LAHORE CHAMBER NEWS

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Building Bridges for Business



A pivotal meeting between LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the future of trade & industry.

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Ali Hussam Asghar and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz discuss the future of trade, industry & investment in Punjab.


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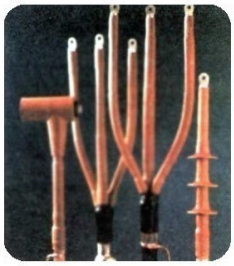
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Newly Elected LCCI Leadership Assumes Charge











Traders' Delegations greet LCCI Leadership



LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar Meets Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif



President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Ali Hussam Asghar met Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif and discussed a range of important economic, trade and business-related matters, focusing on strengthening the national economy, promoting industrial growth, enhancing exports and addressing the challenges faced by the business community.

During the meeting, the LCCI President presented the perspective of the business community on the prevailing economic situation and highlighted the need for practical measures to create a conducive business environment. He stressed that sustainable economic growth could only be achieved through close coordination between the government and the private sector, supported by business-friendly policies, institutional facilitation and consistency in economic decision-making.

Ali Hussam Asghar said that the business community was playing a vital role in generating economic activity, creating employment opportunities, attracting investment and contributing to national revenues. He observed that entrepreneurs and industrialists needed a predictable policy environment to make long-term investment decisions, expand their businesses and enhance production capacity.

The LCCI President highlighted the importance of promoting export-oriented industries and improving Pakistan's competitiveness in international markets. He said that greater attention should be given to removing obstacles faced by exporters, facilitating industrial production, reducing the cost of doing business and improving access to international markets.

He also emphasized the need to encourage investment in manufacturing, value-added industries and other productive sectors of the economy. He said that a strong industrial base could contribute significantly to employment generation, technology transfer, import substitution and foreign exchange earnings.

The LCCI President further highlighted the importance of policy consistency, institutional coordination and regulatory reforms. He said that unnecessary regulatory requirements and procedural complications increase the cost of doing business and affect the operational efficiency of enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized businesses.

He observed that small and medium enterprises deserved particular attention as they constituted an important segment of the national economy and had considerable potential for employment generation and industrial expansion. Improved access to financing, simplified taxation procedures and institutional support could enable these enterprises to expand their operations and contribute more effectively to economic activity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the role of the business community in the country's economic development and discussed the importance of strengthening export-oriented industries, encouraging private investment and generating employment opportunities. He acknowledged the significance of maintaining engagement with business representatives and understanding their concerns for effective economic policymaking.

The meeting reflected the importance of constructive engagement between the government and the business community. Regular consultation with chambers of commerce and trade bodies can help identify practical solutions to economic challenges and ensure that policy decisions take into account the ground realities faced by businesses.

Gillani Supports LCCI's call for Stakeholders Consultation in Lawmaking

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that the business community will be provided an opportunity to present its views and recommendations before relevant Senate standing committees dealing with Finance, Economics, Commerce and Industry, saying that effective economic policymaking requires meaningful consultation with stakeholders.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani, Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain, Member National Assembly Syed Ali Qasim Gillani, former LCCI President Mian Misbah-ur-Rehman and Mian Aziz-ur-Rehman Chan also spoke on the occasion.



The Chairman Senate said that taxation, regulatory challenges, policy discontinuity and the rising cost of doing business were genuine concerns of the business community and must be addressed. He acknowledged Lahore's historic role as a center of commerce, industry and entrepreneurship, appreciating the contribution of its business community towards employment generation, industrial development and national prosperity.

Highlighting the role of Parliament, particularly the Senate as the House of Federation, he said its legislative and oversight functions provided an institutional platform for examining economic challenges and facilitating constructive engagement between stakeholders and policymakers. He assured that the Senate would play its role in promoting a legislative and policy environment that encouraged business community, protected legitimate business interests and advanced national economic priorities.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani encouraged the Lahore Chamber to maintain active and constructive engagement with parliamentary institutions, saying that its practical experience, informed recommendations and sector-specific insights could make a meaningful contribution to legislative deliberations and parliamentary oversight. He said that when businesses prospered, employment opportunities expanded and the country became economically stronger.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar urged him to play an active role in reviewing business-related legislation, addressing regulatory challenges and creating a more business-friendly environment. He also proposed making the LCCI President an ex-officio member of the Senate's economic standing committees to ensure direct representation of the business community in the legislative process.

The LCCI President said that the Chamber's primary responsibility was policy advocacy, particularly in the areas of legislation and economic policymaking. However, certain laws had adversely affected the ease and cost of doing business.

He drew the Chairman Senate's attention to the problems arising from raids, inspections and arrests of businesspeople under various regulatory laws.

He said that businesses were facing an environment in which businessmen were increasingly apprehensive about conducting their routine economic and industrial activities. Unnecessary raids, humiliating treatment and arrests without adequate consider-









ation of the circumstances were damaging business confidence. Ali Hussam Asghar clarified that the business community was not against regulation or enforcement of laws. However, regulations should facilitate improvements rather than become a source of harassment and humiliation. He proposed that violations should, wherever appropriate, be addressed through financial penalties, education and corrective measures instead of immediately resorting to FIRs and arrests. He informed the Chairman Senate that the Lahore Chamber had undertaken detailed consultations with its legal team and relevant stakeholders to examine the implications of laws relating to the Punjab Enforcement and Regulatory Authority (PERA), the Environmental Protection Agency and the Punjab Food Authority. Following these deliberations, the Chamber had prepared amendments and presented them to the Speaker Punjab Assembly. The LCCI President requested the Chairman Senate to help establish a mechanism for reviewing business-related legislation at both federal and provincial levels. He further proposed the constitution of a special review committee to examine existing laws and assess their impact on trade and industry.

LCCI Senior Vice President LCCI Sardar Usman Ghani said that the fundamental responsibility of chambers of commerce was to contribute towards the formulation of an effective policy framework.

Role business community vital in Economic Development: Governor Punjab

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that closer cooperation, continuous consultation and joint efforts between the government and the business community can further accelerate the pace of economic development. He said the business community is playing an important role in the national economy and the government is committed to working closely with the private sector to promote industry, trade, investment and exports.

He was speaking to a delegation of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI), led by President Ali Hussam Asghar and comprising the Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani, Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain, Executive Committee members and former office-bearers.

The Governor congratulated the newly elected LCCI leadership, former presidents and senior leaders on their electoral success and expressed his best wishes for their tenure.

Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that Lahore's business community is an important partner in Pakistan's economic development. He said that meaningful progress in industry, trade, investment and employment can be achieved when the government and private sector move forward with mutual trust, consultation and cooperation.

He said the Governor House would remain accessible to the business community and that he would play his role in conveying their proposals and concerns to the relevant federal and provincial authorities so that business activities could be further promoted.

He further said that the development of the agriculture sector and the prosperity of farmers are vital for economic stability. Strengthening industry and agriculture would not only contribute to economic stability but also help increase exports and create more employment opportunities.

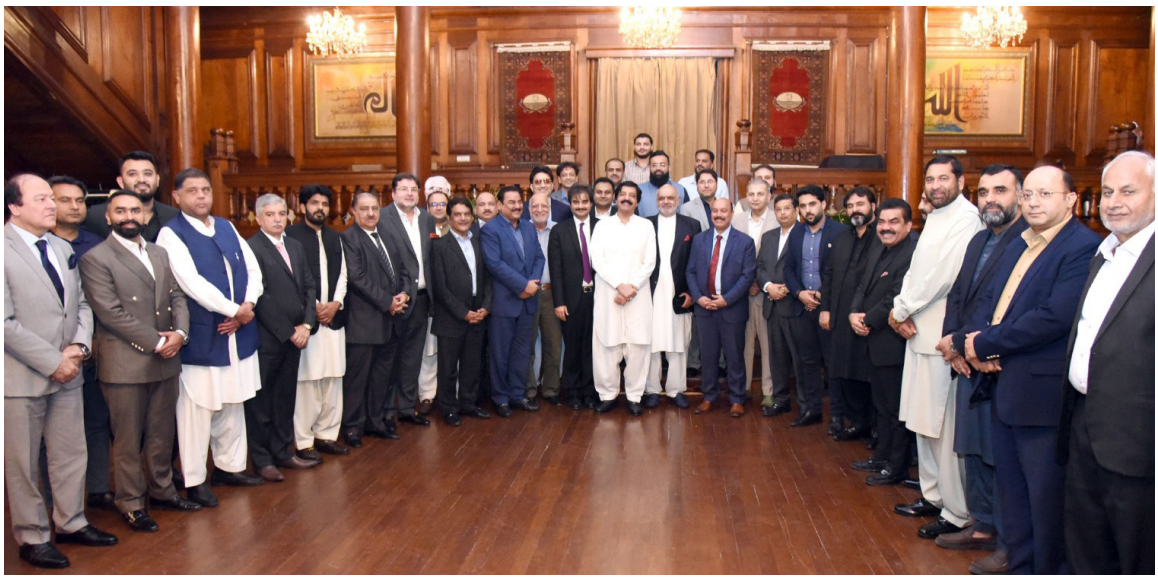
LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar thanked Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan for meeting the newly elected leadership and Executive Committee. He said that LCCI would continue its positive and constructive engagement with the government and play its full role in promoting industry, trade and the national economy.

Ali Hussam Asghar said that the priorities of the new LCCI leadership include industrial development, enhancement of exports, promotion of investment, creation of new employment opportunities and improvement of the overall business environment. He emphasized that strong and continuous coordination between the government and private sector was essential for achieving sustainable economic growth.

LCCI Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani apprised the Governor of various issues faced by industrial areas, including Saggian, Mahmood Booti and Kahna Kacha. He emphasized the need for consultation with the business community on commercialization and conversion charges in industrial areas and called for a review of commercialization rates applicable to industrial land in Saggian.

