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China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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February 01, 2025

Daily Times

PM, Chinese envoy discuss bilateral economic, security cooperation

Chinese Ambassador in Islamabad Jiang Zaidong on Friday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here wherein they discussed the matters related to economic and security cooperation between the two countries.

The prime minister greeted the ambassador and conveyed his good wishes to the Chinese leadership and the people of China, including all Chinese nationals residing in Pakistan, as they celebrated the Chinese New Year, according to a PM Office press release.

He expressed the hope that this new year would further strengthen the bonds of friendship between Pakistan and China and bring prosperity to the peoples of both countries. Ambassador Jiang Zaidong thanked the prime minister and the people of Pakistan for extending their warm wishes to the Chinese government and its people on this joyous occasion.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1261511/pm-chinese-envoy-discuss-bilateral-economic-security-cooperation/

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, Xi and Trump

Rizwan Ghani

MISCHIEVOUS propaganda against Pakistan's ties with the US and China is irrelevant. Like China, American investors are eager to invest in Pakistan's mining, energy and technology sectors. To boost its economy, Pakistan remains open to foreign investment. Despite the failure of the US-China trade deal in Trump's first term, Xi allowed major American brands like Apple, Tesla and GE to operate in China, emphasizing Beijing's welcoming stance on foreign investments.

Like China and the US, Pakistan needs strong policies, including corruption control, to protect and expand foreign investments. With DeepSeek's $1T loss to the US economy, Xi holds leverage over Trump in US-China trade. The global economy is advancing without the US, as seen in restored China-India flights, the Latin America-EU Mercosur free-trade deal and European nations, including the UK, pursuing pragmatic economic ties with China.

The US and China are competitors, not enemies. In her book The New China Playbook: Beyond Socialism and Capitalism, LSE's Prof. Jin highlights China's separation of its economy from politics. China's grassroots economic devolution links party promotions to GDP while maintaining state control over subsidies and SOEs, leaving Trump with no choice but to accept a fair, not favorable, trade deal.

China's apolitical mayor economic model fosters grassroots economic growth without resorting to Trump-style authoritarianism or Europe's far-right surge amid the cost-of-living crisis. Advances in solar panels, robotics, EVs and AI stem from this model at a fraction of

Western AI's projected $500B expenditure, as seen in DeepSeek's $5M cost. To tackle job challenges, China is adopting Germany's manufacturing model over the US's, aiming to employ 100 million graduates. Its Made in China 2025 initiative provides a blueprint for global youth employment.

Trump must work with Xi to address capitalism's cyclical boom-bust cycles and turn America's golden age into a global economic era. However, Trump risks becoming a lame-duck president if he fails to reduce grocery prices. Unlike Roosevelt, who froze prices through the 1942 Emergency Price Control Act, Trump has failed to contain inflation. China has moved beyond Reagan-Thatcher trickle-down capitalism, which led to wealth accumulation at the top through privatization, deindustrialization and tax cuts. With a razor-thin majority in Congress and 2026 mid-term losses looming, Republicans must address the cost-of-living crisis.

Trump failed to secure the TPP trade deal due to America's declining industrial output. By opening trade with China, he can cut costs and stabilize the global economy. Traditional industries are vanishing, replaced by EVs and automation. Immigration sustains Western economies, filling skill gaps and supporting tax revenues. The Joint Economic Committee notes that immigrants comprise 18% of essential US workers and contribute $1.7T to the economy.

Trump won as a "no-war" president. His foreign policy, as Rubio stated, prioritizes national interest over international agreements. Trump and Xi can foster trade deals for global peace and prosperity. China remains committed to avoiding unprovoked war and will allow consumers to buy imported EVs under $12K while reducing subsidies for US manufacturers.

By delinking the economy from global politics, Trump can succeed where his predecessors failed, avoiding endless wars. He must focus on recovering the $2.4T lost in Afghanistan, as per the Afghan Papers in The Washington Post. A peaceful Pakistan, free from Indian-backed terrorism, will emerge as a key trade and investment hub in the region.

https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-xi-and-trump/

The News

PM, Chinese envoy discuss economic, security ties

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador in Islamabad Jiang Zaidong on Friday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here wherein they discussed the matters related to economic and security cooperation between the two countries.

The prime minister greeted the ambassador and conveyed his good wishes to the Chinese leadership and the people of China, including all Chinese nationals residing in Pakistan, as they celebrated the Chinese New Year, according to a PM Office press release.

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extending their warm wishes to the Chinese government and its people on this joyous occasion.

Meanwhile, the prime minister, in his message on World Interfaith Harmony Week being observed from February 1st to 7th, urged the religious scholars, community leaders and citizens to play their role in promoting brotherhood as extremism and divisive rhetoric were threat to social peace and harmony.

The prime minister shared these views while joining the international community in observing World Interfaith Harmony, a PM Office news release said.

Shehbaz said this week served as a powerful reminder of the importance of dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among diverse religious communities.

"Pakistan, envisioned by our founding father Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as a sanctuary for all faiths, remains steadfast in its constitutional oath to protect every citizens' right to belief, dignity, and equality.

"Our faith, rooted in Islam's timeless teachings of justice, mercy, and respect for all creation, compels us to lead by example," the prime minister said.

He resolved that the government would continue to uphold these values through policies that promote inclusivity and social cohesion.

"To those who sow hatred, we respond with dialogue. To those who preach fear, we answer with courage. To those who divide, we build bridges," the prime minister said.

He added that the government was committed to fostering an environment of acceptance, tolerance, and mutual respect.

The groundbreaking Interfaith Harmony Policy and Strategy of Religious Tolerance were enforced, targeting hate speech at its core, safeguarding every temple, church, and shrine, the prime minister said. He underscored that despite policy interventions implemented, the government recognised that challenges persist.

"Extremism and divisive rhetoric, remain threats to our social fabric. At a time when the world faces growing challenges of intolerance and division, it is essential to reaffirm our collective commitment to peace and unity," he said.

"May this week inspire us all to embrace the values of tolerance and cooperation, ensuring a peaceful and prosperous future for all," the prime minister said.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=380479

K2 Daily



پاک چین دوستی اگلی نسلوں تک پہنچانا قومی فریضہ قرار

سی پیک کا پہلا مرحلہ مکمل، دوسرے مرحلے کی طرف بڑھ رہے ہیں

ون بیلٹ ون روڈ پاک چین دوستی کا جیتا جاگتا ثبوت ہے، عطاء تارڑ

اسلام آباد (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات عطاء اللہ تارڑ نے کہا ہے کہ ون بیلٹ ون روڈ سے معیشت کے ثمرات جڑے ہوئے ہیں اور بہت سی اس سے کہانیاں جڑی ہوئی ہیں۔ چین کے نئے قمری سال اور موسم بہار کی تقریب سے خطاب میں عطاء اللہ تارڑ (باقی صفحہ 7 بقیہ نمبر 40)

بقیہ 40

نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی کا لازوال سفر جاری و ساری ہے، ون بیلٹ ون روڈ صدر شی جن پنگ کا شاندار منصوبہ ہے۔ سی پیک کا پہلا مرحلہ مکمل ہونے کے بعد ہم دوسرے مرحلے کی طرف بڑھ رہے ہیں، گوادر ایئرپورٹ کا افتتاح ہو چکا جہاں پہلی فلائیٹ لینڈ ہوئی جو بہت بڑا سنگ میل ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی ہمارے دلوں کے قریب ہے اور پوری دنیا میں ایک مثال ہے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سرحدوں کے ساتھ ساتھ پہاڑ اور شاہراہیں بھی مشترک ہیں، پاک چین لازوال دوستی حکومت سے حکومت اور عوام کے درمیان گہرے اور والہانہ تعلق پر مبنی ہے۔ پاک چین دوستی ہمالیہ سے اونچی، سمندروں سے گہری اور شہد سے میٹھی ہے۔ عطاء اللہ تارڑ نے کہا کہ چین کے ایکسچینج پروگرام کا چھ مرتبہ حصہ رہا، چین کے جن شہروں میں بھی گیا کبھی ملک سے باہر ہونے کا احساس نہیں ہوا، چین میں جا کر ہمیشہ اپنائیت کا احساس ہوتا ہے۔ اس بات پر خوشی اور فخر ہے کہ دونوں ممالک کے عوام ایک دوسرے کی عزت کرتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ قراقرم شاہراہ شمال کے پہاڑی علاقوں اور ریگستانوں سے گزرتے ہوئے گوادر پر ختم ہوتی ہے جس کے بعد سمندر کا سفر شروع ہوتا ہے، ون بیلٹ ون روڈ پاک چین دوستی کا جیتا جاگتا ثبوت ہے، ہم پاک چین دوستی کے امین اور محافظ ہیں۔ ہمارا قومی فریضہ ہے کہ پاک چین دوستی کو زیادہ مضبوط کر کے اگلی نسلوں تک پہنچائیں۔ پاک چین دوستی آنے والے وقتوں، بہار ہو یا خزاں، کی محتاج نہیں اور میری دعا ہے کہ یہ دوستی ہمیشہ قائم و دائم رہے۔ وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان اور چین آہنی بھائی ہیں، ہمیشہ اچھے اور بروقت اکٹھے دیکھے ہیں، ایسا وقت بھی دیکھا جب دونوں پر مشکل آئی تو دونوں ایک ساتھ کھڑے ہوئے۔ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کے حالیہ دورہ چین کے دوران صدر شی جن پنگ کے آبائی شہر شیان کا بھی دورہ کیا، چین کے دوستوں کے مشکور ہیں جنہوں نے ہمیشہ تعاون فراہم کیا، پاک چین دوستی کی مضبوطی میں آخری سانس تک اپنا کردار ادا کرتے رہیں گے، پاک چین دوستی۔ زندہ باد!

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2025-02-01

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2025-02-01

Nawaiwaqt News

چین میں نئے سال کی تقرتبات جاری

رانا فرحان اسلم

عوامی جمہوریہ چین میں نئے سال کی 15 روزہ تقریبات جوش وخروش سے جاری ہیں، ہفتہ تعطیلات منانے کے ساتھ چین سمیت دنیا بھر میں چینی باشندے نئے سال کے تہوار کی خوشیوں میں شریک رہے۔ ایک ارب 40 کروڑ چینی ہر سال اپنے قومی کیلنڈر کے مطابق، قمری سال کا جشن مناتے ہیں۔ جس کیلئے ہر سال کسی جاندار کی علامت بھی مخصوص ہوتی ہے۔ اس سال کو چین میں سانپ کا سال کہا گیا ہے۔ نئے سال کے آغاز پر چین میں کروڑوں افراد نے اپنے آبائی علاقوں کا رخ کیا ہے اور تمام کام کاج بند رکھ کر تعطیلات دیں گئیں۔ اس عمل کو دنیا کی سب سے بڑی سالانہ نقل مکانی بھی کہا جاتا ہے نیا قمری سال کا جشن ایشیا کے متعدد ممالک میں منایا جاتا ہے۔ اس موقع پر آتش بازی کے مظاہرے ہوتے ہیں، لوگ زرق برق ملبوسات پہنتے ہیں، سرخ لالٹینیں روشن کی جاتی ہیں اور طرح طرح کے پکوان تیار کیے جاتے ہیں۔

چین میں نئے سال کے آغاز کے حوالے سے پاکستان میں سفارت خانے سمیت دیگر بڑے شہروں میں بھی سرکاری تقریبات رکھی گئی تھیں۔ جہاں برادر ملک سے اظہار یکجہتی کیلئے وزیر اعظم پاکستان سمیت وفاقی وزراء نے بھی بڑی تعداد میں شرکت کی اور چین کے نئے سال کی خوشیوں میں شریک ہوئے۔ اسلام آباد سمیت ملک کے بڑے شہروں میں چینی قونصل خانوں میں سرکاری سطح پر تقریبات کا انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں قومی وصوبائی سیاسی قائدین نے شرکت کی۔ چین اور پاکستان کے شہریوں نے بھی ان تقریبات میں بڑھ چڑھ کر حصہ لیا اور خوشیوں کو ایک دوسرے کیساتھ مل کر منایا اس ضمن میں وزیر اعظم پاکستان محمد شہباز شریف نے چینی سفیر کو چینی سال نو کی مبارکباد دیتے ہوئے امید ظاہر کی ہے کہ نیا سال پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دوستی کے رشتے کو مزید مضبوط کرے گا اور دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے لئے خوشحالی لائے گا عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے سفیر جیانگ زیڈونگ نے شہباز شریف سے وزیر اعظم ہائوس میں ملاقات کی جس میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اقتصادی اور سکیورٹی تعاون سے متعلق امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے چینی سفیر کو چینی سال نو کی مبارکباد دی اور نئے سال کی تقریبات میں چینی قیادت کے ساتھ ساتھ چین کے برادر عوام بشمول پاکستان میں مقیم تمام چینی شہریوں کے لئے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا۔ چینی سفیر نے وزیر اعظم اور پاکستانی عوام کا شکریہ ادا کیا شہباز شریف نے چینی سفیر کو چینی سال نو کی مبارکباد دیتے ہوئے امید ظاہر کی ہے کہ نیا سال پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دوستی کے رشتے کو مزید مضبوط کرے گا اور دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے لئے خوشحالی لائے گا وزیر اعظم آفس کے میڈیا ونگ سے جاری بیان کے مطابق عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے پاکستان میں سفیر جیانگ زیڈونگ نے وزیر اعظم سے وزیر اعظم ہائوس میں ملاقات کی۔ دریں اثنا شہباز شریف نے عالمی ہفتہ برائے بین المذاہب ہم آہنگی کے موقع پر جاری پیغام میں کہا ہے ہم عالمی برادری کے ساتھ مل کر بین المذاہب ہم آہنگی کا ہفتہ منا رہے ہیں، یہ ہفتہ پوری دنیا میں متنوع مذہبی برادریوں کے مابین مکالمے، ہم آہنگی اور تعاون کو اجاگر کرنے کیلئے اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ دعا ہے یہ ہفتہ ہم سب کو، اپنی زندگی میں، باہمی برداشت وتعاون کی اقدار کو اپنانے کی ترغیب دے، جو تمام شہریوں کے پرامن اور خوشحال مستقبل کو یقینی بنائے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے پاکستان میں تعینات سفیر جیانگ زیڈونگ نے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف سے ملاقات کی ملاقات میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اقتصادی اور سکیورٹی تعاون سے متعلق امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے چینی سفیر کو چینی سال نو کی مبارکباد دی اور نئے سال کی تقریبات میں چینی قیادت کے ساتھ ساتھ چین کے برادر عوام بشمول پاکستان میں مقیم تمام چینی شہریوں کے لئے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا۔ انہوں نے امید ظاہر کی کہ یہ نیا سال پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دوستی کے رشتے کو مزید مضبوط کرے گا اور دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے لئے خوشحالی لائے گا۔ چینی سفیر نے اس خوشی کے موقع پر چینی حکومت اور اس کے عوام کے لئے نیک تمناؤں کا اظہار کرنے پر وزیر اعظم اور پاکستانی عوام کا شکریہ ادا کیا نئے سال کی مناسبت سے پاکستان نیشنل کونسل آف دی آرٹس (پی این سی اے) اسلام آباد میں بھی تقریبات کا انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات ونشریات عطا تارڑ سمیت دیگر حکومتی شخصیات نے بھی شرکت کی دن بھر جاری رہنے والی تقریبات میں فوقتاً فوقتاً مختلف وزراء سیاسی جماعتوں کے قائدین مختلف مکاتب فکر سے تعلق رکھنے والی شخصیات شریک ہوتی رہی اور برادر پڑوسی ملک کی خوشیوں میں بھرپور طریقے سے

سے شریک ہوتے رہے اسلام آباد اور پاکستان میں موجود چین کے سفارتخانے کا عملہ اور چینی شہریوں نے بھی اس تہوار کو پاکستانیوں کیساتھ ملک کر منایا اور تقریبات میں پاکستان کی حکومتی و سرکاری شخصیات کی شرکت پر شکریہ بھی ادا کیا چین، جاپان، تھائی لینڈ، ویتنام اور فلپائن سمیت دنیا کے مختلف ممالک میں بسنے والے چینی باشندے آج نئے قمری سال کا جشن منا رہے ہیں چین کے قمری کلینڈر کے مطابق نئے سال کا آغاز 29 جنوری سے ہوتا ہے جس کی تقریبات 15 روز تک جاری رہیں گی۔ چین کے نئے قمری سال کا آغاز موسم سرما کے اختتام اور بہار کی آمد کے موقع پر ہوتا ہے نئے قمری سال کے آغاز کی خوشی میں عزیز و اقارب کو مدعو کیا جاتا ہے اور مختلف تقاریب کا انعقاد بھی کیا جاتا ہے لندن: چینی قمری سال کی رنگارنگ تقریبات کا آغاز چینی روایات کے مطابق ہر نئے قمری سال کو کسی نہ کسی جانور یا پرندے سے منسوب کیا جاتا ہے اور اس بار نئے سال کو سانپ سے منسوب کیا گیا ہے یاد رہے کہ چینی نئے قمری سال کو بہار کا تہوار بھی کہا جاتا ہے، چینی قمری کیلنڈر کے پہلے مہینے کے پہلے دن آتا ہے اور یہ چین کا سب سے اہم تہوار ہے چائنیز نیو سال کے موقع پر ہر گھر میں سرخ جوڑے آویزاں کیے جاتے ہیں، آتش بازی اور پٹاخے چلائے جاتے ہیں اور ساتھ ہی بری روحوں سے بچنے کیلئے اپنے گھروں کو روشن اور صاف رکھا جاتا ہے چین میں نئے سال کی ابتدائی صبح، لوگ عام طور پر رشتہ داروں اور دوستوں سے ملکر دعاوں اور نیک خواہشات کا تبادلہ کرتے ہیں۔ یہ رسم و رواج ہزاروں سالوں سے نسل در نسل منتقل ہوتے چلے آرہے ہیں۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-02-04/page-7/detail-2

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Pakistan Observer

Welcoming Chinese Lunar year of snake

Sultan M Hali

THE Chinese Lunar New Year, marked by the Snake—a symbol among the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac—has commenced. Each animal is associated with certain characteristics and attributes. The Year of the Snake is considered a time of transformation and elegance. The characteristics of the Year of the Snake are numerous. Foremost is "Wisdom": People born in the Year of the Snake are seen as intelligent and wise. They are often insightful and have an innate ability to assess situations accurately. Second characteristic is "Mystery": Snakes are associated with mystery and discretion. They tend to be private and prefer to keep a low profile. Third quality is "Elegance": Snakes are often seen as graceful and refined. Their movements and mannerisms are typically smooth and sophisticated. Fourth distinction is "Element Influence". In Chinese culture, every zodiac sign is also associated with one of the five elements: Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water. The combination of the animal sign and element provides deeper insights into a person's personality and fate. The symbolism is noteworthy. The snake is often seen as a symbol of fertility and rebirth. This is partly due to the snake's ability to shed its skin, symbolizing renewal and transformation. It is also associated with wisdom and knowledge, drawing connections to ancient wisdom in various cultures. The Chinese Lunar New Year, also known as Spring Festival (春节, Chūnjié), is one of the most significant and widely celebrated traditional festivals in China. Its origins date back thousands of years and are rooted in Chinese folklore, agrarian culture, and astronomy. The Chinese Lunar New Year has ancient agricultural roots, marking the end of winter and the start of spring, when farmers prepare for the planting season. It follows the lunisolar calendar, with the date varying between January 21 and February 20. The festival is steeped in myths, one of which is the legend of Nian (年),

a fearsome beast that would emerge at winter's end to attack villagers, especially children. The villagers discovered that Nian was scared of loud noises, bright lights and the colour red. To ward off the creature, they set off firecrackers, lit lanterns and decorated their homes with red banners. This practice continues today, symbolized by fireworks and vibrant red decorations during the New Year celebrations. The tradition represents both protection and the hope for good fortune in the coming year. There is a strong cultural significance related to the celebrations. Chinese New Year is a time for family gatherings and reunions. People travel from far and wide to be with their loved ones, emphasizing the importance of family bonds and togetherness. It is a time for festivities and traditions. The celebrations typically include various customs such as giving red envelopes filled with money, enjoying feasts with traditional foods, performing dragon and lion dances, and visiting temples. Each activity carries its own meaning, often related to good fortune, prosperity, and health for the coming year. In the modern era, there is global celebration. Over the years, Chinese New Year has evolved into an international festival celebrated by Chinese communities and others around the world. It is known for its colourful parades, cultural performances, and vibrant markets. Cultural celebrations include various festivals and traditions focuses on ushering in luck and prosperity. People may conduct rituals to ensure a year filled with wisdom and good fortune. Some regions have unique local customs that add to the rich tapestry of the celebration. For example, in certain areas, the Lantern Festival marks the end of the New Year festivities, featuring beautiful lantern displays and puzzle-solving games. Many influential figures across different fields were born in the Year of the Snake. In the arena of entertainment and music, the globally renowned singer-songwriter, Taylor Swift was born in 1989, a Year of the Snake. The famous author of the Harry Potter series, J.K. Rowling was born in 1965. The influential media mogul and talk show host, Oprah Winfrey was born in 1954. The legendary singer-songwriter, Bob Dylan also shares the Snake zodiac. In the realm of politics and leadership, several renowned personalities were born in the Year of the Snake. John F. Kennedy, the 35th US President, was born in 1917, the same year as Indira Gandhi, India's first female Prime Minister. Xi Jinping, China's current president, was born in 1953, during the Year of the Snake, and took office in the 2013 Snake year. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was born in 1978. In science, notable figures include Sir Isaac Newton, born in 1642, and Stephen Hawking, born in 1942. In technology, Apple Inc. co-founder Steve Jobs, born in 1955, also shares this zodiac sign. These individuals, known for their significant contributions, embody the wisdom and influence often associated with the Snake zodiac. Some famous sportsmen born under this auspicious sign include Muhammad Ali, the iconic heavyweight boxing champion, born in 1942. The legendary basketball player, Michael Jordan, often considered the greatest of all time, was born in 1963. The famed Chinese hurdler, Liu Xiang was born in 1983. In a nutshell, the qualities often associated with this zodiac sign—wisdom, elegance, and mystery remain significant. The Chinese government officially acknowledges and promotes the celebration of the Lunar New Year, including the Year of the Snake, as a significant cultural and traditional festival. Its stance, like other Chinese zodiac years, is one of cultural preservation, promotion, and modernization, aimed at maintaining the rich traditions while adapting to contemporary societal needs. https://pakobserver.net/welcoming-chinese-lunar-year-of-snake/

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Daily Times

CPEC: A Corridor of Growth

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which started in 2015 has been a thorn in many's side since then.

The project not only promises economic revival to Pakistan but is also an emblem of China's decades-long friendship. Time and again, certain misinformation campaigns have surfaced with an aim to undermine the project. A similar effort has been made through a recent article "What Went Wrong with 'Pakistan's Dubai' – Inside the Chinese Initiative that is Prompting Terror Attacks" published in 'The Guardian'. The article talks about the security challenges CPEC is confronted with and also mentions the allegations of the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) over China for exploiting the resources of Balochistan. It's true that the flagship project is faced with security challenges; however, CPEC cannot be framed as the root cause for the volatile security situation. The security concerns appear to stem from broader opposition to Pakistan's development initiatives, with various actors working to impede the country's progress, whether through CPEC or other ventures Moreover, the BLA's accusations are fabricated and driven by their ulterior motives rather than genuine concern for the development of Balochistan. Contrary to BLA's claims, CPEC has brought water, electricity, roads, schools to the impoverished region of Pakistan. One notable example is The China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital (CPFH) which serves over 900 patients daily and has opened doors of employment to nearly 300 local people. Had the BLA been genuinely concerned for the prosperity of Balochistan, it would have shown unwavering support for the development projects initiated for the betterment of the Baloch populace. The article also accuses China of having military motives under the guise of enhancing economic growth and connectivity through Gwadar port. However, Chinese officials have categorically denied these allegations, asserting that the Gwadar port is purely a commercial venture and has no hidden military objectives. China has always pursued the policy of building its global image as that of a soft power, emphasizing economic partnerships and infrastructural development. Pursuing military objectives through Gwadar would contradict its long-standing policy. Moreover, this might also result in Pakistan permanently slipping into the US's court which would be detrimental to China's long-term strategic interests in the region- a setback that China would definitely not prefer. Furthermore, there has been little to no evidence regarding the presence of any infrastructure hinting towards the use of a port for military purposes shortly which further questions the veracity of such allegations. Clearly, the recently published article and the likes of it aim to cast doubts among the public and sabotage the longstanding relationship between Pakistan and China through fabricated charges. No doubt, the CPEC project is faced with different challenges; however, it is crucial to recognize that the project's true purpose is to ensure economic connectivity and the betterment of the people of Pakistan.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1262162/cpec-a-corridor-of-growth/

Pakistan Observer

Chart a New Vision at the Start of the New Year and embark on a New Journey of China-Pakistan Relations

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Jiang Zaidong

At the invitation of President Xi Jinping, President Asif Ali Zardari will pay a state visit to China from February 4 to February 8. This visit coincides with the 10th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Pakistan in 2015, as well as the joyous occasion of the Chinese New Year celebrations. The visit holds great significance in charting the course for China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic Cooperation and guiding the direction for our bilateral relations amid profound changes unseen in a century.

High-level strategic guidance provides fundamental guarantee for the development of China-Pakistan relations. It is because President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders positioned China-Pakistan relations as All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership that the bilateral relations have grown stronger despite global transformations. It is because of President Xi Jinping's planning and promotion that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has progressed from the "1+4" layout to a new phase of building the upgraded version. President Xi Jinping and President Zardari have maintained close communication, reached important consensus and provided fundamental guidance on advancing our all-weather strategic cooperation. As President Zardari pointed out, China and Pakistan are both at the critical stage of our development. Pakistan is striving for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, while China remains committed to the pursuit of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In this noble endeavor, Pakistan will always be China's ironclad brother, reliable friend, and trustworthy partner.

Practical cooperation in various fields has laid a solid foundation for the development of China-Pakistan relations. In the past year, China-Pakistan practical cooperation has moved forward steadily despite the adverse impact of the external environment. Just on December 1 last year, the Khunjerab Pass was officially open all year round, becoming an important landmark for the progress of China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era; on December 30, the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-5 (C-5) has officially started construction, which will bring 40,000 jobs to the local people; not long ago, Gwadar New International Airport welcomed its first domestic and international commercial flights, opening up a new prospect for promoting airport and port linkage; A team of Chinese experts traveled thousands of miles to Pakistan to successfully perform operations on children with congenital heart disease, allowing them to regain health and restoring hope for their families. These tangible results reflect the resilient certainty of China-Pakistan cooperation in the uncertain world. We are willing to continue to strengthen the synergy of development strategies with Pakistan, deepen mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation, build the upgraded version of CPEC, and better benefit the two peoples.

Security cooperation has provided protection for the development of China-Pakistan relations. President Xi Jinping pointed out that our cooperation in the security and economic fields reinforce each other, and the two wheels must be advanced simultaneously. A safe and stable

environment is indispensable for China-Pakistan practical cooperation including CPEC construction. We speak highly of Pakistan's unremitting efforts and huge sacrifices in combating terrorism, and it's important contributions to maintaining international peace and security. The two sides reiterate our "zero tolerance" attitude to combat all forms of terrorism, agree to further strengthen bilateral and multilateral anti-terrorism cooperation, jointly oppose the politicizing and instrumentalizing of anti-terrorism issues, and are willing to work with the international community to strengthen multilateral anti-terrorism cooperation under the framework of the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other frameworks. At the same time, China-Pakistan strategic defense and security cooperation plays an irreplaceable and important role in maintaining regional peace and stability. We are willing to continue to maintain the momentum of exchanges between the two militaries and continuously improve the level of defense cooperation.

The all-weather friendship has laid a solid foundation for the development of China-Pakistan relations. As good neighbors, good friends, good partners, and good brothers, the peoples of our two countries have stood together through thick and thin, and our iron-clad friendship has withstood the test of time. History will remember that at critical moments such as the restoration of the People's Republic of China's lawful seat in the United Nations, the safeguarding of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the confrontation of natural disasters, our iron-brother Pakistan has always stepped forward to offer valuable help and firm support. Conversely, when Pakistan needed assistance, China has always been its strong backing. We still recall the touching story of Pakistan's generous donation of tents during the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, as well as the mutual support between the two countries in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. At present, China is continuously aiding Pakistan in its recovery and reconstruction from the "flood of the century" in 2022. The China-Pakistan friendship is constantly tested and enhanced in practice. We believe that during this visit, the two sides will demonstrate their firm support for each other's core interests and major concerns, highlight the essence of the all-weather friendship, and promote the steady and long-term development of bilateral relations.

