained Nurses)			
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	156	74.64
2.	KPK including FATA	15	7.17
3.	Sindh	22	10.52
4.	Balochistan	5	2.39
5.	AJK / GB	23	11
Total		221	-
SSRC (GDMO & Spec)			
1.	Punjab including Capital Territory	37	75.51
2.	KPK including FATA	4	8.16
3.	Sindh	4	8.16
4.	Balochistan	0	0
5.	AJK / GB	4	8.16
Total		49	-

NAVAL HEADQUARTERS

S.No	Province/Region	Enrolled from 1-7-2019 to 30-6-2020				
		Officers		Sailors		Total %
1.	Punjab	172	43.88%	2332	54%	97.88%
2.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	63	16.07%	1094	26%	40.07%
3.	Sindh	112	28.57%	584	13%	41.07%
4.	Balochistan	18	4.59%	153	03%	7.59%
5.	Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan	15	3.83%	183	04%	7.83%

AIR HEADQUARTERS, PESHAWAR ENROLMENT OF OFFICERS AND AIRMEN IN PAF (FROM 01-07-2019 TO 30-06-2020)

S.No	Province	Officers	Airmen	Total
1.	Punjab	201	1926	(201+1926) = 2127
2.	KPK	54	874	(54+874) = 928
3.	Sindh	35	23	(35+23) = 58
4.	Balochistan	08	110	(8+110) = 118
5.	AJK & GB	14	89	(14+89) = 103
Total		312	3022	(312+3022) = 3334

CHAPTER-11

STRENGTHENING BONDS WITH MUSLIM WORLD AND PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL PEACE (ARTICLE-40 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall endeavour to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic unity, support the common interests of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, promote international peace and security, foster goodwill and friendly relations among all nations and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

Through multifarious modes of engagement i.e. bilateral, regional and multilateral, Pakistan paid special attention to the promotion of principles of policy in this area. This was done by pursuing a policy of peaceful neighbourhood, underpinned by the imperatives of development, dialogue and cooperation. Similarly, Pakistan along with likeminded countries continued to present a resolution at the General Assembly calling for interfaith harmony across all nations.

PAKISTAN AND MUSLIM WORLD

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs made efforts to preserve and strengthen fraternal ties with the Muslim countries in the light of Article 40. The details are as under:

AFGHANISTAN

3. Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan are based on common history, religion and culture, and people to people contact. Building close cooperative relations with Afghanistan remains a high priority of Pakistan's foreign policy and a vital component of our vision of a 'peaceful neighbourhood'.

4. Pakistan and Afghanistan are brotherly countries. The people of our two countries are intertwined in centuries old bonds of religion, history and geography. Pakistan tries to strengthen bilateral relations through a cooperative partnership and enhanced connectivity for mutual prosperity.

Peace and Stability in Afghanistan

5. Pakistan believes that no country benefits more from peace and stability in Afghanistan and likewise no country suffers more from unrest in Afghanistan than us. A stable Afghanistan would help Pakistan promote its agenda of economic development and regional connectivity.

Afghan Peace and Reconciliation

6. We understand that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. We therefore keep insisting on a politically negotiated Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process. Pakistan has continued to participate in all initiatives and forums for promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

7. In the same spirit Pakistan welcomed all recent initiatives of peace. Pakistan continued to work with international and regional powers for facilitating the peace process. Under China-Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral Foreign Minister Dialogue, the Foreign Ministers of the three countries met in Kabul in December 2018.

Bilateral Engagements

8. Pakistan continued its bilateral engagements with Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan visited Kabul in September and December 2018 to discuss issues of bilateral importance including the Afghan Peace Process. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani visited Islamabad in June 2019, which was his third visit to Pakistan since assuming office in 2014. The wide-ranging talks between the two sides focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including political, trade, economic, security, peace and reconciliation, education and people-to-people exchanges.

9. During 2019-20, several bilateral visits took place between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistan has extended cooperation towards building the Afghan society in the fields of education, healthcare, and infrastructure etc.

- i. From 24 to 25 July 2019, the Minister of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) visited Kabul and met the Afghan Minister for Public Health, Dr. Ferozuddin Feroz. Both the Ministers went to Logar Province and inaugurated state-of-

the-art 100-bed Naeb Aminullah Khan Hospital Logar which was built by Pakistan.

- ii. From 4 to 5 September 2019, Abdul Razaq Dawood, Advisor to Prime Minister for Commerce and Industry, visited Kabul and held meetings with Prof. Muhammad Humayoun Qayoumi, Minister of Finance, and Mr. Ajmal Ahmady, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to discuss cooperation in trade, import and exports between two Countries.
- iii. Third Trilateral 'China-Afghanistan-Pakistan' Foreign Ministers' Dialogue was hosted by Pakistan on 7 September 2019. State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China, H.E. Wang Yi, and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, H.E. Salahuddin Rabbani joined Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi for the meeting in Islamabad. A joint declaration was adopted emphasizing regional peace and stability, development, cooperation and connectivity, security cooperation and counter-terrorism as key areas of trilateral cooperation. The three sides agreed to further strengthen the trilateral cooperation and people to people contact through Under-19 cricket tournament and joint junior diplomatic course.
- iv. On 11 November 2019, a high-level delegation comprising Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and DG ISI General Faiz Hameed visited Kabul and met with Afghan National Security Advisor, Hamdullah Mohib, to discuss issues of bilateral relations and holding of next meeting of Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS).
- v. The 8th Ministerial Conference of "Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process" was held in Istanbul on 9 December 2019. Pakistan delegation was led by the Foreign Minister. The theme of the conference was "Peace, Partnership and Prosperity". At the end of the conference, Istanbul Declaration was issued. The declaration reiterated the support for Afghan peace and reconciliation process. The Foreign Minister held bilateral meetings with his counterpart on the sidelines of the conference.
- vi. The Foreign Minister attended the signing of U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement in Doha on 29th February, 2020. On the occasion, he reiterated that Pakistan will continue its policy of

supporting the Afghan people in their efforts to achieve lasting peace, stability and development in Afghanistan.

- vii. The 3rd round of China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Foreign Secretaries' Dialogue was held on 7 July 2020 in which Afghan peace process, implementation of APAPPS and trilateral cooperation against COVID-19 were discussed.
- viii. As a result of the U.S.-Taliban Agreement, the Intra-Afghan Dialogue began on 12th September 2020 in Doha, Qatar. The dialogues were followed by the agreement on Rules and Procedures on 02 December 2020, paving the way for meaningful progress in peace talks. Pakistan's constructive role and facilitation of Afghan Peace Process has been recognized by all sides and the international community.

Trade & Connectivity

10. Pakistan has been contributing to the reconstruction and nation-building of Afghanistan. At the Brussels Conference Pakistan announced an additional \$500 million taking our total contribution to the development assistance in Afghanistan to \$1.0 billion. Pakistan built numerous hospitals, schools, highways and hostels for the Afghans, including the Jinnah Hospital in Kabul, Logar Hospital and Kidney Centre in Jalalabad. Pakistan continues to support the Afghans through facilitating Afghan Transit Trade through Pakistan.

11. The total bilateral trade between the two countries during the year 2018-19 was \$1.879 billion. Pakistan exports to Afghanistan stood at \$1.322 billion and imports from Afghanistan remained \$0.577 billion.

12. The bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan during 2019-20 is given as under:

Pakistan's Bilateral Trade with Afghanistan (US\$ million)				
Years	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2019-2020	1,091.862	164.515	1256.377	927.347

Opening of Torkham Crossing Point for 24/7

13. On 19 September 2019, the Prime Minister of Pakistan inaugurated the Integrated Transit Trade Management System at Torkham that led to

the opening of the Torkham border crossing for 24/7. Addressing a press conference on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that round-the-clock opening of the border crossing would facilitate trade in the region and termed it a historic day.

Agriculture Cooperation

14. A technical team of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research of Pakistan, headed by Director General Falak Naz, visited Afghanistan on 8-13 October 2019. During the visit, the Technical Team met businessmen in Kabul, Mazar- e-Sharif and Kandahar. The team met with relevant officials in the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock as well as businessmen. The team also visited farm fields in Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif to get inputs on technical aspects of local crops and their imports and exports.

Education Cooperation

15. Pakistan has contributed immensely to the education of Afghan students. More than 50,000 Afghans, educated in various institutions across Pakistan, are presently working in Afghanistan's public and private sectors. We consider them our Ambassadors in Afghanistan. 3000 Afghan students have benefited from the Allama Iqbal Scholarship Programme, and thousands of applicants appear in entrance exam for the said scholarship each year, indicating the widespread acknowledgement this initiative enjoys in the Afghan society.

16. The Government of Pakistan has started Allama Iqbal Scholarships for Afghan students under the Prime Minister Scholarship programme. The programme was started in 2010 and since then thousands of Afghan students benefited from it. They are admitted in multiple disciplines like medical, engineering, business, computer, and many other fields of career-building subjects. The Embassy of Pakistan facilitates this scholarship programme which is overseen by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. The last phase was completed in September 2019 whereby around 800 students were sent for studies in various educational institutions of the country. For the year 2020, the HEC in collaboration with the Embassy conducted the entry exams for 900 scholarships in December 2019.

Cultural Programmes

17. Pak-Afghan Cultural Programme was organized by Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on 31 March-2 April 2020 in Islamabad. Music shows and traditional food stalls were arranged. Senior Pashto singer Haroon Bacha performed on the occasion and kept the audience spell-bound.

Health Sector Cooperation

18. Pakistan allows a large number of Afghans to avail health facilities in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan is also working on further improving the visa facilities and procedures for Afghan patients wanting to get treatment in Pakistan. During the year 2018-19 more than 100,000 Afghan came to Pakistan for medical treatment.

19. The Government of Pakistan has also built health facilities in various cities of Afghanistan and has also contributed to maintenance and uplift of those health facilities. A large number of Afghan doctors have been trained in Pakistan, and they are currently serving the Afghan people across the country.

20. In June 2020, Pakistan's development assistance to Afghanistan reached US\$1 billion. Pakistan has set up healthcare facilities in Afghanistan, including three hospitals i.e. 200-bed Jinnah Hospital Kabul, 80-bed Nishtar Kidney Centre in Jalalabad and 100-bed Naib Aminullah Khan Logar Hospital.

Afghan Refugees

21. Pakistan is proud to have hosted 3 million Afghan Refugees for 38 years. Our Afghan brothers and sisters have enjoyed amenities at par with Pakistanis. There are currently more than 2.7 million refugees residing in Pakistan.

22. Pakistan has always desired a dignified and time-bound return of the Afghan refugees and other illegally residing Afghans to their homeland. Pakistan and Afghanistan are working under the refugee working group of APPAPS for a time-bound repatriation plan.

23. The International Conference on 40 Years of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan was held on 17-18 February 2020 in Islamabad. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres and several other international

dignitaries visited Pakistan to participate in the Conference. They expressed gratitude to Pakistan for serving as peacekeeper as well as hosting such a large number of Afghan refugees. Participants reiterated their commitment to early repatriation of Afghan refugees with dignity and honour.

BANGLADESH

High-Level Interactions

24. During 2018-19, following high-level interactions took place:
 - i. Following the general elections in Bangladesh on 30 December 2018, the Prime Minister of Pakistan conveyed a congratulatory message on election victory.
 - ii. Foreign Secretary led a delegation to Bangladesh from 5-6 May 2018 to participate in the 45th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the OIC.

25. During 2019-20, following high-level interactions took place:
 - i. In August 2019, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan sent a condolence message on the sad demise of former President, People's Republic of Bangladesh Alhaj Hussain Muhammad Ershad, Leader of Opposition, and elder brother of Chairman of Jatiyo Party.
 - ii. The Foreign Minister held a telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen on 3rd September 2019, to discuss the current situation in the IIOJK. The Foreign Minister apprised his Bangladeshi counterpart of the illegal and unilateral actions of India to alter the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir, which was in contravention of the international law and UNSC resolutions.
 - iii. On 2 October 2019, the Prime Minister of Pakistan made a courtesy telephonic call to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina to enquire about her health and convey the best wishes. During the call, the Prime Minister underscored the historic and fraternal relations between the two countries. He reiterated the commitment to strengthening bilateral ties.
 - iv. The President of Pakistan sent a condolence message to the President of Bangladesh in the aftermath of cyclone Bulbul which caused widespread damage in Bangladesh, loss of

precious lives, and displacement of millions on November 15, 2019.

- v. The Foreign Minister held a telephone conversation with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, A.K. Abdul Momen, on 24 March 2020. The two sides discussed the challenges faced by the regional countries in the wake of rapid spread of Covid-19 pandemic and exchanged ideas on ways to combat the threat. Reaffirming Pakistan's abiding commitment to the SAARC process, Foreign Minister Qureshi reiterated Pakistan's offer to host the SAARC Health Ministers' Conference to enhance cooperation among member states in the health sector, with a special focus on Covid-19. The Foreign Minister also underscored the need for debt restructuring of the developing countries to enable them to divert resources towards saving lives. The two Foreign Ministers stressed the need for joint efforts to address the situation and agreed to work closely to realize collective endeavours for common benefit.

People-to-People Contacts and Human Resource Development

26. The Government of Pakistan has always desired to promote people-to-people contacts and enhance cooperation in the fields of human resource development, educational assistance, capacity building and sports with Bangladesh. Pakistan has also been offering Bangladesh six seats under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP) in different fields.

27. In order to promote media cooperation, a 10-member media delegation from Bangladesh visited Pakistan in March 2018.

28. Bangladesh's Cricket Team toured Pakistan in January and February 2020 to play one Test Match and three T20 international matches against Pakistan.

29. Pakistan offers training courses to diplomats from Bangladesh.

30. Both countries have a strong defence cooperation. Armed Forces officers of the two countries undergo various training courses on regular basis.

Trade Diplomacy

31. Bangladesh is among the top ten export destinations for Pakistan. The balance of trade has always remained in favour of Pakistan and Pakistani exports have a huge potential in Bangladesh. During the period under review, the bilateral trade enhanced and reached to the tune of about US\$8 million, which was largely in Pakistan's favour. A delegation of Pakistan Tanners' Association (PTA) participated in the Leather-Tech Exhibition held in Dhaka from 22-24 November 2018 and from 31 October-2 November 2019. Bangladesh Fashion Carnival was held from 30 April-4 May 2019 in which Pakistani companies participated. Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF-2019), organized by Export Promotion Bureau and Bangladesh's Ministry of Commerce, was held from 1-31 January 2019 in Dhaka in which various companies from Pakistan actively participated. With the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' efforts, a 15-member buyers' delegation from Bangladesh participated in the expo held from 11-14 April 2019 in Lahore. During the visit, deals worth US\$ 263,974 were finalized. In FY 2019-20, total trade between the two countries amounted to US\$677 million.

TURKEY

32. Pakistan and Turkey enjoy warm and cordial relations marked by a rich reserve of mutual goodwill and strong desire to further strengthen bilateral ties. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1947, bilateral relations have traditionally and historically been close and cordial, marked by commonality of unusual warmth and mutual trust. Turks still recall with gratitude the legendary support provided by Muslims of South Asia to a besieged Turkey during its war of independence in the early 20th century. This discourse is further strengthened by the popularity of work of Allama Iqbal whose poetry captured the revolutionary spirit of resistance that led to renaissance of the Turkish nation during its war of independence. Diplomatic relations between the two countries are extension of the same historical spirit.