LCCI Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain said that traders and industrialists are playing a fundamental role in the national economy. He stressed the need to provide the business community with greater facilitation and a conducive environment to further promote industry and trade.

Chaudhry Khadim Hussain said that industrialists and traders are making an important contribution to the economy, employment and exports, making strong and continuous government-business coordination essential for economic progress.



Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz assures LCCI of full support for Industrialization and Business Growth

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar Appreciates CM's Efforts to Maintain Law and Order, Calls for Business-Friendly Environment

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana has said that providing a peaceful, secure and business-friendly environment and resolving the genuine problems of the business community on a priority basis are among the top priorities of Lahore Police. He said that effective policing and close coordination with the business community were essential for protecting economic activities, strengthening public confidence and supporting economic growth. While talking to the LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, CCPO Lahore said that all possible measures were being taken in consultation with the business community and other relevant stakeholders to improve the security and safety of business community. He said that regular engagement with business organizations could help identify security-related challenges, improve coordination and ensure timely attention to the genuine concerns of the business sector. LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar highlighted the importance of a peaceful environment in enabling businesses to operate smoothly and confidently. He said that protecting the business community was not only a matter of public safety but also an important factor in maintaining economic activity, encouraging investment and strengthening Lahore's commercial standing. Effective cooperation between the police and business representatives could help promote a stable environment for trade and industry, he added.



The LCCI President appreciated the services being provided through the Police Khidmat Markaz operating at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He highlighted the importance of accessible police services for the business community, saying that convenient service delivery and responsive law enforcement could save businesspeople time, strengthen institutional trust and facilitate their economic activities.

Ali Hussam Asghar said that peace, security and the rule of law were fundamental to economic stability. He said that businesses were better positioned to invest, expand operations, create employment and contribute to national development when they could operate without persistent concerns about crime and insecurity. A safe business environment, he added, was particularly important for markets, commercial centers, small businesses and industrial enterprises that supported livelihoods and economic activity across the city.

He said that cooperation between the police and the private sector could play an important role in preventing crime, protecting commercial assets and addressing traders' concerns through effective communication. He stressed the need for continued coordination between LCCI and Lahore Police so that issues affecting the business community could be highlighted promptly and taken up through appropriate channels.

He further added that business-friendly policing, fair implementation of the law and timely handling of complaints could help build confidence among local and prospective investors. A predictable and secure business environment encourages entrepreneurship and commercial expansion, while stronger institutional cooperation can help reduce disruptions to business operations and support sustainable economic development.

Ali Hussam Asghar also paid tribute to the sacrifices made by Lahore Police in maintaining law and order and protecting the lives and property of citizens.

He highlighted the shared importance of cooperation between LCCI and Lahore Police in safeguarding business interests and promoting a peaceful environment for business. Continued engagement between the two institutions can help strengthen communication, improve the delivery of police services and address security concerns affecting traders and industrialists.

He also underscored the wider economic significance of public safety and effective law enforcement.

Speaker Punjab Assembly Assures LCCI of Support for Business-Friendly Reforms

Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan has assured the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry that its concerns and proposals regarding regulatory enforcement, taxation, industrial development and investment facilitation will be taken up with the relevant authorities.



"Effective legislation requires consultation with stakeholders and that excessive regulation can discourage investment and undermine economic activity", the Speaker Punjab said while speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani and Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain presented proposals to end the FIR culture, prevent the humiliation and harassment of traders, review arrest powers, and address other issues affecting the business community. Former LCCI President Mian Misbah-ur-Rehman, former Senior Vice President Nasir Hameed Khan and Executive Committee Members spoke on the occasion. Senior Members Amjad Ali Chaudhry, Khawaja Shahzeb Akram, Sohail Nisar, Executive Committee Members Sheikh Muhammad Ibrihim, Shah Behram, Mardan Ali Zaidi, Naila Nadeem, Shahzad Mehmood, Zulfiqar Ali Ch., Tariq Mehmood, Muhammad Ijaz Ghouri, Zaman Naseeb, Muhammad Umair, Abdullah Chaudhry, Tariq Mahmood, Chaudhry Fargham, Adeel Babar Khan, Sahir Mushtaq, Ali Raza, Hamid Raza, Shahzad Ali Shah and others were present in the meeting.

The Speaker acknowledged the importance of the business community's contribution to economic growth, employment generation, foreign direct investment, foreign exchange earnings, infrastructure development and corporate social responsibility. He said that taxation and regulatory policies should be formulated with appropriate consultation and expert input.

He agreed with the LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar's proposals regarding excessive enforcement and the treatment of traders, saying that regulatory action should be fair, proportionate and consistent with the law. Referring to government efforts in infrastructure development, roads, municipal services, public safety, surveillance and urban improvement, he said development initiatives must be accompanied by effective engagement with stakeholders.

The speaker said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has a great association with the business community and taking great measures to build









up confidence of the investors and strengthen the country's economy. He also praised Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for her efforts to promote development across the province, particularly in improving infrastructure, roads, municipal services and the overall investment environment.

Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan assured the LCCI leadership that the Punjab Assembly remained open to dialogue with the business community. He said the proposals presented during the meeting would be reviewed and discussed with the relevant departments and authorities. He also congratulated the chamber's newly elected office-bearers.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar said that the government should consult the business community before introducing laws and regulations affecting trade, trade, industry and investment. He said sustainable economic growth required a business-friendly legal framework, protection against unnecessary harassment and fair implementation of regulatory requirements.

He presented a set of proposed amendments in the Punjab Real Estate Regulatory Authority to the Speaker Punjab Assembly and appreciated the efforts of LCCI Executive Committee Member Shah Behram in this regard. He called for a review of the Punjab Food Authority Act. The LCCI President proposed an effective grievance-redressal mechanism to resolve business-related complaints and called for stronger coordination among LCCI, the Prime Minister's Office, the district administration and relevant government departments.

Significant increase in SME Financing among Government's Economic Priorities: SBP Governor



Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmad has said that a significant increase in financing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is among the government's key economic priorities, while agriculture, housing and exports are also receiving special attention.

He was addressing at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani, Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain, SBP Deputy Governor Saleem Ullah, Executive Director Akhtar Javed, Chief Manager Ansar Iftikhar Butt, Senior Deputy Chief Manager Muhammad Tahir and EXIM Bank Chief Executive Officer Shahbaz Hussain Syed also spoke on the occasion.

Governor Jameel Ahmad said the limit for SME loans without collateral had been increased from Rs10 million to Rs50 million. The definition of SMEs had also been revised. The annual turnover limit for small enterprises had been raised from Rs150 million to Rs400 million, while that for medium enterprises had been increased from Rs800 million to Rs2 billion. Businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs2 billion could now benefit from SME financing facilities.

He said the government was taking measures to address the cost of doing business, taxation and energy-related challenges. The government's housing finance scheme was revised in March 2026. Before the revision, banks' outstanding housing finance stood at Rs251 billion. Under the revised scheme, banks approved financing of Rs521 billion for around 80,000 applicants within six to seven months. Under the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Scheme, young entrepreneurs were being provided loans at mark-up rates ranging from zero to 7 per cent.

He said the SBP, in collaboration with SMEDA and commercial banks, had simplified the SME loan application form and reduced it to a single page. The SME Connect Portal would become operational on November 1, 2026, enabling entrepreneurs to submit loan applications online from their homes and track their progress at every stage.

Sharing SME financing figures, Governor SBP Jameel Ahmad said outstanding SME financing had increased from Rs491 billion in June 2024 to Rs691 billion in June 2025



and approximately Rs.1,110 billion in June 2026. The number of SME borrowers had also risen from 177,000 in June 2024 to 275,000 in June 2025 and around 325,000 in June 2026.
Regarding export financing, he said the limit under the Export Refinance Scheme had been increased from Rs1 trillion to Rs1.5 trillion. Of this amount, Rs300 billion had been specifically allocated for SME exporters. The Cabinet had also approved a 10-year long-term export financing scheme to support export-oriented investment.
LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar said a joint financing mechanism involving industry, the government, EXIM Bank and commercial banks could help accelerate SME growth. He proposed selecting 1,000 SMEs on the basis of available data, identifying the obstacles they faced in accessing finance and developing a practical facilitation model. If successful, the model could be replicated across the country.
He urged the SBP to link its complaint cenetr with the LCCI complaint center to facilitate importers and exporters facing difficulties with commercial banks, including delays in opening letters of credit (LCs) and other banking-related issues. He said that a clear timeline should be established for resolving complaints.
Ali Hussam Asghar said a major part of the economy was outside the export sector, making it essential to extend financing facilities to local industries and businesses as well. He proposed performance-based incentives for industries that increased employment. For example, an entrepreneur increasing the workforce from 300 to 330 employees should receive special financing incentives for creating additional jobs.
LCCI Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani highlighted the potential of Islamic banking in expanding SME financing. He said the total financing of the Islamic banking sector in Pakistan had reached Rs6 trillion, recording annual growth of 48.9 per cent. Islamic banking accounted for 39.1 per cent of total banking financing, but its share in SME financing was only 15.9 per cent. He proposed setting a minimum target of 5.9 per cent for SME financing by Islamic banks, in line with the overall banking sector average. According to him, this could provide an additional Rs204 billion in financing to SMEs. He said the bad-debt ratio in the SME portfolio of Islamic banks was only 2.2 per cent, compared with 5.5 per cent in the overall banking sector, indicating the potential to expand lending to this segment.
LCCI Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain thanked the SBP Governor and his team for visiting the Lahore Chamber and listening to the concerns of the business community. He stressed that the proposals discussed during such meetings should be followed by practical action to resolve business issues and enable SMEs to play a more effective role in national economic development.
Former LCCI Vice Presidents Mian Zahid Javed and Haris Atiq were also present. Executive Committee members Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim, Chaudhry Fargham, Sahir Mushtaq, Adeel Babar Khan, Muhammad Ali, Shahzad Mahmood, Ali Raza, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali, Syed Yousaf Jamil Hussain Rizvi, Amir Ata Barry, Mardan Ali Zaidi and Muhammad Yaseen were also present in the meeting .





