



# For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC Gleanings from the National Press

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March 01-15, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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*Data collected and compiled by Rabeeha Safdar, Maroosha Sarfraz and Zohaib Sultan*

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**March 01, 2021**

**Business Recorder**

### **SAU to conduct joint research with Chinese varsities**

HYDERABAD: Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) will conduct joint research on different proposals with various Chinese universities.

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has called for research proposals for joint research with experts from Pakistani and Chinese universities, under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreement.

Proposals for joint research have been invited by the HEC from experts and teachers of various teaching disciplines of recognized and degree awarding universities in Pakistan, in this regard, Sindh Agriculture University from Sindh has also been selected.

The first informal meeting of scholars and experts of SAU, graduating from various higher educational institutions of the world including China, held at university senate hall, presided by VC Dr Fateh Marri.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/01/11-page/871606-news.html>

**Daily Times**

### **Chinese investment in Pakistan tops with \$402.8m in 7 months**

Chinese investment in Pakistan has topped with \$402.8 million during seven months of the current fiscal year.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro, China's vote of confidence in Pakistan's economy deepens after China stays atop as the sole highest contributor of net foreign direct investment (FDI) when compared to other countries in Pakistan. The net FDI inflow from China remains at dollar 402.8million which is highest in the list of inflows from other countries. Chinese net FDI pouring comes at a time when overall FDI from other countries dipped by 27 percent during the first seven months of the current fiscal year.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) report, others from where over \$100m net FDIs were bagged were the Netherlands and Hong Kong, as they invested \$122m and \$105m, respectively, during the first seven months of FY21. The inflows of FDI from the UK (83.8m), the US (\$73.5m) and Malta (\$60.6m) were also significant during the seven months.

A drastic change in the inflows from Norway affected the overall inflow of FDI this year. The SBP data shows that during the seven months of the previous fiscal year, the inflow from Norway was \$288.5m. While in the seven months of the current financial year a net outflow of \$25.8m was noted instead of any inflow from the Scandinavian country.

Meanwhile, with Chinese investment tend, the inflow of remittances being sent by the overseas Pakistanis, national kitty becomes healthy. Remittances during the seven months of the current

fiscal year were up by 24pc as the country received \$16.5bn. Trust of Chinese investors is blossoming as out of a total of 117 foreign companies registered in SECP, the maximum belonged to China in 2020. The report added, other investors hailed from Australia, Germany, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Lebanon, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, the UAE, the UK and the US.

The highest number of companies was registered in Islamabad (628), followed by Lahore (625) and Karachi (349). The SECP has registered 1,956 new companies in November 2020, indicating an increase of 41% as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The power sector attracted the highest investment of \$475.8m against \$373m in the same period of last financial year; an increase of 27.6 per cent. Within the power sector, coal power attracted the highest investment as the inflow reached \$271m compared to \$233m in the same period of FY20. The hydel power attracted \$111m and thermal received \$93.9m.

The financial business (banks) attracted slightly higher FDI compared to last fiscal as it received \$181.3m against \$178.9m in the same period of last fiscal year. In the oil and gas exploration sector, the inflow declined to \$136.7m compared to \$186.5m last year. The sector has been attractive for the investors but the slow growth in this sector reflects the declining interest of the investors. The trade sector noted vital change as it attracted \$118m compared to just \$22.3m in the same period of last fiscal year.

The FDI in electrical machinery dropped to \$70.5m compared to \$133.2m in the previous year. Financial sector experts said despite all-out efforts and incentives, exports grew slowly while foreign investment could see a change once the country exits the FATF grey list.

### **Fiscal deficit:**

Friends of Business and Economic Reforms on Sunday sought long-term measures amidst high cost of debt servicing due to heavy loans, as the fiscal deficit has jumped to around Rs1.5 trillion in first half of 2020-21.

FEBR President Kashif Anwar sought growth-friendly policies, upgraded tax and social spending and active industrial strategies in close consultation with real stakeholders to achieve sustainable development goals. In terms of size of the economy, the budget deficit remained at last year's level but in absolute terms the deficit went up, he said and added that the government had set the federal budget deficit target at 7.5% of GDP while it has obtained Rs1.2 trillion in loans to finance the deficit.

FEBR President observed that the fiscal deficit is going up despite the government claim of tight control over expenditures, while the only main head of expenditure that remains out of control is the debt servicing cost that jumped by 15 percent to nearly Rs1.5 trillion. Kashif Anwar added that Pakistan's fiscal policy continued to focus primarily on macroeconomic stabilization, in response to the financial crisis, instead of putting more emphasis on reforms to foster long-term growth through industrialization by adopting advanced technology.



<https://dailytimes.com.pk/729181/chinese-investment-in-pakistan-tops-with-402-8m-in-7-months/>

### **Dunya News**

#### **70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic ties to be celebrated with zeal**

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Pakistan and China will hold a virtual ceremony to be simultaneously held in Islamabad and Beijing on Tuesday (March 2), to formally commence celebrations on 70th anniversary of the diplomatic relations.

“The year 2021 marks the completion of 70 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the People’s Republic of China, established on May 21, 1951,” a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday said.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and China’s State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will lead the ceremony on their respective sides.

Both countries will be organizing a series of events throughout the year to commemorate this historic milestone in a befitting manner, it added.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/590430-70th-anniversary-of-Pak-China-diplomatic-ties-to-be-celebrated-with-zeal>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Pakistan’s Imran Khan congratulates China’s Xi Jinping for ‘eradicating extreme poverty’**

ISLAMABAD – Prime Minister Imran Khan has congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping and his government for the momentous achievement of eradicating extreme poverty in their country.

Taking to Twitter on Sunday, Khan said that “never before in history have 750 million people been taken out of extreme poverty in a span of 35 years.”

“For developing countries like Pakistan there are lessons to be learnt,” he added.

The Pakistani premier further said that we can do the same for our people with determination and commitment.

Last Thursday, President Xi had announced a “complete victory” in the effort to eradicate rural poverty at a ceremony in Beijing.

It marked a signature initiative of his eight-year tenure during which, according to state media, nearly 100 million people were lifted from poverty by investing 1.6 trillion Yuan.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-imran-khan-congratulates-chinas-xi-jinping-for-eradicating-extreme-poverty/>

## **The Nation**

### **China praises PM Imran's positive feedback on poverty elimination**

On Monday, China welcomed the positive comments of Prime Minister Imran Khan on elimination of extreme poverty and said it was ready to help developing countries in the poverty alleviation efforts.

“We noticed Prime Minister Imran Khan’s positive comments on China’s elimination of extreme poverty,” Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing held here.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Imran Khan had congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping and the government for taking 750 million people out of poverty in 35 years.

Later, senior Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson Hua Chunying also expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Imran Khan’s remarks on China’s achievements in its poverty alleviation campaign and wrote “Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister”.

The spokesperson also commented officials of the international organizations including the United Nations Coordinator in China and said China’s outcome in poverty alleviation brought important outcomes for the world as well as President Xi and the Chinese governments and people’s resolution and action.

He said the elimination of extreme poverty was a milestone in China’s improvement of people’s well-being and in its human rights course, adding, since the 18th CPC Session, every year, over 10 million people in China were lifted out of poverty equaling a size of the medium sized country. So, about every three seconds, one person was lifted out of poverty.

Wang Wenbin said after the reforms and opening up in China, 770 million rural population had been lifted out of poverty.

China’s poverty alleviation results belonged to China and the world, he said and added, there were the Chinese solution to the international poverty eradication.

He said the Chinese side was ready to work with other countries and help developing countries to eliminate poverty and realize the 2030 goals for sustainable development so that the people all around the world could live a better life.

<https://nation.com.pk/01-Mar-2021/china-praises-pm-imran-s-positive-feedback-on-poverty-elimination>

## **The News**

### **Ijazul Haq, Abdullah Hameed Gul visit China Window Centre**

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Muslim League-Zia leader and former federal minister Ijazul Haq and Tehreek-e-Jawanan Pakistan leader Abdullah Hameed Gul visited the China Window Centre – the Chinese Cultural Centre – here on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, they said that Pakistan and China had cordial relations not only at the government-to-government level but also at the people-to-people level.

Ijazul Haq said that cultural programmes and exchanges would help cement relations between the two countries, adding that more such centres should be opened.

Ijazul Haq and Abdullah Hameed Gul evinced keen interest in the rare pictures that were put on display at the picture gallery. They said that the art gallery established at the China Window Centre would help the people to get information about the Chinese culture and China.

They said that establishing more cultural centres would help bring together the people of the two countries. The China and Pakistan friendship, they maintained, had weathered many challenges.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/797446-ijazul-haq-abdullah-hameed-gul-visit-china-window-centre>

### **Jang News**

#### **پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد**

پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کے 70 سال پورے ہو رہے ہیں اور یہ خوش آئند امر ہے کہ پاکستانی معاشرے میں جس معاملے پر اختلاف موجود نہیں ہے، اس میں چین سے دوستی سرفہرست ہے۔ پاکستان میں چین سے قریبی تعلقات قائم کرنے کی افادیت کے حوالے سے مثبت رائے چینی انقلاب کے روبہ عمل ہونے کے ساتھ ہی قائم ہو گئی تھی۔ جب 2015 میں چینی صدر شی نے پاکستان کا اپنا پہلا دورہ کیا تو انہوں نے اس حوالے سے ایک مضمون تحریر کیا جس میں انہوں نے اپنے جذبات یوں بیان کئے:

When I was young, I heard many touching stories about Pakistan and the friendship between our two countries. To name just a few, I learned that the Pakistani people were working hard to build their beautiful country, and that Pakistan opened air corridor for China to reach out to the world and supported China on restoring its lawful seat in the United Nations. The stories have left me with a deep impression.

ان الفاظ میں موجود پاکستان کے لئے اپنائیت پاکستان کے لئے قومی اثاثے کی حیثیت رکھتی ہے، یہ کوئی ایسا جنوں نہیں ہے کہ چڑھا اور اتر گیا بلکہ دونوں ممالک کے صاحب الرائے اور مقتدر افراد کی سوچی سمجھی رائے ہے کہ یہ دوستی مزید گہری ہونی چاہئے۔ جب 1949 میں چین میں کمیونسٹ انقلاب آگیا تو دنیا میں سرمایہ داری اور کمیونزم میں شدید جھگڑا چل رہا تھا۔ غیر کمیونسٹ ممالک چینی انقلاب کو تسلیم کرنے کے لئے تیار نظر نہیں آتے تھے مگر ان حالات میں انقلاب کے صرف تین ماہ بعد 4 جنوری 1950 کو پاکستان نے اپنا ایک اعلیٰ سطحی وفد چین روانہ کر دیا اور معاملات سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی جانب بڑھنے لگے۔ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان 21 مئی 1951 کو باقاعدہ سفارتی تعلقات قائم ہو گئے، خیال رہے کہ پاکستان مسلمان ممالک میں وہ پہلا ملک تھا جس نے چینی انقلاب کے بعد اس سے سفارتی تعلقات قائم کئے جبکہ غیر کمیونسٹ ممالک میں تیسرا ملک تھا جس نے یہ قدم اٹھایا۔ اس سے باآسانی اندازہ کیا جاسکتا ہے کہ شہید ملت نوابزادہ لیاقت علی خان کی حکومت اس معاملے کا کتنی معاملہ فہمی سے جائزہ لے رہی تھی۔ اس کی قیادت میں پاکستان پہنچا جبکہ جواب میں وزیراعظم حسین شہید سہروردی Madam Song Ching کے بعد 1955 میں چین کی طرف سے اعلیٰ سطحی وفد نائب صدر نے 1956 میں چین کا دورہ کیا۔ 1963 میں کیے گئے پاکستان اور چین کے مابین باؤنڈری ایگریمنٹ کو اہم ترین دستاویز کی حیثیت حاصل ہے کیونکہ اس کے نتیجے میں ہی چین کے ساتھ تمام سرحدوں کو باقاعدہ تسلیم کیا گیا تاکہ مستقبل میں کوئی اختلاف پیدا نہ ہو۔ پاکستان غیر کمیونسٹ ممالک میں وہ پہلا ملک بنا جس کی ایئر لائن نے بیجنگ کے لئے

1964 میں فلائٹس کا آغاز کیا۔ اور دنیا سے چین کی تنہائی کو کم کرنے کے لئے اپنا کردار ادا کرنا شروع کر دیا۔ اسی طرح 1976 میں سائنٹیفک اینڈ کلچرل کوآپریشن کا معاہدہ ہوا جس نے سائنسی امور کے حوالے سے پاکستانیوں کیلئے نیا راستہ کھول دیا۔ 1978 میں قراقرم ہائی وے نے پاکستان کو مغربی چین سے ملا دیا جبکہ چین کے لئے بحیرہ عرب تک رسائی بھی ممکن ہو گئی۔ اسی طرح 1995 میں پاکستان، چین، قازقستان اور کرغیزستان کے درمیان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ کا معاہدہ ہوا اور سینٹرل ایشیا سے لے کر یوریشیا تک کے راستے کھلنے لگے۔ پاکستان کو اپنے قیام کے وقت سے ہی بھارت سے دفاعی خطرہ درپیش رہا ہے، اس درپیش خطرے اور بھارت کی فضائی برتری کو قائم نہ ہونے دینے کے لئے نواز شریف حکومت نے 1999 میں چین سے جے ایف 17 تھنڈر لٹزاکا طیارے بنانے کا معاہدہ کیا اور یہ لٹزاکا طیارے 2010 میں پاکستان کے فضائی بیڑے میں شامل ہو گئے۔ 2013 میں تصور پر دونوں ممالک نے گفتگو کی۔ 2013 میں پاکستان میں نواز شریف حکومت قائم ہو گئی تھی، اسی سال T زر داری حکومت کے دور میں چینی وزیراعظم لی پاکستان آئے اور پیش کیا گیا اور پھر Vision for deeping China-Pakistan strategic partnership in the new era انہوں نے چین کا دورہ کیا اور صدر شی نے 2015 میں پاکستان کا تاریخی دورہ کیا جس میں بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کے چینی پلان کے بنیادی منصوبے سی بیک پر دستخط ہوئے۔ اس حوالے سے کوئی دوسری رائے قائم نہیں کی جاسکتی ہے کہ کسی بھی قسم کے حالات ہمارے باہمی تعلقات کو بگاڑ نہیں سکتے مگر یہ قابل تشویش ہے کہ 2018 کی ”سیاسی تبدیلی“ کے بعد ایک خاموشی سی محسوس ہونے لگی ہے اور سی بیک پر خاموشی بہت غیر مناسب ہے۔ ویسے ہی ہماری دنیا میں سفارتی پوزیشن کمزور ہو رہی ہے۔ اس وقت چینی سفارتی حلقے یہ استفسار کرتے نظر آتے ہیں کہ پاکستان کے مستقبل کا سیاسی منظر نامہ کیا ہوگا؟ کیونکہ وہ صدر شی کا پرل کے بعد دورہ پاکستان پلان کر رہے ہیں مگر مؤخر ہونے کا اندیشہ بھی ظاہر کیا جا رہا ہے اگر ایسا ہوا تو یہ بہت غیر معمولی بات ہوگی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/891684>

**March 02, 2021**

**Daily Times**

### **India's sinister designs against CPEC**

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is regarded as the great game changer for Pakistan ushering in an era of progress, prosperity and creating employment opportunities thus helping in elimination of poverty through implementation of projects in different sectors under its umbrella.

CPEC is part of the larger Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) undertaken by China. Specifically speaking, the CPEC is a mega project between time-tested all weather friends, iron brothers and trusted and dependable neighbors People's Republic of China and Pakistan focused broadly on project financing. CPEC, which has since entered the second phase of its implementation against all odds, sinister Indian designs and obstacles, is presently valued at over 60 billion dollars and likely to cross the coveted 100 billion dollars mark by 2030.

The CPEC is likely, and in fact so designed, to have significant geopolitical ramifications in the region. One of the main objectives of CPEC is to connect the Chinese border city of Kashgar to the southern part of Gwadar in Pakistan.

It is duly nationally and internationally acknowledged fact that CPEC is a great game changer for Pakistan and its people and aims at boosting connectivity in the region and beyond it. These prospects of progress, prosperity and development of Pakistan and welfare of its people without

any discrimination accruing from CPEC is something which India cannot bear or withstand as it is determined and making all out efforts through massive financing to directly and indirectly damage CPEC and projects being undertake under its umbrella in Pakistan in continuation its persistent hostilities towards the neighboring country by fascist regime of Narendra Modi.

Needless to mention here that civil and military leadership of Pakistan and its people are fully aware about sinister designs of India and fully alive to threats intended to be caused to CPEC related projects and taken adequate security measures especially for CPEC projects, Chinese engineers and technicians and locals working on these projects protection and safety and for foiling all evil and hostile designs of India.

CPEC as such has been in the line of fire from the India leadership, intelligence agencies, think tanks, mass media and social media projecting it as a potential threat to its hegemonic economic supremacy in the region.

Quite justifiably Pakistan and China have been emphatically advocating CPEC peaceful orientation and strategic utilization in terms of social development, economic sustainability, power generation, creating employment opportunities and above also massive infrastructural development.

While persisting with its proxy war against Pakistan and targeting CPEC in the process, the Indian government terms CPEC as anti-Indian because of its own self-defined so-called parameters of national as well as regional security.

According to the information available from official sources concerted in a well-documented form, the incumbent Indian PM is personally in command and supervising a terrorist cell working against CPEC.

Pakistan's stance in pointing out India's hostilities targeting CPEC has been further strengthened recently after the European Union shocking revelation about the existence of a vast Indian network comprising fake websites, NGOs and mass media outlets propagating against Pakistan and its just cause. Pakistan has been emphatically telling the world at large including the UN, Security Council and international forums about the direct and destructive role of the Indian intelligence agency RAW using its diplomatic missions in various neighboring countries for organizing, directing and supporting the various terrorists outfits across Pakistan. India has an anti-CPEC terror cell which was operating through its Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) since 2015 was tasked to disrupt, undermine and cause delays in CPEC projects.

Indian PM has also duly been identified as being behind the terror cell funding, directing, organizing and executing terrorist's outfits and sub-nationals all over Pakistan .The cell was allocated a hefty amount of \$ 500 million for funding terrorist activities against CPEC.

It has also been clearly established that there exists a direct correlation between Indian intelligence agency RAW and its localized franchises like Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), BRA, Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) and Tehrik Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

There has been a rise in terrorist attacks in Balochistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan since CPEC was launched a couple of years back for increasing connectivity in the region and launching and financing projects in Pakistan for its progress and development.

CPEC as essential for Pakistan's socio-economic future and that India want to hurt Pakistan economically by undermining CPEC.

India is also known to make efforts for funding unrest in Pakistan by interference in domestic dynamics of the country, wrapping it into dark seas of political chaos and societal uncertainty. India is directly and indirectly involved in internal affairs of Pakistan through sponsoring hostile terrorist activities pumping as much as Rs 22 billion into different outfits for furtherance of its sinister designs to destabilize Pakistan and in the process also sabotaging great game changer CPEC.

As already mentioned above, Pakistan has taken adequate security measures to foil India's evil designs against the country including CPEC , it is all the more important and essential that Pakistan should be updating the international community , all international forums like the UN through its network of diplomatic missions across the world in a determined and accelerated manner to expose and foil excessive anti-Pakistan and anti-CPEC false and baseless propaganda being sponsored and financed by India.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/729468/indias-sinister-designs-against-cpec/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **CPEC set to become high-quality demonstration project of China's BRI: FM Qureshi**

ISLAMABAD – Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi reaffirmed on Tuesday that the CPEC is set to become a high-quality demonstration project of Belt and Road Initiative.

Qureshi and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, in an impressive ceremony on Wednesday, formally commenced activities to celebrate 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

The virtual ceremony was simultaneously held in Islamabad and Beijing and was attended by high-ranking officials from both sides.

Speaking on the occasion, Shah Mahmood Qureshi underscored that we pay tribute to the Chinese leadership that has done an incredible job in changing the lives and destiny of its people.

He said we believe that President Xi Jinping's leadership, at a momentous history, has greatly helped Chinese nation achieve its national aspirations.

The Foreign Minister said successive generations of leaders and people of both Pakistan and China made invaluable contributions to strengthen these ties.



He also reaffirmed that the CPEC is set to become a High-Quality Demonstration Project of Belt and Road Initiative.

At the ceremony, the Chinese Foreign Minister underlined that Pakistan-China friendship has a time-honored history and in the seven decades the two countries have stood together in rain or shine, and built an exceptional, iron-clad friendship.

A logo was launched at the ceremony epitomizing historic nature of Pakistan-China ties.

On the special occasion of the 70th anniversary, both sides have planned a series of events, including people-to-people exchanges, spread over the entire year to commemorate this historic milestone in a befitting manner.

To mark the historic occasion, both Foreign Ministers authored articles that were published today highlighting how the two countries have solidified and deepened their “All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership” over seven decades, despite vicissitudes of times and changes in the international system.

Later, talking to media in Islamabad, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said China will provide another five hundred thousand doses of anti COVID vaccine to Pakistan. He said both the countries will collectively fight the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs has released a special video documentary marking celebrations of the 70th anniversary of Pakistan-China long-lasting friendship.

The short video highlights different aspects of Pakistan-China friendship that is higher than Himalayas, deeper than oceans and sweeter than honey.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-set-to-become-high-quality-demonstration-project-of-chinas-bri-fm-qureshi/>

### **Celebrating 70 Years of Pakistan-China Friendship | by Shah Mahmood Qureshi**

May 21, 1951, was a defining moment in the history of Pakistan. It is the day when Pakistan established formal diplomatic ties with the People’s Republic of China. Over the past seven decades, our bilateral ties have grown from strength to strength and reached a pinnacle that finds few parallels in the modern history of inter-state relations. As iron brothers, we have always stood by each other in the most trying times. Our relationship has become an “all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.”

Connected by geography, history, and Asian identity, the ancient linkages between Pakistan and China predate the establishment of formal ties. Since times immemorial, many Chinese monks and ascetics like Faxian and Xuanzang braved the treacherous mountains of the Great Himalayas and arrived at the famous Buddhist seminaries of Pakistan and learned the traditions and teachings of Buddhism.

The first highest-level official contacts between former Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Bogra and Premier Zhou Enlai, during the Bandung Conference in 1955, led to the deepening of our ties and paved the way for the visits of Prime Minister Hussain Shaheed Suharwardi and Premier Zhou to China and Pakistan.

However, the signing of the boundary agreement between the two countries in 1963 became a significant landmark that built greater trust and provided a solid foundation for forging a closer partnership. Soon after, our national flag-carrier, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), became the first airline of a non-Communist country to begin flights to China.

Towering Chinese leaders such as Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou played a crucial role in strengthening our ties. Similarly, successive generations of leaders and people of both Pakistan and China made invaluable contributions to strengthen our ironclad relations. Over seven decades we have proudly built our unshakeable relationship around the principles of mutual trust, mutual support, and mutual understanding.

Pakistan facilitated the now-famous secret visit of the then US national security advisor Henry Kissinger to Beijing in 1971 which became a harbinger of rapprochement between the US and China and later changed the course of history.