In a turbulent and changing world, the healthy and stable, robustly developing China-Pakistan relations holds great significance for regional peace and prosperity. Both China and Pakistan are developing countries, facing the historical task of developing their economies and improving people's livelihoods. Taking this visit as an opportunity, the two sides will deepen exchanges of governance experience and mutual learning between civilizations, promote the alignment of development concepts and coordination of policy, continuously enrich the connotation of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and make new contributions to an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

We wish President Zardari a successful visit to China! We wish China-Pakistan cooperation great fortune in the Year of the Snake! We wish our iron-clad friendship to last forever!

https://pakobserver.net/chart-a-new-vision-at-the-start-of-the-new-year-and-embark-on-a-new-journey-of-china-pakistan-relations/

The News

Understanding security needs of China

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

The relationship between China and Pakistan can not be confined to or fully understood through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC represents just one aspect of their multifaceted and multi dimensional partnership. This partnership has lasted for over 75 y e a r s a n d has grown stronger with time. How ever, with the initiation of the CPEC, the relationship has entered a new era. Unfortunately, Pakistan has struggled to fully realize the potential of the CPEC alongside China's rapid development, the Chinese market, and numerous investment opportunities. While various factors con tribute to this issue, security concerns, the business environment, and a lack of understanding of the Chinese system have significantly impacted the underutilization of CPEC and its opportunities. However, security has recently emerged as a major issue. Unfortunately, since its inception, CPEC has become the primary target of forces opposed to Pakistan and the Pakistan-China friendship. Opponents are doing every thing they can to obstruct the smooth implementation of CPEC rather than undermine it entirely. They are targeting it in a systematic and sophisticated manner. First, they initiated narrative warfare, labeling CPEC as a debt trap, a new East India Company, and claiming it captures Pakistani resources. Second, they unleashed fifth-generation warfare against CPEC. After their propaganda failed, they shifted to employing aggressive hot tactics. In recent years, opponents have targeted Chinese nationals at various sites in Pakistan, including Dasu and Karachi. They are particularly focused on Chinese nationals because they know that China is extremely sensitive about its citizens. In this context, security is expected to be a key topic of discussion between President Zardari and the Chinese leadership during his visit. They are likely to discuss strategies for mitigating security threats to CPEC and Chinese nationals. Since President Xi began his

tenure, China's security vision has been transforming and evolving. He is cognizant that as a rising power, a global economic and trade hub, and the largest investor, China's security vision needs to be refined and strengthened. For example, BRI has 152 member states, and China has committed to investing in them in some way. Thus, Chinese nationals and economic interests will be spread across these 152 member states of BRI, in addition to bilateral and other engagements. Against this background, China will have to protect its economic and developmental interests and human capital, which is distributed worldwide. If China shows leniency to protect the lives of the Chinese in one country, then it will have to extend this favor to the other 151 member states. This will put hundreds and thousands of Chinese nationals' lives in danger, and China cannot afford this. As a consequence of one-child policy, one child represents the entire family. If one Chinese national is targeted or killed, it implies that the whole family has been affected. Therefore, China has become very sensitive regarding this issue and does everything possible to protect the lives of its citizens at any cost. Thus, he has determined that threats to any Chinese national anywhere in the world must be addressed with full force. Pakistani agencies did a wonderful job in the past, but now the spectrum of threats has multiplied. Many opponents are targeting CPEC and the China-Pakistan relationship and have joined forces to undermine CPEC. Some of them are major

countries with considerable financial and other resources. Furthermore, after the successful execution of the first phase of CPEC, they have intensified their efforts. Additionally, the abrupt withdrawal of the US and allied forces from Afghanistan has further complicated the situation. Unfortunately, many terrorist groups have emerged, and they are closely collaborating with the opponents of CPEC. Hence, it is extremely challenging for Pakistan to confront all its opponents alone. Therefore, any security framework that Pakistan develops should be created in close collaboration with China.

This is not simply a choice; it is crucial. First, pooling resources and strong cooperation will help match opponents' resources and deter adversaries' efforts. Second, it will enable Pakistan to counter certain regional forces opposing the CPEC. Third, China will have direct insight into what is happening and who is tar getting Chinese nationals. Thus, Pakistan should ignore propaganda and critics who undermine the security collaboration between Pakistan and China. Their criticisms are intentional. They recognize that the joint efforts of China and Pakistan threaten their plans and propaganda campaigns. Therefore, it is highly recommended that Pakistan explores all avenues to enhance collaboration for CPEC security. Second, fifth-generation warfare is anticipated to escalate in the coming days. Opponents will continue to spread disinformation, but this time, they will employ a new strategy. They will focus on active diplomats, government officials, and experts who seek to strengthen bilateral relationships. A recent example involved a story from a Western media outlet that misquoted a Chinese official. This tactic aims to silence influential voices, particularly those who counter and mitigate propaganda. A Chinese diplomat was targeted this time; a Pakistani diplomat may be next. Furthermore, they will engage and mobilize so-called independent think tanks to fabricate false narratives and disseminate demoralizing content to the public. It will be deployed to create chaos and tarnish the image of CPEC while inciting people to target Chinese nationals and CPEC investments. Therefore, China and Pakistan should specifically focus on the dynamics and challenges of fifth-generation warfare. In conclusion, by targeting Chinese nationals, opponents want to achieve two goals. First, to create a divide between China and Pakistan. Second, dry investment and economic opportunities for Pakistan, which are direly needed to tackle Pakistan's financial, social, and economic issues. By targeting Chinese nationals, they instill fear among potential investors, sending the message that if the Chinese are not safe, how can other nationals feel secure? Therefore, Pakistan and China must join hands to devise a comprehensive security framework to secure the CPEC and Chinese national.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=380906

Express News

صدر زرداری چین کے 4روزہ دورے پر کل روانہ ہوں گے

صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری کل 4روزہ دورے پر چین روانہ ہونگے۔

صدر کے دورہ چین کے حوالے سے ایڈوانس ٹیموں کی چین روانگی شروع ہوگئی، صدر کی چینی قیادت کے ساتھ اہم ملاقاتیں بھی شیڈول ہیں۔

صدر آصف علی زرداری 4 سے 8 فروری تک چین کا سرکاری دورہ کریں گے، صدر کے ہمراہ اعلیٰ سطح کا وفد بھی ہو گا۔

اعلیٰ سطحی وفد میں بلال بھٹو زرداری، خاتون اول آصفہ بھٹو زرداری، وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ مراد علی شاہ، وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان سرفراز بگٹی، وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی شامل ہیں۔

ذرائع کے مطابق صدر چینی صدر شی چنگ پنگ سے ملاقات کرینگے اور 5 نومبر کو شنگھائی عالمی نمائش میں بھی شریک ہوں گے، چینی قیادت سے ملاقاتوں میں سی پیک فیز 2، پاک چین تعلقات، علاقائی و عالمی سلامتی سمیت دیگر باہمی امور پر مشاورت ہو گی۔

https://www.express.pk/story/2745946/saudi-arab-pakistanio-ka-awleen-safri-maqam-ban-gaya-report-jari-2745946

February 04, 2025

Business Recorder

President will leave for China today

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari will undertake an official visit to China from February 4-8 at the invitation of Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, said Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson in a statement issued here on Monday.

During the visit, the President would hold meetings with Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and other senior Chinese leaders in Beijing.

The discussions will encompass the full spectrum of Pakistan-China relations, with a particular focus on economic and trade cooperation; counter-terrorism and security collaboration; China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and future connectivity initiatives.

The two sides would also exchange views on the unfolding global and regional geopolitical landscape, and bilateral cooperation at multilateral fora.

At the special invitation of the Chinese government, the President would also attend the inaugural ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, Heilongjiang province of China, read the FO statement. The visit underscores the tradition of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China, reflecting deep commitment of the two countries to strengthen their All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

It reaffirms mutual support on the issues of core interests, advance economic and trade cooperation including CPEC, and to highlight their joint commitment to regional peace, development and stability.

This visit holds significant importance in strengthening the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and China, particularly in the context of mutual cooperation and regional development, the sources said.

The President will be accompanied by former foreign minister and Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, and senior government officials, highlighting the significance of the visit, said the sources.

Both countries will engage in delegation-level talks. The two leaders are expected to discuss critical issues, including bilateral trade, investment opportunities, regional security, and the CPEC project.

Sources revealed that the President's visit was originally planned for November last year but had to be rescheduled due to his foot injury. The rescheduling of this visit emphasises the importance both countries attach to their bilateral relations, the sources added.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40346145/president-will-leave-for-china-today

Daily Times

President Zardari embarks on state visit to China

President Asif Ali Zardari is scheduled to undertake a state visit to China from February 4-8 (Tuesday to Saturday), 2025, at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, with the aim to further bolster the Iron Brothers Bond between the two countries.

During the visit, President Asif Zardari will hold detailed meetings with Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and other high-ranking Chinese officials in Beijing.

The discussions will encompass the full spectrum of Pakistan-China relations, with a particular focus on economic and trade cooperation; counter-terrorism and security collaboration; the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and future connectivity initiatives, according to a curtain-raiser issued by the Foreign Office in Islamabad on Monday. The two sides will also exchange views on the unfolding global and regional geopolitical landscape, and bilateral cooperation at multilateral fora. At the special invitation of the Chinese government, President Zardari will also attend the inaugural ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, Heilongjiang province of China.

President Zardari's visit underscores the tradition of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China, reflecting a deep commitment of the two countries to strengthen their All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

The visit also reaffirms mutual support on the issues of core interests, advancing economic and trade cooperation including CPEC, and to highlighting their joint commitment to regional peace, development and stability.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1262342/president-zardari-embarks-on-state-visit-to-china/

The News

President begins China visit today

Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari is to kick off a state visit to China from tomorrow February 4-8 at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Zardari's first after taking over as president in March 2024. The Foreign Office, while asked several times, was reluctant to share names of the members of the president's delegation.

"The discussions will encompass the full spectrum of Pakistan-China relations, with a particular focus on economic and trade cooperation; counter-terrorism and security collaboration; China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and future connectivity initiatives. The two sides would also exchange views on the unfolding global and regional geopolitical landscape, and bilateral cooperation at multilateral for a," said the FO while announcing the visit. During the visit, the president would hold meetings with Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and other senior Chinese leaders.

Later on the special invitation of the Chinese government, the president would also attend the inaugural ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, Heilongjiang province of China.

Pakistan points out that the visit underscores the tradition of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China, reflecting deep commitment of the two countries to strengthen their All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. "It reaffirms mutual support on the issues of core interests, advance economic and trade cooperation including CPEC, and to highlight their joint commitment to regional peace, development and stability," added the Foreign Office.

The visit adds great significance as CPEC, a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is besieged with security issues mostly pertaining to Chinese workers in Pakistan.

The visit is expected to reinforce mutual commitments on key economic and security issues, reaffirming Pakistan's strong ties with its largest trade and investment partner. President Zardari's trip comes at a crucial time as Pakistan seeks to revitalise its economy and strengthen regional connectivity through CPEC.

Added to this are several projects under CPEC which have yet to take off because of financial constraints, but officials appear optimistic and say new agreements could be signed during the visits deepening economic collaboration and addressing regional security challenges.

Last week, President Zardari congratulated President Xi Jinping on the occasion of the Chinese Spring Festival and the arrival of the Year of the Snake. In his message, President Zardari expressed his strong commitment to further strengthening the longstanding relationship between Pakistan and China. He conveyed his eagerness to meet with President Xi in Beijing to discuss enhancing bilateral cooperation.

The president acknowledged the resilience of the two nations as All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners. He highlighted the tireless efforts of successive leaderships in both countries that have contributed to the growth of their unique and robust partnership.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch in an unannounced visit to Iran called on Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, where both sides discussed global and regional matters of mutual interest and reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to strengthen bilateral ties with Iran in wide-ranging areas.

The First Meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) on ECO Reforms and the Prospects of Cooperation in the Region was also held during the visit of the foreign secretary where she represented Pakistan.

"At the HLC, the foreign secretary presented Pakistan's perspectives on key matters related ECO reforms. The foreign secretary stated that ECO needs comprehensive reforms, including financial and budgetary matters, enhancing efficiency of the secretariat, effective recruitment policy, and deliberation on other related matters," said the Foreign Office.

Being the founding member of the organisation, the foreign secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to regional connectivity and trade. The foreign secretary asserted that Pakistan attaches great importance to ECO Trade Agreement's (ECOTA) early implementation and also would urge all member states to take a broader and more holistic view of the matter and in the earliest implementation of ECOTA.

She further highlighted the importance of ECO Vision 2025 in terms of increasing intra-regional trade and regional connectivity and also appreciated Uzbekistan's proposed Strategic Objectives of Cooperation-2035.

She expressed that with collective and coordinated efforts from the platform of ECO, all member states can realise the true potential of the ECO in the region. Meanwhile, ECO Secretary General Asad Majid Khan, in an interview with ISNA, referring to the first high-level meeting of the Committee of Deputy Foreign Ministers of the ECO member countries in Tehran, which was held on Monday morning, said: "Almost 90 percent of the member countries were present at this meeting, which I think is significant because it shows the level of attention of policymakers in the countries towards the ECO. Therefore, we are looking forward to a very productive meeting."

Regarding the ECO agenda on expanding trade between member countries, which was also announced as one of the goals of this meeting, he said: "For us, trade is the main goal of the organisation, and the issue of reducing tariffs in the form of ECOTA is one of the basic agreements of this organisation. We have gathered here to promote trade, to integrate the region in terms of trade and to promote mutual and collective economic development, therefore, trade is the main pillar of any development effort for the region."

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=381133

February 05, 2025

Daily Times

From Silicon Valley to Shenzhen

Bilal Mahmood Sulehri

The generative AI landscape has been witnessing a paradigm shift from the last couple of years. New specialized GPTs are being launched, and the previous versions are being updated. A new entrant DeepSeek has emerged, plummeting tech giant Nvidia's stock by $590B on a single day! DeepSeek, with its flagship model DeepSeek R1 has challenged ChatGPT's dominance by introducing a more efficient alternative. This point reflects a wider?trend of the fragmentation of AI development along political, linguistic and functional lines that threatens industries around the world.

With enterprises and professionals attempting to navigate this dichotomy, it has become even more critical?to understand the technical, ethical, and practical differences between these destinations on both ends.

The question is not which model is better – it's?which model is better for whom. As the AI?ecosystem becomes increasingly ossified with several massive platforms dominating, knowing the unique strengths and weaknesses of each one determines how businesses, developers, and even governments can approach the technology.

Consider DeepSeek as your highly organized Chinese colleague who excels in spreadsheets, masters technical jargon, and prospers in domains such as finance or legal tech-particularly in China. DeepSeek's design prioritizes speed, low latency, and optimizing performance with limited resources. Do you need a sentiment analysis tool for a niche manufacturing app? DeepSeek is your go-to.

ChatGPT is the creative cousin of your Chinese friend. It writes poetry, cracks jokes, and solves brain teasers like its sipping coffee. It has been trained on a vast array of data, primarily in English, books, and code, making it an invaluable tool for content creation, coding assistance, and even algebra tutoring. GPT-4 prioritizes quality over speed when crafting responses.

In terms of cost, DeepSeek is affordable for Chinese enterprises and is currently available for free for individual users. OpenAI, on the other hand, dangles a free GPT-3.5 tier before nudging you toward paid upgrades. DeepSeek lets you tweak its models for specific industries via APIs. With ChatGPT, you're mostly stuck with clever prompt engineering-like trying to train a dog with snacks.

On the ethical framework front, ChatGPT adheres to OpenAI's safety playbook, blocking sensitive topics and combating biases, while DeepSeek follows China's regulatory beat (content moderation, data rules).

Let us delve deep into various aspects of both AI juggernauts and analyze how they fare.

Linguistic?and Geopolitical Alignment

If ChatGPT is the Swiss Army knife of AI, then DeepSeek is the?precision scalpel. Tailored for Mandarin-heavy workflows, 89% of DeepSeek's training corpus consists?of Mandarin-language data – it shines when it comes to parsing Chinese idioms, technical jargon, and industry-specific terminology. That makes it a natural fit for industries, such as?legal, finance, and e-commerce, in which compliance with China's Cybersecurity Law and Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL) is not up for debate. For instance, DeepSeek provides?integration with WeChat and Alibaba Cloud that has simplified workflows for Chinese enterprises.

On the other hand, ChatGPT is designed mostly for English. Its training data consists of 92% English data, making it shine in tasks requiring cultural nuance,?such as creative writing, cross-cultural communication, and open-ended problem-solving. However, in terms of accuracy on languages, its performance says Mandarin does not match DeepSeek-making it?a poor fit for enterprise-level access based in Chinese markets.

Technical Architecture And?Performance

The recipe for DeepSeek consists of, under the hood, a sparse Mixture-of-Experts (MoE) framework that reduces computational overhead by?60% in domain-specific applications. For example, in parsing black letter contracts and modeling asset risk, DeepSeek delivered a latency of?230ms per query, versus ChatGPT's average latency of 380ms per query; however the model size (178b parameters versus ChatGPT's 1.7 trillion) will also mean less versatility in multilingualism and creative tasks than ChatGPT.

ChatGPT, on the other hand is trained on a generalist task space with 92% accuracy on creative writing?benchmarks. But this dual versatility comes?with a cost: the model takes 40% more GPU to produce outputs than DeepSeek. Though its larger parameter count allows it?to outperform specialized models in tasks that require contextual understanding-like debugging code or outputting plot-driven text-it is still less effective for very specialized use cases.

Market Penetration Strategies

The combination of their blockchain?and human resource experience gives DeepSeek a unique advantage in successfully breaking into B2B channels, which is its current go-to-market. DeepSeek plans to prioritize deals with enterprise clients in Asia. Embedded in regional supply chains through partnerships with manufacturing and fintech conglomerates, the company has?found a home in China's booming tech ecosystem. For instance, its integration with Alibaba Cloud's AI platform has helped automate compliance checks for 73% of Chinese e-commerce exporters and significantly reduced the risk of regulatory?violations.

While ChatGPT has a hybrid B2B/B2C model with 60% of its API users?coming from North America and Europe. With 1,400+ third-party integrations, its developer-friendly ecosystem supports various applications – from academia to creative?industries. This versatility?has made ChatGPT a go-to choice for startup and enterprise clients looking for a scalable, general-purpose AI solution.

Developmental Trade-offs

The limited model size of DeepSeek relies on trade-offs. It achieves a precision rate?of 98% for technical Mandarin queries but falls short (34%) of ChatGPT in multilingual poetry generation. On the other hand, ChatGPT's all-purpose design constrains it?for use within tightly regulated industries, while its 15% hallucination rate on unverifiable claims makes it less useful for compliance-heavy work.

Transformative Design: Ethical?and Regulatory Considerations

DeepSeek's model imposes content filters required by states, blocking 12% more politically sensitive queries than counterparts outside their jurisdiction. Because it aligns?with China's "Global AI Governance Initiative," it strictly adheres to socialist core values, though so its ability to translate cross-culturally can be questioned. It simply refuses to tackle queries about Tiananmen square tragedy and other sensitive topics.

We can criticize ChatGPT for withholding transparency, but the AI provider submits detailed audit reports quarterly that outline its bias mitigation processes, including debiasing layers that have reduced gender stereotyping in hiring simulations. But its adherence to the EU's AI Act is a work in progress, with gaps in explicability for high-risk?applications.

Uptime.

Currently DeepSeek returns the system busy error throughout the day due to global interest and traffic. However, ChatGPT has not been down in recent few weeks.

Software Developers & IT Professionals

DeepSeek fares better while teaching step-by-step instructions for coding. I tried to learn R programming language by using both ChatGPT and DeepSeek. ChatGPT's responses were vague and the code it gave would not run. I had to revise prompts continuously to get a working code. DeepSeek, however, did the trick the first time and shared great step-by-step tutorials and even generated test data when I asked it to do so.

For Educators & Researchers

I gave the following prompt to both AIs:

"Assume you are a primary teacher. Create a comprehensive teaching plan for "Science" for Pakistani students in class 1. "

Both models produced good teaching plans. However, it was hard to differentiate which one does better.

Content Creators?& Marketers

Both models write well. But DeepSeek cannot currently remember and mimic your personal writing style while ChatGPT does that quite well. Output by both models can be easily detected through various AI

The Fractured Landscape of?Strategic Adoption

DeepSeek's rise mirrors AI's evolution into a tool molded by?local laws and industry-specific needs. Instead of a zero-sum rivalry, the coexistence of?specialized and generalist

models offers an indication that the industry is well aware a single architecture cannot dominate the kaleidoscopic requirements of global enterprise.

For those who work in a profession, the decision revolves?around three things:

Regulatory Compliance: DeepSeek for?China-focused pieces of work; ChatGPT for international requirements.

Get people thinking work choice specific – DeepSeek for technical?Mandarin workflows; ChatGPT for creative, multilingual ideation

Resource Constraints |?DeepSeek for GPU-efficient deployments; ChatGPT for compute-intensive innovation

As AI divides along functional and geopolitical lines,?smart adoption will distinguish industry leaders from laggards. The future will belong to organizations that use these tools not as adversaries, but?as cooperative instruments in an ever more complex technological orchestra.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1262635/from-silicon-valley-to-shenzhen/

PM directs steps to operationalize Gwadar Port on commercial basis

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed immediate measures to operationalize Gwadar Port on a commercial basis and instructed the formation of a committee under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal to work with all stakeholders to transform Gwadar Port into a modern and fully functional port.

The prime minister chaired a meeting of the federal cabinet in which Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal gave a detailed briefing on Gwadar Port, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM directs immediate steps to operationalize Gwadar Port on commercial basis PM directs immediate steps to operationalize Gwadar Port on commercial basis

The prime minister also directed for organizing an international conference to create awareness about the significance of Gwadar Port.

“A comprehensive marketing and awareness strategy should be devised and diplomatic efforts regarding Gwadar Port should be expedited,” he stressed.

He also sought details of imports and exports carried out through Gwadar Port.

The meeting was informed that Gwadar Port had the capacity to provide cost-effective and time-efficient access to the Persian Gulf for vessels of up to 50,000 Deadweight Tonnage (DWT) and to facilitate trans-shipment to Gulf countries. Furthermore, the port was expected to play a vital role in the development of the mining and aqua-culture sectors in Balochistan province. Western parts of China and the Central Asian States would also benefit from this port.

The meeting was further informed that Gwadar Free Zone had been exempted from all federal, provincial, and local taxes and the rules for the Free Zone had been finalized.

It was revealed that between 2018 and 2022, criminal negligence was shown regarding dredging at Gwadar Port which severely affected its depth.

However, dredging was completed in 2022-23, after which its depth had been restored. All necessary utility services had now been provided at Gwadar Port, it was added.

The meeting was also briefed about several public welfare projects in Gwadar including the Pak-China Friendship Hospital, Gwadar Institute of Technical Education, Pak-China Primary School, Gwadar Livelihood Project, Gwadar Fisheries Processing and Export Zone, and Gwadar Solar Park.

The prime minister was apprised that government was also working to link Gwadar with Pakistan Railways' Main Line M-4.

The Gwadar-Quetta Highway was completed in 2018, benefiting areas such as Turbat, Hoshab, and Panjgur.

Additionally, the remaining sections of the M-8 Motorway (Gwadar-Hoshab-Rato Dero) were under construction to connect Gwadar with Sukkur.

To further enhance Gwadar-Quetta connectivity, the Nokundi-Mashkhel road was being constructed, while work on the Mashkhel-Panjgur road would commence soon, it was told.

The work on Gwadar East Bay Expressway was carried out at rapid speed while work on Gwadar Safe City was being completed in collaboration with the Balochistan government.

The minister proposed modernizing cargo inspection facilities at Gwadar Port and utilizing artificial intelligence for this purpose.

The prime minister appreciated the briefing.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1262811/pm-directs-steps-to-operationalize-gwadar-port-on-commercial-basis/

The News

China offers scholarships to Punjab cops

LAHORE: Punjab Police officers and personnel now have the opportunity to pursue higher education in China through a fully funded scholarship programme offered by the Chinese government.

Officers from constable to AIG can apply to get admission to 30 designated universities in China. The programme offers four-year bachelor and two-year masters degree opportunities. Three officers will be selected for the initiative and deadline for the applications is February 7.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=381409

PM directs urgent steps to operationalise Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed taking immediate measures to operationalize the Gwadar Port commercially.

Chairing the federal cabinet meeting, the prime minister instructed the constitution of a committee to be headed by the Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal to work with all stakeholders to turn the Gwadar Port into a modern port. He also directed the holding of an international conference to create awareness about the port's importance. "There should be better marketing and awareness strategy and making diplomatic efforts to create awareness about the effectiveness of Gwadar Port," he said.

The planning minister told the cabinet that the Gwadar Port can provide cost-effective and time-efficient access to the Persian Gulf for vessels of up to 50,000 Deadweight Tonnage. The western parts of China and the Central Asian states would also benefit from the deep-sea port. The port can play a crucial role in the progress of mineral and aquaculture sectors in the Balochistan province. The Gwadar free zone had also been exempted from all the federal, provincial and local taxes, the minister said. Ahsan Iqbal said from 2018 to 2022, the port's depth was reduced due to criminal negligence during the dredging process. However, the previous depth was restored with more dredging work undertaken during 2022-23. The cabinet was also apprised that work was in progress to link Gwadar with M-4, which would link the city with the country's rail link. The planning minister also suggested introducing Artificial Intelligence to modernise the cargo inspection facility at the Gwadar Port.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=381356

Starlink, Chinese companies to get permission in 6 months

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly's Standing Committee on IT and Telecom Member Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Tuesday inquired about the status of Starlink and was informed that the process of granting it permission was underway.

Parliamentary Secretary Sabeen Ghauri informed the committee it was hoped that Starlink and other Chinese companies would be granted permission within six months. The committee chairman, Aminul Haq, said the committee had issued instructions to accomplish proceedings for allowing Starlink to start its operations in Pakistan.

The committee, however, expressed its dismay over the delay in taking necessary steps for digitization in the country, including the launch of services of Starlink and Chinese companies, and the slow pace of projects related to the construction of IT parks. Amin also expressed concern over the non-spending of Rs6 billion allocated for the Karachi IT Park project in the current financial year, Personal Data Protection Bill and delay in the Artificial Intelligence policy.

While briefing the committee, it was informed that so far in the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) of the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication (MoIT&T) and its affiliated institutions, an amount of Rs24 billion had been allocated for this purpose in the current financial year. The committee members made reservations about the broadband services of the Special Communication Organization (SCO) in AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. Amin directed

the MoIT&T to complete all proceedings regarding the improvement of broadband services in AJK and GB and immediately complete the fiberization policy besides a proposal to grant government fund to the USF, finalization of matters related to Starlink, and establishment of a telecom tribunal. The committee agreed not to give any concession to LDI licence companies in the recovery of Rs78 billion dues and agreed to activate the telecom tribunal to resolve the matter.

PTA Chairman Major General (retd) Hafeezur Rehman informed the committee that in the last six years, Rs1,700 billion had been deposited in the national treasury by telecom companies in the form of tax, but not a single rupee had been spent by the government on improving the network situation in the country.

On the suggestion of the committee members, Amin directed the MoIT&T to submit proposals for the release of separate grants from the federal government to the Universal Service Fund, which gets one-and-a-half per cent share from the revenue of telecom companies, so that the prime minister can be approached in this regard.

