



Youth Affairs, Sports, and Tourism

The Youth Potential

The Democratic Government has focused on harnessing the potential of Pakistani youth for development and prosperity. Significant activities have been initiated for the development of young persons by engaging them in useful social work by raising their teams and pools under the National Internship Program. The scheme is intended to enhance the working capacity of youth by way of acquisition of additional knowledge and work experiences in a variety of social disciplines, mainly helping people struck by one disaster or the other.

The objective of the program is to harness the energy and motivation of the educational youth through engagement as paid internees for useful performance in public sector organization. Around 30,000 youth have been engaged in internship every year to reduce poverty and unemployment in the country.

The Government is paying the young persons a monthly internship of Rs.10,000 for one year under the Youth Internship Program for which an allocation of Rs.3.6 billion has been made during the current financial year. The program includes special packages for Balochistan, Malakand, and rural Sindh.

Other steps taken for youth development feature:

- International Youth Exchange Program
- National 'See Pakistan' Youth Camps
- Holding of Youth Conventions
- Mobile Program for Computer Literacy
- Holding of National Youth Awards
- Essay Competitions
- Youth Business Competitions
- Establishment of 100 Youth Activity

Centers for sport, training and recreation.

These awards are given in recognition of the achievements of young people in their lives and to volunteers working for the welfare and development of the youth. The Government also set up a national youth award for the young persons who excel in different fields.

The Jinnah Youth Award has been designated for the volunteers and organizations rendering outstanding service in the field of youth welfare and development. The National Youth Award is conferred upon the youths who excel in literature (prose and poetry in Urdu, English or in any regional language of Pakistan), culture (painting, photography, calligraphy, pottery, tapestry, sculpture, art and craft, artesian, instrumentalist, performer, dancer, singer, acting, drama, music, puppetry, stage, and one-man shows), education (all disciplines, including research), science and technology (medicines, engineering, ICT, physics, biotechnology, chemistry and inventions); all disciplines of sports, business; and community service (social work, media, civil society, gender mainstreaming, philanthropy, politics, good governance, special education and rehabilitation of special people).

Book reading has declined in Pakistan over the years. It is indeed the responsibility of the Government to provide for reading places, books and enhance peoples' access to books. The People's Government has appointed world renowned short story writer, Mazharul Islam, as the head of the National Book Foundation (NBF) who is enthusiastically promoting book reading among the masses.

A program of providing book reading facilities to the prison inmates has been started. Initially, Prisoners Free Minds Book Clubs have been established in Adiala and Attock

jails. The program envisages to provide the facility in every prison of Pakistan so that books change something from their inside to enable them to live a normal life. Most of the books being provided in jails have been donated by writers, publishers and citizens. Book clubs are also being launched in villages through donated books. In this way no public money is being spent in the implementation of these initiatives.

The NBF has established variety of book clubs; Readers Clubs in 51 cities; Travelers Book Clubs at Lahore station; whereas setting up of Senior Citizens Book Clubs, City Book Club, Children Book Clubs, Hospital Book Club and Flying Book Clubs are under process.

Pakistan Railways and the NBF have entered into a partnership to open quality book stores at railway stations. A European standard outlet opened at Platform Number 2 of the Lahore Railway Station instantly became popular among the book readers who purchased books worth Rs.25,000 within days.¹ Best about this is the 15% concession that is normally not provided on purchase of quality books by the bookstores. The Foundation has recorded the highest ever sale of publications to the tune of Rs.270 million.

The NBF has appointed prominent writers as book ambassadors. The Government has awarded 68 cash awards (amounting to Rs.12,75,000) and 127 commendation certificates to writers of winning books. Five Presidential cash awards amounting to Rs.1,65,000 were given to the authors of Best Children Books on Quaid-e-Azam, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and Pakistan Movement in 2008-2009. The Foundation has also started a quality book review magazine. Writers have acknowledged that the Government has accomplished these tasks without favoring any particular kind of writers.²

