Global praise for Pakistan’s Smart Lockdown

HE SYED ASHAB RAZA DAWAR Ambassador of Pakistan

For the Pakistani community in the State of Qatar, the 14th August is a special event and a joyous occasion. This day marks the success of Pakistan’s first-ever nationwide lockdown in the midst of the global coronavirus pandemic. The lockdown was effective in containing the spread of the virus and has been praised by the international community.

Global praise has poured in for Pakistan’s Smart Lockdown, with leaders from various countries and organizations lauding its effectiveness in controlling the spread of COVID-19. The Pakistani community has played a vital role in ensuring the success of the lockdown, adhering to strict guidelines issued by the Government.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has been instrumental in addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic. His leadership has been praised for effectively countering all challenges currently confronting the country. The Prime Minister’s policies have been credited with significantly reducing the spread of the virus.

President Arif Alvi and other leaders of the Indian government have supported their nation through unprecedented determination and demonstrating remarkable discipline and unity.

Nations have to go through difficult times but only with unity will they sail through. Over the last seven and a half decades, Pakistanis have overcome enormous challenges and adversity through unflinching and unswerving faith, patriotism, steadfastness and resilience. The resilient and hardworking people of Pakistan, including overseas Pakistanis, are playing their due role in the progress and development of the country as it continues upon the path to greater progress and development as envisaged by the Father of the Nation. The government of Pakistan, under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, has already demonstrated its strong will to effectively counter all challenges currently confronting the country. This includes the ongoing coronavirus crisis. Very rarely a calamity has had such a worldwide impact as we are currently witnessing. It is indeed heartening that the Government’s pioneering approach of Smart Lockdown, balancing between lives and livelihood, has been globally recognized.

Mortgages taken by the Government in the last period of coronavirus, while keeping the economy operational was a huge challenge but the Government has, to a large extent, successfully addressed it. During this period, the Government of Pakistan has been able to manage the successful repatriation of Pakistani stranded overseas. In this regard, the Embassy of Pakistan in Qatar, through assistance of Qatar Airways and Pakistan International Airlines, managed a hugely successful repatriation operation, which was cost-effective, fast, and transparent.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has issued guidelines to all Pakistani Missions abroad stressing upon them to actively pursue repatriation operation, which was cost-effective, fast, and transparent.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has visited Qatar twice in 2019 and again in February this year; in September last year. Foreign Ministers of the two countries have met twice in 2019 and again in February this year; in September last year. Foreign Ministers of the two countries have met twice in 2019 and again in February this year; in September last year.

Pakistan and Qatar have historically enjoyed extremely cordial relations based on a common faith and traditions, deep-rooted cultural affinity, geographic proximity, and convergence of interests. Large Pakistani community during the coronavirus crisis was also well taken care of by the Embassy of Pakistan in Qatar, through assistance of Qatar Airways and Pakistan International Airlines.

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While the Government of Pakistan has been praised for its effective management of the coronavirus crisis, it should be acknowledged that this success is the result of the efforts of all Pakistanis, both at home and abroad. Their cooperation and adherence to guidelines have been instrumental in achieving this success.

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Pakistan, Qatar enjoy strong bilateral ties

The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan hold discussions.

The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan review the Guard of Honour at Amiri Diwan.

HE President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi confers Pakistan’s highest civil award Nishan-e-Pakistan on the Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad of Thani.

The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan witness the signing of agreements in Islamabad recently.

Pakistan, Qatar enjoy strong bilateral ties

Pakistan Foreign Minister inaugurated the new building of the Embassy of Pakistan in Doha on February 28, 2020.

HE Saad Sherida A Kaabi, State Minister for Energy of the State of Qatar presents shield Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, Federal Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD), Sayed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari called on Minister of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs of the State of Qatar His Excellency Yousuf Mohamed Al-Othman Fakhroo.


PM Imran Khan with Qatari businessmen.