33. Being geo-strategically located in volatile neighbourhoods, Pakistan and Turkey are both confronted with many similar socio-economic problems and internal and external security threats, including the ongoing conflicts in neighbouring countries; threat of terrorism; huge refugees population; unresolved disputes with neighbours (Jammu & Kashmir and Cyprus); environmental challenges; vulnerability to natural disasters; and large expatriate communities facing Islamophobia and xenophobia in certain parts of the world.

Turkish President's visit to Pakistan

34. On the invitation of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Pakistan from 13-14 February 2020. During the visit, the Prime Minister and President Erdogan had tete-a-tete, and co-chaired the 6th Session of the Pakistan-Turkey High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) in the Joint Cabinet format. At the conclusion of the Session, a Joint Declaration, a number of important agreements/MoUs and the Strategic Economic Framework were finalized. During his visit, the President also addressed a joint session of the Parliament on 14th February 2020 for the fourth time in which he reaffirmed Turkey's support to Pakistan's stance on Kashmir.

Exchange of Delegations

35. During 2018-19, the historical and cordial ties between Pakistan and Turkey continued to flourish in various fields. Various high-level visits took place between two countries beside working level visits. Former President of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain visited Ankara in July 2018. Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwalla visited Turkey in October 2018 to attend the 3rd meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of Eurasian countries. President Arif Alvi visited Istanbul in October 2018 followed by a visit by the Prime Minister of Pakistan in January 2019. The Foreign Minister visited Turkey to attend the meeting of OIC executive committee meeting in March 2019. Minister for Defence Production and Minister of State for Interior also visited Turkey during the period. The exchange of high-level visits helped to maintain the upward trajectory of bilateral cooperation in multifaceted arenas.

Trade and Economic Relations

36. The endeavour on both sides is to further promote the economic and trade relations that are dismally low in comparison with the excellent political ties. The volume of bilateral trade in 2018-2019 was US\$673.94 million (including US\$295.14 million of exports from Pakistan). Pakistan's main exports to Turkey include cotton, cotton yarn, textiles, leather, beverages, plastic products, carpets, knitted and non-knitted goods and miscellaneous items. Our main imports from Turkey included boilers, electrical machinery, dairy products and edible preparations. Renewed focus has been accorded by leadership of both countries to strengthen economic cooperation.

Support at multilateral fora

37. Turkey and Pakistan have been supporting each other at multilateral platforms. Turkey has taken a strong position in support of Pakistan in the Financial Action Task Force meetings. Both countries share a similar position on the UN reform process, especially the UN Security Council expansion. Turkey has been consistently calling for the resolution of Jammu & Kashmir dispute within the framework of UN Security Council resolutions. Pakistan has also supported Turkey on the Cyprus issue.

Turkey's support for just resolution of Jammu & Kashmir dispute

38. Turkey has been consistently calling for resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute “within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions” and through dialogue. After India’s unilateral and illegal measures of 5 August 2019, Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a press statement that expressed concern at the development, adding that the action “could further increase the existing tensions.” In another press statement on 17 August 2019, Turkey “welcomed” the consultations held at the UN Security Council on 16 August 2019.

39. Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, made a strong reference to the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in his address to the UN General Assembly on 24 September 2019. He said that the international community did not devote enough attention to the Jammu & Kashmir conflict “which awaits a solution for 72 years”.

40. During the year 2019-20, nearly 40 events including seminars, protests, and social media campaign were organized by the Embassy of Pakistan as well as the Turkish civil society in support of the right to self-determination of the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process

41. Foreign Minister of Pakistan led the Pakistan delegation to the 8th ministerial meeting of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process held in Istanbul on 12th December 2019. On the sidelines of the meeting, the Foreign Minister called on President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Conference of Speakers of Parliaments

42. A parliamentary delegation led by Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Mr. Asad Qaisar attended the 3rd Conference of the Speakers of the Parliaments on Countering Terrorism & Strengthening Regional Connectivity held in Istanbul on 12 October 2019.

ECO Council of Ministers Meeting

43. The Council of Ministers (COM) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) held its 24th meeting in Antalya on 9 November 2019. Ms. Andleeb Abbas, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, led the Pakistan delegation.

International Ethnosport Forum

44. On the invitation of Mr. Mehmet Muharrem Kasapoglu, Minister of Youth and Sports of Turkey, and Mr. Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan, President of World Ethnosport Confederation, Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination /President Pakistan Sports Board attended the 3rd International Ethnosport Forum in Antalya on 22-23 February 2020.

Defence Cooperation

45. Defence cooperation has become a strong pillar of growing bilateral relations. It is demonstrated through frequent exchange of senior military level visits, signing of major defence contracts, close collaboration for joint defence production and cooperation in military training as well as joint exercises.

Cultural and Educational Linkages

46. The educational linkages between the two countries continued the positive momentum during the period under review. Currently, more than 1600 Pakistani students are studying in various Turkish universities, including a sizeable number under the Higher Education Commission (HEC) scholarships. The endeavour is to facilitate further increase of Pakistani students in Turkish universities through institutional arrangements between the HEC, Turkish Higher Educational Council as well as Turkish universities. The Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara also organized various cultural events in collaboration with the Turkish side during 2018-19 to promote Pakistani culture. These events included the Jinnah Young Writers Award, Pakistan Food Festival, Pakistan Cultural night and the Pakistan Mango Festival.

MIDDLE EAST AND GULF REGION

47. In response to rising tensions in the Middle East, Pakistan has endeavoured to lessen tensions, promote dialogue and reduce the prospect of conflict. We declared, unequivocally, that Pakistan will not be part of any new war; we will not allow our soil to be used against any third country, and that Pakistan will only be a partner for peace.

48. Pakistan values its close cooperation and brotherly relations with Muslim countries, rooted in commonalities like shared faith, values, traditions and mutual good will. In order to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among these countries, Pakistan remains constructively engaged at different levels with countries of the region.

SAUDI ARABIA

49. The Treaty of Friendship was signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on 25 November 1951 at Jeddah, laying the basis for cooperation. These relations have strengthened over the years by a history of strong Saudi financial assistance to Pakistan, which in return has provided valuable support to Saudi Arabia whenever required. The two countries attach immense importance to their fraternal relations and have a similarity of views on a number of regional and international issues. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia also support each other at various international organizations, including the United Nations. The KSA is also home to about 2.6 million Pakistani nationals.

50. High level visits/exchanges:

- i. The Prime Minister of Pakistan paid a State visit to Saudi Arabia on 18-19 September 2018, at the invitation of King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz. The Prime Minister again visited Saudi Arabia on 22-23 October 2018 at the invitation of the Crown Prince, to participate in the Second Future Investment Initiative (FII) Conference. The visit resulted in important understandings that included: Saudi budgetary support to Pakistan, provision of oil on deferred payment and mutual understanding to reduce bilateral visit visa fee.
- ii. The Foreign Minister met his Saudi counterpart H.E Adel Al Jubeir in New York, on the sidelines of 73rd UNGA in September 2018.

- iii. The President visited Saudi Arabia from 9-15 December 2018 for pilgrimage and paid a courtesy call on King Salman Bin Abdulaziz.
- iv. Saudi Minister for Energy, H.E. Engr. Khalid Al Falih and CEO of Saudi ARAMCO visited Gwadar on 12 January 2019 to finalize investment-related MoUs in energy and petroleum sectors.
- v. The Saudi Crown Prince, Muhammad Bin Salman, paid a State visit to Pakistan on 17-18 February 2019, on the invitation of the Prime Minister. The major takeaways of the visit included launching of Saudi-Pakistan Supreme Coordination Council (SPSCC), to be headed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan and HRH. It has three main pillars/components, i.e political and security pillar, economic pillar and social pillar. Moreover, seven MoUs/agreements were signed during the visit including refinery, renewable energy and mineral resources sectors, envisaging Saudi investment worth US\$ 20 billion; financing agreement for provision of oil on deferred payment worth US\$3.2 billion and financing of five power generation projects by Saudi Fund for Development amounting to US\$ 322 million etc. The Crown Prince also announced the release of Pakistani prisoners in the Kingdom. Saudi Arabia also drastically decreased visa fee for Pakistani workers.

51. During 2019-20, following engagements were carried out with Saudi Arabia:

- i. Prime Minister of Pakistan visited Saudi Arabia in September 2019 and December 2019.
- ii. Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia visited Pakistan in September 2019 and December 2019.
- iii. Saudi Crown Prince, Muhammad Bin Salman paid a State visit to Pakistan on 17-18 February 2019, on the invitation of the Prime Minister. The major takeaways of the visit included launching of Saudi-Pakistan Supreme Coordination Council (SPSCC), to be headed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Prince Muhammad Bin Salman. It has three main pillars/components i.e. political and security pillar, economic pillar and social pillar. The Crown Prince also announced the

release of 2,107 Pakistani prisoners in the Kingdom. Saudi Arabia also decreased visa fee for Pakistani workers.

- iv. Foreign Minister of Pakistan visited Saudi Arabia in January 2020.

Efforts on Enhancing Trade and Investment

52. Our bilateral trade with the Kingdom currently stands at \$3.316 billion (2018-19), with exports worth \$ 0.330 billion and imports worth \$ 2.98 billion. Under the economic pillar of SPSCC, the Ministries of Finance, Commerce, Energy, BoI and others will have meetings of steering committees and joint working groups with their Saudi counterparts for a more focused approach on enhancement of trade and investment between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

53. Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates have historically enjoyed fraternal relations. Pakistan was the first country to recognize the UAE after its inception. Since the founding of the UAE in 1971, Pakistanis have played a pivotal role in laying the country's institutional foundations. In return Pakistan has benefited from aid and investment from the UAE, as well as remittances from Pakistani expat workers who – at 1.6 million – constitute one of the largest concentrations of Pakistanis anywhere in the world. Additionally, UAE is a major destination for private sector investments from Pakistan.

54. Pakistan and the UAE enjoy strong fraternal ties, rooted deep in common faith and shared history and values. High-level visits between the two countries have played a pivotal role in providing further impetus to strengthening bilateral cooperation and collaboration on a wide range of issues.

55. High Level Visits/Exchanges:

- i. The Prime Minister paid an official visit to UAE on 19 September 2018 to strengthen bilateral relations with this important GCC partner.
- ii. The Foreign Minister met his Emirates counterpart on the sidelines of 73rd UNGA in New York in September 2018.

- iii. As per understanding reached during the first visit of the Prime Minister to UAE, a high-powered delegation comprising CEOs/senior officials of major UAE companies, visited Pakistan on 26 October 2018, to establish “Long Term Strategic Economic Partnership” between the two countries.
 - iv. The Prime Minister paid second visit to UAE on 18 November 2018 at the invitation of the Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed. The two sides agreed to chalk out a comprehensive roadmap to accelerate long term cooperation in trade, infrastructure, energy and economic development. An agreement was later signed on 22 January 2019 to formalize the Balance of Payment support of \$3 bn for Pakistan.
 - v. His Highness Sheikh Muhammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces, paid an official visit to Pakistan on 6 January 2019, at the invitation of Prime Minister.
 - vi. The Prime Minister participated in the World Government Summit 2019 as a key note speaker on 10 February 2019.
56. Following engagements were carried out with the U.A.E in 2019-20.
- i. His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces, paid an official visit to Pakistan on 6 January, 2019, at the invitation of Prime Minister.
 - ii. The Prime Minister of Pakistan participated in the World Government Summit 2019 in Dubai as a key note speaker on 10 February, 2019. During the visit of the Prime Minister to UAE, the two sides signed the agreement to upgrade bilateral relations to a “Long Term Strategic Economic Partnership”.
 - iii. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan paid a visit to the UAE on 18th December 2020. During the visit, the Foreign Minister called on H.H. Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al Makhtoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and ruler of

Dubai. He also visited the Consulate of Pakistan in Dubai and interacted with the local and international media.

- iv. Foreign Minister of UAE visited Pakistan in September 2019.

Efforts on Enhancing Trade and Investment

57. Chairman BoI visited UAE on 6-8 December 2018. He shared a draft Framework Investment Agreement. Both sides are fast processing Pakistan-UAE Framework Investment Agreement which will provide immense boost to UAE's investment profile in Pakistan, particularly in energy, power, housing, IT, trade logistics and agriculture sectors.

IRAN

58. Pakistan has enjoyed good brotherly relations with Iran over the last seven decades. The two countries have supported each other at critical moments in their history. Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan after independence in 1947. Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize the 1979 Iranian revolution. The relations were quite cordial during Shah's regime and have more or less remained so in the post-1979 revolution period.

59. Pakistan and Iran share a 912 km long border and have historically enjoyed close cultural, religious and economic ties since independence. Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan. Prime Minister visited Iran in October 2019. The visit came at an important time to facilitate talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran for reducing the tensions in the Persian Gulf. Pakistan having good brotherly relations with both KSA and Iran was uniquely poised for playing the role of peace broker. The Rahbar Ayatollah Khamenei and President Rouhani appreciated Pakistan's overtures to ease the tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Exchange of Delegations

60. During 2018-19, despite several challenges, the two countries retained momentum towards improving bilateral relations, and bilateral engagements increased significantly. A number of bilateral visits and meetings between the leadership of Pakistan and Iran took place in the period under review. The high-level interactions included the visit of Iranian Foreign Minister on 31 August 2019 after formation of PTI Government in Pakistan. He was the first foreign dignitary to visit Pakistan after the new Government came to power.

61. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi visited Iran on 2 December 2018 as part of his shuttle diplomacy visit. At invitation of President of Iran Dr. Hassan Rouhani, the Prime Minister of Pakistan paid his first official visit to Iran in April 2019. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan again visited Iran on 12-13 January, on the first leg of his visit to regional countries. Regular interactions of leadership of two countries played a significant role in further strengthening the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran.

Cooperation at Multilateral Fora

62. At multilateral fora, Pakistan has always been extending support to Iran to the maximum extent such as at the Human Rights Council & IAEA. Pakistan voted against the resolutions on Iran at the HRC in June 2020 and also at IAEA Board of Governors by abstaining in June 2020. The Supreme Leader remained a staunch supporter of the Kashmir cause, and has raised his voice for support of innocent Kashmiris. He issued a statement supporting the Kashmiris and asked India to show restraint particularly after the illegal action by the Modi government of revoking Article 370 and annexing JIOJK on 5th August 2019. Speaker of the Islamic Parliament Mr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Dr. Javad Zarif also issued statements against the targeted persecution of the Muslims through the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens.

63. In addition to bilateral relations, Pakistan and Iran (besides Turkey) are also founding members of Economic Cooperation Organization founded in 1985 from the erstwhile Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD). ECO aims at promoting sustainable economic development of Member States through trade and economic cooperation. Three long-term sectoral priorities of the Organization are: i) Development of transport and communication infrastructure, ii) Facilitation of trade and investment, iii) Effective use of the region's vast energy resources for collective benefit.