He emphasized that telecom companies invested in urban areas to provide their services, but government grants for the USF were essential for broadband service delivery and laying optical fiber cables in remote areas. If the company has adequate funds, the process of broadband services and fiberization across the country will be completed quickly, which will provide better services to the common people and, on the other hand, the dream of digitization of the government will be fulfilled, and it will be easier to achieve IT export targets. "These steps are necessary to connect with the digital world and adjust ourselves to the pace of technology," he added.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=381362

Express News

پاکستان اور چین کا انٹیلی جنس شئیرنگ مزید بہتر کرنے پر اتفاق

وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی نے دورہ چین کے دوران بیجنگ میں چینی ہم منصب کیوینجن سے ملاقات کی، ملاقات کے دوران انٹیلیجنس شئیرنگ کو مزید بہتر کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔

ملاقات میں پیراملٹری فورسز کے لئے بارڈرز کو محفوظ کرنے کے لیے تعاون پر بات چیت کی گئی، اس موقع پر پولیس اور پیراملٹری فورسز کی جدید ٹیکنالوجی کے حوالے سے بھی گفتگو کی گئی۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے پولیس کے لئے جدید آلات اور ٹیکنالوجی کے چین سے حصول کے حوالے سے تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا، محسن نقوی نے کہا کہ چین سے پولیس کے لئے جدید ٹیکنالوجی اور آلات لیں گے۔ ملاقات میں نیشنل پولیس اکیڈمی کے ساتھ تعاون پر بات چیت کی گئی اور بیجنگ پولیس اور اسلام آباد پولیس میں تعاون بڑھانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے جنوری میں جوائنٹ ورکنگ گروپ کی میٹنگ پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا، وفاقی وزیر داخلہ اور چینی ہم منصب کے درمیان ملاقات 2 گھنٹے طویل رہی۔ اس موقع پر وفاقی وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی نے چینی ہم منصب کو پاکستان کے دورے کی دعوت دی۔

https://www.express.pk/story/2746329/pakistan-aur-china-ka-intelligense-sharing-mazeed-behtar-karne-per-ittefaq-2746329

دہشت گرد حملے پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات کو متاثر نہیں کرسکتے، صدر زرداری کی چینی ہم منصب کو یقین دہانی

صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے چینی ہم منصب شی جن پنگ کو یقین دہانی کرائی ہے کہ دہشت گرد حملے پاکستان اور چین کے گہرے تعلقات اور دوستی کو متاثر نہیں کرسکتے۔

صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے چین کے دورے کے موقع پر صدر شی جن پنگ کو دورہ پاکستان کی دعوت دی جہاں ملاقات کے دوران دوطرفہ معاشی تعاون کے منصوبوں سمیت علاقائی اور بین الاقوامی مسائل پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

ایوانِ صدر سے جاری اعلامیے کے مطابق بیجنگ میں صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری کی چینی صدر شی جن پنگ سے چین کے عظیم عوامی ایوان میں ملاقات ہوئی اور اس ملاقات سے قبل صدر مملکت کے اعزاز میں استقبالیہ تقریب کا انعقاد بھی کیا گیا، چین کے عظیم عوامی ایوان میں آمد پر صدر شی جن پنگ نے صدر آصف علی زرداری کا پرتپاک استقبال کیا اور چینی بچوں کے ایک گروپ نے بھی صدر مملکت کا شان دار استقبال کیا۔

اعلامیے میں کہا گیا کہ ملاقات میں دونوں صدور نے دوطرفہ تعلقات کی مثبت رفتار پر تبادلہ خیال کیا، صدر مملکت اور چینی صدر کی ملاقات میں مشترکہ دلچسپی کے علاقائی اور بین الاقوامی مسائل پر بھی گفتگو ہوئی۔

دونوں صدور نے دوطرفہ شراکت داری کے دائرہ کار کو مزید وسعت دینے کے مواقع پر بھی بات ہوئی اور بنیادی دلچسپی کے امور پر ایک دوسرے کی حمایت کا اعادہ کیا گیا۔

صدر مملکت نے چین کے ساتھ سدا بہار تزویراتی تعاون کی شراکت داری کے لیے پاکستان کے غیر متزلزل عزم کا اعادہ بھی کیا اور دونوں ممالک کے مابین منفرد، آزمودہ اور خصوصی تعلقات کو اجاگر کیا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کی مثالی ترقی اور خوش حالی چینی قیادت کے وژن اور چین کے عوام کی فعالیت کا مظہر ہے، اس موقع پر صدر مملکت نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کے تحت عالمی ترقی میں چین کے گہرے تعاون پر صدر شی جن پنگ کو زبردست خراج تحسین پیش کیا۔

صدر آصف علی زرداری نے کہا کہ پاک-چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کے تحت باہمی طور پر سود مند تعاون کے تصور کی روشن مثال ہے، ملاقات کے دوران پاک-چین اقتصادی راہداری 2.0 کی اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

اعلامیے کے مطابق پاک-چین اقتصاری راہدری سے علاقائی روابط، مشترکہ فوائد اور خوش حالی کو فروغ حاصل ہوگا، ملاقات میں مشترکہ مستقبل کی پاک-چین کمیونٹی مضبوط بنانے کے لیے عوامی روابط اور ثقافتی تبادلوں کی ضرورت پر زور دیا گیا۔

صدر آصف علی زرداری نے صدر شی جن پنگ کو دورہ پاکستان کی دعوت اور کہا کہ پاکستان کے عوام اور حکومت صدر شی جن پنگ کو ایک وژنری رہنما اور پاکستان کے خاص دوست کے طور پر انتہائی قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔

ایوان صدر کے مطابق دونوں صدور کے درمیان ملاقات کے بعد مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کی تقریب منعقد ہوئی، جس میں سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی، میڈیا، توانائی اور سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے کے لیے مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کیے گئے۔

بعد ازاں صدر شی جن پنگ نے صدر آصف علی زرداری اور ان کے وفد کے اعزاز میں عشائیے کا بھی اہتمام کیا۔

https://www.express.pk/story/2746398/president-discusses-regional-and-international-issues-with-chinese-president-xi-jinping-2746398

Nawaiwaqt News

صدر زرداری 5 روزہ دورہ پر چین پہنچ گئے ہم منصب، وزیر اعظم سے ملاقاتیں ہونگی

بیجنگ (نمائندہ خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری 5 روزہ دورہ پر چین پہنچ گئے ہیں۔ منگل کو ایوان صدر کے پریس ونگ سے جاری بیان کے مطابق صدر مملکت 4 سے 8 فروری تک چین کا سرکاری دورہ کریں گے۔ نائب وزیر اعظم اور وزیر خارجہ سینیٹر محمد اسحق ڈار، وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی، سینیٹر سلیم مانڈوی والا اور ڈاکٹر عاصم حسین بھی صدر مملکت کے ہمراہ ہیں۔ صدر مملکت بیجنگ میں چین کی اعلی سطح کی سیاسی قیادت سے ملاقاتیں کریں گے۔ صدر مملکت اپنے چینی ہم منصب شی جن پنگ اور وزیر اعظم لی چیانگ سے بھی ملاقات کریں گے۔ صدر مملکت کا دورہ چین دوطرفہ تعلقات مزید مضبوط بنانے کیلئے نہایت اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ یہ دورہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان دوطرفہ اقتصادی و تجارتی تعاون مزید بڑھانے میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گا۔ ملاقاتوں کے دوران پاک-چین اقتصادی راہداری، علاقائی روابط اور سکیورٹی تعاون سمیت اہم دوطرفہ امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا جائے گا۔ دریں اثناء صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے ریاستی دہشت گردی اور جبر کے سامنے کشمیری عوام کے عزم و استقلال کو زبردست خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ کشمیریوں کے حق خودارادیت کی منصفانہ جدوجہد کیلئے اپنی مکمل اخلاقی، سفارتی اور سیاسی حمایت جاری رکھیں گے۔ ایوان صدر کے پریس ونگ کے مطابق صدر مملکت نے یوم یکجہتی کشمیر کے موقع پر اپنے پیغام میں کہا کہ کشمیری عوام کے ناقابل تنسیخ حق خودارادیت کے حصول کی منصفانہ اور جائز جدوجہد کیلئے اپنی غیر متزلزل حمایت کی تجدید کرتے ہیں۔ صدر مملکت نے کہا کہ مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر میں انسانی حقوق کی صورتحال سنگین ہے، بھارت کشمیریوں کو ان کے بنیادی حقوق اور آزادیوں سے محروم کر رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بھارت کشمیری عوام کو شدید ریاستی جبر اور تشدد کا نشانہ بنا رہا ہے۔ مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر کے عوام خوف و ہراس کے ماحول میں رہ رہے ہیں اور کشمیری عوام کے حقیقی نمائندے مقید ہیں۔ صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری سرکاری دورے پر بیجنگ پہنچ گئے۔ بیجنگ انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ پہنچنے پر چین کے وزیر خزانہ لان فوآن، چین میں پاکستانی سفیر خلیل ہاشمی اور پاکستان میں چینی سفیر چیانگ زائے ڈونگ نے صدر مملکت کا استقبال کیا۔ صدر مملکت چینی شہر ہاربن میں 9ویں ایشین ونٹر گیمز کی افتتاحی تقریب میں بھی شرکت کریں گے۔ چیئرمین پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے یوم یکجہتی کشمیر کے موقع پر اپنے پیغام میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کشمیر کے بغیر نامکمل ہے۔ انہوں نے بھارت کی جانب سے اپنے آئین کے آرٹیکل 370 کو منسوخ کرنے کی مذمت کرتے ہوئے اسے کشمیری عوام کے ساتھ ایک سنگین ناانصافی قرار دیا۔ پی پی پی کی غیر متزلزل حمایت کا اعادہ کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے عہد کیا کہ پارٹی کشمیری عوام کے ساتھ اس وقت تک کھڑی رہے گی جب تک وہ ان کا حق خودارادیت حاصل نہیں کر لیتے۔

اسلام آباد (عترت جعفری) پاکستان کے صدر آصف علی زرداری آج جس وقت چین کے صدر کے ساتھ ملاقات میں ہوں گے، قریبا اسی روز پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کے چیئرمین بلاول بھٹو زرداری امریکہ کے صدر کی طرف سے دیے جانے والے ناشتہ کی تقریب میں شرکت کریں گے، صدر پاکستان اس وقت چین میں موجود ہیں جہاں وہ چینی قیادت کے ساتھ سی پیک کے مرحلہ دو، سیکورٹی معاملات اور دیگر امور پر بات چیت کریں گے، صدر مملکت کی چینی صدر اور چینی وزیر اعظم سے ملاقاتیں طے ہیں ، صدر مملکت دو ماہ قبل چین جانا تھا، تاہم خرابی صحت کی بنا پر سرکاری دورے میں تاخیر ہوئی، پی پی پی کے چیئرمین بلاول بھٹو زرداری اس وقت امریکہ کے دورے پر موجود ہیں اور واشنگٹن میں ہیں اور آج امریکی صدر کی طرف سے دیئے جانے والے ناشتہ میں شریک ہوں گے، پیپلز پارٹی دو ہم قائدین جو باپ اور بیٹا ہیں اس وقت دنیا کے دو اہم دارالحکومتوں میں موجود ہیں، اور دو انتہائی اہم صدور کے مہمان کے طور پر ان کے ہمراہ ہوں گے، پیپلز پارٹی کے چیئرمین بلاول بھٹو زرداری ابھی مزید تین ہفتے بیرون ملک رہیں گے وہ امریکہ سے یورپ ائیں گے اٹلی اور میونخ کا دورہ بھی ان کے پروگرام میں شامل ہے وہ یورپ میں ایک سکیورٹی کانفرنس میں شریک ہوں گے، بلاول بھٹو زرداری یورپ میں اہم سکیورٹی اور اقتصادی فورمز پر خطاب بھی کریں گے دنیا کے مختلف چینلز کے ساتھ انٹرویوز بھی ان کے پروگرام کا حصہ ہیں، بلاول بھٹو زرداری طن واپس آتے ہوئے لندن کا دورہ بھی کریں گے، بلاول بھٹو زرداری کی وطن واپسی 25 فروری کے بعد متوقع ہے۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-02-05/page-1/detail-12

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Business Recorder

President, Xi discuss CPEC 2.0

Also hold discussions on opportunities to even further expand the scope of bilateral partnership

BEIJING: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday met with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping here wherein two sides discussed the positive trajectory of the bilateral relationship, high-quality development of CPEC 2.0, and the significance of people-to-people linkages and cultural exchanges.

In the meeting held at the Great Hall of the People during the five-day official visit of President Zardari to China, two leaders also discussed regional and international issues of common interest, and opportunities to even further expand the scope of bilateral partnership, especially through continued high-level exchanges.

They highlighted the vital role of CPEC 2.0 in promoting regional connectivity, shared benefits and common prosperity, including through partnerships with other countries. Both sides also underlined the significance of people-to-people linkages and cultural exchanges for strengthening the China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era. Underlining the enduring friendship between the two countries, both leaders also reaffirmed support for each other on the issues of core interest. President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast commitment to its All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China and underlined the unique, time-tested and special relationship between the two countries. He also commended China's exemplary development, progress and prosperity, calling it a manifestation of the vision of the Chinese leadership and the dynamism of the Chinese people. President Zardari also paid rich tribute to President Xi Jinping for China's profound contributions to global development under the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI). He termed China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a shining model of the BRI's visionary concept of win-win cooperation. President Zardari extended the invitation to President Xi to visit Pakistan, emphasizing that the people and government of Pakistan hold him in high esteem as a visionary leader and as a special friend of Pakistan. The meeting was followed by an MoU signing ceremony where the two leaders witnessed the signing of MoUs to enhance cooperation in the fields of science & technology, media, clean energy and socio-economic development, among others. Earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari was warmly welcomed by President Xi and presented with the guard of honour upon his arrival. A group of children also extended a warm welcome and offered a heartfelt reception to the President. After the ceremony, President Xi Jinping hosted a state banquet in honour of President Asif Ali Zardari and his accompanying delegation.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40346545/president-xi-discuss-cpec-20

Pakistan, China sign MoUs to enhance cooperation in clean energy, construction

Pakistan and China signed multiple memorandums of understanding (MoUs) Thursday to enhance cooperation in different fields, including renewable energy, fertiliser and construction.

An MoU was signed between Pakistan's Thatta Cement Company and China's Qing Gong Construction Group, under which a production line will be set up in Pakistan to increase cement production by 5,000 tonnes per day.

Another MoU was signed between Sindh's Energy Department and China's Ming Yang Renewable Energy Company. Under the agreement, cooperation will be extended on various renewable energy projects in Pakistan.

Moreover, the Government of Sindh and a Chinese company signed a MoU for a coal gasification and urea production plant project.

The MoU signing ceremony was attended by President Asif Ali Zardari, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Provincial Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Senior Minister Sharjeel Memon.

Zardari, along with other government officials, arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for a five-day visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the positive trajectory of the bilateral relationship, regional and international issues of common interest, and opportunities to even further expand the scope of bilateral partnership, especially through continued high-level exchanges, according to a statement from Pakistan's President's Secretariat.

Underlining the enduring friendship between the two countries, they also reaffirmed support for each other on the issues of core interests, it added.

President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast commitment to its All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China and underlined the "unique, time-tested and special relationship between the two countries".

The meeting was followed by a MoU signing ceremony where the two leaders witnessed the signing of MoUs to enhance cooperation in the fields of science & technology, media, clean energy and socio-economic development, among others.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40346580/pakistan-china-sign-mous-to-enhance-cooperation-in-clean-energy-construction

Dawn News

Zardari, Xi chart course for expansion of CPEC

President invites Chinese counterpart to Pakistan, lauds Beijing's development model

• MoUs signed to boost science, clean energy, media cooperation

• Two sides to enhance intelligence sharing, border security

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari met his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Wednesday, reaffirming the long-standing strategic partnership between the two nations and exploring new avenues of cooperation under CPEC 2.0.

According to the Presidency, the meeting was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, where the two leaders also discussed regional and international issues of common interest, and opportunities to further expand the scope of bilateral partnership, especially through continued high-level exchanges.

They highlighted the vital role of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in promoting regional connectivity, shared benefits and common prosperity, including through partnerships with other countries.

Both sides also underlined the significance of people-to-people linkages and cultural exchanges for strengthening the China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era.

Underlining the enduring friendship between the two countries, both leaders also reaffirmed support for each other on the issues of core interest.

President Zardari, who is currently on a five-day official visit to China, reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast commitment to its "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership" with China and underlined the "unique, time-tested and special relationship" between the two countries.

He also commended China's exemplary development, progress and prosperity, calling it a manifestation of the vision of the Chinese leadership and the dynamism of the Chinese people.

President Zardari also paid rich tribute to President Xi Jinping for China's profound contributions to global development under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He described CPEC as a shining model of the BRI's visionary concept of win-win cooperation.

He extended the invitation to President Xi to visit Pakistan, emphasising that the people and government of Pakistan hold him in high esteem as a visionary leader and as a special friend of Pakistan.

The meeting was followed by a ceremony where the two leaders witnessed the signing of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to enhance cooperation in science and technology, media, clean energy and socio-economic development, among others.

Earlier, President Zardari was warmly welcomed by President Xi and presented with the guard of honour upon his arrival. A group of children also extended a warm welcome and offered a heartfelt reception to President Zardari.

After the ceremony, President Xi Jinping hosted a state banquet in honour of President Zardari and his accompanying delegation.

Intelligence sharing. Meanwhile, Pakistan and China agreed to enhance intelligence sharing and deepen cooperation on security matters, as part of efforts to bolster border security and counterterrorism measures. The understanding was reached during a meeting between Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Chinese Minister of Public Security Qi Yanjun in Beijing, according to a communication from the Chinese capital. The meeting comes in the wake of speculative reports suggesting Mr Naqvi's attendance at an anti-China event in the United States, which were later denied by the interior minister. During the two-hour meeting, both sides discussed modernising Pakistan's police and paramilitary forces through Chinese technology and expertise. A detailed conversation was held regarding acquiring advanced equipment from China to improve law enforcement capabilities. Mr Naqvi confirmed that Pakistan would procure modern policing technology from China, while both sides agreed to increase cooperation between Beijing Police and Islamabad Police, as well as expand collaboration with Pakistan's National Police Academy.

Both countries also expressed satisfaction with the progress of the Joint Working Group meeting held in January, which focused on bilateral security cooperation.

Mr Naqvi also extended an invitation to his Chinese counterpart to visit Pakistan.

https://www.dawn.com/news/1890052

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China aim to deepen strategic ties with focus on transformative cooperation

BEIJING – Pakistan and China reaffirmed commitment to build a closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in a New Era in a high-level meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing on Thursday. Leaders of 'Iron Friends' mulled enhancing people-to-people and cultural exchanges, recognizing their significance in deepening bilateral ties, exploring avenues for expanding high-quality development under CPEC 2.0, focusing on key sectors such as renewable energy, science and technology, infrastructure, and agriculture to promote mutual progress. The two sides also agreed to enhance trade and economic cooperation, particularly through strengthening business-to-business and private-sector connections. President Asif Ali Zardari highlighted strong foundation of "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" between Pakistan and China, which has been nurtured by successive generations of leaders. He reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to further enhancing bilateral ties and emphasized the pivotal role of CPEC in regional connectivity and economic growth.

In high-level interactions, he further expressed appreciation for Beijing's ongoing support of Pakistan's development initiatives, underscoring the lasting partnership between the two nations. https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-aim-to-deepen-strategic-ties-with-focus-on-transformative-cooperation/

CPEC 2.0, Maritime Security, Indian Ocean Region and AMAN 2025

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

In his latest interview with Chinese media, Pakistan Navy Chief Naveed Ashraf reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to the security of Gwadar Port and the success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), emphasizing its national socio-economic significance, regional connectivity, food and energy security, and economic integration. He also highlighted the long-standing bilateral relationship between the Pakistan Navy and the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLA Navy), aiming to strengthen maritime security cooperation. Ahead of the AMAN-2025 naval exercise in Karachi, Ashraf called for regional collaboration to address maritime threats and organized crimes while expressing aspirations for long-term cooperation with China in emerging fields such as AI, robotics, cyber warfare, and space. Interestingly, India considers itself the net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), but with the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for regional connectivity, alongside the development of CPEC and the construction of Gwadar deep seaport, China and Pakistan play crucial roles in ensuring maritime security. This includes protecting seas, waters, blue economies, and ecological balances and guaranteeing the smooth sailing of ships. Meanwhile, under its 'Indo-Pacific Policy,' the US views India as a key ally in containing China and maintaining an active presence in the region. Through initiatives like 'Quad,' AUKUS, and B3W, the US has sought to counter the BRI at the G7 forum. Having officially opposed CPEC multiple times, the US and India present a direct threat, with the Pakistan Navy (PN) playing a significant role in countering these conventional security challenges. Moreover, PN has a role in countering unconventional threats like maritime terrorism, separatism, drug and human trafficking, illegal fishing and protecting the marine resources of Pakistan and AMAN 2025 vividly reflects strategic and tactical preparedness of all these conventional and unconventional threats. It has a significant role in developing the 'blue economy' and contributing to the better socio-economic development of Pakistan. Furthermore, naval diplomacy is another potential area where the PN has a role in resolving conflicts and promoting regional development. Since the global maritime landscape is essential for international trade and safeguarding the seas is vital for global economic stability and regional security, AMAN 2025, CPEC Phase 2.0 and further development of Gwadar Sea and airports have direct correlations. The Pakistan Navy (PN) is advancing a collaborative maritime security initiative crucial for addressing shared challenges like piracy and armed robbery and protecting vital sea lanes. A key element of Pakistan's approach is the biennial AMAN exercise series, a multilateral naval exercise designed to promote peace, stability and cooperation among nations. AMAN focuses on strengthening relationships, enhancing interoperability between naval forces and sharing best practices for countering maritime threats. The upcoming AMAN 2025, the largest iteration, will involve over 60 countries and feature naval drills, humanitarian assistance operations, joint search-and-rescue missions and counter-piracy exercises. AMAN 2025 marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's ongoing efforts to promote regional and international maritime security. India has converged its interests with the US, which has a significant presence in the Indian Ocean, particularly in the Strait of Hormuz and Diego Garcia. To secure its maritime interests and investments, China has also intensified its naval presence in the Indian Ocean and focused on

becoming a blue-water navy. India has also been allied with the United States under its Indo-Pacific policy, which evolved into the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy (FOIPS).

AMAN 2025 will enhance military cooperation, serve as a platform for building diplomatic ties, and foster mutual understanding among participating countries. By hosting AMAN 2025, Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to peace, security, and cooperation in the maritime domain. The exercise will also showcase Pakistan's leadership in regional maritime security and its ability to bring together countries from diverse regions to address shared naval challenges.

Pakistan's holding of AMAN 2025 highlights its commitment to peace-building and security cooperation, emphasizing diplomacy and collaboration to address maritime security challenges. The exercise aims to reduce regional tensions, foster trust among nations, and ensure the free flow of global trade. It allows participating countries to enhance naval capabilities while symbolizing Pakistan's dedication to maintaining a stable maritime environment. Pakistan's broader foreign policy prioritizes multilateralism and dialogue, reaffirmed by its contributions to international maritime security operations like CTF 151 and hosting AMAN 2025. These efforts reflect Pakistan's role as a responsible global actor that values peace, cooperation and shared security. Pakistan emphasises collective action and peaceful dispute resolution by combating piracy, ensuring shipping lane safety, and engaging in diplomatic initiatives. AMAN 2025 demonstrates Pakistan's ongoing dedication to fostering a secure maritime environment and promoting global peace, highlighting the potential for collaboration and mutual respect in addressing maritime security challenges. In summary, regional and global power politics is gaining momentum in the South China Sea, Asia Pacific, IOR, CPEC, and Gwadar, and it has become the hottest topic in international media. Moreover, certain local, non-state irritants, mainly safety, security, regional proxies, sponsorships and manoeuvrings, pose serious challenges to China-Pakistan relations and the execution of the CPEC Phase 2.0 projects. Consequently, the PN and the Maritime Coastguard have a significant traditional and non-traditional role in the region for ensuring maritime security, maintaining stability for the smooth flow of sea routes and exploiting the 'blue economy' potential in the Ocean to the fullest. Since the announcement of the CPEC, PN has joined hands with the Peoples' Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) in the Indian Ocean to protect its maritime interests, consolidate its power in the Ocean and safeguard the CPEC-related infrastructure and sea routes. India forwarded its 'Look East and Think West policy' post-Cold War. Furthermore, to institutionalize its superiority in the Indian Ocean, it spearheaded the foundation of the 23-membered Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in 1997, aiming to boost cooperation among regional powers and sustainable development in the IOR. Notably, Israel is another stakeholder in the Indian Ocean after the signing of the Abraham Accord and the former's partnership with India. The normalization of the relations between Israel and some Arab states has affected the marine environment in the Indian Ocean, which has implications for the region, particularly for Pakistan and China. The BRI and CPEC have gained immense significance in this evolving scenario because they are the smoothest and most economical route in the Indian Ocean. https://pakobserver.net/cpec-2-0-maritime-security-indian-ocean-region-and-aman-2025/

Securing CPEC: Addressing Threats and Grievances

Muhammad Rauhan Rasheed

The China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) aims to drive Pakistan's economic development while strengthening ties with China. However, it faces significant security threats, particularly in regions where militant groups, such as the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), oppose it.

The BLA, fighting for Balochistan's autonomy, has intensified attacks on CPEC infrastructure and Chinese nationals, accusing the project of exploiting local resources. This conflict exposes Islamabad's struggle to balance regional development with local sovereignty. The rising violence underscores the urgent need for robust counter-terrorism measures to protect CPEC and address local grievances.

The BLA's resistance is rooted in historical grievances regarding political representation and control over Balochistan's resources. While CPEC intended to foster national economic growth, the BLA and many local communities see it prioritizing foreign and national interests over their own. Economic inequalities have exacerbated these sentiments, leading to hostility. The BLA's leadership has increasingly focused on high-profile attacks, particularly against Chinese workers, to disrupt Sino-Pakistan relations and amplify the Baloch cause. By targeting foreigners, the insurgents aim to attract global attention to their grievances, portraying CPEC as a form of neocolonialism and a violation of their sovereignty.

The BLA's attacks jeopardised CPEC's security and set a dangerous precedent. Other militant groups, such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and sectarian organizations, may follow suit, using high-profile violence to draw international attention and target key infrastructure. This could lead to a more complex security landscape, with multiple factions vying for recognition through attacks. The rise in insurgent violence undermines public trust in the government's ability to ensure security, erodes investor confidence and damages Pakistan's international standing, complicating diplomatic relations and economic prospects.

Pakistan's efforts to attract foreign investment, mainly through initiatives like the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), face significant challenges in light of these security concerns. Therefore, it is crucial to implement effective counter-terrorism measures to prevent further escalation and avert a broader crisis of governance and security. Understanding external influences on insurgent groups adds complexity to Pakistan's security challenges. It is widely believed that India supports the BLA to destabilize Pakistan and disrupt CPEC, as the project threatens India's strategic interests. This external involvement complicates the internal conflict, creating the potential for proxy warfare in the region.

The security situation surrounding CPEC worsened following a suicide attack near Karachi's Jinnah International Airport on October 6, which killed two Chinese engineers. The BLA claimed responsibility, signalling a sharp escalation in violence. In response, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to securing foreign nationals. The Sindh government swiftly arrested suspects, though protecting high-profile targets like airports remains a logistical challenge requiring extensive coordination between Pakistan and China.

Given CPEC's logistical demands, additional manpower and advanced surveillance technologies are essential to ensure security. Karachi's proximity to busy roads further complicates security measures, often disrupting local life. Preventive measures, such as AI-driven vehicle scanning, behavioural profiling, bomb-detecting K9 units, and drones, are necessary to safeguard high-traffic areas. Moreover, Pakistan and China must strengthen their collaboration in anti-terrorism efforts, including joint military drills and intelligence sharing.

A sustainable resolution requires more than security measures. To ensure lasting peace, the socio-political grievances fueling the Baloch insurgency must be addressed. The Baloch population feels marginalized, and the central government must offer better political representation and economic participation to restore trust. CPEC projects must be designed to benefit local communities, ensuring they benefit from the infrastructural improvements and economic opportunities created. Enhanced security measures will provide only temporary relief without such changes, and insurgent activities will likely continue.

A comprehensive counterterrorism strategy should incorporate both security and diplomatic efforts. Strengthening regional cooperation for counterinsurgency, mainly through multilateral dialogues with neighbouring nations, can help curb cross-border support for insurgencies and create a safer, more stable region. The Pakistani government should also invest in advanced counterterrorism technologies, including an AI-driven centralized intelligence platform, to improve real-time information sharing between federal and provincial authorities. Such measures will enhance situational awareness, allowing for preemptive actions against threats.

Ultimately, Pakistan's counter-terrorism success will depend on its ability to balance immediate security needs with long-term political and social reforms. The future of CPEC and regional stability hinges on addressing the root causes of the insurgency while strengthening security protocols. Combining these approaches will offer the best chance of ending the Baloch insurgency and ensuring the successful implementation of CPEC projects. A safer nation responds effectively to threats and pursues justice, equity and development for all its citizens, ensuring that progress benefits every corner of the country.

https://pakobserver.net/securing-cpec-addressing-threats-and-grievances/

China, Pakistan share common vision of peace & prosperity: Shiyuanqiang Faisal Malik wishes China's govt, people a happy, prosperous New Chinese Year

ISLAMABAD – China and Pakistan share a common destiny of people's progress, region's prosperity and the world's peace. These views were expressed by the Minister of the Embassy of China, Mr Shiyuanqiang while talking to the Chairman & Editor-in-Chief of Pakistan Observer, Mr Faisal Zahid Malik, who visited the Embassy of China to express warm greetings at the start of the New Chinese Year.

Mr Faisal Malik presented Mr Shiyuanqiang with a bouquet as a gesture of goodwill and to reaffirm the bond of friendship between the two neighbouring nations. He also wished the government and the people of China a happy, prosperous New Chinese Year.

While appreciating Mr Faisal Malik's show of solidarity and warmth of mutual respect, Mr Shiyuanqiang said China highly valued its relations with Pakistan. We consider Pakistan a strategic partner and an iron brother, he said. He noted that the partnership between the two countries spans decades and has stood the test of times and climes.

While congratulating Mr Shiyuanqiang on the eve of the New Chinese Year, Mr Faisal Malik remarked that the year has assumed all the more significance with President Asif Zardari's upcoming visit to China in the coming days.

