

CM PUNJAB, SWISS AMBASSADOR AGREE TO ENHANCE COOPERATION IN HYDRO-ELECTRICITY

The Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi during a meeting with the Ambassador of Switzerland Mr. Georg Steiner emphasized strengthening of mutual relations and augmentation of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Switzerland. Avenues of mutual cooperation in hydroelectricity projects, dairy farming and tourism were discussed at length during the meeting. The Swiss Ambassador offered assistance to the Government of the Punjab in hydroelectricity projects and other sectors. The Chief Minister, highlighted Punjab Government's plan for establishing hydel projects at the Chenab River. He

mentioned that the destruction being caused by floods could be prevented and water can also be conserved for agriculture through such projects.

"We would welcome the cooperation of Swiss companies in the construction of hydel projects," he added.

The Chief Minister further added that Pakistan had been highly affected by the climate changes and that there was a dire need to undertake concrete measures at the international level to cope up with the detrimental effects of climate changes.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the rigorous efforts of the



Government of the Punjab viz-a-viz establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across Punjab for promoting foreign direct investment in the province.

"The investors will be provided facilities on preferential basis in the Special Economic Zones. Benefits, including tax exemption will be provided in the Special Economic Zones," he added.

Ch. Parvez Elahi urged the Swiss investors to invest generously in the SEZs, adding that the Punjab Government will ensure protection of their investment.

"Ups and downs do come on the

political landscape, but continuity of policies would remain the cornerstone of our efforts."

He apprised that Punjab Government had given a final shape to the corporate farming policy and that the Swiss companies can benefit from the special measures being undertaken for the investors under the corporate farming policy.

The Switzerland Ambassador extended invitation to the Chief Minister to visit Switzerland. He also mentioned that Punjab is an important province and is swiftly heading forward under his able leadership.

SMALL INDUSTRIAL ESTATES TO BE SET UP IN EVERY DISTRICT: SENIOR MINISTER MIAN ASLAM IQBAL



Senior Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skills Development (ICI&SD) Department, Mian Aslam Iqbal has announced that Small Industrial Estates (SIEs) will be established in every district of Punjab. Moreover, establishment of state-of-the-art Expo-Centres in Gujranwala and Faisalabad is also under active consideration of the Government of the Punjab.

Chairing a meeting at 90 Sharah-e-Quaid-e-Azam, he reviewed progress on development projects of the ICI&SD Department. Provincial

Ministers Shahabuddin and Ghazanfar Abbas Chheena, Secretary ICI&SD Department Lt. (Rtd.) Sohail Ashraf also attended the meeting.

The Managing Director Punjab Small Industrial Corporation, Asif Ali Farrukh, CEOs of the Punjab Industrial Estates Development & Management Company,

(PIEDMC) and the Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company, (FIEDMC) presented progress of their respective organizations during the meeting.

Industrialization

ICI&SD COMMITTED TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIALIZATION: SEC INDUSTRIES

The Secretary Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skills Development (ICI&SD) Department Lt. (Rtd.) Sohail Ashraf said that the Punjab Government is using all resources to promote industrialization in province.

"Golden business opportunities and facilities are being provided to local and foreign industrialists in various industrial estates established in Punjab," he said.

He expressed these views in a meeting held in his office regarding the development works in Industrial Estates, in which various officers of the ICI&SD Department also participated.

Lt. (Rtd.) Sohail Ashraf said that the Punjab government's vision is to provide ease of doing business and better business opportunities to all industries in the province, for which the relevant institutions are working wholeheartedly.



"Local and foreign industrialists whose industries operate in the sectors of food processing, textiles, ceramics, etc. are being provided ample business opportunities in Bhalwal Special Economic Zone," he continued. He further informed that there are ample business opportunities in Rahim Yar Khan Industrial Estate for industrialists belonging to cotton, ginning, leather, textile and plastic industries.