64. Important interactions between the two countries were as follows:

- i. The Prime Minister of Pakistan visited Iran in October 2019 for facilitating initiation of talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The visit was helpful in promoting peace and security in the region.

- ii. The visit of Army Chief in November 2019 was very well received by the Iranian side. In addition to bilateral security related issues, the visit focused on regional situation, Afghanistan, India, Kashmir issue, and security for enhancement of trade and economic ties.
- iii. Pakistan-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group visited Iran in November 2019 and met with Iranian parliamentarians. It was effective for enhancing bilateral parliamentary cooperation.
- iv. The Second Session of Pakistan-Iran Higher Border Commission (HBC) was held in Islamabad on 18 July 2019. Pakistan delegation was led by Director General (Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey) Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, and Iranian delegation was led by Director General of International Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abbas Bagherpour Ardekani. The HBC is a mechanism for consultations between the two countries to discuss all border-related issues for enhanced coordination at different levels.
- v. The 4th Technical Committee on FTA (TNC) meeting was held in Islamabad on 5th July 2019 on the sidelines of the JTC.
- vi. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi visited Tehran on 13 January 2020 in the aftermath of assassination of General Soleimani and the Iranian strikes on US bases in Iraq. The aim was to reiterate our message of de-escalation and emphasize the importance of finding a diplomatic way forward. During the visit, he called on the Iranian President and Foreign Minister Zarif. Both the leaders were appreciative of Pakistan's past and current efforts to defuse tensions, which also reaffirmed the importance of Iran's relationship with Pakistan.

Economic Relations

65. Pakistan wants to enhance economic and trade relations with Iran despite US sanctions. The bilateral trade between the two countries is low, despite enormous potential. Pakistani exports comprise mainly of rice, meat, paper and paper board, chemicals, textiles, fruit & vegetables; major imports from Iran comprise mainly of iron ore, hide & skins, and chemical products. According to M/o Commerce, trade balance remained in favour of Iran with Pakistan's imports at US\$ 369 million and exports at US\$ 22.86 million. Major impediments in the way of increasing bilateral trade

have been US sanctions on Iran, lack of consistency in trade policy in Iran, Iranian tariff and non-tariff barriers, smuggling, and lack of implementation of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

Energy Connectivity

66. There is huge potential in energy connectivity between Pakistan and Iran. Iran-Pakistan pipeline is the mega venture between the two countries in the energy sector and both countries desire to complete this project. Iran is also keen to supply 1000 MW electricity to Balochistan and increase it up to 3500 MW.

Communication and Transport

67. Iran and Pakistan are working together at expert level to improve road and rail connectivity. This includes upgradation of Quetta-Taftan highway, improvement of facilities at border crossing points, opening up of new border crossing points and improvement of facilities available to Zaireen. Moreover, both Gwadar and Chabahar ports are considered as sister ports. The linkage between two ports would further strengthen economic ties and people to people contacts. Efforts are also underway to enhance joint cooperation in railways. Pakistan's Minister for Railways visited Iran from 5-8 March 2019.

Cultural and Educational Linkages

68. Improvement of cultural and educational linkages has always attained a special focus. Pakistani Mission in Tehran arranged, supported and participated in various cultural events to enhance cultural linkages between the two countries. The Mission also provided publicity material and traditional costumes to Pakistani students in Iran for setting up stalls at International cultural festivals for projection of Pakistan's culture.

69. Several cultural events were also organized by the Embassy in Tehran in 2019-20:

- i. Cultural Stall at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran
- ii. Pakistani Cultural stalls at shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad
- iii. Seminar on Cultural and Literary Linkages between Iran and Kashmir
- iv. Seminar on Impact of Iranian Islamic Revolution on Kashmir held at Tehran University

IRAQ

70. Iraq is an important country in the Middle East with centuries old history and strong cultural identity. Pakistan enjoys close ties with Iraq and is ready to contribute in the rebuilding of Iraq. A large number of Pakistani Zaireen visit Iraq every year for paying homage to holy sites, and around five thousand Pakistanis live in Iraq.

71. High Level Visits/Exchanges:

- i. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, Syed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari, paid a visit to Baghdad on 23 January 2019. During his visit, he called on the Iraqi President Dr. Braham Salih and held meetings with Minister of Labour, Dr. Basam Al-Zaman Majeed Al- Rubaei and leader of Al-Hikma Party, Mr. Ammar Al-Hakim.
- ii. The Chairman Senate, Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, accompanied by Leader of the Opposition visited Iraq from 11-13 January, 2019.
- iii. Gen. Zubair Mehmood Hayat, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee visited Iraq on 10-14 September 2018. His engagements included a call on the Iraqi Defence Minister. Iraqi Chief of Staff, and Iraqi Air Chief.
- iv. Iraqi Members of Parliament attended the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Gwadar, held from 29-31 October 2018.
- v. A delegation of Iraqi Armed Forces headed by the tri-services commanders participated in the IDEAS 2018 held in Karachi on 27-30 November 2018. This was the first such visit by Iraqi delegation.

Other Interactions

72. 193,000 Pakistani pilgrims visited Iraq for Ziarat in 2018.

Trade

73. Total bilateral trade between Pakistan and Iraq was \$27 million during Financial Year 2018-19, with \$24.3 million in exports, and \$2.7 million in imports.

OMAN

74. Oman is considered as our close neighbour located at a distance of 202 nautical miles. By virtue of shared history and geography as well as maritime boundaries Oman holds immense geo-strategic importance for Pakistan. Most significantly, 30 percent of Omani population originates from Balochistan and coastal areas of Sindh. Around 208,000 Pakistanis are living/working in various sectors in Oman.

75. High-level visits/exchanges:

- i. The Chairman, Senate of Pakistan, visited Oman from 18-22 November 2018. An MoU between the State Council of the Sultanate of Oman and the Senate of Pakistan in the field of strengthening cooperation in Parliamentary Affairs was signed.
- ii. The Foreign Minister met his Omani counterpart on sidelines of the 73rd UNGA in New York in September 2018.
- iii. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi visited Muscat from 29-31 January 2019 to co-chair the 7th session of Pak-Oman JMC. On sidelines of the JMC session, he held meetings with senior Omani leadership including Deputy PM Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmood. During the JMC, two MoUs on Labour and Training and Cooperation in the field of literature were signed.
- iv. Chairman JCSC undertook a visit to Oman on 4-5 February 2019 during which an MoU between NDU Pakistan and NDC Oman was signed.
- v. Members (Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi and Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar) of Pak-Oman Friendship group in the Senate visited Oman on 17-21 March 2019 at the invitation of Head of Pak-Oman Friendship Group in the State Council of Oman.

PALESTINE

76. Pakistan and Palestine's relations are strong, historical, and multi-faceted. Pakistan fully supports the creation of an independent, viable, contiguous Palestinian state with pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Pakistan supports Palestine at various multilateral fora, including the UN and the OIC.

Financial Support

77. As an expression of our solidarity with Palestinian people, Pakistan committed US\$250,000 for United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in August 2018.

QATAR

78. The relations between Pakistan and Qatar are rooted in common faith, heritage and values. Pakistan's bilateral relations with its traditional friend Qatar continued with the same impetus in 2018-19 with a visit of the Amir of Qatar in June 2019. In the recent times, bilateral relations between the two sides have become very strong and multifaceted.

79. High-level visits/exchanges:

- i. H.E. Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, visited Pakistan on 19 October 2018. He conveyed a keen desire of the Amir to work with the new leadership in Pakistan, for further cementing close and cordial relations between Pakistan and Qatar.
- ii. Finance Minister, Mr. Asad Umar, attended the 18th Doha Forum on 14-15 December 2018.
- iii. The Foreign Minister visited Doha on 30 December 2018 and conveyed Prime Minister's assurance to Qatari leadership of the importance attached by Pakistan to the role played by Doha in the Afghan peace process.
- iv. The Prime Minister paid an official visit to Qatar on 21-22 January 2019.
- v. The Foreign Minister held a meeting with his Qatari counterpart on sidelines of the 73rd UNGA on 25 September 2018.
- vi. Mr. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, CEO of Qatar Petroleum, visited Pakistan on 28 September 2018. During his visit he called on the Prime Minister and assured him of full support of Qatar in scrutinizing the LNG deal.
- vii. Advisor to the PM on Commerce, Mr. Abdul Razzak Dawood and Chariman BoI, Mr. Haroon Sharif, attended the Pak-Qatar trade and Investment Conference in Doha on 10 March 2019.

- viii. Head of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Al-Thani visited Pakistan along with a business delegation at the invitation of Chairman BoI and as a follow up to the visit of the Prime Minister on 1-2 April 2019.
- ix. The Amir of Qatar H.H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani visited Pakistan on 22-23 June 2019 at the invitation of the Prime Minister. His delegation included key ministers and officials from the Government of Qatar including its Foreign Minister, Finance Minister and Minister of State for Energy and head of the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA). The Amir called on the President, held one on one meeting with the Prime Minister and delegation level talks. During the visit, three MoUs were signed on (i) Cooperation in the field exchange of financial intelligence related to money laundering and terrorism financing, (ii) Establishment of Joint Working Group on trade and investment and (iii) Cooperation in the field of tourism and business events.

Important Developments

80. Qatar operationalized the import of 100,000 Pakistani workers, the MoU for which had been signed in February 2016. More than 60,000 workers have been exported to Qatar ever since. Pakistan is among eight countries chosen by Qatar for establishment of Qatar Visa Centres (QVCs), to facilitate prospective workers in completing procedures for Qatar Residency Permits prior to their departure. QVCs in Islamabad and Karachi became operational in March 2019.

SYRIA

81. Pakistan's relations with Syria are cordial and friendly. The Syrian Government appreciates Pakistan's stand towards the crisis in Syria. Pakistan's policy to support a Syrian-led all-inclusive solution of the crisis in Syria is greatly valued by the Syrian Government. Pakistan supports territorial integrity and sovereignty of Syria and calls on all countries to support it. A large number of Pakistanis visit Syria for pilgrimage to the Shrine of Hazrat Zainab. There are around 600 Pakistanis living in Damascus.

Trade

82. Total bilateral trade between Pakistan and Syria was \$13.9 million during Financial Year 2018-19, with \$13.8 million in exports, and \$0.1 million in imports.

JORDAN

83. Jordan is an important country in the Middle East with whom Pakistan has close ties. We are solidifying our relations with Jordan. An estimated 15,000-strong Pakistani farming community live in the Jordan River Valley. Besides the farming community, there are approximately 100 Pakistani families which include textile unit owners, small businessmen and some international civil servants working in UN bodies.

84. High-level visits/exchanges:

- i. Admiral Zafar Mehmood Abbasi, Chief of Naval Staff, visited Jordan in January 2019. He held separate meetings with the Commander of Royal Jordanian Naval Force, Brig Gen Ibrahim Salman Al Naimat and the Commander Royal Jordanian Air Force Major General Yousef A Al-Hnaity.
- ii. General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff, visited Jordan from 1-4 October 2018. During the visit, he was conferred with Order of Military Merit of the 1st Grade by King Abdullah II. Apart from his other engagements, he called on King Abdullah at Al Husseinia Palace on 2 October 2018.
- iii. Jordanian Members of Parliament attended the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Gwadar, held from 29-31 October 2018.

Trade

85. Total bilateral trade between Pakistan and Jordan was \$53.2 million during Financial Year 2018-19, with \$33.4 million in exports, and \$19.8 million in imports.

BAHRAIN

86. Bahrain is an important member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), widely regarded as a financial and trade hub of the Gulf region, particularly due to its close geographical proximity with Saudi Arabia. Bahrain is known for its vital strategic importance for the oil-rich Gulf region. About 100,000 Pakistan nationals reside in Bahrain.

87. The Foreign Minister of Bahrain, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, visited Islamabad on 7-8 April 2019.

Efforts on Enhancing Trade and Investment

88. During 2018-19, Pakistan-Bahrain trade volume was around US\$ 109 million, with Pakistan's exports to the tune of US\$ 63 million. Around 100,000 Pakistanis are living/working in Bahrain in various sectors. There are vast opportunities for deeper economic engagement with Bahrain, in the agriculture, food processing, textiles and other sectors. The recruitment of Pakistan's skilled and semi-skilled manpower is another area of potential growth.

KUWAIT

89. Pakistan and Kuwait enjoy close and brotherly relations. Kuwait appreciates Pakistan's help in the Gulf War of 1991 against Iraqi occupation while Pakistan holds the support of Kuwait for its stance on Kashmir issue in high regard. The two countries share a common perception on international and regional issues. The two countries also cooperate with each other at international forums.

90. High-level visits/exchanges:

- i. The Foreign Minister held a meeting with the then Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Sabah on the sidelines of 73rd UNGA on 24 September 2018.
- ii. 4th Session of Pakistan-Kuwait Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) was held on 26-28 September 2018 in Islamabad. It was co-chaired by the then Finance Minister from Pakistani side.
- iii. The Foreign Minister visited Kuwait at the invitation of his counterpart H.E. Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on 18-19 May 2019. During his visit he called on the Amir and held meetings with the Minister of Interior and the Foreign Minister of Kuwait. In his meetings, he emphasized the need for building long term economic cooperation between the two countries and raised the issue of visa restriction on Pakistan nationals. He met his counterpart and raised issues relating to export of Pakistani workforce.
- iv. The President of Pakistan visited Kuwait on 5 October 2020 to offer condolences on the sad demise of the Amir, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The

President conveyed that the Pakistani nation fully shared the sorrow and grief of their Kuwaiti brethren.

- v. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with his Kuwaiti counterpart on sidelines of the 47th session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Niamey, Niger in November 2020.

LEBANON

91. Pakistan and Lebanon enjoy cordial and friendly bilateral relations. Both the countries have a coordinated position on the Middle East Peace Process at the level of United Nations. They also share their views on issues of international importance. The relationship between the two countries has strengthened in different fields during recent times.

Visits

92. The Prime Minister met former Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri in Abu Dhabi on 10 February 2019, on the sidelines of World Government Summit. Expressing satisfaction over the cordial relations between the two countries, the two leaders agreed to further enhance high-level exchanges between Pakistan and Lebanon.

Trade

93. Total bilateral trade between Pakistan and Lebanon was \$30.7 million during Financial Year 2018-19, with \$24.5 million in exports, and \$6.2 million in imports.

EGYPT

94. Pakistan and Egypt enjoy close fraternal relations based on shared history and mutual interests. Egypt is an important country in the region and its stability is vital for the stability of the entire region. Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Egypt.