Export-led Growth, SME Financing Key to Economic Revival, says Finance Minister in meeting with LCCI President

Export-led growth, improved access to financing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and a predictable business policy environment were among the key priorities discussed during a meeting between Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ali Hussam Asghar. The discussions focused on strengthening the role of the private sector in economic growth, addressing business community concerns and introducing measures to improve competitiveness, investment and exports.

The Finance Minister welcomed Ali Hussam Asghar and highlighted the government's commitment to achieving sustainable economic growth through greater private-sector participation, enhanced competitiveness and an expanded export base. He said that exports must remain central to the country's growth strategy and that policies should facilitate exporters in becoming more competitive in regional and international markets.

Ali Hussam Asghar presented the Lahore Chamber's perspective on promoting SMEs, improving access to finance and facilitating business expansion. He highlighted the importance of a supportive business ecosystem, greater policy predictability, modernization and export growth. He also stressed the need for continued consultation with chambers of commerce and industry to ensure that business policies address ground-level challenges and support sustainable economic activity.

The LCCI President also covered the ways to strengthen the SME sector as an important driver of economic activity, exports and employment. The Finance Minister said that improving access to finance for SMEs, facilitating business expansion and encouraging investment in modernization and capacity-building. He said that there is a dire need for practical and targeted measures to encourage businesses to expand their operations, increase investment and contribute to economic growth.



The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Finance Mr. Bilal Azhar Kiyani, Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Federal Secretary Finance, and senior representatives from the Tax Policy Office, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Finance Division.

Emphasizing the importance of an improved business environment, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said that ease of doing business requires a facilitative and predictable policy framework, simplified regulatory procedures and effective coordination among relevant institutions. He underscored the need to address the concerns of businesses, particularly SMEs, and ensure that government policies support investment, productivity, employment generation and business expansion.

Discussing taxation and regulatory policies, the Finance Minister said that these should support productive economic activity while promoting documentation and broadening the tax base. He emphasized evidence-based policymaking and constructive engagement with the business community to assess the impact of proposed measures on businesses, investment and employment. He also underlined the importance of simplifying procedures and building greater confidence between businesses and government institutions.

Highlighting the importance of policy continuity and predictability, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb underscored the role of the Tax Policy Office in maintaining sustained engagement with the private sector and developing a medium-term tax policy framework. He said that a stable and predictable policy environment would enable businesses to make informed investment decisions and plan for long-term growth.

Working to Improve Road Infrastructure across Pakistan through Self-Generated Resources: Abdul Aleem Khan

Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has said that the government is working to improve road infrastructure across Pakistan through self-generated resources, with the National Highway Authority (NHA) revenue target increased from Rs66 billion to Rs160 billion for the current year and its expenditure capped at Rs50 billion. He said additional revenue generated through toll taxes and other sources would be utilized for constructing new roads and improving infrastructure across the country.

While addressing a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Minister discussed major road projects, the financial sustainability of the NHA, industrial financing, regional trade connectivity and the need to address concerns raised by the business community.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani, members of the Executive Committee and senior members also spoke at the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Member of the Punjab Assembly Shoaib Siddiqui, former LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, former Vice President Mian Zahid Javed, Amjad Chaudhry and Executive Committee members Hamid Raza, Zaman Naseeb, Shahzad Mahmood, Muhammad Ijaz Ghauri, Sahir Mushtaq, Naveed Ayub, Muhammad Yaseen, Mardan Ali Zaidi, Muhammad Ali, Amir Ata Barry, Huma Junaid, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali, Ali Raza, Naila Nadeem, Imad Mahmood, Tariq Mahmood and Syed Yousaf Jameel.



Abdul Aleem Khan said that a substantial portion of the authority's income was consumed by salaries, routine road maintenance, repairs and emergency rehabilitation of roads and bridges damaged by floods. Referring to development funding, the minister mentioned Rs224 billion allocated for ongoing projects under the 2024 Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). He said a major share of the development funds was intended for national highway projects in Balochistan.

The Federal Minister said he had already presented proposals to the Prime Minister for Ease of Doing Business and address the difficulties faced by the industrial sector. He urged banks to consider rescheduling loans of industrialists affected by high interest rates so that closed industrial units could be revived and business activity restored. He said that running a business with loans carrying an interest rate of 25 percent was extremely difficult.

Abdul Aleem Khan assured the business community that its proposals and concerns would be presented to the Prime Minister and that he would make every possible effort to resolve the issues falling within his remit. He emphasised that facilitating businesses was essential for strengthening Pakistan's economy.

He said work was underway on a proposed route intended to reduce the distance between Lahore and Islamabad from approximately 380 kilometres to 280 kilometres. The project is expected to improve connectivity for Gujranwala, Gujrat, Lalamusa, Kharian and Jhelum, while reducing travel time from around three and a half hours to two and a half hours. The project was being pursued with the aim of completion by the following year.

Abdul Aleem Khan said additional revenue generated through toll taxes had played an important role in making the Faisalabad road project possible. He said that without these additional resources, the project might have remained delayed for several more years.

He also referred to the dangerous conditions on the previous road and the risks faced by Motorway Police personnel while managing traffic and accidents.



Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has said that the government is working to improve road infrastructure across Pakistan through self-generated resources, with the National Highway Authority (NHA) revenue target increased from Rs66 billion to Rs160 billion for the current year and its expenditure capped at Rs50 billion. He said additional revenue generated through toll taxes and other sources would be utilized for constructing new roads and improving infrastructure across the country.

While addressing a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Minister discussed major road projects, the financial sustainability of the NHA, industrial financing, regional trade connectivity and the need to address concerns raised by the business community.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani, members of the Executive Committee and senior members also spoke at the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Member of the Punjab Assembly Shoaib Siddiqui, former LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, former Vice President Mian Zahid Javed, Amjad Chaudhry and Executive Committee members Hamid Raza, Zaman Naseeb, Shahzad Mahmood, Muhammad Ijaz Ghauri, Sahir Mushtaq, Naveed Ayub, Muhammad Yaseen, Mardan Ali Zaidi, Muhammad Ali, Amir Ata Barry, Huma Junaid, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali, Ali Raza, Naila Nadeem, Imad Mahmood, Tariq Mahmood and Syed Yousaf Jameel.

Abdul Aleem Khan said that a substantial portion of the authority's income was consumed by salaries, routine road maintenance, repairs and emergency rehabilitation of roads and bridges damaged by floods. Referring to development funding, the minister mentioned Rs224 billion allocated for ongoing projects under the 2024 Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). He said a major share of the development funds was intended for national highway projects in Balochistan.

The Federal Minister said he had already presented proposals to the Prime Minister for Ease of Doing Business and address the difficulties faced by the industrial sector. He urged banks to consider rescheduling loans of industrialists affected by high interest rates so that closed industrial units could be revived and business activity restored. He said that running a business with loans carrying an interest rate of 25 percent was extremely difficult.



Labour Minister assures effective measures to address Traders' issues

Close Cooperation Between Lahore Chamber and PESSI Will Help Resolve Business Community's Issues and Promote a Business-Friendly Environment: Ali Hussam Asghar



Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ali Hussam Asghar held a special meeting with Provincial Labour Minister Muhammad Manshaullah Butt to discuss issues faced by the business community regarding the Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI), their resolution, and measures to facilitate the business community.

On the occasion, Provincial Labour Minister Manshaullah Butt said that effective measures would be taken after reviewing the relevant matters to resolve the issues faced by the business community in connection with PESSI. He expressed his commitment to giving due attention to the concerns of the business community to provide relief and facilitate traders.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar said that enhanced cooperation between PESSI and the Lahore Chamber could play an important role in resolving the issues faced by the business community. He emphasized that stronger coordination and cooperation between the relevant institutions were essential for effectively addressing traders' concerns and promoting a business-friendly environment.

The LCCI President had detailed discussion on the difficulties faced by the business community regarding PESSI. Both sides agreed that the Lahore Chamber and PESSI would work together to resolve traders' issues through mutual cooperation. The importance of strengthening coordination on relevant matters and making joint efforts to address the concerns of the business community was also emphasized.

Ali Hussam Asghar expressed hope that continued coordination and cooperation between the Lahore Chamber and the relevant government institutions would help make progress towards resolving the issues faced by the business community and creating a more conducive environment for business activities.

Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, LCCI to jointly promote Creative Economy: Federal Minister Aurangzeb Khan Khichi

The Ministery for National Heritage & Culture and the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry will work together to promote Pakistan's creative economy, preserve its cultural heritage and introduce traditional arts and handicrafts to international markets.



These views were expressed by the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi while speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani, Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain and Federal Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Asad Rehman Gilani also spoke on the occasion. Executive Committee members Naila Nadeem, Huma Junaid, Chaudhry Muhammad Fargham, Aamir Ata Bari, Shahzad Mahmood, Muhammad Ali, Ijaz Ghouri, Syed Yousaf, Atif Amin, Shah Behram and others were also present.

Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said that promoting Pakistan's cultural heritage, traditional arts and handicrafts internationally was among the government's key priorities. He said that the number of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) associated with the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture had increased from 23 to 40 in one year. He said that six Pakistani sites were included on UNESCO's World Heritage List, while referring to India's 30 and China's 60 sites in the context of international heritage recognition. He underscored the need for Pakistan to make further efforts to enhance the global recognition of its historical and cultural assets. The minister added that progress had been made during the current year on nominations for two historical sites for inclusion on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The Federal Minister said Lahore had been designated the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2026–27, with plans to organise three to four major cultural events in the city. Efforts would also be made to encourage cultural participation from Karachi, Islamabad and SCO member states. Describing Lok Mela as an important international cultural platform for Pakistan, he said further opportunities would be created to introduce Pakistani artists and artisans to international audiences. He stressed the importance of cooperation with LCCI through a memorandum of understanding, joint cultural activities, training workshops and initiatives to









tives to strengthen artisans' professional skills. Such collaboration, he said, could help take Pakistan's traditional crafts, arts and cultural heritage to global markets, generating employment and boosting exports. LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar assured the minister of the Chamber's full cooperation in promoting the creative economy, saying the sector had the potential to generate billions of dollars in economic benefits. He said that Pakistan's cultural products needed greater international exposure and that artisans, designers, industrialists and exporters should be brought together on a common platform. This, he said, would help add value to traditional products and improve their marketing in international markets. He announced that LCCI would organise a programme to promote the creative economy and also briefed the federal minister on the Chamber's efforts to seek amendments to business-related laws. He also urged the Federal Minister to appoint a focal person for LCCI.

LCCI Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani said Lahore had exceptional potential for promoting cultural tourism because of its rich history, cultural identity and historical heritage. Effectively showcasing the city's cultural character could attract more tourists and benefit hotels, catering services, transport and other business sectors. He said preserving cultural heritage while linking it with economic activities was an important need of the time. Cooperation among the Ministry, LCCI and relevant institutions could help promote cultural tourism and create new opportunities for local businesses.

Legislation to Replace FIRs with Fines in Dengue Cases: Provincial Health Minister

Provincial Minister for Health and Population Khawaja Imran Nazeer has said that legislation will be introduced to replace FIRs in dengue-related violations with a graduated fine mechanism, under which first-time violations will attract a fine, repeat violations a higher penalty, while prosecution will be considered in case of a third violation.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani and Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain also spoke on the occasion while former LCCI President Mian Misbah-ur-Rehman, former Vice Presidents Haris Atiq and Shahid Chaudhry, Senior Member Muhammad Amjad Chaudhry, Executive Committee Members Naila Nadeem, Shahzad Ali Shah, Mardan Ali Zaidi, Hamid Raza, Ali Raza, Muhammad Ijaz Ghauri, Zulfiqar Ali Chaudhry, Shahab Basharat, Adeel Babar, Dr. Shahzad Mahmood, Amir Ata Barry and Syed Azmat Ali Shah, along with former Executive Committee Members Waqar Ahmed and Haji Muhammad Akram, were also present.



The Provincial Minister said that he would take up the proposal with the relevant authorities and play his role in moving the necessary legislation through the Punjab Assembly. He said the proposed mechanism would provide businesses with an opportunity to rectify violations instead of facing immediate criminal proceedings.

Khawaja Imran Nazeer said he had attended the meeting on the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who was keen to maintain close engagement with the business community and intended to visit the Lahore Chamber. He congratulated the LCCI office-bearers and newly elected Executive Committee, urging the business community to put election-related differences behind them and work together for economic progress.

The minister also appreciated LABARD, the LCCI-supported institution providing medical rehabilitation, vocational training and employment opportunities to persons with disabilities and paid rich tributes to Late Pervez Malik.

On healthcare facilities for the business community, Khawaja Imran Nazeer said the Health Department would extend the Clinic on Wheels initiative to Lahore's markets through regular visits and proper mapping of commercial areas. The programme would be implemented in coordination with the LCCI under the supervision of its President to facilitate traders, workers and market employees. He also offered to establish a mobile field hospital at the LCCI premises once a month, equipped with X-ray and laboratory testing facilities.

The minister proposed the formation of joint technical committees comprising representatives of the LCCI and the Health Department. These committees would meet monthly to discuss matters relating to the pharmaceutical sector, the Provincial Quality Control Board and other regulatory issues. He also announced a focal person for LCCI.

Discussing pharmaceutical-sector concerns, he said the Punjab government was working with the federal government to develop a uniform pharmaceutical policy applicable across the provinces. He said the objective was to avoid duplication of regulations and create a consistent policy framework. Clarifying concerns regarding Good

Manufacturing Practices (GMP) inspections, he said the inspections had been advisory in nature and no action had been taken against any company on that basis.

He invited pharmaceutical representatives to sit with the department and discuss their concerns, including regulatory procedures and the cost of compliance, so that practical solutions could be developed. He also assured the business community that outstanding payments to suppliers who had provided goods and services to government departments would be taken up with the relevant authorities, observing that government commitments should be honoured regardless of changes in officials or administrations.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar said that the business community needed facilitation, respect and protection for legitimate commercial activity, rather than unnecessary regulatory pressure. He appreciated the Chief Minister's initiatives and said the LCCI was working to strengthen coordination between the government and businesses through its complaint-resolution mechanism.

He informed the minister that the Chamber had established a complaint Centre linked with the federal government, 11 economic ministries and the Punjab government. He said the Chief Minister had accepted the LCCI's proposal for developing Lahore as a District Economy, while the designation of Additional Deputy Commissioners (Headquarters) had been changed to Additional Deputy Commissioners (Economy) across Punjab.

The LCCI President said unnecessary raids, arrests and other punitive measures had created a trust deficit between government departments and the business community. He appreciated the Chief Minister's directions regarding the examination of notices and inspection procedures before registration of FIRs, adding that effective implementation and appropriate legislation were needed to protect businesses from disproportionate action.

He specifically requested the minister to support legislation replacing FIRs with fines in cases involving regulatory violations, including dengue-related matters. He said minor or technical violations should be addressed through a fair and proportionate penalty system, while criminal proceedings





should be reserved for serious offences. He thanked the minister for agreeing to take up the dengue-related proposal with the relevant authorities.

He also proposed transparent standard operating procedures for medical representatives' access to government hospitals, enabling them to share scientific research, medicine-safety information and professional updates with healthcare practitioners. Regarding the Provincial Quality Control Board, he called for appointment-based hearings, online proceedings, time-bound decisions and opportunities to rectify minor technical or administrative shortcomings. He said prosecution should be reserved for serious and deliberate violations.



LCCI, Lahore District Administration join hands to promote District Economy, facilitate businesses and boost investment

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Lahore district administration have agreed to strengthen their collaboration to promote the district economy, facilitate the business community, improve the ease of doing business and create new opportunities for investment and employment in Lahore. The understanding was reached during an awareness session on the Punjab government's E-Biz Portal held at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The session was addressed by Lahore Commissioner Nauman Yousaf, Deputy Commissioner Lahore Captain (R) Muhammad Ali Ijaz, LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani, Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain and Additional Director of the Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) Haseeb Chaudhry.



Former LCCI Vice President Mian Zahid Javed, Executive Committee members Imran Ali Zaidi, Shehzad Mahmood, Adeel Babar Khan, Sahir Mushtaq, Muhammad Yasin, Shehzad Ali Shah, Ali Raza Hamid, Mahmood and Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rao Rafi Afzal and PBIT Joint Director Qamar Nazir also attended the awareness session. A detailed presentation on the Punjab government's eBiz Portal was delivered during the session to familiarise participants with its functions and digital business facilitation services.

Commissioner Lahore Nauman Yousaf said that Lahore's economic potential required strong cooperation between the government and private sector, modern digital systems, effective administrative measures and a business-friendly environment. The commissioner pointed out that entrepreneurs frequently had to approach multiple government departments to obtain no-objection certificates (NOCs), registrations, licences and certifications. Complicated procedures, unnecessary delays and repeated visits to public offices could affect business operations and discourage investment. He said digital governance could simplify these processes, reduce unnecessary human intervention, improve transparency and ensure faster delivery of public services.

Deputy Commissioner Lahore Captain (R) Muhammad Ali Ijaz welcomed closer cooperation with the Lahore Chamber's leadership, noting that new ideas, the exchange of experiences and efforts to find practical solutions beyond conventional approaches could play an important role in economic development.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar expressed gratitude to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Lahore Commissioner Nauman Yousaf and Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Muhammad Ali Ijaz for easing lockdown restrictions following the Lahore Chamber's request. He said cooperation between the government and the business community was essential to maintaining commercial activity and supporting the city's economic development.

The LCCI president stressed that Lahore's economic development should not remain confined to the District Economy Plan. He proposed launching broader initiatives under the banner of "Invest Lahore" to highlight the city's investment potential, attract investors and create additional opportunities for businesses.

He said the Lahore Chamber would work closely with the district administration to address business commu-

nity concerns, improve the ease of doing business, facilitate investment and help establish a supportive environment for industrial and commercial growth. He added that regular engagement between public officials and business representatives could help identify administrative bottlenecks and develop effective solutions.

Ali Hussam Asghar further added that several countries strengthened their district economies by promoting exports of products associated with the specialised skills, expertise and competitive advantages of particular areas. He said Lahore could adopt a similar strategy by identifying products in which the city had distinctive strengths and developing their export potential. Such an approach, he noted, could help expand economic activity, improve market access for local businesses and support export-led growth.

Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani said that maintaining business continuity, expanding economic activity and providing a favourable environment for entrepreneurs were vital to Lahore's economic progress. He expressed confidence that stronger cooperation between the district administration and the business community would help attract investment, create employment opportunities and expand commercial activities across the city.

He added that government institutions and business representatives needed to work together to address practical challenges, improve the delivery of public services and create conditions that enabled businesses to grow. He said a coordinated approach could help Lahore make better use of its economic strengths and further strengthen its position as a major commercial centre.

LCCI Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain said that Lahore could unlock more of its economic potential through initiatives such as the District Economy Plan and Invest Lahore, alongside the digitalisation of government services, an integrated mechanism for resolving business complaints, the





development of modern markets, greater transparency in enforcement and the creation of a business-friendly environment.

He stressed that effective coordination between the district administration and the Lahore Chamber could help streamline administrative procedures, improve communication between businesses and government departments, and ensure that the concerns of the business community received appropriate attention. He added that transparent and efficient public services were important for encouraging entrepreneurship, attracting investment and supporting sustainable economic growth.