PBTE giving presentation to Secretary ICI&SD Department Lt. (Rtd) Sohail Ashraf

PBTE ORDERED TO DEVELOP SECRECY MECHANISM FOR PRACTICAL EXAMS

“PBTE system should be on modern lines says Secretary ICI&SD”

The Secretary Industries, Punjab, Lt. (Rtd) Sohail Ashraf directed the Punjab Board of Technical Education (PBTE) to develop a robust secrecy mechanism for practical examinations and to proceed towards a paperless environment. “It is imperative to move towards a paperless system for computerized marking of examinations and

daily correspondence. Technical courses should be aligned with contemporary requirements and industry needs so that graduates can get immediate employment in the job market,” Secretary ICI&SD said. A detailed presentation regarding the performance of the PBTE was given to the Secretary by the PBTE officials,

whereby, it was informed that PBTE had launched an online system for the students, whereby, they would be able to apply for the admissions, download challan forms and find board-affiliated institutions and examination centres. According to the PBTE officials, a booth of United Bank Limited (UBL) has been set up in the

building of PBTE for fee submission. Similarly, a one-window operation cell has also been established for the convenience of students. The Secretary expressed satisfaction with the overall performance of the PBTE and said that the Board should be made a role model in terms of education and innovation.

PIEDMC to establish industrial zone over 1,200 acres in Sialkot

The Punjab Industrial Estates Development and Management Company (PIEDMC) has announced establishment of state-of-the-art industrial zone at Suhan Wali, Sialkot, spread over an area of 12 hundred acres.

In this regard, CEO PIEDMC Ali Moazzam Syed visited Sialkot, following the directions of the Provincial Minister of ICI&SD Department Punjab Mian Aslam Iqbal.

The CEO PIEDMC apprised that

the land acquisition process has been started for the establishment of said zone and the task of preparing the feasibility report has been assigned to NESPAK.

Multiple industrial clusters would be facilitated through the industrial zone, the CEO said, adding that a separate grid station and water treatment plant will also be constructed in the industrial zone. The President Sialkot Chamber Imran Akbar and other officials had expressed

keen interest in the project and had also assured their complete cooperation.

In the recent past, CEO PIEDMC had invited the domestic and foreign investors to establish factories in the existing special economic zones of Punjab.

Conferencing with the business community at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, he said that the prime objectives of establishing special economic zones include promo-

tion of export-oriented growth, integration of local firms into the global value chains and generation of employment opportunities, besides attracting FDI in the province.

The CEO added that these zones would promote technology transfer to the domestic industry, help improve ease of doing business indicators and would also help improve the overall investment environment in the province.

PMBMC ORGANIZES NUTRITION ASSESSMENT CAMP IN COLLABORATION WITH PFA

The Punjab Model Bazar Management Company (PMBMC), in collaboration with the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) organized a "Nutrition Assessment Camp" at the Model Bazaar China Scheme on September 06, 2022.

Mr. Shoaib Khan Jadoon, DG, Punjab Food Authority and former Chief WTO, ICI&SD Department Punjab visited Model Bazaar China Scheme and applauded the arrangements at the camp.

PMBMC and PFA will organize such activities in other Model Bazaars of Punjab as well for the public.

Effective monitoring of model bazars requires frequent visits says Secretary ICI&SDD



Secretary ICI&SD Department Punjab Lt. (Rtd.) Sohail Ashraf has advised the Punjab Model Bazaar Company (PMBC) to improve the quality of goods, especially food items in the model bazaars. The Secretary Industries took a briefing regarding the performance of PMBMC and advised the top management of the company to visit the model bazaars more frequently for effective monitoring. The Secretary also directed the company to enhance the product range.



Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi inaugurated three projects of Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority

CM PUNJAB CONSTITUTES 'ONE WINDOW INVESTMENT FACILITATION SERVICES'

The Chief Minister Punjab, Ch. Parvez Elahi has constituted a Provincial Steering Committee on "One Window Investment Facilitation Services". The said committee would establish a framework to steer and ensure timely and efficient facilitation of local and foreign investments, development of strategies for fast tracking the processes and regulatory procedures and implementation of "Zero Time to Start Business Policy". Chairman PBIT, Mr. Fazeel Asif Jah has been appointed as Convener of the committee, whereas, represen-



tatives of P&D Board, ICI&SDD, PITB, FIEDMC, PIEDMC, LDA, Punjab Overseas Commission and EPD have been appointed as members of the committee.

PSIC SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH PITB FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) has signed an agreement with the Punjab Board of Information Technology (PITB), seeking technical assistance for its "Cluster Development Initiatives (CDI)" project.

PITB will help CDI create an enabling environment for the readymade garments cluster in Lahore and the surgical instruments manufacturing cluster in Sialkot.