Collectively braving the rigors of the Cold War and complex geopolitical environment, our cooperation expanded with multilateral institutions and Pakistan became a supporter for the restoration of the seat of the People's Republic of China at the UN in 1971.

The two countries support each other on issues of their core interests. Pakistan adheres to the one-China principle and supports China on issues such as Xinjiang, Hong Kong, South China Sea, Taiwan and Tibet. China has stood by Pakistan in supporting our key strategic, economic, and developmental priorities.

China has played an important role in supporting Pakistan's just and principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir situation, underscoring that the dispute is an "objective fact established by the UN charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements between Pakistan and India."

Beijing has also underlined that "any unilateral change to the status quo in the Kashmir region is illegal and invalid." Pakistan has also firmly backed China's position on the Boundary Question between China and India, thereby becoming a supporter of legitimate causes fostering regional peace and stability.

High-level exchanges are a hallmark of our relationship through which we take each other into confidence over issues of common interest. Prime Minister Imran Khan visited China in 2018 and 2019 to further solidify and deepen our bilateral ties. I have visited China numerous times to further strengthen our relations. We look forward to receiving President Xi Jinping in Pakistan this year and hope President Xi's visit will make a seminal contribution to further reinforcing our time-tested partnership.

Prime Minister Imran Khan lauds China's remarkable achievements and considers China's model of poverty alleviation and development worth emulating. Prime Minister's reform agenda is one that resonates with President Xi's vision.

Pakistan supports the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has become a pivot for connectivity and global growth. As the flagship project of BRI, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is set to become a high-quality demonstration project of the BRI and accelerate economic integration and regional connectivity. There is a complete consensus across the political spectrum in Pakistan on CPEC's indispensability for our national development.

After the successful conclusion of its first phase, the transformational CPEC initiative has entered its second phase with a vigorous focus on industrialization, agriculture and socio-economic development. We hope that the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), being developed under CPEC, will rejuvenate Pakistan's process of industrialization and further spur economic development. We encourage Chinese businessmen to invest in SEZs.

At the outbreak of COVID-19 in China, Pakistan immediately dispatched essential medical supplies to China to support its fight against COVID-19. The President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi, travelled to Beijing in March 2020 to express solidarity with the people and the government of China.

When the pandemic was spreading in Pakistan, China assisted us generously. A team of Chinese medical experts visited Pakistan on special instructions of President Xi. Over 60 planeloads of relief goods were dispatched to Pakistan and a medical team was sent by the PLA to assist us in containing the COVID-19.

Pakistan backed President Xi's declaration that the COVID-19 vaccine, when developed, should be a "global public good." Cooperation between Pakistan and China on vaccines is progressing very well. Phase-III clinical trials of China's Can Sino vaccine have been concluded in Pakistan. We are thankful to Beijing for providing us with five hundred thousand doses of the Sinopharm vaccine to protect the lives of our frontline health workers. The people of Pakistan will always remember this fraternal gesture.

China is our largest trade and investment, partner. Bilateral trade has grown manifolds over the years and we need to tap the trade potential to its optimal level. China has a huge market for agricultural, dairy, poultry, fishery and meat products. Pakistan and China are working on a comprehensive Action Plan on Agriculture.

China is one of the leaders in the field of science and technology in the world. We want to deepen our cooperation in artificial intelligence, cloud computing and other cutting-edge realms.

Our strong defense cooperation includes high-level military exchanges, structured defense and security talks, joint exercises, training of personnel in each other's institutions, joint defense production, and defense trade.

Another significant and promising aspect of our multi-faceted bilateral relationship is the growth of people-to-people and cultural relations. Currently, over 28,000 Pakistani students are studying in China, benefiting from China's advanced educational system. We have established seven sister-province and thirteen sister-city relationships with China.

Seven Pakistan study centers, eleven Urdu language departments in various Chinese universities, and four Confucius Institutes in Pakistan are promoting cultural understanding between the two countries.

On the special occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations, we celebrate our ancient linkages, pay tribute to veteran leaders for their contributions to solidify this unique relationship and pledge to renew our resolve to build upon the achievements of the last 70 years. Pakistan has planned a series of events spread over the year to commemorate the historic occasion in a befitting manner to inspire our younger generations to understand the vitality and depth of our ties and their historic significance.

The imperatives of the 21st century demand a new paradigm to deal with emerging challenges as well as opportunities. Both Pakistan and China are tied together by a common vision to change the destiny of our region and wean it away from conflict and ideological dogmatism to one that promotes peace, development and prosperity.

No wonder that President Xi in his address to Pakistan's Parliament during his visit in April 2015 hailed our relationship as, "taller than mountains, deeper than oceans, and sweeter than honey."

I conclude by reaffirming that Pakistan remains committed to building a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era aimed at further reinforcing our deep-rooted ties.

<https://pakobserver.net/celebrating-70-years-of-pakistan-china-friendship-by-shah-mahmood-qureshi/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **China to gift 0.5m more Covid vaccine doses to Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday announced that China would send 500,000 more doses of corona virus vaccine for Pakistan's frontline workers and senior citizens.

Talking to the media after the launch of celebrations of the establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations along with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, he said that China had already gifted 500,000 doses of vaccine Sinopharm to the Pakistani nation for its frontline health workers.

"Both the countries would tackle the corona virus pandemic together," he emphasized.

FM Qureshi said that ties between Islamabad and Beijing have deepened further. "The two countries would hold a series of events to celebrate the establishment of diplomatic relations."

At the event, a logo was also launched to mark the start of celebrations.

Thanking the Chinese government and his counterpart, Qureshi said the two countries are determined to move forward together as their bilateral relations are based on mutual trust.

Earlier today, Pakistan and China commenced the year-long celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic relations.

The two capitals – Islamabad and Beijing — witnessed the launch of a series of events at a virtual ceremony simultaneously held at the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

During the event, FM Qureshi emphasized that successive generations of leaders and people of both countries had made invaluable contributions to strengthen the ties.

He also expressed confidence that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would become a high-quality demonstration project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

He paid tribute to the Chinese leadership for the “incredible job in changing the lives and destiny of its people, saying that President Xi Jinping had greatly helped the Chinese nation achieve its national aspirations.

Wang Yi underlined that the Pakistan-China friendship had a time-honored history as the two countries “stood together in rain or shine, and built an exceptional, iron-clad friendship”. To mark the historic occasion, both foreign ministers authored articles that were published today highlighting how the two countries had solidified and deepened their “All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership” over seven decades, despite vicissitudes of times in the international system.

CPEC Authority Chairman Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa, China’s ambassador Nong Rong and Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood also attended the event.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2287155/china-to-gift-05m-more-covid-vaccine-doses-to-pakistan>

### **Pakistan, China celebrate 70 years of diplomatic ties with series of events**

Pakistan and China will celebrate their 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties with a series of events starting from Tuesday (Today).

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), to mark the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on 21 May 1951, a virtual ceremony will be simultaneously held in Islamabad and Beijing today.

"Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will lead the ceremony on their respective sides," the press release added.

The communiqué further stated that both countries would be organizing a series of events throughout the year to commemorate this historic milestone in a befitting manner.

Earlier it was reported that China welcomed the comments of Prime Minister Imran Khan on the elimination of extreme poverty, saying that it was ready to help developing countries in the poverty alleviation efforts.

“We noticed Prime Minister Imran Khan’s positive comments on China’s elimination of extreme poverty,” Chinese Foreign Ministry’s spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Imran Khan had congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping and the government for taking 750 million people out of poverty in 35 years. Later, senior Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying also expressed her gratitude to PM Imran’s remarks on China’s achievements in its poverty alleviation campaign and wrote “Thank you, Mr Prime Minister”.

The spokesperson also commended officials of the international organizations, including the United Nations Coordinator in China, and said China’s outcome in poverty alleviation brought important outcomes for the world.

He said the elimination of extreme poverty was a “milestone in China’s improvement of people’s well-being and in its human rights course,” adding, since the 18th CPC session, every year, over 10 million people in China were lifted out of poverty equaling a size of the medium-sized country. “So, about every three seconds, one person was lifted out of poverty.”

Wang Wenbin said after the reforms and opening up in China, 770 million rural population had been lifted out of poverty. “China’s poverty alleviation results belonged to China and the world,” he said and added, there were the Chinese solution to the international poverty eradication.

He said the Chinese side was ready to work with other countries and help developing countries to eliminate poverty and realize the 2030 goals for sustainable development so that people all around the world could live a better life.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2287088/pakistan-china-celebrate-70-years-of-diplomatic-ties-with-series-of-events>

## **The Nation**

### **Celebrations commence to mark 70th Sino-Pak diplomacy**

Celebrations commenced on Tuesday to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with iron-brother, China.

Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mehmood Qureshi and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi formally commenced activities during a virtual ceremony that was simultaneously held in Islamabad and Beijing.

Qureshi said successive generations of leaders and people of Pakistan and China have made “invaluable” contributions to strengthen ties between the two nations that were established in May 1951.



“We pay tribute to the Chinese leadership which has done an incredible job in changing the lives and destiny of its people,” he said. “We believe that President Xi Jinping’s leadership, at a momentous history, has greatly helped Chinese nation achieve its national aspirations.”

Qureshi reaffirmed that a multibillion-dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Beijing’s ambitious Belt Road Initiative, will become a “high-quality demonstration project.”

The \$64 billion CPEC that was signed in 2014 is intended to connect China’s strategically important northwestern Xinjiang province to the Gawadar port in southern Pakistan, through a network of roads, railways, and pipelines to transport cargo, oil, and gas.

Chinese Foreign Minister observed that the Sino-Pakistan friendship has a “time-honored history and in the seven decades the two countries have stood together in rain or shine, and built an exceptional, iron-clad friendship.”

A logo was unveiled during the ceremony epitomizing the historic nature of Pak-China ties.

The two nations have planned a series of events, including people-to-people exchanges that are spread across the entire year to commemorate the historic milestone.

<https://nation.com.pk/02-Mar-2021/celebrations-commence-to-mark-70th-sino-pak-diplomacy>

### Express News

#### 70 سالہ پاک چین دوستی نئے عہد میں مضبوط ترین فولاد میں ڈھل چکی، چینی وزیر خارجہ

چین کے ریاستی کونسلر اور وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای کا کہنا ہے کہ عوامی جمہوریہ چین اور اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان کے درمیان 21 مئی 1951 کو باضابطہ سفارتی تعلقات قائم ہوئے۔ گزشتہ ستر برسوں میں چین اور پاکستان نے مل کر تمام تر مشکلات پر قابو پاتے ہوئے منفرد ”آہنی دوستی“ تشکیل دی ہے۔ پاک چین دوستی دونوں ممالک کا سب سے قیمتی اسٹریٹجک اثاثہ بن چکی ہے۔

اپنے بیان میں چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی کی تاریخ بہت طویل ہے۔ جیسا کہ چین کے انجہانی وزیر اعظم چو این لائی نے ایک مرتبہ کہا تھا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے عوام کے دوستانہ تبادلوں کی شروعات کا مشاہدہ تاریخی ادوار سے ہی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ قدیم شاہراہ ریشم نے دو ہزار سال قبل ہی چین اور پاکستان کو مربوط کر دیا تھا۔ دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے مابین قدیم وقتوں میں اونٹ کی گھنٹیوں کے ساتھ قائم ہونے والے تعلقات ایک طویل تاریخی عمل کے نتیجے میں اس وقت مضبوط ترین پاک چین دوستی میں تبدیل ہو چکے ہیں، جس میں روز بروز مزید چٹنگی آتی جا رہی ہے۔

پاک چین دوستی کی جڑیں انتہائی مضبوط ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک ایک دوسرے کے کلیدی مفادات اور اہم تحفظات سے وابستہ امور میں ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کی مضبوطی سے حمایت کرتے ہیں خواہ بیرونی ناکہ بندی کو توڑتے ہوئے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی سفارت کاری کو فروغ دینے کا کلیدی موقع ہو یا پھر پاکستان کو درپیش ملکی بحران اور قومی وقار کے دفاع کے کلیدی لحاظ، چین اور پاکستان ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ کھڑے ہوئے ہیں اور عملاً ہاتھوں میں ہاتھ ڈال کر حقیقی دوستی کا مظاہرہ کیا گیا ہے۔

چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی کی جڑیں عوام کے دلوں میں گھر کر چکی ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک کے عوام کسی بھی آزمائش میں ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کی فوری امداد کرتے رہے ہیں۔ حمایت و امداد کے یہ جذبات غیر مشروط اور مخلصانہ طور پر دوستی کے بے لوث جذبے کے بہترین ترجمان ہیں۔

چینی وزیر خارجہ کا کہنا تھا کہ 2008 میں چین کے ون چھوان شہر میں شدید زلزلہ آیا، اُس موقع پر پاکستان نے فوری طور پر اپنے پاس موجود تمام خیمے چین کے زلزلہ زدہ علاقوں کو فراہم کر دیے۔ 2007 میں پاکستان کو شدید سیلاب کا سامنا کرنا پڑا۔ اُس مشکل گھڑی میں چین زمینی و فضائی ذرائع سے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی تاریخ میں وسیع ترین بین الاقوامی انسان دوست امدادی سرگرمیاں عمل میں لایا۔ عظیم دوستی کا سفر ایسی لاتعداد کہانیوں سے بھرا پڑا ہے۔

پاک چین دوستی کو دونوں ممالک کے عوام کی بھرپور تائید اور حمایت حاصل ہے۔ پاک چین تعلقات نئی صدی میں داخل ہونے کے بعد بھی روایتی گرم جوشی سے جاری ہیں جبکہ گزرتے وقت کے ساتھ اعلیٰ درجے کا معیاری تعاون فروغ پا رہا ہے۔ 2015 میں چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے پاکستان کا تاریخی سرکاری دورہ کیا اور پاکستانی قیادت کے ساتھ مل کر پاک چین تعلقات کو ”چاروں موسموں کے تزویراتی شراکت دارانہ تعلقات“ تک آگے بڑھایا، جس سے پاک چین دوستانہ تبادلوں کا ایک نیا باب شروع ہوا۔ چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک نے ہمیشہ اعلیٰ سطح کے قریبی تبادلوں کو برقرار رکھا ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کے صدور اور حکومتی سربراہوں نے دو طرفہ دوروں، ٹیلی فونک مشاورت، کثیرالجہتی کانفرنسوں میں شرکت کے ذریعے تبادلوں کو برقرار رکھا ہے۔ دو طرفہ تعاون اور مشترکہ دلچسپی کے اہم تزویراتی مسائل پر گہرائی سے تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا ہے، پاک چین تعلقات کی ترقیاتی سمت کا مضبوطی سے تعین کرتے ہوئے دو طرفہ تعلقات کے لیے اسٹریٹجک رہنمائی فراہم کی گئی ہے اور دونوں ممالک کے اسٹریٹجک تعاون میں نئی جہتوں کو مسلسل فروغ دیا گیا ہے۔

دونوں ممالک کے حقیقت پسندانہ تعاون کی بدولت نمایاں ثمرات حاصل ہوئے ہیں۔ فریقین نے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت مرکزی منصوبے گوادر بندر گاہ اور نقل و حمل کے بنیادی ڈھانچے کی تعمیر سمیت توانائی منصوبہ جات اور صنعتی تعاون کے لیے ”ون پلس فور“ ڈھانچہ کامیابی سے تشکیل دیا ہے۔ اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت فریقین نے اربوں ڈالروں کے 70 منصوبوں کا مشترکہ تعین کیا، جن میں 46 منصوبوں کو یا تو مکمل کیا جا چکا ہے یا پھر تعمیراتی سرگرمیاں جاری ہیں۔ تاحال 25.40 ارب امریکی ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی جا چکی ہے جبکہ پاکستان میں روزگار کے 70 ہزار مواقع فراہم کیے گئے ہیں۔ سی پیک ”بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ“ انیشیٹیو کا ایک مثالی نمونہ بن چکا ہے، جس نے چین اور دوسرے اسلامی ممالک کے درمیان ترقیاتی حکمت عملیوں کو مربوط کرنے میں غیر معمولی کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان رنگارنگ افرادی و ثقافتی تبادلوں کو فروغ مل رہا ہے۔ دونوں ممالک ثقافتی مہینوں، فلم ویک، سیاحتی سال، قومی تہواروں سمیت دیگر سرگرمیوں کا وقتاً فوقتاً اہتمام کرتے چلے آ رہے ہیں۔ فریقین کے درمیان میڈیا، تھنک ٹینک، اسکالرز، تعلیم، ثقافت، کھیلوں سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں تبادلوں و تعاون کو مسلسل آگے بڑھایا جا رہا ہے۔

میں فریقین نے ”پاک چین دوستانہ تبادلوں کا سال“ سمیت سلسلہ وار ثقافتی سرگرمیوں کا کامیابی سے انعقاد کیا جس سے دونوں ممالک کے دوستانہ تبادلوں کو ایک نیا 2015 عروج ملا ہے۔ حالیہ برسوں میں ”نسل در نسل دوستی“ کے تصور کی روشنی میں 100 نوجوانوں پر مشتمل وفد نے کامیابی سے ایک دوسرے کے ممالک کے دورے کیے ہیں جسے وسیع پیمانے پر سراہا گیا ہے۔ چین میں زیر تعلیم پاکستانی طلباء کی تعداد میں مسلسل اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔ پاک چین دوستی کی میراث مضبوط تر ہوتی جا رہی ہے جو دو طرفہ تعلقات کی ترقی کے لیے ٹھوس بنیاد فراہم کر رہی ہے۔

دونوں ممالک کے درمیان قریبی کثیرالطرفہ تعاون فروغ پا رہا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان نے ”اقوام متحدہ کے منشور“ کی روشنی میں عالمی قواعد و ضوابط کی ہمیشہ پاسداری کی ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کثیرالجہتی، آزاد تجارت، تعاون اور مشترکہ مفادات کی حمایت، یکطرفہ پسندی، تحفظ پسندی اور بالادستی کی مخالفت میں یکساں نظریات کے حامل ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک موجودہ بین الاقوامی آرڈر اور اقوام متحدہ کی مرکزی حیثیت سے عالمی نظام کے تحفظ کے لیے کوشاں ہیں اور پرامن مذاکرات اور مشاورت کے ذریعے تنازعات و اختلافات کو بخوبی حل کرنے کی حمایت کرتے ہیں۔ چین اور پاکستان نے اقوام متحدہ، شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم، ایشیا یورپ میٹنگ، آسیان علاقائی فورم سمیت دیگر عالمی و علاقائی

میکانزم کے تحت قریبی مشاورت اور تعاون برقرار رکھتے ہوئے اہم علاقائی مسائل کے حل اور انسداد دہشت گردی کے عالمی تعاون کو فروغ دینے کے لیے مثبت خدمات سرانجام دی ہیں اور اس دوران عالمی علاقائی سطح پر انصاف کی سر بلندی کے لیے مضبوط قوت فراہم کی ہے۔

پاک چین دوستی اچانک رونما ہونے والی کووڈ-19 وبا کے تناظر میں ایک مرتبہ پھر آزمائش کی گھڑی پر پورا اتری اور اسے مزید تقویت حاصل ہوئی ہے۔ چین میں انسداد وبا کے ایک کٹھن مرحلے میں پاکستان نے اپنی بھرپور صلاحیت کے مطابق ساز و سامان عطیہ کیا۔ مختلف پاکستانی حلقوں نے وبا کے خلاف جنگ میں چین کی کادشوں کی متفقہ طور پر حمایت کی اور وبا کو سیاسی رنگ دینے اور چین کو بدنام کرنے کی کوششوں کی سختی سے مخالفت کی۔ پاکستان میں وبا کی صورت حال کی سنگینی کے بعد چینی حکومت، فوج، علاقائی حکومتوں، صنعتی و کاروباری اداروں اور سماجی تنظیموں نے متحد ہو کر پاکستان کو تسلسل کے ساتھ طبی ساز و سامان فراہم کیا۔ طبی ماہرین کی کئی ٹیمیں پاکستان بھیجی گئیں اور تجربات کے اشتراک اور تکنیکی تبادلوں کو مضبوط بنایا گیا۔ فریقین نے وبا کے انسداد و کنٹرول کے لیے ایک مشترکہ میکانزم قائم کیا اور اس بات کو یقینی بنایا کہ وبا کے دوران پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبوں میں کام کرنے والا کوئی ایک بھی ملازم روزگار سے محروم نہ ہو۔

اس طرح سی پیک منصوبوں سے وابستہ ملازمین کے روزگار کو فعال رکھتے ہوئے سی پیک کے تعمیراتی منصوبوں میں کسی قسم کا تعطل نہیں آنے دیا گیا اور عالمی انسداد وبا تعاون کے لیے بہترین مثال قائم کی گئی ہے۔

رواں سال چینی کمیونسٹ پارٹی کے قیام کی 100 سالگرہ منائی جا رہی ہے۔ چین جدید سوشلسٹ ملک کی جامع تعمیر کے نئے سفر کا آغاز کرے گا اور دوسرے صد سالہ ہدف کی تکمیل کے لیے بھرپور کوششوں کی شروعات ہوں گی۔ پاکستان اقتصادی و سماجی ترقی کو بھرپور طریقے سے آگے بڑھاتے ہوئے سماجی فلاح و بہبود میں بہتری لا رہا ہے تاکہ وزیراعظم عمران خان کے ”نیا پاکستان“ وژن کی تکمیل کی جائے۔ چاروں موسموں کے تزویراتی شراکت دار کی حیثیت سے، چین بیرونی تعاون کے حوالے سے ہمیشہ پاکستان کو ترجیح دے گا۔ قومی خود مختاری و علاقائی سالمیت کے تحفظ کے لیے پاکستان کی حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔ اصلاحات کو فروغ دیتے ہوئے وسیع کھلے پن اور ملکی ترقی کی صلاحیت کو بلند کرنے میں پاکستان کی بھرپور حمایت کرے گا۔ سیاسی اتحاد کی مضبوطی، قومی سلامتی کے تحفظ، سماجی استحکام کے فروغ میں پاکستان کی مضبوطی سے حمایت کرے گا۔ عالمی علاقائی امور میں مزید تعمیری نوعیت کا کردار ادا کرنے میں پاکستان کی مضبوطی سے حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔

دنیا میں رونما ہونے والی ایک صدی کی بڑی تبدیلیوں کے تناظر میں، چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان تزویراتی تعاون کی مسلسل مضبوطی ایک ناگزیر انتخاب ہے۔ مستقبل پر نگاہ رکھتے ہوئے، خواہ عالمی علاقائی صورت حال میں جس قدر بڑی تبدیلیاں رونما ہوں، خواہ کتنے ہی بڑے خطرات و چیلنجز کا سامنا کرنا پڑے، چین پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو مضبوط بنائے گا۔ ہر قسم کی آزمائشوں پر پورا اترتے ہوئے ”آہنی دوستی“ کو نئے عہد میں مضبوط ترین فولاد میں ڈھالا جائے گا اور ایک مزید قریبی ہم نصیب معاشرے کی تشکیل کی جائے گی۔ رواں برس فریقین سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کی مناسبت سے دونوں ممالک سلسلہ وار شاندار تقریبات کا اہتمام کریں گے، جن میں اعلیٰ سطح کے دوطرفہ دورے، اقتصادی و تجارتی تبادلے اور کثیر تعداد میں رنگارنگ افرادی و ثقافتی سرگرمیاں بھی شامل ہوں گی۔

امید ہے کہ دونوں ممالک کے مختلف سماجی حلقے، بالخصوص نوجوان نسل، ان دوستانہ سرگرمیوں میں مثبت طور پر شریک ہوگی۔ پاک چین ”آہنی دوستی“ کی میراث کو نئی قوت میسر آئے گی۔ پاک چین چاروں موسموں کے تزویراتی شراکت دارانہ تعلقات کے مسلسل فروغ کے لیے بھرپور کوشش کی جائے گی۔

!فریقین کی مشترکہ کوششوں کے تحت، پاک چین تعلقات کا مستقبل یقیناً مزید تابناک ہو گا

<https://www.express.pk/story/2149619/1/>

**March 03, 2021**

**Business Recorder**

### **Cabinet CPEC body asks PN to vacate 72 acres of land**

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on CPEC (CCoCPEC)) has directed Pakistan Navy (PN) to vacate 72 acres of land as the area falls in the Gwadar Free Zone and is required to be handed over to Chinese Concession Holder, an international obligation of the Government of Pakistan, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

On February 22, 2021, Ministry of Maritime Affairs noted that Eastbay Expressway, a vital component of the CPEC project, was in the construction phase, which would connect Gwadar Port with the Makran Coastal Highway. The Expressway was passing through a piece of land measuring an area of 84 acres, out of which 72 acres were still in the possession of Pakistan Navy. As per the Master Plan of Gwadar Port and Concession Agreement between the Gwadar Port Authority and the Concession Holder, the land in question was designated for the Gwadar Free Zone. It was further noted that Pak Navy was allotted an alternate land of 1000 acres in Mauza Pishukan, Gwadar, in lieu of 584 acres previously under its possession in the Gwadar Free Zone area. The allotted land of 1000 acres had already been mutated in favour of Defence Division and possession delivered to Pak Navy. However, Pak Navy retained the possession of 84 acres out of 584 acres in the jurisdiction of Gwadar Free Zone and Right of Way (RoW) of Eastbay Expressway. Recently, after deliberations, Pak Navy had vacated 12 acres along the alignment of the Expressway; however, 72 acres were still in its possession. The Prime Minister vide a directive of June 10, 2005, directed Ministry of Defence/Pak Navy to vacate the land in question in its possession and shift to new cantonment by June, 2006. Later, Prime Minister's Office vide letter on May 28, 2014, directed that: "on handing over of 1000 acres of land, Pakistan Navy shall vacate and hand over the remaining 84 acres of land to Federal Government in order to allow a cohesive and complete development of the areas".