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Pakistan Souq-Display Center Opening

Pakistan Souq is very much grateful to Pakistan Community for their extended support to Pakistan Souq since its inception last year on 14th August, 2019. Understanding the Vision of Pakistan Souq for Business & Community Bonding with the support of Pakistan Embassy we manage to bring for our best as One Team, One Goal, One Nation, Pakistan Zindabad!

Amir Khan - Chief Executive Officer, BPF Group of Companies

- Pakistan Souq offers Global Virtual Platforms

- eSOUQMart (Qatar’s First Virtual Mall)
  As a Pakistani, we feel proud to innovate and start eSOUQmart.com, as become the First Virtual Mall of Qatar with Multiple e-Stores (Pakistan Souq, Apna Souq, Health & Beauty, Pharmacy, Fruits & Vegetables and Sports). The Virtual Mall with above 5000 Product range with Door to Door Delivery supports the Qatar National Move of Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Online.

- Display Centre
  As a One Stop Offline Business Outlet, we feel proud to have multiple Pakistan & International Brands under one Umbrella for Pakistan & International Community.

- Media & Productions
  Branding, Digital Advertising, Multimedia and Media Productions serves a significant boost to Business Providers to gain instant Online Audience to improve their Overall Business.

- Gateway to Pakistan Local Distributors & Traders
  eSOUQmart offers Global Virtual Platform to all vendors worldwide (Individuals, Local Distributors, SMEs and Others) where a seller can showcase the products & services in our multiple e-Stores. A seller once become an eSOUQmart subscriber shall be able to start an immediate Online Business to maximize their sales & profits, by reaching Online buyers with more Social, Digital Media projection of his business as a product or a service.
Pakistanis artists celebrate Pakistan Independence Day with enthusiasm

MALA WASEEM
Being a visual artist and an active community member, I am dedicated to raising awareness of how art enhances the well-being of individuals, society and environment. My distinctive oil paintings show scenes from the past, and create interpretation and perspective. We, through this practice, generate (re)positioning of concepts and subject in its artwork. To view complete collection of artists work updates on my current projects, please follow on Instagram page: malaawaseemofficial and Facebook page: AasheelaArtgallery.

NAZISH RIZWAN KHAZIRI
I feel fortunate to celebrate yet another Independence Day this year. Last year at Pakistan Azad Model I have the time to come up with all of us can join together and play our part towards the success of The Clean Green Pakistan Campaign. I firmly believe that if we take care of our beautiful mother earth, we will in return take care of our future generations.

Mehreen Hasan
I feel really blessed to have got such exposure in Qatar. It is a great honour for me to be celebrating 14th August, Pakistan’s Independence Day in Qatar as a fashion designer. I am a fashion designer with Jamia Islamiah Imdadiah, Faisalabad. I moved to Qatar seven years ago and since then I have been operating a small at-home business. It has been wonderful experience working in Qatar with so many different and cultural values. Qatar is known for providing a platform to local, regional and international artists in absence. Undoubtedly, art is a continuous and ever-evolving sphere. I have found a remarkable platform in Qatar to illustrate my Qatari art on many occasions. I have presented my art work with being a part of different art exhibitions which were well appreciated by the art lovers.

Shehla Khalid Khan
My specialty is art in fluid running on canvas and realistic all. My paintings have been exhibited in various galleries and I have got many awards from different countries besides Pakistan.

Sumaira Aamer
I am a visual artist residing in Qatar for 10 years. My most admired art pieces are from miniature paintings and oil paintings. As an artist, I have been finding inspiration from cultures, places and people. Over the years, the international perception of Pakistani culture globally becomes an important feature of my art. Pakistan is a beautiful place to visit, specially the northern areas. It is famous for its sky-high mountains, valleys, rivers, beautiful lakes and amazing wildlife that inspires art from around the world. It’s not only the landscapes that are the true beauty of Pakistan, there is so much to see and appreciate that is more closely to the cultural diversity of this great nation. Pakistan Independence Day - an occasion of Pakistan’s Independence Day, I would like to share one of my contemporary miniature paintings which highlights the beauty of stacked houses on mountains. Arriva women and the artisans’ handcrafted embroideries specific to the northern region of Pakistan.