The Democratic Government has appointed seasoned writer, Fakhar Zaman, as Chairman of the Academy of Letters who have taken several new initiatives to promote literature in the country. Two new Literary Awards "International Quaid-e-Azam Award for Literature" and "Quaid-e-Awam Award for Democracy" have been started. A new award called "Pas-e-Zindan" Award has been started. Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Literary Award has also been started. The Academy has also started the construction of Faiz Ahmad Faiz Auditorium. The Academy has made documentaries on Pakistani literary legends and sufi poets. It is also printing Books on Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

The Academy of Letters has started inter-provincial visits of writers, arranged books exhibitions, arranged printing and translation of different series of books and organized different literary programs, seminars, National Writers Conference, international seminar on sufism and recommended various National Literacy Awards to genuine authors to encourage creative works, promote artistic excellence and recognition of meritorious works. The Academy has also started monthly honorarium to writers and bereaved families and insurance scheme for writers' community.

Sports Spirit

The neglect of sports as a meaningful activity has pushed many a youth away from sports. Pakistani sportspersons, particularly cricket, hockey and squash players have been displaying impressive performance at the international level. Over the years, however, we were left behind and could not keep pace with the rest of the world in the field of sports. Lack of sports infrastructure, low priority accorded to sports on Government agenda, shrinkage of sports activities in educational institutions, fall in employment opportunities and other incentives for sportspersons have

¹Ataul Haq Qasmi, "Rozn-e-Deewar Say", *Jang*, February 10, 2010.
²Ibid.

been some of the causes of deterioration of our sports standard. Because of the continuously deteriorating standards of sports in the country, the Government has been taking remedial measures.

The People's Government has taken steps for provision of opportunities of healthy activities to the youth through creation of sports facilities. Record allocation of Rs.583.161 million has been made in the current PSDP 2009-2010 for the execution of 47 sports development projects comprising construction of play-fields, stadia, gymnasia, swimming pools etc, throughout the country. During the last one year, seven sports development projects were completed at a cost of Rs.177.159 million. Engagement of youth in sports would go a long way in controlling the terrorist activities in the country.

A Sports Medicine Centre has been establishment in the premises of Pakistan Sports Complex. The centre is the first of its kind in Pakistan. It will provide facilities for screening of athletes for various diseases/disabilities and would be useful in prevention and management of injuries.

On February 23, 2010, Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani chaired a high level meeting to review the current state of sports at national level and the Action Plan for development and promotion of sports in the country. The meeting was inter-alia attended by the Federal Ministers for Sports and Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), Advisor to the Prime Minister on Education, Provincial Sports Ministers, Federal and Provincial Sports Secretaries, President Pakistan Olympic Association, Chairman, Pakistan Cricket Board, Director General Pakistan Sports Board, Heads of National Sports Federations, as well as veteran sportspersons. Prime Minister was pleased to announce the following historic decisions on this occasion:

- Budget for sports will be doubled from next fiscal year.
- A high level Task Force on Sports headed by the Federal Minister for Sports, was set up with Federal Minister for IPC and Advisor to the PM on Education, Provincial Ministers for Sports and Education, the Federal Secretaries Sports and Education, President POA and Chairman, PCB as well as representatives from PSB, as members. The Task Force will review all structure, laws, and policy to give effective, implementable and result-oriented recommendations/action plan as well as ways and means to find out the other avenues for generating additional revenue for sports, in two months' time.
- The Prime Minister directed to revive sports activities in the educational institutions at all levels. He stressed for effective and closer coordination between the Ministries of Sports and Education at federal as well as provincial level
- The Prime Minister directed to regularly hold inter schools, colleges and universities sports competitions.
- Evening classes for 1-2 hours for Physical Education will be started at School and College level.
- Sports Scholarships for higher studies will be introduced on the basis of outstanding performance in the field of Sports at School and College level. Similarly, sports-based admissions quota and other incentives like special marks on the basis of outstanding performance in the sports, announcement of Best Sportsmen of the year, will also be initiated.
- The Government will approach foreign donors to include the component of "Sports Education" in

- their educational projects.
- The meeting stressed on the public and private corporate organizations to revive their contribution and support for sports. They were also asked to patronize other sports besides major sports like Hockey and Cricket as per their corporate social responsibility.
- The services of sportspersons employed on temporary/contractual basis in public sector organizations will be regularized at once.
- Major play grounds, stadiums and other sports facilities will be named after sports icons in recognition of their meritorious services in the field of sports.
- The district governments will be asked to take up steps to up-grade the play grounds in the schools and colleges particularly in rural areas.
- The Prime Minister directed that in future all the development projects should also cater for the needs of sports and educational facilities as a part of the scheme.
- The meeting decided to select games to be placed on priority list for special focus, keeping in view our potential talents available for winning medals in the international competitions.
- The Government will include sports and educational facilities as a part of development package for under-developed militancy-affected areas.