In the same vein, a meeting was held, whereby, the representatives of CDI, PITB and the Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) discussed way forward for the establishment of business plan, e-Commerce platform and social & digital media platforms.

The purpose of CDI is to create an enabling environment for the growth and prosperity of the industries and to upgrade technology while enhancing product quality and profitability of local industry.



The officials of PSIC signs agreement with PITB to get technical assistance for 'Cluster Development Initiatives'

SECRETARY INDUSTRIES PUNJAB ASSURES FULL TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO PRINTING AND STATIONERY PRESS PUNJAB

“The Punjab Printing Press serves various provincial organizations in terms of printing of official documents”

Secretary ICI&SDD, during a briefing regarding the Punjab Printing & Stationery Press assured complete assistance to the printing press in terms of technological and administrative support, for the good of the institution and its employees.

The Additional Secretary (C&I), Additional Secretary (Admin), Director (SPU) and Sr. Economic Advisor of the ICI&SDD also attended the briefing.

Carrying a legacy of over hundred years, the Punjab Printing Press serves various provincial organizations in terms of printing of official documents.



Former Secretary ICI&SD Department Ahmed Javed Qazi chairing meeting on 'Cluster Development Initiative'

PLAUSIBLE UPGRADA- TION OF MIN- ING SECTOR TO “INDUS- TRY STATUS”

The Mines and Minerals Department, Punjab organized a seminar on September 18, 2022, at the Pearl Continental Hotel Lahore, whereby, the former Secretary ICI&SD Department, Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi, revealed that the mining sector will get the status of an industry soon.

PIEDMC AP- PROVES TO GRANT SPECIAL ZONE ENTERPRISE STATUS TO FOUR COM- PANIES

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) PIEDMC Ali Muazzam Syed chaired the meeting of SEZ Committee for QABP & Rahim Yar Khan Industrial Estate. The meeting approved to grant special zone enterprise status to four companies acquiring 20 acres of industrial land in the QABP & RIE. Secretary Committee Amina Faisal, representative of BOI, Director PBIT Dr. Sohail Saleem and other concerned officers were also present during the meeting.

PBIT assures its full support of WCCI in every sector

Ms. Fatima Ali Khan Director Domestic Trade and Commerce, Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) held a meeting with Ms. Nilopher Sikander, Senior Vice President Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (WCCI), Lahore. The objective of the meeting was to explore prospects of women's growth in Tech Sector. PBIT assured WCCI Lahore of its support and assistance for uplifting women in every sector of the economy.



Former Secretary ICI&SD Department Ahmed Javed Qazi meeting with people related to Blue Pottery industry

Punjab Rozgar Scheme: A flagship project of the Punjab Government

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) organized a seminar on 'Punjab Rozgar Scheme' in collaboration with Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC). The Project Director of Punjab Rozgar Scheme Shahzeb Hassan Kirmani, LCCI President Kashif Anwar and experts from different sectors expressed their views during the session.

The Project Director of Punjab Rozgar Scheme Shahzeb Hssan Kirmani said that Punjab Rozgar Scheme is the flagship initiative of the Government of the Punjab,

at a total cost outlay of RS 30,000.00 million (RS 30 billion), through which subsidized credit will be provided to the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), start-ups and existing business.

The Government of the Punjab will provide mark-up support and risk coverage to minimize cost of commercial loans to the MSMEs. He said that Punjab Rozgar Scheme has been designed to generate employment opportunities for the youth. University graduates with entrepreneurial skills and diploma / certificate

holders of technical / vocational training institutes, as well as existing businesses will be facilitated through this scheme.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that the Punjab Rozgar Scheme launched by the Government of the Punjab would support the new start-ups and also mitigate the harmful impacts caused by COVID-19 on existing businesses. "It was good to know that The Bank of Punjab has collaborated with Punjab Small Industries Corporation for this useful initiative of the government," LCCI president said.



Former Secretary ICI&SD Department Ahmed Javed Qazi meeting with the representatives of MCCI

SINOVAC looks to invest in Punjab's health, livestock sector

"The delegation was interested in investment in Punjab and for that they were given options of various Special Economic Zones (SEZs)"

The Chinese biotech company SINOVAC which gave the first Covid-19 vaccines shots to Pakistan, has expressed an interest in investing in the health and livestock sectors in Punjab to the tune of \$200 million.