Shahab Siddiqui
At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Pakistani community and the Government of Pakistan on the happy occasion of Independence Day. It is a great honour for me to be celebrating 14th August, Pakistan's Independence Day, Qatar as an architect. I am an architect with the Embassy of Pakistan, Doha. I have practiced in many workshops and competitions in my early days but these days I am focusing on professional calligraphy. I have also arranged online workshops to teach calligraphy to students.

Mohammad Abdullah Tarar
PAKISTAN IS FOR REAL
This day of Independence not only brings joy to our hearts but also reminds us of the sacrifices made by our forefathers so that we could acquire an independent country. Let’s take a resolve to glorify our motherland and take it to new heights.

I am artist by passion and lawian scholar by profession. I am a self-taught artist with an aim to express my work through a combination of art and calligraphy. I was born in Lahore, Pakistan and received my early education from Lahore University. I have been spending my time since my childhood in practicing calligraphy and have participated in many workshops and competitions till today. I am an Alumnus of Karachi University and have also been teaching calligraphy at Jamia Islamiah Imdadiah, Faisalabad. I have taught myself by continuous practice and hard work. I mastered my skills in Arabic calligraphy especially in “Dawla” and “Thuluth” styles. I not only work with pen and ink to present my samples but I have also contributed my works in various projects over the years. I have participated in many events and competitions in my early days but these days I am focusing on professional calligraphy. I have also arranged online workshops to teach calligraphy to students.
Mavericks Business Consultancy: Determined to provide reliable, secure solutions

Mavericks Business Consultancy is keen to keep bounding its collaboration with existing clients and form new collaborations.

When you are new to the business, analyzing all areas for future growth becomes a problem for you as a business owner. Each situation, Mavericks Business Consultancy can help you find new opportunities and answer all your questions and help you go the right way.

When you choose Mavericks Business Consultancy, we will become a part of your team, providing the most responsive service of process delivery in our domain. Our expert understanding for your Business approach, make us the smart choice for reviewing your Business to spot problems, to build your legal requirements and all other kind of your Corporate needs.

As a result of our extensive corporate practice areas, Mavericks Business Consultancy frequently represent as an outside general counsel for Business Owners that do not maintain full-time in-house legal staff. That allows us to stay current on evolving business needs, including structuring, negotiating, and documenting.

When it comes to opening of a small business, it is good to have a formal structure. We provide a long-term solution that will stir up the field to deliver excellent results. We strive to provide long-term solutions that will stir up growth and profits. We understand that our professionals are a constant learning process.

We research and learn about the right and wrong trends in the corporate sector, that will benefit businesses. Mavericks Business Consultancy work to bring beneficial change that will always the businesses in the corporate world. Change is not a favorite aspect to deal with, but it can be promising when it comes from a professional advisor. It is good for the Business Owner to see things from a different perspective.

Many small business owners are finding it increasingly difficult to plan for the future of their business, especially when they’re facing the usual challenges faced by businesses.

To discuss how Mavericks Business Consultancy can benefit your business, simply contact the Mavericks Business Team.

Mavericks Business Consultancy

Mavericks Business Consultancy provides reliable, trusted and secure solutions as well as, experienced partners, second parties and manufacturers. It is important to choose a company that understands what your business needs, the best in the field to deliver excellent results. We strive to provide long-term solutions that will stir up growth and profits. We understand that our professionals are a constant learning process.
Bolochistan’s Sustainable Development via SEZs under CPEC

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and felicitation to the government and people of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of 14th August.

Bolochistan, because of its immense potential, is considered to be the ‘Jewel of Pakistan.’ The largest province of Pakistan has all the necessary and optimum resources to make sustainable progress and shine like a star in the gallery of developed regions of the world. However, the importance of Balochistan and Gwadar has multiplied several times in the world after China’s One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative with CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) as a flag-ship project of OBOR.