95. High level visits/exchanges:

- i. The Prime Minister of Pakistan held a meeting with President Abdul Fattah Al Sisi on the sidelines of the OIC Summit held in Makkah on 30th May 2019.
- ii. The Foreign Minister met with his Egyptian counterpart on 29 May 2019 at the sidelines of the OIC Summit in Jeddah

- iii. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held bilateral meeting with his Egyptian counterpart, Mr. Sameh Hassan Shoukry, on the sidelines of UNGA in New York, in September 2018.
- iv. Minister for Religious Affairs, Mr. Noor-ul-Haq Qadri visited Cairo from 18-22 January 2019 to attend the 29th Session of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, titled “Building the character and its impact on the progress of country and preservation of their identity”.
- v. Dr. Sameh Aboul-Enein, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, visited Pakistan from 15-16 October 2018 to participate as the main speaker in the international conference on “The Global Non-Proliferation Regime: Challenges and Responses.”
- vi. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar, visited Egypt on 24-25 September 2018 to attend Cairo Dialogue and Trade Summit, organized by the South Asia Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI), Islamabad in collaboration with the Embassy of Pakistan and the Egyptian Ministry of Planning.
- vii. Minister of State for Climate Change, Ms. Zartaj Gul visited Egypt and represented Pakistan in the 2nd World Youth Forum held in Sharm Al Sheikh from 3-6 November, 2018.
- viii. Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Cairo from 14 to 17 December 2018 and held meetings with his Egyptian counterpart, Lt. Gen. Mohamed Fareed Hijazi, Shaikh Al-Azhar Dr. Ahmad Al-Tayyab, and the Defence Minister, General Mohamed Zaki.

Trade

96. Total bilateral trade between Pakistan and Egypt was \$262.8 million during Financial Year 2018-19, with \$95.5 million in exports, and \$167.3 million in imports.

97. Regular high-level visits were exchanged during 2019-20. Some engagements with the Middle East are mentioned below:

- i. Prime Minister of Pakistan visited Bahrain in December 2019,

- ii. Due to consistent efforts and engagement with countries of the region, Pakistan and Kuwait inked a Government-to-Government bilateral cooperation framework agreement on recruitment of healthcare professionals from Pakistan.
- iii. Egypt and Pakistan agreed to establish the Joint Working Group on Trade and Industry in October 2019 to help trade diversification between the two countries.

BRUNEI

98. Brunei Darussalam is a small, oil-rich Islamic country in South East Asia. Pakistan's relations with Brunei are marked by cordiality, warmth and cooperation. Brunei is an important member of ASEAN. It has always supported and continues to support Pakistan's effort for Full Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN.

99. Pakistan High Commission in Brunei Darussalam has made concerted efforts to promote goodwill, warmth, trade, people to people contact and holding of meetings of the bilateral forum (which were long overdue) between the two countries. The Mission remained engaged and worked in close coordination with the host Government and own Foreign Office to create synergy and optimal utilization of time and resources.

100. Pakistan's relations with Brunei are marked by cordiality, warmth and cooperation. Brunei is an important member of ASEAN. It has always supported and continues to support Pakistan's effort for Full Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN.

101. MoU for Academic Collaboration between Kolej University Pengurusan Ugama Ser Begawan of Brunei Darussalam and University of Sindh, Jamshoro was signed on 15th October, 2019.

INDONESIA

102. Pakistan and Indonesia have historical relations deeply rooted in mutual respect and support at regional and global level. Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Indonesia the foundation of which was laid by late President Soekarno and his contemporary leadership in Pakistan. Late President Soekarno provided unprecedented military support to Pakistan during the India-Pak War in 1965. The leadership of both countries keeps a close contact with each other.

103. Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and Indonesia met on the sidelines of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting in Jeddah on 29 May 2019. The two sides discussed a host of issues.

104. The Prime Minister of Pakistan called Indonesian President H.E. Joko Widodo on 11 August 2019. The telephone call was part of Prime Minister's outreach to sensitize world leaders about the grave situation in Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IoJ&K) resulting from India's latest unilateral and illegal actions in violation of the UNSC resolutions and international law. Both sides agreed that there was a need to resolve the issue peacefully and within the framework of international law.

105. Vice President of Indonesia Muhammad Jusuf Kalla met with the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the sidelines of 74th session of the UNGA on 26 September 2019.

106. The Foreign Minister met with his Indonesian Counterpart on the sidelines of the Afghan peace deal signing ceremony in Doha in February 2020.

107. The second round of Bilateral Political Consultations was held in Pakistan on 26 Nov 2018 in which Ambassador Desra Parcaya, DG (AP and Africa), led a 12-member delegation to Pakistan.

108. The 2nd round of Policy Planning Dialogue between Pakistan and Indonesia was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 10 July 2018. The Indonesian Delegation was led by Dr. Arifi Saiman, Head for Centre of Policy Analysis and Development of Asia-Pacific and African Region from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jakarta, while the Pakistan side was led by Additional Secretary Asia Pacific, Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad.

109. Currently, Indonesia is the 8th largest trading partner of Pakistan overall and largest trading partner in Southeast Asia region. Similarly, Pakistan is ranked 19th among Indonesia's trading partners. The bilateral trade is on the rise. Indonesia is the 4th largest import partner of Pakistan. In 2020, the bilateral trade was US\$ 2,569 million which was 3.6 percent of Pakistan's global trade.

110. Indonesia in March 2019, issued notification of the amendments in the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Indonesia signed in 2012, which allows additional 20 tariff lines for Pakistan at zero

tariffs. With an expanded basket of export commodities, Pakistan's exports to Indonesia would certainly increase meaningfully in the coming years. These tariff concessions would help Pakistan's export to grow. At present Indonesia's total imports in these 20 tariff lines are around \$ 600 million, whereas Pakistan's exports to the world in these tariff lines amounts to \$ 4 billion. It is estimated that these tariff concessions would yield \$ 150-200 million increase in exports in the next few years. Both sides also agreed to kick start negotiations to further expand PTA leading to FTA. The First Round of negotiation was held in Islamabad on 08 and 09 August, 2019.

111. The two countries signed an Agreement on Cooperative Activities in the Field of Defence in 2010. Pursuant to the MOU, a Joint Defence Cooperation Committee at Ministerial level was established. The second round of meeting was held in Jakarta during September, 2019. The third round is scheduled to be held on 6-9 July, 2021 in Islamabad. Chief of the Naval Staff visited Indonesia from 29 Jan to 02 Feb 2020 and he was given the highest military award Bintang Jalasena Utama. Pakistan Naval War College Delegation visited Jakarta from 1-7 March 2020 as part of Foreign Study Tour. A seven-member delegation of Indonesian Navy participated in 3rd Pakistan Navy international Nautical Competition held in Karachi from 3-6 February 2020. Indonesian Army participated in counter terrorism exercise, hosted by Pak Army for the first time during 2019. The Exercise is planned to be held annually.

MALAYSIA

112. Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy close and cordial relations. Pakistan was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Malaysia in 1957. Justice Abdul Hamid of Pakistan played a historical role in drafting Malaysia's constitution. Malaysia is a pro-active player at the UN and its subsidiary bodies. The country is also an active member state of the OIC, ASEAN, APEC and EAS. It has taken a lead role in D-8.

113. For Pakistan, Malaysia has high importance in the foreign policy calculus, in strategic, technological and economic terms. During the visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan on (3-4 February 2020) a number of investors called on him to share their concrete proposals for investment in tourist resorts, halal development, telecommunication, e-services, low-cost housing, solid-waste disposal, renewable energy, higher education/technology and precious stones and jewellery sectors in Pakistan. The Mission and Board of Investment are actively engaged with the investors to translate their commitments into reality.

114. The visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan to Malaysia from 20-21 Nov 2018, followed by Prime Minister Mahathir's visit to Pakistan on 22-23 March 2019, reinvigorated the bilateral relations and paved way for closer economic, defence and political collaboration between the two countries.

115. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, accompanied by Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Information, Commerce, Advisor to PM and Chairman BOI, visited Malaysia on 20-21 Nov 2018. During the PM's visit both sides agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse fields including trade, investment, tourism, education, development and defence. The Prime Minister also met with Malaysian investors. During the visit, both Prime Ministers witnessed signing of Agreement on Partial Abolition of Visa for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders which would facilitate official exchanges.

116. PM Mahathir also visited Pakistan on 22-23 March 2019 to participate in Pakistan National Day Parade as Guest of Honour. PM Mahathir held separate meetings with the Prime Minister and President of Pakistan. PM Mahathir was awarded Nishan-e-Imtiaz by the President. During the visit, the two leaders agreed to elevate Pakistan-Malaysia relationship to Strategic Level Partnership. The two Prime Ministers also attended a Business Forum and oversaw signing of various business MoUs in Halal meat, IT, and gemstones sectors besides witnessing ground breaking of Proton's auto plant in Pakistan.

117. PM Mahathir's arrival in Pakistan at a time of heightened tensions with India post-Pulwama and in disregard of India's efforts to isolate Pakistan reflected Malaysia's strong support to Pakistan as a friendly country. During PM Mahathir's visit to Pakistan in March 2019, both sides agreed to raise their relationship to Strategic Level Partnership.

118. The idea of Trilateral Cooperation was floated by PM Mahathir. The 1st Trilateral Summit Ministerial meeting between Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, Malaysia and Turkey was held in Jeddah on sidelines of ICFM on 30 May 2019.

119. The 1st Ministerial Meeting set the ground for first Trilateral Summit Meeting which was held in September 2019 on the sidelines of UNGA Session between the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Prime Minister Mahathir and President Erdogan. The trilateral process envisages an

expansion in cooperation among three brotherly countries in bilateral, trilateral and multilateral arenas. The three leaders, inter alia, decided to set up an international media channel to counter Islamophobia. The new forum will also help promote trilateral cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, agriculture, science and technology including defence production.

120. After their inception in March 2018, the inaugural round of Bilateral Consultations (BC) was held in Feb 2019 in Islamabad. The two sides had fruitful discussions on bilateral cooperation and regional issues.

121. Our defence cooperation with Malaysia began in 1959, when Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) personnel started receiving military training in Pakistan. Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation, which is the umbrella body to oversee and set defence cooperation between both countries, held its 13th Session in Kuala Lumpur on 25-26 Feb 2019 after a gap of 5 years. The resumption of JCDC augurs well for our cooperation in defence sector.

122. Malaysian FDI in Pakistan has increased to US\$1,507.9 million up to the year 2020. Despite the Covid phenomenon, the investment has picked up in the wake of CPEC and improvement of economic/security situation in Pakistan. Investment from Malaysia to Pakistan during the year 2020 has been US\$ 32 million (State Bank).

123. The Mission in Malaysia mobilized a delegation of 10 ASEAN Parliamentarians, in collaboration with Malaysian Consultative Council of Islamic Organization (MAPIM) to undertake a fact-finding visit on Kashmir from 21-28 October 2019. The delegation visited AJK and held meetings with Pakistan and Kashmiri leadership. Three Malaysian MPs, who were part of ASEAN delegation, on their return circulated a resolution on Kashmir in Malaysian Parliament. The Mission in collaboration with MAPIM, International Advanced Islamic Studies, Palestinian Culture Organization and other NGOs organized Kashmir-Palestine Forum on 14 October 2019 which was attended by over 200 delegates including NGO representatives from ASEAN countries.

124. Pakistan-Malaysia Business Council has been revived with the help of High Commission to synergize trade between the two countries. All Pakistani businessmen and traders are members of the Forum. A Town Hall Meeting was organized in collaboration with MalPak and Malaysian agencies on 17th December 2020. Over 100 business entities attended the

webinar. Pakistan's liberal investment policies & business opportunities were highlighted.

125. Prime Minister paid a two-day visit to Malaysia on 3-4 February, 2020 with an aim to strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia Strategic Partnership. The Prime Minister addressed an event organized by Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia. He met with the Prime Minister of Malaysia and reaffirmed strong and enduring bond between the two fraternal countries.

126. A Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) was signed between Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development of Pakistan and Social Security Organization of Malaysia on 13 February 2020 in Kuala Lumpur. The MoC would promote beneficial collaboration in the fields of social security, particularly enforcement, payment of benefits, rehabilitation, and prevention.

MALDIVES

127. During the period under consideration, concerted efforts were made to improve bilateral relations.

High-level interactions

128. During 2018-19, following high-level interactions took place:

- i. Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan visited Maldives from 30 March to 01 April, 2018.
- ii. The Maldivian Foreign Minister visited Pakistan as the Special Envoy of the President of Maldives on 08th- 10th February 2018. During his visit, he met the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan.
- iii. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi visited Maldives from 21 to 23 July 2018.
- iv. A delegation headed by the Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan visited Maldives to attend the 4th IPU South Asian Speakers' Summit on achieving SDGs held at Male from 1 to 2 September 2019.

129. During 2019-20, following high-level interactions took place:

- i. Foreign Minister held a telephone conversation with the Foreign Minister of Maldives, Abdullah Shahid, on 23 March 2020. The two sides discussed the situation arising from Covid-19 and ways to enhance cooperation to combat the threat posed by the rapid spread of the pandemic. Foreign Minister lauded the proposal by the President of Maldives to develop a comprehensive regional strategy to combat Covid-19 and in this context, reiterated Pakistan's offer to host SAARC Health Ministers' Conference soon. Foreign Minister felicitated Maldives on its re-joining the Commonwealth of Nations and accepted the Maldivian FM's invitation to visit Maldives at an opportune time. The two Ministers agreed to work closely to achieve shared objectives of peace, development and prosperity.
- ii. Chairman Senate of Pakistan Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani alongwith Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh visited Maldives from 16-18 November 2019 to attend the oath-taking ceremony of President Solih.
- iii. A delegation headed by the Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Qasim Khan Suri, visited Maldives to attend 4th IPU South Asian Speakers' Summit on achieving SDGs held at Male' from 1-2 September 2019.

Exchange of Delegations

130. During 2018-19, following delegation-level visits took place:

- i. A delegation of journalists visited Pakistan in June 2019.
- ii. A delegation of Civil Service Commission also visited Pakistan in June 2019 and visited various institutes.
- iii. A twenty members' contingent of Maldivian National Cricket Team and officials visited Lahore from 16 to 26 October 2018. The visit was sponsored by PCB.
- iv. In order to promote people to people contacts, 06-member delegation of Pakistan-Maldives Friendship Association (PMFA) visited Pakistan from 23-30 December 2018.
- v. A 4-member delegation of Public Service Media, a State TV Channel of Maldives, visited Pakistan from 3-8 February 2018.

- vi. A 04-member delegation from Maldives National University (MNU) visited Pakistan from 21-27 April 2019.
- vii. A delegation of Dhivehi Language Academy (DLA) visited Pakistan from 21 to 28 April 2019.
- viii. A delegation of Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services (GFSS), Maldives visited Pakistan on 08-13 June 2019 to learn the best practices followed by the Institutes in Pakistan.
- ix. A delegation of Maldivian journalists visited Pakistan from 16-21 June 2019. They were briefed about the steps taken by Pakistan in combating terrorism and were apprised of the geo-strategic situation of the region.
- x. A delegation of Civil Service Commission (CSC), Maldives, visited Pakistan from 20-30 June 2019 to explore areas of collaboration between premier Institutes of both the countries.

MoUs

131. The following MoUs were signed in the period under review:
- i. MoU between the Civil Service Commission of Maldives and Virtual University of Pakistan was signed on 28 June 2019.
 - ii. MoU between Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Maldives National chamber of Commerce & Industry was signed on 21 October 2019.

Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme

132. Pakistan provides scholarships in the fields of medicine, engineering, pharmacy and dentistry under Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP). In addition to PTAP scholarships, Maldivian students avail admission in our professional institutions on self-finance basis.

Media Cooperation

133. Pakistani TV channels like HUM Sitaray, Hum Drama and HUM Masala, were introduced in Maldives in 2018. The development has been playing vital role in promoting Pakistani culture in Maldives. These channels within short span of time have won viewership from large segment of Maldivian Society.