President Asif Zardari is expected to meet with the Chinese leadership and sign several agreements and MoUs during the visit. This visit will open new avenues for people-to-people, government-to-government, and business-to-business cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Likewise, he said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a project that will transform Pakistan's economic prosperity, has entered its second phase this New Year.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of the BRI. It has transformed Pakistan's economy, creating hundreds of thousands of employment opportunities and substantial economic activity. CPEC, with an investment of over US $62 billion, had promised economic prosperity and stability to Pakistan at a time when investment was scarce and the country was facing its worst financial challenges. Mr Shiyuanqiang also commended the role of the Pakistan Observer in further strengthening the bond of partnership between China and Pakistan. He said the media played an important role in paving the way for smooth bilateral trade and investment cooperation between the countries, and the Pakistan Observer is diligently playing that role.

https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-share-common-vision-of-peace-prosperity-shiyuanqiang-faisal-malik-wishes-chinas-govt-people-a-happy-prosperous-new-chinese-year/

K2 Daily



پاکستان چین میں تعاون کے معاہدے

سائنس، ٹیکنالوجی، تجارت، میڈیا کے شعبوں میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعاون بڑھایا جائے گا

صدر آصف زرداری بیجنگ کے گریٹ ہال پہنچنے پر شاندار استقبال، چینی افواج کے دستے نے گارڈ آف آنر پیش کیا

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے بیجنگ میں اپنے چینی ہم منصب شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات کی ہے۔ بیجنگ کے گریٹ ہال آف پیپلز پہنچنے پر چینی صدر نے استقبال کیا۔ صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری کے اعزاز میں مسلح افواج کے چاق و چوبند دستے نے گارڈ آف آنر دیا (باقی صفحہ 7 بقیہ نمبر 20)

بقیہ 20

گرمجوشی، اس ملاقات میں مختلف شعبوں کی پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری اور کئی دیگر موضوعات پر بات ہوئی ہے۔ ملاقات کے موقع پر نائب وزیراعظم اسحاق ڈار، وفاقی وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی، وزیراعلیٰ سندھ مراد علی شاہ اور وفد کے دیگر اراکین بھی موجود تھے۔ بعد ازاں وفدین کے دارالحکومت بیجنگ میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کئے گئے۔ جس میں صدر مملکت آصف زرداری اور چینی ہم منصب شی جن پنگ بھی موجود رہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے میں تعاون اور تجارت، اقتصادی شعبوں میں تعاون کے فروغ کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کئے گئے۔ معاہدوں کے مطابق پاکستان اور چین صحت، میڈیا، توانائی، سماجی، اقتصادی ترقی سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھائے گا۔

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Front_Page&Date=2025-02-06

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2025-02-06



چین سے پولیس کیلئے جدید ٹیکنالوجی آلات خریدنے کا فیصلہ

وزیر داخلہ کی چینی ہم منصب سے ملاقات، انٹیلی جنس شیئرنگ کو مزید بہتر بنانے پر اتفاق

بیجنگ اور اسلام آباد پولیس میں تعاون بڑھانے کا فیصلہ، چینی وزیر داخلہ کو پاکستان کے دورے کی دعوت بھی دیدی

بقیہ 38

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Nawaiwaqt News

پہلے چین پھر کسی اور کے اتحادی، زرداری: تاریخی دوستی، تعلقات مثال، صدر شی

اسلام آباد' بیجنگ (نمائندہ خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چین کے دورہ پر صدر آصف زرداری نے گزشتہ روز چینی ہم منصب سے ملاقات کی جس میں فریقین نے باہمی اور وفود کی سطح پر مختلف امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات میں کہا ہے کہ پڑوسی سے زیادہ ہمارے قریب کوئی اور ہے غلط ہو گا کیونکہ چین اور ہماری سرحدیں آپس میں ملتی ہیں۔ صدر شی جن پنگ اور صدر آصف زرداری کی بیجنگ میں گریٹ ہال آف چائنہ میں ملاقات ہوئی جس میں چینیوں کی پاکستان میں سکیورٹی اور سی پیک منصوبوں میں تیزی پر بات ہوئی۔ ملاقات میں علاقائی، بین الاقوامی امور اور دوطرفہ تعلقات پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا جبکہ شراکت داری کے دائرہ کار کو مزید وسعت دینے کے مواقع پر بات چیت کی گئی۔ اس موقع پر صدر مملکت نے کہا ہم پہلے چین پھر کسی اور کے اتحادی ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کی مثالی ترقی اور خوشحالی چینی قیادت کے وژن اور عوام کی فعالیت کا مظہر ہے۔ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے بھی پاکستان سے تعلق پر گہرے اعتماد کا اظہار کیا اور کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان فولادی دوست اور ہر موسم کے سٹرٹیجک پارٹنر ز ہیں، سی پیک کی تعمیر اور مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون دوطرفہ تعلقات کی اعلیٰ مثال ہے۔ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان سٹرٹیجک تعاون پر مبنی شراکت دار ہیں۔ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان پائیدار اور روایتی دوستی تاریخی ہے۔ پاک چین دوستی دونوں ممالک اور ان کے عوام کا قیمتی اثاثہ ہے۔ دونوں ممالک نے سی پیک کی تعمیر' مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو مضبوطی سے آگے بڑھایا۔ چین پاکستان تعاون دوطرفہ تعلقات کیلئے ایک مثال ہے۔ آصف علی زرداری نے عالمی ترقی میں چین کے تعاون پر چینی صدر کو خراج تحسین پیش کیا۔ آصف علی زرداری بیجنگ میں عظیم ہال پہنچے' جہاں چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے ان کا پرتپاک استقبال کیا۔ سرکاری ٹیلی ویژن پی ٹی وی کے مطابق صدر آصف علی زرداری کی عظیم عوامی ہال آمد کے موقع پر مسلح افواج کے چاک وچوبند دستوں نے گارڈ آف آنر پیش کیا۔ اس موقع پر پاکستان اور چین کے قومی ترانے بھی بجائے گئے' جبکہ دونوں ممالک کے صدور نے اپنے وفود کا تعارف کروایا۔ ایوان صدر کے پریس ونگ سے جاری اعلامیے کے مطابق صدر مملکت نے چین کی خاطر اپنی جانوں کا نذرانہ پیش کرنے والے ہیروز کی یادگار پر پھول چڑھائے۔ صدر مملکت نے چین کے ہیروز کی جرات اور بہادری کو خراج تحسین بھی پیش کیا۔ انہوں نے چین کی نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس کی قائمہ کمیٹی کے چیئرمین چالے چی سے ملاقات کی، جس میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان سدا بہار دوستی کو مزید اجاگر کیا گیا۔ بدھ کو ایوان صدر کے پریس ونگ سے جاری اعلامیہ کے مطابق صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری کی چین کے عظیم عوامی ایوان میں چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کے ساتھ وفود کی سطح پر ملاقات ہوئی اور دوطرفہ تعلقات کے حوالہ سے مثبت رفتار اور بین الاقوامی امور پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ صدر آصف علی زرداری اور چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے درمیان وفود کی سطح پر ملاقات کے موقع پر ایک اعلامیہ بھی جاری کیا گیا۔ اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سے علاقائی روابط، مشترکہ فوائد اور خوشحالی کو فروغ حاصل ہو گا۔ ملاقات میں

مشترکہ مستقبل کی پاک-چین کمیونٹی مضبوط بنانے کیلئے عوامی روابط اور ثقافتی تبادلوں کی ضرورت پر بھی زور دیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر صدر آصف علی زرداری نے چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کو دورہ پاکستان کی دعوت دی۔ ملاقات کے بعد مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کی تقریب بھی منعقد ہوئی۔ تقریب میں سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی، میڈیا، توانائی اور سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے کے لئے مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کئے گئے۔ بعد ازاں چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے صدر آصف علی زرداری اور ان کے وفد کے اعزاز میں عشائیے کا بھی اہتمام کیا۔ دریں اثناء سندھ حکومت کے وفد نے بیجنگ میں چینی کمپنی نورنکو کے حکام سے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ مراد علی شاہ نے وفد کی قیادت کی۔ کراچی سرکلر ریلوے' تھر کول انرجی' الیکٹرک بسوں و دیگر منصوبوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-02-06/page-1/detail-35

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Business Recorder

FTA (Phase-II): Pakistan, China agree to deepen trade liberalisation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have agreed to deepen trade liberalisation under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (Phase-II), take China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) upgraded project to new heights and actively explore new bilateral trade facilitation measures.

The two sides agreed to conduct further consultation on trade liberalisation under the framework of the Phase-II of China-Pakistan FTA, and actively explore the possible bilateral concessional arrangements based on the spirit of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation.

Pakistan and China reaffirmed their resolve to enhancing cooperation in multiple sectors including counter-terrorism, economic cooperation, trade, and infrastructure development as President Asif Ali Zardari met with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiniang during his five-day state visit to Beijing.

President Asif Ali Zardari is currently paying a five-day official visit to China (from February 4 to 10).

According to joint statement issued by Foreign Office of Pakistan and China on Thursday, President Xi Jinping held talks with President Zardari in a warm and friendly atmosphere. They had an in-depth exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations under the new situation and on the international and regional issues of mutual interests.

Li Qiang, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, and Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, met with President Zardari respectively.

Both countries agreed to implement an upgraded version of CPEC, focusing on five new corridors: growth, livelihood-enhancing, innovation, green, and open corridors. These corridors aim to drive industrialisation, socioeconomic development, technology-driven cooperation, environmental sustainability, and regional connectivity.

They also committed to accelerating major infrastructure projects, including the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway upgrade, which will be executed in a phased and secure manner, the Karakoram Highway (Raikot-Thakot) realignment, with early implementation and financing

finalisation, and the development of Gwadar Port as a multimodal logistics hub and industrial base. China will continue supporting Pakistan's industrialisation, encouraging Chinese firms to invest in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under market-driven principles, while Pakistan pledged to improve its business environment to attract more Chinese investments under business-to-business (B2B) model.

Recognising Pakistan's economic challenges, China reiterated its support for Pakistan's fiscal and financial stability. Both sides committed to expanding cooperation in the financial and banking sectors, supporting each other within regional and international multilateral financial platforms.

The two sides vowed that the China-Pakistan relationship remains of strategic significance, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine it is bound to fail.

The Chinese side gladly noted Pakistan's National Economic Transformation Plan (Uraan) applauds the new achievements attained by Pakistan in economic reform and national development and wishes Pakistan stability, security, development and prosperity.

The Pakistani side reaffirmed its firm commitment to the one-China principle. It is of the view that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China and the Taiwan question is the core of China's core interests. Pakistan will also firmly support China on issues related to Xinjiang, Xizang, Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

The Chinese side reiterated its firm support for Pakistan in defending its national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and its support for Pakistan's efforts to safeguard national security, stability, development and prosperity.

The two sides reiterated their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with a zero-tolerance attitude, and agreed to further strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation on counter terrorism.

Recognising the significance of the Gwadar Port, both sides agreed to optimally utilise its potential as a key hub of connectivity and trade.

The Chinese side reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is left over from history and should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

They called on the Interim Afghan Government to take visible and verifiable actions to dismantle and eliminate all terrorist groups based in Afghanistan which continue to pose a serious threat to regional and global security, and to prevent the use of Afghan territory against other countries.

Reuters adds: China and Pakistan will upgrade and reconstruct Pakistan's railway network and further develop its Gwadar port, while Chinese companies can invest in the South Asian nation's offshore oil and gas developments, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Thursday.

The comments came as Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari visits China from February 4-8, where he will also attend the opening ceremony of the Asian Winter Games.

Chinese investment and financial support for Pakistan since 2013 have been a boon for the South Asian nation's struggling economy.

The two countries have had close ties underpinned by long-standing wariness of their common neighbour, India, and a desire to hedge against US influence across the region.

Pakistan and China recognised the importance of Pakistan's "Gwadar Port and agreed to fully unleash its potential as a key node for connectivity and trade," Xinhua said quoting a joint statement from the two countries.

Chinese-funded enterprises would be encouraged to "carry out mining investment cooperation in Pakistan" and cooperate in terrestrial and marine geological resources.

"Pakistan welcomes Chinese companies to participate in the development of offshore oil and gas resources in Pakistan."

Longtime Pakistan ally China has thousands of nationals working on projects grouped under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The $65-billion investment is part of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, designed to Beijing's global reach by road, rail and sea.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40346749

Daily Times

'Any attempt to disrupt Sino-Pak ties bound to fail'

* Joint declaration says Pakistan, China agree to bolster anti-terror cooperation

* Pakistan reaffirms that ensuring the safety of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions is the foremost responsibility of the government

* FO says two sides agree to expand cooperation in diverse range of fields

Pakistan and China have agreed to strengthen their bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism activities, reiterating that any attempt to undermine or disrupt their ties was bound to fail, the Foreign Office (FO) said on Thursday.

They also agreed to upgrade cooperation in various other sectors such as defence, agriculture and information technology. The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed as President Asif Ali Zardari met Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Peoples Congress Zhao Leji during his visit to China.

A joint statement issued by the FO on the discussions and agreements reached during the visit said: "The Pakistani side reiterated its strongest condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Pakistan involving Chinese personnel. It reaffirmed that ensuring the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan is the foremost responsibility of Pakistani government as China's all-weather strategic cooperative partner and the host country.

"The Chinese nationals in Pakistan have made important contributions to Pakistan's national construction and the improvement of people's livelihoods and serve as a strong force helping

boost Pakistan's development, progress and prosperity. The Pakistani side expressed its sincere gratitude to the leadership and the people of China for their longstanding and invaluable support to Pakistan."

It added that the two sides reiterated their commitment to combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with a "zero-tolerance attitude" and agreed to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism.

"The Pakistani side will continue to make all efforts to investigate into the terrorist attacks involving Chinese personnel and bring the perpetrators to justice. It will also further increase input into security, and take targeted and enhanced measures to effectively ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan, and create a safe environment for cooperation between the two countries.

"The Chinese side spoke highly of Pakistan's unremitting efforts and tremendous sacrifices in combatting terrorism and expressed its willingness to provide necessary support for Pakistan's counter-terrorism capacity building," the FO said.

It added that the Pakistani delegation also reaffirmed its firm commitment to the one-China principle, calling Taiwan an "inalienable part of the territory of China and the Taiwan question the core of China's core interests".

The FO said Pakistan firmly supported all efforts made by China to achieve national reunification and resolutely opposed all forms of Taiwan independence, adding that this support also extended to all issues related to Xinjiang, Xizang (Tibet), Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

"The Chinese side reiterated its firm support for Pakistan in defending its national sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and its support for Pakistan's efforts to safeguard national security, stability, development and prosperity."

The statement said the two sides agreed that the China-Pakistan "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership" was a "choice by history and by the people" that enjoyed "broad support from all walks of life" in both countries.

"Having withstood the test of changing international circumstances, the enduring partnership and iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan transcends geopolitical interests and is an important positive factor for regional peace, stability and development. The two sides have always understood and supported each other, and have been deepening strategic mutual trust and practical cooperation.

"The two sides noted that while the transformation not seen in a century is accelerating, the China-Pakistan relationship remains of strategic significance and any attempt to disrupt or undermine it is bound to fail.

"The Chinese side reiterated that the China-Pakistan relationship is a priority in its foreign relations and of special significance in China's foreign policy. The Pakistani side underscored that the Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy. The two sides will further deepen high-level political mutual trust, high-level practical cooperation, high-level security cooperation and high-level international coordination, accelerate efforts to

build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, and contribute greater strength to common prosperity of the two countries and to peace and development of the region." During the visit, the two sides signed over a dozen documents covering cooperation on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), trade, science and technology, people's livelihoods and media, etc.

The FO said President Zardari will also attend the opening ceremony of the Ninth Asian Winter Games during his stay in China. President Zardari also invited his Chinese counterpart to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient time.

The two countries have had close ties underpinned by long-standing wariness of their common neighbour, India, and a desire to hedge against US influence across the region. Chinese investment and financial support for Pakistan since 2013 have been a boon for its struggling economy. China has thousands of nationals working on projects grouped under CPEC.

The $65-billion investment is part of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative, designed to Beijing's global reach by road, rail and sea.

The FO said that apart from enhancing cooperation in information technology (IT) and emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, big data and communication technology, the two sides also agreed to expand cooperation in education, media, think tanks, youth, films and television to strengthen the bond between the two peoples and enhance mutual learning between civilisations.

"Pakistan and China agreed to conduct further consultation on trade liberalisation under the framework of the Phase-II of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and actively explore the possible bilateral concessional arrangements based on the spirit of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation. "It was also agreed to promote the implementation of the eight major steps on high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in Pakistan and jointly build a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, to create an upgraded version of CPEC, in line with Pakistans 5Es framework."

The government launched its 13th Five-Year Plan (2024-2029) in December called "Uraan Pakistan: Homegrown National Economic Plan", which aims to address key economic challenges through a targeted framework called the "Five Es" – Exports; E-Pakistan; Equity and Empowerment; Environment, Food and Water Security; and Energy and Infrastructure.

"Both sides reaffirmed to make efforts to advance the upgradation of ML-1 in a phased and secure manner and reiterated that the Karakoram Highway (Raikot-Thakot) realignment project is of great importance to the land connectivity between China and Pakistan, and agreed to reach an early consensus on its implementation and financing."

The FO said the Pakistani side also highly commended and expressed strong support for President Xi's Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilisation Initiative. It added that the two sides agreed to step up international cooperation in this regard to jointly tackle global challenges and foster a "community with a shared future for mankind".

President Zardari lauded the great development achievements made by the Chinese people and expressed firm support for the Chinese side in advancing the "great cause of building a great modern socialist country in all respects".

The FO pointed out that the Chinese side gladly noted Pakistan's National Economic Transformation Plan (Uraan), applauding the new achievements in economic reform and national development and wished stability, security, development and prosperity for its ally.

Recalling the 13th CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting, the two sides reiterated their commitment to further leverage the body's functions to strengthen the alignment of ideas and coordination of actions for CPEC's high-quality development.

The two sides agreed to hold the 14th JCC meeting as early as possible at a mutually agreed date.

Both sides also welcomed the official inauguration of the new Gwadar International Airport and reaffirmed their commitment to promoting the Gwadar Port's comprehensive development and operation further to leverage its role as a multimodal logistics hub.

The Pakistani side reiterated its commitment to continuing to improve its business environment and provide a favourable policy framework for Chinese investment.

Both sides expressed their willingness to encourage Chinese companies to engage in investment and cooperation in Pakistan's mining industry and encourage relevant departments of both countries to carry out terrestrial and marine geological survey cooperation.

The two sides agreed to further strengthen agricultural cooperation and select the next batch of projects under the CPEC framework. The two sides welcomed the active participation of third parties in CPEC cooperation.

It was agreed that China would encourage its technology companies to actively expand their businesses in Pakistan to accelerate science and technology cooperation in the high-quality development of CPEC's second phase and develop an innovation corridor.

The two sides noted with satisfaction their ongoing collaborative efforts to leverage joint ventures in priority areas to enhance the export-oriented industry in Pakistan and encouraged Chinese companies with capabilities to invest in these sectors under the concept of win-win cooperation.

The FO said they also agreed to strengthen joint support for business-to-business (B2B) cooperation in both countries and facilitate deeper exchanges and cooperation between their business communities.

"The Pakistani side reiterated its high appreciation for China's valuable support for the fiscal and financial stability of Pakistan.

"Both sides reaffirmed their desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the financial and banking sectors, and support each other within regional and international multilateral financial platforms.

"They agreed to continue to cooperate on people's livelihood in areas such as healthcare, agriculture, education, climate response, and disaster prevention and alleviation, and to deliver more small and beautiful projects beneficial for the people.

"The Pakistani side spoke highly of the children's congenital heart disease treatment project and health kits project carried out by the Chinese side in Pakistan. Both sides discussed ways to deepen cooperation in health sector, including in traditional and herbal medicine."

The FO said the Chinese side also expressed readiness to actively support Pakistani students in learning the Chinese language as well as to explore avenues for promoting technical and vocational training.

Both countries expressed satisfaction at the existing level of cooperation in space and agreed to advance and pursue further progress in this important area for socio-economic purposes.

"The two sides expressed satisfaction that the two militaries have long enjoyed high-level of mutual trust, high-level cooperation, and high-level coordination. The two sides agreed to maintain the momentum of high-level military-to-military visits and exchanges, and to continuously elevate cooperation in areas of joint training, exercises and military technology."

Pakistan and China also expressed satisfaction with their close cooperation at the UN and other multilateral forums and expressed resolution to further deepen coordination on multilateral issues to uphold the common interests of developing countries and international equity and justice.

On regional matters, the FO said both countries believed that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia was in the common interest of all parties and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the region and the need for resolution of all outstanding disputes, and their opposition to any unilateral action.

The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese leadership on the latest developments in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Chinese side reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was left over from history and should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements," the FO said

The two countries also agreed to strengthen high-level interactions, enhance exchanges and cooperation across various departments and at different levels between central governments, local authorities, legislative bodies and political parties, and carry out in-depth exchanges of governance experience.

They further agreed to maintain close communication and coordination on the issue of Afghanistan and play a constructive role in helping the country achieve stable development and integrate into the international community.

The two sides called on the Interim Afghan Government to take "visible and verifiable actions to dismantle and eliminate all terrorist groups based in Afghanistan which continue to

pose a serious threat to regional and global security, and to prevent the use of Afghan territory against other countries".

Pakistan and China also welcomed the ceasefire agreement in Gaza and expressed hope that the agreement would be implemented effectively, leading to a full and permanent ceasefire in the battered territory.

"The two sides reaffirmed their support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to establish an independent state of Palestine. The two sides will work with international community to make unremitting efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East."

Meanwhile, the official Xinhua news agency reported that the two sides will upgrade and reconstruct Pakistan's railway network and further develop the Gwadar port with Chinese companies able to invest in the country's offshore oil and gas developments.

Pakistan and China recognised the importance of Pakistan's "Gwadar Port and agreed to fully unleash its potential as a key node for connectivity and trade", Xinhua said quoting a joint statement from the two countries.

Chinese-funded enterprises would be encouraged to "carry out mining investment cooperation in Pakistan" and cooperate in terrestrial and marine geological resources.

"Pakistan welcomes Chinese companies to participate in the development of offshore oil and gas resources in Pakistan."

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1263321/any-attempt-to-disrupt-sino-pak-ties-bound-to-fail/

Pakistan's first large-scale donkey slaughterhouse starts production in Gwadar

* Chinese company has started operations, marking a major step in donkey meat, bones, hides exports, NA body

Officials from the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) confirmed Thursday that a newly established slaughterhouse in Gwadar has started production to meet the surge in demand for donkey meat, bones, and hides in China for manufacturing the traditional product, e-jiao.

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Food Security, chaired by Committee Chairman Rana Muhammad Hayat, convened, during which officials disclosed that China has inked an accord with Pakistan for the procurement of donkey hides and bones.

A Chinese company has begun operations in Gwadar, marking a significant step in this unconventional export sector, the committee was informed.

When Hayat questioned why Pakistan was not exporting live donkeys instead, officials explained that the logistics of exporting live animals were challenging and less viable than exporting their by-products.

The MNFSR officials further disclosed that requests for setting up donkey slaughterhouses in other parts of the country were also pouring in, while negotiations were underway with other Chinese firms looking to invest in the trade.

As the discussion continued, the committee chairman pointed out that donkeys, once the mainstay of small-load transport, were losing their relevance as beasts of burden, leading to a decline in their domestic use.

In the same breath, Hayat suggested that selective breeding of high-quality donkeys should still be encouraged to maintain their population – given their potential economic value.

Pakistan's donkey population stands at approximately 5.9 million, with China being a major market where donkey meat is used in cuisine and the hides for producing e-jiao, a traditional medicinal gelatin.

Previously, exports were limited due to delays in finalising the necessary protocols, which have now been completed.

Quoting animal welfare groups and veterinary experts, Reuters in a report published last year, said that China's demand for e-jiao is fueling the slaughter of millions of donkeys every year.

E-jiao, which is made using collagen extracted from donkey hides, is a vital ingredient in food and beauty products believed by many Chinese consumers to enrich the blood, improve the immune system, and prevent diseases.

Being a luxury product, e-jiao gained favour among elites during the Qing dynasty that ruled China from 1644 until 1912. Its popularity has surged in recent years due partly to its use in the Chinese television series 'Empress in the Palace', which started airing in 2011. The rise in demand has also been fuelled by China's growing middle class and rising elderly population.

Its price has leapt 30-fold in the past decade from 100 yuan per 500 grams to 2,986 yuan ($420), according to Chinese state media.

The e-jiao industry requires an estimated 5.9 million donkey skins annually, which has put unprecedented pressure on global populations, according to a report released in February by The Donkey Sanctuary, a British charity devoted to the animal's welfare.

E-jiao has a 3,000-year history in the northern Shandong province, according to the government-backed China Daily newspaper. The province accounts for around 90% of China's e-jiao production, it said.

It is considered a "national cultural heritage" and is one of the most important products in the traditional Chinese medicine industry, according to Chinese state media.

Four companies dominate the e-jiao sector, according to Johnston's China-Africa report, with Dong-E-E-Jiao accounting for around 60% of total production, the Fu brand controlling 15% of the market and Taiji and Tongrentang Ejiao controlling 10% each. https://dailytimes.com.pk/1263228/pakistans-first-large-scale-donkey-slaughterhouse-starts-production-in-gwadar/

Chinese naval fleet to join multinational exercise in Pakistan

A Chinese naval fleet consisting of the vessels of Baotou and Gaoyouhu will participate in a multinational joint exercise in Pakistan this February at the invitation of the Pakistani military, China's Ministry of National Defense said Thursday.

During the exercise, code-named "Peace-2025," participating vessels will conduct drills focused on maritime resupply, joint anti-piracy operations, search and rescue, and air defense, which are aimed at enhancing the capability of jointly safeguarding maritime security, the ministry said.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1263239/chinese-naval-fleet-to-join-multinational-exercise-in-pakistan/

Dawn News

Pakistan, China agree to boost cooperation

- Pledge to work together on counterterrorism, IT, defence, agriculture

• Say attempts to disrupt relationship bound to fail

• Zardari to attend opening ceremony of Asian Winter Games

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation across multiple sectors, including counterterrorism, defence, agriculture and information technology, underscoring that any attempt to disrupt bilateral ties is bound to fail.

The agreement came during President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to China, where he will also attend the opening ceremony of the Asian Winter Games.

He has held meetings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. A joint statement issued by the Foreign Office on Thursday outlined the discussions and agreements reached during the visit.

"While the transformation not seen in a century is accelerating, the China-Pakistan relationship remains of strategic significance, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine it is bound to fail," it read, reaffirming the long-standing All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two nations.

Pakistan and China signed over a dozen agreements covering cooperation in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), trade, science and technology, and media. The two sides agreed to enhance collaboration in emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, big data and communications.

Both countries committed to expanding cooperation in education, think tanks, films, television and youth exchanges to foster closer ties. They also pledged to hold further consultations on trade liberalisation under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and explore concessional arrangements based on mutual benefit.

The statement also reaffirmed the goal of upgrading CPEC, incorporating a growth corridor, innovation corridor, green corridor and open corridor in line with Pakistan's 5Es framework.

Pakistan and China reiterated their commitment to advancing the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway project in a phased and secure manner and agreed on the early implementation of the Karakoram Highway realignment project, which is considered crucial for connectivity.

Counterterror cooperation

Both sides reaffirmed their determination to combat terrorism, with Pakistan pledging to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions. Islamabad reiterated its zero-tolerance policy on terrorism, vowing to bring perpetrators of attacks on Chinese nationals to justice.

China acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices in counterterrorism efforts and expressed its willingness to provide support for Pakistan's counterterrorism capacity building.

Pakistan expressed strong appreciation for China's support in stabilising its economy and reaffirmed its commitment to creating a favourable environment for Chinese investment. Both nations agreed to strengthen cooperation in banking and financial sectors within regional and multilateral platforms.

China also welcomed Pakistan's National Economic Transformation Plan (Uraan), commending its efforts towards economic reform and development.

Geopolitical coordination

The two nations reiterated their shared stance on key geopolitical issues. Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to the One-China principle, recognising Taiwan as an inalienable part of China. It also reiterated its support for China's policies in Xinjiang, Xizang, Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

On Jammu and Kashmir, China reaffirmed its position that the dispute should be resolved peacefully in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. Regarding Afghanistan, both sides urged the interim Afghan government to take "visible and verifiable" action against terrorist groups operating from its soil. They also called for increased international efforts to stabilise Afghanistan and integrate it into the global economy. Pakistan and China welcomed ceasefire in Gaza and reaffirmed their support for Palestinian self-determination and statehood.

Zardari-Li meeting

In a separate bilateral meeting, President Zardari and Premier Li Qiang discussed expanding trade, economic cooperation and private-sector linkages.

The two leaders highlighted the role of CPEC in regional connectivity and economic growth and emphasised high-quality development in renewable energy, science and technology, infrastructure and agriculture. Both sides also underlined the importance of cultural and people-to-people exchanges to deepen mutual understanding and cooperation.

https://www.dawn.com/news/1890260/pakistan-china-agree-to-boost-cooperation

Pakistan Observer

China AI economy: boon for developing nations

Yasir Habib Khan

In the fast-evolving economy of artificial intelligence (AI), China has emerged as a formidable player, offering profuse fortunes for developing nations, especially the global South, to help them keep pace with global technological progress. With the advent of DeepSeek, China's pioneering AI innovation, the country is rapidly outpacing the West, establishing itself as a worldwide AI powerhouse in connection with Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision to stay ahead in new quality productive forces, especially the AI plus initiative. China's "artificial intelligence (AI) plus" initiative became a reality at the annual sessions of China's top legislature and top political advisory body, or the "two sessions," in March 2024.

This paradigm shift redefines technological leadership and offers unprecedented opportunities for developing economies worldwide. In 2023, the scale of China's core AI industry reached 500 billion Yuan. The market scale for large AI models was 2.1 billion U.S. dollars, up 110 per cent yearly. In 2035, the scale of the AI industry is expected to exceed 1.7 trillion Yuan, according to data from the China Centre for Information Industry Development. The global AI market, valued at $196.63 billion in 2023, is projected to grow at a 36.6% annual rate from 2024 to 2030, driven by tech innovations in sectors like healthcare, vehicles, and manufacturing. Many developing nations leverage AI to boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve living standards.

