November 2019 marked the historic achievement of Pakistan with the opening of passage through the Kartarpur Corridor for the first time in 72 years. The Kartarpur Corridor will allow Sikh pilgrims from all over the world to visit their holy site.
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Dear friends,

In the month of November, President Trump and Prime Minister Imran Khan spoke on the telephone. President Trump thanked Pakistan for its assistance in the release of two Western hostages who were held in Afghanistan for several years. Prime Minister Imran Khan assured President Trump that Pakistan will continue to play a constructive role in facilitating peace in Afghanistan.

Pakistan also opened the historic Kartarpur corridor that will allow Sikh pilgrims from all over the world to visit their holy site. The opening is a manifestation of Pakistan’s commitment to peace and interfaith harmony in South Asia.

While Kartarpur was a success, the tragedy of Indian Occupation of Jammu and Kashmir continued unabated. It has now been four months since India imposed a lockdown and communications blockade in the Kashmir valley.

Pakistan’s economic revival and consolidation continued as IMF released the second tranche of its structural adjustment program. The Government is committed to stabilizing the economy and stimulating economic growth through foreign investment.

As we near the end of the year, I wish our American friends a belated Thanksgiving and hope that your year ends on a happy note.

Dr. Asad M. Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States
“Prime Minister Imran Khan had a telephone conversation with President Donald Trump, during which bilateral and regional issues were discussed.

Prime Minister Imran Khan conveyed that the release of Western hostages in Afghanistan was a positive development and Pakistan was happy that they were safe and free. President Trump thanked the Prime Minister for Pakistan’s efforts in facilitating this positive outcome.

The Prime Minister re-affirmed Pakistan’s commitment to the advancement of Afghan peace and reconciliation process for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. Both leaders agreed to continue to work together for the promotion of this shared objective.

The Prime Minister apprised President Trump of the current situation in IOJ&K, underscoring that over 8 million people remained under siege for over 100 days now. Appreciating President Trump’s continued engagement as well as mediation offer, Prime Minister Imran Khan stressed that the President must continue his efforts for facilitation of a peaceful solution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute.

Recalling their conversations in Washington and New York, the two leaders agreed to deepen bilateral collaboration, including in relevant multilateral fora.

The two leaders further agreed to remain in close contact”

Read the full official statement here.
An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission led by Ernesto Ramirez Rigo visited Islamabad from October 28 to November 8, 2019 to conduct discussions on the first review under the EFF. At the end of the visit, Mr. Ramirez Rigo made the following statement:

“The Pakistani authorities and IMF staff have reached a staff-level agreement on policies and reforms needed to complete the first review under the EFF. The agreement is subject to approval by IMF management and the Executive Board of Directors. Completion of the review will enable disbursement of SDR 328 million (or around US$ 450 million) and will help unlock significant funding from bilateral and multilateral partners.”

“Despite a difficult environment, program implementation has been good, and all performance criteria for end-September were met with comfortable margins. Work continues towards completing the remaining structural benchmarks for end-September. Significant progress has been made in improving the AML/CFT framework, although additional work is needed before March 2020. International partners remain committed to supporting the authorities’ reform efforts, providing the necessary financing assurances.”

Read the complete official statement [here](#).
Read more on the announcement [here](#) and [here](#).
Prime Minister Imran Khan formally inaugurated the Kartarpur Corridor, paving the way for Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit one of their religion's holiest sites in Pakistan without needing a visa.

Prime Minister welcomed the Sikh community and congratulated them on the 550th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikh religion.

During his address at the ceremony, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that lessons that can be drawn from Guru Nanak’s teachings are about bringing people together and not to spread hate.
KARTARPUR CORRIDOR:
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE WELCOMES KARTARPUR CORRIDOR

"This newly opened corridor is a step towards promoting greater religious freedom.

...This impressive project will transform a remote, three-acre site across a sensitive international boundary."

U.S. Dept. of State
Spokesperson Morgan Ortagus Highlights the Opening of the Kartarpur Corridor
INAUGURATION OF KARTARPUR CORRIDOR
SPECIAL SONG DEDICATED TO LAUNCHING CEREMONY

Released by
Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP) and
Ministry of Information Broadcasting

Listen to the full song of celebration.

FACT – Prime Minister Khan is looking forward to opening other historic corridors along the India-Pakistan border.

#PakistanOpenForBusiness
In an Op-Ed published by The Houston Chronicle, Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan stated: “The opening of the Kartarpur Corridor is one more confident step by Pakistan on that road - and another example of good faith, good will and good intentions. India should act responsibly, in the interest of peace and security in the region. It needs to end its military occupation of Kashmir, open up the region to the International community, and let the people of Kashmir determine their own future.