LCCI leadership all-out to resolve business community's issues

A delegation representing the Quaid-e-Azam Industrial Estate visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and extended its warm congratulations to newly elected LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani and Vice President Khadim Hussain Chaudhry on assuming their respective offices. The delegation congratulated the new office-bearers and expressed the hope that the Ali Hussam Asghar, Sardar Usman Ghani and Khadim Hussain Chaudhry would continue to play a proactive role in promoting industrial growth, investment, exports and employment while effectively highlighting the issues confronting the business and industrial community.

Former LCCI Presidents Mian Misbah-ur-Rehman, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Noman Kabir, former Senior Vice Presidents Nasir Hameed Khan, Rehman Aziz Chan, Shahzad Nasir, former Vice President Haris Ateeq, Sabir Hameed, Chaudhry Amjad Ali and Mian Sohail Nisar, LCCI Executive Committee Members Tariq Mehmood, Zulfiqar Ali Chaudhry, Ali Raza, Shahzad Ali Shah, Shah Behram, Syed Azmat Ali, Mian Maqbool, Muhammad Umar Abdullah, Muhammad Yaseen, Chaudhry Shahab Basharat, Shahzad Mahmood and Sahir Mushtaq also attended the meeting.



LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar welcomed the delegation and thanked the industrial community for its confidence and good wishes. He said the Lahore Chamber would extend full support and cooperation to the Quaid-e-Azam Industrial Estate and other industrial clusters and would work closely with them to identify and resolve issues affecting industrial activity.

He said that industry was the backbone of economic growth and played a vital role in increasing production, generating employment, promoting exports and attracting investment. He stressed that the problems faced by industrialists needed to be addressed through regular consultation and effective coordination between the business community and relevant government institutions.

LCCI Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani said the LCCI would remain fully engaged with industrial stakeholders and would provide every possible support for the promotion of industrial activity. He emphasized that a strong industrial base was essential for sustainable economic development and that policies should facilitate investment, expansion of existing businesses and establishment of new industrial units.

LCCI Vice President Khadim Hussain Chaudhry said the Lahore Chamber was committed to making business facilitation and problem-solving a priority. He said industrialists should have access to efficient infrastructure, reliable utilities, streamlined regulatory procedures and a predictable policy environment so that they could make long-term investment decisions with confidence.

Ali Hussam Asghar, Sardar Usman Ghani and Khadim Hussain Chaudhry said the Lahore Chamber would also continue to raise the issues of the business community at appropriate government forums.

They further said that the private sector was ready to play its full role in the country's economic revival and that chambers of commerce and industrial associations could work together to formulate practical recommendations for policymakers.

They also highlighted the importance of promoting value-added production and exports. They said Pakistan needed to strengthen its industrial competitiveness, improve quality standards, adopt modern technology and develop stronger linkages with international markets.

SIFC, LCCI to Work Together for Industrial Growth, Business Facilitation and Job Creation: Haroon Akhtar Khan

Prime Minister's Adviser on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan has said that strengthening the industrial sector, attracting new investment, increasing exports and providing a conducive business environment for the private sector are essential for sustainable economic growth. He said the government is working with the business community to promote industrial development, facilitate businesses, create employment opportunities and remove unnecessary hurdles.

Addressing a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Haroon Akhtar Khan said the business community plays a fundamental role in the national economy, and policies must be designed to build investor confidence and support the growth of industry and trade.

He said the government was working on industrial policy and regulatory reforms to protect businesses from harassment, unnecessary inspections and unwarranted official action.

He stressed that the unnecessary use of FIRs in business-related matters and measures such







as freezing business accounts should be avoided, while transparency and due process must be ensured in legal proceedings.

The Prime Minister's Adviser said government institutions should adopt a cooperative approach towards the business community. He added that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and other relevant departments must consider the importance of business growth alongside revenue collection, as a strong business sector contributes to employment generation, investment and economic stability.

LCCI President Mr. Ali Hussam Asghar welcomed Haroon Akhtar Khan and said that although the business community plays a vital role in economic development, traders and industrialists often face difficulties due to the discretionary powers and actions of various government departments.

He clarified that the Lahore Chamber was not opposed to the enforcement of laws and regulations; however, harassment of businesspeople and the registration of FIRs over minor violations were detrimental to commercial and industrial activities.

Mr. Ali Hussam Asghar proposed that fines and corrective measures should be preferred over FIRs for minor violations. He also called for advance notices and reasonable time for businesses to rectify environmental compliance issues, ensuring that regulations were enforced without unnecessarily disrupting business operations.

LCCI Senior Vice President Mr. Sardar Usman Ghani said strong relations between the government and the business community were essential for economic progress. He emphasized that the private sector should be consulted during policymaking and that obstacles hindering business activities must be removed.

LCCI Vice President Mr. Chaudhry Khadim Hussain





said continued consultation and cooperation between the government and the business community could help resolve issues facing industry and trade. He stressed the need for joint efforts to promote business growth and strengthen the national economy.

The meeting was attended by former LCCI President Mr. Mian Misbah-ur-Rehman, former Senior Vice President Mr. Nasir Hameed Khan, former Vice President Mr. Haris Ateeq, Mr. Mian Sohail Nisar and Mr. Amjad Chaudhary.

One-Window Facilitation, Special Economic Zones and Business Community's Inclusion in Policymaking Vital for Investment: Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh

Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh has said that the government will work closely with the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry to promote investment, facilitate the business community and accelerate industrial growth. The business community must be involved in policymaking, regulatory matters and economic decisions, as industrialists and traders understand ground realities and business challenges. He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani and Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain also spoke on the occasion while Former Vice Presidents Mian Zahid Javed and Haris Ateeq, senior members Khawaja Shahzaib Akram, Amjad Chaudhry and Mian Sohail Nisar, along with Executive Committee members Azeem Iftikhar, Amir Ata Barry, Syed Yousaf Jamil, Muhammad Umar Abdullah, Syed Azmat Ali, Ali Raza, Atif Amin, Muhammad Shahzad and others also attended the meeting.



Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said that the business community should not merely be informed about policies but actively involved in their formulation. Government departments should consult chambers of commerce and industrial representatives before making decisions concerning regulations, business standards and investment, ensuring that policies remained practical and did not create unnecessary obstacles for commercial activities.

The minister said an effective one-window facilitation system was essential to save investors from visiting multiple departments and facing unnecessary delays in obtaining approvals and the Board of Investment and the government were doing a lot in this regard. He assured the business community that the Board of Investment would maintain close coordination with LCCI to address investment-related issues.

The federal minister described the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as an important measure for attracting investment. He said allocating land alone was insufficient. Roads, infrastructure and other essential facilities must also be provided to attract investors and encourage the

Factories should not be sealed without an opportunity to rectify: LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar









establishment of industries.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh also highlighted the planning of utilizing approximately 6,000 acres of Pakistan Steel Mills land in Karachi as a Special Economic Zone. He invited the interested investors to avail the opportunities. He said the effective use of large industrial landholdings, supported by adequate infrastructure, could create new opportunities in manufacturing, logistics, industrial investment and exports.

He said local industrial competitiveness, production capacity and export potential should be considered when formulating trade policies. He said investors needed a predictable business environment, clear regulations and consistency in government decisions to make long-term investment plans with confidence.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar said the business community played a vital role in economic growth, employment generation and investment, but actions by government departments and the exercise of discretionary powers were creating difficulties for industrialists and traders.

He said that LCCI did not oppose the implementation of laws and regulations. However, enforcement methods should not unnecessarily disrupt legitimate business activities. Instead of immediately registering FIRs, sealing business premises or taking harsh action over minor or rectifiable violations, authorities should provide businesses with reasonable time and an opportunity to correct the shortcomings.

Easy Financing Essential for Startups, Young Entrepreneurs and Women in Business: Sardar Usman Ghani

A delegation of the Pakistan Traders & Manufacturers Alliance (PTMA) visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) to discuss current economic situation, challenges faced by markets, and the impact of government policies.

LCCI President Faheem ur Rehman Saigol, Senior Vice President Tanveer Ahmad Sheikh, SAARC Chamber Vice President and former LCCI President Mian Anjum Nisar, former Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, and Executive Committee Member Riaz Shahid welcomed the delegation. The delegation was led by Alliance President Waqar Ali and Chairman Nabeel Mahmood Tariq, while other participants included Syed Ahmed Ali, Malik Irfan Sultan, Haji Ashfaq, Hafiz Imran, Raja Imran, Aslam Barkati, Khawaja Asim, and others.



During the meeting, participants discussed traders' practical challenges, strict regulations, actions by the PERA Force, declining market confidence, and steps needed to improve the business environment. The delegation emphasized that without including the business community's input in government reforms, economic stability cannot be achieved. They requested the Lahore Chamber to play its active role in conveying traders' concerns to the government. LCCI President Faheem ur Rehman Saigol said that the Lahore Chamber is the true voice of traders and has always acted as a bridge between the government and the business community. He stressed that the government must take the private sector into confidence during policy-making to ensure smooth economic activity. He assured the delegation that LCCI would continue advocating for traders at every forum and work to resolve their issues effectively. Senior Vice President Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh said that reforms remain incomplete unless stakeholders' input is considered. He urged the government to base its decisions on ground realities so that industry and trade can function smoothly. SAARC Chamber Vice President and former LCCI President Mian Anjum Nisar stated that protecting the rights of the business community is the foremost responsibility of their elected representatives. He expressed concern that unnecessary actions by the PERA Force are hurting business confidence and affecting commercial activity. Former Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry emphasized that economic matters should be resolved through dialogue and consensus, not through force or pressure. He said that consultation, cooperation, and understanding are the real paths to sustainable economic stability.