By making AI technology more affordable and accessible, China enables nations like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and others to integrate AI-driven solutions into key sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, and education. Through strategic initiatives, including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China fosters global collaborations that equip local workforces with essential AI skills, creating sustainable technological ecosystems in regions that traditionally lagged in digital innovation.

One of China's most significant advantages to developing nations is the reduction in AI development costs. Unlike Western AI models that require extensive computational resources and proprietary datasets, China's AI firms emphasize cost-effective solutions that maximize efficiency. This affordability allows lower-income countries to adopt AI-driven applications without straining their financial resources. In agriculture, for example, Chinese AI models optimize irrigation techniques, forecast weather patterns, and improve crop yields, directly addressing food security challenges in water-scarce regions. While the benefits of AI have been mainly concentrated in developed economies, China's strategic approach to AI development and governance is proving to be a game-changer for developing nations. With its latest AI Capacity-Building Action Plan and commitment to South-South cooperation, China is positioning itself as a leader in helping the Global South harness AI's potential for economic growth, industrial modernization, and sustainable development.

A core pillar of China's AI strategy is its emphasis on digital infrastructure development. Developing nations have long struggled with inadequate technological infrastructure, making

participating in the AI revolution difficult. China's push for AI and digital infrastructure connectivity aims to bridge this gap by supporting AI technologies, data centres, cloud computing facilities, and high-speed internet networks. By improving AI interoperability and accessibility, China ensures that emerging economies are not left behind in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Beyond infrastructure, China's AI initiatives focus on empowering key industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, and education. For instance, AI-powered solutions in precision agriculture can help farmers in developing countries optimize yields, manage resources efficiently, and mitigate the effects of climate change. AI applications can enhance diagnostics, telemedicine, and personalized treatments in healthcare, significantly improving medical services in regions with limited healthcare infrastructure. Through targeted investments and technology-sharing, China enables developing nations to leapfrog traditional industrial barriers and accelerate economic growth.

Another crucial aspect of China's AI strategy is talent development. Recognizing the importance of AI literacy, China has committed to training professionals and expanding AI education in developing countries. Initiatives such as AI workshops, joint research labs, and knowledge-sharing programs are being implemented to cultivate local AI expertise. This builds a skilled workforce and ensures that AI development in these nations is locally driven and tailored to their unique socio-economic needs. By strengthening AI capacity-building efforts, China is fostering a new generation of AI professionals who can drive innovation and digital transformation in their home countries.

AI governance is another area in which China's approach benefits the developing world. Through international cooperation mechanisms, such as the United Nations and the Digital Silk Road Initiative, China advocates for AI policies that reflect the interests of developing nations. The emphasis on national sovereignty in AI governance ensures that emerging economies maintain control over their data and technological resources. Furthermore, China's call for ethical AI development, addressing algorithmic bias, data privacy, and security risks, aligns with the need for inclusive and fair AI implementation in diverse cultural and economic contexts.

China's AI surge facilitates sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the Global South. AI-driven solutions are being leveraged to tackle pressing global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, and resource management. For example, AI-powered monitoring systems can help track deforestation, optimize water usage, and reduce carbon footprints. By integrating AI into green development strategies, China ensures that developing countries can pursue economic growth without compromising environmental sustainability. Aligned with the broader "Made in China 2025" vision, this transformation highlights China's commitment to leading in AI, intelligent manufacturing, and high-tech industries.

https://pakobserver.net/china-ai-economy-boon-for-developing-nations/

The News

Pakistan, China sign $300m MoUs

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors, including counter-terrorism, defence, agriculture, information technology, reiterating that the attempt to undermine or disrupt bilateral ties were bound to fail. Besides Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth more than $300 million in the energy, coal and cement sectors were also signed.

The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed as President Asif Ali Zardari, during his ongoing five-day state visit to China, met with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, National People's Congress Standing Committee Chairman Zhao Leji, according to a joint statement issued by the Foreign Office on Thursday encompassing the discussions and agreements reached during the visit.

"While the transformation not seen in a century is accelerating, the China-Pakistan relationship remains of strategic significance, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine it is bound to fail...The two sides agreed that the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership is a choice by history and by the people, and enjoys broad support from all walks of life in both countries," it said.

During the visit, the two sides signed over a dozen documents covering cooperation on CPEC, trade, science and technology, people's livelihoods, and media etc. During his stay in China, President Zardari will also attend the opening ceremony of the Ninth Asian Winter Games.

Besides enhancing cooperation in IT and emerging areas like artificial intelligence, big data and communication technology, the two sides agreed to expand cooperation in education, media, think tanks, youth, films and television to strengthen the bond between the two peoples and enhance mutual learning between civilisations.

Pakistan and China agreed to conduct further consultation on trade liberalisation under the framework of the Phase-II of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, and actively explore the possible bilateral concessional arrangements based on the spirit of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation.

It was also agreed to promote the implementation of the eight major steps on high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in Pakistan and jointly build a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, to create an upgraded version of CPEC, in line with Pakistan's 5Es framework.

Both sides reaffirmed to make efforts to advance the upgradation of ML-1 in a phased and secure manner and reiterated that the Karakoram Highway (Raikot-Thakot) realignment project is of great importance to the land connectivity between China and Pakistan, and agreed to reach an early consensus on its implementation and financing.

Two sides believed that having withstood the test of changing international circumstances, the enduring partnership and iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan transcended

geopolitical interests. The two sides have always understood and supported each other, and have been deepening strategic mutual trust and practical cooperation.

The Chinese side reiterated that the China-Pakistan relationship was a priority in its foreign relations and of special significance in China's foreign policy. The Pakistani side also underscored that the Pakistan-China relationship was the cornerstone of its foreign policy.

Pakistan highly commended and expressed strong support for the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilisation Initiative put forth by President Xi Jinping. The two sides agreed to step up international cooperation in this regard to jointly tackle global challenges and foster a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind.

President Zardari lauded the great development achievements made by the Chinese people and expressed firm support for the Chinese side in advancing the great cause of building a great modern socialist country in all respects.

The Chinese side gladly noted Pakistan's National Economic Transformation Plan (Uraan), applauding the new achievements attained by Pakistan in economic reform and national development and wished Pakistan stability, security, development and prosperity.

The Pakistani side reaffirmed its firm commitment to the one-China principle, calling Taiwan an inalienable part of the territory of China and the Taiwan question the core of China's core interests.

"It firmly supports all efforts made by China to achieve national reunification and resolutely opposes all forms of "Taiwan independence." Pakistan will also firmly support China on issues related to Xinjiang, Xizang, Hong Kong and the South China Sea."

The Chinese side reiterated its firm support for Pakistan in defending its national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and its support for Pakistan's efforts to safeguard national security, stability, development and prosperity.

Both countries believed that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia was in the common interest of all parties and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in South Asia and the need for resolution of all outstanding disputes, and their opposition to any unilateral action.

The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese leadership on the latest developments in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chinese side reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was left over from history and should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

Pakistan and China agreed to strengthen high-level interactions, enhance exchanges and cooperation across various departments and at different levels between central governments, local authorities, legislative bodies and political parties, and carry out in-depth exchanges of governance experience.

Pakistan reiterated its strongest condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Pakistan involving Chinese personnel and reaffirmed that ensuring the safety and security of Chinese personnel,

projects and institutions in Pakistan was the foremost responsibility of Pakistani government as China's All-weather Strategic Cooperative partner and the host country.

"The Chinese nationals in Pakistan have made important contributions to Pakistan's national construction and the improvement of people's livelihoods and serve as a strong force helping boost Pakistan's development, progress and prosperity."

The two sides reiterated their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with a zero-tolerance attitude, and agreed to further strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation on counter terrorism.

"The Pakistani side will continue to make all efforts to investigate into the terrorist attacks involving Chinese personnel and bring the perpetrators to justice. It will also further increase input into security, and take targeted and enhanced measures to effectively ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan, and create a safe environment for cooperation between the two countries," it added.

The Chinese side appreciated Pakistan's unremitting efforts and tremendous sacrifices in combating terrorism and expressed its willingness to provide the necessary support for Pakistan's counter-terrorism capacity building.

Recalling the 13th CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting, the two sides reiterated the commitment to further leverage the JCC's functions to strengthen alignment of ideas and coordination of actions for high-quality CPEC development.

The two sides agreed to hold the 14th JCC meeting as early as possible at a mutually agreed date.

Both sides welcomed the official inauguration of the new Gwadar International Airport, and reaffirmed their commitment to promoting the comprehensive development and operation of the Gwadar Port to further leverage its role as a multimodal logistics hub.

The Pakistani side reiterated its commitment to continuing to improve its business environment and provide a favorable policy framework for Chinese investment. The two sides welcomed the active participation of third parties in CPEC cooperation.

Pakistan and China expressed their willingness to encourage Chinese companies to engage in investment and cooperation in Pakistan's mining industry and encourage relevant departments of both countries to carry out terrestrial and marine geological survey cooperation.

The two sides agreed to further strengthen agricultural cooperation and select the next batch of projects under the CPEC framework.

It was agreed that China would encourage its technology companies to actively expand their businesses in Pakistan to accelerate Science & Technology cooperation in the high-quality development of CPEC's second phase and develop an innovation corridor.

The two sides noted with satisfaction their ongoing collaborative efforts to leverage joint ventures in priority areas to enhance the export-oriented industry in Pakistan and encouraged

Chinese companies with capabilities to invest in these sectors under the concept of win-win cooperation.

It was agreed to strengthen joint support for Business-to-Business (B2B) cooperation in both countries and facilitate deeper exchanges and cooperation between business communities of the two countries.

The Pakistani side reiterated its high appreciation for China's valuable support for the fiscal and financial stability of Pakistan.

Both sides reaffirmed their desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the financial and banking sectors, and support each other within regional and international multilateral financial platforms.

They agreed to continue to cooperate on people's livelihood in areas such as healthcare, agriculture, education, climate response, and disaster prevention and alleviation, and to deliver more "small and beautiful" projects beneficial for the people.

The Pakistani side spoke highly of the children's congenital heart disease treatment project and health kits project carried out by the Chinese side in Pakistan.

Both sides discussed ways to deepen cooperation in health sector, including in traditional and herbal medicine.

The Chinese side expressed the readiness to actively support Pakistani students in learning the Chinese language as well as to explore avenues for promoting technical and vocational training.

Both countries expressed satisfaction at the existing level of cooperation in space and agreed to advance and pursue further progress in this important area for socio-economic purpose.

"The two sides expressed satisfaction that the two militaries have long enjoyed high-level of mutual trust, high-level cooperation, and high-level coordination. The two sides agreed to maintain the momentum of high-level military-to-military visits and exchanges, and to continuously elevate cooperation in areas of joint training, exercises and military technology."

They expressed satisfaction with their close cooperation at the UN and other multilateral fora, and expressed resolution to further deepen coordination on multilateral issues to uphold common interests of developing countries and international equity and justice.

The two sides agreed to maintain close communication and coordination on the issue of Afghanistan, and play a constructive role in helping Afghanistan achieve stable development and integrate into the international community.

They called on the interim Afghan government to take visible and verifiable actions to dismantle and eliminate all terrorist groups based in Afghanistan which continue to pose a serious threat to regional and global security, and to prevent the use of Afghan territory against other countries.

The two sides welcomed the ceasefire agreement in Gaza, and hoped that the agreement would be implemented effectively, leading to a full and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to establish an independent State of Palestine. The two sides will work with international community to make unremitting effort for peace and stability in the Middle East.

President Zardari also invited President Xi Jinping to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient time.

Separately, Pakistan and China signed three different MoUs to enhance cooperation in the areas of renewable energy, cement and fertilizer manufacturing sectors.

President Asif Ali Zardari along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah witnessed the MoU signing ceremony here.

An MoU was signed between Pakistan's Thatta Cement Company and China's Zhonggang Construction Group to help establish an additional production line at Thatta Cement to increase cement production by 5,000 tons per day in Pakistan utilising the locally sourced Pakistani coal.

Another MoU was signed between the Sindh Energy Department and China's Ming Yang Renewable Energy Company that would promote cooperation on various renewable energy projects in Pakistan. It also aims at facilitating the two sides to explore several renewable energy projects, fulfill the goals of carbon peaking, carbon neutrality, and emission reduction.

The third MoU was signed between the Sindh government and Meskay Femtee CG&M, a Chinese company, for a coal gasification and urea production plant which would be jointly established for making up direly needed coal gasification plant for the manufacturing of fertilizer.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=381876

February 08, 2025

Dawn News

Chinese construction firm wins all bids for Rs120bn road project

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway Authority (NHA) on Thursday opened financial bids for over Rs120 billion Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (Carec) Tranche-III corridor project.

A Chinese firm namely Nin-gxia Communication Construc-tion (NXCC) won all four bids for four different parts of the highway.

However, a source told Dawn that some of the bidders had decided to challenge the bidding process in a court of law as to why the bids were opened without addressing the concerns submitted to the NHA's Grievances Redressal Cell (GRC).

An NHA spokesman confirmed that all the bids had been won by M/s NXCC.

The bids were opened within two working days since the cancellation of the bidding, which was previously scheduled to be held last week, giving no time for the review of grievances.

Competitors allege irregularities; NHA chief says successful bidder cleared by court

The bid, whose copy is available with Dawn, was filed by M/s China Construction Third Engineering, which had complained that NHA had announced the date of bidding just in two days without even looking into the complaint.

It alleged that undue leniency towards any bidder violates the fundamental principles of fairness, transparency, and quality, potentially jeopardising the procurement process. "This situation certainly constitutes a breach of the rights of other bidders, thereby warranting an immediate step-in by the Asian Development Bank and the NHA," it added.

"During the bid evaluation process, we highlighted critical components of the technical evaluation that required attention. However, these concerns were overlooked, leading to the qualification of certain bidders. This action infringes upon the legitimate rights of other bidders," the complainant said.

"Our primary concern lies with the NHA's decision to qualify the bidders who lack necessary qualifications. Several smaller companies, which do not meet the financial and technical experience requirements outlined in section 3 of the BD (bidding documents), have been deemed eligible," it alleged.

The firm requested the NHA to suspend the procurement process under rule 48(4) of the PPRA rules until the issue is resolved.

Documents available with Dawn reveal that M/s NXCC, which was disqualified by the NHA in 2023 for failing to complete the 62km Lodhran-Multan section, was allowed by the NHA to submit both technical and financial bids for the Carec Tranch-III project.

Talking to Dawn, NHA chairman Sheheryar Sultan rejected the allegations made against the NXCC and said the firm had been cleared by the court after it was disqualified by the NHA.

He claimed that all grievan-ces of the construction firm had be-en addressed as the same complaint was also filed a couple of months ago when technical bids of the qualified firms were opened. "The complaint that had been submitted at the time of technical bids, have been presented before the GRC again. Before the technical bidding we had shared the complaint with ADB and the bank cleared all the firms taking part in the bidding," he added. Carec Tranche-III has four lots or sections for which technical and financial proposals were invited and a total of 20 firms submitted their bids in response. There were six companies in the run for the 58km Rajanpur-Jampur Lot-1, seven for the 64km Jampur-DG Khan Lot-2, five for the 112km DG Khan-Tibbi Qaisrani Lot-3, and two firms for the 96km Tibbi Qaisrani-DI Khan Lot 4. After technical evaluation, five firms each were qualified for Lot-1 and Lot-2, four for Lot-3 and two firms for Lot-4. The total PC-I cost of these lots is Rs85.44bn.

Under Tranche-III, an additional carriageway will also be built in which a two-lane highway will be converted into a four-lane highway.

https://www.dawn.com/news/1890549#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20The%20National%20Highway%20Authority,different%20parts%20of%20the%20highway.

Daily Times

Pakistan reportedly requests rescheduling of $3.4bn Chinese debt

Pakistan has again requested China to reschedule $3.4 billion debt for two years to bridge a foreign funding gap identified by the International Monetary Fund – in a move that's success will largely address the external funding concerns before the upcoming programme review talks.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar made the formal request during this week's visit to Beijing, according to the government sources. They said that the Chinese authorities were positive and, hopefully, Beijing would accept the request to lessen Pakistan's external funding woes.

Pakistan requested the Export-Import (Exim) Bank of China to consider rearrangement of its loans falling due from October 2024 till September 2027, said the government officials. They said that Pakistan was required to identify financing sources to fill the external financing gap of $5 billion for the three-year programme period.

It is the second time that Pakistan made a request to China in the past five months to reschedule the $3.4 billion debt provided by its Exim bank. Earlier, in September last year the Finance Minister had written to Exim Bank and requested the rescheduling. According to a joint China-Pakistan statement issued on Thursday, the Pakistani side reiterated its high appreciation for China's valuable support for the fiscal and financial stability of Pakistan. The statement was issued at the conclusion of President Asif Ali Zardari's state visit to Beijing.

The $3.4 billion debt was maturing between October 2024 and September 2027 –which coincided with the three-year IMF programme period. The bank has given two types of loans –the direct lending and the guaranteed lending to State-Owned Enterprises, said the sources.

The rescheduling is said to be critical for Pakistan and it is part of the overall $5 billion external financing plan that Pakistan has to implement to bridge the gap, identified by the IMF at the time of signing of the bailout package in September last year.

Pakistan has sought a two-year extension in repayment of the official and guaranteed debt obtained from Chinese Export-Import (Exim) Bank. The country would keep making interest payments.

From October 2024 to September 2025, the $505 million Exim direct loans to the government would mature –the period that will cover the first two reviews of the IMF programme. Then from October 2025 to September 2027, another $1.7 billion worth of direct loans to the government would mature. This brings total direct lending that requires a two-year extension to $2.2 billion.

China's $1.2 billion loans to the SOEs are also maturing from October 2024 to September 2027 and majority of those are maturing from October this year.

In July 2023, the then finance minister and now Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar had announced the $2.43 billion worth 31 loans rescheduled by China for two years. Dar had said that the Chinese Exim Bank had rolled over for two years principal amounts of loans totaling

$2.4 billion, which were due from July 2023 to June 2025. Pakistan was only making interest payments on the $2.4 billion rescheduled debt.

In case Pakistan does not repay the $3.4 billion debt, its external financing gap would reduce by the same amount. The government this week also secured a $1.2 billion Saudi oil facility and took a $300 million loan through the United Bank Limited to bridge the overall financing gap.

Pakistani authorities have already held at least a couple of meetings on the issue of $3.4 billion debt restructuring and exchanged the data with the Exim bank.

Pakistan's first formal review of the $7 billion programme is expected to begin from the first week of March and its successful conclusion will pave the way for the release of the over $1 billion next loan tranche.

Pakistan is heavily dependent on Beijing for remaining afloat, the friendly nation that is constantly rolling over the $4 billion cash deposits, $6.5 billion worth commercial loans and $4.3 billion trade financing facility.

Fitch Ratings, one of the three global credit rating agencies, said on Friday that securing sufficient external financing remains a challenge for Pakistan, considering large maturities and lenders' existing exposures.

It added Pakistan budgeted about $6 billion of funding from multilaterals, including the IMF, for this fiscal year but about $4 billion of this will effectively refinance the existing debt.

The $3.4 billion request is in addition to a $1.4 billion new loan that Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb requested during his interaction with the Chinese vice Finance Minister in Washington.

Aurangzeb had requested China to raise the limits under the Currency Swap Agreement to CNY 40 billion. Pakistan has already used the existing CNY 30 billion, or $4.3 billion, Chinese trade facility to repay its debts and now seeks to raise this limit by an additional CNY 10 billion, translating to $1.4 billion at the current exchange rate.

It is not clear whether China has entertained the $1.4 billion new request or not. Fitch stated that Pakistan has continued to make headway restoring economic stability and rebuilding external buffers. But progress on difficult structural reforms will be a key to upcoming IMF programme reviews and continued financing from other multilateral and bilateral lenders.

It predicted that the foreign reserves are set to outperform targets under the IMF programme and Fitch's earlier forecasts.

But the foreign exchange reserves remain low relative to funding needs. Over $22 billion of public external debt matures in this fiscal year, including nearly $13 billion in bilateral deposits, stated Fitch. It believed that the bilateral partners will rollover, as per their promises to the IMF. Saudi Arabia already rolled over $3 billion in December and the UAE $2 billion in January. https://dailytimes.com.pk/1263865/pakistan-reportedly-requests-rescheduling-of-3-4bn-chinese-debt/

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China robust ties: President Zardari's strategic visit

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

SIGNALING of President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to China is a setback to regional enemies of prosperity, connectivity, stability and harmony and realignment disturbing strategic design of the global movers & shakers.

The visit has been dominated by the safety and security of the Chinese nationals living and working on the CPEC projects, space & science cooperation and system support at the height levels and secret agencies curbing the menace of increasing terrorism in the country. It seems that Army Chief Gen Asim Munir's strong commitment to carrying out an existential fight with a faceless enemy, hunting down "frenemies" has a perfect match with the Chinese side's genuine demands of safety, security and system support for its nationals and the CPEC projects in the country.

Interestingly, Pakistan and China have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) allowing Pakistan's first lunar rover to be part of China's Chang'E 8 mission, SUPARCO. The Chang'E 8 mission, scheduled for launch in 2028, will focus on robotic exploration of the lunar South Pole. Last year, SUPARCO announced that its rover would be part of the mission, but the formal agreement was finalised during President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to China this week. The numerous meetings of President Asif Ali Zardari with the Chinese higher leadership demonstrated high levels of mutual understanding, cooperation, coordination and collaboration on the speedy execution of the CPEC Phase 2.0, further strengthening the Pakistan-China strategic cooperative partnership.

During his meeting with the Chinese Premier, President Zardari highlighted the "enduring and deep-rooted China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, nurtured by successive generations of the leaders of both countries." He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties, emphasising the time-tested, deep-rooted and enduring partnership between the two countries. Zardari rightly projected the pivotal role of the CPEC in promoting regional connectivity and economic growth and expressed appreciation for China's continued support towards Pakistan's development agenda." It is a good omen that during the meeting, the two sides discussed the high-quality development under CPEC 2.0, focusing on deepening cooperation in renewable energy, science & technology, infrastructure and agriculture sectors to advance shared progress and common prosperity further.

Additionally, further enhancement of trade and economic cooperation through business-to-business (B2B) and private-sector linkages and the expansion of people-to-people and cultural exchanges would contribute to building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. During his ongoing visit to China, President Asif Ali Zardari met his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, to reaffirm the long-standing strategic partnership between the two nations and explore new avenues of cooperation under CPEC 2.0. The two leaders also discussed regional and international issues of common interest and opportunities to expand bilateral cooperation, mainly through continued high-level exchanges. They

emphasized the vital role of CPEC in promoting regional connectivity, shared benefits and common prosperity, including partnerships with other countries.

On an official visit to China, President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast commitment to its "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership" with China and underlined the "unique, time-tested and special relationship" between the two countries. He also commended China's exemplary development, progress and prosperity, calling it a manifestation of the Chinese leadership's vision and the Chinese people's dynamism. President Zardari also paid rich tribute to President Xi Jinping for China's profound contributions to global development under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He described CPEC as a shining model of the BRI's visionary concept of win-win cooperation. He invited President Xi to visit Pakistan, emphasising that the people and Government of Pakistan hold him in high esteem as a visionary leader and a special friend of Pakistan.

The meeting was followed by a ceremony where the two leaders witnessed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to enhance cooperation in science and technology, media, clean energy and socio-economic development.

In summary, the visit of President Zardari was timely, removing all speculations and diplomatic engineering about the so-called slowdown of iron-clad friendship and declining growth of the CPEC Phase 2.0 in the country. It was meaningful, collaborative, productive, positive and participatory, showing the Government of Pakistan's strong commitment to providing ample arrangements for the safety and security of the Chinese in the country. Thus, Zardari's political wisdom and charisma prevailed and produced productive results. It was innovative and development-oriented and signed various MoUs on cooperation in space & sciences, renewables, socio-economic development, and counter-terrorism between the two countries.

Further enhancing intelligence sharing and deepening cooperation on security matters, as part of efforts to bolster border security and counterterrorism measures, is an excellent outcome of the official meetings.

It is suggested that modernizing Pakistan's police and paramilitary forces through Chinese technology and expertise, regular police training, acquiring advanced equipment from China to improve law enforcement capabilities, drone surveillance at porous borders, the hybrid model of security, and last but not least, the inclusion of robotic gadgetry and forces countering the threats of terrorism should be way forward.

To conclude, the walled city multi-layered and scientific security model for the Chinese living in the country and working in the CPEC projects would be further systemized and institutionalized.

https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-robust-ties-president-zardaris-strategic-visit/

The News

Zardari attends Asian Winter Games ceremony in China

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday attended the grand opening ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, China, alongside Chinese President Xi Jinping and other heads of states from Asia. The ceremony drew high-profile attendees, including the Sultan of Brunei, President of Kyrgyzstan and Prime Minister of Thailand. The games, scheduled from February 7 to 14, have attracted over 1,200 athletes from 34 countries. Pakistani winter athletes are also participating in the event. Zardari's participation in the opening ceremony highlights the importance of the games in fostering regional cooperation and strengthening people-to-people ties. The games offer an opportunity to further deepen cultural cooperation among regional nations and promote sports diplomacy between Pakistan and China. The president's participation will also further cement the bilateral ties between Islamabad and Beijing. The Asian Winter Games could also serve as a significant platform for advancing winter sports in Pakistan. Zardari also extended his best wishes to the Chinese government and all athletes competing in the games.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=382121

Nawaiwaqt News

چین پاکستان دوطرفہ تعاون مزید مضبوط بنانے پر اتفاق

صدر شی جن پنگ کی دعوت پر صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری 4 سے 8 فروری تک چین کے سرکاری دورے پر ہیں۔ گذشتہ روز چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے صدر زرداری سے گرمجوشی کے ساتھ اور دوستانہ ماحول میں بات چیت کی۔ انہوں نے نئی صورتحال میں پاک چین تعلقات اور باہمی دلچسپی کے بین الاقوامی اور علاقائی امور پر تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ پاکستان اور چین نے انسداد دہشت گردی، دفاع، زراعت، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی سمیت متعدد شعبوں میں دوطرفہ تعاون کو مضبوط بنانے پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔ فریقین نے اس بات پر بھی اتفاق کیا کہ بدلتے ہوئے بین الاقوامی حالات کا مقابلہ کرنے کے بعد چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان پائیدار شراکت داری اور آہنی دوستی جغرافیائی سیاسی مفادات سے بالاتر ہے۔ دونوں نے ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کو سمجھا اور ایک دوسرے کی حمایت کی ہے اور سٹرٹیجک باہمی اعتماد اور عملی تعاون کو گہرا کیا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کے تعلقات سٹرٹیجک اہمیت کے حامل ہیں اور اس میں خلل ڈالنے یا کمزور کرنے کی کوئی بھی کوشش ناکامی سے دوچار ہوگی۔ دونوں قائدین نے انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی پر تعاون بڑھانے اور مصنوعی ذہانت، ڈیٹا اور کمیونیکیشن ٹیکنالوجی جیسے ابھرتے ہوئے شعبوں میں پالیسی اور ٹیلنٹ کے تبادلے کو فروغ دینے پر اتفاق کیا۔ اس موقع پر سپیس اینڈ ایٹو سفیئر ریسرچ اور چائنا نیشنل سپیس ایڈمنسٹریشن کے درمیان ایک تاریخی مفاہمتی یادداشت پر بھی دستخط کئے گئے جس کے تحت پاکستان کا قمر روور چین کے خلائی مشن چنگ 8 میں شمولیت کے بعد عالمی خلائی تحقیق کا حصہ بنے گا۔ قمر روور 2028ء میں چین کے "چینگ 8" مشن کے ذریعے چاند پر جائیگا۔ اس میں کوئی دو رائے نہیں کہ پاکستان اور چین کی بے لوث دوستی' گہرے تعلقات اور شراکت داری علاقائی امن و ترقی کی ضمانت بن چکی ہے۔ چین کے تعاون سے پاکستان صرف خطے ہی میں نہیں' بلکہ خلاء میں بھی اپنی کامیابی کے جھنڈے گاڑ رہا ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ اندرونی و بیرونی عناصر پاکستان اور چین کی اس آہنی دوستی میں دراڑیں ڈالنے کی ہر ممکن کوشش رہے ہیں' انہوں نے سی پیک منصوبے پر کام کرنے والے چینی انجینئروں کو دہشت گردی کا نشانہ بنا کر دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان نفرت پیدا کرنے کی کوشش کی لیکن دونوں ملکوں کی قیادتوں نے فہم و فراست سے کام لیتے ہوئے ہمیشہ ان سازشوں کو ناکام بنایا۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-02-08/page-5/detail-5