CPEC is bringing unprecedented opportunities, sustainable growth and prosperity in almost every field and all the socio-economic aspects of life, especially in regions like Gwadar province of Baluchistan. In terms of its impact, it is one of the largest Special Economic Zones (SEZs) ever developed. These zones are formed with a single administration and have a separate autonomous status of taxation and duties on im-ports or exports. The SEZs also offer immediate access to High-Quality Infrastructure, uninterrupted power supply, doubt-free land, public fa-ilities, support services, and stream-lined regulatory enforcement.

Two Special Economic Zones at Hub and Butan are being developed in Balochistan. The priority sectors of Hub SEZ on agriculture also include fruit processing, agricultural machinery, halal food industry, cold storage, food processing, and data processing/plants. For green houses, farming, vertical farming, rooftop farming, and rooftop farming, the land also offers charming opportunities, incentives and incentives under CPEC with special regulations and laws in its Special Economic Zones for the latest, experimental, emerging and existential agricultural technologies in the world.

The agricultural-related skilled workforce is already available in the province. Regarding the access of water for agricultural use, myriad projects have just been completed for dams, canals, rain-water-storage and other traditional methods. Kacchi Canal has brought 14,000 acres of land under cultivation. The Minarsu Dam irrigates around 50,000 acres of land on the Dazai River, 50 kilo-metres west of Barcha in the Makran Division. It also provides water to irrigate the sugarcane fields for the development of sugar, and more than 32,000 sq km of arable land under irrigation projects. Balochistan has a coastal belt stretching only five km to the tourist. Now, the government is turning beaches into tourist spots. It is working on a comprehensive plan of development along the coastal belt. Chief Minister of Balochistan presided a meeting of the Balochistan Coastal Develop-ment Authority (BCDA) in the pro vincial capital. Already, myriad proj-ects have been implemented for this regard which are being constructed in coastal areas. Butan, Gwadar, Lisab, and Halt Tahar or Atola Island in the Arabian Sea, are the spots that have immense tourism potential. With Gwadar Port operational under CPEC, the government offers numerous opportunities for tourism both at international and domestic levels. Marine tourism, eco-tourism, and religious and wildlife tourism are the attractions that the local and interna-tional tourists craves for. The food Darren like egg, drive, sundhi, total material, and establishment of various universities centred for the development of polymer and phar-maceutical materials, and establishment of global and geospatial mapping centres are some sectors the government is looking forward to invest on.

Balochistan has a strong mineral base compared to many developing countries. The chemical process in-dustry is also crucial for industrial development. Most of the chemical industry in Pakistan is still in the initial stages of development. For the establishment of a fully-integrated chemical industry in Pakistan, a naphtha cracker must be set up in the country. This facility is critically important for the indigenous manufactur-ing of a large number of chemical and pharmaceuticals. Besides industry that is strong enough to make Balochistan’s economic growth optimally inclusive is that of the mobile phone manufactur-ing industry.

Under CPEC, the government of Balochistan can begin with mobile phone assembly leading to manu-facturing. It is also indispensable for Pakistan to build local smartphones manufacturing capability as it increases foreign direct investment, foreign exchange earnings and many other employment opportunities for our people while promoting the growth of related support industries within the country like packaging material and smart-phones accessories, etc. With increasing local and inter-national demand of smartphones, SEZs in Balochistan for mobile manufacturing give the competitive advantage of labour cost. It can develop into a major industry capable of generating an export surplus to sell its brand of “Made in Pakistan” to the international mar ket. This implies that if the export of the textile sector would cross the $20 billion benchmark within the next 8-10 years, then the cell phone industry can contribute $100 million and engineering goods.

The Mirani Board of Investment & Associates, Mr. R. Dorado’ of Pakistan, also offers the landscape regulatory enforcement. Various incentives and incentives under CPEC also offer the list of regulations and incentives under CPEC. Balochistan has a huge potential for solar and wind energy generation. Solar is abundantly available in Balochistan and the sun rays are very high with radiation of 5.6–6.2 KWH/m2ms, augmented by the average daily global insulation ranging from 19–20 million joules/square with sunshine duration 8–9–5 hours. Apart from solar, the high-speed wind in certain parts of the prov-ince can produce wind energy. Winders, Omars, Jumri, Dalhan dir, Dollar, and Tarun are hailed as potential wind corridors.