Assistance to Maldives

134. Under the Special Assistance Programme for South Asia (SAP-SA), the Embassy of Pakistan undertook various projects and initiatives during 2018-20, including donation/gift of IT equipment and medical equipment to various Maldivian Government Institutes.

Medical Camps in Maldives

135. The Embassy of Pakistan in collaboration with Ministry of Health, Maldives, held Medical Camps in the various parts of the Maldives from 07-12 July 2018. High profile specialists from Pakistan visited Maldives for the purpose.

Efforts to Promote Bilateral Trade

136. Efforts were made to promote trade by arranging visits of business delegations. During the last two years, imports from Pakistan have increased by 30.7 %. In FY 2019-20, Maldives imported goods worth US\$ 07.69 million. The trade is expected to increase further in the coming years.

CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

137. In pursuance of the Principles of Policy outlined in the Constitution of Pakistan, the year 2018-19 saw Pakistan deepening its collaboration with all countries of the Central Asian Region. Progress and achievements in the domains of high-level visits and other activities have been detailed below with respect to Pakistan's bilateral relations with these countries during the year 2018-19:

TAJIKISTAN

138. Visits & Meetings:

- i. The Prime Minister of Pakistan held a meeting with President Emomali Rahmon on 26 April 2019 on the sidelines of the second Belt and Road Forum held in Beijing. Prime Minister Imran also met with the Tajik President on sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State in Bishkek in June 2019.
- ii. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi visited Dushanbe on 11-12 October 2018 to represent Pakistan in the 17th Meeting of the SCO Heads of Government Council.
- iii. Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, Federal Minister for Energy, visited Tajikistan to represent Pakistan in the launching ceremony of

- 1st Unit of the Roghun Hydropower Plant on 16 November 2018.
- iv. Tajik Minister of Defence, Colonel General Sher Ali Mirzo, paid a visit to Pakistan from 09-11 April 2019.
 - v. Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection and Pakistan's Special Envoy on CICA, visited Dushanbe and represented Pakistan in the 5th CICA Summit held on 14-15 June 2019 in Dushanbe.

139. Other activities/developments:

- i. A 13-member business delegation from Tajikistan participated in Pakistan Horti Expo 2019 held in Lahore on 21-22 January 2019.
- ii. Twenty-one (21) members delegation from Tajikistan's textile & clothing companies, consulting companies, universities, Union of Private Sector Development and Ministry of Industry & New Technologies of Tajikistan visited Pakistan (Lahore & Faisalabad) from March 10-16, 2019.
- iii. Pakistani Companies participated in the International Universal Exhibition-Fair in Tajikistan, held from 28 to 31 March 2019.
- iv. The Embassy of Pakistan in collaboration with Pakistan Study Centre, Tajikistan National University, organized an event in the University Campus to commemorate Iqbal Day on 9th November, 2018. Two books written by Dr. Qurbanov Haider, Head of Pakistan Study Centre (Tajik-Urdu Bol Chal and Urdu-Tajik Bol Chal) and printed in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy were also launched on the occasion.
- v. The Mission organized a Mango Festival in cooperation with Ministry of Commerce at Serena Hotel, Dushanbe, in July 2018.

TURKMENISTAN

140. Visits & meetings:

- i. Turkmen Foreign Minister Mr. Meredov Rashid Ovezgeldiyevich visited Pakistan from 11-12 March 2019 for 2nd Round of Bilateral consultations in Islamabad. During the visit, following five agreements were signed:

- a) Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for 2019-2024.
 - b) Memorandum of Understanding between Institute of International Relations of the Foreign Ministry of Turkmenistan and the Foreign Service Academy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
 - c) Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.
 - d) Heads of Terms of Host Government Agreement between Islamic Republic of Pakistan and TAPI Pipeline Company Limited on Implementing TAPI Gas Pipeline Project.
 - e) Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of Pakistan-Turkmen Joint Business Council (JBC) between the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of Turkmenistan.
- ii. In May 2019, Special Adviser to Prime Minister on Energy Mr. Nadeem Babar participated in Turkmenistan Gas Congress (TGC) held at Avaza, Turkmenistan.
 - iii. Joint Defence Consultative Group meetings were held from 6-8 March 2018 at Ashgabat and 16-18 April 2019 in Islamabad.

AZERBAIJAN

141. Visits & meetings:

- i. H.E. Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan along with three Senators visited Azerbaijan from 19-21 September 2018 for participation in the 100th Anniversary of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- ii. Senator Faisal Javed, Senator Agha Shahzeb Durrani, Mr. Imran Khatak, MNA, Mr. Ali Zahid, MNA and Mr. Alamgir Khan, MNA, represented Pakistan in 5th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians held in Baku from 14-15 December, 2018.

- iii. Mr. Muhammad Qasim Suri, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan, led a 5-member delegation to attend 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue held on 2-3 May 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- iv. On 23 March 2019, a delegation of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan, headed by its Minister of Defence Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, witnessing a military parade dedicated to the National Day of Pakistan.
- v. A 21-member delegation from Pakistan Navy War College visited Azerbaijan in connection with Foreign Study Tour from 2-7 April 2019.
- vi. A 450-member delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, (RCCI) visited Baku on 04-05 July 2018 for its 31st Achievement Award Ceremony.

KAZAKHSTAN

142. Visits & meetings:

- i. A bilateral meeting took place between the Foreign Minister of Pakistan and the Kazakh Foreign Minister Mr .Beibut Atamkulov on 22 May 2019 in Bishkek on the sidelines of SCO Council of Foreign Minister’s meeting.
- ii. Four delegations of Kazakhstan from Kazakh Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Defence and Aerospace Industry, Kazakhstan Engineering and Kazspecexport visited Pakistan to attend IDEAS-2018 held in November 2018 in Karachi.
- iii. A 2-member delegation from GHQ visited Kazakhstan from 23-25 January 2019 to attend Final Planning Conference of 2nd Pakistan Kazakhstan Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise “Dostarym 2019”.
- iv. An 18-member delegation of National Security and War Course 2018-2019 visited Almaty and Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan from 15-20 April 2019 as part of Foreign Study Tour.

KYRGYZSTAN

143. Visits and meetings:

- i. On the invitation of the President of Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov, the Prime Minister of Pakistan visited

- Bishkek to attend the 19th Meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of SCO Member States on 13-14 June 2019.
- ii. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan participated in the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on 22 May 2019.
 - iii. Member of Parliament Raja Riaz Ahmad attended a meeting of the Heads of the Parliamentary Committee of SCO Member States on International Cooperation on December 14, 2018.
 - iv. Maj Gen Muhammad Aneequr Rehman Malik, DG (Operations and Plans), visited Bishkek to attend meeting of Heads of International Cooperation, Departments of Ministries of Defence of SCO Member States, on 21-22 January 2019 and 27-29 April 2019.
 - v. Lt Gen Ikram ul Haq, Secretary Defence, and Rear Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence, attended SCO Defence Ministers' meeting on 28-30 April 2019, Bishkek.
 - vi. Ms. Rabia Javeri Agha, Secretary Human Rights, visited Bishkek to attend the Second Women Forum of SCO, on 16-17 May, 2019.

144. Pakistan is presently providing diverse training facilities to Kyrgyz nationals. In 2019, Kyrgyz nationals attended the 49th International Central Banking Course, 46th International Commercial Banking Course and the Postal Staff College Course.

UZBEKISTAN

145. Visits & meetings:

- i. The Prime Minister of Pakistan met with Uzbek President Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, held in Beijing on 25-27 April 2019.
- ii. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held bilateral consultations with Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Elyor Ganiyev during his visit to Pakistan from 27-28 May 2019. Deputy Prime Minister Ganiyev also called on the Prime Minister and held meetings with the Federal Ministers for Railways, Planning, National Food Security and Chairman

Railway Board, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce. He also called on the Chief of Army Staff.

- iii. Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kmailov, alongwith State Security State Service Chairman and President's Special Envoy for Afghanistan, undertook a day-long visit to Islamabad on 01 November 2018. He called on the Prime Minister and held meetings with the Foreign Minister, Chairman JCSC and COAS.

146. Other activities/developments:

- i. Mr. Javed Anwar, Chairman of Pakistan Railways attended the first meeting of SCO Heads of Railways Administration on 19 September 2018 in Tashkent.
- ii. Lt Gen Nadeem Raza, CGS, represented Pakistan in meeting of the CENTCOM Chiefs of Defence Staff in Tashkent in February 2019.
- iii. 2nd Pakistan-Uzbekistan staff talks were held in Islamabad in September 2018. Lt Col Khasanov Dilshod, Deputy Defence Minister and Head of the Department of International Military Cooperation, led his four-member delegation for the talks.
- iv. Mr. Yusupov Khotomjon, Deputy Chairman of State Committee of Defence Production of Uzbekistan, visited Pakistan in October 2018.
- v. An 18-member NDU delegation, led by Commodore Bilal Nasir, undertook a study tour of Uzbekistan from 15-19 April 2019.

RELATIONS WITH CARs DURING FY 2019-20

147. Following are the salient points of Pakistan's enhanced relations with the CARs during the year 2019-20:

- i. Formulation and implementation of Pakistan's vision of Central Asia policy, with a focus on five primary aspects i.e. political, trade and investment, energy and connectivity, security and defence and people-to-people contacts.
- ii. Humanitarian assistance under COVID-19 to Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan etc. Repatriation of 7,300 Pakistani nationals in coordination with our Missions in CARs and Azerbaijan and relevant authorities in Pakistan.

- iii. Re-vitalization of institutional mechanisms with CARs, including Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) with Kazakhstan on 28th February, 2020, Islamabad, meeting of Pakistan-Kazakhstan Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), 27-28 February 2020, Islamabad and 6th Session of Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, 02-03 July 2019, Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- iv. Enhanced high-level interactions with Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan.

High-level interactions

148. Following are some high-level interactions that took place in the period under review:

- i. The President of Pakistan visited Azerbaijan for participation in 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit of Heads of State/Government, 25-26 October 2019 Azerbaijan.
- ii. President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi participated in the online NAM Heads of State/Government Meeting, 4th May 2020.
- iii. The Prime Minister met with Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, on the sidelines of WEF meeting, January 21, 2020, Davos.
- iv. The Foreign Minister met with the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan on the sidelines of 74th UNGA Session, September 2019, New York.

149. Other engagements are as below:

- i. Federal Minister for Energy, Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, visited Kazakhstan in July 2019 to attend a conference on CASA-1000 project.
- ii. The Speaker National Assembly and Deputy Chairman Senate visited Kazakhstan in September 2019 to attend the 4th meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments.
- iii. The Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination visited Azerbaijan in October 2019. An MoU for cooperation in the field of sports was signed.
- iv. The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, visited Turkmenistan in October 2019.

- v. The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs visited Uzbekistan in November 2019 to attend the 18th CAREC Ministerial Conference.
- vi. SAPM on Health Dr. Zafar Mirza participated in an online meeting of Ministers of Health of NAM Member countries on COVID-19 situation in May 2020.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

150. Visits and meetings:

- i. Secretary General ECO Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour visited Islamabad from 13-15 March 2019. During the visits he held meetings with the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Minister for Planning and Adviser to the Prime Minister for Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment.
- ii. The 7th Meeting of the ECO Mineral Experts Group was held from 5th to 7th August, 2018 in Sanandaj, Iran.
- iii. 2nd Meeting of ECO Geomatics Committee was held from 27th to 28th August, 2018 in Teheran, Iran. Mr. Muhammad Atiq, Director, Geological Survey of Pakistan, participated in the meeting.
- iv. First Meeting of Technical Committee on Electronic Data Exchange (EDI) was held on 22nd October, 2018 in Teheran, Iran. Mr. Muhammad Haris Ansari, Additional Director, Directorate General of Reforms and Automation-Customs, Karachi and Mr. Riaz Ahmed Chaudhary, Senior Manager, PRAL Directorate General of Reforms and Automation-Customs, Karachi, attended the meeting.
- v. 6th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Privatization Administration / 5th High Level Working Group Meeting on Privatization was held on 26th October, 2018 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Mr. Mukhtar Paras Shah, Director General, Privatization Commission of Pakistan, Mr. Bilal Ahmed, Director of Research & Policy Division, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Arfeen Memon, Director of Travel Affairs, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry participated in the meeting.

- vi. The 29th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council was held on 17-20th December, 2018 in Teheran, Iran. Mr. Muhammad Afzaal, Chief Economist, nominated by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and Ms. Saqlain Syeda, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, attended the meeting.
- vii. First ECO Experts Group meeting on access and benefits sharing and related areas of biodiversity was held from 11th to 13th March, 2019 in Antalya, Turkey. Dr. Rizwan Irshad, Director (BoI), nominated by the Ministry of Climate Change, participated in the event.
- viii. 3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO Regional Coordination Centre (ECO-RCC) for Implementation of the ECO-RPFS was held on 13th March, 2019 in Antalya, Turkey.
- ix. The Parliamentary Secretary to Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Turkey in November 2019 to participate in the 24th Meeting of the ECO Council of Foreign Ministers (COM).

ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

151. The OIC is a 57-member body (along with five observer states) spread over four continents. Established in 1969, the OIC is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the UN.

Pakistan's Engagement with the OIC

152. As a founding member of the OIC, Pakistan is committed to the values and objectives of the organization. Pakistan's efforts have, directly and indirectly, strengthened the OIC's institutions, and enabled it to take a common position on issues of interest to the Islamic World. Pakistani professionals played a commendable role in development of various OIC institutions.

153. Pakistan hosts two organs of the Organization including (a) Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), Islamabad; and (b) Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), Karachi – an affiliated institution of OIC.

154. Pakistan is an active member of the OIC Contact Groups on Jammu & Kashmir, Palestine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yemen, friends of mediation, Muslims in Europe and Armenian aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Groups regularly meet on the sidelines of CFM, Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM) on the margins of UNGA in New York, and also whenever required.

155. The OIC has a Permanent Observer Mission based in Geneva. Pakistan is coordinator of OIC on “Human rights and Humanitarian Issues”. Being coordinator, Pakistan tables resolutions pertaining to human right and humanitarian issues at UNHRC on the behalf of the OIC. Pakistan also prepares and delivers statements during the interactive dialogues with special procedures, panel discussions and general debates.

156. Pakistan is well represented in the OIC Secretariat’s human resource. An Advisor to Secretary General and a DG are among a group of 10 Pakistanis serving at the Secretariat. Furthermore, two officers are serving in the IPHRC Secretariat.

PROGRESS DURING FY 2018-2019

14th Islamic Summit

157. The Prime Minister of Pakistan attended the 14th Islamic Summit, held in Makkah-al-Mukarramah on 31 May 2019. In his address to the Summit, he highlighted various challenges confronting the Muslim Ummah, especially Islamophobia and blasphemy against the Holy Prophet, the situation in IOJ&K and Palestine and the need for promotion of science, technology and innovation in Muslim countries.

158. The Summit reiterated the OIC's principled support for the legitimate right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the UN resolutions. Referring to the UN Kashmir report of 2018, the Final Communiqué of the Conference called for expedited establishment of a UN Commission of Inquiry to investigate the grave human rights violations and urged India to allow the Commission and other international organizations access to IOJ&K. The Conference endorsed the resolutions adopted by the OIC Ministerial meetings, including resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir as well a new resolution on maintenance of peace and stability in South Asia.