According to the details, the company's delegation held an elaborate meeting with the former

Secretary Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skills Development Department (ICI&SDD) Ahmed Javed Qazi and discussed avenues of potential investment in the health and livestock sectors.

In a brief sidebar chat, Mr. Qazi apprised that the delegation was interested in investment in Punjab. "Our SEZs under CPEC are

very lucrative for the foreign investors and we also gave the Chinese delegation the option of different SEZs. Our SEZs offer one-window facilitation services to the investors. SEZs reduce the cost of doing business, enhance productivity and encourage investments," he said.

"The Chinese company wanted to manufacture vaccines here. We requested them to invest in livestock vaccination as well. Apart from this, the delegation told us that

they were also doing detailed research on dengue cure."

Mr. Qazi added that Punjab has emerged as an investment destination in the South Asian region mainly due to Pakistan's liberal investment policy.

"All sectors of our economy are open for investment unless specifically prohibited or restricted for reasons of national security and public safety. Similarly, foreign equity investment is allowed up to 100%," he added.

PROVINCIAL MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES MIAN ASLAM IQBAL PROPOSES TO ESTABLISH HANDICRAFT COUNCIL

"The national planning process is more participatory, collaborative, people and market oriented"

The Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal has proposed establishment of Handicraft Council and a Souq in Lahore for uplifting the domestic handicrafts sector. He expressed these views while addressing a public private dialogue being organized by the Punjab Board of Investment and Trade. Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal, Chairman PBIT Fazeel Asif Jah, representatives from Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Lahore, Chamber of Commerce & Industry Layyah, Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Layyah, Gilgit Baltistan Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dastkar and various other prominent handicraft associations participated the dialogue. Director DT&C, Ms. Fatima Ali Khan welcomed the participants and said that PBIT has organized this Public Private Dialogue to bring together notable stakeholders for preparing an action-oriented plan for the handicraft sector.

Mian Aslam Iqbal while talking to participants said that our planning process is more participatory, collaborative, people and market oriented. The Minister assured participants that their suggestions would be discussed in the pre-budget sessions to develop a better economic strategy for economic progress.

The Government of the Punjab would facilitate the business community to expedite the industrialization process, which would

ultimately provide youth with immense employment opportunities and would also stabilize economy in the long run, he added. The meeting thoroughly held deliberations on various issues being faced by the artisans and manufacturer, and suggested number of proposals

for their amicable solution. The need of a central database for the producers and manufactures of handicraft products was also emphasized. The participants suggested that government should give small grants instead of bank loans. Provincial Minister Mian Aslam

Iqbal, in his closing remarks said that having taken necessary short-term measures for stabilizing economy, it is logical that the focus shifts towards the medium to long term framework that could bring Pakistan economy to its full strength and potential.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DEDICATED COMPLAINT DESK AND CENTRAL MONITORING COMPLAINT HELPLINE

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Provincial minister for industries assures the solution of the problems of the business community



Senior Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal held a meeting with the delegation of All Pakistan Chambers of Small Traders. The delegation was led by Mian Zafar Iqbal, President Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries Faisalabad.

During the meeting, the issues faced by traders and industrialists were discussed. The senior prov-

incial minister assured the delegation that the government will solve the legitimate problems of traders and industrialists on priority basis.

The senior provincial minister also reviewed the construction of the approach road to connect the Vehari Industrial Estate with the Motorway. Mian Aslam Iqbal also said that 24 small industrial

estates have been established across Punjab and the implementation of the policy of 100% colonization of industrial estates has been started. The delegation included Founder President of the Faisalabad Chamber of Small Traders Chaudhry Muhammad Shafiq Anjum, President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders and others.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN VARIOUS SECTORS ACROSS PUNJAB DISCUSSED WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN TO KUWAIT

The Chairman Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT) Mr. Fazeel Asif Jah chaired a zoom meeting with the Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait, H.E. Mr. Malik Muhammad Farooq.

PBIT's Department of Domestic Trade & Commerce gave a briefing on investment opportunities available in various sectors across Punjab. The Ambassador apprised Chairman and his team about the potential areas of trade and investment in which Kuwaiti businessmen are interested. Chairman PBIT assured support and facilitation for Kuwaiti investors for their investment ventures in Punjab.