The meeting was informed that Ministry of Defence had yet to comply with the directions. The assertions of Defence Division were that since no instructions had been received from the Prime Minister's Office in response to its letter dated September 17, 2019 therefore, its stance still prevails. However, Ministry of Defence did not take into account the fact that the earlier directions of the Prime Minister's Office in this matter were still in the field and required to be implemented. Ministry of Maritime Affairs requested Ministry of Defence to direct Pak Navy for immediate vacation of the remaining 72 acres of land. Ministry of Defence requested to allow Pak Navy to retain 84 acres of land with sea frontage along Gwadar Eastbay in close proximity of the port in exchange for 84 acres (12+72 acres) of land in Mouza Pishukan. Ministry of Maritime Affairs took up the matter with Prime Minister's Office.

Subsequently, Prime Minister had directed Ministry of Maritime Affairs to place the matter for vacation of land, currently in possession of Pak Navy, before the Federal Cabinet along with views of Ministry of Defence. It was submitted that in the subject of Ministry of Maritime

Affairs, inadvertently, the word "Coast Guards" was written in place of "Pakistan Navy". Except that all the contents of the letter are same and related to Pak Navy. Hence, the word "Coast Guard" may be read as "Pak Navy". The MoMA was of the view that the 1000 acres of land was allotted to Pak Navy in lieu of 500 acres in consultation with Ministry of Defence and its possession as with Pak Navy. Ministry of Maritime Affairs requested the Cabinet Committee on CPEC to issue directions to Ministry of Defence (Pak Navy) to implement the previous directions in the matter for immediate vacation of 72 acres of land at Mouza Shamba Ismael, Gwadar, as the area falls in the Gwadar Free Zone and is required to be handed over to Chinese Concession Holder, being the international obligation of the Government of Pakistan. After a detailed discussion, the committee approved the proposal with the direction to Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Maritime Affairs to prepare a revised clearance/vacation plan of land in the light of Concession Agreement and submit the same to the CCoCPEC within two weeks.—  
MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/03/12-page/872049-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **Pak-China ironclad friendship growing stronger in new era**

On May 21, 1951, the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan entered into formal diplomatic relations. In the seven decades ever since, the two countries have stood together, rain or shine, and built an exceptional, ironclad friendship. This friendship has become a strategic asset, most dearly cherished by both sides.

China-Pakistan friendship has a time-honored history. As late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai said friendly exchanges between the Chinese and Pakistanis can be traced as far back as the dawn of history. Over 2,000 years ago, China and Pakistan were already connected by the ancient Silk Road, when our peoples visited each other amid echoes of camel bells. In the extended course of history thereafter, the friendship has steadily grown stronger and deeper.

China-Pakistan friendship enjoys a solid foundation. We always support each other on our respective core interests and major concerns. Even at critical times, be it when New China endeavored to break external blockade and make diplomatic opening, or when Pakistan stood up to crises to defend national dignity, we have always been there for each other, and have become true friends in need.

China-Pakistan friendship has deep roots among the two peoples. In times of hardship, one always extends a helping hand to the other as early as possible. Such mutual support and assistance have no strings attached, and are pure acts of goodwill and friendship. When the great earthquake hit Wenchuan of China in 2008, Pakistan donated all its tents in reserve. When Pakistan suffered devastating floods in 2010, China launched the largest humanitarian operation in its history to help Pakistan from land and air.

Since the turn of the century, the China-Pakistan relationship has grown even stronger, and cooperation has been upgraded across the board. In 2015, President Xi Jinping made a historic state visit to Pakistan. Leaders of the two countries agreed to elevate the relationship to an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. This has opened up a new chapter of friendly interactions.

Practical cooperation is fruitful. We have put in place a “1+4” cooperation structure that centers on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and prioritizes the Gwadar Port, transportation infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation. Under CPEC, 70 early-harvest projects have been identified, among which 46 have been launched or completed. A total of \$25.4 billion has been invested, creating 70,000 jobs for Pakistan. CPEC, as a signature project under the Belt and Road Initiative, has served as a fine example as China and other Islamic countries work to synergize their development strategies.

People-to-people exchanges are booming. We hold culture months, film weeks, tourism years and national promotion activities. Exchanges and cooperation are moving ahead in media, think-tank, academia, education, culture and sports. In the Year of China-Pakistan Friendly Exchanges in 2015, we held a series of cultural exchange events that took our friendship to a new high. Recent years have witnessed the highly popular 100-member youth groups exchange programme under the vision for a lasting friendship, enabling more and more Pakistani students to study in China. The ever-growing force for China-Pakistan friendship has been the firmest basis for our bilateral relations.

Cooperation on multilateral occasions is close. We both observe the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and have common values of advocating multilateralism over unilateralism, free trade over protectionism, and win-win over hegemony. We are both committed to upholding the existing international order and the UN-centered international system. And we both believe in peaceful settlement of international disputes through consultations and negotiations. China and Pakistan coordinate and collaborate closely in the UN, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Asia-Europe Meeting, the ASEAN Regional Forum, and other regional and international mechanisms.

Our friendship has withstood the test of the sudden onslaught of Covid-19, and has emerged even stronger. At the toughest moment of China’s battle against the corona virus, Pakistan did all it could to provide China with donations. Pakistanis from all social sectors expressed unanimous support for China’s Covid response, and opposed the attempt to politicize the virus and stigmatize China. When Covid-19 cases surged in Pakistan, China’s government, military, businesses and social organizations all pitched in to help. China provided successive batches of medical supplies, sent medical teams, and intensified experience sharing and technological exchanges. In addition, our two countries established a joint response mechanism to ensure that all CPEC projects proceed uninterrupted, with no jobs cut and no staffs withdrawn. This set an example of effective transnational response to Covid-19.



This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China. The country will embark on a new journey toward a modernized socialist country and realizing the second centenary goal. Pakistan is advancing economic and social development in full speed and improving social welfare to turn into reality the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan for Naya Pakistan. As an all-weather strategic cooperative partner, China always gives priority to its cooperation with Pakistan in its overall external cooperation. We will continue to firmly support Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; in deepening reform and opening wider and raising self-reliance ability; in enhancing political unity, national security and social stability; and in playing a bigger and constructive role in international and regional affairs.

In a world of drastic changes unseen in a century, deepening China-Pakistan strategic cooperation is the natural option. No matter how the regional and international landscapes may evolve, and what challenges and risks may arise, China will continue to work with Pakistan to advance cooperation in all areas, cement our ironclad friendship, and build an even closer community with a shared future in the new era.

During this year, China and Pakistan will inaugurate grand and warm celebrations to honour the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations, including high-level visits, business exchanges and cultural activities. I hope that people from all walks of life of both countries, especially the younger generation, will take an active part in renewing the ironclad friendship to push forward our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. I am confident that our joint efforts will usher in an even brighter future of China-Pakistan relations.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/729998/pak-china-ironclad-friendship-growing-stronger-in-new-era/>

### **Pakistan, China celebrate seven decades of friendship**

Pakistan and China on Tuesday commenced the year-long celebrations marking 70th anniversary of their diplomatic relations.

The capitals – Islamabad and Beijing, witnessed the launch of series of events at a virtual ceremony simultaneously held at the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi formally commenced the activities at the event attended by high-ranking officials from both sides.

Foreign Minister Qureshi emphasized that successive generations of leaders and people of both Pakistan and China had made invaluable contributions to strengthen the ties. He expressed confidence that China Pakistan Economic Corridor would become a high-quality demonstration project of Belt and Road Initiative.

He paid tribute to Chinese leadership for the “incredible job in changing the lives and destiny of its people, and said that President Xi Jinping had greatly helped Chinese nation achieve its national aspirations. Foreign Minister Wang Yi underlined that Pakistan-China friendship had a

time-honored history as the two countries “stood together in rain or shine, and built an exceptional, iron-clad friendship”.

Chairman CPEC Authority Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa, China’s ambassador Nong Rong and Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood attended the event.

A logo was launched at the ceremony epitomizing historic nature of Pakistan-China ties. To mark the historic occasion, both Foreign Ministers authored articles that were published today highlighting how the two countries had solidified and deepened their “All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership” over seven decades, despite vicissitudes of times in the international system.

Pakistan’s Foreign Office launched a video documentary highlighting the ‘Higher than Himalayas and Sweeter than Honey friendship’.

For the 70th anniversary, both sides have planned a series of events, including people-to-people exchanges, spanned over the entire year to commemorate the historic milestone in a befitting manner.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong held a meeting and discussed ways to further strengthen the relationship in diverse fields.

Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood also attended the meeting.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/729991/pakistan-china-celebrate-seven-decades-of-friendship/>

### **China’s world poverty reduction plan to focus Pakistan in 2021**

As Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that China has scored a “complete victory” in its fight against poverty, the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) claimed that China’s international poverty reduction will focus on Pakistan from 2021.

The IPRCC has set out to research and design proper poverty reduction plans for Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. According to the Poverty Reduction Report in Asia 2020, released by BOAO Forum for Asia, Pakistan has been removed from the list of low-income and food deficit countries. “It’s a positive trend for poverty reduction,” IPRCC said, “however; Pakistan’s per capita national income remains low.” Pakistan ranks 37th out of 47 Asian countries with a per capita national income of \$1,530.

China’s international poverty reduction programme is working for 45,725 thousand impoverished Pakistani and 1,900 thousand extreme impoverished Pakistani. IPRCC said, “In the process of reducing poverty, Asian countries have been in a leading position. China’s achievements in this field also have been recognized around the world.

As a responsible country, it is our responsibility to help our friendly neighbors alleviate poverty. “China sincerely supports and helps developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in their efforts to eradicate poverty,” IPRCC said to Gwadar Pro, “actually, we have

been working on several international poverty reduction projects to support several BRI countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

After researching local situations and matching similar cases in China, we designed proper plans for the regions. Now, each project has gained positive fruits.” Pakistan will be the next key emphasis of China’s international poverty reduction work. IPRCC said, “We are working on researching situations and designing plans.

Though the cultural and natural situations in Pakistan with complex particularities bring difficulties to our work, we keep full confidence and have already made initial progress.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/729879/chinas-world-poverty-reduction-plan-to-focus-pakistan-in-2021/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **Qureshi stresses vitality and depth of Pak-China ties**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday underscored the “vitality and depth” of Pak-China bilateral ties and said that “strategic and political cooperation” between the two countries had gone from strength to strength.

He was speaking at a virtual ceremony held to launch commemorative ceremonies for the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Pak-China diplomatic ties. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi joined the event from Beijing.

The two countries had established their ties in May 1951 after People’s Republic of China was established on Oct 1, 1949. Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize China.

Mr. Qureshi expressed the hope that the expected visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pakistan this year would help in further elevating the relationship.

Expresses hope the expected visit of Chinese president this year will improve relations further

The relationship in its early part was focused on political and defense issues; however, since 1999 and more particularly after the launch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) the economic element of the ties has got special attention. The bilateral economic ties now supplement the strategic relations.

Mr. Qureshi said the bilateral relationship, based on the principles of mutual understanding, mutual support and mutual trust, has been transformed into an ‘all-weather strategic cooperative partnership’ and is an anchor for peace, stability and development in the region.

“Pakistan adheres to ‘One-China policy’ and China has stood by us in supporting our key strategic, economic and developmental priorities,” the foreign minister said.

The CPEC has now entered its second phase in which the emphasis is on industrialization, agriculture and socio-economic development.

Foreign Minister Wang underlined that Pakistan-China friendship had a time-honored history and in the seven decades the two countries had stood together in rain or shine, and built an exceptional, iron-clad friendship.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1610389>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Pak-China collaboration on poverty alleviation on the anvil**

Pakistan and China will collaborate on poverty alleviation through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed soon.

This was stated by the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong in a meeting with the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar on Wednesday.

Secretary Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD), Muhammad Ali Shahzada was also present on the occasion.

Sharing her views, Dr. Sania said, “We congratulate the Chinese government and leadership for momentous achievement of eradicating extreme poverty from China.

It is unprecedented in human history that 770 million people have been taken out of extreme poverty in a span of over 40 years.”

During the meeting, the Chinese Ambassador and Dr. Sania discussed the draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which was being framed between the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China and the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division of Pakistan aimed at establishing a platform for collaboration around poverty eradication.

Speaking to the press after the meeting, Dr. Sania said, “We are working on the final details of the MoU.

The Framework will provide both countries an opportunity to capitalize on sharing of experiences in poverty eradication”.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-collaboration-on-poverty-alleviation-on-the-anvil/>

#### **Lessons from China’s success on war against poverty**

*Rana Tahir Shehbaz*

CHINA achieved remarkable victory in fighting against poverty with the stronger resolve and set a record of “largest poverty alleviation campaign in history”.

Now with zero poverty, China is embarking on a new journey towards a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

The government increased funding for poverty reduction, both on national and local levels.

Financial institutions enhanced contributions to increase loans and provide assistance to local projects.

By creating strict benchmarks and targets for local institutions, the government created a means of measuring goals and ensuring wise investment.

The clearly defined goals included investing in food security, education, health and housing, especially in rural areas.

Providing easily accessible public services was also a useful way to achieve economic equality.

By registering the poor on a national database, the government was able to effectively monitor and implement domestic strategies.

This registration system also allowed for a more targeted approach. Loans, subsidies and higher wages were economic means by adopting whom China created opportunities for local businesses and self-employed individuals. Larger enterprises were also encouraged to invest in smaller businesses and development projects.

There are number of lessons which other countries can learn and adopt for making their poverty-reduction projects very successful, as stated by Dr. Alessandra Cappelletti, Associate Professor at the Department of International Studies at Xi'an Jiao tong-Liverpool University.

One of the keys to achievement for China's plan was the strong political determination and making it a priority.

Amid COVID-19, China has accomplished its tasks for winning the battle against poverty and met the UN's poverty alleviation goal 10 years ahead of schedule.

Once a county was lifted out of poverty, it would have been easy for officials to sit back and congratulate themselves for a job well done.

However, says Dr. Cappelletti: "Chinese policymakers think every solution generates 10 more tribulations? This is from the 'relational' worldview, which sees complexity in everything."

One of these new problems is maintaining wealth. "One strategy is to help farmers develop their own businesses. In a village in Sichuan, China Agricultural University in Beijing aided farmers to restore their houses and rent out rooms to tourists," she said.

Over the years, Cappelletti explains, China has shifted its economic focus: "There was a push to upgrade the Chinese economic system from one based on cheap labor and dependent on coal, to an innovative technology-led model." The country also prioritized boosting the domestic market and reducing reliance on exporting.

An indirect way to stimulate the local economy is to increase investment into education and healthcare, she explains, because when these services are more affordable to ordinary citizens, there's more disposable income.

<https://pakobserver.net/lessons-from-chinas-success-on-war-against-poverty-by-rana-tahir-shahbaz/>

### **Nawaiwaqt News**

#### **پاک چین دوستی پر مبنی خصوصی ڈاکو منٹری جاری**

سلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) پاک چین دوستی کے ستر سالہ جشن کے موقع پر وزارت خارجہ نے خصوصی ڈاکو منٹری ویڈیو جاری کر دی ہے۔ اس مختصر ویڈیو میں ہمالیہ سے اونچی، سمندروں سے گہری اور شہد سے میٹھی اس پاک چین دوستی کے مختلف پہلوؤں کو اجاگر کیا گیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-03/page-1/detail-18>

### **March 04, 2021**

### **Business Recorder**

#### **CPEC energy projects**

A Business Recorder exclusive revealed that China and Pakistan are engaged in talks on reduction of profits on Chinese power projects established under the umbrella of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This engagement is regarded as the logical next step from Pakistan's perspective subsequent to the agreements signed with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) established under the 1994 and 2002 policies, which resulted in over 4 trillion rupee windfall profits as per the inquiry report published last year, envisaging: (i) application of 148 rupees to the dollar instead of 168 rupees to the dollar agreed earlier; (ii) the existing capacity payments under take or pay to be replaced by take and pay; and (iii) upholding the decision of a three bench arbitration panel with two former supreme court judges while the third member will be selected by them. However, one spanner in the works has been a request by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to submit details of the agreement for its review – a situation that has generated considerable angst amongst the negotiators of the deal.

The rate of return of Liquefied Natural Gas power projects signed under the CPEC by the previous administration was recently reduced by Nepra from 17 to 12 percent; however, details of CPEC power projects established through mainly Chinese investment are not available though the general perception is that the PML-N government to maintain a level-playing field offered the same highly lucrative terms to these projects that were being enjoyed by IPPs established under the 1994 and 2002 policies. Thus while from the perspective of the Pakistani government and more particularly the Pakistani consumer a revisit of the agreed terms is required especially given the recent escalation in tariffs - attributed to the sustained failure of the Khan administration to improve governance and cease to pass on sectoral inefficiencies onto the consumers, like its predecessors – yet from the perspective of the Chinese companies any revisit would require their capacity to renegotiate the terms and conditions with Chinese banks that had extended credit for these projects. The situation therefore is tricky and would require delicate diplomatic negotiations between senior members of the two governments.



The situation is all the more delicate because China-Pakistan relations, time-tested and honoured, have considerably strengthened in recent years. President Xi's One Belt One Road (OBOR) is flourishing in Pakistan and from Pakistan's perspective, it is by far the major source of foreign capital inflows. In addition, China has promptly picked up the slack in loan withdrawal from bilateral, be they direct loans or through swap arrangements, to meet the International Monetary Fund programme's stipulation of key bilateral partners maintaining their exposure throughout the programme period, including by extending new loans consistent with programme objectives.

Recent geopolitical events, both from China and Pakistan's standpoint, have diplomatically brought the two countries even closer together. India, long opposed to the CPEC, has clearly emerged as a spoiler for China and Pakistan and is using its clout internationally, premised on its ability to buy from the West, to try to isolate the two neighbours. In this context, we are certain that China and Pakistan shall remain focused on maintaining their close ties and strengthening them further and seek to amicably resolve all outstanding issues through engaging in high level diplomatic channels.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/04/10-page/872147-news.html>

### **Sino-Pak relations: 70th anniversary**

*Salman Bashir*

Pakistan and China commemorated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations by year-long festivities and special events to mark their historic friendship and partnership.

It is a time to recall with pride their collective achievements and chart new horizons for taking their truly unique friendship and partnership forward. The essence of this friendship is the mutual goodwill, complete trust and shared cultural ethos imbued with values of humility, modesty, sharing and caring.

In a world prone to arrogance of power and where might is right, these Eastern values as epitomized in Pakistan-China friendship and cooperation are a rarity and an example of model inter-state relations that are time tested and have weathered regional and global turbulence. The new era tensions and uncertainties can only be relieved by renewing our faith and confidence in universal ideals and values.

Pakistan and China are young states with deep civilizational roots and a history of mutually enriching interaction spanning several millennia. Reviving the Silk Road has been a common dream of the two peoples with a view to resurrecting the golden age of multi-faceted mutually beneficial and harmonious cooperation for a glorious future.

The Pakistan-China "special" relations, based on abiding trust and mutual respect, have enabled the two countries to join hands to give shape to their dreams for spreading peace, progress and prosperity, in ever widening circles, for their peoples, the region and beyond.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are 21st century models of international cooperation, underpinned by ideals and principles and invested with political commitment and requisite resources, for positive transformation of the regional and global landscape.

China's meteoric rise and phenomenal economic growth, in a short time span, has no parallel in human history. The wisdom of the Chinese leadership and hard work of the Chinese people have contributed to the making of an Asian century. Pakistan is proud of the national accomplishments of the friendly Chinese nation. The rising tide lifts all boats. The neighbours of China must benefit first and so should the world.

The veritable renaissance of the Chinese civilization will have a beneficial impact on humanity. China together with Pakistan has endeavored to renew the faith of peoples around the world, especially in developing countries, in the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and its promise for a better future.

China as a responsible stakeholder in the international system has always upheld the imperatives of multilateral cooperation ensuing from interdependence and ensuring equitable and positive dividends from globalization.

China is the No.1 economy in terms of purchasing power parity. At home, it has succeeded in lifting over 800 million people out of poverty. It is now the driving engine for the global economy - a global manufacturing and services hub and will soon become a major financial pole. Its technological prowess continues to power exponential growth in advanced earth, marine and space sciences.

China's rich culture has added new colours to the beautiful mosaic of human accomplishments in multiple domains. China has brought uniquely refreshing perspectives in understanding and drawing lessons from the march of human history. It has demonstrated that if development becomes a "strategic priority," any nation can attain its dreams.