In the Special Eco-nomic Zones of Bolochistan under CPEC, the government is offering various incentives to invest in the manufacturing industry. For instance, nanotechnology is offering an unprecedented opportunity. Composite are limited applications in many industries, particularly in engineering, transport, energy, and many other industries. Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Punjab are developed under CPEC in Balochistan. Regarding the access of workforce is already available in the province. The Mirani Board of Investment & Associates, Mr. R. Dorado’ of Pakistan, also offers the landscape regulatory enforcement. Various incentives and incentives under CPEC also offer the list of regulations and incentives under CPEC. Balochistan has a huge potential for solar and wind energy generation. Solar is abundantly available in Balochistan and the sun rays are very high with radiation of 5.6–6.2 KWH/m2ms, augmented by the average daily global insulation ranging from 19–20 million joules/square with sunshine duration 8–9–5 hours. Apart from solar, the high-speed wind in certain parts of the province can produce wind energy. Winders, Omars, Jumri, Dalhan dir, Dollar, and Tarun are hailed as potential wind corridors.

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Pakistan: Tourists' Delight

CONDE NAST TRAVELER ranked Pakistan as the number one holiday destination in 2020, acknowledging the improved security, visa relaxation policies, and of course its beauty, which will offer more facilities to tourists. In addition, the Chinese spend a great share of their earnings on sightseeing and easier travel to Pakistan will encourage them to visit the country and realize themselves of its natural beauty.

Pakistan has top attractions for locals and foreigners alike. Recently, there has been a laudable improvement in the tourism industry. Enhanced security conditions are the key reason for ever-increasing numbers of tourists. Another important development is a new visa policy, which offers e-visas and visa on arrival to tourists. Besides this, the government is also converting its rest houses and palatial buildings to hotels, offering more charming accommodations to visitors. The Tourism Coordination Board is yet another measure taken to capitalize on the potential of Pakistan's tourism sector and increase its tourist income.

Likewise, the growing hospitality industry of Pakistan is building up the trust of sightseers. International hotel chains are revamping their services and the entire premise are launching innovative ways to serve guests.

Alongside these developments, international travel bloggers and vloggers are visiting the country and showing the true nature of Pakistan and the hospitality of its people. The revival of sports in Pakistan is also helping to clear the security concerns.

As a result of all these factors, some of the world’s most reputable magazines and societies are encouraging people to tour Pakistan. Forbes considered Pakistan to be “one of the coolest places to go” in 2019. In 2017, the British Backpacker Society, in ranking Pakistan as its best adventure travel destination, described it as “one of the friendliest countries on earth, with mountain scenery that is beyond anyone’s wildest imagination.” Conde Nast Traveler ranked Pakistan as the number one holiday destination in 2020, acknowledging the improved security, visa relaxation policies, and of course its beauty.
Pakistan Souq CEO Aamir Saeed Khan presents a trophy to the winning team captain of Sohni Dharti Spring Festival. (File photo)

Children partake in Qatar National Day celebrations. (File photo)

A scene of tug-of-war competition at Sohni Dharti Spring Festival. (File photo)

Pakistan’s rich culture and tradition

Sohni Dharti Forum: Promoting Pakistan’s rich culture and tradition

Sohni Dharti Forum (SDF) is a non-political, non-religious and constitution-based organisation representing Pakistani community members living in Al Khobar.

The organisation was established in 1997 and was officially registered in 2003. Sohni Dharti Chairman Saleem Baloch is leading every dedicated and enthusiastic team as Executive Committee for the 2020-21 term. They include Badrul Fattah (President), Rao Irfan Hussain (Vice President), Humam Al-Ali (General Secretary), Nauman Khawaja (Joint Secretary), Jadows Akhtar (Cultural Secretary), Sohni Dharti’s Secretary, Shirin Ahmed (Finance Secretary), Sobia Arif (Future Leader Programme Leader), Shabbir Siddiqui (Treasurer) and Mumira Masood (Ladies Coordinator).