LCCI Chief meets CCPO Lahore

Secure Business Environment Key to Investment and Economic Growth: LCCI President



Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana has said that providing a peaceful, secure and business-friendly environment and resolving the genuine problems of the business community on a priority basis are among the top priorities of Lahore Police. He said that effective policing and close coordination with the business community were essential for protecting economic activities, strengthening public confidence and supporting economic growth. While talking to the LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, CCPO Lahore said that all possible measures were being taken in consultation with the business community and other relevant stakeholders to improve the security and safety of business community. He said that regular engagement with business organizations could help identify security-related challenges, improve coordination and ensure timely attention to the genuine concerns of the business sector. LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar highlighted the importance of a peaceful environment in enabling businesses to operate smoothly and confidently. He said that protecting the business community was not only a matter of public safety but also an important factor in maintaining economic activity, encouraging investment and strengthening Lahore's commercial standing. Effective cooperation between the police and business representatives could help promote a stable environment for trade and industry, he added.

The LCCI President appreciated the services being provided through the Police Khidmat Markaz operating at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He highlighted the importance of accessible police services for the business community, saying that convenient service delivery and responsive law enforcement could save businesspeople time, strengthen institutional trust and facilitate their economic activities.

Ali Hussam Asghar said that peace, security and the rule of law were fundamental to economic stability. He said that businesses were better positioned to invest, expand operations, create employment and contribute to national development when they could operate without persistent concerns about crime and insecurity. A safe business environment, he added, was particularly important for markets, commercial centers, small businesses and industrial enterprises that supported livelihoods and economic activity across the city.

He said that cooperation between the police and the private sector could play an important role in preventing crime, protecting commercial assets and addressing traders' concerns through effective communication. He stressed the need for continued coordination between LCCI and Lahore Police so that issues affecting the business community could be highlighted promptly and taken up through appropriate channels.

He further added that business-friendly policing, fair implementation of the law and timely handling of complaints could help build confidence among local and prospective investors. A predictable and secure business environment encourages entrepreneurship and commercial expansion, while stronger institutional cooperation can help reduce disruptions to business operations and support sustainable economic development.

Ali Hussam Asghar also paid tribute to the sacrifices made by Lahore Police in maintaining law and order and protecting the lives and property of citizens.

He highlighted the shared importance of cooperation between LCCI and Lahore Police in safeguarding business interests and promoting a peaceful environment for business. Continued engagement between the two institutions can help strengthen communication, improve the delivery of police services and address security concerns affecting traders and industrialists.

He also underscored the wider economic significance of public safety and effective law enforcement. "As one of Pakistan's major economic hub, Lahore depends on a secure environment to sustain trade, attract investment, support employment and encourage business growth. Stronger collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the business community can contribute to these objectives while reinforcing confidence in the city's commercial environment.



Pakistan offers Huge Investment Opportunities for UAE Investors: LCCI

President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Hussam Asghar has called for stronger trade and investment relations between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), urging greater business-to-business interaction, exchange of trade delegations and joint investment initiatives to expand economic cooperation between the two countries.

He expressed these views during a meeting with



Salem Mohammed Al Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, during which matters of mutual interest and opportunities for expanding bilateral commercial relations came under discussion.

The LCCI President said that Pakistan and the UAE enjoyed longstanding friendly relations, providing a strong foundation for further economic cooperation. He said closer engagement between the business communities could open new avenues for trade, investment and mutually beneficial partnerships.

The LCCI President said that Pakistan offered considerable investment opportunities due to its large consumer market, industrial capacity, skilled workforce and entrepreneurial potential. He invited UAE investors to explore business opportunities in Pakistan and develop partnerships with local companies.

He identified agriculture, food processing, textiles, information technology, construction, logistics, minerals and value-added manufacturing as promising sectors for bilateral cooperation.

He said joint ventures and investment partnerships in these areas could contribute to industrial growth, employment generation and economic development.

He proposed greater business-to-business (B2B) interaction, regular exchange of trade delegations and meetings between chambers of commerce and business organizations of the two countries. He said direct engagement between entrepreneurs and investors could help identify potential partners, understand market requirements and develop sustainable commercial ventures.

He also proposed closer institutional cooperation between the Lahore Chamber and UAE business organisations through joint business forums, trade exhibitions, investment conferences and sector-specific meetings. These activities could provide companies from both countries with opportunities to explore new markets and establish long-term commercial relationships.

"Meeting with Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue"

LCCI President calls for business-friendly Tax Reforms to broaden tax net and boost revenue

President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Hussam Asghar has said that best possible facilitation for the business community would encourage more people to join the tax net and help improve Pakistan's much-needed tax-to-GDP ratio.

While talking to Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, Regional Tax Office (RTO) Lahore, Fizza Batool, LCCI President presented practical suggestions for addressing tax-related challenges, facilitating business community improving coordination between tax authorities and the business sector. He said that a fair, transparent and business-friendly taxation system was essential afor broadening the tax base, promoting voluntary compliance and strengthening national revenue generation.

Ali Hussam Asghar said that the focus should be on bringing more businesses into the documented economy through facilitation, awareness and simplified procedures rather than creating unnecessary difficulties for existing taxpayers. He said that when businesses are provided with clear guidelines, accessible taxpayer services and predictable tax policies, they are more likely to fulfil their tax obligations and operate within the formal economy.

He added that broadening the tax net was vital for improving the tax-to-GDP ratio and reducing the burden on businesses and individuals already contributing to national revenue. A wider tax base, supported by effective administration and equitable enforcement, could help improve revenue collection without placing excessive pressure on compliant taxpayers.

The LCCI President proposed simplifying tax registration, return filing and documentation requirements, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). He said that unnecessary procedural complexities often consume valuable time and resources, making it difficult for smaller businesses to comply with taxation requirements. Simplified processes and accessible guidance would help such businesses become part of the formal tax system.

He also underscored the need to promote digital facilitation through user-friendly online systems, efficient electronic filing, timely processing of applications and prompt resolution of technical issues. Improved digital services could reduce repeated visits to tax offices, minimize paperwork and make compliance easier for traders and entrepreneurs.

Ali Hussam Asghar said that frequent changes in tax policies and complicated interpretations of taxation rules could create uncertainty for businesses. He called for greater clarity, consistency and timely communication regarding tax laws, notifications and procedural requirements so that businesses could plan their operations and investments with confidence.

He further proposed regular consultative meetings between the Regional Tax Office Lahore and the LCCI to identify emerging issues, discuss difficulties and develop mutually acceptable solutions. He said that such structured engagement would help bridge the gap between tax authorities and taxpayers while ensuring that policy implementation takes into account the realities of the business environment.

The LCCI President also highlighted the importance of a transparent and fair tax administration system. He said that taxpayers should receive clear explanations of their obligations, have access to effective complaint-resolution mechanisms and be treated consistently under the applicable law. Timely resolution of genuine disputes and grievances could improve taxpayer confidence and encourage voluntary compliance.

He suggested strengthening taxpayer education and awareness programs in collaboration with the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, particularly for small traders, new entrepreneurs and businesses seeking to enter the documented economy. Workshops, guidance sessions and simplified informational material could help businesses understand registration requirements, filing procedures and their legal responsibilities.



Bangladeshi High Commissioner sees Multi-Billion-Dollar potential in Pakistan-Bangladesh Trade



The High Commissioner of Bangladesh Md Iqbal Hussain Khan has said that there was considerable potential to expand trade between Pakistan and Bangladesh. Currently bilateral trade amounted to around US$1 billion, while the actual potential was worth several billion dollars. Stronger cooperation, improved trade connectivity, the removal of trade barriers and closer engagement between the business communities of both countries could help unlock this untapped potential and significantly increase bilateral trade.

The High Commissioner was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani, Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain, Honorary Consul of Bangladesh Qazi Humayun Fareed, LCCI Executive Committee Members Naila Nadeem, Shahzad Ali Shah and Amir Ata Barry also spoke on the occasion.

The High Commissioner identified agriculture, textiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering, food processing, chemicals, minerals, education, healthcare and tourism as promising areas for bilateral collaboration. He said Pakistani businesses had participated in Made in Pakistan exhibitions in Bangladesh, while Bangladeshi business participation was also expected at an international exhibition in Karachi in November. He highlighted Bangladesh's potential to import Pakistani maize, rice and basmati rice, textile raw materials, chemicals, minerals and manufactured goods. Sugar, wheat, cereals and spices. He said that Bangladeshi pineapples had begun reaching Pakistan after clearances, while seasonal fruits, agricultural products and jaggery could further expand bilateral trade.

He also called for easier business visas, improved e-visa procedures and stronger direct air connectivity. Pakistan could serve as a gateway to Central Asia, while Bangladesh offered access to Southeast Asia. He said that more than 100 Bangladeshi students were studying at private universities in Pakistan and identified opportunities in scholarships, medical tourism and tourism, including Bangladesh's coastal areas and Pakistan's northern regions.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar proposed establishing a dedicated Bangladesh trade cell under the Senior Vice President to coordinate bilateral business activities. He suggested identifying five priority export sectors, linking LCCI with a leading chamber in Dhaka or Chittagong and initiating two to three virtual B2B meetings, followed by sector-specific meetings, trade delegations and reciprocal business visits. He invited Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to explore partnerships in Lahore and stressed the need for a practical roadmap with measurable results. Ali Hussam Asghar said that Pakistan and Bangladesh must move beyond discussions and adopt a result-oriented strategy to unlock their full trade potential. He stressed the need to identify exportable products, connect potential buyers and suppliers and establish direct institutional links between business communities. He said LCCI was ready to facilitate business delegations, sector-specific B2B meetings and joint ventures to help Pakistani businesses access the Bangladeshi market and attract investment. He added that strengthening economic ties with Bangladesh aligned with LCCI's commitment to export-led growth, market diversification and creating new opportunities for the business community. LCCI Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani called for reversing the downward trend in bilateral trade and raising it to at least US$2 billion. He highlighted opportunities in pharmaceuticals, textiles, textile machinery, rice, cement, agriculture, food processing, IT, engineering, light manufacturing and services. He urged businesses to pursue joint ventures and investment partnerships, while improving shipping, customs procedures, documentation and the exchange of market intelligence. He assured the delegation of LCCI's support in arranging B2B meetings, exhibitions and business delegations.