Rejuvenation of the Chinese nation has been the dream of the Chinese people. Today, China has attained its goal of becoming a moderately developed country. By 2049, our Chinese friends will attain this goal comprehensively. The key lesson from China's experience is that by avoiding bitter contestations and geopolitical rivalries and opting for peaceful cooperation, based on voluntary, equal footed, mutually beneficial and inclusive partnerships, nations can achieve great progress and prosperity.

This is the foundational thesis of the BRI launched in 2013. It is a visionary initiative that holds the promise of bringing about a historic transformation in the global economic and political landscape. As a concept and in its working, this represents an original and most consequential contribution of China to the future of mankind.

The CPEC is a flagship project of the BRI, signed in 2013 and launched in 2015. Approximately \$25 billion has already been injected in various projects. Another \$40 billion is expected to be

invested in the next phase. CPEC has come to epitomize the new priorities in Pakistan-China economic cooperation and encapsulates the essence of leadership level understandings and agreements over the past few decades.

Chinese concessional credits have made it possible for Pakistan to benefit from China's economic rise in a substantial manner. CPEC is bound to go transnational and span other adjoining regions thus enabling Pakistan to realize its geo-economic potential as a conduit for trade and commerce and a transportation hub.

Economic and trade cooperation has witnessed a quantum jump with the launching of CPEC, which centers on developing infrastructure, energy, agriculture and industrial development in Pakistan. The development of Gwadar deep sea port holds immense potential for serving as another gateway not only to Pakistan but all of the landlocked states of Central Asia and Afghanistan.

Energy cooperation has been extremely helpful in overcoming shortages. China has also been assisting Pakistan in developing clean coal energy and hydro-electric potential. Oil and gas exploration has also been an important aspect of cooperation. China is also assisting Pakistan to develop its railroad infrastructure.

The Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement has now entered the next phase, which gives all items of Pakistan export interest a zero-tariff access to the vast Chinese market. The Karakoram Highway has been widened and is being linked by high grade expressways to Pakistani ports. Technological cooperation has been an extremely valuable aspect of China-Pakistan cooperation. There are framework agreements covering all aspects of technology including earth, marine and space sciences. Pakistan and China have developed a long-term plan for cooperation in space.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, China has stepped up cooperation with Pakistan in the field of health.

Bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China has many dimensions. Defence cooperation is robust. Political consultations on regional and global issues are a regular feature. It reveals a remarkable identity of views between Pakistan and China. Pakistan has supported Chinese position on core issues of Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong. China has repeatedly expressed support for Pakistan's sovereignty and independence. Cooperation and coordination at the UN and international forums have been a hallmark of the strategic partnership. The Pakistan-China friendship will grow from strength to strength and scale new heights. Its new dimensions will be revealed in the realm of thoughts and values, and the full spectrum merger and distilling of the virtues of two ancient civilizations for the benefit of mankind, as a whole.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/04/10-page/872149-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **BOI organizing CPEC's B2B Investment Conference today**

The Board of Investment (BOI), Pakistan would organize a 'China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Industrial Cooperation Business to Business (B2B) Investment Conference' today (March 4) here at a local hotel. According to a spokesman of BOI, the B2B Investment Conference would focus on CPEC priority sectors to facilitate cooperation and linkages between Pakistani and foreign businessmen and entrepreneurs. It will be a platform where the BOI would facilitate matchmaking and handholding of Chinese and foreign companies with their Pakistani counterparts. Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan, Chairman BOI, Atif R. Bokhari, Finance Minister KP Taimur Saleem Khan Jhagra, international investors and foreign delegates are scheduled to attend the event. The conference has received overwhelming response from the private sector and hundreds of companies and individuals from different sectors of KP and rest of the country have confirmed their active participation in the investment conference.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/730312/boi-organizing-cpecs-b2b-investment-conference-today/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Another gift from China**

AS the two countries began celebrations to mark establishment of their diplomatic relations, China announced to provide 0.5 million more doses of Corona vaccine as a gift for Pakistan's frontline health workers and senior citizens. The friendly country has already delivered 0.5 million doses of the vaccine which are being administered to the health workers throughout the country.

This is, indeed, not only a manifestation of China's deep affection for people of Pakistan but also a gesture that would help alleviate financial woes of the country at a time when it is trying to firm up arrangements to procure maximum doses of the vaccine to cover the targeted population.

The announcement came a day after Pakistan approved a \$200 million loan as part of its overall plan to immunize nearly 70 million people against the deadly Covid-19 contagion during the current year.

The government has planned to procure 146.2 million doses to provide shots to 69.6 million "eligible people" or 70 per cent of the population that can be vaccinated.

China also provided vaccine for the defense forces of Pakistan, which was handed over to the Government of Pakistan for immunization of the civilian population.

The latest announcement is in continuation of the cooperation by the two countries in tackling the pandemic together, which started when Beijing extended meaningful assistance in containing the spread of the virus.

The two countries stood together by timely sharing of experiences relating to the prevention and control of the virus and mutual support in providing medical materials, setting an example for the international community to jointly fight the corona virus pandemic.

Chinese vaccine gift is going to play an important role in Pakistan's campaign to fight the virus especially when there are apprehensions of outbreak of a third wave.

It was practical demonstration of the stand taken by the Chinese leadership that the pandemic was a global problem and can best be overcome through joint collaborative efforts.

However, this is just one example of how Chinese care about Pakistan as their cooperation extends far beyond the realm of public health with Beijing extending huge assistance in different ways to help Pakistan achieve its socio-economic goals.

<https://pakobserver.net/another-gift-from-china/>

### **The Nation**

#### **KP next potential spot in China's global poverty alleviation move**

ISLAMABAD - Thousands of Chinese political and social leaders will be gathering in Beijing for routine annual meetings of two parliamentary bodies on March 4.

However, the "Two Sessions" this year, have significant importance both from Chinese and Pakistani perspectives.

According to a report published on Wednesday, the meetings are being held in the backdrop of an announcement by Chinese President Xi Jinping to have eradicated absolute poverty from the country 9 years ahead of the actual schedule.

Also, the meetings are going to approve the new 5-year and 15-year plans, focusing technology as the main enhancer of the Chinese economy at home and its influence worldwide.

From Pakistan's perspective, these meetings are crucial as Islamabad sees itself as the next battleground for the China's war on poverty.

Pakistan is already betting heavily on CPEC as a cure for its ailing economy and outdated infrastructure. Yet it needs a systematic and well-structured programme to do away with extreme poverty, especially in rural areas. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa looks more active than others provinces in capitalizing on opportunities brought by CPEC, to alleviate poverty from its central and peripheral areas.

The KP is emerging as a strong base for a potential Chinese poverty alleviation programme, as hinted by the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong.

The KP government is not only developing two major Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC framework, but also taking measures to rehabilitate the existing industrial estates devastated due to decades of neglect.

The Swat Expressway has the potential to become the most-preferred route for China-bound traffic and has presently stirred an economic revolution in northern parts of the province.

KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) is developing or rehabilitating a total of 17 industrial estates in the province and looks to inaugurate a few more, in tribal districts bordering Afghanistan

On health front, the government filled vacant positions in health facilities and tripled the strength of health staff. It also rolled out a universal healthcare system which now covers the entire population of the province. Such measures of the KP government have provided for much-needed groundwork in the fight against poverty.

<https://nation.com.pk/04-Mar-2021/kp-next-potential-spot-in-china-s-global-poverty-alleviation-move>

**March 05, 2021**

**Business Recorder**

### **Poverty eradication**

NEW YORK: Pakistan has congratulated China on achieving the poverty eradication target 10 years ahead of the schedule set by the UN, saying the feat is nothing short of a “miracle”. “Never before in the history have 770 million people been taken out of extreme poverty in a span of 35 years,” Ambassador Munir Akram said at a virtual event organized by the Chinese Mission to the UN on Wednesday.

Ambassador Akram, who is also the President of UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), spoke after a briefing by Chinese Ambassador Zhang Juan on Eradicating Poverty Practice in China: Promoting Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On Feb 25, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that China has secured a ‘complete victory’ in its fight against poverty.

President Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, said absolute poverty has been eradicated in the world’s most populous country, home to over 1.4 billion people.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy said that World Bank’s statistics show that since the late 1970s, China is responsible for over 70% of the global reduction in poverty over the period. “I think the fruit of this ‘victory’ against poverty transcends China,” Ambassador Akram said, adding it has promoted human rights as well as social and sustainable development. In this context, he quoted Prime Minister Imran Khan as saying that the “Chinese experience can be a source of guidance for developing countries.”



“China’s Belt and Road Initiative and its flagship project the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), are examples of what President Xi has called ‘common prosperity’,” the Pakistani envoy said.

“We must all redouble national efforts and international cooperation to fight and eradicate poverty which is our common enemy and in President’s Xi’s words, build a community of shared future for humankind,” Ambassador Akram added.

In a tweet after the event, the Chinese ambassador endorsed his Pakistani counterpart’s views, saying that eradicating poverty is the biggest human right.

“China’s achievement on poverty eradication owes to strong political leadership and collective efforts of the Chinese people,” Ambassador Zhang said, adding it belongs to the world.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/05/7-page/872248-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **China welcomes third-party participation in CPEC: Nong Rong**

Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Nong Rong on Thursday said that China welcomed the participation of third parties in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that would further strengthen the mega project.

Addressing the CPEC Industrial Cooperation Investment Conference here, the envoy invited the investors from across the world to invest in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being established under the CPEC.

“The Chinese embassy wants to work closely with BOI and any third party to promote development of CPEC, he added. The event was organized by Federal Board of Investment (BoI).

Nong Rong said in Rashakai SEZ, both Pakistan and China were mutually working to ensure security, visa facilitation, and other infrastructure facilities.

Chairman BOI Atif Bukhari said the second phase of the CPEC had just commenced and the Federal BOI would continue to take lead on investment promotion, facilitation, and industrial cooperation. The BOI Chairman invited the business community from not only China but also from other countries to come and invest in Pakistan’s economic sectors.

He said the government had already launched conducive policies such as electric vehicle policy, mobile manufacturing, construction sector policies, sole enterprise Special Economic Zone, Regulations 2020, and SEZ Zone Enterprise Admin and Sale/Lease/Sub-lease of Plot Regulations 2021, to increase investment in Pakistan.

“Pakistan accords top priority to the development of Special Economic Zones under CPEC,” he said adding that currently, out of the nine CPEC SEZs, two were in advance stage of

development including Rashakai SEZ in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Faisalabad, Punjab.

Bukhari informed that attractive fiscal incentives were being offered under SEZs such as 10-year tax holiday and custom duty exemption on import of Capital Goods to both the developer and enterprises housed in the SEZs.

KP Minister for Finance, Taimur Jhagra said representatives from a number of countries including Switzerland, and Bosnia were present in the conference which indicated that a lot of countries were showing interest to join this mega multi-billion-dollar project. He invited the investors to also look into a range of tourism opportunities in the province.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/730887/china-welcomes-third-party-participation-in-cpec-nong-rong/>

### **Now China-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor**

*Prof Dr. Attaullah Shah*

The academic and research collaboration between China and Pakistan have witnessed impressive growth in last few decades. With huge investment of Chinese government in research and development, more than 100 Chinese Universities are today placed in the global best 500 universities of the world, according to Times Higher Education Ranking (2021), Shanghai Jiao Thong Universities ranking (2020) and US News and World Report (2020).

While looking at the significance of intellectual and knowledge connectivity, alongside the physical routes, HEC has timely established a CPEC centre at its headquarters. Under this initiatives, a consortium of CPEC universities has been created, which is now comprised of more than 50 universities. Lately, HEC approved a project to establish Knowledge and Research Corridor between the two countries. The main aim of the project is to create collaboration amongst the Chinese and Consortium Universities of Pakistan for strengthening Chinese Road and Belt Initiative (RBI), to exploit the opportunities of China's appetite for global talent hunt, and support the universities of Pakistan for human resource development, identifying the long term challenges in implementation of CPEC and analysis of Chinese culture and history for drawing lessons for development of Pakistan.

The components of the project are, Joint Research: For implementation of these strategies, HEC has proposed some of the way forward like joint research on selected themes of joint interest, which can include climate adaptation, sustainable mountain development, food security, urban planning, water resource management, supply chain management, IT entrepreneurship, medicinal plants, gemstones and mineral resource management, etc.

The faculty and students of Pakistani Universities and general and KIU in particular would need to abreast for harnessing the opportunities provided under CPEC Knowledge and Research Corridor.

Talent Cultivation and Training: This component mainly focuses on the capacity building of faculty to strengthen the academic and intellectual relations. About 400 faculty members will be

trained under this component both at Pakistan and China. Post-doctoral research: Post-doctoral research and trainings provide ample opportunities to faculty for exchange of latest knowledge, research and technologies. Short Term Trainings: Due to shortage of qualified PhD faculty in the newly established Universities in Pakistan, it may not be affordable for them to place most of the faculty on PhD studies or Post Doc research. Hence a window of short term placement of 150 faculty and staff for short term trainings of 2-3 weeks will be provided

Dual degree programs between Chinese and Pakistani Universities: Under the proposed project 10 BS and 20 MS students will be provided with this opportunity to complete their degrees under dual degree programs of Chinese and Pakistani Universities. Conferences, Seminars, Workshops and Colloquia etc. In current phase, about 12 International Conferences will be arranged at Pakistan and China to showcase the research in both countries, which will be focused on the challenges faced by the two countries, with special emphasis over CPEC and BRI. Establishment of China Study Centers: At least 6 China Study Centers will be established across Pakistan, one each in 5 provinces including Gilgit Baltistan and AJ&K. These centers will focus on strengthening the Chinese language teaching, cultural and history studies and act as Think Tank for paving long term understanding about CPEC.

The Chinese New Normal of Economic Development, drawn by current Chinese leadership, is based on the OBOR lately called Belt and Roads Initiative (BRI). The principal and strategic component of this network is CPEC which is part of 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The multibillion mega projects under CPEC are destined to usher in a new era of economic prosperity and peace in the region. These mammoth projects in the energy sector, strengthening of physical and telecommunication networks, up gradation and strengthening of Gwadar port and establishment of Export Promotions Zones across Pakistan, are collectively called the “Destiny Changer” in the region. The dividends of the first early harvest phase of CPEC have already created trickle-down effects to the masses in Pakistan.

China and Pakistan are time tested friends with shared boundaries, culture and history dating back to the ancient silk route. The two countries have always stood for inclusivity, peaceful co-existence and sustainable growth in the region. While inaugurating the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, President Xi-Jinping said: “Friendship between China and Pakistan is based on trust and mutual support, and we have been devoted friends through both good and hard times. Our friendship is a pacesetter for amicable relations.” The unwavering support of China to Pakistan’s stance on the issue of Kashmir, China’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the enormous allocation of resources to China Pakistan Economic Corridor as part of One Belt and One Road Initiative are some of the major dividends of this friendship. To restrain the hegemonic and expansionist designs of India and Narendra Modi led BJP government, the need for this partnership has further intensified in last few years.

Gilgit Baltistan is a region blessed with unique opportunities by nature. The region has a distinction of being the converging point of three of the mightiest mountain ranges in the world, namely: Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush. GB being a gateway to CPEC and Karakoram

International University, being a pioneer seat of higher learning has been connected to China both physically, historically and traditionally. The flow of services and goods across the two region under regional trade arrangements, provide unmatched opportunities to the people on both sides of the boarder. KIU established its Confucius Centre, years back to impact Chinese Language literacy to the students and youth. All graduates of KIU are bound to learn the two level of Chinese literacy (HESI&II). Every year more than 1000 students are taught Chinese language by native Chinese teachers. A good number of the faculty of KIU also graduated from Chinese top Universities, who have brought, their rich experience to the region for quality education and research to more than 7000 students at KIU. The faculty and students of Pakistani Universities and general and KIU in particular would need to abreast for harnessing the opportunities provided under CPEC Knowledge and Research Corridor. Drew Faust President Harvard University quoted: "Higher Education is the strongest, sturdiest ladder for socioeconomic mobility". CPEC knowledge and Research Corridor (CKRC), will enhance the intellectual capacity of the faculty and staff of Pakistani Higher Education Institutes, which will turn the youth force of Pakistan, as growth engine as envisaged by HEC.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/730637/now-china-pakistan-knowledge-corridor/>

### **The News**

#### **Pakistan allows Chinese, Russian vaccines for people above 60**

KARACHI: In a major development, Pakistan health authorities on Thursday allowed vaccination of people above 60 years of age with Chinese vaccine Sinopharm as well as Russian vaccine Sputnik V, The News has learnt.

The decision was taken on the recommendations of an expert committee on vaccines. "The Registration Board of Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has allowed vaccination of people above 60 years of age against COVID-19 with Chinese vaccine Sinopharm and Russian vaccine Sputnik V, which was earlier prohibited due to lack of data on their safety and efficacy among the elderly," an official of the National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHS,R&C) told The News on Thursday night.

Pakistan is currently vaccinating its frontline healthcare workers with Chinese vaccine Sinopharm, which was earlier declared 'not suitable, not recommended' for people above 60 years of age, drawing the ire of senior healthcare professionals.

An official of the National Health Services told The News that based on the data of safety and efficacy of Sinopharm vaccine received from China, use by the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, an expert committee comprising six leading infectious diseases specialists, vaccinologists and pathologists have recommended the use of Sinopharm vaccine among people above 60 years of age in Pakistan.

The official said the expert committee has also authorized the use of Russian vaccine Sputnik V among people above 60 years of age and added that the decision was taken on the basis of data

received from the Russian manufacturer Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology.

The registration board of the DRAP, however, has recommended monitoring the condition of the elderly at least for 48 hours after the vaccine jab for any adverse effect following immunization (AEFI), the official said adding that it has also been recommended that elderly should also follow all the precautionary measures including masks, social distancing and hand hygiene even after immunization.

The federal health officials said they would be revising the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Sinopharm Vaccine (Vero Cell) sent to all the Adult Vaccination Centers (AVCs) once they receive the recommendations of the DRAP's registration board in letter and spirit.

Although, the vaccine is being allowed for the elderly, it should not be considered an alternate for wearing a mask, physical distancing and observing other SOPs for Covid-19 prevention, they warned.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/799511-pakistan-allows-chinese-russian-vaccines-for-people-above-60>

## **Industrial Cooperation Conference: Private sector urged to play role in CPEC 2nd phase**

PESHAWAR: Board of Investment Chairman Atif Bukhari on Thursday urged the private sector to come forward and play a leading role in the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He expressed these views while addressing the CPEC Industrial Cooperation Conference here.

Atif Bukhari said Special Economic Zones under the CPEC are proving to be a game-changer for economic development and Pak-China geographical proximity is proving to the attainment of mutual economic benefits.

He said the government is striving for comprehensive economic and industrial development, creation of new employment opportunities and promotion of export production in the country.

Atif Bukhari said that the Board of Investment has expedited the process of providing all facilities and incentives to the economic zones.

He said it is our priority to formulate policies to attract direct foreign investment.

“The board is prioritizing five sectors, including IT Industry, Housing and Construction, Food Processing and Agriculture, Tourism and Logistics,” he added.

Hassan Daud Butt, Chief Executive Officer, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade, said under the CPEC important projects of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa like Rashkai Special Economic Zone are in full swing.

He said this zone would prove to be a milestone for the promotion of high-speed industrialization in the province. Hassan Daud Butt said according to the plan of the federal government, this zone would be completed in three phases and the government would provide 210 MW power in three phases. Rs. 1203 million has been earmarked for gas for this zone.

He said that 247 acres of land would be developed in the first phase, 355 acres in the second and 399 acres in the third phase, adding 80 per cent local people would be provided with employment in this zone.

Finance Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra welcomed the step to host international conferences in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

“Today, over 100 international companies are part of the event through digital platforms,” he said and added that Tourism is an important sector in the CPEC, and so is Mines and Minerals sector is also developing. The minister said our biggest asset is the youth of the province and there should also be investment in our national IT houses.

Taimur Saleem Jhagra said online markets have the lowest tax in KP in the IT sector and assured facilities. He hoped the Rashkai Economic Zone would prove to be an industrial hub. He thanked all the investors and assured them of full support from the KP government in new ventures.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/799489-industrial-cooperation-conference-private-sector-urged-to-play-role-in-cpec-2nd-phase>

**March 06, 2021**

**Daily Times**

### **Sino-Pakistan ties: Diplomacy to strategic partnership**

Pakistan and China, longtime Asian allies, kicked off celebrations this week to mark the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic relations, which have progressed from formal diplomacy to strategic partners in recent decades.

The year 2021 marks the completion of 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, established in May 1951. The celebrations began with a virtual ceremony held simultaneously in Islamabad and Beijing on Tuesday as both nations plan a series of events to commemorate the historic milestone until May 21.

Often cited as “deeper than oceans,” and an “all-weather friendship,” Sino-Pakistan ties have expanded from defense and diplomacy to economy and energy over the past three decades, making Beijing the largest trade and defense partner of Islamabad.

The first highest-level official contact between the two countries began with a meeting between Pakistan’s former Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Bogra and his Chinese counterpart Zhou Enlai at the Bandung, Indonesia Conference in 1955. The contact was followed by the respective visits of Pakistani Premier Hussain Shaheed Suharwardi to China and Premier Zhou to Pakistan in the



coming years. The signing of the boundary agreement between the two countries in 1963, however, is viewed as the foundation for today's partnership between the "iron brothers." Pakistan's national flag carrier, Pakistan International Airlines, became the first non-communist country's airline to operate flights to China in 1964.

Islamabad also supported Beijing in its successful bid to reclaim its permanent seat at the UN in 1971.

Apart from backing Pakistan in the 1965 and 1971 wars against arch-rival India, China supported Islamabad's efforts to maintain security balance in the region after New Delhi joined the elite nuclear club in 1974.

China was accused by Western countries and their media of quietly helping Pakistan develop its nuclear capability in the 1980s, despite Islamabad being a US ally in the first Afghan war against the crumbling Soviet Union. "Pakistan-China relations are quite unique. And probably without precedent in the recent diplomatic history of the world," said Mushahid Hussain, chairman of the Senate's foreign relations committee.

"As the relationship between two neighbors unequal in size and social systems, but bound together by mutual interests, which have been reinforced over the past decade," Hussain, a journalist-turned-politician, told Anadolu Agency. Referring to Pakistan's support for the One-China policy and Beijing's backing of Islamabad on the lingering Kashmir dispute, he further said, "Both countries support each other without any traditional give and take."

Echoing Hussain's views, Sabah Aslam, head of the Islamabad-based think tank, Institute of Conflict Resolution, said: "In these 70 years, the world has seen a significant global political shift. However, one thing prospered the bond between China and Pakistan." This "brotherly bond," she opined, has more to offer than just strategic partnership. "That is why it is called an all-weather bond."

### **Economic and defense cooperation**

The multi-billion-dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship venture of Beijing's ambitious Belt Road Initiative (BRI), has further expanded economic cooperation between the longtime allies.

The \$64 billion CPEC was signed in 2014 with the aim of connecting China's strategically important northwestern province of Xinjiang to the Gwadar port in southern Pakistan through a network of roads, railroads, and pipelines for transporting oil, gas, and shipments. In December 2020, Beijing lent a \$1 billion soft loan to Islamabad to repay Saudi Arabia, the second installment of a \$3 billion loan Pakistan had borrowed to prop up its depleting foreign reserves in 2018.