India must give peace a chance.”

Read more [here](#).

#SpiritOfPakistan

FACT: Houston, Texas, is home to a U.S.-Pakistani population of nearly 35,000 and more than 50 delicious and highly-rated Pakistani restaurants.
Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan joined the Sikh-American community members at the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev. The participants expressed their gratitude to Prime Minister Imran Khan for historic opening of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor.

**Guru Nanak** (15 April 1469 – 22 September 1539), also known as Baba Nanak, or Father Nanak, is known as the founder of Sikhism and the first of the 10 Sikh Gurus. His birth is celebrated worldwide as Guru Nanak Gurpurab on Kartik Pooranmashi, the full-moon day in the month of Katak, October–November.

Nanak travelled far and wide teaching people the message of one God who dwells in every one of His creations and constitutes the eternal Truth. He set up a unique spiritual, social, and political platform based on equality, fraternal love, goodness, and virtue.
The Embassy of Pakistan continues its efforts in effectively highlighting the Kashmir issue in U.S. media. Since August 5, 2019, when India stripped Kashmir of its special autonomous status, the U.S. media has carried over 500 articles, including editorials, Op-Eds, and news reports highlighting the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Kashmir.
STANDING WITH KASHMIR: TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HOLDS HEARING ON IOJK

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, the main human rights panel of the U.S. Congress held a hearing to examine the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir in India.

In his opening remarks, Rep. James P. McGovern, co-chair TLHRC stated:

“...restrictions placed on people’s human rights in the name of counter-terrorism must be in accordance with law and they must be proportionate. Indefinite arbitrary detention, for example, doesn’t meet that standard.

I believe that the first step is to let people in to Kashmir – specifically, journalists and independent human rights observers, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN special procedures, starting with the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. And let members of this Congress visit.”

Rep. David N. Cicilline, Member TLHRC, said the following:

“I have heard from my own constituents that their families back in Kashmir have been subject to violence by Indian police for attempting to engage in peaceful political protest, and there have been widespread stories about how the lack of food, medicine, and telecommunications have led to avoidable deaths of people within Jammu and Kashmir. I am also concerned about the religious motives that seem to be at play here, with the majority BJP party couching this move as a return to Hindu nationalism in India, and of course we are speaking of provinces that are majority Muslim and which include many religious and ethnic minorities.

...I am quite concerned that the Indian Government, which is an important partner to the United States, seems unconcerned by the stories emerging from Jammu and Kashmir and that they seem willing to take decidedly undemocratic steps in order to achieve their political goals. 2 The relationship between our two countries is based on a foundation of mutual respect for democracy and human rights and these actions seem to fly in the face of those values.”
In her testimony statement during the TLHRC hearing, Sehla Ashai, Esq. Kashmiri-American Human Rights Lawyer said:

“India’s approach to Kashmir can be summed up by an adaptation of Carl Sandburg’s famous quip: If the facts are against you, argue the law. If the law is against you, argue the facts. If the law and the facts are against you, pound the table and yell about Pakistan.”

India’s siege of Kashmir has surpassed 100 days - 100 days of night raids, torture, imprisonment, with no end in sight.***

***Yet, nothing has been unable to silence Kashmiris and the world's cry for freedom rising to a scream heard around the world.

Pakistan continues to stand with our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, parents and grandparents, all fighting to survive in IOJK.

#LetKashmirSpeak
#StandWithKashmir
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

There still may not be reliable internet or immediate access to phones, but life continues in IOJK, where there’s a new Harley-Davidson brand motorcycle dealership in the region. Spread on an area of 2000 sq. ft., along with an additional 1800 sq. ft. as a dedicated workshop, its opening is being championed across the Internet as a testament to human resilience.
“Several recent hearings and statements by U.S. members of Congress on Kashmir have shown that India’s attempts at normalizing its actions in Kashmir are failing to stand up to scrutiny.

Instead, a clear consensus has emerged. First, that what is happening in Kashmir is a serious humanitarian and geopolitical crisis. Second, that Kashmiris have a recognized right to self-determination, and that India is depriving them of this right in contravention of international law. And third, that Kashmir is not an internal Indian matter, but is instead an internationally recognized conflict that needs to be resolved.”

Read more here.
AMID RISING TENSIONS: A CONVERSATION WITH PAKISTAN’S AMBASSADOR

“...what India has done is that they have actually annexed a disputed territory and made it a part of their union, which is actually a violation of their own commitments. It is a violation of international law and the Security Council resolutions. And they have done it without actually asking the people of Kashmir. And then that’s why now for over a hundred days, the valley is in a lockdown.”