For the first time, Ministry of Sports has taken steps to ensure proper documentation, evaluation and monitoring of the performance of sportspersons participating in the national training camps organized by the Pakistan Sports Board. This extraordinary measure will help in identifying the specific requirement of training, coaching and medal prediction including their future prospects.

Deteriorating law and order situation in the country caused due to frequent terrorists' attacks had adversely affected the holding of international sports events in Pakistan. The Ministry of Sports took the initiative to revive the organization of international events in the country. Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) invited Iranian women football team to participate in the National Women Football Championship, successfully held at Islamabad in July-August 2009. Pakistan Boxing Federation has held International Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Boxing Tournament at Karachi in January, 2010, in which 19 countries participated.

In order to encourage outstanding players and to create enviable examples for all other sportspersons to follow, the Ministry of Sports has revived the Shaheed Zulfikar Bhutto Sportsman of the Year award after a lapse of 33 years. Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani, the then Federal Minister for Sports conferred the award for the year 2008 to Rehan Butt, the versatile forward-line player of National Hockey team with cash award of rupees one million.

Ministry of Sports has also announced Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Sportswoman-of-the-year Award from current financial year for which reasonable prize will be awarded to the Sportswoman-of-the-year in 2010 on the basis of outstanding performance in the year 2009.

South Asian Games were held from January 29 to February 29, 2010 in which eight countries participated. A total number of 23 sports competitions were held in the 11th South Asian Games. Pakistan clinched a total number of 80 Medals (Gold-19, Silver-25, Bronze-36). Details of the 80 Medals won by Pakistani players are as under:

S. No.	Discipline	Medals			
		GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	Athletics	4	2	4	10
2	Badminton	0	0	3	3
3	Boxing	1	1	2	4
4	Cricket	0	0	1	1
5	Cycling	0	2	1	3
6	Handball	1	0	0	1
7	Hockey	1	0	0	1
8	Judo	3	3	1	7
9	Kabaddi	0	1	0	1
10	Karate	1	2	7	10
11	Shooting	0	5	3	8
12	Squash	2	1	0	0
13	Swimming	0	0	3	3
14	Table Tennis	0	0	2	1
15	Taekwondo	0	3	4	7
16	Volleyball	0	1	0	1
17	Weightlifting	2	3	1	6
18	Wrestling	2	1	2	5
19	Wushu	2	0	3	5
TOTAL		19	25	36	80

Naseem Hameed won Gold Medal in the Women's 100 meters race and was declared South Asia's fastest woman. The female athlete won the gold medal for the first time in the 25 years history of SAF Games. Sara Nasir, the national woman champion of Karate, won a Gold Medal.

The success of Pakistani players, particularly young girls, created stir among the public and media and people celebrated their victories enthusiastically. On February 12, 2010, the President of Pakistan gave away special cash award of Rs.1 million each to Naseem Hameed and Sara Nasir in a special ceremony at President's House. The President also announced special awards of Rs.200,000 each to the winners of Gold medals in 17 other Sports events. Naseem Hameed and Sara Nasir have also been appointed Honorary Sports Ambassadors of Pakistan.

The President also announced that the gold medalists and their coaches shall be sent abroad for training to enhance their skills and techniques for the forthcoming competitions, i.e., Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. The sportspersons have expressed their gratitude for acknowledgment of their contribution to national life and have expressed their resolve to further improve their performance and bring laurels to Pakistan. Naseem Hameed has said that she will now work even harder to become the fastest woman of Asia.

International Victories

Cricket: World Champions Again

Pakistan Cricket team astonished the world by winning T-20 World Cup in June 2009 at the time when the nation was busy in the war against terrorism and looking after internally displaced persons. It is only second time that Pakistan has won a cricket world cup. Last time Pakistan won the Cricket World Cup in

50 over matches in 1992. The Government is committed to improving the performance of Pakistani cricket team even further so that they win more international titles.