In addition, China helped Pakistan develop main battle tanks like Al-Khalid, and JF-Thunder fighter jets.

Islamabad also awarded a contract for four Chinese multi-role warship Type-054 frigates to state-run China Shipbuilding Trading Company and HZ Shipyard in 2017. “Pakistan-China relations, in fact, have remained a factor of stability in the region. While being neighbors they share borders and therefore have many stakes, yet the strength of their relationships lies in mutual respect, mutual trust, and the win-win approach that the leaderships and peoples of both countries have consistently followed,” said Khalid Rahman, Chairman of the Islamabad-based think tank, Institute of Policy Studies. “With CPEC and BRI in progress, new vistas of cooperation have opened up both for bilateral as well as regional and global development,” he told Anadolu Agency.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/731119/sino-pakistan-ties-diplomacy-to-strategic-partnership/>

### **Iron Brothers celebrate seven decades of solidarity**

*S M Hali*

Eminent American historian Stephen F. Cohen, after a seminar was asked, which two countries in the world enjoy the closest relationship? The audience was expecting him to name the US and Israel but were taken aback when they learned academic said “China and Pakistan”. He went on to define the parameters of the deep relationship between the two, which are beyond transactional, defense or economic needs but are based on principles, mutual respect and have withstood the test of time evolving into a special bond, which we now recognize as: “Iron Brothers”.

May 21, 1951 will be remembered by the two nations as on this auspicious day, seven decades ago, the People’s Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan entered into formal diplomatic relations. The celebrations for this major landmark commenced on March 02, with an article by His Excellency, Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China’s opinion piece titled, ‘An ironclad friendship growing stronger in the new era’ carried by a local English daily. Simultaneously, an Op-Ed by Pakistan’s Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, titled ‘Celebrating 70 Years of Pakistan-China Friendship’ carried by “Global Times” of China, commemorated the jubilations of the epoch making milestone.

The Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister remind us of the words of late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai, who stated that “Friendly exchanges between the Chinese and Pakistanis can be traced as far back as the dawn of history. Over 2,000 years ago, China and Pakistan were already connected by the ancient Silk Road, when our peoples visited each other amid echoes of camel bells. In the extended course of history thereafter, the friendship has steadily grown stronger and deeper.”

Coincidentally, Shah Mahmood Qureshi penned something similar: “Connected by geography, history, and Asian identity, the ancient linkages between Pakistan and China predate the establishment of formal ties. Since times immemorial, many Chinese monks and ascetics like Faxian and Xuanzang braved the treacherous mountains of the Great Himalayas and arrived at

the famous Buddhist seminaries of Pakistan and learned the traditions and teachings of Buddhism.”

The Chinese narrate with pride how when the great earthquake hit in the Sichuan Province of China in 2008, Pakistan donated all its tents in reserve besides sending medical teams and supplies

The fact is that both nations have stood by each other in their moments of trial and tribulation. Interestingly, the Chinese side usually narrates the support provided by Pakistan to its strategic ally in its hour of need, rather than the large-heartedness depicted by China, whenever Pakistan needed it. Our Chinese brothers do not tire of reminding us that the Occident had refused to recognize People’s Republic of China, when it declared independence in October 1949 and had instead established diplomatic ties with “Republic of China”, the tiny island of Taiwan, where the Kuomintang had sought refuge after being defeated by the People’s Liberation Army. They were even given a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, making a mockery of the system. For nearly a quarter of a century, the millions of Chinese residents of the mainland, who had fought alongside the Allied Powers to defeat imperialist Japan and the Axes Powers, were left to fend for themselves, sans food, medical supplies, technology or any other logistic support even on humanitarian grounds. Their only crime was that they were Communists. In those bleak years, Pakistan stood by its Chinese brethren, providing a window of opportunity. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was the first and only foreign airline operating between China and Pakistan. It was Pakistan that organized the 1971 clandestine visit of US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to visit Beijing and lay the grounds of US President Richard Nixon’s historic 1972 visit, which broke the impasse and resulted in the establishment of formal Sino-US diplomatic ties and reinstatement of People’s Republic of China at the UN Security Council. The Chinese narrate with pride how when the great earthquake hit in the Sichuan Province of China in 2008, Pakistan donated all its tents in reserve besides sending medical teams and supplies. They remind us that Islamabad has always expressed solidarity with Beijing whether it was standoff with India in 1962 or the Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong, South China Sea or Uighur issues.

On its part, Pakistan can never forget how the Chinese stood by us during our wars with India. When the US, despite being Pakistan’s ally, following the 1965 and 1971 Pakistan-India wars, placed an embargo on both protagonists, sealing off defense supplies. India was least affected by it since all its weapons originated from the USSR but Pakistan was badly hit since all its weapon systems came from the west. China came to Pakistan’s rescue, offering whatever it had, from its own rudimentary defense industry. It went a step further, assisting Pakistan establish defense production industries and provided transfer of technology, to make it self-sufficient.

This scribe first visited China in 1974 to pick up defense equipment from Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang in PAF C-130 Hercules air transport aircraft. Scores of visits as a PAF officer in subsequent years make me an eyewitness to China’s monumental development. My first visit to China, after my retirement from the PAF and as a journalist was in December 2010 as part of the 60th Anniversary celebrations of Sino-Pak diplomatic ties. Successive visits as an analyst, writer,

academic and researcher have resulted in numerous books on China: China's Stories—China's Success; How China Transformed itself in the last Forty Years; Gleaming Gems of Chinese Culture; The Road to Leadership—President Xi Jinping; and now my latest 100 Years of Communist Party of China—The Best Example of Selfless Service.

The way both countries stood by each other during the global pandemic of COVID-19, ensuring that the CPEC, flagship project of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative does not lag behind due to the Corona Virus and meets fruition and being one the first recipients of five hundred thousand doses of the Sinopharm vaccine to protect the lives of our frontline health workers, speaks volumes for the depth of the relationship.

The world in general and Pakistan in particular can learn a lot from China's miraculous eradication of total poverty. The celebration of seven decades of solidarity between the iron brothers will indeed usher in an even brighter future of Sino-Pakistan relations.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/730994/iron-brothers-celebrate-seven-decades-of-solidarity/>

## **The Nation**

### **Colonization of 2nd CPEC SEZ begins**

ISLAMABAD-After the launch of China Pakistan Economic Corridor's first Rashakai SEZ, colonization of 2nd CPEC SEZ Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC) Faisalabad has begun with planned Rs53.6 billion investment.

In this regard, a meeting of the AIIC SEZ Committee was held here on Friday which accorded approval to 15 applicants and allotted land of 320 acres. The applicants include a Chinese firm Zhengbang Agriculture Pakistan Private Limited which plans to invest Rs 800 million in agri. sector. Amongst the other 14 local firms, Zahid Jee Textile Mills, Ocean Ceramics, and Ittehad Metals will initiate business establishments worth Rs.11.8 billion, Rs.11.2 billion and Rs7.5 billion respectively. Meanwhile, a meeting of the Vehari SEZ Committee approved its 1st zone enterprise. The colonization of this zone started with admission of a firm Suraya Aslam Paper Private Limited to establish a project worth Rs. 100 million.

The SEZ Committee of Rahimyar Khan allotted land and approved zone entry to Naseem Export Private Limited with a planed Rs 4.5 billion investment. The application for zone enterprise entry and allotment of land was submitted and processed via SEZ's MIS Module designed by the Federal Board of Investment recently. The module ensures transparency and facilitation and works as a one window operation, a vision of the government to ensure ease of doing business. Along with the allotment of land, these enterprises are now entitled to SEZ's benefits, including custom duties and tax exemption under the SEZ Act 2012.

Atif R. Bokhari, Minister of State/Chairman Board of Investment, while appreciating the development, said that the automation process of SEZs, envisioned by the Prime Minister Imran Khan, is now bearing fruits. The SEZ MIS Module was approved to facilitate investors to gain admission in zones and ensure transparency in allocation of plots in various SEZs, he added.

Secretary BOI Fareena Mazhar stated that international investors could easily avail the opportunity to identify and select the potential locations for setting up their units in the SEZs. She said that BOI will leave no stone unturned to provide timely facilitation particularly availability of utilities to SEZs. She further said that BOI will ensure handholding of the investors and provinces at every stage of the industrial development.

<https://nation.com.pk/06-Mar-2021/colonisation-of-2nd-cpec-sez-begins>

**March 07, 2021**

**Dawn News**

### **Chinese automakers for incentives to encourage localization**

LAHORE: Chinese carmakers want the government to incorporate tax and other incentives to encourage investors to ‘localize’ hi-tech EV (electric vehicle) parts in the upcoming Auto Industry Development and Export Programme (AIDEP) 2021-26 expected to be announced over the next several months.

“The government should let automakers import semi-knocked down (SKD ) kits for a limited period like Bangladesh to help shift investments from low technology to new state-of-the-art automotive technology, creating space for the investors to put their money in the development of hi-tech EV parts like lithium ion batteries, motors, immobilizers, engine control unit (ECU) or battery management system, transmission and so on,” said a senior executive of MG JW, the joint venture between Pakistan’s JW-SEZ Group and China’s SAIC Motor, the owner of popular British brand Morris Garages.

The MG JW executive, who did not want to give his name, said his company was asking for additional incentives for importing SKD kits and setting up new manufacturing facilities for localizing hi-tech parts only in segments like public transport vehicles, vans, pickup trucks, D-SUV, D-SD etc where the current level of localization is either very low or non-existent. “The current investment in passenger cars would remain unaffected by this decision.” “We think it is a once-in-a-century opportunity for Pakistan to localize hi-tech parts,” he added. He argued it was right time for Pakistan to divert the new auto investments towards local manufacturing of hi-tech EV/auto parts, ditching the previous deletion policy that stressed localization of only the low-tech parts.

MG JW is in the process of setting up its \$100 million assembly plant in Lahore and plans to roll out first car in May to become eligible for the lucrative tax cuts given to the new entrants in the industry under the existing AIDP 2016-21. The majority shares – 51 per cent – in the JV are owned by the Chinese company with MG JW planning to roll out more models by 2023. Once the plant becomes operational the company plans to bring in its EV variants to the Pakistani market.

He was of the view that the imports of SKD kits instead of completely-knocked down (CKD) kits will help the country adopt EV technology rapidly and localize complete automotive range,

which will ultimately reduce the manufacturing costs of the vehicles and enable Pakistan to export to other countries by 2030.

### **Under-invoicing controversy**

The company was recently caught up in a controversy when it was alleged to be involved in under-invoicing the price of its imported crossovers. It rejected the allegations, saying it's part of its Chinese partner's strategy to give access to Pakistani consumers to the state-of-the-art products at discounted prices to create its market here.

The government had announced significant tax incentives for electric cars in December last year and issued an ordinance in this regard. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), however, is yet to issue an SRO for implementing the EV incentives, which are likely to substantially benefit the Chinese automakers interested in launching their electric cars in Pakistan.

The EV policy for four-wheeler seeks to boost the demand and make local assembly of electric cars attractive and profitable. The effective rate of duty on EV CKDs has been fixed in the range of 6-8pc compared with 15-18pc for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. The smaller cars with battery capacity of 50kWh or below or light commercial vehicles (LCVs) with battery capacity of 150kWh have been given an additional concession: the sales tax rate on them has been slashed to 1pc from 17pc.

Nevertheless, the bigger EV cars will continue to attract the normal sales tax rate. In addition, the importers of the completely built units (CBUs) will continue to pay 25pc import duty to keep their prices high to support assemblers and discourage EV imports. The rate of duty will be halved to 12.5pc on import of 100 vehicles in a single batch.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1611129/chinese-automakers-for-incentives-to-encourage-localisation>

## **Dunya News**

### **Second CPEC, SEZ start with Rs 53.6bn investment in Faisalabad: BOI**

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – The Board of Investment (BOI) has said that second Special Economic Zones (SEZ) of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) begins with Planned Rs.53.6 billion investment in Faisalabad to attract the foreign and local investors with state of art world standard facilities.

After the launch of China Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPECs) first Rashakai SEZ, colonization of the CPEC, Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC) Faisalabad begins with planned Rs.53.6 billion Investment, said a press release issued by BOI here on Sunday.

In this regard, a meeting of the AIIC, SEZ Committee held here, which accorded approval to 15 applicants and allotted land of 320 acres.

According to press release issued, the applicants include a Chinese Firm Zhengbang Agriculture Pakistan Private Limited with a plan Rs. 800 million investment in agri sector. Amongst the



other 14 local firms, Zahid Jee Textile Mills, Ocean Ceramics, and Ittehad Metals to initiate business establishments worth Rs.11.8 billion, Rs.11.2 billion and 7.5 b respectively.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Vehari SEZ Committee approved its 1st zone enterprise. The colonization of this zone started with admission of a firm Suraya Aslam Paper Private Limited to establish a project worth Rs. 100 million. The SEZ Committee of Rahimyar Khan allotted land and approved zone entry to Naseem Export Private Limited with a planned RS 4.5 b investment. The application for zone enterprise entry and allotment of land were submitted and processed via SEZ's MIS Module designed by the Federal Board of Investment recently.

The module ensures transparency and facilitation and works as a one window operation, a vision of the government to ensure ease of doing business. Along with the allotment of land, these enterprises are now entitled to SEZ's benefits, including custom duties and tax exemption under the SEZ Act 2012. Minister of State/ Chairman Board of Investment (BOI) Atif R. Bokhari while appreciating the development, said that the automation process of SEZs, envisioned by the Prime Minister Imran Khan, is now bearing fruits.

The SEZ MIS Module was approved to facilitate investors to gain admission in zones and ensure transparency in allocation of plots in various SEZs, he added. Secretary BOI Fareena Mazhar stated that international investors could easily avail the opportunity to identify and select the potential locations for setting up their units in the SEZs.

She said that BOI will leave no stone unturned to provide timely facilitation particularly availability of utilities to SEZs. She further said that BOI will ensure handholding of the investors and provinces at every stage of the industrial development.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/591299-Second-CPEC-SEZ-start-with-Rs-53.6bn-investment-Faisalabad-BOI>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China, Pakistan should strengthen science, technology innovation cooperation: Yuna**

The technical training carried out by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan, the cooperative research and development with local institutions and the employment of local people have not only created many jobs for Pakistan, but also enhanced Pakistan's independent innovation capability and realized the cooperation mode of joint innovation, joint participation and shared achievements.

These views were expressed by Di Yuna, Executive Director, Pakistan Study Center of Science & Technology and Economy at Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU) in an interview on Saturday.

As early as November 2018, China and Pakistan jointly issued a statement, which clearly pointed out that the two countries should strengthen cooperation in the fields of ocean, S&T, aerospace,

environment and agriculture, and expand the application of relevant science and technology in the fields of health, agriculture, water resources, energy and food safety, so as to improve the living standards of the Pakistani people.

During Dr. President Arif Alvi's visit to China in 2020, the two sides agreed to set up the Joint Working Group (JWG) on S&T, which prioritizes S&T in bilateral cooperation.

The JWG is led by Ministry of Science and Technology of China and Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan.

Organizations such as China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) have appointed representatives to participate in the JWG to continuously promote bilateral cooperation, Di Yuna told Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law and Senior Fellow of the Charhar Institute, according to CEN.

At present, China and Pakistan are at different stages of economic development.

Pakistan is facing some difficulties, such as high poverty rate, underdeveloped infrastructure, low urbanization rate and insufficient industrialization.

Based on the basis of public opinions of building a community of shared future between China and Pakistan, and starting from the actual development needs of Pakistan, both sides should carry out scientific and technological innovation cooperation beneficial to people's livelihood, so as to obtain the support of the Pakistani people to the greatest extent.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-should-strengthen-science-technology-innovation-cooperation-yuna/>

### **Nawaiwaqt News**

#### **ساہیوال پاور پلانٹ کی مجموعی پیداوار کی 6 فیصد بجلی فراہم کر رہا: چینی سفیر**

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان میں تعینات چینی سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک کے تحت بنایا گیا 1320 میگاواٹ کوئلہ سے چلنے والا ساہیوال پاور پلانٹ ملک میں بجلی کی تقریباً 6 فیصد فراہمی کو یقینی بنا رہا ہے۔ چینی سفیر نے 4 سی ایس آر ایو آرڈر جیتنے پر سی پیک ساہیوال پاور پلانٹ کی خدمات کو سراہا۔ انہوں نے ساہیوال پاور پلانٹ کو نیشنل فورم فار انوائزمنٹ اینڈ ہیلتھ (این ایف ای ایچ) کے 13 ویں سالانہ سی ایس آر ایو آرڈر 2021 میں 4 کارپوریٹ سوشل ریسپونسیبلٹی (سی ایس آر) ایو آرڈر جیتنے پر مبارکباد دی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/laure/2021-03-07/page-8/detail-57>

**March 08, 2021**

**Daily Times**

### **Pak-China relations continue to demonstrate remarkable growth**

The long history of Pak-China diplomatic relations spanning over seventy years have shown remarkable stability and growth with milestone achievements for transforming the domestic fortune of millions of people in both the countries.

The bilateral relations between the two countries cover the entire edifice from economic to political, strategic to cultural and commercial to education. In order to commemorate the historic and deep-rooted relations in a befitting manner, both the countries have conceived a number of activities (more than 100 events) throughout the year to celebrate the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. The events consisted of cultural activities, photography exhibitions, fashion shows, publication of books and people-to-people exchange. The series of events regarding the 70th anniversary celebrations were launched with virtual ceremony on March 2 in Islamabad and Beijing to mark the date of the relations.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan was among one of the first countries that has recognized the People's Republic of China after it was established on October 1, 1949. Subsequently, the diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on May 21, 1951. Over the years, an exponential growth was witnessed in the relations from defense to economy and energy to trade. The ties have become globally exemplary with vision to create “win-win-situations” and economic prosperity to eradicate poverty from the region. It was also due the stability and strength of the diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China that the relations often referred as “deeper than the oceans, higher than the mountains, stronger than the steel, sweeter than honey, all-weather friends and iron-brothers” on global arena.

The linking of the globe through inclusive Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) is lauded worldwide for creating long term economic opportunities alongside infrastructural development of the partner countries. The BRI reflects the President Xi's visionary leadership who conceived the road connection a must for economic growth and prosperity of the entire globe. The multi-billion-dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has not only further expanded the bilateral relations but also forever connected the two countries in terms of socio-economic growth and prosperity.

After launching the CPEC project, people-to-people interactions between Pakistan and China have been increased while it rapidly opening up new avenues in areas of higher education, culture exchange programs, strategic relations, economic and business activities between the two countries. China was successfully achieving the set objectives through inclusive BRI to connect the global economic landscape for shared future and economic prosperity.

Talking to APP, Director Pakistan Institute of China Studies, University of Sargodha, Dr Fazlur Rahman said, “Pakistan and China has unique bilateral relations in international history with

mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality and interest of each other – that has kept it consistently growing.” He said that Pakistan has maintained a principle position on China’s core national interests.

It has also extended the opportunity to connect China with the rest of the globe. “China has declared CPEC as the flagship project for the BRI”, he added.

Islamabad based working Journalist Dr. Furqan Rao who has recently completed PhD from China’s University has said the Chinese people were hardworking, professional, punctual, committed and wholeheartedly obey the orders of their central government. He said, “The smooth and expedite execution of CPEC would further enhance Pak-China bilateral relations.” He said the BRI would bring economic stability through its seven corridors to the globe besides connecting more than 65 countries world over, adding that China has always supported Pakistan in testing times both economically and strategically.

Responding to a query regarding BRI, Dr Fazlur Rahman said, “For the first time in history, the global integration process has started from Asia with the central initiative of China to connect the globe.

He said, “The BRI other than integrating the world economically has meant to expand business, economic relations while allowing free access to trade and commercial activities.” The less-developed and smaller countries would also benefit from the initiatives in terms of infrastructural development and financial support, adding that a number of countries in Central and Eastern Europe have already become part of this global economic outreach.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/731948/pak-china-relations-continue-to-demonstrate-remarkable-growth/>

## K2 Daily



[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Back\\_Page&Date=2021-03-08](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2021-03-08)

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2021-03-08](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2021-03-08)

**March 09, 2021**

**The Nation**

### **USA, UK, China top 3 destinations of Pak exports in 7 months**

ISLAMABAD-United States of America (USA) remained the top export destination of the Pakistani products during the seven months of financial year (2020-21), followed by United Kingdom (UK) and China.

Total exports to the USA during July-January (2020-21) were recorded at \$2680.250 million against the exports of \$2440.386 million during July-January (2019-20), showing growth of 9.82 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$1135.303 million against the exports of \$1004.505 million last year, showing increase of 13.02 percent.

China was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$1026.960 million during the months under review against the exports of \$1063.818 million during last year, showing decline of 3.46 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at \$ 873.241 million against \$799.324 million during last year, showing increase of 9.24 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at \$823.543 million against \$978.474 million last year, the data revealed.

During July-January (2020-21), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$617.931 million against \$597.048 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at \$543.650 million against \$633.121 million.

Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at \$415.005 million against the exports of \$463.043 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at \$439.280 million against \$525.942 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at \$323.229 million against \$440.909 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$255.567 million against \$257.808 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at \$276.108 million against \$278.954 million.

Pakistan's exports to Turkey were recorded at \$147.710 million during the current year compared to \$170.734 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$167.059 million against \$168.951 million, to Poland \$167.320 million against \$157.183 million whereas the exports to Australia stood at \$139.947 million during the current year against \$117.249 million during last year. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed decline of 3.80 percent in seven months, from \$14.445 billion to \$13.896 billion, the SBP data revealed.

<https://nation.com.pk/09-Mar-2021/usa-uk-china-top-3-destinations-of-pak-exports-in-7-months>

**March 10, 2021**

**The Nation**

**KP govt. Chinese firm join hands to construct 300MW project**

Peshawar - As an important development in the energy sector, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Tuesday signed a contract agreement with the Chinese construction company for the construction of 300mw Balakot Hydro Power Project, the biggest-ever project of hydro power generation under the provincial government.

The 300-megawatt power project would be constructed with an estimated cost of Rs85.00 billion in a period of six years with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB). A ceremony to this effect was held here with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan as chief guest.

The concerned authorities of KP Energy Development Organization and Chinese Construction Company signed the contract agreement to start physical work on the project. Besides provincial cabinet members Taimur Jhagra and Himayatullah Khan, the event was also attended by the high ups of Energy and Power Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister termed the project as of vital importance for the province and a milestone achievement of the provincial government. He said that ground breaking of the project was expected to be performed by the mid of next month and hopefully, Prime Minister Imran Khan would perform the ground breaking of the mega project.

Mahmood Khan said that on completion the project would play an important role in boosting industrial activities, job creation and overall development of the province.

During the construction phase, he said, the project would generate around 4000 job opportunities whereas on completion, it was expected to generate a revenue of Rs14 billion per annum. Mahmood Khan maintained that power generated by Balakot Hydro Power Project would be provided to local industries as well as domestic consumers on relatively cheaper rates.

