

Media Tracking Report

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Education in Pakistan

HEC Launches National Academy Of Higher Education- by [Academic Magazine](#)

HEC has established National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) to enable the country's higher education sector to become more effective in academic excellence, management and problem-oriented research. The main objective of NAHE is to meet HEC's mission of improving the quality of teaching, learning and research in HEIs of Pakistan in addition to capacity building and promotion of academic and leadership competencies. It will offer generic as well as need-based capacity building services to enhance quality of teaching, research, and management in higher education institutions.

HEC receives small share- in [The News](#)

The government of Pakistan have curtailed allocation of funds to HEC by 40% this year as compared to last year 2018-2019. Despite making tall claims of laying priority on improvement of education sector, has made less allocation of funds to Higher Education Commission (HEC) in the current budget for the fiscal year 2019-20. Compared to previous allocation of funds of Rs46 billion to HEC in the budget 2018-19, the present government has made total allocation of only Rs29 billion to be spent on on-going and new schemes in the current year.

Taxation measure by Dr. Faisal Bari- in [Dawn](#)

The author comments on the government's current budget and explains how prior stabilization effort have not attained equitable growth. According to him the government needs to give out a plan on how stabilisation will lead to sustained and equitable growth. "The budget is a tough one. But it was expected to be. Our deficits — fiscal, trade and foreign currency — had to be addressed. Some of this is part of the IMF conditionality, but even if we had not gone into an IMF agreement, this budget had to address underlying issues. If the state does not have the money to spend, it will have to raise more money and reduce expenditure, both, to make ends meet. If we do not have enough dollars to pay for our import needs, imports will have to be curtailed and we will have to try to raise exports to get more dollars." says Dr. Faisal Bari.

World Bank to provide \$465m for education, power projects- in [Dawn](#)

The approval of \$400m 'Higher Education Development in Pakistan' project will strengthen tertiary education to produce skilled, innovative and enterprising graduates. It will strengthen partnerships with industry for strategic research and develop data-driven governance of tertiary education.

The 'Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade' project (CASA-1000) will enable sustainable electricity trade between Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Tajikistan. The project will use \$65 million in additional financing to complete Pakistan's infrastructure part of the CASA-1000 project.

CPEC and Pakistan

Repayment of Chinese infrastructure loans to start in 2021- in [Express Tribune](#)

Pakistan will start repayments for infrastructure project to China by the year 2021, the Senate Special Committee on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) said.

The secretary of the planning department, Zafar Hassan, informed the committee that China has provided the Pakistani government with concessional loan and buyer's credit for the Orange Line project at 2 per cent and 5.2 per cent interest respectively.

Pakistan proposes some 1.3 bln USD for CPEC in fresh budget-in [Xinhua](#)

The Pakistani government in its fresh budget has allocated 200 billion rupees (about 1.33 billion U.S. dollars) for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and relevant projects during the 2019-20 financial year starting July 1, 2019.

The country's Minister of Revenue Hammad Azhar, who presented the budget of 7.022 trillion rupees for the upcoming fiscal year, said that the government has increased CPEC budget by 1 percent than the ongoing year, while the total budget increased by 30 percent compared to the current fiscal year.

Financing projection for five years: \$9.82 billion inflows, \$6.81 billion outflows expected under CPEC-in [Business Recorder](#)

The Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform gave financing projection of \$ 9.82 billion inflows and \$6.81 billion outflows during next five financial years, ie, 2019-23 under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). According to documents and briefing of Federal Secretary Ministry of Planning Zafar Hasan to Senate Special Committee on CPEC, there is expected financing projection of \$ 2.78 billion inflows and \$ 1.01 billion outflows during 2019-20 under the CPEC.

The Ministry also predicted \$ 3.5 billion inflows and \$ 1.23 billion outflows during 2020-21, \$ 2.5 billion inflows and \$ 1.88 billion outflows in 2021-22 and \$ 1.04 billion inflows and \$ 2.69 billion outflows in financial year 2022-23 under CPEC. The committee which met with Senator Sherry Rehman in the chair at Parliament House on Thursday, discussed CPEC financing and debt uptake, second phase of CPEC and establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

India and America collude to disrupt the China-Pakistan economic corridor- in [Open Democracy](#)

The star project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is a mega endeavor consisting of numerous economic and infrastructure projects throughout Pakistan. The \$62 billion CPEC's main highpoints include a 3,000-kilometer network of railways, oil and gas pipelines connecting both countries, as well as new renewable energy projects.

As soon as CPEC was publicized, a shift in regional alliances was set in motion. India has from the outset opposed the CPEC and BRI – even though China has on a myriad of occasions requested them to partake in the endeavor. Ostensibly, India claims to resist the project due to it passing through Pakistan's Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan areas (India asserts that these regions belong to them). However, their fervent distaste for CPEC is due to two other reasons. Firstly, CPEC's success would bolster China's position as the regional hegemon, propelling them to superpower status. Secondly, if CPEC works, Pakistan, a historic rival of India, would become a stronger and more stable regional and economic actor.

Pakistan is first recipient of Chinese newly formed aid agency SIDCA: Senate body informed-in [Dunya News](#)

Senate Special Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was informed on Thursday that Pakistan was the first recipient country of newly formed Chinese aid agency State International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDCA) under which China would provide grant of US \$1 billion for various projects of socioeconomic uplift of Pakistan.

Briefing the committee, Secretary Planning Zafar Hassan said China would provide grant of \$1 billion in two stages and under the first stage, the country would invest \$200 to \$300 million in 16 small social projects, which would be completed within a year while the rest amount would be issued in three years time.

Implications of IMF's Package on Pakistan's Budget 2019-2020

Watched by IMF, Pakistan targets steep rise in tax revenue- in [Reuters](#)

Pakistan's government targeted a sharp hike in tax revenues as it presented plans for next year's budget, amid shouts and protests from opponents in parliament angry at measures set under pressure for an IMF loan agreement. Seeking final approval for an International Monetary Fund bailout, the government had already prepared the ground for widespread belt-tightening. But the goals unveiled by Revenue Minister Hammad Azhar for the fiscal year to June 2020 underlined the scale of the economic challenges it faces. He forecast a budget deficit of 7.1% of gross domestic product, after the gap in the current year blew out to 7.2%.

Budget 2019-20: IMF hand clearly visible in budget proposals -in [DAWN](#)

IN its first full-year budget for the next fiscal year, the Imran Khan government is aiming to bring down the primary (budget) deficit to 0.6 per cent of GDP by focusing on plugging the loopholes in the indirect tax regime, withdrawing the tax exemptions to exporters and others, going after retailers, and blocking avenues of whitening illegal money through investments in property. The primary deficit is the difference between expenditures (net of debt servicing) and net federal revenues (after adding provincial surpluses). The overall fiscal deficit, however, is envisaged to remain at nearly the same level as this year's.

Civil Services Reforms

PM directs raising retirement age-in [The Express Tribune](#)

Prime Minister Imran Khan directed the Ministry of Finance to explore the possibility of increasing superannuation age limit of civil servants and early retirement of dead wood – a move that if implemented could transform the bureaucratic structure.

The current superannuation age of civil servants is 60 years, but average life expectancy has increased to 69 years, providing room for enhancing the limit by at least three years.