Former Secretary Industries Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi in his South Punjab tour held meeting with DG Khan Chamber of Industries. New Industrial Estate, Punjab Rozgar Scheme and Skills Dev. were discussed.

MINISTER INDUSTRIES INAUGURATES MEDICA EXPO

Turkish investors have invested 500 million dollars in various sectors in the SEZs of Faisalabad says Minister for Industries and Commerce Mian Aslam Iqbal

“Türkiye also had a prominent position in medical technology and Pakistan could upgrade its hospitals by using Turkish technology”

“Türkiye, China, Singapore and other countries invested in the Special Economic Zones of Punjab and this investment was an alternative to imports”



The Sr. Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal inaugurated a three-days Pakistan-Türkiye Medica Expo-2022 at the Expo Centre, Lahore. The Minister for Health, Punjab and Deputy Health Minister Türkiye Associate Prof. Tolga Tolu-nay, Chief Secretary Punjab Abdullah Sumbal, Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Dr. Urshad Ahmad and Secretary Specialized Health Imran Sikan-dar Baloch participated the event.

Pakistani and Turkish medical, pharma and biomedical companies set up their stalls at the expo. The Minister Industries said that Türkiye, China, Singapore and other countries had invested in the SEZs of Punjab and this in-

vestment was an alternative to im-ports.

“Turkish investors have invested 500 million dollars in various sectors in the Special Economic Zones of Faisalabad,” he added. Deputy Health Minister Tolga To-lunay said that the brotherhood of Pakistan and Türkiye is exemp-lary, adding that both countries had stood by each other in times of trouble.

He said that Türkiye has always supported Pakistan’s position on the Kashmir issue.

He also emphasized that practical steps were needed to increase bi-lateral trade, as the volume of trade between the both countries was low.

SECRETARY ICI&SD DEPARTMENT DIRECTS AT-TACHED ORGANIZATIONS TO SPEED UP ACTIV-ITIES TO ACHIEVE OUTCOMES OF PUNJAB GROWTH STRATEGY

“Industries department striving hard to synchronize all functions en-trusted to it for making Punjab prosperous,” Lt. (Rtd) Sohail Ashraf



The Secretary ICI&SD Department Punjab, Lt. (Retd) Sohail Ashraf, during a series of meetings held with the heads of attached or-ganizations of the ICI&SD De-partment has directed them to pace up their activities for achieving desired outcomes of the Punjab Growth Strategy.

Mr. Sohail Ashraf said that indus-trialization and harnessing do-mestic and foreign direct investment in Punjab are the

lynchpin of our endeavors. He also stated that the industries de-partment is striving hard to syn-chronize all functions entrusted to it for making Punjab prosperous and a major contributor to the na-tional economy. In the same vein, efforts are underway to accelerate establishment and colonization of the Industrial Estates and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across Punjab. It is anticipated that our ongoing engagements with the po-tential investors will help mobilize FDI in Punjab, especially in the SEZs, he added.

*“Efforts are underway to accelerate establishment and colonization of the Industrial Estates and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across Punjab,”
Sohail Ashraf*

Mr. Sohail also highlighted that the youth bulge, majority of which belongs to Punjab, has to be edu-cated and trained on contemporary knowledge areas, which are not only demand driven (both domes-tically and internationally), but also hinge upon entrepreneurial-ism. To this end, the role of our traditional technology institutions and specialized technology uni-versities is of paramount impor-tance. Accordingly, rigorous efforts are underway to enable these institutions impart the de-sired knowledge and skills to the youth.

While talking about the prices of essential commodities, he high-lighted that as the regulator of es-sential commodities’ prices, ICI&SD Department has put in place a robust monitoring and en-forcement mechanism to address market irregularities.

MCUT TO EX-PLORE CSR OPPORTUN-ITIES

The Secretary ICI&SD Department Punjab Lt. (Rtd) Sohail Ashraf has advised the Vice Chancellor Mir Chaker Khan Rind University of Technology (MCUT) to map the industrial landscape and to explore CSR opportunities for the good of their institute and students.

Secretary Industries had a meeting with the team of MCUT in his of-fice and during the meeting he also emphasized the importance of strong industrial academy linkages. It is pertinent to mention here that MCUT is public sector Engineering University providing Engineering education in various discipline of Technology.

THE INDUSTRIES

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