The Chief Minister said that the provincial government was taking result-oriented steps under a well-devised strategy to ensure optimum utilization of the hydro power potentials of the province with the aim to meet its energy requirements and strengthen its economy.

So far, he said, various hydro power projects with a total capacity of 160 megawatts had been completed under PEDO, whereas work was in progress on various other projects having a total capacity of 216 mega watts.

<https://nation.com.pk/10-Mar-2021/kp-govt-chinese-firm-join-hands-to-construct-300mw-project>



### **CPEC has potential to alleviate poverty in country**

ISLAMABAD - China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has provided Pakistan an excellent opportunity to transform from an agriculture-based economy to an industrial-based state that ultimately helps decreasing poverty to a significant level.

According to Gwadar Pro, economists in Pakistan believe that CPEC will provide solid support to the industrial sector to modernize itself and become more efficient and competitive for achieving the desired goals.

The various energy projects, coupled with improvements in infrastructure and road networks have already addressed some of the key constraints to growth and for poverty alleviation.

Various projects completed under the CPEC have employed more than 100,000 Pakistanis.

More importantly, the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would enable industries to smooth supply chains, enhance collaboration and innovation capabilities, and help reap significant economies of scale.

Analysts believe Pakistan will be the biggest beneficiary of CPEC. It has already won hearts in Pakistan. This project has emerged on Pakistan's horizon as the biggest source of jobs for Pakistani youth. The experts added, Pakistan also needs to learn a lesson from China's five-year plan policy. As the building of SEZs takes pace, Pakistani authorities expect the transfer of technology and spillovers from China into Pakistan in a few years.

While China has already transferred coal and road construction technology to Pakistan, authorities here are expecting the transfer of technology in the pharmaceutical, auto sector, and chemicals industry which will boost the economic activity here employing a great number of people.

Authorities are expecting the relocation of Chinese firms making pesticides and synthetic fertilizers to Pakistan.

The relocation of such firms to Pakistan becomes a possibility and CPEC envisions joint ventures in fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing between the Pakistani and Chinese enterprises which will open job opportunities for thousands of graduates of Agriculture sciences.

Pakistan needs to offer incentives to encourage local and foreign companies to set up factories and plants in Pakistan which can employ a huge number of local labors both skilled and unskilled. Independent analysts and experts in Pakistan believe, Pakistan cannot achieve desired growth unless the manufacturing sector and exports are strengthened. Pakistan needs an export-driven growth strategy following China's vision.

<https://nation.com.pk/10-Mar-2021/cpec-has-potential-to-alleviate-poverty-in-country>

## **The News**

### **Contract signed with China for biggest KP govt hydropower project**

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has signed a contract with the Chinese construction company for the construction of 300 megawatts Balakot Hydropower Project.

It is the biggest ever project of hydropower generation under the KP government and important development in the energy sector, said an official handout.

The 300-megawatt power project would be completed with an estimated cost of Rs85.00 billion in a period of six years with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank.

A ceremony to this effect was held here on Tuesday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan as chief guest.

Relevant officials of Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) and Chinese construction company signed the contract to start physical work on the project.

Besides provincial cabinet members Taimur Saleem Jhagra and Himayatullah khan, the event was also attended by the Energy and Power Department officials.

The chief minister termed the project of vital importance for the province and milestone achievement of the KP government.

He said the groundbreaking of the project is expected to be performed by the mid of next month, adding hopefully, Prime Minister Imran Khan would himself perform the ceremony of the mega project.

Mahmood Khan stated that the project on completion would play an important role in boosting industrial activities, job creation and overall development of the province.

He added during the construction phase, the project would generate around 4,000 jobs whereas on completion, it is expected to generate a revenue of Rs 14 billion per annum.

Mahmood Khan maintained that power generated by Balakot Hydropower Project would be provided to local industries as well as domestic consumers at relatively cheaper rates.

The chief minister said that the KP government was taking steps to ensure optimum utilization of the hydropower potentials of the province with the aim to meet its energy requirements and strengthen its economy.

He added that various hydropower projects with a total capacity of generating 160 megawatts of power have been completed by the PEDO so far, whereas work is in progress on various other schemes which would create 216 megawatts energy.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/801929-contract-signed-with-china-for-biggest-kp-govt-hydropower-project>

**March 11, 2021**

**Daily Times**

## **Two Sessions: China foreign affairs loud & clear**

*Yasir Habib Khan*

China's ongoing Two Sessions, known as intellectual and actionable framework on politics, economic and governance, has laid down set of priorities on international relations offering the world to deepen its insights about China foreign affairs vision based on international rules, co-existence, peace, harmony and win-win situation to all without any prejudice.

In the history of five decades, brainy Two Sessions remain a beacon of light and base the form of resilience of China's foreign policy allowing it to stands composed and persistent at all costs. Despite venomous hostility orchestrated by some international forces, China foreign policy holds restraints and never pursues retaliatory strategy. Instead of giving blow to blow, China international ties have laid down the foundation of lasting peace, friendliness and multilateral cohesion centered on respect to each country's sovereignty, governance system, economic models and social practices.

For regional and global perspective to make the international community understand the baseline of China's foreign affairs, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a press conference during the fourth session of the 13th National People's Congress, China's top legislature.

His unwrapped the biggest highlight in China's foreign relations characterizing it as "head-of-State diplomacy". Through innovative "cloud diplomacy", President Xi Jinping has championed solidarity in the world's fight against COVID-19, and pointed the way forward for the international community to jointly fight the virus, Wang said. In the past year, China has been firm to safeguard national interests and resolutely opposes hegemony and bullying practices, as well as external interference in domestic affairs, he added.

China opposes "vaccine nationalism," rejects any "vaccine divide" or any attempt to politicize vaccine cooperation, Wang said. More than 60 countries have authorized the use of Chinese vaccines

Shedding light about CPC role in foreign policy, he said that facts have proved that the leadership of the Communist Party of China is the biggest political advantage of Chinese diplomacy and that leadership will offer fundamental support for China's diplomatic agenda to keep securing more victories, Wang said that China's diplomacy is a people-oriented diplomacy led by the CPC, and the Party set the direction for China's diplomatic agenda.

On Hong Kong matter, he spoke volume about patriots administering Hong Kong saying any country in the world will take allegiance to the motherland as a basic political ethic that must be observed by public officials or those who run for public posts, and so does Hong Kong. "Hong

Kong is a special administrative region of China. One cannot talk about loving Hong Kong without loving its motherland, he said, adding that love for the country and for Hong Kong is completely consistent,” he added.

Hong Kong enjoyed no democracy during colonial rule. Since its return to the motherland 24 years ago, no one is more concerned about Hong Kong’s democratic development and wishes Hong Kong to remain prosperous and stable than the central government, he said

In terms of China-US relations Wang said it is normal for China and the US, two countries with different social systems, to have differences and disagreements. “What matters most is to manage them effectively through candid communication to prevent strategic miscalculation and avoid conflict and confrontation.” Wang said China hopes the US can remove its unreasonable restriction on bilateral cooperation as soon as possible, and refrain from artificially creating new ones. “We are willing to work with the US and set China-US relations on a new path of healthy and steady development,” he said.

On Taiwan issue, he said two sides of the Taiwan Strait must be and will surely be reunified, which is the trend of history and the collective will of the entire Chinese nation. He clarified that one-China principle is the political foundation of the China-US relationship, a red line that should not be crossed.

Stressing UN’s core status, he said that The UN is not a club for big or rich countries. All countries enjoy equal sovereignty and no country is in a position to dictate international affairs, Wang said.

Mr Wang Yi made it clear that the China-Europe relationship is equal and open, and not targeting any third party or controlled by anyone else. China never intends to divide relations between Europe and the United States, Wang said, adding that the country is glad to see the European Union uphold multilateralism and remain devoted to coordination and cooperation among major countries.

China opposes “vaccine nationalism,” rejects any “vaccine divide” or any attempt to politicize vaccine cooperation, Wang said. More than 60 countries have authorized the use of Chinese vaccines. China has provided and is providing COVID-19 vaccine aid free of charge to 69 developing countries in urgent need, while exporting vaccines to 43 countries.

Terming ‘Xinjiang genocide’ claim a thorough lie, he said that so-called claim of genocide in Northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region is preposterous, which is a rumor fabricated with ulterior motives and a thorough lie. “Some western politicians chose to believe in the lies cooked up by a few instead of listening to the voice of 25 million Xinjiang residents of various ethnic groups, Wang said, adding that they chose to dance with the clumsy dramas by a few anti-China forces instead of acknowledging the progress in Xinjiang,” he added.

China’s commitment in supporting the Belt and Road Initiative has not changed, and the country will continue to work with stakeholders to advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation,

Wang Yi said. COVID-19 may have changed the world, but the need for Belt and Road cooperation has not subsided, he said.

“As we pursue a new development paradigm, we will explore better pathways for Belt and Road cooperation and offer greater opportunities to BRI partners,” he added

On climate change, he said that Even though China and the US and the European Union are in different stages of development and face different challenges, they share the same mission in coping with climate change.

Wang urged enhanced communication and coordination between the three sides and that they play a leading role in the international community, he said, adding that China welcomes the US’ return to the Paris Agreement and expects that the US will shoulder its responsibility and make its due contribution, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/732877/two-sessions-china-foreign-affairs-loud-clear/>

### **Dunya News**

#### **Chinese ambassador meets Punjab CM Usman Buzdar**

LAHORE (Dunya News) – Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong on Thursday called on Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and discussed promotion of Pakistan-China relations, on-going projects besides enhancing cooperation in various sectors.

It was agreed upon to enhance cooperation in sectors, including industry, agriculture and technical training.

The ambassador praised effective measures taken by the Punjab government led by Usman Buzdar against the COVID-19.

The chief minister thanked the Chinese government for extending cooperation during the COVID-19 and provision of vaccine to Pakistan.

Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar invited the Chinese companies to invest in special economic zones where attractive incentives and facilities would be provided.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/591948-Chinese-ambassador-meets-Punjab-CM-Usman-Buzdar>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Choosing leaders the China Model**

*Farrukh Saleem*

Under the ‘Western democratic’ model, leaders are chosen based on their popularity and their ability to win elections. The ‘Western democratic’ model has an element of ‘showmanship’ built into it.

The ‘Western democratic model, at times, goes through an ‘elect-and-reject cycle’-Trump was elected, he did his damage and then he was rejected.

Under ‘The China Model’, leaders are chosen on the basis of their performance-not their ability to win elections.

‘The China Model’ is all about on-the-ground accomplishments-not just showmanship. ‘The China Model’ is all about ‘tried-and-tested’ as opposed to ‘elect-and-reject’.

Under the ‘Western democratic’ model, Pakistan’s GDP per capita went from \$371 in 1990 to \$1,284 in 2019.

Under ‘The China Model’, China’s GDP per capita went from \$317 in 1990 to \$10,261 in 2019. Imagine; in 1990 China’s GDP per capita was lower than Pakistan’s.

Under ‘The China Model’ all top leaders have successfully run provinces or province-level municipalities.

China chooses its leaders based on five key criteria: poverty eradication, job creation, local economic growth, environmental protection, and social development.

Imagine; China’s leaders “lifted 850 million people out of poverty with the percentage of people living in extreme poverty falling from 88 percent to 1.85 percent.” Pakistan has the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Pakistan also has the Political Parties Act, the Electoral Rolls Act, the Representation of the People Rules, and the Delimitation of Constituencies Act.

Pakistan has had 11 general elections over the past 48 years. In the 80s, Pakistan’s GDP growth rate averaged at 4 percent.

China has the Election Law of People’s Congresses under which there are direct elections at the county level and indirect elections both at the provincial and at the federal level.

The most important aspect of China’s elections is Meritocracy across the whole political spectrum.

China has been among the planet’s fastest-growing economies which grew by a factor of 19.3 percent in 1970 and an average growth rate of 9.5 percent through the 80s.

Pakistan’s constitution has a ‘separation of powers between the three branches of the government-the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary.

China’s constitution has no ‘separation of powers’ whereby all the three branches of the government have just one goal: equitable economic growth.

Pakistan’s democracy is exclusionary where there are high barriers-lineage and money-to-political entry.



China's democracy is inclusionary with 83 million members of the Chinese Communist Party, 650,000 Villagers' Committees, and 300,000 participants in the People's Political Consultative Conference.

China's political stability gave China economic growth-economic growth that has no precedence in human history.

Political stability in Singapore, South Korea, and Malaysia did a similar miracle for Singaporeans, South Koreans, and Malaysians.

We must admit that 'The Pakistan Model' has given us nothing more than serious political instability.

We must admit that 'The Pakistan Model' is not doing what it is supposed to do-lift Pakistanis out of poverty.

We must admit that Pakistan's democracy is nothing but a 'procedural democracy'. We need a model that delivers. We need political stability.

We need 'substantive democracy' that produces two things: political stability and rapid economic growth.

Pakistan's future depends on the leader we choose. Why do nations fail? James Robinson and Daron Acemoglu wrote a 546-page book titled 'Why Nations Fail' to answer that question. The authors tell voters to focus on three leadership qualities: greed, selfishness, and knowledge of history. Are our leaders greedy? Are our leaders selfish? How well do our leaders know history?

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party and President of the People's Republic of China has put forward 'Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese characteristics for a New Era'.

These are a 'set of policies and ideals' with two goals: to make China a 'moderately prosperous society by 2035' and to make China a 'great modern socialist society by 2050'.

We need something similar to China's ShangShangCe', the best of the best option-not Churchill's worst form of government'. We need something that is tailor-made for our needs.

If the economic wellbeing of the citizens was the only measure then China's ShangShangCe, the best of the best option, has managed to beat all other models known to mankind.

<https://pakobserver.net/choosing-leaders-the-china-model-by-farrukh-saleem/>

### **China added over \$25b in FDI to Pakistan under CPEC**

China has added over \$25 billion in FDI to Pakistan and created more than 70,000 direct job positions locally under CPEC this was stated here by Zhao Lijian, a spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry at a news briefing. This is purely a smear against China and BRI partner countries.

He categorically stated that the founding purpose of the BRI is to advance China's cooperation with partner countries following the principle of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, to help them develop the economy and shake off poverty, which is a human right they need more than any other.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-added-over-25b-in-fdi-to-pakistan-under-cpec/>

### **The Nation**

#### **China-Pakistan cooperation to be further strengthened: Ambassador**

LAHORE - Nong Rong newly appointed Ambassador of China to Pakistan in an exclusive interview with Daily The Nation and Daily Nawa-i-Waqt has stated that it is a great honor to be posted as the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, and to shoulder the sacred mission of developing bilateral relations to a higher, wider and deeper range.

He said that with the guidance from Chinese and Pakistani leadership, and through joint efforts, he is confident to expect a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

He further said: "ever since assuming post over the last 4 months, I have made friends with Pakistani people of all circles, endeavored to promote CPEC and cooperation and exchanges in various fields, and jointly fought against COVID-19 with great achievements made in vaccine cooperation. It is a kind of busy but fulfilling work, and I feel full of sense of accomplishment."

Nong Rong said: "as an old Chinese saying goes meeting a good friend for the first time is like having a reunion with an old friend. This is my first visit to Pakistan, but I feel at home. The climate and plants here are quite similar to those in my hometown, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in China. More importantly, I can feel the warmth of China-Pakistan friendship, as well as the high expectation for developing the friendship, both from the Pakistani government and people from all walks of life. Thus I have a better understanding of the term as "Iron Brother "for Pakistan. "

Nong Rong said, President Xi Jinping has said, Pakistan is a great country and is home to a splendid ancient civilization.

People of Pakistan are kind, brave, dignified and confident, with an indomitable national character, he said.

We in China have great admiration for the people of Pakistan, and have full confidence in the future of Pakistan and China-Pakistan cooperation, he added.

In his interview talking about Pakistani food he said he has tasted Pakistani food.

Pakistani cuisine is unique and the BBQ and naans are very similar to those in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, he added.

Urdu is a poetic language, and I'm trying to learn some daily conversations in Urdu. Everyone in the Chinese Embassy can say "Pak-Chin Dosti Zindabad", he stated.

Nong Rong further said: "The 70-year history of the diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan is also a history of the two peoples treating each other heart-to-heart, as brothers and sisters. We always say China-Pakistan friendship is higher than the mountains, deeper than the sea, and sweeter than honey. We firmly believe that Pakistan is a good friend, a good neighbor, a good partner, and a good brother. The Chinese martyrs who died in Pakistan to build the Karakoram Highway, the Pakistani police who sacrificed to protect the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi. These ordinary people with extraordinary stories all contribute to the shaping of China-Pakistan friendship. This year the two countries will organize more than 100 colorful events in commemoration of the 70th anniversary. On March 2, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Makhdoom Qureshi jointly attended the launching ceremony, and released the official logo, which raised the curtain on the series of celebrations this year. These celebrations will make all sectors of society in both countries, especially the younger generation, enhance mutual understanding, and further to promote China-Pakistan friendship."

The youth are the inheritors of China-Pakistan friendship and work for the development of the two countries, he added.

"In the past two years, the number of Pakistani students studying in China has exceeded 28,000 each year, ranking third among all foreign students studying in China. More than 7,000 of them have received various scholarships from China, ranking first among all foreign students studying in China. This fully demonstrates the unique brotherly friendship between China and Pakistan," he stated.

He said that in the cooperation of the social sector under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the two sides have specially formulated a scholarship programme for Pakistani students, which will provide more opportunities for outstanding youths of Pakistan to study in China and cultivate talents for the development of Pakistan.

We have 5 Confucius Institutes and 2 Confucius Classrooms in Pakistan to teach Chinese and Chinese culture, in the hope of helping the young generation of Pakistan to deepen knowledge and understanding of China, so as to consolidate the foundation for the friendship between the two countries, he added.

The Information Technology revolution in Pakistan is taking off and the market is huge, he said. The cooperation between China and Pakistan in this field has a solid foundation and broad prospects, he said.

In terms of IT infrastructure, the Chinese company Huawei has completed the laying of optical cable from Khunjerab-Rawalpindi under the CPEC framework, he said.

He further said: "Mobile Service Company Zong enjoys the largest number of 4G active users and daily data flow in the industry, and is building a 5G innovation center in cooperation with Huawei. Ant Financial participated in the launch of Easypaisa, Pakistan's first mobile financial service platform. In March last year, a new Joint Working Group on Science and Technology

under CPEC was established under CPEC framework. The two governments have reached a high degree of consensus on strengthening cooperation in the information and technology industry in the future, which is believed to inject stronger impetus into Pakistan's digitization."

He said: A friend in need is a friend indeed. China and Pakistan are true friends and good brothers and have a tradition of mutual help.

"In the face of the sudden outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, China and Pakistan have helped each other in a close manner. At the most difficult moment in China's fight against the pandemic last year, Pakistan immediately donated medical materials to China. President Dr. Arif Alvi's visit to China in March last year showed the firm support of Pakistan for China's fight against the pandemic. When Covid cases surged in Pakistan, China provided successive batches of medical supplies, provided aids to construct isolation hospitals, and sent medical teams. After China's vaccines were developed and available for purchase, the Chinese government and the military donated a total of 1 million doses of vaccines to Pakistan at the first time. Pakistan has become the first country to receive Chinese vaccine assistance abroad, both from the government and military channels. In the near future, the Chinese government will add another 500,000 doses of vaccines to Pakistan. China and Pakistan have set a good example of international anti-epidemic cooperation. I believe that China and Pakistan will finally overcome the epidemic thoroughly with joint hands. After the test of the pandemic, the iron friendship between China and Pakistan will be taken to a new high."

He said: The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Since its establishment in 2013, it has maintained a positive development momentum, brought in a total of US\$25.4 billion FDI to Pakistan and created 75,000 jobs at its peak. Even during the pandemic, CPEC projects proceeded uninterrupted, with no jobs cut and no staffs withdrawn, strongly supporting Pakistan's economy and people's livelihood. Currently, the two countries are busy preparing for the upcoming 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting. In the future, based on constructing and operating well of existing projects, both sides will further focus on cooperation in the fields of social-economic development, industry and agriculture, and strive to build a demonstration project for high-quality development of the BRI to better benefit the people of the two countries and the region."

"China sets this target considering current situations and development potential of its economy. In 2020, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, China took the lead in controlling COVID-19 and resuming work and production. China's total economic volume exceeded the 100-trillion-yuan threshold with an increase of 2.3 pc year-on-year basis, and becomes the only major economy that achieved positive economic growth last year. 2021 is the first year of China's 14th Five-Year Plan. Based on the "dual circulation" development pattern, China will implement the new development philosophy and build a new development paradigm with the domestic cycle as the mainstay and the domestic and international dual cycles mutually promoting each other. To achieve this goal, China has both confidence and capability. For a long time, China's economy has made significant contributions to world economic growth. In the

process of achieving economic growth of more than 6 pc, China will surely create more international trade and investment opportunities, injecting vitality and impetus to the recovery and growth of the world economy. Countries around the world, including Pakistan, will share the dividends of China's economic growth, he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/11-Mar-2021/china-pakistan-cooperation-to-be-further-strengthened-ambassador>

**March 12, 2021**

**Daily Times**

### **China to share its experience with Pakistan in producing organic food**

China is prepared to share its rich experience with Pakistan and other countries for producing organic food, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

In Pakistan, organic farming is still in its infancy stage with a very limited number of established organic farms. Statistics show that organic land only accounts for 0.2% of the total. Meanwhile, as the second largest producer of organic products in Asia, China may offer some lessons to learn in this regard. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the general demand for nutritious products and healthy food including organic foods has increased significantly worldwide, presenting enormous opportunities for farmers and companies to tap into. Ningxia Qinlaoren Agricultural Development Co., Ltd. is a Chinese wolfberry producer based in the northwestern province Ningxia.

According to the report, Chinese wolfberry is a kind of fruit and a major tonic herb with high nutritional and medical values, and it is also a key brand product in the region. In the demonstration planting base for professional cultivation of green organic wolfberry, quality is strictly controlled from seedling to plant growth. Farm manure is used instead of fertilizer. For pest control, physical methods are adopted instead of chemical ones. The company's products have been widely applied in healthcare and food businesses.

The organic babies' snack brand GOOD GOUT China follows the same philosophy throughout its production cycle. "In our range of products for babies, for example, some fruit puree or yogurt, instead of adding preservatives, honey will be used as a raw material to give it the sweet taste. Raw materials with high fiber and protein will be used, and anthocyanins will be added to prevent oxidation", said Offline Sales Manager Chen Qianying.

Amid the ubiquitous challenges posed by the pandemic, organic food sector in Pakistan is presented with rare opportunities. Data show that 70% of consumers choose to increase spending on nutrition products after the pandemic, and nearly 90% of consumers' expenditure on nutrition products has increased by 10% – 20% compared with that in the past. "Pakistan also has natural endowments and resources, so it is very compatible with the development of health industry", said Sun Jiangwei, Executive General Manager of Bio Growing (Shanghai), a company dedicated to probity businesses with products exported to 53 countries including Pakistan.

Since 2013, the healthcare products of his company have entered Pakistani market. In addition, Healthcare products from Pakistan made their appearance at the China International Import Expo (CIIE) 2020. “Pakistani enterprises can participate in more exhibitions to have more information exchange. “I believe healthcare products will have great market potential along the Belt and Road in the future”, he added.