Sohni Dharti organises cultural shows on Pakistan Independence Day, Pakistan Defence Day and Pakistan Day to shower the love and greetings for the beloved country. Celebrating in traditional and spiritual ways in different areas of the country and provide a platform for the young generation to know about the history, cultural diversity and tradition of Pakistan. Events of different countries,有没有数字和大名号的, community members attend the events to experience the rich Pakistani culture.

Sohni Dharti recently organised many sporting events for children as well as adults which brought children to the actual playing field rather than playing on their smart phones and tablets. Bearing in mind the importance of physical fitness of the community members, Sohni Dharti organised cricket, volleyball and football tournaments. A large number of community members participated in the games which not only boosted fitness but also help in maintaining good relations among the community members. Pakistan Day is one of the most unique and colourful event among many, in which international community members participate and showcase the love and passion for the beloved country. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sohni Dharti organised several online events.

150 players participated and more than 200 prizes were given away. Proper arrangement of food stalls at sporting events attracted a lot of audience, including children and families. Sohni Dharti organised several programmes like Shane Ramadan festival, where Naat and Quraan competitions were held. Apart from spiritual events, Sohni Dharti arranged Future Leaders Training, where children were trained in public speaking, moral values, ethics and other aspects.

Sohni Dharti organises many events during independence day, Pakistan Day and Pakistan Defence Day to showcase the love and passion for the beloved country.

Sohni Dharti Executive Committee members are always ready to serve Pakistani families. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sohni Dharti organised many online events. A competition was held where children recorded their messages about COVID-19. In Shane Ramadan programme, children participated in Naat and Quran competitions. In the drawing competition, children were asked to prepare their work on the COVID-19 pandemic. The significance of Pakistan Independence Day was highlighted in the online speech and patriotic song competition.

Sohni Dharti will organise a grand prize distribution ceremony followed by dinner at Al Waha Hotel, in light of the COVID-19 situation normalisation.
KS&EW: Pride of Pakistan

KS&EW has acquired certifications from ABS, Lloyds Register, BV for DWT 26,994, DNVGL for DWT 35,000, GL (Germanischer Lloyd) for DWT 30,000, and GL (Formerly Lloyd’s Register) for DWT 26,000. In addition, shipbuilding projects are also accredited by Classification Society as per the requirement of customers. The shipbuilding department has successfully constructed over 10,000 vessels for various valued customers including Pakistan Navy, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, Karachi Port Trust, Port Qasim Authority, Gwadar Port Authority, Pakistan Customs, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and several international customers like Saudi Arabia, Belgium, China, Iran and the UAE. This department is fully equipped to construct all kind of vessels including warships up to 26,000 DWT. Depending upon the passenger capacity, the shipbuilding workshops and state-of-the-art facilities include large shipbuilding halls, 05x shipbuilding berths, 06x quay docks, 03x 1,200 ton, 06x 650 ton, and 07x 300 ton cranes, 13x mooring bollards, 03x pile driving and associated supporting facilities.

The management of KS&EW is focused on providing quality services and products with total customer satisfaction while ensuring adherence to all local and international standards. KS&EW is the only shipyard in Pakistan that is focused on providing quality services and products with total customer satisfaction while ensuring adherence to all local and international standards. KS&EW has the requisite infrastructure and facilities for the shipbuilding and Heavy General Engineering related works. Furthermore, KS&EW has also been involved in the construction of submarine structures for Pakistan Navy. The facilities include large shipbuilding halls, 05x shipbuilding berths, 06x quay docks, 03x 1,200 ton, 06x 650 ton, and 07x 300 ton cranes, 13x mooring bollards, 03x pile driving and associated supporting facilities.

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The shipbuilding department has successfully constructed over 10,000 vessels for various valued customers including Pakistan Navy, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, Karachi Port Trust, Port Qasim Authority, Gwadar Port Authority, Pakistan Customs, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and several international customers like Saudi Arabia, Belgium, China, Iran and the UAE. This department is fully equipped to construct all kind of vessels including warships up to 26,000 DWT. Depending upon the passenger capacity, the shipbuilding workshops and state-of-the-art facilities include large shipbuilding halls, 05x shipbuilding berths, 06x quay docks, 03x 1,200 ton, 06x 650 ton, and 07x 300 ton cranes, 13x mooring bollards, 03x pile driving and associated supporting facilities.