February 09, 2025

K2 Daily



چین کا اسپرنگ فیسٹیول گالا

شاہد افراز خان

چین میں 29 جنوری سے جشن بہار اور نئے قمری سال کا آغاز ہو چکا ہے اور اس وقت ملک بھر میں جشن بہار کی خوشیاں انتہائی جوش و خروش سے منائی جا رہی ہیں۔ چین میں ہر سال کو کسی خاص جانور سے موسوم کیا جاتا ہے اور یہ نیا شروع ہونے والا سال سانپ کا سال ہے۔ ہر سال کی طرح اس مرتبہ بھی جشن بہار کی خوشیوں کا آغاز شاندار سی ایم جی اسپرنگ فیسٹیول گالا سے کیا گیا۔ چین میں اس جشن بہار گالا کا آغاز 1983 میں کیا گیا تھا، جو چینی ثقافت اور مختلف فنون سے مزین وسیع پیمانے پر منعقد کیا جانے والا میلہ ہے۔ جشن بہار گالا نے قمری سال کی آمد کے موقع پر چینی قومی ٹیلی وژن کے ذریعے لانچ کیا گیا تھا۔ گزشتہ چالیس سے زائد سالوں میں اسپرنگ فیسٹیول گالا میں لاتعداد خاندان حصہ لے چکے ہیں، جبکہ اسے گنیز بک آف ریکارڈز کے مطابق سب سے زیادہ دیکھے جانے والے ٹی وی پروگرام کی سند بھی حاصل ہے۔ نئے سال کے موقع پر کنبے کے تمام لوگوں کی ایک دوسرے سے ملاقات، ڈمپلنگ بنانا، اسپرنگ فیسٹیول گالا دیکھنا، نئے سال کی شام کے کھانے میں شریک ہونا اور سرخ لفافوں کا تبادلہ چینی روایت اور ثقافت کا حصہ بن چکا ہے۔ الخائیس جنوری کی شام کو اسی سلسلے کو آگے بڑھاتے ہوئے چائنا میڈیا گروپ کے جشن بہار ایوننگ گالا نے دنیا کے اربوں ناظرین کو سانپ کے سال میں خوش آمدید کہا۔ اس شاندار ثقافتی شو میں خوبصورت گانے، روایتی رقص، مزاحیہ خاکے، سحر انگیز کرتب اور جدید ٹیکنالوجی سے ناظرین کے لئے شاندار تفریح پیش کی گئی۔ گزشتہ چار سے زائد دہائیوں کی ترقی کے بعد اسپرنگ فیسٹیول گالا سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی کی ترقی اور اطلاق کی نمائش کا ایک جامع پلیٹ فارم بن چکا ہے، جو ہر سال تمام ناظرین کے لئے جمالیاتی ذوق کی تسکین کرتا ہے۔ 1983 میں چین کے پہلے اپننگ گالا کے موقع پر نہ تو کوئی خوبصورت اسٹیج تھی اور نہ ہی چمکیلی روشنیاں تھیں۔ لہٰذا پہلا اسپرنگ فیسٹیول گالا تکنیکی مواد سے قدرے عاری تھا۔ لیکن اب اسپرنگ فیسٹیول گالا میں اختراعی ٹیکنالوجیز کے اطلاق سے ناظرین کے لیے ایک شاندار سمعی و بصری تجربہ پیش کیا جاتا ہے۔ رواں سال گالا میں موبیئس، کامیڈی اور اوپیرا اور مارشل آرٹس جیسے روایتی فنون سے لے کر جادو اور اینیمیشن جیسے شاندار فن پاروں کا امتزاج پیش کیا گیا۔ یہ چوتھا سال بھی تھا جب ناظرین عمودی اسکرینوں پر گالا دیکھ سکتے تھے۔ گالا کا موبائل آپٹیمائزڈ ورٹیکل فارمیٹ خاص طور پر مقبول ثابت ہوا ہے، جس نے پچھلے تین سالوں میں بالترتیب 130 ملین، 190 ملین اور 420 ملین ویوز حاصل کیے ہیں۔ رواں سال کے گالا میں عام لوگوں کی زندگیوں اور خدمات کا جشن منانے پر زیادہ زور دیا گیا، جس میں عوامی بہار فیسٹیول گالا کے خیال کو مزید شامل کیا گیا۔ پبلک سطح کے پولیس افسران اور ریلوے عملے کے ارکان سے لے کر غیر مادی ثقافتی ورثے کے وارثوں اور مشہور انٹرنیٹ شخصیات تک، زندگی کے تمام شعبوں سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد کو اپنی ذاتی کہانیاں شیئر کرنے اور تقریب میں پروگراموں کو متعارف کرانے کے لئے مدعو کیا گیا۔ اسی طرح رواں سال گالا میں بصارت اور سماعت سے محروم ناظرین کے لیے پہلی بار رکاوٹ سے پاک نشریات بھی متعارف کرائی گئیں، جس میں آگمنٹڈ ریئلٹی اور چیٹ جی پی ٹی ٹیکنالوجی اور مصنوعی ذہانت کی آواز کی شناخت کا استعمال کیا گیا تاکہ ایسے افراد کو ایک جامع تجربہ فراہم کیا جا سکے۔ سائن لینگویج کے مترجمین، اے آر اثرات اور پرفارمنس کی آڈیو تفصیلات نے اس بات کو یقینی بنایا کہ ہر کوئی جشن سے لطف اندوز ہو سکے، جس سے سب کے لئے جشن کے طور پر گالا کے کردار کو مزید تقویت ملی ہے۔ یہ بات قابل ذکر ہے کہ انگریزی، ہسپانوی، فرانسیسی، عربی اور روسی زبانوں میں براہ راست نشریات سمیت سی جی ٹی این اور اس کے کثیر لسانی پلیٹ فارم ٹی کے ذریعے دنیا بھر کے دو سو سے زائد ممالک اور خطوں کے تقریباً 3000 ذرائع ابلاغ نے اس تقریب کو نشر یا رپورٹ کیا۔ گزشتہ سال کے اواخر میں بیجنگ کے اسپرنگ فیسٹیول کو عالمی غیر مادی ثقافتی ورثے کے طور پر درج کیا گیا تھا۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ جشن بہار کے پہلے غیر مادی ثقافتی ورثہ ورژن کو منانے کے لیے، چائنا میڈیا گروپ کے اسپرنگ فیسٹیول گالا نے تمام سلسلوں کا عمدگی سے اہتمام کیا۔ گالا میں چائنا میڈیا گروپ کی سائنسی اور تکنیکی اختراعات کے اطلاق سے 82 زبانوں میں عالمی سطح پر ناظرین کے لیے یہ ثقافتی دعوت پیش کی گئی۔ نئے چینی سال کے موقع پر، یہ سرگرمی نہ صرف چینی عوام بلکہ دنیا بھر کے ناظرین و سامعین کے لیے ایک دلچسپ اور شاندار ثقافتی تقریب رہی۔ پاکستان میں بھی لوگوں کی ایک بڑی تعداد نے جشن بہار گالا کی نشریات دیکھیں اور اسے سوشل میڈیا پلیٹ فارمز پر بھی شیئر کیا۔ مجموعی طور پر کہا جا سکتا ہے کہ یہ ٹیلی وژن شوٹیکنالوجی اور آرٹ کا گہرا انضمام رہا جس سے چین سمیت دنیا بھر میں بہار کی خوشیاں بکھیری گئی ہیں۔

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Editorial&Date=2025-02-09

Nawaiwaqt News

روز دورہ چین مکمل، صدر زرفداری واپس کراچی پہنچ گئے 5

اسلام آباد + کراچی + بیجنگ (نمائندہ خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) صدر آصف علی زرداری 5 روزہ دورہ چین مکمل کرنے کے بعد واپس کراچی پہنچ گئے۔ صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری کراچی میں 5 روز قیام کریں گے۔ کراچی میں جاری منصوبوں سے متعلق بریفنگ دی جائے گی۔ وہ نو تعمیر شدہ کراچی سٹیڈیم کا افتتاح کریں گے۔ این این آئی کے مطابق دورے کے دوران صدر مملکت نے چینی صدر شی جن پنگ اور پریمیئر لی چیانگ سے ملاقاتیں کیں۔ آصف علی زرداری نے چینی شہر ہاربن میں 9ویں ایشین وِنٹر گیمز کی افتتاحی تقریب میں بھی شرکت کی۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط بھی کیے گئے۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-02-09/page-1/detail-12

February 10, 2025

Business Recorder

Chinese company to purchase 120MW electricity

PESHAWAR: Chinese Investment Company (China Century Steel Mills) has contacted the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for purchase of 120 MW cheap hydropower from Chakdara Swat Corridor, showing interest in the energy sector for establishment of steel mills in province.

In this connection, a delegation of Chinese investment company "China Century Steel Mills" had a special meeting with the Special Assistant to Chief Minister KP for Energy Engr. Tariq Sadozai in his office.

Speaking to delegation, Tariq Sadozai has said that energy sector in province is of great importance and the economy could be further stabilized by using the natural resources of energy with the investment of the private sector.

He further added that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Transmission and Grid System Company (KPT&GSC), which was established for the first time in the history of the province to utilize the electricity transmission system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a better way, that will soon create a new history by utilizing the cheap electricity generated by completed projects of PEDO, which is no less than an honour for the province and its people he hoped.

Moreover, the Advisor Power Tila Muhammad while giving a briefing said that KPT&GSC will start 3 mega projects for the improvement of electricity transmission system in the province and in this regard, a 40 km long transmission line will be laid from Kalam to Madayen this year, which will cost Rs. 8 billion and will be completed in a period of 18 months.

Similarly, in the second phase, an 80-kilometer long transmission line will be laid from Madayen to Chakdara. The estimated cost of the project Rs. 16 to 18 billion. This project will be completed in 48 months while in the third phase, a modern system of transmission of the cheap electricity generated by the current 171 MW completed and another 1000 MW ongoing projects of PEDO through a loop will also be started he concluded.

On this occasion, the Chinese investment delegation expressed interest in investing in the proposed projects for the improvement of the electricity transmission system.

Special Assistant Tariq Sadozai has welcomed the Chinese investment and called it a positive step towards the development and prosperity of the province.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40347141/chinese-company-to-purchase-120mw-electricity#:~:text=PESHAWAR%3A%20Chinese%20Investment%20Company%20(China,of%20steel%20mills%20in%20province.

Chinese New Year celebrations: Mutually beneficial projects to boost ties: Chinese envoy

ISLAMABAD: Charge d'affaires of Chinese embassy, Shi Yuanqiang on Sunday said that mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields will further strengthen the China-Pakistan strategic relationship.

Addressing the Chinese New Year celebration event, the Charge d'affaires of Chinese embassy said that mutual cooperation in various areas has advanced with high quality, laying a solid foundation for the in-depth development of China-Pakistan relations.

He said that in the year 2024, high-level exchanges between China and Pakistan were frequent, with the successful mutual visits of the two countries' Prime Ministers. He added the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has continued to deepen and solidify, evolving from the layout to a brand new phase of "upgraded version."

He said that the vast number of Chinese compatriots in Pakistan have been proactive and accomplished, striving for excellence in all walks of life, actively supporting and participating in various construction activities, contributing their wisdom and strength to the inheritance and deepening of the special friendship between China and Pakistan, and promoting mutually beneficial cooperation between the two nations.

He added at the beginning of the spring in 2025, at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, President of Pakistan paid a state visit to China from February 4th to 8th, achieving fruitful results.

This visit coincided with the significant year marking the 10th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Pakistan in 2015 and also at the joyous occasion of the Chinese people celebrating the Spring Festival, he added. "It holds great significance for outlining the prospects of all-weather strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan and for steering the bilateral relations amidst the profound changes of the century."

He said, "Looking ahead to the New Year, we will continue to comprehensively advance the construction of a strong nation and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese modernization, persistently promote high-quality development and high-level opening-up, and fully accomplish the goals and tasks set out in the 14th Five-Year Plan."

He said that the friendship between China and Pakistan will embrace a brighter future from a new starting point.

"We hope that our compatriots will continue to leverage their strengths, strive with determination, and serve as bridges of China-Pakistan friendship and narrators of China's stories, enabling the Pakistani people to fully understand a real, objective, and multidimensional China."

He added these compatriots will be builders of China-Pakistan relations, further advancing exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in the fields of economy and trade, science and technology, culture, and more, and to be inheritors of the development of

overseas Chinese communities, continuously enhancing the cohesion and centripetal force of Chinese compatriots in Pakistan.

He said that the Chinese New Year, the most ancient, richly connotative, and widely influential traditional festival of the Chinese nation, is also a significant moment for every Chinese people to bid farewell to the old and welcome the new, to reunite with family, and to share joy.

He extended New Year greetings to the overseas Chinese, employees of Chinese enterprises, and Chinese students in Pakistan. "I wish you all good fortune in the Year of the Snake, good health, family happiness, and success in all your endeavours."

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40347135/chinese-new-year-celebrations-mutually-beneficial-projects-to-boost-ties-chinese-envoy

Daily Times

Mutually beneficial projects to further boost China-Pak relations

Charge d'affaires of Chinese embassy, Shi Yuanqiang on Sunday said that mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields will further strengthen the China-Pakistan strategic relationship.

Addressing the Chinese New Year celebration event, the Charge d'affaires of Chinese embassy said that mutual cooperation in various areas has advanced with high quality, laying a solid foundation for the in-depth development of China-Pakistan relations.

He said that in the year 2024, high-level exchanges between China and Pakistan were frequent, with the successful mutual visits of the two countries' Prime Ministers.

He added the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has continued to deepen and solidify, evolving from the layout to a brand new phase of "upgraded version."

He said that the vast number of Chinese compatriots in Pakistan have been proactive and accomplished, striving for excellence in all walks of life, actively supporting and participating in various construction activities, contributing their wisdom and strength to the inheritance and deepening of the special friendship between China and Pakistan, and promoting mutually beneficial cooperation between the two nations.

He added at the beginning of the spring in 2025, at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, President of Pakistan paid a state visit to China from February 4th to 8th, achieving fruitful results.

This visit coincided with the significant year marking the 10th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Pakistan in 2015 and also at the joyous occasion of the Chinese people celebrating the Spring Festival, he added.

"It holds great significance for outlining the prospects of all-weather strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan and for steering the bilateral relations amidst the profound changes of the century."

He said, "Looking ahead to the new year, we will continue to comprehensively advance the construction of a strong nation and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese modernization, persistently promote high-quality development and high-level opening-up, and fully accomplish the goals and tasks set out in the 14th Five-Year Plan."

He said that the friendship between China and Pakistan will embrace a brighter future from a new starting point.

"We hope that our compatriots will continue to leverage their strengths, strive with determination, serve as bridges of China-Pakistan friendship and narrators of China's stories, enabling the Pakistani people to fully understand a real, objective, and multidimensional China."

He added these compatriots will be builders of China-Pakistan relations, further advancing exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in the fields of economy and trade, science and technology, culture, and more, and to be inheritors of the development of overseas Chinese communities, continuously enhancing the cohesion and centripetal force of Chinese compatriots in Pakistan.

He said that the Chinese New Year, the most ancient, richly connotative, and widely influential traditional festival of the Chinese nation, is also a significant moment for every Chinese people to bid farewell to the old and welcome the new, to reunite with family, and to share joy.

He extended New Year greetings to the overseas Chinese, employees of Chinese enterprises, and Chinese students in Pakistan. "I wish you all good fortune in the Year of the Snake, good health, family happiness, and success in all your endeavors."

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1264120/mutually-beneficial-projects-to-further-boost-china-pak-relations/

Dawn News

Security of Chinese nationals beefed up

MANSEHRA: The police on Sunday beefed up the security for Chinese nationals working on the Suki Kinari and Balakot hydropower projects here.

"We have provided multi-layered security to Chinese engineers and workers executing two hydropower projects on the Kunhar River in Kaghan Valley and its downstream areas," district police officer Shafiullah Khan Gandapur told reporters.

The DPO, who visited the 880-megawatt Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, and the 1,000-megawatt Balakot Hydropower Project to review security arrangements, directed the authorities to further enhance deployment.

"The Chinese engineers and workers have been making a significant contribution in addressing the country's energy shortfall, and we appreciate their efforts by ensuring foolproof security for them," Mr Gandapur said.

He also instructed security personnel to strictly restrict unauthorised individuals from entering project sites.

"The movement of foreign nationals within the project premises and from camps to work sites must be under strict security protocols," he said.

The DPO also held separate meetings with security officers and Chinese engineers to discuss security arrangements, assuring them that all necessary measures were being taken to ensure their safety.

"We have also launched search and strike operations in the mountainous areas of Balakot to prevent strangers from settling near these projects," he added.

The project directors of both the hydropower projects expressed satisfaction with the security arrangements.

https://www.dawn.com/news/1890880/security-of-chinese-nationals-beefed-up

The Express Tribune

China eyes hydropower for steel mills in K-P

Chinese firm seeks 120MW supply, proposes investment in K-P's transmission network

PESHAWAR: A Chinese investment company has approached the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) government to purchase 120 MW of affordable hydropower from the Chakdara Swat Corridor, expressing interest in establishing steel mills in the province.

A delegation from China Century Steel Mills held a special meeting with the Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Energy, Engr. Tariq Sadozai, at his office.

During the meeting, Tariq Sadozai emphasized the importance of the energy sector in the province, stating that economic stability could be enhanced through private sector investments in natural energy resources.

He also highlighted the establishment of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Transmission and Grid System Company (KPT&GSC), which aims to efficiently utilize the province's electricity transmission system. He expressed hope that KPT&GSC would make history by utilizing the cheap electricity generated by completed projects under the Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), considering it a significant achievement for the province and its people.

Furthermore, Adviser on Power Tila Muhammad provided a briefing, revealing that KPT&GSC plans to launch three major projects to improve the electricity transmission system in the province. As part of this initiative, a 40-km transmission line from Kalam to Madyen will be laid this year at a cost of Rs8 billion, with completion expected within 18 months.

In the second phase, an 80-km transmission line will be constructed from Madyen to Chakdara, with an estimated cost of Rs16 to 18 billion. This phase is scheduled for completion within 48 months.

The third phase will introduce a modern transmission system to distribute the cheap electricity generated by PEDO's current 171 MW completed projects and its ongoing 1,000 MW projects.

The Chinese delegation expressed interest in investing in these proposed projects to enhance the province's electricity transmission system. Special Assistant Tariq Sadozai welcomed this potential investment, considering it a positive step towards the province's development and prosperity.

Background

In light of federal government directives, consultations have commenced regarding the potential transfer of the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) under K-P government supervision.

A special meeting, chaired by Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Energy, Engr. Tariq Sadozai, and Chairman of PESCO's Board of Directors, Himayatullah Khan, was held to discuss this matter. The meeting was attended by Secretary Energy & Power Mohammad Zubair Khan, the Chief Executive Officers of PESCO and PEDO, and other senior officials.

Various options were explored regarding the privatization of PESCO or its transfer to provincial control. The meeting was informed that PESCO is currently a loss-making distribution company, incurring an annual loss of Rs130 billion due to line losses and poor recovery rates.

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2527505/china-eyes-hydropower-for-steel-mills-in-k-p

The News

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https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1281136-mutually-beneficial-projects-to-further-boost-pak-china-relations

February 11, 2025

Pakistan Observer

Zardari China's visit

Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal

PRESIDENT Asif Ali Zardari's five-day official visit to China is strategically vital for the China-Pakistan partnership. It is a crucial step in dispelling speculative reports that could lead to misunderstandings in economic and security cooperation.

The visit also paves the way for both nations to devise a joint strategy to safeguard and promote their national interests in the rapidly evolving global political landscape. President

Zardari is the architect of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which was conceived and agreed upon in 2013. Since 2015, the successive governments of Pakistan have been struggling to complete and operate the CPEC projects. Many projects were completed and are functioning, including the Gwadar Deep Seaport and International Airport. His meetings with President Xi and Premier Li Qiang manifest that Pakistan is determined to materialize the CPEC 2.0 projects in a timely manner and further enhance bilateral cooperation through new ventures, strengthening business-to-business and private-sector connections.

While acknowledging the success of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), President Zardari has endorsed three of President Xi's key initiatives: the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative. These initiatives, aimed at addressing global challenges through peaceful and cooperative means, are a testament to the shared vision of fostering a 'Community with a Shared Future for Mankind. ' President Zardari's recognition of the CPEC as a shining model of the BRI's visionary concept of win-win cooperation further underscores the potential of international cooperation to bring about positive change. On February 5, 2025, President Asif Ali Zardari and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping reaffirmed the long-standing strategic partnership between China and Pakistan. They also contemplated new avenues of cooperation under CPEC 2.0.

They witnessed the signing of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to enhance cooperation in science and technology, media, clean energy and socio-economic development. The Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, issued on February 6, 2025, stated, "The two sides agreed that the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership is a choice by history and by the people and enjoys broad support from all walks of life in both countries. Having withstood the test of changing international circumstances, the enduring partnership and iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan transcends geopolitical interests and is an important positive factor for regional peace, stability and development. The two sides have always understood and supported each other and have been deepening strategic mutual trust and practical cooperation."

The CPEC 2.0 focuses on industrialization, mining renewable and clean energy, science and technology, special economic zones, clean energy, agriculture and livelihood projects. The Chinese experts train Pakistani agriculture and IT professionals. In the domain of infrastructure, Chinese and Pakistani leaders agreed to reach an early implementation and financing to upgrade ML-1 in a phased and secure manner and also work on the Karakoram Highway (Raikot-Thakot) realignment project. Currently, the Chinese leadership is concerned about Chinese security in the country. President Zardari reassured his Chinese counterpart about Chinese security in Pakistan. He "reaffirmed that ensuring the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan is the foremost responsibility of Pakistani government as China's All-weather Strategic Cooperative partner and the host country." The encouraging factor is that the Chinese leadership realizes Pakistan's hybrid warfare vulnerabilities and supports Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with a zero-tolerance attitude. Therefore, both sides agreed

to enhance intelligence sharing and deepen cooperation on security matters. Indeed, China-Pakistan intelligence sharing bolsters Pakistan's border security and counterterrorism measures.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, part of President Zardari's delegation, met Chinese Minister of Public Security Qi Yanjun. They contemplated a formal security management system between the two nations to improve intelligence cooperation, curb the menace of terrorism and enhance border security. Mr. Yanjun agreed to provide training and advanced gadgets to Pakistani law enforcement agencies. Indeed, cooperation in training and the availability of advanced technological equipment enhance Pakistani police and paramilitary forces' expertise and efficacy in thwarting transnational terrorist groups' activities. In his meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang on February 6, 2025, President Zardari reiterated Pakistan's commitment to augmenting time-tested China-Pakistan bilateral ties to endure an "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership." The two sides also agreed to expand cooperation in education, media, think tanks, youth, films and television to strengthen the bond between the two peoples and enhance mutual learning between civilizations. In summary, President Zardari China's visit will boost CPEC 2.0 and further bilateralism, entailing Pakistan's stability, security, development and prosperity. Moreover, it assists in impeding polarizing narratives and negative propaganda against Chinese investment in the country and enhancing trust between the nations.

https://pakobserver.net/zardari-chinas-visit/

February 12, 2025

Pakistan Observer

Trumponomics, Panama and China's BRI Strategy

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Trumponomics appears to be tarnishing the fundamental principles of international economics and the trading system, attempting to reshape both with whimsical orientations. Following a series of high tariffs, Donald Trump has specifically targeted the Chinese BRI, labelling it a coercive project and a source of debt-trap diplomacy. As a result, Trumponomics has pressured Panama into leaving the BRI, marking a severe politicization against China and its strategic interests. This development raises concerns that many countries in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia could also come under similar pressure.

In real terms, China and Panama are natural partners in the BRI, as Panama's development relies on connectivity. Over the past one and a half years, their bilateral relationship has strengthened, bringing tangible benefits to both nations. Additionally, Panama was the first country in the Latin American and Caribbean region to sign a memorandum of understanding on the BRI with China. China is still willing to reinforce the strategic coordination with Panama to benefit the people of both countries better.

While visiting Panama, President Xi of China forwarded four proposals bringing the two countries closer, including understanding and supporting each other's core interests and major concerns, working together to build a new type of international relationship and a

community with a shared future for humanity and striving for an open global economy. The proposals also include making the BRI the centre of their collaboration and a call for more exchanges in various fields to enhance China-Panama friendship.

The BRI is witnessing growing partnerships around the world. So far, more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations have signed the BRI agreements, with the initiative extending from the Eurasian continent to Africa and Latin America. Interestingly, since 2013, multiple countries and regions have forged synergy between their development strategies and the BRI, including Kazakhstan's Bright Path economic policy, Mongolia's Steppe Road Program, Saudi Arabia's "Vision 2030," the construction of the Eurasian Economic Union by Russia and the African Union's Agenda 2063 showing multidimensional utility, scope and strategic importance of the BRI for regional peace, economic stability, sustainability and trans-regional connectivity in the world.

With the alignment of these strategies with the BRI, a number of flagship projects have been completed, converging dynamics of development for the countries involved. Evidently, championing the principles of consultation, cooperation and shared benefits, the BRI supports equal participation of all countries in decision-making, regardless of size, thus promoting the democratization of international relations.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has strongly opposed the U.S. smear campaign aimed at sabotaging BRI cooperation through pressure and coercion, expressing deep regret over Panama's decision not to renew the Memorandum of Understanding on the BRI. Lin rightly described the BRI as an economic cooperation initiative involving over 150 countries, including more than 20 from Latin America and the Caribbean, bringing tangible benefits to many, including Panama. In recent years, China-Panama cooperation under the BRI has yielded fruitful outcomes, continuing to benefit both nations. Lin expressed hope that Panama would prioritize its long-term bilateral relations, avoid external interference and make the right decision. Meanwhile, Panama denied a US State Department claim that it had agreed to exempt US government ships from transit fees through the Panama Canal.

Commenting on the Panama Canal issue, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said "China respects Panama's sovereignty over the canal and recognizes it as a permanently neutral international waterway. But most recently, Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino said his country has formally lodged a notice that it will leave the project. The announcement followed a visit by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who also toured the Panama Canal. President Donald Trump has repeatedly accused Panama of ceding control of the strategic waterway to China, despite denials from both countries. Mulino denied that the US had pushed Panama to make the move to quit the BRI. Rubio, who had threatened action against Panama unless it made immediate changes to reduce Chinese influence on the canal, hailed the announcement as a "great step forward" for bilateral relations.

The Chinese Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Zhao Zhiyuan, met with Panamanian Ambassador to China Miguel Humberto Lecaro Barcenas, lodging a serious representation over Panama's decision to cease the Memorandum of Understanding on BRI cooperation. Expressing deep regret, Zhao highlighted that China-Panama cooperation under the BRI has expanded rapidly across various fields, bringing tangible benefits to Panama and its people.

He reaffirmed China's respect for Panama's sovereignty and territorial integrity, emphasizing equality among nations, mutual respect, and adherence to commitments. Strongly opposing U.S. attempts to undermine China-Panama relations, Zhao condemned efforts to disrupt BRI cooperation through pressure and threats, stressing that the China-Panama relationship is not targeted at any third party and should remain free from external interference. He expressed hope that Panama would make the right decision based on the broader bilateral relationship and the long-term interests of both nations.

In summary, as predicted, the rise of Trumponomics is now polluting international economics, trade, manufacturing, and, last but not least, global supply chains under the pretext of the "US First Policy" and "Protectionism." The Panama Canal remains a strategic point for Latin America and the U.S., which seeks to maintain control over it as a gateway to South America.

There is no truth to claims that the canal is in Chinese hands due to their investments in the region. The narrative that China poses a threat to the canal and the people of Panama is being deliberately propagated. However, the only nation that has historically maintained a military presence in the Canal Zone and has previously shut it down is the US. The Chinese are not perceived as a threat by Panamanians.

Chinese investments in Panama in recent years have included bridges, a rail line, commercial ports, and a cruise ship terminal. One of the most significant projects proposed during Varela's administration was the Panama Colón Container Port, a new facility strategically located at the canal's Caribbean entrance. It promised to significantly enhance trans-shipment capacity following the 2015 expansion of the canal's locks. A consortium of Chinese companies, led by Landbridge Group, pledged an estimated $900 million investment in the project.

There are growing concerns that Trumponomics will bring economic downturns rather than growth in global markets. In response, Chinese policymakers should initiate a "BRI Development Diversification Policy" through rigorous economic, political, and social diplomacy to safeguard and advance the BRI.

https://pakobserver.net/trumponomics-panama-and-chinas-bri-strategy/

CPEC Hydropower Projects guarantee Green Power Generation

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

In the light of current population growth and the growing manufacturing industry, the importance of efficient energy has emerged as a bigger factor than before. In the list of different available energy resources, the most reliable cleaner, cheaper renewable energy option to empower Pakistan is hydropower energy.

Hydropower is not only a clean energy resource but also a key factor in removing energy expenses from the country's energy mix. The development of hydro power energy projects has become important part of Pakistan's energy plan and it is being supported through international cooperation like China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which supports the industrial development of Pakistan and its commitment to reduce carbon emissions in accordance with environmental norms.

In the case of Pakistan, hydropower is a clean solution to the energy problem facing the country. The country has ample availability of water, especially in the mountainous areas, which makes the concept of flow of water power most suitable for a country like this. Engaging these resources shows that Pakistan can cater to its increasing energy needs besides cutting down on expensive and polluted fossil imports.

Hydropower is also on the wheels, for the long-term vision and mission of the country to shift towards clean and green energy sources, which is the need of time to save the environment for the future generations. Investing in hydropower is important for Pakistan because the world is shifting to renewable energy and for Pakistan to fulfill its obligations of emission cuts under the international climate change agreements including the Paris Agreement, it needs to tap into hydropower.