Organic products are often regarded as a high-end niche market. In Pakistan, only few are organic farmers. The main reason lies in their premium price driven up by small, scattered production, which is a major factor constraining the popularity of organic food products. But Dr Farooq Khan believes that “if we do it on modern basis, as done by China and other countries, we will get better yield from organic farming, in turn, benefiting our economy. So in my opinion, such training should be promoted.”

In particular, if small-scale farmers are equipped with sufficient expertise, the potential of the small plots of land will be further unleashed, overcoming the bottleneck of conventional dispersed farming and packing. With the initiative of agricultural cooperation including the recently established China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform, Pak-China cooperation in agriculture is yet to make a big headway.

For more organic products to be recognized and welcomed in domestic, regional and international market, a home-grown certification organization that meets international standards should also be put in place to assess and label these natural products. According to experts, it will not only augment producers’ credibility and consumers’ confidence, but also hold the entire community accountable for environmental implication and food security.

When Bio Growing (Shanghai) entered the Pakistani market in 2013, the development of e-commerce platforms has been a tremendous boon. In Pakistan, a growing number of sellers are turning to online stores for direct marketing. The ongoing digital transformation accelerated by the pandemic will provide more solutions to organic practices and businesses, benefiting the entire agriculture sector.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/733485/china-to-share-its-experience-with-pakistan-in-producing-organic-food/>

### **Pakistan’s imports topped from China, trade increases by \$6.8 billion**

China topped the list of countries from where Pakistan imported different products during the seven months of the current financial year (2020-21), followed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore.

The total imports from China during July-January (2020-21) were recorded at \$6807.488 million against the \$5794.114 million during July-January (2019-21), showing an increase of 17.48 percent during the period, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by UAE, from where Pakistan imported goods worth \$3757.486 million against the imports of \$4179.273 million last year, showing negative growth of 10.09 percent.



Singapore was the at third top country from where Pakistan imported products worth \$1675.018 million against the imports of \$1286.728 million last year, showing growth of 30.17 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani imports from United State of America (USA) stood at \$1230.525 million against \$1223.338 million during last year, showing growth of 0.58 percent while the imports from Saudi Arabia were recorded at \$1191.853 million against \$893.916 million last year, showing increase of 33.32 percent, the data revealed.

The imports from Japan were recorded at \$706.255 million against \$674.435 million whereas the imports from Kuwait were recorded at \$675.303 million against \$621.348 million last year. During July-January, the imports from South Korea were recorded at \$674.386 million against \$421.962 million whereas the imports from Switzerland at \$662.149 million against \$342.305 million.

Pakistan's imports from Malaysia were recorded at \$660.723 million against \$580.803 million whereas the imports from Indonesia stood at \$608.554 million against \$618.412 million. Similarly, the imports from Germany during the period under review were recorded at \$605.963 million against \$553.895 million while the imports from Thailand stood at \$540.463 million against \$449.253 million. Pakistan's imports from Qatar were recorded at \$504.745 million during the current financial year compared to \$1101.932 million last year, whereas the imports from UK stood at \$447.564 million against \$429.315 million.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/733481/pakistans-imports-topped-from-china-trade-increases-by-6-8-billion/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China welcomes countries interested in CPEC for mutual benefits**

BEIJING – China Friday said it welcomes all countries and international organizations, which want to have mutually beneficial cooperation with China and Pakistan for common development, to participate in the building of the multi-billion dollar project.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, stated this while responding to a question that Pakistan has urged representatives of ASEAN countries to promote the CPEC, the flagship project of BRI launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

“As an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an open one guided by the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits,” he remarked.

“All countries and international organizations that support the BRI and the CPEC, and want to have mutually beneficial cooperation with China and Pakistan for common development, are welcome to participate in the building of CPEC on the basis of consensus and share the dividend of BRI cooperation,” he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-welcomes-countries-interested-in-cpec-for-mutual-benefits/>

### **The Nation**

#### **Nawa-i-Waqt Group countering effectively West's negative propaganda against CPEC: Nong Rong**

Lahore - A 12-member delegation headed by Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Nong Rong visited Nawa-i-Waqt and The Nation offices on Thursday and had a meeting with Managing Director Rameeza Nizami.

Host of issues were discussed in detail in the meeting which also include Pakistan-China strong ties and improvement in working relationship among media houses of both countries. Acting Consul General of Chinese Consulate Lahore Mr. Ping Zing Oh, Nawa-i-Waqt's Director Administration Lt-Col (Retd) Syed Ahmad Nadeem Qadir, and Marketing Head Bilal Mehmood were also present during the meeting. The Chinese delegation was accorded a warm welcome upon arriving at Nawa-i-Waqt office.

Chinese Ambassador Mr Nong Rong said it was his first visit to any media house. He said he appreciates important role played by Nawa-i-Waqt and The Nation for making the Sino-Pak relations exemplary. He expressed his gratitude for positive reporting about CPEC, carrying articles and giving ample coverage to the Corridor in its columns and editorial section. Mr. Nong Rong said he will extend full support to Nawa-i-Waqt Group for playing positive role regarding CPEC. He said Pakistan and China were on same page. Mr Nong Rong said Pakistan was the first country which received Covid-19 vaccine from China. On completing 70 years of friendship, foreign ministers of both countries participated in a function. He was all praise for Nawa-i-Waqt Group to counter Western propaganda against CPEC with its effective and complete reporting. In this regard, Nawa-i-Waqt Group and Chinese media had the same vision and they needed to enhance this cooperation, he added. The Chinese envoy said he will ask Chinese media to work in collaboration with Nawa-i-Waqt Group to counter negative propaganda of the West about CPEC. He said the stuff which the Nawa-i-Waqt Group will provide to Chinese media will be very helpful. Mr. Nong Rong invited Managing Director Nawa-i-Waqt Group Rameez Nizami along with her staff to visit Chinese embassy in Islamabad which she accepted.

On this occasion, MD Rameeza Nizami said Sino-Pak friendship was unparalleled and incomparable. "Both countries are no doubt iron brothers," she said. She expressed her resolve that Nawa-i-Waqt Group will continue playing its positive role regarding CPEC. MD Rameeza thanked Chinese envoy for selecting Nawa-i-Waqt Group for his maiden visit to any media house. She said safeguarding country's interests was policy of the Nawa-i-Waqt Group. She suggested a business festival to enhance trade ties between both countries

<https://nation.com.pk/12-Mar-2021/nawa-i-waqt-group-countering-effectively-west-s-negative-propaganda-against-cpec-nong-rong>

## **The News**

### **‘CPEC not a debt trap’**

Islamabad: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not a debt trap as all projects in the energy sector are investments and loans constitute only a small proportion of the overall CPEC portfolio, said Dr Ishrat Hussain, adviser to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity.

Dr Ishrat was speaking at a seminar on ‘Up scaling the economic activities of CPEC: opportunities and challenges,’ organised by Institute of Regional Studies here.

Dr Ishrat said that the Chinese loans were on concessional rates of 2.34 per cent. He observed that completed CPEC energy projects had already added 5,320 MW to the power generation capacity in Pakistan with an investment of \$7.9 billion. He added that a capacity of 4,440 MW would be added through an investment of another \$9.55 billion. He said that the total tally of all projects under CPEC was around \$52 billion. He added that plans for upgrading the transmission and distribution networks were already in the pipeline.

Abid Qaiyum Sulehri, executive director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, urged the government to save the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) from becoming what he called real estate zones without any operational/industrial activity. Citing some implementation issues with regard to the operationalisation of the Gwadar SEZ, he stressed the need for fast-tracking government decision-making with regard to SEZs. He also called for greater focus on technological transfer and research and development collaboration between Pakistan and China in the agriculture sector, electric cars, and digitalisation.

Dr Hussain shared that the Multan-Sukkur Highway had reduced the travel time from Islamabad to Karachi by six hours and with the completion of the Sukkru-Hyderabad section, it would be reduced by another three hours. He was of the view that the construction of the planned ML-1 railway line from Peshawar to Karachi would revolutionize the railways sector in Pakistan.

He called for dispelling myths and suppositions about CPEC through an understanding of the ground realities.

Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, Director General China at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, termed CPEC as a truly transformational project the real dividends of which would only be realised in the long term. He continued that with the increase in the power generation capacity, power outages in the country had already decreased substantially.

Hassan Daud Butt, CEO, the KP Board of Investment and Trade, highlighted the need for countering misperceptions about CPEC. As soon as the Joint Coordination Committee meeting nears, naysayers become active, he said. He called for learning from the Chinese experiences in China and elsewhere on fast-tracking the industrial process. He called for emulating the ink spot development model of China in which development is first concentrated in a few areas and

allowed to stretch from those over a period of time. He said that the inflow of investment would depend on the investment climate in the country and the ease of doing business.

International development and public policy professional Hassaan Khawar was of the view that the challenges to the up scaling of CPEC could be summarised in the four Cs of capacity, context, consistency and communication. Elaborating on the four Cs, he said that public sector capacity in terms of facilitating business was essential for attracting investment. He added that one also needed to understand the context in which the economy of Pakistan was operating, such as the national context of IMF conditionalities putting limitations on Pakistan. He said the regional context of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and its impact on CPEC also needed to be understood.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/802860-cpec-not-a-debt-trap>

### **Pakistan has only Chinese vaccine to deal with COVID-19**

ISLAMABAD: As the pandemic threatens Pakistan with the third phase, the government has so far received COVID-19 vaccine only from China.

It has not procured yet anything from the open market and is now awaiting more vaccines from the COVAX Facility, but it has not made any bilateral agreement with India in this regard.

Recently Indian media reports referred to Pakistan receiving vaccines directly from India while some senior officials here had also mentioned this.

However, when the matter was taken up with the Foreign Office during the weekly media briefing, the spokesman made it clear that there was no bilateral procurement agreement with India.

“Regarding the procurement of Covid-19 vaccine, Pakistan has not entered into any bilateral procurement agreement for COVID-19 vaccine from India.

GAVI, the international vaccine alliance, has offered provision of vaccine doses to several countries, including Pakistan, under its COVAX Facility”, he clarified.

The procurement and supply mechanism of the vaccine doses are undertaken by GAVI and not the recipient countries.

The spokesman said he did not have the exact details of the doses of the vaccine which were coming in and it was better for the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination to give the figures.

Meanwhile, Pakistan without naming India says it is ready to convene a SAARC summit in Islamabad, hoping that the artificial hurdles created to its way by a member state will be removed and the process will be allowed to move forward.

The spokesman says Pakistan is not averse to talks with India. “Pakistan has never shied away from talks and has always called for peaceful resolution of all outstanding disputes, including the internationally recognized dispute of Jammu and Kashmir,” he said.

After the ceasefire agreement between the two countries, reports have been circulating, saying the possibility of holding a SAARC summit is a strong possibility.

Pakistan, he said, is a founding member of SAARC and considers it an important platform for regional cooperation.

“Pakistan remains committed to the principles and charter of SAARC. We will continue working with the member states to build convergences and take forward the SAARC process for strengthening regional cooperation to achieve prosperity in the region”, he added.

The spokesman was hesitant to respond to questions regarding Pakistan’s procurement of helicopters from Turkey, which was blocked by the United States.

“Regarding the helicopter deal, this matter pertains to the Ministry of Defence,” he said. When asked why the US turned a blind eye when it came to India acquiring arms, the spokesman responded: “Regarding India’s acquisition of arms, we have repeatedly said that India continues to amass military capabilities and arms beyond its genuine security requirement, which is adversely affecting strategic stability, peace and security in the region.”

About Afghanistan, the spokesman said Pakistan welcomed the US efforts to re-energize the peace process and expedite the final political settlement.

Further details regarding the proposed meeting on Afghanistan under the UN will be shared once the official invitation is received.

The spokesman was asked to comment on US inclusion of India in the peace process. “As for India’s inclusion in the Afghan peace process, Pakistan supports regional approaches to solving the conflict in Afghanistan. At the same time, we need to remain cognizant of the role of spoilers. Unfortunately, India has not been a constructive partner for peace in Afghanistan.”

He said that it was important to guard against the detrimental role of ‘spoilers’, both within and outside Afghanistan, who do not wish to see return of peace to the region.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/803031-pakistan-has-only-chinese-vaccine-to-deal-with-covid-19>

### **Nawaiwaqt News**

**چینی سفیر کی ملاقات، کرونا ویکسین کا تحفہ پاکستانیوں سے محبت کا اظہار: شجاعت، پرویز الہی**

لاہور (خصوصی نامہ نگار) چودھری شجاعت حسین اور چودھری پرویز الہی سے چین کے سفیر نوگ روگ اور توصل جنرل لاہور پنگ زن گیون نے یہاں ان کی رہائش گاہ پر وفد کے ساتھ ملاقات کی۔ اس موقع پر ایم این اے مونس الہی، شافع حسین، منتہاہ اشرف بھی موجود تھے۔ جبکہ وفد میں میجر جنرل چن ونگ روگ، وزیر خزانہ زی گو سنگ، پنگ یں

فی، بانو زوہانگ، ڈویو، ڈوہانگ بنگ، لیوروی اور بان جن فوشا مل تھے۔ ملاقات میں موجودہ ملکی و سیاسی صورتحال باہمی دلچسپی کے امور اور کرونا وائرس کی نئی لہر پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ چینی سفیر نے چودھری شجاعت حسین کی خیریت بھی دریافت کی۔ پرویز الہی نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کی دوستی وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ مزید مضبوط اور گہری ہوتی جا رہی ہے۔ چین نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا ہے سی پیک نہ صرف تجارتی معاہدہ ہے بلکہ دونوں ممالک کی ترقی کا ضامن بھی ہے۔ چودھری شجاعت اور پرویز الہی نے چین کی طرف سے کرونا ویکسین کا تحفہ پاکستانیوں سے محبت کا اظہار قرار دیا۔ چین کے سفیر نے شجاعت حسین اور پرویز الہی کی محبت کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین ایک دوسرے کے لئے لازم و ملزوم ہیں۔ حکومت کوئی بھی ہودو نوں ملکوں کی عوام ایک دوسرے سے محبت کے لازوال رشتے میں بندھے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-12/page-1/detail-27>

**March 13, 2021**

**Daily Times**

### **Pak-China literary corridor to bring two nations closer**

Chinese Culture Translation & Studies Support (CCTSS) has paved the way for Pakistan- China literary Corridor to bring the two peoples closer by launching “Sino-Pakistan Translation Workshop”.

As per China Economic Net (CEN) on Friday, CCTV launched year-long activities to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between all-weather allies.

Xu Baofeng, Executive Vice President of Belt and Road Academy of Beijing Language and Culture University said that on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of establishing formal diplomatic relations between the People’s Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, CCTSS Sino-Pakistani Translation Workshop aims to further enhance the cultural exchange between two countries. This will also help to promote mutual translation and publishing of cultural works and deepen the understanding of our two peoples. “We are making efforts to make it easier for foreign readers to appreciate classic works from a different culture and have a better understanding of the essence of two civilizations”, Xu mentioned.

He further said that Chinese are always proud to say that China and Pakistan are iron brothers. Usually, the relations are described as higher than mountains, deeper than oceans, sweeter than honey, and stronger than steel. However, our understanding about each other is far from enough. “We seldom know that the Ancient Silk route was passing through parts of Pakistan, and Chinese traders travelled to Europe through Pakistan.

Around two thousand years ago, famous Chinese Monk Xuan Zang, made several trips to areas, which are part of Pakistan now”, he told China Economic Net. He further said that Cultural works translation and publishing would be an efficient way for us to know better about each other and deepen our understanding to bring our relations to new heights, adding literature and history will be our first consideration.

Meanwhile, we are planning to train young translators by writing textbooks and creating language training lessons targeting foreign learners. “Human history is recorded through



literature, whether it is an oral tradition or the legends written down. If the world needs one method to unite together, literature is the tie to connect the world. It's time to further strengthen the understanding of our two peoples. In addition to the classic works to help people know more about each other's culture and history, we want to stress modern literature, the one mirroring the reality of people's lives," he said.

Talking to the audience Prof. Engr. Zamir Ahmed Awan, Sinologist (ex-Diplomat), said Pakistani students in China should be equipped with in-depth China-knowledge and professional education; they can play a significant role after returning to Pakistan strengthen the existing cordial relations between the two nations.

On this occasion, speakers told that the workshop organizer, Chinese Culture Translation & Studies Support (CCTSS), is a sinologist and translator's talent bank. The platform has already gathered several talents of different languages, including Urdu. They further said that they want to discover and invite more of them to work together for mutual translation and appreciation.

A signing ceremony was also held to translate and publish Urdu versions of books such as "China's Rise in the Asia Market Construction" and "spring and autumn on the Sea".

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/733762/pak-china-literary-corridor-to-bring-two-nations-closer/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **China transferred technology skills to Pakistan through CPEC: envoy**

LAHORE: The newly-appointed Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong says China transferred its technology, knowledge and skills through the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train Project and other mega schemes launched and completed under CPEC.

"Through Orange Line and other projects completed under the China Pakistan-Economic Corridor (CPEC), we transferred our all technology and knowledge to people of Pakistan," he told the senior officials and train drivers during his visit to the project site.

"We think this way will be helpful for the economic improvement of Pakistan," he said.

This was the first official visit of the ambassador to the very first operational CPEC project in Pakistan. Top management officials from Norinko International escorted the ambassador to various departments of the project, where he inquired of the drivers about their ongoing experience.

He expressed his satisfaction over the running of the project and congratulated the entire team for managing their professional duties with utmost dedication and commitment.

Mr. Rong was pleased with the growing percentage of Pakistani workforce engaged with the project and the technical skills and training being imparted to them for their professional growth.

"It is a great honor for us that we, with our Pakistani brothers, are working very hard on various CPEC projects," he said.

Li-Chen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Norinko International, said: “We are humbled and pleased to welcome Nong Rong to the very first CPEC project in Pakistan that became operational on Oct 26, 2020.

“The project is a symbol of the long-standing Pakistan-China friendship that is committed to embracing a successful future through mutual support and collaboration.”

“We are determined to play a pivotal role in deepening these good relations between China and Pakistan and efficiently introducing the latest engineering marvels in Pakistan that can help modernize its socio-economic landscape,” he said.

The project is the first large-scale technologically advanced rail transit project under the Belt and Road Initiative and CPEC. The project was jointly undertaken by China State Railway Group Co Limited and China North Industry Co. Ltd. (CR-NORINCO), with a total track length of 27.1 km and 26 stations, including two underground stations, one at Anarkali and the other at GPO.

A depot is located at Dera Gujran which is the northern end of the route and another at Ali Town located at the southern end of the route. The one-way fare is Rs40 and the end-to-end travel time is 45 minutes. The government claims that the facility is being used by about 245,000 passengers on a daily basis.

It is the very first CPEC transport project made operational for public use. Around 10 million passengers have traveled through the Orange Line system since its inauguration.

The Chinese envoy Mr. Rong while speaking at a \$60 million textile unit on Lahore-Multan Road said Pakistan and China were not only neighbors but also brothers.

“After CPEC, Pakistan has gained historical significance as Chinese investment will create thousands of new jobs here,” he added.

He said since more Chinese companies were ready to invest billions of dollars in various sectors in Pakistan, the resumption of export of textile products from this factory, Pakistan’s foreign exchange reserves would also increase.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1612178/china-transferred-technology-skills-to-pakistan-through-cpec-envoy>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **MoU to promote Pak-China academic sciences faculties**

Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies Signed MoU with Pakistan Research Center, Inner Mongolia Honder College of Arts and Sciences, under the Ministry of National Education, the People’s Republic of China.

The MoU was signed by Ms. Farhat Asif, Founder President, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies and, Pro. Tang Jun (Richer TJ), Director of Pakistan Research Center Inner Mongolia

Honder College of Arts and Sciences, China. Mr. Asif Noor, Director, IPDS was also present on the occasion.

It is aimed at the promotion of research, academic exchange in order to improve and promote collaboration between the academic social sciences faculties between Pakistan and China.

<https://pakobserver.net/mou-to-promote-pak-china-academic-sciences-faculties/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Pakistan-China at the crossroads of history**

*Dr. Talat Shabbir*

An impressive virtual ceremony that was held simultaneously in Islamabad and Beijing marked the commencement of events across Pakistan and China to celebrate 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi formally inaugurated the event. Since the beginning of diplomatic ties, Pakistan and China have continued to deepen all-inclusive relations. Both have a glorious past, an all-weather cooperative partnership crafted for a sustainable present and having lived "vicissitudes of times and changes in the international system", look to a promising future. Their leaders deserve recognition for their invaluable contribution in strengthening bilateral relations and building an exceptionally cooperative friendship.

Reciprocity, mutual trust and all-encompassing cooperation have been the hallmark of this time-tested relationship. During last seven decades, Pakistan and China ran into regional and global political enormities but stood by each other on their core issues. Pak-China relations have always been reflective of the fact that China not only has profound understanding of Pakistan's position in rapidly changing global and regional political scenarios but has helped Pakistan deal with such constraints.

China is central to Pakistan's foreign policy. The cordial relations with China have served long-term objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy. China has always supported Pakistan in political, strategic and economic spheres. There is a measure of reliability that brings the two countries close. Pakistan has been in collaboration with China in a host of areas since the beginning of their diplomatic ties in 1950s, but the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has integrated Pakistan with China's massive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). CPEC, of course, shall help connect China with Central Asia, Middle East and beyond. Political China with a thriving economy shall continue to portend well for Pakistan.

Pakistan has become pivotal to China's politico-economic scheme in the regional and global context. Pakistan has attained an exceptional standing among China's several diplomatic allies. Chinese leadership acknowledges Pakistan's support for opening an air corridor and helping to restore China's lawful seat at the UN. Pakistan might still help build bridges if required. In Pakistan, China finds a reliable friend and partner who has been supportive of China in all its

crises. For China, peace in its periphery is vital for economic outreach and Pakistan emerges as a responsible peacemaker with stakes in regional stability.

On the eve of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations, Pakistan and China stand proud of their glorious past. Both countries have been able to build unique inter-state relations despite variance in belief system, political ideology and socio-cultural affinity and could build a relationship of great essence. The relationship that was diplomatic and strategic at first turned all-encompassing in due time. Coming a long way, both have entered into a partnership that is political, strategic and economic, based on shared destiny and common interests.

Today, Pakistan and China stand at the crossroads of history. Besides, global imperatives for both, there are regional drivers and domestic constraints. Also, there are detractors and spoilers on the lookout for opportunities to hurt the edifice of friendship built with years of efforts. These are important times for Pakistan and China. Both share a historic moment and should eye higher goals of shared future that has peace, stability and prosperity at its core. At these important crossroads, Pakistan and China must adjust sails and continue the voyage that not only has promise for prosperity and happiness of the people of both countries but for the region and beyond.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2289095/pakistan-china-at-the-crossroads-of-history>

### **The Nation**

#### **CPEC is important pilot programme under BRI: China**

LAHORE - China says it welcomes any initiative taken jointly by Beijing and Islamabad that supports the Belt and Road Initiative launched by President Xi Jinping and its flagship projects – the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. In his regular media briefing in Beijing on Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, and Zhao Lijian said the CPEC is an important pilot programme under the BRI and it is an open initiative, based on the principles of joint consultation, shared contribution and shared benefits. He said we hope relevant countries and international organizations can take part in the building of CPEC and sharing the benefits of BRI.

