

## Strengthening SMEs through Inclusive Access to Finance and Matching Grant Cheque Distribution

### Media Coverage Report

#### PTV News:



#### PTV Bolan:



## 92 News:



## 365 News:



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## News One:





**Public News:****SAMAA News:**

## Associated Press of Pakistan:



CM Bugti stresses for merit, youth empowerment, good governance



Sarfraz Bugti acknowledged that years of corruption and mismanagement had alienated the youth, but the incumbent is committed to rebuilding public trust. He added that a new youth policy has been introduced to integrate young people into the economic mainstream, with a focus on job creation and entrepreneurship.

The chief minister revealed that as many as Rs 18 billion interest-free loan program has been earmarked for youth, to be implemented in collaboration with the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP).

Bugti added that as revenues grow from international investments in projects like Rako Diq and Saindak, more resources will be directed toward youth development.

He said that the government is working to upgrade infrastructure in divisional headquarters. Bugti also warned against inflated land valuations under the guise of road expansion, vowing to end such exploitative practices.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PPAF Nadeem Gul Barchi highlighted the success of the Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project, noting that each grant and loan empowers small entrepreneurs, generates employment, and adds value to local products. He emphasized that small businesses, when supported, can transform entire communities.

Addressing the ceremony, Nadeem Gul Barchi, CEO PPAF said "Every grant and loan facilitated under GRASP translates into new opportunities for small-scale entrepreneurs. These enterprises are creating jobs, adding value to local produce and proving that with the right support, small businesses can transform entire communities. The project has opened doors for rural SMEs, creating livelihood opportunities, enhancing exports and strengthening Balochistan's economy."

Chief of Sector and Enterprise Competence at the ITC, Robert Skidmore praised GRASP for connecting Balochistan's SMEs and farmers to national and global markets. He said the initiative has significantly boosted incomes and created thousands of jobs, proving that private-sector partnerships can drive inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti visited business stalls set up by young entrepreneurs and awarding grants to selected business owners, reinforcing the government's commitment to grassroots economic empowerment.

The Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) Project, a six-year worth of USD 55 million initiative funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) in partnership with UNFPA, SIDA, and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) aims to reduce poverty by strengthening SMEs in the horticulture and livestock value chains across 22 districts of Balochistan and Sindh.

As part of this initiative, the event on Strengthening SMEs through Inclusive Access to Finance is designed to address the financial barriers faced by SMEs, featuring the distribution of Matching Grant cheques worth Rs 172.5 million and an exhibition showcasing agri-businesses.

## Balochistan Express:

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**Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti distributing matching grant cheques to small business owners at the seminar organized by PPAF and ITC with the support of the European Union here Thursday.**

<https://www.bexpress.com.pk/epaper>

## Mashriq News:



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<https://dailyahemkhabar.pk/2025/08/29/6752/>

## Jang News:



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