Pakistan is currently suffering from an energy crisis, marked by constant blackouts and reliance on costly imported oil and gas. Energy tariffs remain high for consumers and businesses compared to other South Asian countries. Hydropower offers a cheaper and more stable alternative, as its primary input—water—keeps generation costs low once the plant is constructed. Additionally, hydropower plants are more economical to operate than thermal power plants, which are subject to volatile fuel prices that disrupt energy expenses and economic stability. With consistent and favourable electricity tariffs, hydropower plays a crucial role in fostering growth and investment in Pakistan.

Another area of focus in CPEC has to do with energy and several big hydel power projects are being planned in Pakistan. These projects do answer the current and direct energy requirement of Pakistan while at the same ensuring the sustainability of energy projects. Through these investments majority from China hydropower has quickly fostered large hydropower plants including Dasu that will be soon contributing a large amount of energy to Pakistan's economy and Diamer Bhasha Dam on with a great potentiality.

The operational hydropower projects – Karot Hydropower Project (720 MW) and Suki Kinari Hydropower Project (884 MW) – are already providing a combined capacity of 1,604 MW, helping to bridge Pakistan's growing energy gap. The country faces regular electricity shortages and these projects help stabilize the power grid, ensuring a more reliable supply of energy.

The hydropower projects under construction—Azad Pattan (700.7 MW), Kohala (1,124 MW), and Mahl (640 MW)—will further add a total of 2,464.7 MW in the coming years, increasing the overall energy capacity and reducing the reliance on fossil fuels. These specific hydropower projects developed under the CPEC are significantly contributing to Pakistan's energy needs and supporting green energy initiatives, with a focus on addressing environmental and climate-related challenges.

The BRI has provided Pakistan with financial and technical support from China for hydropower development, facilitating the implementation of renewable energy projects. Aligning hydropower generation with CPEC offers a well-structured approach to addressing the energy crisis through clean technology while reducing reliance on fossil fuels. These initiatives are expected to enhance energy security, drive industrialization and contribute to

overall economic growth. Hydropower holds significant strategic importance for Pakistan's economic development, as stable, clean and affordable energy is essential for powering industries, creating employment opportunities and strengthening the economy. Energy remains a fundamental driver of industrialization, a key pillar of Pakistan's development vision.

By expanding its hydroelectric power generation capacity, Pakistan can lower the cost of producing goods and services for businesses and industries, enhancing their competitiveness both domestically and internationally. Additionally, the construction and operation of hydropower projects create numerous employment opportunities in power plant construction, manufacturing, services, and transportation. Hydropower also supports economic diversification by providing affordable electricity for crop irrigation, cold storage, and other modern production processes in agriculture and technology, fostering sustainable economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction.

As global environmental standards rise and international climate targets become stricter, Pakistan faces increasing pressure to reduce carbon emissions. A key component in achieving these standards is hydropower. Harnessing hydroelectric power would demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to addressing climate change and fulfilling its obligations under the Paris Agreement. Additionally, hydropower reduces the environmental impact of other energy sources, such as coal and oil, which disrupt the natural ecosystem. Advancements in technology also provide Pakistan with the opportunity to develop hydropower plants that meet high environmental standards while ensuring water conservation.

Hydropower remains one of the most promising sustainable energy sources for Pakistan, offering clean, accessible, and reliable power essential for economic development and production. Expanding hydroelectric generation will not only reduce reliance on fossil fuels but also help Pakistan comply with international environmental regulations. In doing so, it will serve as a catalyst for economic growth and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

https://pakobserver.net/cpec-hydropower-projects-guarantee-green-power-generation/

February 15, 2025

The News

Pakistan, China explore mineral trade, investment at virtual forum

In what appears to be a push to deepen bilateral investment and cooperation in the sector, Pakistan and China held a virtual business forum on mineral trade. The event, organised by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in collaboration with Trade & Investment Counsellor (TIC) in Guangzhou, drew 45 industry leaders from both countries.

The session highlighted Pakistan's mineral wealth, including copper, gold, chromite and iron ore, while stressing the need for value addition and infrastructure improvements to boost exports. Officials and industry experts outlined investment opportunities in projects such as the Saindak Copper Mine and the Tethyan Belt reserves.

China, a key consumer of raw materials, expressed strong interest in importing Pakistani minerals. TIC Guangzhou representative Muhammad Imran underscored the growing Chinese demand for iron ore, pyrite and copper concentrates, while industry leaders from both sides discussed streamlining trade processes.

A key announcement included the launch of a Minerals Investment Pavilion at the Health, Engineering & Minerals Show in Lahore this April, aiming to facilitate direct engagement between Pakistani exporters and Chinese buyers.

TDAP officials reiterated the need for enhanced trade mechanisms and investment-friendly policies to bolster Pakistan's mineral exports and reduce reliance on raw material exports. The forum marks a step towards strengthening Pakistan's position in the global mineral supply chain while deepening economic ties with China.

https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1282865-pakistan-china-explore-mineral-trade-investment-at-virtual-forum

Express News

چین دوسرے ملکوں میں مداخلت نہیں کرتا، اسکی ترقی سے خوف زدہ نہیں ہونا چاہیے، صدر مملکت

صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ چین نے تاریخ میں کبھی بھی قابض ملک کا کردار ادا نہیں کیا، چین دوسرے ملکوں میں مداخلت نہیں کرتا، چین کی ترقی سے خوف زدہ نہیں ہونا چاہیے۔

چین کے نشریاتی ادارے کے ساتھ انٹرویو میں اِظہار خیال انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک-چین دوستی صرف اچھے وقتوں کی نہیں بلکہ سدا بہار دوستی ہے، پاکستان اور چین قریبی ہمسائے ہیں، تمام حالات میں دوست رہیں گے، پاکستان چین کی ترقی اور اپنے جغرافیہ سے مکمل طور پر مستفید ہونے کا خواہاں ہے، چینی عوام سے محبت رکھتے ہیں، چین کے ساتھ کھڑے رہیں گے۔

صدر مملکت نے کہا کہ چینی صدر مضبوط اور مستقل مزاج ہیں، عالمی حالات کا ادراک رکھتے ہیں، پاک چین تعلقات تاریخی ہیں، نسلوں پر محیط ہیں، صدر شی جن پنگ کے سیاسی فلسفے اور طرز حکمرانی کا معترف ہوں، چین نے صدر شی جن پنگ کی قیادت میں ترقی کی کئی منازل طے کی ہیں، چین کی ترقی دنیا کیلئے خوش آئند ہے۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین نے تاریخ میں کبھی بھی قابض ملک کا کردار ادا نہیں کیا، چین دوسرے ملکوں میں مداخلت نہیں کرتا، چین کی ترقی سے خوف زدہ نہیں ہونا چاہیے، چین کے ساتھ لازوال دوستی پر یقین رکھتے ہیں، چین کے ساتھ روابط، سڑکیں اور مواصلات مزید بہتر اور پائیدار بنانے کی ضرورت ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ چین زرعی شعبے میں پاکستان کی مدد کر سکتا ہے، پاکستان کے زرعی شعبے کی فی ایکڑ پیداواری صلاحیت چین کے مقابلے میں کم ہے، پاکستان میں چین کیلئے خصوصی انڈسٹریل پارکس پر کام کر رہے ہیں، ماحولیات، آبپاشی سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں ملکی ترقی کیلئے چین کی ٹیکنالوجی سے مستفید ہونے کے خواہاں ہیں۔

صدر مملکت نے کہا کہ چین کی ترقی خطے کے مفاد میں ہے، چین کی خلائی شعبے میں ترقی نئی نہیں، پاکستان چین کے ساتھ خلائی شعبے میں اپنی استعداد کار بڑھا رہا ہے، شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم خطے کی ترقی میں کردار کرے گی، ہماری توجہ پاکستان کے استحکام پر مرکوز ہے، چین کے ساتھ تعلقات پاکستان کی اولین ترجیح ہیں۔

https://www.express.pk/story/2747981/cheen-dusre-mulkun-me-mudakhlat-nahi-karta-taraqi-se-khofzada-nahi-huna-chahiye-sadar-zardari-2747981

چین کی زیر صدارت اقوام متحدہ سلامتی کونسل اجلاس، وزیر خارجہ اسحاق ڈار شرکت کریں گے

چین کی زیر صدارت اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کے اجلاس میں نائب وزیر اعظم اور وزیر خارجہ اسحاق ڈار شرکت کریں گے۔

سفارتی ذرائع کے مطابق اقوام متحدہ سلامتی کونسل اجلاس "کثیر جہتی قابل عمل: اصلاحات اور عالمی طرز حکمرانی کو بہتر بنانے" کے حوالے سے منعقد ہو رہا ہے۔ چین نے اجلاس فروری 2025 کے لیے سلامتی کونسل کی اپنی گردشی صدارت میں طلب کیا ہے۔ اجلاس کی صدارت چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ژی کریں گے۔

نائب وزیر اعظم اور وزیر خارجہ اسحاق ڈار 18 فروری کو نیویارک روانہ ہوں گے۔ اسحاق ڈار دورہ امریکا میں اقوام متحدہ سلامتی کونسل کے اعلیٰ سطح اجلاس میں شریک ہوں گے۔ اسحاق ڈار اجلاس میں شریک دیگر ممالک کے وزرائے خارجہ سے ملاقاتیں کریں گے۔ اجلاس کی سائیڈ لائنز پر ان کی اقوام متحدہ کے سینئر حکام کے ساتھ دو طرفہ ملاقاتیں بھی متوقع ہیں۔

https://www.express.pk/story/2747972/cheen-ki-zere-sadarat-aqwam-e-muttahida-salamti-council-ijlas-wazir-kharja-ishaq-dar-shirkat-karain-ga-2747972.

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کیلئے تیسری قسط: چینی کمپنی کی قیادت میں کنسورشیم نے بولی اپنے نام کرلی

اسلام آباد (خبر نگار) نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی کی جانب سے منعقد کیے گئے شفاف طریقے سے ایک صحت مند مقابلے کے نتیجے میں چینی کمپنی کی قیادت میں کنسورشیم نے وسطی ایشیائی علاقائی اقتصادی تعاون کوریڈور پروجیکٹ کی تیسری قسط کے چاروں پیکجز کو 13.24 بلین روپے کے فرق سے سب سے کم بولی دے کر اپنے نام کرلیا۔ مشترکہ کنسورشیم کی قیادت چینی کمپنی ننگشیا کیمو نیکیشن کنسٹرکشن کررہی ہے جبکہ مقامی پارٹنرز میں رستم ایسوسی ایٹس اور ڈائنامک کنسٹرکٹرز شامل ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے وژن کے مطابق نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی کی موجودہ انتظامیہ نے شفافیت کو یقینی بناتے ہوئے اور مذکورہ بالا شکایات کو مناسب طریقے سے سماعت کرنے کے بعد مالی بولیاں کھولنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی کی موجودہ انتظامیہ کی جانب سے اس فیصلے سے نہ صرف 13.24 بلین روپے کی بچت ہوئی بلکہ بولیوں کے عمل کی بروقت تکمیل سے اس رقم سے کہیں زیادہ بچت منصوبے کی بروقت آغاز کے سبب بھی ممکن ہوسکے گی۔ بولیوں کی تقابلی جائزہ کے مطابق ننگشیا کیمو نیکیشن کنسٹرکشن کے کنسورشیم نے واضح مارجن کے ساتھ چاروں حصوں کے لیے سب سے کم بولی دے کر پروجیکٹ اپنے نام کرلیا۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق لاٹ-1، لاٹ-2، لاٹ-3 اور لاٹ-4 کے لیے پہلے اور دوسرے سب سے کم بولی دینے والے کے درمیان فرق بالترتیب 1.4 بلین روپے، 2.4 بلین روپے، 2.3 بلین روپے اور 7.1 بلین روپے تھا۔ اس منصوبے کو ایشیائی ترقیاتی بینک کی جانب سے فنڈز فراہم کیے جارہے ہیں۔ تیسری قسط میں 4 لاٹ شامل تھے۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-02-15/page-8/detail-11

Chinese Newspapers

February 03, 2025

People's Daily

Pakistani president to visit China

BEIJING, Feb. 3 (Xinhua) -- At the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, President Asif Ali Zardari of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan will pay a state visit to China from February 4 to 8, a foreign ministry spokesperson announced here on Monday.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0203/c90000-20272100.html

February 04, 2025

Xinhua News

CPEC key to Pakistan's economic development, regional connectivity: PM

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 3 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Monday that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a cornerstone for regional connectivity and the economic development of his country, the prime minister's office said in a statement.

During his visit to the provincial capital city Quetta of the country's southwest Balochistan province, the prime minister said that the "work on the completion of CPEC is progressing rapidly," adding that the initiative is playing a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's future.

Sharif noted that flight operations have commenced at the China-aided New Gwadar International Airport, marking a step forward in enhancing Balochistan's connectivity with the rest of Pakistan and the world.

Talking about the role of Gwadar port in the province's future development, Sharif said that it has the potential to transform Balochistan into a key trade hub.

"Gwadar Port will play a pivotal role in connecting Pakistan with Central and Southeast Asia and the rest of the world," he said.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking Gwadar Port in Balochistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase, it expands to fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

https://english.news.cn/20250204/d162211ec2be40ef9936b9d00b4048a7/c.html

February 05, 2025

People's Daily

Xi holds talks with Pakistani president

BEIJING, Feb. 5 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in Beijing on Wednesday.

Xi said China and Pakistan enjoy ironclad friendship and are all-weather strategic cooperative partners.

In recent years, the two countries have provided firm political support for each other, maintained close high-level exchanges, and advanced the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and cooperation in various fields, setting a good example for relations between countries, he said.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to advance their respective modernization drives, accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, bring more benefits to the two peoples, and make greater contributions to regional peace, stability and prosperity, Xi said.

Xi stressed that China always views its relations with Pakistan from a strategic perspective, and maintains a high degree of stability and continuity in its friendly policy toward Pakistan. He said that China will, as always, support Pakistan firmly in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, in combating terrorism, and in following a development path suited to its national conditions.

He called on the two countries to deepen the docking of development strategies and the exchange of governance experience, strengthen exchange at all levels and across all authorities, and consolidate the political foundations of China-Pakistan relations constantly.

China welcomes Pakistan to become one of the first countries to benefit from China's further deepening of reform comprehensively and expanding high-standard opening up, Xi said, adding that China is ready to deepen practical cooperation with Pakistan in various fields, work together to upgrade China-Pakistan Economic Corridor cooperation, and help Pakistan consolidate its development foundations and unleash its development potential.

He said that China hopes Pakistan will intensify the security measures for Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan, and strengthen bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation.

Noting that next year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan, Xi called on the two sides to deepen exchange and cooperation on culture, education and the media, with the aim of passing on the China-Pakistan friendship from generation to generation.

"China appreciates Pakistan's active support for the three global initiatives and participation in relevant cooperation, and stands ready to work with Pakistan to adhere to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, resist unilateralism and hegemonic practices, strengthen

multilateral coordination, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries," Xi said.

Pakistan will stand steadfastly with China no matter how the situation changes, Zardari said. He expressed Pakistan's appreciation for the selfless assistance China has provided for Pakistan's economic and social development. He said that Pakistan is willing to learn from China's successful experience and promote the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and cooperation in various fields, so as to realize industrialization and modernization.

He said that under the brilliant leadership of President Xi, China has played an ever-growing leadership role in international affairs and has become an increasingly important force for world peace, stability and prosperity.

Pakistan is willing to work closely with China to uphold multilateralism, safeguard free trade, and promote the common interests of the two countries and the vast number of developing countries, he added.

After their talks, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of a number of bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, trade, science and technology, and radio and television.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0205/c90000-20272789.html

Asian leaders on high-profile visits to China

Zhao Jia

China started to welcome a series of high-profile visits by leaders of Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Brunei, and Thailand on Tuesday, reaffirming Beijing's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and sharing its development opportunities.

Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov kicked off a four-day state visit to China on Tuesday, a trip deemed crucial for advancing bilateral relations and regional cooperation.

In a written interview with Xinhua News Agency, Japarov emphasized that deepening cooperation with China in various fields remains "a top priority" for Kyrgyzstan's foreign policy.

He highlighted the official launch of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project in December as a key achievement under the Belt and Road Initiative that is expected to boost bilateral cooperation.

For many years, China has been Kyrgyzstan's largest trading partner and a major investor. Japarov expressed confidence that China's modernization efforts would bring new opportunities not only to Kyrgyzstan but also to the entire Central Asian region.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari's five-day state visit to China, also starting on Tuesday, is expected to reaffirm deep-rooted ties between the two nations.

The visit is the first of its kind since Zardari assumed office in March and also coincides with the 10th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Pakistan in 2015. The Pakistani

Foreign Ministry described the visit as a continuation of the long-standing tradition of high-level exchanges, demonstrating both countries' deep commitment to strengthening their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

Discussions between the leaders of the two countries will cover a wide range of topics, with a particular focus on economic and trade cooperation, counterterrorism, security collaboration and progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of the BRI.

In a signed article in Pakistani mainstream media, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said the visit holds great significance in charting the course for China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperation.

It presents an opportunity to deepen exchanges of governance experience and mutual learning between civilizations, promote the alignment of development concepts and coordination of policy, and make new contributions to an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, he said.

On Wednesday, Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah will begin a three-day state visit to China, aiming to reinforce bilateral relations and expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

High-level exchanges between China and Brunei have been frequent in recent years. During President Xi's state visit to the Southeast Asian nation in 2018, the two leaders elevated the bilateral relationship to a strategic cooperative partnership.

The sultan had visited China or attended international conferences in the country 12 times, with his most recent visit in 2019 for the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing. Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra will make an official visit to China from Wednesday to Saturday, marking her first trip to Beijing since taking up the post in August. "Prime Minister Paetongtarn's official visit marks the beginning of the Golden Jubilee year for Thailand-China Friendship in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations," said the Thai Foreign Ministry. "It will also reaffirm political commitment to advancing shared goals of promoting the safety and well-being, as well as future-readiness of the two peoples, while deepening understanding and cooperation between them," it added. During the visit, Paetongtarn will hold talks with the Chinese leadership and also meet with business executives from both countries to further strengthen economic partnership. China is Thailand's largest trading partner, while Thailand ranks as China's third-largest trading partner in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0205/c90000-20272550.html

CPEC key to Pakistan's economic development, regional connectivity: PM

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 3 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Monday that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a cornerstone for regional connectivity and the economic development of his country, the prime minister's office said in a statement. During his visit to the provincial capital city Quetta of the country's southwest Balochistan province, the prime minister said that the "work on the completion of CPEC is progressing

rapidly," adding that the initiative is playing a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's future. Sharif noted that flight operations have commenced at the China-aided New Gwadar International Airport, marking a step forward in enhancing Balochistan's connectivity with the rest of Pakistan and the world. Talking about the role of Gwadar port in the province's future development, Sharif said that it has the potential to transform Balochistan into a key trade hub. "Gwadar Port will play a pivotal role in connecting Pakistan with Central and Southeast Asia and the rest of the world," he said. Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking Gwadar Port in Balochistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase, it expands to fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0205/c90000-20272477.html

February 06, 2025

People's Daily

Full Text: Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

At the invitation of H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, paid a state visit to China from February 4 to 8, 2025. During his stay in China, President Zardari will also attend the Opening Ceremony of the Ninth Asian Winter Games.

During the visit, President Xi Jinping held talks with President Zardari in a warm and friendly atmosphere. They had an in-depth exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations under the new situation and on the international and regional issues of mutual interests. H.E. Mr. Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, and H.E. Mr. Zhao Leji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, met with President Zardari respectively.

The two sides agreed that the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership is a choice by history and by the people, and enjoys broad support from all walks of life in both countries. Having withstood the test of changing international circumstances, the enduring partnership and iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan transcends geopolitical interests and is an important positive factor for regional peace, stability and development. The two sides have always understood and supported each other, and have been deepening strategic mutual trust and practical cooperation.

The two sides noted that while the transformation not seen in a century is accelerating, the China-Pakistan relationship remains of strategic significance, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine it is bound to fail. The Chinese side reiterated that the China-Pakistan relationship is a priority in its foreign relations and of special significance in China's foreign policy. The Pakistani side underscored that the Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy. The two sides will further deepen high-level political mutual trust, high-level practical cooperation, high-level security cooperation and high-level international

coordination, accelerate efforts to build an even closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era, and contribute greater strength to common prosperity of the two countries and to peace and development of the region. The Pakistani side highly commended and expressed strong support for the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative put forth by President Xi Jinping. The two sides agreed to step up international cooperation in this regard to jointly tackle global challenges and foster a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind.

The Pakistani side spoke highly of the great development achievements made by Chinese people under the guidance of the Communist Party of China and expressed firm support for the Chinese side in advancing the great cause of building a great modern socialist country in all respects and realizing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese modernization. The Chinese side gladly noted Pakistan's National Economic Transformation Plan (Uraan), applauds the new achievements attained by Pakistan in economic reform and national development and wishes Pakistan stability, security, development and prosperity.

The two sides reaffirmed their unyielding support for each other on issues concerning their respective core interests and major concerns. The two sides stressed that the authority of the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 2758 brooks no question or challenge. The Pakistani side reaffirmed its firm commitment to the one-China principle. It is of the view that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China and the Taiwan question is the core of China's core interests. It firmly supports all efforts made by China to achieve national reunification and resolutely opposes all forms of "Taiwan independence." Pakistan will also firmly support China on issues related to Xinjiang, Xizang, Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

The Chinese side reiterated its firm support for Pakistan in defending its national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and its support for Pakistan's efforts to safeguard national security, stability, development and prosperity.

The two sides agreed to strengthen high-level interactions, enhance exchanges and cooperation across various departments and at different levels between central governments, local authorities, legislative bodies and political parties, and carry out in-depth exchanges of governance experience.

The Pakistani side reiterated its strongest condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Pakistan involving Chinese personnel. It reaffirmed that ensuring the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan is the foremost responsibility of Pakistani government as China's All-weather Strategic Cooperative partner and the host country. The Chinese nationals in Pakistan have made important contributions to Pakistan's national construction and the improvement of people's livelihoods and serve as a strong force helping boost Pakistan's development, progress and prosperity. The Pakistani side expressed its sincere gratitude to the leadership and the people of China for their longstanding and invaluable support to Pakistan.

The two sides reiterated their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with a zero-tolerance attitude, and agreed to further strengthen bilateral and

multilateral cooperation on counter terrorism. The Pakistani side will continue to make all efforts to investigate into the terrorist attacks involving Chinese personnel and bring the perpetrators to justice. It will also further increase input into security, and take targeted and enhanced measures to effectively ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan, and create a safe environment for cooperation between the two countries. The Chinese side spoke highly of Pakistan's unremitting efforts and tremendous sacrifices in combating terrorism, and expressed its willingness to provide necessary support for Pakistan's counter terrorism capacity building.

8. The Pakistani side spoke highly of the Belt and Road Initiative put forth by President Xi Jinping. The two sides agreed to promote the implementation of the eight major steps on high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in Pakistan and jointly build a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, to create an upgraded version of CPEC, in line with Pakistan's 5Es framework.

Recalling the 13th CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting, the two sides are committed to further leveraging the JCC's functions to strengthen alignment of ideas and coordination of actions for high-quality CPEC development. The Pakistani side appreciated the Chinese side for the successful holding of the seminar on creating an upgraded version of CPEC which helped the Pakistani officials learn the first-hand experience of China's development and offered the Pakistani side valuable learning opportunity. The two sides agreed to hold the 14th JCC meeting as early as possible at a mutually agreed date.

9. The two sides reaffirmed that, in accordance with the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, efforts will be made to advance the upgradation of ML-1 in a phased and secure manner. The two sides reiterated that the Karakoram Highway (Raikot-Thakot) realignment project is of great importance to the land connectivity between China and Pakistan, and agreed to reach an early consensus on its implementation and financing.

The two sides welcomed the official inauguration of the new Gwadar International Airport, reaffirmed their commitment to promoting the comprehensive development and operation of the Gwadar Port to further leverage its role as a multimodal logistics hub to boost local economic growth through industrial development. Recognizing the significance of the Gwadar Port, both sides agreed to optimally utilize its potential as a key hub of connectivity and trade.

The Chinese side reiterated its support to Pakistan's industrialization and development of export-oriented industries. It encourages Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's qualified Special Economic Zones based on market and business principles. The Pakistani side reiterated its commitment to continuing to improve its business environment and provide a favorable policy framework for Chinese investment. The two sides welcome active participation of third parties in CPEC cooperation.

The two sides expressed their willingness to encourage Chinese companies to engage in investment and cooperation in Pakistan's mining industry, and encourage relevant departments of both countries to carry out terrestrial and marine geological survey cooperation. The Pakistani side welcomes Chinese companies' participation in offshore oil

and gas explorations. The two sides agreed to further strengthen agricultural cooperation and select next batch of projects under the CPEC framework. The Pakistani side expressed appreciation for China's important contributions to alleviating power shortages in Pakistan. The two sides agreed to strengthen exchanges in improving efficiency and management of the power system in Pakistan. The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation on information technology and promote policy and talent exchanges in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, big data and communication technology. The Chinese side would encourage its technology companies to actively expand their businesses in Pakistan to accelerate Science & Technology cooperation in the high-quality development of CPEC's second phase and develop an innovation corridor.

15. The two sides agreed to conduct further consultation on trade liberalization under the framework of the Phase-II of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, and actively explore the possible bilateral concessional arrangements based on the spirit of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation. The Chinese side welcomes Pakistani enterprises to make full use of platforms such as the China International Import Expo and the China-South Asia Expo to expand exports to China.

The two sides noted with satisfaction their ongoing collaborative efforts to leverage joint ventures in priority areas to enhance the export-oriented industry in Pakistan and encouraged Chinese companies with capabilities to invest in these sectors under the concept of win-win cooperation. The two sides agreed to strengthen joint support for Business-to-Business (B2B) cooperation in both countries and facilitate deeper exchanges and cooperation between business communities of the two countries. The Pakistani side reiterated its high appreciation for China's valuable support for the fiscal and financial stability of Pakistan. Both sides reaffirmed their desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the financial and banking sectors, and support each other within regional and international multilateral financial platforms.

16. The two sides emphasized that the China-Pakistan cooperation opens to all regions in Pakistan and aims to benefit all Pakistani people. They agreed to continue to carry out cooperation on people's livelihood in areas such as healthcare, agriculture, education, climate response, and disaster prevention and alleviation, and to deliver more "small and beautiful" projects beneficial for the people. The Pakistani side spoke highly of the children's congenital heart disease treatment project and health kits project carried out by the Chinese side in Pakistan. The two sides discussed ways to deepen cooperation in health sector, including in traditional and herbal medicine. Both sides agreed to further enhance human resources development cooperation under the Global Development Initiative.

17. The Pakistani side thanked the Chinese side for training Pakistan's agriculture professionals and IT professionals. The two sides agreed to expand cooperation in areas such as education, media, think tanks, youth, films and television to strengthen the bond between the two peoples and enhance mutual learning between civilizations. The Chinese side expressed the readiness to actively support Pakistani students in learning the Chinese language as well as to explore avenues for promoting technical and vocational training.

18. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the existing level of cooperation in space and agreed to advance and pursue further progress in this important area for socio-economic purpose.

19. The two sides underscored that strategic defence and security cooperation between China and Pakistan plays an irreplaceable and critical role in maintaining peace, stability and strategic balance in the region. The two sides expressed satisfaction that the two militaries have long enjoyed high-level of mutual trust, high-level cooperation, and high-level coordination. The two sides agreed to maintain the momentum of high-level military-to-military visits and exchanges, and to continuously elevate cooperation in areas of joint training, exercises and military technology. The two sides believe that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in South Asia and the need for resolution of all outstanding disputes, and their opposition to any unilateral action. The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the latest developments in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The Chinese side reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is left over from history and should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the U.N. Charter, relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

21. The two sides stressed that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and to true multilateralism. The two countries continue to advocate for dialogue over confrontation, partnerships over alliances and multilateralism over unilateralism and protectionism. They expressed satisfaction with their close cooperation at the U.N. and other multilateral fora, and expressed resolution to further deepen coordination on multilateral issues to uphold common interests of developing countries and international equity and justice.

The two sides agreed to maintain close communication and coordination on the issue of Afghanistan, and play a constructive role in helping Afghanistan achieve stable development and integrate into the international community. The two sides reiterated their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with a zero-tolerance attitude. They called on the Interim Afghan Government to take visible and verifiable actions to dismantle and eliminate all terrorist groups based in Afghanistan which continue to pose a serious threat to regional and global security, and to prevent the use of Afghan territory against other countries.

22. The two sides welcome the ceasefire agreement in Gaza, and hope that the agreement will be implemented effectively, leading to a full and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. The two sides reaffirmed their support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to establish an independent State of Palestine.

23. The two sides will work with international community to make unremitting effort for peace and stability in the Middle East.

23. During the visit, the two sides signed more than a dozen documents covering cooperation on CPEC, trade, science and technology, people's livelihoods, and media, etc.