LCCI, Chinese Consulate Discuss Expanding Bilateral Trade and Investment

The leadership of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a fruitful meeting with Chinese Deputy Consul General Cao Ke and Commercial Vice Consul Li Hao Teng to discuss ways to enhance bilateral trade, strengthen business-to-business cooperation, promote investment and explore new avenues of economic collaboration between Pakistan and China.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani and Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain participated in the meeting and exchanged views on strengthening commercial relations and creating new opportunities for the business communities of both countries.

During the discussion, Cao Ke said Pakistan-China relations were built on strong historical foundations. He said that the two countries were not only political and defence partners but also important partners in economic cooperation. He said bilateral relations had continued to strengthen over time, while the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had given these ties a new dimension and opened further avenues for trade, investment and economic collaboration.



The Chinese Deputy Consul General highlighted the importance of continued engagement between the business communities of both countries to translate the longstanding friendship into stronger commercial partnerships. He said that closer cooperation could help businesses explore new opportunities, develop lasting partnerships and contribute to the growth of bilateral economic relations.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar said Pakistan and China enjoyed a trusted and longstanding friendship, providing a strong foundation for expanding economic cooperation. He emphasized that enhanced business-to-business contacts, improved market access and closer institutional coordination could help Pakistani and Chinese enterprises identify new areas of mutual interest.

The participants discussed opportunities to promote bilateral trade in textiles, agricultural products, food processing, minerals, leather and other value-added sectors. They also exchanged views on facilitating Pakistani exporters in accessing the Chinese market and encouraging businesses to explore the potential offered by both economies.

The LCCI president also highlighted the potential for greater Chinese investment in Pakistan through joint ventures, manufacturing, technology transfer and industrial cooperation. He said partnerships between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises could support industrial development, promote modern technologies, enhance production capacity and create employment opportunities.

LCCI Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani emphasized that closer cooperation in value-added manufacturing and other productive sectors could help businesses move beyond traditional trading relationships towards stronger, long-term commercial partnerships. He also encouraged greater interaction between investors, manufacturers, exporters and business associations to identify projects of mutual interest.

LCCI Vice President proposed regular meetings between LCCI and the Chinese Consulate General, preferably on a quarterly basis, to review progress, explore emerging trade and investment opportunities and discuss issues requiring coordination. He said sustained engagement would provide a useful platform for strengthening business confidence and turning shared economic interests into practical cooperation.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner calls for Stronger Trade and Investment Ties with Pakistan

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar proposes exchange of trade delegations, single-country exhibitions and stronger business-to-business linkages



High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan, Rear Admiral (Retd.) Fred Senevirathne, has called for stronger trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, stressing the need to translate the longstanding brotherly relations between the two countries into increased commercial engagement, investment and business partnerships. He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar presented the address of welcome and gave a detailed overview of Pakistan's economy while Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani and Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain also spoke on the occasion.

The High Commissioner invited Pakistani businessmen to explore the trade and investment opportunities available in Sri Lanka and develop closer commercial relationships with their Sri Lankan counterparts. He stressed the importance of strengthening economic engagement so that the friendly relations between the two countries could also produce greater benefits for their business communities.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar said that Pakistan and Sri Lanka enjoying cordial and longstanding relations, which provided a strong foundation for expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation. He said that both countries needed to make greater efforts to convert these friendly ties into practical business opportunities.

The LCCI President proposed the exchange of trade delegations between the two countries to help businessmen understand each other's markets, identify potential partners and explore new avenues of cooperation. He also suggested organizing single-country exhibitions in Pakistan and Sri Lanka to showcase products, services and investment opportunities, enabling companies to establish direct business contacts.

He highlighted Lahore's importance as a vibrant business and commercial center and a significant contributor to Pakistan's exports. He said that stronger engagement with Sri Lankan businesses could open new avenues for Pakistani exporters and investors while providing opportunities for Sri Lankan companies to explore the Pakistani market.

He stressed the need to promote business-to-business (B2B) contacts and strengthen chamber-to-chamber relations, explaining that direct interaction between business organizations could help identify areas of mutual interest and develop lasting commercial partnerships. He also encouraged businessmen from both countries to explore opportunities for establishing business outlets in each other's markets, which could help improve market access and strengthen commercial presence.

The LCCI President further underscored the importance of sustained interaction between the business communities, saying that regular exchanges, exhibitions and intra-chamber cooperation could play a meaningful role in expanding bilateral trade. He said that closer coordination between the chambers would help businesses identify practical opportunities and build stronger economic connections. LCCI Senior Vice President Mr. Sardar Usman Ghani and Vice President Mr. Chaudhry Khadim Hussain also spoke on the occasion and exchanged views on strengthening Pakistan–Sri Lanka economic relations and promoting greater cooperation between the business communities.

LCCI Congratulates CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz on International Recognition for 'Apni Chat, Apna Ghar' Project

President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani and Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain have warmly congratulated Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz on receiving international recognition for the 'Apni Chat, Apna Ghar' project, terming it a proud achievement for Punjab and Pakistan.

The LCCI leadership said the international award was a significant recognition of Punjab's people-focused development initiatives and a source of pride for the entire nation. They said such global recognition not only highlights the province's development efforts but also raises Pakistan's image on the international level.

The LCCI office-bearers said that the international recognition for the 'Apni Chat, Apna Ghar' project was a remarkable achievement and reflected the importance of initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of the people. He congratulated Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and her team for bringing this distinction to Punjab.

They said successful people-centric projects could contribute to inclusive development, social well-being and economic empowerment, while also creating opportunities for related sectors of the economy.

Ali Hussam Asghar, Sardar Usman Ghani and Chaudhry Khadim Hussain said the international award was a matter of pride for Punjab and Pakistan. He appreciated the efforts behind the initiative and said recognition at the international level demonstrated that well-designed development projects could create a positive impact and attract global attention.

Meanwhile, addressing a delegation of the Plastic Manufacturing Traders Association at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, LCCI President Mr. Ali Hussam Asghar expressed concern over the difficulties being faced by plastic manufacturers and traders due to actions by the Environment Department and appealed to Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz to kindly take notice of the situation and ensure that the sector is provided with a fair and conducive regulatory environment.

President LCCI congratulated Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and her team for bringing this distinction to Punjab.



LCCI Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain also spoke on the occasion while Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani, former President Sheikh Muhammad Asif, Executive Committee Member Ali Raza and head of the delegation Malik Munawar also spoke on the occasion.

حکومت اور کاروباری برادری کے درمیان معاشی اشتراک کے لیے لاہور چیمبر کی کاوشیں



پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی، صنعتی استحکام اور کاروباری سرگرمیوں کے فروغ کے لیے حکومت اور نجی شعبے کے درمیان مضبوط روابط، باہمی اعتماد اور مسلسل مشاورت بنیادی اہمیت رکھتے ہیں۔ میرا پختہ یقین ہے کہ کاروباری برادری محض معیشت کا ایک حصہ نہیں بلکہ قومی ترقی، روزگار کی فراہمی، برآمدات میں اضافے اور سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ میں کلیدی کردار ادا کرتی ہے۔ صدر لاہور چیمبر بنتے ہی میں نے اپنے سینئر نائب صدر سردار عثمان غنی اور نائب صدر چودھری خادم حسین کے ساتھ مل کر عملی اقدامات شروع کر دیئے۔ پہلے ہی روز لاہور چیمبر میں کمپلینٹ سینٹر قائم کر دیا جو ممبران کی شکایات کے ازالے کے لیے بھرپور طریقے سے متحرک ہے۔ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف سے میری ایک سے زائد ملاقاتیں ہو چکی ہیں جن کے دوران ملکی صنعتی پیداوار، روزگار کے مواقع اور برآمدات میں بڑھانے کے معاملات زیر بحث آئے اور میں نے لاہور چیمبر کی جانب سے تجاویز پیش کیں۔ وزیراعظم کی جانب سے پیداوار اور روزگار بڑھانے کے لیے تجاویز کا جائزہ لینے کی غرض سے کمیٹی کے قیام کا فیصلہ ایک اہم پیش رفت ہے۔ میرا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان کو پائیدار معاشی ترقی کے لیے برآمدات پر مبنی صنعتی شعبہ کو فروغ دینا ہوگا۔ مقامی صنعت کو عالمی منڈیوں میں مسابقت کے قابل بنانے کے لیے پیداواری لاگت میں کمی، جدید ٹیکنالوجی تک رسائی اور کاروباری پالیسیوں میں تسلسل ضروری ہے۔ نجی شعبے کی تجاویز کو حکومتی فیصلوں میں مناسب جگہ دینے سے صنعتی ترقی کی رفتار بہتر بنائی جا سکتی ہے۔ بڑی خوشی کی بات ہے کہ وزیراعظم نے تجاویز کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ وزیراعلیٰ پنجاب محترمہ مریم نواز سے ملاقات میں صوبہ پنجاب میں کاروباری سرگرمیوں کو فروغ دینے، لاہور کو ڈسٹرکٹ اکانومی بنانے سمیت دیگر امور پر گفتگو ہوئی۔ یہ بڑی خوشی کی بات ہے کہ محترمہ مریم نواز نے اس سلسلے میں فوری عملی اقدامات اٹھائے۔ پنجاب ملک کا ایک اہم صنعتی و تجارتی مرکز ہے اور یہاں کاروباری ماحول میں بہتری کے اثرات قومی معیشت پر بھی مرتب ہوتے ہیں۔