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REDS are a gift from Allah to protect us from climate change and disease. That’s why cutting down trees is forbidden in Islam and Allah Himself has ordered man to protect the earth. There is no doubt that tree planting is the best action of humanity. It is a sacred duty. We benefit not only one person or millions of people but also all kinds of birds and trees.

It’s heartening to learn that Prime Minister Imran Khan has launched the largest tree plantation drive in the history of Pakistan on August 9. The prime minister urged the people to take part in the tree plantation campaign across the country, saying it’s the responsibility of everyone to make the country green for our coming generations. The wind from the trees causes various ailments and the rains come from the trees. The biggest benefit of trees is that they give us oxygen which makes us breathe, so it’s the responsibility of everyone who is aware of the importance of trees.

Experts note it’s very important that 25 percent of the country is covered by forests. Unfortunately, only 2 to 3 percent of Pakistan is covered by forests. The forest area in Pakistan is declining due to deforestation. Forest land is being used to build houses and then the river is being cut down every year. Therefore, it’s important to allocate more land for deforestation and to stop unnecessary logging. The government of Pakistan is encouraging tree planting. The main benefits of forests are:

- Forests are one of the country’s major resources and meet the country’s timber and fuel needs.
- Forests keep temperatures in moderation and make the surrounding weather particularly pleasant.
- Forests help maintain soil fertility.
- Forest herbs are used in medicine.
- Forests are the source and causes of wildlife. Numerous wild animals such as hens, cheetahs and deers are found in the forests.
- Forests are the largest source of firewood.
- Forests add to the beauty of the land.
- Forests are the source of many resources such as fuel, paper, matches and sporting goods.
- Forests prevent snow from melting rapidly in the mountains and also control land erosion.

Before planting trees, it’s important to consider the land and its needs and also to take care of them. March, April and August are the best months for planting trees. If you can’t do anything, plant a tree. It will be a big part of your well-being as well as the welfare of the country, which will also benefit the next generations. Trees are very important for a better life. We need to understand this aspect.

The Philippines Assembly has passed a new law to combat climate change, under which a student will be awarded a graduation degree only after he/she has planted 10 trees. The complex problem of deforestation can be overcome with a healthy activity if we also make success at various levels from primary level to university level. A student who can plant one tree in a season will be awarded last year’s degree only after he/she has planted the same number of trees. The figure. He is the host of YouTube channel #Meetwithrana, which showcases successful programmes for the community members.)

Wishing All Our Pakistani Readers
A Very Happy Pakistan Independence Day

It’s very important for 25 percent of the country to be covered by forests, say experts. However, unfortunately, only 2-3 percent of Pakistan is covered by forests. The average temperature in forests is usually 2-3 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature is usually 6-10 degrees Celsius.
BLUE ECONOMY: Immense potential for Pakistan

Being an important maritime state, Pakistan is set to maximise the marvels of the Blue Economy. The country is blessed with over 1,000 km long coastline and one of the largest exclusive Economic Zones (EZs) of the world (50,000 sq km) which was also approved by United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCSL) in 2015. Pakistan’s maritime sector is financially and technologically intensive and requires substantial investment for building, operating and turning it into economically profitable. In present-day maritime revenue projection stands at $4 billion which is far behind the $6 billion, of which $3 billion and $1 billion respectively. Pakistan’s coastal areas are rich in bio-producitivity and bio-diversity as they provide huge breeding grounds for considerable biologically important fisheries including orange and shrimp with a potential resources worth of more than $2 billion annually. Despite vast fish resources, Pakistan’s coastal only contributes 0.3% per capita in the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country. This year the sector has witnessed a growth of 6%. This again augments the immense potential which exists in this sector.