159. The Conference called for adoption of a comprehensive strategy to combat Islamophobia, building on the proposals made by Pakistan in the

OIC Ministerial Executive Committee meeting in March 2019. The Conference commended Pakistan for its generosity and hospitality for hosting Afghan Refugees in the past 40 years. The Conference further commended the role of COMSTECH under the chairmanship of the President of Pakistan.

160. Signifying OIC's continued attention and focus on the Kashmir issue, the Conference approved Mr. Yousef Aldobeay of Saudi Arabia as OIC's Secretary General's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir. The Conference also commended the report of the IPHRC highlighting the human rights violations in IOJ&K.

46th Session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers

161. The 46th session of the OIC CFM was held in Abu Dhabi on 1 March 2019. Our Foreign Minister stayed away from the 46th CFM in protest of UAE's inviting Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. Pakistan did, however, table a resolution on "Maintenance of Regional Peace and Security in South Asia", during the CFM, which was adopted unanimously. This resolution welcomed peace offers made to India by Pakistan's Prime Minister to de-escalate the tensions. It also urged India to abide by its obligations under Article 2 of the UN Charter that calls upon States to refrain in their international relations from threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, and to settle their international disputes by peaceful means and called on India to refrain from any further action which may aggravate the situation in South Asia or endanger regional and international peace and security.

162. During the 46th CFM, Pakistan has offered to host the 48th OIC CFM in Islamabad in 2021. Last time, it was held in Pakistan in May 2007.

163. Ambassador Tasnim Aslam was elected as Commissioner of the IPHRC of the OIC from Asian group for a term of three (3) years. The elections were held on the sidelines of the 46th CFM.

Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir

164. The Contact Group met on 27 September 2018 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly Session in New York, where Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi presented Pakistan's case on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

165. The Contact Group held another meeting on 29 May 2019 in Jeddah, on the margins of the 14th Islamic Summit. The meeting called on India to honour the UN resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. It welcomed the recommendations listed in the UN report on Kashmir, issued in June 2018, calling for the prompt establishment of a fact-finding committee on Kashmir. The meeting expressed complete solidarity with the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and stressed upon the Indian Government to stop violating basic human rights of Kashmiris.

14th and 15th Regular Session of the IPHRC

166. During its 14th regular session held in Jeddah from 2-6 December 2018, the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), condemned violence against the innocent civilians and requested the OIC General Secretariat to approach the Indian Government to allow the OIC and IPHRC fact finding mission to visit IOJ&K to objectively report upon the human rights violations.

167. During its 15th regular session held in Jeddah from 21-25 April 2019, the IPHRC condemned the repeated human rights violations in IOJ&K and fully supported UN High Commissioners for Human Rights' demand to allow a fact-finding visit to comprehensively investigate the human rights violations.

Countering Islamophobia

168. In the wake of growing Islamophobia and incidents of hatred towards Islam and Muslims, Pakistan continued to raise the issue at the OIC platform. In this regard, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi wrote a letter (in April 2019) to the OIC Secretary General and urged him to take concrete measures on the issue.

169. The Foreign Minister attended the emergency meeting of OIC Executive Committee, held on 22 March 2019 in Istanbul, to discuss a collective response to the Christ Church terrorist attack. He proposed a ten-point solution to combat Islamophobia.

170. Pakistan and Turkey co-sponsored a resolution expressing anguish over denigrating Islam and its revered personalities during the Annual Coordination Meeting on the sidelines of 73rd UNGA session in New York in September 2018, which was unanimously adopted by the Foreign Ministers of OIC Member States.

PROGRESS DURING FY 2019-2020

171. The 46th Session of the CFM of OIC was held in Abu Dhabi, on 1-2 March 2019 under the theme "50 Years of Islamic Cooperation: Roadmap for Prosperity and Development". The central issue discussed at the conference was the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Foreign Ministers also discussed the developments on the status of the peace process in the Middle East. The Conference also addressed the issues of combating terrorism, Islamophobia, and defamation of religions, status of Muslim groups and communities in non-OIC countries, OIC-2025, activities of the IPHRC, humanitarian, information, social and cultural activities, and inter-civilization, intercultural, and inter-faith dialogue.

172. The 14th Islamic Summit Conference of OIC was held in Makkah on 31 May 2019. The Conference re-emphasized the centrality of the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds and continued support to the Palestinian people for their right to self-determination and the establishment of the independent and sovereign State of Palestine along the 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Shareef as its capital. It reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the resolutions of OIC Summits and Ministerial Conferences.

Pakistan's Achievements at OIC

173. Pakistan maintained a steady momentum of its engagement with the OIC on Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, Palestine, Islamophobia, situation of Muslims in non-Muslim countries and issues pertaining to the progress and prosperity of Muslim Ummah.

Emergency Meeting of OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir

174. A meeting of OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir was held in Jeddah on 6th August 2019 in the wake of illegal actions by India to bring about demographic changes with regard to Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The meeting was chaired by Secretary General Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, and attended by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan and the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Niger.

Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC

175. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi attended the Annual Coordination Meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers which was held on the

sidelines of 74th session of UN General Assembly at UN Head Quarters in New York. Foreign Minister raised the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and appraised the Foreign Ministers of OIC member countries about deteriorating security and Human Rights condition in the occupied valley. He also highlighted the issue of rising Islamophobia and xenophobia in Europe, and expressed deep concerns on the situation in Palestine and Yemen.

15th Session of the PUIC Conference

176. At the 15th Session of the Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries (PUIC) from 27-30 January 2020 at Burkina Faso, the Parliamentarians strongly condemned the worsening human rights violations in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir which had then continued for more than 160 days and called on the Indian Government to immediately end the lockdown, remove restrictions on communication, movement and peaceful assembly, free all political detainees and take concrete steps towards the resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with the wishes of the people as per United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

Golden Jubilee celebration of establishment of OIC

177. The Ministerial level Opening Ceremony was held on 25 November 2019. Pakistan's delegation to the Opening Ceremony was led by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan.

178. To commemorate the Golden Jubilee, Pakistan organized a number of programmes after the inaugural celebrations in Saudi Arabia. The activities included issuance of commemorative stamps, cultural events, seminars at various institutions, publication of articles/newspaper supplements and OIC Secretary General's visit to Pakistan during some of the above-mentioned events/seminars.

Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) for 47th Session of CFM

179. The Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) preparatory to the 47th Session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) was held in Jeddah, KSA on 9-11 February 2020. The agenda of the SOM included a wide range of political, economic and socio-cultural issues including the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Jammu and Kashmir Dispute, Afghanistan, developments in the Middle East and OIC member states, situation of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC countries,

fight against terrorism, Islamophobia, defamation of religions and disarmament issues as well as organizational and legal matters pertaining to OIC. The SOM finalized resolutions to be adopted during the 47th CFM.

OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy on Jammu and Kashmir

180. The OIC has always extended its steadfast support to Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, also since India's illegal actions of 5 August 2019. The OIC is the only international organization that has a Special Envoy on Jammu and Kashmir. The Organization also has a dedicated Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir since 1994.

181. OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir, Ambassador Yousef M. Al Dobeay along with delegation visited Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir from 2-6 March 2020. During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the deteriorating Human Rights situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

182. The visit was of special significance in the backdrop of India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019 and the strong message on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute contained in the resolutions and Communiqués of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meetings and the Summits.

47th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers

183. At the 47th Session of the OIC CFM in Niamey, Niger (27-28 November 2020), the Foreign Minister of Pakistan addressed the meeting. The issues of Islamophobia and Kashmir dispute were highlighted in the address. He proposed to designate 15 March as International day to Combat Islamophobia. The Foreign Minister also apprised the participants on peculiar challenges faced by the developing countries in context of global pandemic which lead to the "Global Initiative on Debt Relief" by the Prime Minister.

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE: FY 2018-19

184. In line with Article 40 of the Constitution of Pakistan, the Ministry sought to enhance the level of engagement and cooperation with the international community at various international forums as well as articulation of foreign policy goals through statements, press releases and through public diplomacy measures.

185. For Pakistan, resolution of the long-standing Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains one of the top foreign policy priorities. Accordingly, commensurate efforts and measures were undertaken to highlight this internationally recognized dispute at the United Nations and other forums including OIC and NAM.

186. The two Kashmir Reports by the UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on human rights violations in the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK) and legal UN position on Jammu and Kashmir dispute were adequately shared with all relevant stakeholders. Concerted efforts were made to make the international community aware of the findings and recommendations of these reports. This remains a work in progress and an area of high priority. Pakistan has been leading the efforts of building a normative framework on the right to self-determination. At the United Nations General Assembly, we annually table a resolution on “Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination”. We have been closely engaging with the UN Special Procedure Mandate Holders, international civil society and media to raise the concerns of gross human rights abuses in IOJ&K by India.

187. At the United Nations, the Prime Minister devoted a substantial portion of his statement to this core issue, followed by Pakistan Missions in New York, Geneva and other Missions in various capitals of the world.

188. Like last year, Pakistan again provided a special contribution of US\$ 0.25 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for provision of vital services to around 5.3 million Palestine refugees.

189. Active participation in UN peacekeeping is the most visible demonstration of Pakistan’s unwavering commitment and contribution to promotion of global peace and security. Pakistan continues to be ranked among the top troops and personnel contributing countries in the world.

190. Although not a member of the UN Security Council, Pakistan maintained its proactive approach towards policy debates and deliberations at the United Nations on a range of regional and thematic issues such as addressing the complex crisis in Africa, the continuing turmoil in Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen, and nuclear and missile issues of DPRK. On the Iranian nuclear issue, Pakistan continued to call for preserving the integrity of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as an

agreed international framework to resolve issues. Pakistan advocated strict adherence to the provisions of UN charter and international law and resolution of disputes through peaceful means.

191. On the question of reform of the United Nations Security Council, Pakistan's approach has been a principled one. We believe that the reform process should make the Council more democratic, accountable and transparent. Together with the Uniting for Consensus grouping, Pakistan actively worked and constructively contributed to the debates on the UN Security Council reform, which has a direct bearing on the architecture responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

192. Pakistan is hosting one of the largest refugee populations. We have been sharing our efforts and our story of generosity, compassion and hospitality in hosting nearly 3 million Afghans (apart from 0.3-0.5 million Rohingya Muslims) with the international community. We continue to advocate for the basic principles of refugee hosting such as creation of pull factors, responsibility and burden sharing, conflict prevention and resolution, repatriation of refugees at the multilateral fora.

193. Pakistan has been and continues to be an ardent advocate of peaceful resolution of all international disputes. This is manifest in Pakistan's statements at the leadership, Parliamentary and diplomatic levels, voting positions and bilateral proposals. At the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the Foreign Minister, in his statement, said that the Pakistani Government was committed to pursue a policy of partnerships for peace and prosperity in its immediate neighbourhood and beyond. A peaceful environment was necessary for the country's development agenda at all three levels i.e. local, regional and global. This was applauded by the international community.

194. Pakistan, as a responsible member of the international community, remained committed to the global objective of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction which is an essential element of the global security architecture. With a view to contributing towards this objective as a mainstream partner, we continued to expand and deepen our diplomatic engagement through active participation in various international initiatives in the domain of nuclear safety and security as well as strategic export controls.

195. In furtherance of the abovementioned objective, Pakistan continued its policy of constructive engagement with the international community and its active participation in international initiatives on nuclear safety and security and export controls which helped build a positive narrative concerning Pakistan's nuclear programme. Mr. Yukia Amano, Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), visited Pakistan from 12-14 March 2018 and commended the steps taken by Pakistan to strengthen nuclear safety and security. Pakistan hosted an International Export Control Seminar from 9-10 May, 2018 in Islamabad. The Seminar helped Pakistan highlight its credentials as a responsible nuclear state committed to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

196. During the period under review, bilateral consultations on non-proliferation and disarmament issues were held with Australia, China, Russia and European Union. These consultations were valuable as efforts to foster better understanding of Pakistan's security concerns in the regional context, seek support for our mainstreaming into global non-proliferation regimes as an equal partner and to project our achievements and credentials in the field of exports controls and nuclear safety and security. Pakistan also hosted an outreach mission of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) on 29th March 2018 as part of our engagement with international non-proliferation regimes.

197. At the international level, Pakistan proactively champions the cause of arms control and disarmament at the UN General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. It has been a proponent of comprehensive, universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament through negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament.

198. In September 2018, Pakistan got elected to the Board of Governors of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna for a two-year term. Pakistan has been elected to serve on the Board 19 times in the past and has played a crucial part in the formulation of the Agency's policies and programmes. The election represents global recognition of the country's status as a responsible nuclear state.

199. Pakistan is a founding member of the IAEA and has enjoyed a mutually beneficial collaboration with the Agency on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

200. In keeping with Pakistan's longstanding tradition of multilateralism, and concrete contributions to the promotion of regional and international security, Pakistan continued to participate actively in Geneva-based disarmament fora.

201. Pakistan is a founding member of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), which is the world's sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. During the year 2018-19, as a responsible nuclear state, Pakistan participated constructively in the work of the CD. While continuing to promote its vital security interests, Pakistan cooperated with other fellow Member States to build the foundations of a more peaceful and secure world.

202. Pakistan subscribes to the goal of the universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament under the cardinal principle of equal and undiminished security for all States. Pending the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear disarmament in the CD, Pakistan supports the immediate commencement of negotiations on Negative Security Assurances and the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. Pakistan is also ready to join negotiations in the CD on other contemporary issues to counter the threats posed by Cyber Weapons, Chemical and Biological Terrorism, Lethal Autonomous Weapons systems, and a Fissile Material Treaty that encompasses the existing stockpiles of fissile material.

203. Pakistan and Russia signed a joint statement on "No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space" on 22 May 2019, in Bishkek. Outer Space is being used by an increasing number of states and Pakistan has been consistently highlighting the risks of weaponization of outer space, which threaten the long-term sustainability of peaceful space activities.

204. At the 73rd and 74th sessions of the UN General Assembly in 2018 and 2019, Pakistan's four resolutions were adopted with an overwhelming support. These resolutions included: Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure Non-Nuclear Weapon States against use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; Conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels; Regional disarmament; and Confidence-building measures in the regional and sub-regional context.

205. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched its Science Diplomacy initiative in September 2018 with the designation of a focal point (Science Diplomacy Division) to act as a liaison between the national S&T stakeholders and international partners. The first high level Inter-Agency meeting on “Science Diplomacy”, chaired by Foreign Minister, was held on January 16, 2019.

COOPERATION WITH ASIA, LATIN AMERICA & AFRICA

206. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued to accord high importance in extending diplomatic, political and financial support to the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. This policy objective was advanced by way of lending support to their issues of priority such as sustainable development, peace-building, peace-keeping, migration, fair and equitable international trade regime, and candidatures for important global leadership posts and bodies.

207. With the aim to increasing Pakistan’s outreach in the Latin American region, the Government of Pakistan has approved initiation of a Bilateral Political Consultations mechanism with Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama. After establishment, the Mechanism would provide a platform to discuss the matters of mutual interest and to create opportunities for enhancing business and trade between Pakistan and the Latin American region.