صوبائی حکومت کے ساتھ ہمارا مسلسل رابطہ اس مقصد کے لیے ہے کہ صنعتکاروں اور تاجروں کو درپیش انتظامی، قانونی اور کاروباری مسائل کا حل تلاش کیا جا سکے۔ پنجاب میں صنعتی انفراسٹرکچر کی بہتری، سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ اور کاروباری اداروں کو سہولتوں کی فراہمی سے روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا کیے جا سکتے ہیں۔ وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات ونشریات عطاءاللہ تارڑ، سپیکر پنجاب اسمبلی ملک محمد احمد خان، وفاقی وزیر خزانہ سینیٹر محمد اورنگزیب، وزیر مملکت برائے خزانہ بلال اظہر کیانی، وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے صنعت و پیداوار ہارون اختر، وفاقی وزیر مواصلات عبدالعلیم خان، چیئرمین سینٹ سید یوسف رضا گیلانی سمیت دیگر وفاقی و صوبائی وزرا کے ساتھ بڑی نتیجہ خیز ملاقاتیں ہو چکی ہیں۔ میرا سب سے زیادہ زور اس بات پر رہا ہے کہ کاروباری آسانیاں اور تاجر برادری کا عزت و احترام یقینی بنائے جائیں۔ ایف آئی آر کلچر قابل قبول نہیں، اس کے بجائے اصلاحی اقدامات اور جرمانے کیے جائیں۔ اگر ملک میں کاروباری ماحول بہتر بنانا ہے تو کاروباری شعبہ کے لیے سرکاری کارروائیوں کو آسان بنانے غیر ضروری قانونی و انتظامی مشکلات سے بچانے پر توجہ دینا ہوگی۔ میرا یقین ہے کہ پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی کسی ایک ادارے یا شعبے کی کوششوں سے ممکن نہیں۔ اس کے لیے حکومت، نجی شعبے، مالیاتی اداروں اور صنعتی تنظیموں کو مشترکہ حکمت عملی کے تحت آگے بڑھنا ہوگا۔ لاہور چیمبر حکومت کے ساتھ تعمیری رابطوں اور مسلسل مشاورت کے ذریعے کاروباری برادری کی حقیقی مشکلات اجاگر کرنے اور ان کے حل کے لیے اپنا کردار ادا کرتا رہے گا۔ ہماری اولین ترجیح مقامی صنعت کو مضبوط بنانا، برآمدات میں اضافہ، سرمایہ کاری کے نئے مواقع پیدا کرنا، روزگار کے ذرائع بڑھانا اور کاروباری برادری کو درپیش مشکلات کا عملی حل تلاش کرنا ہے۔ ہمیں ایسی معاشی پالیسیوں کی ضرورت ہے جو وقتی اقدامات کے بجائے طویل المدتی صنعتی ترقی، پیداواری صلاحیت اور عالمی مسابقت کو فروغ دیں۔ پاکستان کے پاس ترقی کے بے شمار مواقع موجود ہیں۔ ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ حکومت اور کاروباری برادری ایک دوسرے کی صلاحیتوں سے فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے باہمی اعتماد، پالیسیوں کے تسلسل، مؤثر مشاورت اور عملی اقدامات کو اپنی ترجیحات بنائیں۔ مجھے یقین ہے کہ مضبوط صنعتی بنیاد، سازگار کاروباری ماحول اور نجی شعبے کی بھرپور شمولیت کے ذریعے پاکستان معاشی ترقی اور خوشحالی کی نئی منزلیں حاصل کر سکتا ہے۔

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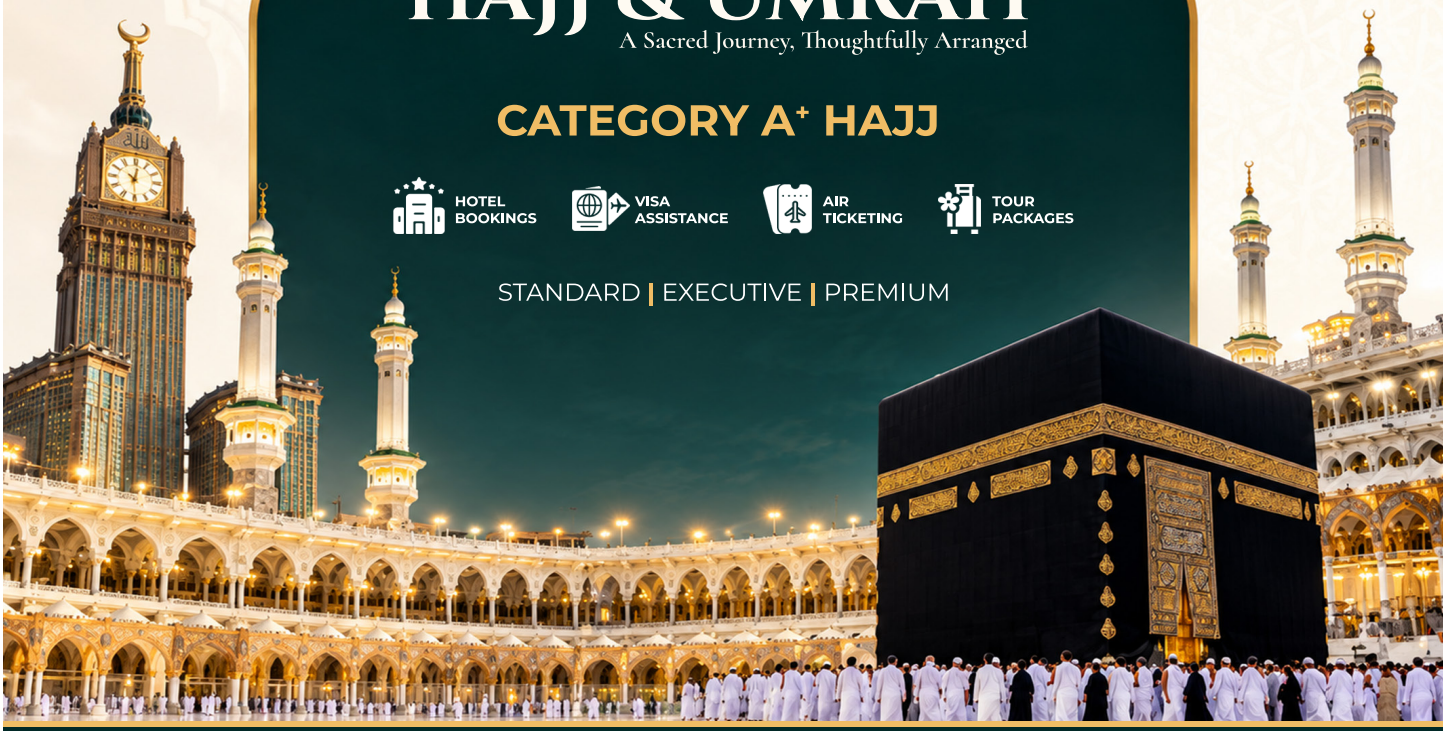
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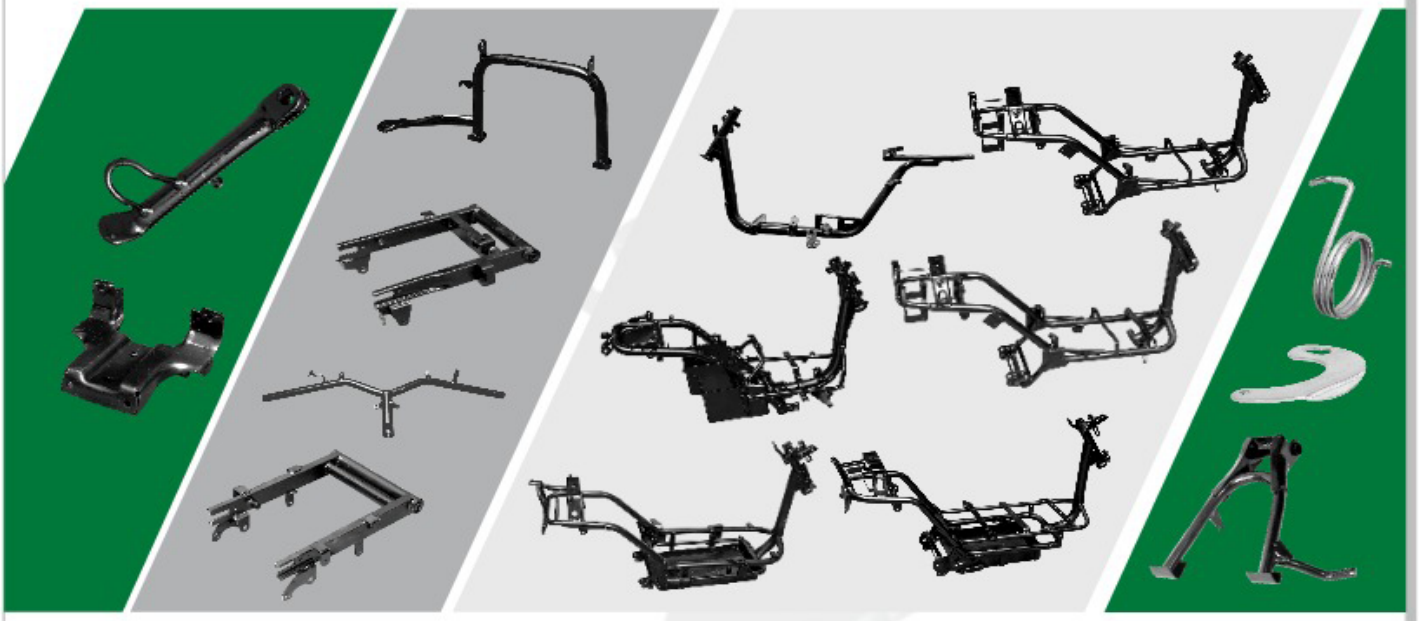
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