“Pakistan would like to see the U.S. exit in a responsible way, that we are not in favor of precipitated withdrawal. And obviously the U.S. presence in Afghanistan is something for the Afghan people to decide. And that’s why we believe that it has also got to be a shared responsibility where every other country also contributes, because long term sustainability of the process would eventually depend on everyone conveying the same message to all the stakeholders in Afghanistan.”

#LetKashmirSpeak #StandWithKashmir
Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan welcomed a delegation of journalists from Pakistan currently visiting Washington, D.C., under the 'U.S.-Pakistan Professional Partnership for Journalists' program, sponsored by the U.S. State Department and Oklahoma University.
The TEA program for Pakistan provides English teachers at secondary government and foundation schools with the opportunity to develop expertise in their subject area, enhance their teaching skills and English proficiency, and increase their knowledge about the United States through this exchange program. They are hosted by the State Dept. and Virginia Tech.
EMBASSY EVENTS: MEHFIL-E-MILAD

The Embassy of Pakistan, Washington D.C., organized a simple yet graceful ceremony (Mehfil-e- Milad) to celebrate the solemn occasion of birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Mrs. Zunaira Asad Khan, wife of Ambassador Asad M. Khan, reflected upon the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet. She said the Prophet’s life and character was the personification of the ideals of mercy, dignity, tolerance, fortitude, and forgiveness. Guest speakers also highlighted salient events and facets of Prophet Muhammad’s life, all of which carried the eternal message of peace and harmony.
People from around the world are reaching new heights across Pakistan! Prime Minister Imran Khan’s tourism e-visa initiatives are helping people, like Peter Watson, trek to K2, the world’s second highest peak.

Read more about Mr. Watson’s trip [here](#), and visit Pakistan today!

#LandOfExploration
What will $100 get you in Pakistan? Put your new e-visa to the test, and come see (or at least watch!) for yourself.
Another sign of vast improvement in Pakistan’s security environment: test cricket returns to Pakistan after 10 years! Improved security, liberal visa regime—we look forward to welcoming more sports teams, tourists, businesses to Pakistan.

Read more [here](#).

#PakTestCricket
BEYOND THE HEADLINES: PAKISTAN RANKS HIGH FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

In a recently conducted survey by Thomas Reuters Foundation and Deutsche Bank’s CSR Made For Good Global, Pakistan has made huge strides in terms of being a favorable country for social entrepreneurs. Pakistan tied with Canada, Australia, and Finland for the first place in terms of best places to make a living for social entrepreneurs.

Some of the factors on which Pakistan scored exceptionally well are women in leadership positions and ease of accessing investment. The improvement of livable income may be because Pakistan has become a more open market for do-good companies to sell to the general public.

The execution of essential economic reforms is guiding Pakistan’s economy in the right direction. Pakistan’s stock market surged by 30.4%, or almost 10,000 points, during the last three months. #ProgressivePakistan

According to the State Bank of Pakistan; in the first four months of the current fiscal year 2019-2020, Foreign Direct Investment witnessed 238% growth and jumped to $650m from $192m during the same period in the last fiscal year. #ProgressivePakistan
BEYOND THE HEADLINES:
QUEEN MAXIMA OF THE NETHERLANDS VISITS PAKISTAN

FACT: Queen Maxima also serves as the UN Secretary-General’s Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development.
Read more about the Queen’s visit here and here.
BEYOND THE HEADLINES: PAKISTANI BOXER EARN TOP 10 WORLD RANKING

In a shocking upset against Mexico, one of Pakistan’s best professional boxers, Mohammad Waseem, beat former World Boxing Council light flyweight champion, Ganigan Lopez, in their bout in Dubai. This is the tenth professional title for Waseem.

Read more here.

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BORN: August 29, 1987 (age 32 years)
Quetta, Pakistan
HEIGHT: 5’ 6”
TOTAL FIGHTS: 9
WEIGHT: Bantamweight DIVISION: Flyweight
BEYOND THE HEADLINES: PAK FIGURE SKATER WINS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Skating from the age of 5, Mallak hopes to represent Pakistan at the Olympics.

12-year-old Pakistani figure skater Mallak Faisal Zafar grabbed first position in the Basic Novice Girls II category at the 24th International Eiscup Innsbruck 2019 for her nearly perfect display during the two-day event in Austria. Over 200 participants from Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and a number of other countries competed in the popular inter-club singles competitions for seniors, juniors, advanced novice, intermediate novice, basic novice, cubs, and chicks.

WATCH the winning performance HERE.