CPEC is a hallmark project that harmonises between China and Pakistan. The cornerstone of this partnership is the geometrically postulated Gwadar Port. Due to its strategic positioning, this port over time has become the hubbed of堡 and new initiatives (BRI) — a mega-structure initiative for connectivity through land and sea lanes. In this paradigm, the economies surrounding Gwadar port plays a significant role. Gwadar can play an instrumental role in transforming Pakistan’s economy via transshipment alone. In the annals of history, it has been realised that shipping is the cheapest mode of transport. Today, 80% of the global merchandise in volume is carried by sea which amounts to around 23 billion tons. In Pakistan, in this realm, can play a very major role which can help harness the immense potential for building an important seaport for Pakistan in the High Line Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI). The LSCI represents how good the connectivity is between ships and ports around the world. Pakistan stands at 44.6 points, which is a healthy number and is better than Bangladesh, though behind India which stands at around 54. China is leading the race with an index of 135.2. There is where Pakistan is expected to reap the benefits and develop its transshipment industry and expand to operations. Considering the additional distance ships have to travel to reach Gulf Countries from the Indian ocean, Gwadar has the potential to be developed into a full-fledged regional hub and a trans-shipment portal in the future. The likely shifting of ship traffic from Dubai to Gwadar could make it one of the top transshipment hubs globally. Under hours to 20 TEUs (20 ton equivalent units) such yard can handle more than 3.7 million TEUs per annum. This yard will help Pakistan also play its role in building the Gwadar Free Zones with the network of National Economic Zones Authority and the Free Zone Policy.

Pakistan’s mangrove area is the sixth largest in the world. It has an annual value of about $20 billion which can be treated from mangroves dependent industry. Another important aspect is Pakistan’s National Shipping Corporation (PNCS) which favours about 85% import of gas carriers but has a very small feet of cargos vessels that only carries 5% of cargo to the world, while the remaining 95% is handled by foreign companies which cost the country a foreign exchange of about $1 billion annually. Establishing a joint venture between PNCS and a Qatari entity like Milaha can prove extremely beneficial for both countries and the country’s maritime sector. Government of Pakistan is working upon an integrated National Maritime Strategy to effectively utilise the existing seaborne resources.

In addition, immense under considerable circumstances CPEC’s potential is further enhanced under completion in order to get the much-needed dividends to humanity. However, an important challenge terms of the dividend to humanity. However, an important challenge terms of the dividend to humanity.

Moreover, Pakistan’s Gwadar Port has the potential to be the sixth largest in the world which can handle more than 500 million tons of cargo annually. Due to its strategic positioning, Gwadar East Bay Expressway, Construction of Breakwaters, Development of Berthing areas and channels, Development of Free Zone, Gwadar International Airport, and Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan after completion will extensively add on to our Blue economy by entrenching massive trade connectivity and transit-in-flow. Linking Gwadar Port and Free Zones with the network of National Highways will ensure the smooth logistics transportation of import, export and traded goods, expanding the net potential of CPEC. Strategic view can be explored between Qatar Free Zones Authority and the Free Zone at Gwadar for comprehensive economic cooperation.

Furthermore, the shipbreaking industry of Pakistan namely Gadani is one of the largest ship-breaking initiatives in the world during the 1970s but now it is placed at number five. If this industry is revived back and utilized to its full potential, it can have the capability to attract $2 billion annually. Another most important industry which does great promise is coastal tourism. The tourism around the world is being attracted towards beautiful places especially the sea coast where biodiversities and attractive beaches. With regards to Pakistan, the country’s tourism only contributes around 6% of the country’s GDP. However, so far only Maldives has been able to reap benefits from its coastal tourism industry substantially. If we look at some visitors numbers to coastal countries for indication purposes, on an average around 80,000 Pakistanis visit Thailand annually. About 70,000 to 90,000 Pakistanis visit foreign countries in general. 180,000 Pakistanis visit various national authorities of Pakistan, especially in the cultural heritage and museums field. According to the Gallup survey highlights important facts as well. Firstly,锉20,000 million visits in 2012 to 6.6 million visits in 2020 in Pakistan, which are mainly visits to cultural sites show how pro-

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