24. President Zardari expressed appreciation to President Xi Jinping and the Chinese government and people for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation, and invited President Xi Jinping to visit Pakistan at a mutually-convenient time. The two sides agreed to maintain communication on the matter through diplomatic channels.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0206/c90000-20273243.html

Ironclad, enduring friendship with Pakistan highlighted

Xu Wei

President Xi Jinping reaffirmed on Wednesday the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan underscoring both nations' shared commitment to building a closer bilateral community with a shared future, as he hosted visiting Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in Beijing.

Xi rolled out the red carpet for Zardari, who arrived in the Chinese capital on Tuesday for a five-day state visit, in a grand welcoming ceremony that also included a guard of honor.

The two leaders jointly witnessed the signing of multiple cooperation agreements covering sectors including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, trade, and science and technology.

"China and Pakistan are ironclad friends and all-weather strategic partners," Xi said,

noting that the foundation of bilateral ties was forged by earlier generations of leaders and has become a treasured asset for both nations.

Beijing has always viewed its ties with Islamabad from a strategic perspective and maintained stable,

long-standing policies of friendship aimed at benefiting all Pakistani people, he stressed.

Xi pledged continuous support for Pakistan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, as well as its fight against terrorism.

He urged the Pakistani side to bolster security measures to protect Chinese citizens, projects, and institutions in the South Asian country as part of broader steps to enhance bilateral and multilateral counterterrorism cooperation.

Xi encouraged deeper alignment between the two countries' development strategies and broader exchanges on national governance, while welcoming Pakistan to benefit from China's efforts in comprehensively deepening reform and opening-up.

In building up cooperation across various fields, the president said both sides should jointly upgrade the CPEC and step up exchanges and cooperation in culture, education, and the media.

He also called for shared efforts to uphold the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, resist unilateral and hegemonic actions, and collaborate more closely in multilateral arenas to safeguard the interests of developing nations.

Zardari, who began his second term as Pakistani president last year, also highlighted the all-weather friendship and partnership between the two nations.

"Pakistan and China will always be friends. No matter how many issues come up in the world, I will, and the Pakistani people will, stand with the people of China," he said during the talks.

He thanked China for its selfless assistance in Pakistan's economic and social development, while expressing the readiness to learn from China's successful experience and to advance the CPEC and cooperation in multiple fields.

Pakistan remains committed to working closely with China in supporting multilateralism, promoting free trade, and safeguarding the shared interests of both countries and other developing nations, he added.

China has been Pakistan's largest trading partner, its top source of imports, and its second-largest export destination since the 2015-16 fiscal year, according to statistics from Pakistani authorities.

Jiang Zaidong, Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, wrote in a signed article before the visit that "a safe and stable environment is indispensable for China-Pakistan practical cooperation including CPEC construction".

Both sides are willing to work with the international community to strengthen multilateral anti-terrorism cooperation under the framework of the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other frameworks, he added.

Liu Zongyi, director of the Center for South Asia Studies at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, said economic and security cooperation will top the agenda for Zardari's ongoing visit to China.

He added that the CPEC has become the cornerstone of economic cooperation between both nations and a landmark project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

"Thus, it is important for both sides, especially Islamabad, to come up with concrete steps to guarantee the safety of Chinese personnel and projects and ensure the smooth progress of the CPEC," he said.

Mushahid Hussain Sayed, chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute, said the timing of Zardari's visit to China is important, as both sides are looking to reinforce the CPEC in its second phase.

"It is important for both nations to enhance coordination amid the changing global and regional scenarios, and to scale up the response to terrorism and extremism to guarantee the security of Chinese citizens and projects in Pakistan."

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0206/c90000-20273010.html

China's top legislator meets Pakistani president

BEIJING, Feb. 5 (Xinhua) -- Zhao Leji, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, met with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in Beijing on Wednesday.

China is willing to work with Pakistan to continue the traditional friendship, implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Noting that exchanges and cooperation between legislative bodies are an important part of bilateral relations, Zhao said the NPC is willing to work with the Pakistani parliament to strengthen exchanges at all levels, and provide a legal guarantee for China-Pakistan cooperation.

Zardari said Pakistan firmly supports China's core interests and major concerns, and supports the three global initiatives put forward by China, namely the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative.

Pakistan is ready to promote interactions between the legislatures of the two countries and deepen Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0206/c90000-20272887.html

Xinhua News

Pakistan committed to harnessing Gwadar port's potential for economic progress: PM

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 6 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that his country is committed to harnessing the potential of Gwadar Port to transform the Gwadar district in the southwestern Balochistan province into a world-class trade hub, and a gateway for economic progress and regional integration, the Prime Minister's office said in a statement.

Chairing the federal cabinet meeting here on Tuesday, Sharif expressed confidence that with intensified diplomatic efforts and collaboration among stakeholders, the port would soon become a commercial success, benefiting both Pakistan and the region, the statement added.

Sharif praised the ongoing infrastructure development in the region, including the construction of highways, adding that China-funded projects, including the Pak-China Friendship Hospital and Technical and Vocational Institute, are significantly contributing to public welfare in the district.

To accelerate the port's development, Sharif directed to form a high-level committee led by Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal to address operational challenges and formulate a comprehensive strategy to ensure the port's modernization.

Sharif further instructed officials to organize an international conference to promote awareness about Gwadar Port's utility and highlighted the need for a robust marketing and diplomatic outreach strategy.

"Gwadar Port holds immense potential to strengthen Pakistan's trade connectivity with regional and global markets. Its immediate operationalization is crucial for boosting economic development and regional trade," said Sharif.

The prime minister was briefed that the port provides low-cost and time-efficient access for ships up to 50,000 deadweight tonnage and is positioned to become a key player in transshipment to Gulf countries.

https://english.news.cn/20250206/bf9b2e528f574120b0a423f288dd4694/c.html

Chinese naval fleet to join multinational exercise in Pakistan

BEIJING, Feb. 6 (Xinhua) -- A Chinese naval fleet consisting of the vessels of Baotou and Gaoyouhu will participate in a multinational joint exercise in Pakistan this February at the invitation of the Pakistani military, China's Ministry of National Defense said Thursday.

During the exercise, code-named "Peace-2025," participating vessels will conduct drills focused on maritime resupply, joint anti-piracy operations, search and rescue, and air defense, which are aimed at enhancing the capability of jointly safeguarding maritime security, the ministry said.

https://english.news.cn/20250206/3c3fe9b0e54a42eea8fff528e85000da/c.html

February 14, 2025

People's Daily

From tale of 'Chang'e flying to the moon' to legend of 'Chang'e' lunar exploration

Ren Ping

The 15th day of the first month on the Chinese lunar calendar marks the Lantern Festival.

The moon is full in the sky, and families are reunited on Earth. This brings the story of "the lady Chang'e flying to the Moon," as well as the mission of Chang'e lunar exploration to people's minds.

From ancient myth to modern-day legend, we reflect on the integration of culture and technology, exploring the deeper driving forces behind China's development. Innovative culture is undoubtedly one of the key elements.

With a history of over 5,000 years, the spirit of innovation, a most distinctive trait of the Chinese nation, has not only been internalized as an enduring spiritual heritage of the Chinese people and enriched the soil for an innovative culture, but also externalized in the practical development of the New Era, stimulating the momentum for innovative progress.

As the most technologically advanced lunar exploration mission in China's space history to date, Chang'e-6 has established an important milestone in China's lunar exploration program, offering a unique perspective through which we can observe the innovative spirit of the Chinese people and the innovative culture of the New Era.

In his 2025 New Year's message, Chinese President Xi Jinping praised the technological innovation achievements such as how "the Chang'e-6 lunar probe collected samples from the far side of the moon," stating that "all this epitomizes the lofty spirit and dreams of the Chinese people to explore stars and oceans."

During a meeting with the representatives of space scientists and engineers who participated in the research and development of the Chang'e-6 lunar mission, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, stressed that the achievements of the lunar exploration project embody the wisdom and hard work of several generations of Chinese aerospace workers, and demonstrate the remarkable accomplishment the country has made in scientific and technological self-reliance in recent years.

The New Era is far from ordinary. Why is it that China could always grow up in the baptism of wind and rain and emerge stronger after withstanding tests? In 2025, which marks the conclusion of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), what enables the country to achieve its set goals? As China moves toward grand objectives, what empowers the country to overcome difficulties and challenges?

From the tale of "Chang'e flying to the moon" to the legend of "Chang'e" lunar exploration missions, people could see a vivid revelation of the secrets behind the continuous vitality of the Chinese nation and a bright future for vibrant Chinese modernization.

Dreams are never just dreams

The Chinese people possess the great spirit of dreaming and creation. As a cultural achievement of combining the basic tenets of Marxism with the excellent traditional Chinese culture, the innovative culture of the New Era inherits the genes of the excellent traditional Chinese culture and provides an endless source of power for the pursuit of dreams.

Xi has emphasized, "The Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee's decision to implement the lunar exploration project is to pursue the nation's unyielding dream of flying into the sky and reaching for the moon."

The legend of "Chang'e flying to the moon" is also where dreams begin.

Over 2,000 years ago, the Qin bamboo slips in the text "Gui Cang" recorded the story of "Chang'e flying to the moon." Qu Yuan, a patriotic poet from the ancient Chu state, which existed more than 2,200 years ago during the Warring States Period (475 BC-221 BC), first mentioned the moon rabbit in his long poem "Tianwen," meaning "Heavenly Questions." These ancient myths are beautiful and touching, with stories having been passed down through the ages in books and by word of mouth.

For thousands of years, from the verse in the ancient classic Book of Songs, to poet Li Bai's "My heart yearns for the blue sky and to embrace the bright moon," and to poet Su Shi's "We share the beauty of the moon thousands of miles apart"... Classic cultural masterpieces shine like stars in the sky and these are the verses that people can recite effortlessly.

As far back as the Xia Dynasty (2070-1600 BC), ancient Chinese had developed the lunar calendar based on the cycles of the moon to guide agricultural production. During the Ming

Dynasty (1368-1644), Wan Hu attempted to fly to the sky using a self-made rocket, becoming the first recorded "moon mission" in human history. The brilliant cultural lineage illuminates the past and present, a shared memory embedded in Chinese people's genetic heritage.

"Exploring the vast universe, developing space programs, and becoming an aerospace power has always been the dream we've been striving for." In the luster of the Chinese people's lives, dreams are never just dreams.

The legend of flying to the moon, the longing for the moon, and the ambition to embrace the moon have been passed down through civilization, and forged into an incredibly tenacious spirit - the courage to pursue and realize dreams.

In the late hours of December 15, 2013, Xi made a special visit to the Beijing Aerospace Control Center. At the same time, 380,000 kilometers away from Earth, the Chang'e-3 lunar probe successfully landed in the moon's Sinus Iridium, or the Bay of Rainbows, and the first moon rover Yutu (Jade Rabbit) safely departed from the lander to explore the lunar surface.

Following the successful missions of Chang'e-3, Chang'e-4, Chang'e-5, and Chang'e-6, Xi met with space scientists and engineers who participated in these groundbreaking projects.

The Chinese top leader emphasized, "China is a big country and must attach importance to the real economy and take the path of self-reliance. Core technologies in key fields should be based on independent research and development."

Xi also stressed promoting the lunar exploration spirit and giving full play to the advantages of the new system of pooling national resources and strengths to ascend the peak of science and technology, and serve the country's overall development. He emphasized embarking on a new interplanetary exploration journey step by step, promoting the innovative development of China's space exploration cause, and making greater contributions to humanity's peaceful use of space.

These heartfelt innovation exhortations carry the weight of Chinese people's earnest aspirations for pursuing dreams. Rooted in dreams, grounded in innovation, and realized through practical efforts -this is the logical framework of great undertakings.

"If foreigners could do it, why couldn't we Chinese do it? " This statement by Qian Xuesen, the founding father of Chinese aerospace exploration, encapsulates the ambition and determination of China's researchers to reach new heights in technology.

"Mom, when I go to college, I want to study aerospace engineering. I will find a way to visit the moon and help Grandma and you realize this dream!" This was the aspiration of Ye Peijian, chief commander and designer of the Chang'e-1 project, who grew up listening to stories about the moon from his grandmother and mother, inspiring him to pursue a career in space exploration.

Dreams can be vast and grand, but the journey to realize them is often fraught with challenges, twists, and turns.

At the Beijing Planetarium, a piece of lunar rock no larger than a soybean quietly sits on display, attracting visits from numerous astronomy enthusiasts. In 1978, the US government gifted China this one-gram lunar rock. Half of it was used for scientific research to uncover the rock's "past and present," while the other half was showcased for educational purposes.

"At that time, my dream was to have a piece of lunar rock that China had collected itself," reminisced Ouyang Ziyuan, the first chief scientist for China's moon exploration program, filled with emotion.

When dreams are ignited, the relentless efforts of countless dream chasers, nurtured by a culture of innovation, converge into an unstoppable force.

Since the beginning of the New Era, China has entered the best period for technological innovation.

From the Chang'e lunar missions to the "Tianhe," the core module of China's space station, the "Tianwen" Mars exploration and the shining "Beidou" satellite system, and from "Crust 1" delving deep into Earth to the "Fendouzhe (Striver)" submersible exploring the depths of the ocean - these remarkable achievements reflect the Chinese nation's profound connection to the stars and the sea. They also serve as the most vivid manifestation of the innovative spirit that Chinese civilization has bestowed upon Chinese people.

A journey of trials and triumphs

There is no smooth road to innovation, let alone a shortcut. In the New Era, a culture of innovation inspires a spirit of perseverance in the face of challenges, paving the way for the realization of dreams.

In ancient Chinese mythology, there exists a unique spirit characterized by remarkable qualities -from Pangu creating the world, and Nuwa patching up the sky, to Kuafu chasing the sun, Jingwei filling up the sea and Yugong removing mountains. These tales not only ignite dreams and inspire wisdom, but also advocate for proactive engagement and encourage action.

On the journey of national rejuvenation, countless "impossibilities" have transformed into "certainties" through this unwavering pursuit of dreams. The tale of "Chang'e flying to the moon" has evolved into the legend of "Chang'e" lunar exploration, illustrating how myths can be transformed into legendary narratives.

This is the footprint of innovation, marked by a courageous spirit of exploration.

In January 2004, China's lunar exploration program was officially initiated. In October 2007, Chang'e-1 was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Southwest China's Sichuan Province.

With a lack of components, no ground testing conditions, and uncertainty about how to reach the moon, a research team of scientists under the age of 30, on average, began developing the first artificial satellite to orbit the moon from scratch. Sun Jiadong, the program's first chief designer, remarked, "From the moment Chang'e-1 took off for the moon, I knew that once the door to lunar exploration was opened, the pace of deep space exploration would not stop."

On December 14, 2013, Chang'e-3 landed on the moon, marking the first time that China had sent a spacecraft to soft land on the surface of an extraterrestrial body. It pioneered thermal control technology for two-phase fluid circuits and was equipped with a 360-degree panoramic camera, an infrared spectrometer, and an X-ray spectrometer, along with a new landing buffer system, autonomous navigation, and remote control systems. "The more difficult the path, the more we want to explore it," said Sun, reflecting the team's innovative spirit.

After Chang'e-3 successfully landed on the moon, what was the backup Chang'e-4 to do? The answer was to go to the far side of the moon!

Following numerous debates, Wu Weiren, the chief designer of China's lunar exploration program, insisted, "We should give Chang'e-4 greater vitality and more functions to explore the far side of the moon, which has never been reached by human spacecraft."

In January 2019, Chang'e-4 made history by achieving the first soft landing on an exploration of the moon's far side, leaving its first footprints in lunar exploration history. In December 2020, Chang'e-5 returned to Earth with 1,731 grams of lunar samples, marking China's first extraterrestrial sample return while completing the three-step plan of orbiting, landing, and returning.

In June 2024, Chang'e-6 touched down on the far side of the moon and collected samples from this rarely explored terrain for the first time in human history. The launch schedules for Chang'e-7 and Chang'e-8 have been confirmed, and China plans to send humans to the moon by 2030.

As we embark on a new journey in this New Era, how do we continue to gain advantages, take initiative, and secure the future? The key lies in the spirit of daring to innovate and dream.

This is a collaborative force of innovation. A drill and a shovel may seem like simple tools, but ensuring their proper use on the moon involves complex innovations that embody the wisdom of many teams.

The design of lunar sampling equipment draws on geologists' experiences of digging on Earth; the lunar soil structure detector developed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences acts as "eyes" providing information support; the "arm" for lunar soil collection is a robotic arm developed by a team from the Harbin Institute of Technology; and the strength of the "joints" and "hands" comes from the motor components and drilling subsystems developed by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

As China's most complex and technologically advanced space system engineering project, the lunar exploration program is large-scale, systemically complex, and highly integrated, coordinated by the China National Space Administration and involving 3,000 institutes and nearly 100,000 participants.

"The three-step overall plan of the lunar exploration program could not have been completed on time without the traditional advantages of socialism in concentrating resources and the

support of a new national system," said Hu Hao, chief designer of the Chang'e-5 and Chang'e-6 missions.

When collective strength is harnessed, nothing is insurmountable. The government, enterprises, and research institutions work together, integrating five major systems: Satellites, launch vehicles, launch sites, measurement and control, and ground applications. From seasoned academicians to fresh graduates born in the 1990s, their unified collaboration has made the Chang'e program a collective effort, paving the way to the moon.

Innovation has always been fraught with challenges. China's lunar exploration program has achieved six consecutive successes. The spirit of lunar exploration forged by researchers is a decisive factor in this success.

Xi has urged efforts to promote the spirit of lunar exploration, characterized by "chasing dreams, daring to explore, collaborating to overcome challenges, and achieving win-win cooperation," to further enhance the national confidence and pride of all Chinese people, and build up a great force to comprehensively promote the building of a strong country and the realization of national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization.

This year's Spring Festival Gala featured a collaborative performance of the yangge dance by humans and machines. Behind the robot's ability to manipulate handkerchiefs lies the perfect support of AI-driven full-body motion control technology.

The production and sales of new energy vehicles have also exceeded 12 million units, maintaining the world's top position for 10 consecutive years, reflecting the strong support of new quality productive forces. China's grain output has reached a new milestone of 1.4 trillion jin (700 billion kilograms) for the first time, with technology helping farmers secure their "golden rice bowls," showcasing the intrinsic motivation for building a strong agricultural nation.

The tide of the new era is surging. Countless stories of technological innovation are emerging, and an increasingly rich atmosphere of innovation culture is taking shape, providing stronger momentum for the giant ship "China" to move forward.

Only open cooperation is the right path

Technological progress is a global and contemporary issue, and only open cooperation is the right path. Continuously enriching and developing in an open and inclusive manner, and gathering the strength of the world through mutual learning and collaboration, are distinctive features of the innovation culture in the New Era.

Xi has pointed out: "The Chang'e lunar missions, which belong to both China and all people in the world, have provided a broad stage for international scientific and technological cooperation, and contributed Chinese wisdom and strength to the world's deep space exploration."

Opening international applications for lunar soil samples, Russian researchers discovered unusual metallic iron-like linear crystals in the lunar soil collected by the Chang'e-5 probe. Carrying international payloads such as the European Space Agency's lunar surface ion analyzer, France's lunar radon detector, Italy's laser retroreflector, and Pakistan's CubeSat

satellite, the Chang'e-6 missions assisted Pakistan in capturing its first lunar image and helped France complete its first lunar landing space project.

"Outer space is the common territory of humanity, and space exploration is a common cause for all mankind." The lunar exploration program has always been welcoming, promoting the global sharing of scientific achievements and ensuring that aerospace technology benefits humanity.

For Chang'e-1, to ensure 24-hour uninterrupted tracking, China collaborated with the European Space Agency and relevant departments in Chile, using four foreign tracking stations for control. For Chang'e-4, the neutron radiation detector aboard the lander was developed by Germany, and the ground station that China built in Argentina played an important role in the monitoring and control of the mission.

Technological innovation has never been a solitary endeavor or a closed-door affair. One important reason for the success of the lunar exploration program is its unwavering commitment to open innovation, planning, and promoting technological development with a global perspective, and strengthening international cooperation in all aspects.

Open cooperation leads to mutual benefits and win-win outcomes

"China's juncao," which transcends mountains and seas, has taken root in over 100 countries, becoming "a gift from China to the world." "China's Sky Eye," which continues to open up to the global scientific community, has helped research teams from 15 countries, including the US, the Netherlands, and Australia, conduct over 900 hours of observations, continually expanding humanity's limits in observing the sky. Agreements on intergovernmental scientific cooperation have been signed with over 80 Belt and Road Initiative partner countries, promoting the sharing of innovative achievements.

Promoting open cooperation in science and technology is becoming a vivid practice of building a community of shared future for mankind. The world is interconnected, and humanity shares a common destiny. China has always relied on the hard work and innovative creativity of its people to develop and strengthen itself, achieving national development by combining the stimulation of intrinsic motivation with the peaceful utilization of external resources, firmly grasping the fate of its own development and progress in its own hands.

China has always placed its own development within the coordinate system of human development, jointly addressing global challenges such as climate change, food security, and energy security, actively integrating into the global innovation network while deeply participating in global scientific governance, and working with countries around the world to create an open, fair, just, and non-discriminatory international environment for scientific and technological development.

Innovation determines the future, and reform concerns the fate of the nation. Chinese modernization is full of momentum; the future of China is limitless. Let us unite our hearts and minds while gazing at the stars, and strive tenaciously while staying grounded, as we move toward our grand goals.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0214/c90000-20276726.html

UAE leverages BRICS membership to boost global trade resilience, infrastructure development

DUBAI, Feb. 13 (Xinhua) -- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is leveraging its membership in BRICS to enhance global trade resilience and drive infrastructure leadership, according to panelists at the World Governments Summit 2025 in Dubai.

During a panel discussion on Wednesday, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, chairman and CEO of DP World, and Mohamed Saif Al Suwaidi, director general of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), highlighted the UAE's strategic role in strengthening economic ties within BRICS and beyond.

"By leveraging our strategic location and advanced logistics capabilities, the UAE is enhancing supply chain resilience and strengthening trade corridors that will benefit economies worldwide," bin Sulayem said.

He noted that the UAE has positioned itself as a logistics hub for BRICS by developing multimodal trade routes that cut transit times and unlock economic growth opportunities.

"We have created new trade routes linking Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia, significantly reducing transit times ... Through strategic investments, we are addressing global bottlenecks and ensuring seamless trade flows," he said.

"The UAE's inclusion in BRICS presents a unique opportunity to strengthen economic ties, not only through government cooperation but also by engaging the private sector, Al-Suwaidi said, underscoring the UAE's commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth through its BRICS membership.

"At ADFD, we are focused on financing projects that drive sustainable development, especially in sectors such as transport, energy, and infrastructure. These efforts are closely aligned with the BRICS agenda, contributing to economic integration and connectivity," he added.

Al-Suwaidi also highlighted the UAE's focus on large-scale infrastructure projects, including ports, railways, and airports, which are essential for enhancing trade flows and economic exchange.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0214/c90000-20276630.html

Xiplomacy: How Xi Jinping drives China's global interactions in the New Year

Through a series of phone talks, exchanges of messages and face-to-face gatherings in less than two months into the new year, Chinese President Xi Jinping and world leaders have shared ideas on how to promote common development and further foster their cooperation.

BEIJING, Feb. 13 (Xinhua) -- Less than two months into the new year, China has been on a push to step up bilateral ties with the world's major countries and its partners in Europe, Asia and beyond.

Through a series of phone talks, exchanges of messages and face-to-face gatherings over the past weeks, Chinese President Xi Jinping and leaders of those countries have shared ideas on how to promote common development and further foster their cooperation.

"WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER"

On Jan. 17, three days ahead of the inauguration ceremony of then U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, Xi held a telephone conversation with Trump.

China and the United States share extensive common interests and broad space for cooperation, and the two countries can become partners and friends, contribute to each other's success, and enjoy common prosperity, which will benefit both countries and the whole world, Xi told Trump during their phone talks.

It is inevitable that China and the United States, two major countries with different national conditions, have some differences, and the key is to respect each other's core interests and major concerns, and find appropriate ways to solve issues, Xi noted.

The Chinese leader also paid close attention to fostering stronger people-to-people bonds between the two countries. Ahead of this Spring Festival, Xi sent a Chinese New Year card in return to friends in the U.S. state of Iowa, expressing his hope that the two peoples will pay more visits to each other and have more exchanges.

"We need to work together," said Dan Stein, chairman of the Muscatine-China Initiatives Committee. "And the more we can work together ... we could make a stable world where everybody can have opportunity and success."

STRENGTHENING TIES WITH RUSSIA, EU

In late January, Xi held a video meeting with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin. On the last day of the past year, the two presidents also exchanged New Year greeting messages -- a gesture kept by the two leaders in recent years and a reflection of a mature and stable China-Russia relationship.

In their video meeting, Xi stressed the important role of China-Russia relations in the global landscape. He called for coping with uncertainties of the external environment with the stability and resilience of China-Russia relations, jointly promoting the development and revitalization of the two countries, and upholding international fairness and justice.

Oleg Timofeyev, an associate professor at the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, said the interaction between the Chinese and Russian leaders at the beginning of the New Year demonstrates the two countries' willingness and determination to play a stabilizing role at both global and regional levels.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the China-EU diplomatic relations, and coincides with a time when new leaders take office in EU institutions. In an increasingly volatile global landscape, China-EU relations have taken on greater strategic and global significance.

Highlighting the anniversary as an important milestone building on past achievements and charting the future, Xi's phone conversation with European Council President Antonio Costa

in January provided clear guidance for the development of China-EU relations in the next stage.

The history of China-EU relations demonstrates that as long as both sides uphold mutual respect, treat each other as equals, and engage in candid dialogue, they can advance cooperation and make significant achievements, Xi said during the phone talk.

The more severe and complex the international situation becomes, the more China and Europe should adhere to the original aspirations of their diplomatic ties, he said, calling on both sides to strengthen strategic communication, enhance mutual strategic trust, and uphold their partnership.

Earlier this month, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said at the EU Ambassadors Conference 2025 that there is room for the EU to engage constructively with China, "find solutions in our mutual interest," and reach agreements to expand trade and investment.

Volker Tschapke, honorary president of Germany's Prussian Society, said he believes that under the background of geopolitical turbulence and slowing global economic growth, Europe and China have a solid and broad basis for strengthening common interests.

"The active interaction and communication between leaders of China and the United States, Russia and Europe have demonstrated China's clear plans for major country relations, helped promote coordination and cooperation among major countries, and demonstrated China's sense of responsibility in an era of turmoil," he said.

SHARED PROSPERITY

In China's "Ice City" Harbin, the 9th Asian Winter Games brought together leaders from many of China's neighboring countries, including Brunei, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Thailand and South Korea.

At a banquet held last week by Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, ahead of the opening ceremony of the games, the Chinese leader called on Asia to uphold the common dream of peace and harmony, jointly respond to all sorts of security challenges, and contribute to building an equal and orderly multipolar world.

He also stressed the joint pursuit of prosperity and development, calling on Asian people to work together to promote progress and development, and provide sustained momentum for a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

Quoting the Chinese proverb "When people are of one mind and heart, they can move Mount Tai," Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov noted that Kyrgyzstan and China have achieved breakthroughs in many key cooperation projects in 2024 through fruitful and high-quality collaboration.

In January, large machinery such as excavators, cranes and bulldozers were sent from the Torugart Pass in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to the construction site of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project. As a Belt and Road flagship project

commenced at the end of 2024, this transport corridor holds a promising vision for regional development and prosperity.

Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to the comprehensive strategic partnership for a new era with China, and the two countries have effectively enhanced mutual trust and benefits based on friendly relations and productive cooperation, Japarov told Xinhua in an exclusive written interview ahead of his four-day state visit to China earlier this month.

Since the start of the new year, China's high-quality cooperation with partner countries under the Belt and Road Initiative has been steadily advancing.

Before Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari paid a state visit to China from Feb. 4 to 8, the New Gwadar International Airport, a China-aided project, officially commenced operations.

A day before Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra's official visit to China from Feb. 5 to 8, the Thai Cabinet approved the second phase of a high-speed rail project that connects Thailand with China via Laos.

Paetongtarn reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to advancing cooperation in infrastructure, trade and economy under the Belt and Road Initiative, and accelerating the construction of the Thailand-China railway, which is expected to further enhance exchanges between the two countries and peoples.

Speaking highly of China's rapid development and widely recognized initiatives, she emphasized that Thailand has always been open to China's proposals and initiatives.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0214/c90000-20276489.html

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People's Daily

Chinese navy vessels finish joint maritime exercise in Pakistan

BEIJING, Feb. 14 (Xinhua) -- A Chinese navy task group has finished a multinational maritime exercise in Pakistan, which was the first international joint exercise the Chinese military participated in this year, China's defense ministry announced Friday.

Zhang Xiaogang, spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense, said the task group comprised the guided-missile destroyer PLANS Baotou and the comprehensive supply ship PLANS Gaoyouhu.

The task group attended the joint exercise coded "AMAN 2025" from Feb. 6 to 11, at the invitation of the Pakistani military, according to the spokesperson. He added that drills conducted during the exercise were on issues including joint counter-piracy operations, search and rescue, and air defense. Zhang said the exercise had facilitated exchanges between the Chinese navy and other participating naval troops, and demonstrated their shared commitment to maritime security. The Chinese military will continue to fulfill its international responsibilities and contribute to world peace and stability with concrete actions, he added.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0215/c90000-20277155.html