208. Efforts were also undertaken to further strengthen relations with the Latin American countries where Pakistan has already established its footprint. For instance, Brazil is an important South American country. To augment the cordial ties, both countries signed an agreement on Technical Cooperation in August 2018. This agreement provides the bedrock for enhanced cooperation in the fields of Science & Technology, Agriculture and Education. To enhance trade and business, separate delegations of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Federal Chamber of Commerce & Industry visited Brazil in June 2019. Likewise, a 6-member trade delegation from Brazil also visited Pakistan. To project the friendly relations between Brazil and Pakistan, the Embassy of Brazil in Islamabad set up a stall at the annual Bazaar of Pakistan Foreign Office Women Association (a charity organization) held in 2018.

209. To exhibit the culture of Pakistan among the Mexican people, the Embassy of Pakistan in Mexico set up cultural display and food stalls in coordination with the Pakistani community living in Mexico at the Annual

Fair of Friendly Countries held from 31 May to 16 June 2019. The Fair was visited by more than 4.79 million people.

210. To enhance the goodwill for Pakistan among the Latin American countries, Foreign Service Academy trained 4 diplomats belonging to Antigua & Barbuda and Guatemala during 2018-19.

211. Pakistan has also been contributing to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the participation of Small Island Developing States/Least Developed Countries (SIDS/LDC) in the Human Rights Council. Within the platform of Non-Aligned Movement, Pakistan reaffirmed diplomatic and political support to the collective positions and interests of countries of these continents at the Ministerial meeting held in Azerbaijan.

212. In line with the Prime Minister's foreign policy vision, Pakistan has embarked upon a new, path-breaking "Engage Africa" initiative towards the African continent by strengthening political and diplomatic linkages, further deepening and broadening mutually beneficial trade and economic ties, and expanding cultural and people-to-people exchanges. The Foreign Minister is spearheading the realization of this initiative. As part of this initiative, Pakistan's diplomatic outreach and presence in Africa is being significantly enhanced.

213. In line with the "Engage Africa" policy, five new Embassies in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Rwanda, Djibouti and Uganda will be established while Tanzania and Niger have been upgraded to the Ambassadorial level. Five new Press Sections will be opened in Africa while six Commercial Wings have already been established in Algeria, Egypt, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

214. Pakistan enjoys cordial and cooperative relations with the African countries in general and Muslim countries in Africa in particular. Recently, CDA has marked 11-12 Kanal plot in Park Enclave, Islamabad to build a Moroccan Mosque. The plot is readily available and shall be utilized with the cooperation of Embassy of Morocco to build the landmark. Moreover, the Ministry is also working to provide food assistance to Niger, a brotherly Muslim country, to ameliorate the conditions of refugees and internally displaced persons in Niger.

215. The Science Diplomacy initiative is aimed at establishing international research collaborations, capacity building, improving public

health, matching labour skills with international market requirements and to improve Pakistan's access to smart technologies and international technical assistance, especially in the context of the implementation of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). Science Diplomacy initiative would also facilitate the work of the National Knowledge Economy Task Force headed by the Prime Minister, especially in the context of international collaborations.

216. Besides its socio-economic dimension, Science Diplomacy will afford Pakistan an opportunity to project a positive and progressive image of Pakistan and foster goodwill and friendly relations among all nations including the Muslim world.

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE: FY 2019-20

217. To realize the objectives of principles of policy contained in Article 40 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sought to enhance the level of engagement and cooperation with the international community at various international forums, articulation of foreign policy goals through policy intervention, advocacy and diplomatic outreach. Pakistan undertook measures to highlight and build support against the deteriorating situation and human rights violations in the IIOJK (especially following India's illegal actions of 5 August 2019); actively contributed to UN peacekeeping and strengthened diplomatic outreach to achieve foreign policy objectives.

218. Pakistan has been and continues to be an ardent advocate of peaceful resolution of all international disputes. This is manifest in Pakistan's statements at the leadership, parliamentary and diplomatic levels, voting positions and bilateral proposals vis-à-vis India. For Pakistan, resolution of the long-standing Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains one of the top foreign policy priorities. Accordingly, commensurate efforts and measures were undertaken to highlight this internationally-recognized dispute at the United Nations and other forums including OIC and NAM.

Kashmir Dispute at United Nations

219. The Jammu and Kashmir dispute continues to be a core foreign policy priority; it remains at the centre of our work and engagement at the United Nations. The most prominent avenue for our efforts is provided during the annual sessions of the General Assembly, where we reaffirm, at the leadership level, our abiding commitment to the just cause of the

Kashmiri people. Besides, we have forcefully and regularly raised the dispute during meetings of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the various Committees of the General Assembly.

220. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sought to build international support for the recommendations contained in the UN report on human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Due to our exhaustive and consistent efforts in highlighting the gross human rights violations in IIOJK in the UN human rights machinery, the Office of the High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR) published its Second Report on the situation of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir in June 2019. This report comprehensively lists the grave human rights violations in IIOJK, thereby revalidating Pakistan's position and providing an international and independent report on the matter.

221. Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir on the sidelines of the high-level session of the General Assembly also provides a powerful voice of conscience on the plight of the Kashmiri people. OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir met on the margins of 74th Session of UN General Assembly in New York on 25 September 2019. Having heard a detailed briefing from the Foreign Minister of Pakistan over the developments in IIOJK, the Group adopted a comprehensive joint communiqué.

222. In his address to the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 27 September 2019, the Prime Minister of Pakistan spoke at length about India's illegal and unilateral steps of August 05, 2019, flouting UN Security Council resolutions, which clearly stipulate that Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory and the people of Jammu and Kashmir have the right of self-determination. The Prime Minister made a passionate case for the right of self-determination for people of IIOJK and warned against an all-out conflict in South Asia.

223. He called upon the international community to urge India to lift its inhumane curfew and military siege in IIOJK. The Prime Minister also met with the UN Secretary-General and highlighted India's sinister efforts to change the demographic structure of IIOJK, in contravention of international law, several UNSC resolutions as well as India's own prior commitments. He emphasized that the dire human rights and humanitarian situation in IIOJK posed grave risks for peace and security in the region. He urged the UN Secretary General to call upon India to immediately lift

the curfew and other restrictions in IIOJK, and end the gross human rights violations and allow Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in the UNSC resolutions. Following India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Permanent Mission of Pakistan in New York took a series of steps to highlight the plight of people of Jammu & Kashmir and fight their case at the United Nations.

224. On the request of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, and despite Indian efforts to stop the meeting, a closed meeting of the Security Council was held on 16 August 2019 – after a gap of fifty years – to consider the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Within a span of five months, another closed consultation of the Security Council also took place on 15 January 2020 on Pakistan's request. These meetings reaffirmed that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains on the agenda of the Security Council and negated the farcical Indian assertion to portray the situation as an “internal matter”.

225. On 15 January 2020, the Foreign Minister visited New York. During his visit, the Foreign Minister held meetings with high-level UN dignitaries, including the Secretary General and briefed them on the grave human rights situation in IIOJK. The Foreign Minister also welcomed consideration of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir by the Security Council for the second time in five months which reaffirmed its disputed status as per the United Nations Security Council resolutions. While acknowledging the Secretary General's statement of 8 August 2019, the Foreign Minister underlined the urgent need for the United Nations to act decisively by taking immediate steps to halt these dangerous policies, discourage India from provoking a conflict with Pakistan and avert humanitarian catastrophe and growing dangers to South Asian peace and stability.

226. Pakistan's flagship resolution on “Universal realization of right of people to self-determination” was adopted by consensus of the Third Committee of the General Assembly in November 2019. More than seventy countries joined Pakistan in co-sponsoring this resolution. We also continued to work closely with the UN Special Procedure Mandate Holders (SPMHs) in clearing their concerns regarding any issue in Pakistan, as well as highlighting the gross human rights violations being committed by India in IIOJK. These sustained efforts resulted in issuance of a number of joint communiqués by the SPMHs. Pakistan submitted a

detailed report on various measures taken at the domestic level to implement the recommendations made to us in OHCHR's two Kashmir Reports articulating our principled position on the matter.

International Peace and Security

227. Pakistan's active participation in UN peacekeeping is one of the most substantive and visible demonstrations of Pakistan's unwavering commitment and contribution to promotion of global peace and security. Pakistan has continued to be one of the top five contributors of troops and other peacekeeping personnel to UN peacekeeping missions. Over five decades, 172,000 Pakistani peacekeepers have participated in 44 peacekeeping missions around the globe. More than 151 of our brave peacekeepers (including one female) have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Currently, more than 4500 Pakistani peacekeepers (as of 30 April 2021) are deployed in 9 missions around the world.

228. We have been able to retain our position among the world's top troop contributors, and have also been a leading voice on policy evolution and norms building on peacekeeping, through robust engagement in the Committee on Peacekeeping (C-34). Our status as a leading and consistent troops-contributing country has not only enhanced our profile at the United Nations but has also helped us on various occasions to galvanize support from African countries, especially those hosting peacekeeping missions. The UN and these African host countries recognize our positive contribution and acknowledge the professionalism and devotion to duty displayed by our troops on ground.

229. Pakistan has maintained its proactive approach towards policy debates and deliberations at the United Nations on a range of regional and thematic issues such as addressing complex crises in Africa, the continuing turmoil in Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen, and nuclear and missile issues of DPRK. Pakistan's multilateral engagements on Afghanistan are part of diplomatic outreach to facilitate peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan (especially after the US-Taliban deal of 29 February 2020). On the Iranian nuclear issue, Pakistan continued to call for preserving the integrity of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as an agreed international framework to resolve issues. Pakistan advocated strict adherence to the provisions of UN charter and international law and resolution of disputes through peaceful means.

230. Reform of the Security Council is a strategic imperative for us. Pakistan supports a comprehensive reform of the Council to make it more democratic, representative, accountable, transparent and effective. In collaboration with several countries at the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group, we have consistently advocated inclusive and transparent negotiations within the framework of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) process at the UN. We have strongly opposed non-consensual efforts aimed at artificially pacing the reform process or turning it into a majority versus minority calculus. Under the overall guidance of the Foreign Ministry, Pakistan Mission in New York actively worked with Uniting for Consensus grouping and constructively contributed to the debates on the UN Security Council reform, which has a direct bearing on the architecture responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

UN Secretary-General's visit to Pakistan

231. To promote our foreign policy objectives and principles of policy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged high-level multilateral visits at the leadership level, including a visit by the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) Mr. Antonio Guterres to Pakistan from 16-19 February 2020. In recognition of Pakistan's exemplary compassion, generosity and resolve in hosting Afghan refugees for the past four decades, the Secretary General participated in the "International Conference on 40 Years of Hosting Afghan Refugees in Pakistan: A New Partnership for Solidarity". In the keynote address, the Secretary General praised Pakistan for hosting millions of refugees for past four decades. The Secretary General called on the President and the Prime Minister. He also held delegation-level meeting with Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

232. To reflect on Pakistan's ardent support to the United Nations and contribution to United Nations' efforts in promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, the UN Secretary-General was invited to deliver a special address at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST). The Secretary-General's other engagements included interactions with parliamentarians, media and the youth. He delivered special talks on themes of sustainable development and climate change. The Secretary-General paid a visit to Lahore and travelled to the Gurdwara Kartarpur Saheb. During his visit, the UN Secretary-General called for a dialogue between Pakistan and India and expressed concern on human rights situation in Kashmir. He also reaffirmed United Nations' position on Kashmir to be resolved in accordance with UN Charter and

relevant Security Council resolutions. He also appreciated Pakistan's role in the peace and reconciliation efforts in Afghanistan.

Efforts for Non-Proliferation

233. Pakistan firmly believes that for the global non-proliferation regime to be guarantor for international peace and stability, it should be non-discriminatory and should recognize the equal right of all states to undiminished security. Pakistan, therefore, strives for the promotion of an equitable and rule-based global order through its international engagements.

234. As a member of the Board of Governors of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Pakistan has continued to support the promotional role of the IAEA for peaceful uses of nuclear technology worldwide. In 2020, Pakistan's Mission in Vienna coordinated with the IAEA for the acquisition of diagnostic equipment for COVID-19 which was deployed in selected public sector hospitals for COVID testing. Apart from that Pakistan continues to be one of the topmost beneficiaries of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme in terms of capacity-building and training of its manpower in diverse areas of nuclear applications, including health, agriculture, industry and nuclear power generation.

235. During the period under review, bilateral consultations on non-proliferation and disarmament issues were held with China, UK, Japan, Turkey and EU. These consultations were valuable as efforts to foster better mutual understanding of the regional and global security challenges.

236. Pakistan continued to engage with the members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to lobby for a non-discriminatory criteria-based approach for the NSG membership of non-NPT states, and project its credentials for NSG membership. The issue remains under consideration of the NSG members.

FOSTERING GOODWILL AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS AMONG ALL NATIONS

237. Through multifarious modes of engagement i.e. bilateral, regional and multilateral, Pakistan paid special attention to the promotion of principles of policy in this area. The Prime Minister's international agenda includes consistent advocacy for developing countries' core issues including climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity

loss; illicit financial flows; financing for development and debt relief for developing countries.

238. Pakistan along with likeminded countries continued to present the resolution at the General Assembly calling for interfaith harmony across all nations. Similarly, Pakistan Mission in Geneva continued to pilot a resolution on behalf of the OIC at the Human Rights Council underlining the need for combating Islamophobia and hate speech. Pakistan has provided leadership to important UN bodies – among others as President of the Economic and Social Council (a principal organ of the United Nations).

239. In its capacity as Coordinator of the OIC Group on Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva, Pakistan continued to maintain an active and constructive profile through consensus-building on a wide range of thematic and country-specific issues among various regional groupings at the Council. This is evident from Pakistan's lead role in negotiations and consensual adoption of OIC's annual resolution 16/18 on Combating Intolerance and Violence against Persons based on Religion or Belief.

Cooperation with Asia, Latin America & Africa

240. In line with the Prime Minister's initiative of engaging African continent, the Ministry, under the leadership of Foreign Minister, successfully executed the first phase of Engage Africa initiative in Fiscal year 2019-20. The milestones of Phase-I are as under:

- i. Inauguration of 1st Pak-Africa Trade Development Conference;
- ii. Hosting of Africa Envoy's Conference;
- iii. Establishment of five new missions (Rwanda is operational);
- iv. Up gradation of two missions to Ambassadorial level (Niger & Tanzania) and
- v. Establishment of Africa Fund (PKR 100 million).