Athletics

Pakistan's young athlete (javelin thrower), Rahim Khan, won a bronze medal at Asian level in June 2009.

Boxing

Pakistani Boxer Mohammad Waseem won bronze medal in 31st Kings Cup held at Thailand. He also clinched bronze medals in Ahmed Comert International Boxing Tournament in Turkey.

Karate

For the first time, Pakistan has achieved gold medal in 5th Commonwealth Karate Championships held in October 2009 in Johannesburg. The winner, Sadi Abbas is being honored appropriately.

Tennis

Aisamul Haq Qureshi, with his American partner J. Cerretain, defeated Rodger Federer and M. Chiredinelli in the doubles of ATP World Tour 500, played in Basi, Switzerland.

Aisamul Haq Qureshi, with his Indian partner Rohan Bopanna defeated Henry-Kontinen and Jarkko-Nieminen in the double Helsinki, ITP open played in November 2009.

Individual Performances

Sohail Abbas, hockey player and specialist penalty corner, has achieved world record with 300 goals.

Muhammad Amir and Saeed Ajmal have achieved 10th wicket record by scoring 103

runs in 113rd ODI played against New Zealand in November 2009 at Abu-Dhabi.

Reviving Tourism

The post-Nine Eleven scenario featuring the global war on terror in Pakistan and Afghanistan took a serious toll on Pakistan's rich tourism industry. However, the Ministry of Tourism has been able to overcome these grave circumstances through incorporating innovative approaches in this crucial sector, especially in the last two years.

The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) would soon have six of its crucial projects completed to improve its hotelling, which the experts believe would help PTDC make elaborate arrangements for tourists. The People's Government has earmarked unprecedented allocations for the tourism sector and approved a number of projects in every nook and corner of the country.

Of these project are construction of a bus terminal including four rooms with allied facility at Nankana Sahib; Tourism Facilitation Centre at Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, Peshawar, Islamabad, Muzaffarabad and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Projects to be executed in near future include: extension of 100 rooms at PTDC Motel at Bahawalpur; extension of six rooms at PTDC Motel Taxila; extension of five room/rehabilitation of PTDC Motel at Ayubia; establishment of Spa Facility including six rooms with allied facility at Garam Chashma; rehabilitation of 39 rooms of PTDC Motel at Besham; rehabilitation of 30 rooms at PTDC Motel at Nara; roadside facility at Ali Wanda (D. I. Khan); establishment of Tourist Resort at Shaikh Badin Mountain Peak, D. I. Khan; construction of Budget Hotel at the Shrine of Lal Shehbaz Qalandar, Sehwan Sharif; construction of Budget Hotel at the shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai and, Bhit Shah.

Tourism is a multifaceted complex combination of inter-related economic and business activity in which many individuals, firms, corporations, organizations and associations are engaged. Pakistan's tourism industry is now engaged in intangible exports and earns foreign exchange from foreign tourist arrivals.

Steps taken so far to promote this sinking industry include: development of website for Tourism Industry; up-gradation of Tourism Research Studies; remodeling of Tourist Information Centers; establishment of Tourist Facilitation Centers in provincial headquarters; number of tourist friendly countries increased from two to 24 for grant of visa on arrival for one-month validity and multiple entries for group travel through designated tour operators; Pakistan Missions abroad authorized to grant tourist/visit visa for three months validity and stay with double entry; tourism promotions campaign on print and electronic media; and, discounted tour packages for students, families and groups.

The Ministry of Tourism and PTDC also represented Pakistan at different international moots across the world and attracted tourists to this part of the globe. Of particular mention is the new National Tourism Policy. In consultation with all the provinces including AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan, the broad parameters of a new, revised National Policy have been drawn up in an inter-provincial meeting.

PTDC is successfully operating Dosti Bus Service between Pakistan and India as well as between Pakistan and China for facilitation of cross border tourism and trade. During 2008-2009, the Ministry of Tourism collected an amount of Rs.21.045 million from foreign tourists, which was deposited in the Government treasury.