241. To further these ties, events and exhibitions were planned to add depth & dimension to our current relationship with African continent. However, Covid-19 prevented most events which were either postponed or cancelled. Bilateral interactions with African countries were as follows:

- i. Pak-African Business Forum was conceptualized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) as most unprecedented networking exercise bringing under one roof participants from businesses, defence community, media personnel, Government (MoFA and commerce), Honorary Consuls, & Resident Ambassadors. The activity is now scheduled for 3rd week of August 2021 (subject to Covid situation) after two postponements.
- ii. Unprecedented and largest celebrations of Africa Day with 27 African nations participating and the Foreign Minister inaugurating the plenary session with a key note address, followed by presentations from DG FMC, JSHQ on behalf of Armed Forces, COMSTECH, NRTC, and FWO, took place in the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad. Chambers of Commerce, resident and non-resident Ambassadors and Pakistani Missions in Africa virtually participated in the event. The Foreign Secretary formally closed the event with his address.
- iii. Africa Fund (PKR 100 million) was optimally utilized for assisting most critical states and their most vulnerable populations such as Niger & Gambia where 200 MT & 100 MT of Pak origin IPRI-6 rice was gifted.
- iv. Pakistan is also offering capacity building courses to African diplomats and is building a repository of all alumni who have graduated from academic, diplomatic, & defence training institutions. This strategic asset shall be forcefully engaged in the coming years and a strong edifice of trust and outreach shall be developed thereby.
- v. Pakistan's relations with the continent are rooted in mutual respect, commonality of views and aspirations coupled with a strong desire to enhance and intensify bilateral relations to new vistas. In this spirit the next phase of Engage Africa shall further cement these ties and perfectly dovetail new initiatives for executing the aims of Article 40 of the Constitution.

LATIN AMERICA

242. There is no Muslim-majority country in Latin America; however, in conformity with the second part of the Article 40 of the Constitution,

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs endeavoured to develop good relations with the Latin American countries for the common benefit of the people of the region and Pakistan.

243. Efforts were undertaken to further strengthen relations with the Latin American countries where Pakistan has already established its footprint. For instance, Brazil is an important South American country. Pakistan and Brazil enjoy friendly relations. To augment the cordiality of the ties, Pakistan and Brazil signed MoU on Defence Cooperation in August 2019. This MoU will be worked to increase collaboration between defence and security institutions of the two countries. The two countries established 2 + 2 Structured Dialogue in October 2019 for discussion on areas of peace and security. A delegation from Brazil visited Pakistan from 5-6 March 2020 and held a conference focusing on Brazilian experience on Ethanol production, legislation, technology, environmental elements, integration with oil industry and other technical matters. The conference has opened a new avenue for future collaboration between Pakistan and Brazil in ethanol production.

244. Pakistan and Cuba enjoy friendly and cooperative relations. In order to further strengthen the bilateral ties, the Cuban Vice President, Dr. Roberto Morales Ojeda, visited Pakistan in October 2019. He called on the President and the Prime Minister and held delegation level talks with the Foreign Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Moreover, he also met the Minister for Federal Education, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination and visited National Institute of Health and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. During the visit of the Cuban Vice President, “Agreement on the Exemption from Visa Requirement for the Holders of Diplomatic, Official or Service Passports between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the Republic of Cuba” was signed on 30th October 2019. The MoU would ensure ease of communication between officials of the two countries.

245. Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Deputy Chairman Senate, led a parliamentary delegation to Mexico to attend the Executive Education Leadership Programme jointly organized by the International Parliamentary Union and Tech. de Monterrey (November 25-29, 2019). Although the visit was primarily of multilateral nature, given the active engagement of Deputy Chairman Senate with Mexican politicians and Government officials, it turned out to be a significant initiative at bilateral

front as well. The visit marked an important development in the bilateral relations, particularly in the context of parliamentary diplomacy.

STEPS BY OTHER MINISTRIES/DIVISIONS

246. The following steps were reported under this principle of policy by Ministries/Divisions other than the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Partnership for Development

247. Economic Affairs Division maintains cordial relations with all bilateral and multilateral development partners from the Muslim World such as Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrian, Oman, Turkey, Egypt, Islamic Development Bank, Saudi Fund, Kuwait Fund, Turkish International Cooperation Agency and the Islamic Development Bank member countries for strengthening brotherly bonds with the Muslim world and promoting international peace.

248. The National Productivity Organization under the Industries and Production Division is collaborating with different international organizations for development (bilateral cooperation, knowledge sharing and technical assistance) and image building of Pakistan, including the APO Japan (with its 18 member countries which are Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Islamic republic of Iran, Laos PDR, Cambodia, Republic of China, Magnolia, Fiji, Nepal, Hong Kong, India, Philippines, Singapore, Srilanka, Thailand, Republic of Korea and Vietnam), United Nations Industrial Development organization (UNIDO), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and PUM (Netherland).

249. The following initiatives for mutual economic cooperation and SME development with the Muslim countries were taken by Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority:

- i. 6th Session of Pak-Syria Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC)
- ii. 4th Session of Pakistan Kyrgyzstan Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC)
- iii. 6th Session of Pak-Tajikistan Joint Commission (JC) on Trade, Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation
- iv. 10th Session of Pak-Jordan Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC)

250. The Export Promotion Zones Authority is proposing direct investment from OIC countries in its marketing programme.

251. Pakistan Steel is importing the main ingredients of raw material from Australia & Iran and coal from Canada & Australia to turn the mills into an economically viable project.

International Health Programmes

252. National Institute of Health is the focal point of World Health Organization (WHO) in Pakistan, and the premier research Institute of the country. Different National/ International Health programmes funded by Muslim/Non-Muslim countries are being carried out at NIH.

Multilateral Tax Association

253. FBR espouses an unfaltering commitment to its ties with Muslim World particularly in the field of tax administration. Pakistan is an active member of the multilateral Association of Tax Authorities of Islamic Countries (ATAIC) which came into existence in 2003. FBR has been privileged to have organized its 3rd International Convention at Islamabad in 2006. This organization has a broader manifesto and it aspires to attain following objectives as enshrined in its statute to:

- i. Provide a forum to discuss, deliberate, share experience and facilitate the development and improvement of tax and/or Zakat policies and administrations in all their aspects within member countries.
- ii. Foster mutual cooperation and assistance among the tax authorities of member and associate member countries and provide a forum for exchange of experience and best practices among the members.
- iii. Recognize the important role of tax and zakat administration in the promotion of economic development.

Emigrants' Contribution

254. Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment registers the intending migrant workers for overseas employment. Almost 98% of the workforce is going to Muslim countries and contributing towards the uplift of those countries and strengthening of bonds with Muslim world and promoting international peace.

Trade Relations

255. Ministry of Commerce endeavours for meaningful trade relations with the Islamic countries that include Bangladesh, Maldives,

Afghanistan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy a Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA), whereas Pakistan and Indonesia have a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). Similarly, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Maldives are members of SAARC and signatories of SAFTA to provide preferential market access to each other.

Cooperation in Energy Sector

256. Ministry of Energy (Power Division) has a working relationship with a number of developing partners from Muslim countries, including Qatar Fund, Kuwait Fund, Saudi Arabia Fund and Islamic Development Bank, which is contributing in the development of Pakistan through provision of loans/funds for the various hydropower projects.

257. The Development Wing of the Ministry deals with development projects of Petroleum Division and matters related to international cooperation. The activities of this Wing directly relate to the development of oil, gas and mineral sector and indirectly fostering good relationships with various countries of the world. On the one hand the Wing is dealing with mega projects like the establishment of Saudi Pak refinery, construction of gas pipelines, underground gas storages and PSDP projects and on the other it is responsible for all matters related to international cooperation which is formalized in the shape of Inter-Governmental Commission and Joint Economic Commission with more than 50 countries across the globe.

Training Collaboration

258. The National School of Public Policy (NSPP) under the Establishment Division is promoting ties with the Muslim countries as a part of training and to explore the common interests of the people. Many Muslim countries were visited during Foreign Study Tours of the National Management Course (NMC), including Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. The Foreign Study Tours by the participants and the faculty of the National Management Courses to the Muslim countries are aimed to strengthen ties with these countries both at the Governmental and citizens' level.

259. An MoU has also been signed between the NSPP and the Civil Service Commission of the Republic of Maldives.

260. The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) is a Member of the Public Service Commission of SAARC Member States; therefore, it has liaison and coordination with other Member States in the areas of recruitment, selection carrier planning etc. FPSC also attends meetings/workshops/conferences arranged by the Member States which is a source to strengthen and bonds with SAARC Countries PSCs for promotion of international peace.

261. The Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHK-NCRD) organizes training programmes in collaboration with inter-Governmental organizations like AARDO, CIRDAP, and opportunities are offered to different Muslim states of Asia and Africa to nominate officials so as to promote the fraternal relations. Linkages with Muslim countries through video conferencing and mutual visits of faculty were also carried out by using the platforms of African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) and Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) so as to promote peace and harmony among the international participants from Muslim and Non-Muslim countries of Asia and Africa.

262. The Ministry of Industries & Production welcomes participants from all the brother Islamic countries for trainings conducted under its auspices. Pakistan Institute of Management also welcomes training participants from brother Islamic countries. In the past, officers from Afghanistan, the Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia and Iran have attended PIM courses and benefited from PIM trainings.

263. The foreigners from Muslim world also participate in the training courses conducted by Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre; detail of foreigners for the last three years is as under:

S.N.	Name of the course	Foreigners
1.	Computerized Accounts & Finance	03
2.	Human Resource Management	02
3.	Quantity Surveyor	01
Total		06

Equivalence Certification

264. The Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) under the Ministry of IPC is playing an important role while issuing educational equivalence certificates to citizens of the Muslim world according to the

criteria established by the IBCC equivalence committee. Grievance Cell has been established in the IBCC Head Office at Islamabad for facilitation of the foreign candidates.

Sports and Tourism

265. The Ministry of IPC has been playing its due role for strengthening bonds with Muslim and neighbouring countries through bilateral agreements/MoUs in the field of sports and tourism. To promote cohesion and brotherhood with Muslim countries, Pakistan Sports Board arranged for different contingents of players to visit Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Turkey, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates to participate in different events during the period.

International Digital Landscape

266. Ministry of IT & Telecommunication is taking holistic care to avoid any international agreement or understanding that may jeopardize the interests of Muslim countries. Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) has been a landmark progress on the digital landscape in seven Muslim countries which will enhance digital cooperation in the member countries in the long run. This development is intended to strengthen the bonds of Muslim Ummah.

Cooperation against Drug-Trafficking

267. The Ministry of Narcotics Control is actively engaged at events for strengthening relationship with Muslim and other countries. In this regard, **31 MoUs** have been signed with different countries on cooperation to fight against illegal trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals in order to make the world free of drugs.

Rail Linkage

268. A rail link has been established between India via Wagha Border and Khokhorapar. Afghanistan is approached via Chaman and Peshawar. Although no rail link is available, all sorts of traffic – passengers, parcel and freight – is facilitated up to the border. The ML-1 from Karachi to Peshawar is being upgraded to strengthen link between Pakistan and Afghanistan. A new dry port is being established at Havelian to facilitate traffic from Pakistan to China via Khunjab.

Qirat Competition

269. The national Hifz-o-Qirat Competition was organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on 7th & 8th May,

2018 at Conference Hall of Tabaq Hotel, Blue Area, Islamabad. 58 Huffaz/Qurrah across the country, recommended by the Provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK and ICT, participated in the competition. 24 Huffaz/Qurrah were selected by the Judges for Categories I to III. Besides cash prizes, the position holders were nominated for the international competition held in various Islamic countries. The Ministry has increased the prize money for the position holders of National Hifz-o-Qirat Competition from the year 2019 as follows:

Position	Prize Amount
1 st Prize	50,000/-
2 nd Prize	35,000/-
3 rd Prize	25,000/-

Defence Production

270. The Ministry of Defence Production is implementing the Government's policies to promote collaboration with Muslim/friendly countries in the field of defence production and defence industrial cooperation.

Human Rights

271. Pakistan is a member of various international and regional forums of child protection and ratified conventions for child protection including United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and its optional protocols. Pakistan is also signatory to the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam and an active member of South Asian Initiative of Ending Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Besides, Pakistan also coordinates with international and regional forums like UNCSW, UNESCAP, Shanghai Cooperation, OIC, WDO, OHCHR, SAARC and ASIM etc on gender and human rights issues.

Cultural Cooperation

272. The National Heritage & Culture Division has endeavoured to strengthen and preserve fraternity among Muslim and Non-Muslim countries based on Islamic unity and common interests. International peace and security as well as goodwill and friendly relations have also been promoted.

273. Besides documenting and preserving the culture of Pakistan, the Heritage Museum of Lok Virsa also projects cultures of different friendly

and brotherly countries including China, Iran, Turkey and Central Asian states.

274. Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Islamabad, has entered into cultural pacts with a number of Muslim countries, whereby international people to people interaction is enhanced to provide for a better understanding of each other resulting in strong cultural and emotional ties.

275. National Library of Pakistan is a member of the ECO countries National Libraries Union. All the ECO member countries are Muslim. National library of Pakistan has a close liaison and cooperation with the libraries in Islamic World, especially those in Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Arab World.

276. The National Academy of Performing Arts conducts an International Theatre and Music Festival, where representatives of countries like Palestine, Iran, Syria, Bangladesh, and Egypt perform.

277. The National Heritage & Culture Division signed cooperation agreements with the following countries to strengthen international peace in 2018-19:

S.N	Country	Title	Valid from	Valid till
i.	Switzerland	Memorandum of Understanding in field of Museology between DOAM and Rietberg Museum Zurich	2018	2021
ii.	Nepal	MoU for cooperation in the field of Literature between Pakistan Academy of Letters and Nepal Academy, Nepal	2018	2023
iii.	Cuba	MoU signed between National Library Pakistan and National Library Cuba	2018	2023
iv.	Bulgaria	MoU between National Library Pakistan and St Cyril and Methodius National Library of Bulgaria	2019	2021
v.	China	Pak-China Cultural Agreement	2018	2023
vi.	Oman	MoU between Pakistan Academy of Letters and Oman Association of Writers and Literati	2019	2024

278. The National Heritage & Culture Division signed cooperation agreements with the following countries to strengthen international peace in 2019-20:

S.N	Country	Title	Valid from	Valid till
i.	Iran	MoU on Handicraft Cooperation between Iran and Pakistan.	2019	2024
ii.	China	Agreement between China and National History Literary Heritage Division in the field of Culture.	2019	2024
iii.	China	Executive Programme Between Pak-China for the year 2018-2022.	2018	2022
iv.	China	MoU between National Administration of Press and publication of China and national Heritage and Culture Division of Pakistan on mutual Translation and Publication of Classic works.	2021	2026
v.	Switzerland	Memorandum of Understanding in field of Museology between DOAM and Reitberge Museum Zurich.	2018	2021
vi.	Oman	MoU between Pakistan Academy of Letter (PAL) and Oman Association of Writer and Literati.	2019	2024
vii.	Nepal	MoU for cooperation in the field of Literature between Pakistan Academy of Letters and Nepal Academy Nepal.	2018	2023
viii.	Cuba	MoU Signed between National Library of Pakistan and National Library of Cuba.	2018	2023
ix.	Tajikistan	Agreement between the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of Tajikistan in the field of Art and Culture.	2021	2026
x.	Uzbekistan	Programme of Exchange in the field of Culture between the National Heritage & Culture Division of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan.	2021	2026
xi.	Bulgaria	MoU on Cooperation between the National Library of Pakistan and the National Library of Bulgaria	2021	2026
xii.	Hungary	MoU of Cultural Cooperation between National Heritage and Culture Division and the Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary.	2020	2022