<https://nation.com.pk/13-Mar-2021/cpec-is-important-pilot-programme-under-bri-china>

#### **Chinese ambassador visits Challenge Textile Factory**

LAHORE-Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, has said that Pakistan has gained enormous importance after China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

During visit to \$60 million Challenge Textile Factory on Lahore-Multan Road on Friday, he said that Chinese companies' investment in Pakistan is likely to create thousands of jobs.

Nong Rong said that more Chinese companies are ready to invest billions of dollars in various sectors which will see an improvement in Pakistan's economy.

And with the resumption of export of textile products, Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves will also increase. The Chinese ambassador visited various sectors of the textile factory and appreciated the arrangements.

Karen Chen, Managing Director, Challenge Group, briefed the Chinese ambassador on investment in the textile sector. Employees have been provided with good pay as well as transport, food and accommodation. "After \$ 60 million Chinese investment, our group will now invest another 150 million. This company now employs 3,000 people," he said.

He said that land has been purchased for Challenge Fashion Export Park on Lahore-Kasur Road and work on it will be started soon. After construction of this fashion export park, 20,000 more jobs will be created.

<https://nation.com.pk/13-Mar-2021/chinese-ambassador-visits-challenge-textile-factory>

### **CCLS hosts China-Pak collaboration conference**

LAHORE -The Centre for Chinese Legal Studies (CCLS) at the Sheikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law at LUMS recently organized a virtual conference on the topic of 'China-Pakistan Collaboration in the 21st Century'. Attended by LUMS students and faculty, the purpose of this conference was to highlight the collaborative efforts of Pakistan and China moving forward, in light of recent partnerships in cases such as CPEC and BRI. The conference started off with introductory remarks by the moderator, Professor Sikander A. Shah, Director, CCLS, who introduced the panelists and contextualized Pak-China collaboration to set the foundation for the rest of the talk. Professor Shah focused on the importance of China as a strategic ally to Pakistan in all aspects of foreign policy. He explained that the conference is very timely as CPEC is entering into a new phase and thus, it is important to further study and unearth new opportunities for Pak-China collaboration. The esteemed panel included Dr Hassan Bashir, Political Scientist, Texas A&M University; Prof Li Xiguang, Director, Center for Pakistan Cultural and Communication, Tsinghai University; Mustafa Hyder Syed, Executive Director, Pakistan-China Institute; Dr Humayun Bashir, Nuclear Medicine Consultant, SKMCH&RC and Prof. Uzair Kayani, Faculty of Law, LUMS. Dr Bashir touched upon various subjects in Comparative Political Theory including the idea that Western Political Theory has historically been about the West, but the recent rise of China in the global order has made it impossible for the West to ignore the East any longer.

<https://nation.com.pk/13-Mar-2021/ccls-hosts-china-pak-collaboration-conference>

### **The News**

#### **Sazgar, Chinese firm to set up auto assembly plant**

KARACHI: Sazgar Engineering Works Limited (SEWL) has signed an agreement with a Chinese automobile manufacturer for the manufacturing/assembly, sales and after-sales service of passenger and commercial vehicles in Pakistan, a bourse filing said on Friday.

This vehicle assembly technical and cooperation with the renowned Chinese automaker is in addition to an agreement earlier signed with BAIC China, it added.

BAIC is one of the largest Chinese automakers that is set to make an entrance in Pakistan in partnership with Sazgar Engineering. The automaker is setting up a vehicle assembly facility in Pakistan.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected the progress of four wheeler project; however, it is hoped that the project will be completed by the end of March 2021 and would be ready to commence trial production,” the company noted in its last financial report.

The auto sector is consistently growing and has shown an overall growth of 19 percent during the first half of the current financial year. The company’s sales volumes of three-wheelers and tractor wheel rims have also shown a growth of 47 percent and 26 percent, respectively.

The government of Pakistan is playing a significant role in providing facilitation to the businesses to recover from the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertain economic conditions.

In this regard, various finance schemes have been introduced through the financial institutions, which are giving fruitful results so far. However, more remedial measures are required to be taken by the government for economic stability.

The company expects continuity in the growth of the automobile sector in the third quarter of the current financial year. The commencement of vaccination for COVID-19 in the country will create a healthier working environment and would also help achieve economic stability in the country. The company is hopeful for the rise in its sales volume and profitability during the next quarter. The overall industry sales during the eight months (8MFY21) marked a growth of 18 percent to clock in at 1.4 million units as against 1.19 million units sold in 8MFY20.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/803308-sazgar-chinese-firm-to-set-up-auto-assembly-plant>

### **Nawaiwaqt News**

#### **چینی سفیر کی اورنج لائن ڈپو آمد، معائنہ**

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر، کامرس رپورٹر) پاکستان میں چینی سفیر نوگ روٹنگ نے لاہور میں ڈیرہ گجراں کے مقام پر اورنج لائن میٹرو ٹرین ڈپو کا دورہ کیا۔ یہ پاکستان میں مکمل ہونے والا سی پیک کا پہلا پروجیکٹ ہے جس کے آپریشنل ہونے کے بعد کسی چینی سفیر کی جانب سے اس کا پہلی بار دورہ کیا گیا ہے۔ اس موقع پر نور کوانٹر نیشنل کی سینئر مینجمنٹ نے سفیر کا خیر مقدم کیا اور جہاں انہیں پروجیکٹ کے مختلف شعبہ جات کا معائنہ کرایا گیا۔ میٹرو ٹرین کے پاکستانی ڈرائیور سے بھی چینی سفیر نے اسکے دلچسپ تجربے کے بارے میں گفتگو کی۔ چینی سفیر نے اس پروجیکٹ کی کارکردگی پر اطمینان ظاہر کیا اور پوری ٹیم کو بھرپور خلوص اور عزم کے ساتھ پیشہ ورانہ ذمہ داریوں کی ادائیگی پر مبارکباد پیش کی۔ انہوں نے اس پروجیکٹ میں شامل مقامی تکنیکی افراد کی بڑھتی ہوئی شرح، انکی پیشہ ورانہ مہارت اور تربیت کے بعد ٹیم میں انکی شمولیت پر مسرت کا اظہار کیا۔ اس موقع پر نور کوانٹر نیشنل کے ڈپٹی چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر لی چن نے کہا، "پاکستان میں سی پیک کے 1 پہلے پروجیکٹ میں چینی سفیر کی آمد پر ہم انتہائی خوش ہیں۔ یہ پروجیکٹ 26 اکتوبر 2020 کو فعال ہوا۔ دریں اثناء چینی سفیر نوگ روٹنگ نے ایم جی جے ڈبلیو پلانٹ کے کنسٹرکشن سائٹ فیز



میں پودا لگانے کی تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ فیصل آفریدی نے پلانٹ کا دورہ کرنے والے چینی سفیر اور ان کے ساتھ آنے والے وفد کو ایم جی پی ڈی پلو میٹجمنٹ سے تعارف کرایا۔ اس موقع پر تیمور احمد خان نے پلانٹ کنٹرکشن مائل سٹون پیش کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahtore/2021-03-13/page-1/detail-32>

### پاکستان چین تعلقات اور امریکہ

پاکستان چین تعلقات کی بنیادیں بہت مضبوط ہیں۔ ان مضبوط بنیادوں پر تعلقات کی جو عمارت تعمیر ہوئی ہے وہ بھی بڑی مستحکم اور پائیدار ہے۔ خلوص نیت اعتماد عالمی امن بقائے باہمی اور مشترکہ مفاد وہ بنیادی اصول ہیں جنہوں نے دو "آئرن برادران" پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی کو تشکیل کیا ہے۔ پاکستان نے عالمی سطح پر چین کے مفادات کا دفاع کیا جبکہ چین نے بھی ہر عالمی فورم پر پاکستان کے ساتھ مکمل تعاون کیا اور جب بھی کشمیر کے مسئلے پر ویٹو کی ضرورت پڑی چین نے اپنا یہ استحقاق پاکستان کے حق میں استعمال کرنے سے گریز نہ کیا۔ چین نے ہمیشہ یہ کوشش کی ہے کہ پاکستان اپنے پاؤں پر کھڑا ہو جائے تاکہ اسکی آزادی اور خود مختاری محفوظ اور مستحکم ہو سکے۔ چین نے پاکستان میں ایسے ترقیاتی منصوبے تعمیر کیے جن کے نتیجے میں ترقی اور گروتھ میں اضافہ ہو سکتا تھا۔ اسی سلسلے میں چین کا شاہکار اور دنیا کی نظروں میں کھلنے والا پہلا منصوبہ سی پیک ہے جس کی تکمیل کے بعد پاکستان کی معیشت انشاء اللہ جپ سٹارٹ کرے گی اور پاکستان اپنے پاؤں پر کھڑا ہونے کے قابل ہو سکے گا۔ سی پیک کا عظیم منصوبہ صوبہ مغربی ممالک اور امریکہ کو بہت کھلتا ہے اور ان کی یہ خواہش ہے کہ یہ منصوبہ پایہ تکمیل تک نہ پہنچ سکے چنانچہ اس سلسلے میں مختلف نوعیت کے دباؤ ڈالے جاتے ہیں جن کا پاکستان نے مستقل مزاجی کے ساتھ مقابلہ کیا ہے اور چین کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات کو کمزور نہیں پڑنے دیا۔ پاکستان میں امریکہ نواز لابی موجود ہے جو امریکہ اور مغربی ممالک کے مفادات کو آگے بڑھانے کیلئے مختلف نوعیت کے حربے استعمال کرتی رہتی ہے پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات میں رخ نہ ڈالنے کیلئے ترقیاتی منصوبوں اور پالیسی فیصلوں کو التواء کا شکار کیا جاتا ہے اور انہیں عدالتوں میں چیلنج کر کے سٹے آرڈر حاصل کر لئے جاتے ہیں۔ چین کے مقابلے میں امریکہ پاکستان تعلقات کی تاریخ انتہائی افسوسناک رہی ہے یہی وجہ ہے کہ پاکستان میں عوامی سطح پر امریکہ کے خلاف جذبات پائے جاتے ہیں جبکہ پاکستان کے عوام چین سے دلی محبت کرتے ہیں۔ امریکہ نے ہمیشہ پاکستان کے مقابلے میں بھارت کو ترجیح دی ہے اور اسے دفاعی لحاظ سے مضبوط کرنے کیلئے کوئی کسر نہیں چھوڑی۔ امریکہ یہ چاہتا ہے کہ بھارت کو چین کے مقابلے میں کھڑا کیا جائے تاکہ عالمی سطح پر چین کا کردار محدود رہے اور امریکہ کی دنیا پر بالادستی قائم اور دائم رہے۔ امریکہ کی منافقت اور بے وفائی 1965 میں پاک بھارت جنگ کے دوران بے نقاب ہوئی جب امریکہ نے نہ صرف امریکی اسلحہ کی سپلائی روک دی بلکہ فالتو پرزے دینے سے بھی انکار کر دیا جس کی وجہ سے امریکی اسلحہ جنگ کے دوران پوری طرح استعمال نہ کیا جاسکا اور پرزے نہ ملنے کی وجہ سے وہ ناکارہ ہو گیا۔ امریکہ کشمیر کے سلسلے میں پاکستان سے وعدے کرتا رہا کہ وہ بھارت پر دباؤ ڈال کر کشمیر کا مسئلہ حل کر دے گا۔ امریکہ اپنے قومی مفادات کیلئے پاکستان کو استعمال تو کرتا رہا لیکن کشمیر کا مسئلہ آج تک حل نہیں کرا سکا کیونکہ اسکی نیت ہی درست نہیں تھی اور نہ ہے۔ پاک امریکہ تعلقات کے بانی اور معمار جنرل ایوب خان نے اپنی کتاب "فرینڈز ناٹ ماسٹرز" میں تحریر کیا کہ امریکہ اور برطانیہ دونوں یہ نہیں چاہتے کہ پاکستان اپنے پاؤں پر کھڑا ہو جائے۔ ان دونوں کی خواہش ہے کہ پاکستان امریکہ اور برطانیہ کا مرہون منت رہے۔ افسوس کی بات ہے کہ جنرل ایوب خان کے بعد آنے والے حکمرانوں نے جنرل ایوب کی سیاسی وصیت پر عمل نہ کیا اور امریکہ سے مسلسل بلیک میل ہوتے رہے۔ جنرل یحییٰ خان نے امریکی صدر ریکسن کے کہنے پر امریکہ اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات قائم کرانے کیلئے خفیہ اور اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ ہنری کسنجر کے مطابق جنرل یحییٰ خان نے پاکستان کے قومی مفادات کو بھی نظر انداز کر دیا۔ امریکہ نے پاکستان کے احسانات کے باوجود 1971 کی پاک بھارت جنگ کے دوران بھی پاکستان سے بے وفائی کی اور پاکستان کو دہشت گردی میں خفیہ کردار ادا کیا۔ امریکہ ہر گز قابل بھروسہ نہیں ہے لہذا اس پر کسی صورت اعتماد نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ البتہ امریکہ کی دشمنی بھی پاکستان کیلئے نقصان دہ ہو سکتی ہے جیسا کہ ہنری کسنجر نے کہا تھا کہ امریکہ کی دوستی اور دشمنی دونوں خطرناک ہو سکتی ہیں۔ حوصلہ افزا بات یہ ہے کہ پاکستان کے سلامتی اور خارجہ امور کے اداروں نے مناسب وقت پر یہ ادراک کر لیا کہ پاکستان کو اپنی خارجہ پالیسی متوازن بنانی چاہیے اور کسی ایک ملک پر مکمل انحصار کرنے کی بجائے دنیا کے مختلف ملکوں کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات دوستانہ اور خوشگوار بنانے چاہئیں اور

کسی پرانی جنگ میں کبھی شریک نہیں ہونا چاہیے۔ چین چونکہ پاکستان کا پر خلوص اور قابل اعتماد دوست ہے اس لئے وہ بھی ہمیشہ صحیح مشورہ دیتا ہے کہ پاکستان دوسرے ملکوں کے ساتھ بھی اپنے تعلقات کو بگاڑنے کی بجائے خوشگوار بنانے کی کوشش کرے تاکہ پاکستان معاشی طور پر ترقی کرنے کے قابل ہو سکے۔ عالمی مبصرین کا یہ خیال ہے کہ ٹرمپ نے انتہا پسندانہ خارجہ پالیسی کی وجہ سے دنیا کے عظیم ممالک کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات کشیدہ کر لیے تھے امریکہ کے نو منتخب صدر جو بائیڈن ان ملکوں کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات کو بہتر بنانے کی کوشش کریں گے ان ممالک میں چین ترکی ایران اور روس بھی شامل ہیں۔ امریکہ نے ترکی پر پابندی عائد کر دی ہے کہ وہ ٹی 129 ہیلی کاپٹر پاکستان کو فروخت نہ کرے۔ امریکہ نہیں چاہتا کہ پاکستان دفاعی طور پر مضبوط ملک بن جائے۔ قدرتی طور پر دفاعی لحاظ سے پاکستان کا انحصار اب چین کی جانب زیادہ بڑھ گیا ہے کیونکہ پاکستان کو یہ مکمل یقین ہے کہ چین کسی صورت امریکہ کی طرح پاکستان کو دھوکہ اور فریب نہیں دیگا۔ جیوسٹریٹجک لوکیشن کی وجہ سے چین کو پاکستان کی ضرورت ہے یہ کہنا بے جا نہ ہو گا کہ پاکستان اور چین کا مستقبل مشترک ہے۔ دونوں کو امریکہ اور بھارت کے عزائم سے خطرہ ہے۔ بھارت نے سوچے سمجھے منصوبے کے تحت بلوچستان کو نارگٹ کر رکھا ہے جہاں پر وہ دہشت گردی کی کارروائیاں کر رہا ہے تاکہ سی پیک کے منصوبے مکمل نہ کیے جاسکیں۔ اس سلسلے میں بھارت کو امریکہ اور اسرائیل کی خاموش حمایت بھی حاصل ہے۔ امریکی افواج چونکہ افغانستان میں موجود ہیں افغان طالبان سے امن معاہدے کی مطابق امریکی افواج کو مئی 2021 تک افغانستان سے باہر نکلنا ہے اس لیے امریکہ کو پاکستان کی حمایت اور تعاون کی ضرورت ہے۔ افغان امن پاکستان کے اپنے مفاد میں بھی ہے کیونکہ جب افغانستان میں امن ہو گا تو سب سے زیادہ فائدہ پاکستان کو ہو گا۔ مختلف ممالک سے زمینی رابطے بحال ہونے کے بعد پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع پیدا ہو سکیں گے۔ سی پیک کے عظیم اثاثہ منصوبے میں یہ گنجائش موجود ہے کہ دنیا کے مختلف ممالک ان منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کر کے معاشی فوائد حاصل کر سکتے ہیں۔ پاکستان کو موجودہ خارجہ پالیسی پر ثابت قدمی کے ساتھ گامزن رہنا چاہیے کیونکہ یہ کامیاب ہوتی ہوئی نظر آرہی ہے۔ یہ فیصلہ قابل تفسیر ہے کہ پاکستان کسی ایک ملک پر مکمل طور پر پورا انحصار نہیں کرے گا۔ خارجہ امور اور سفارت کاری کے ماہر اور مقبول کتب کے مصنف سابق سفیر جاوید حسین کے سٹریٹجک تجزیہ کیسے مطابق امریکہ چونکہ چین کے عالمی اثر و رسوخ کو محدود رکھنا چاہتا ہے لہذا وہ بھارت کے ساتھ سٹریٹجک نوعیت کے تعلقات میں اضافہ کر رہا ہے دوسری جانب پاکستان کے چین کے ساتھ روز بروز بڑھتے ہوئے تعلقات کی وجہ سے امریکہ تشویش میں مبتلا ہے لہذا ان حالات میں امریکہ اور پاکستان میں دوستی اور ہم آہنگی کے امکانات بہت کم ہیں۔ البتہ پاکستان اور امریکہ کے جنوبی ایشیا کے خطے اور مشرق وسطیٰ میں امن کے قیام ماحولیاتی تبدیلی انسانی حقوق کلچرل اکنامک کمرشل اور ٹیکنیکل شعبوں میں اشتراک کے امکانات موجود ہیں۔ جس کیلئے پاکستان کو اعلیٰ سفارت کاری کا مظاہرہ کرنا پڑے گا۔ بھارت چونکہ ایک بڑی معاشی مارکیٹ ہے اور بھارت نے عالمی سطح پر اپنے اثر و رسوخ میں اضافہ کیا ہے وہ سلامتی کو نسل کارکن بھی بن چکا ہے اور جی 20 ممالک کا بھی رکن ہے اس لیے امریکہ اور دوسرے بڑے ملک پاکستان کی نسبت بھارت کو ترجیح دیتے ہیں جبکہ پاکستان ابھی تک سیاسی اور معاشی عدم استحکام کا شکار ہے۔ پاکستان معاشی استحکام کے بعد ہی عالمی سطح پر اہمیت کا حامل ملک بن سکتا ہے۔ مقروض اور غریب

— ممالک ہمیشہ عالمی دباؤ کا شکار رہتے ہیں

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-13/page-8/detail-6>

**March 14, 2021**

**Business Recorder**

### **Electric vehicles: Entry of China's largest automobile maker facilitated: BoI**

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Investment (BoI) – the country's top investment promotion agency – Saturday said that it has successfully facilitated the entry of China's largest automobile manufacturer to bring electric vehicles in Pakistan.

During a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) committee meeting of Pakistan's first private sector JW-SEZ China-Pakistan SEZ Raiwind, BoI Chairman Atif R Bukhari said that initiation of the first private SEZ in Pakistan was a testament to the fact that government is fully committed to facilitating private investors for speedy industrialization in the country.

With an estimated Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of Rs 663 million and local investment of Rs637 million MG JW Automobile Pakistan Pvt Ltd was granted admission in JW SEZ, Raiwind, Punjab, as Zone Enterprise. It will establish Electric car manufacturing plant.

MG JW Automobile (Pvt) Ltd (MG Pakistan) is a joint venture between JW SEZ (Pvt) Ltd and SMIL which is a subsidiary of SAIC Motor Corporation Limited.

Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC) is a Chinese state-owned automotive design and manufacturing company headquartered in Shanghai, with multinational operations.

It is the largest auto manufacturer in China and the seventh largest in the world. In 2006, SAIC purchased the prestigious British brand "Morris Garages (MG)" and it is now marketing automobiles under that brand all over the world.

The BOI received the Zone Entry Application of MG JW Automobile Pakistan Pvt Ltd through its recently launched "SEZ MIS Module" which acts as a one-window for SEZs in Pakistan.

The module is designed to facilitate real investors, from all corners of the world, in getting admission into SEZs while ensuring complete transparency. Secretary BOI Fareena Mazhar said that launching of SEZ MIS Module is a leap into the digital future of SEZ-led Industrialization. She further said that BOI is undertaking all-out efforts to facilitate private investors to invest in Pakistan. Both local and foreign investors interested in Pakistan's SEZs can now simply register online and submit their applications that will automatically be shared with concerned authorities.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/14/2-page/873696-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **Pakistan-Sri Lanka-China: A triangular relationship**

*Muhammad Asif Noor*

China has remained one common friend and a binding factor between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, supporting both states and building the lasting friendship with a vision for shared destiny and connectivity hence creating options for prosperity, stability and security in the region and beyond. Quite recently Prime Minister Imran Khan made his important visit to Sri Lanka on the invitation of the Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. During this visit, Prime Minister Imran Khan invited and offered Sri Lanka to avail the opportunities offered by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar deep sea port- a crown of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)- to reach for Central Asian and connected global markets. This unique opportunity for Sri Lanka is to build its trade relations with not only with Pakistan but beyond to explore the possibilities of trade and business. CPEC as a flagship project of Pakistan and China connects

Gwadar deep sea port from Balochistan to the Xinjiang province through Gilgit Baltistan towards the grand BRI. According to one official estimate, there are 138 countries signed agreements related to BRI with ever increasing opportunities for the growth globally. This triangular relations between Pakistan, Sri Lanka and China is creating opportunities for the regional peace, security and stability that will help increase the chances for collaboration amongst countries on trade, investment, culture, tourism, defense cooperation, agriculture and technology advancement. BRI is considered as one of the largest overseas project initiative catering 64 % of the world populations, covering 138 countries and approaching around 30 % of the world's GDP. There is an estimated of billions of dollars of trade that can grow and transcend through these routes from one side of the world to another side. Two important lynchpins of BRI connecting important trade routes together are Sri Lanka's Hambantota port and Gwadar deep sea port in Balochistan, Pakistan. The two have connect these three countries into a shared destiny of prosperity through connectivity into a whole that will be helping Pakistan, China and Sri Lanka to not only create economic prosperity in the tumultuous region but through stronger bond of political and strategic partnership, will be creating spaces for peace, security and stability in the region.

Pakistan has fighting someone else's war of terror causing huge amount of our precious life and prosperities. We have remained the victims of the terrorism while facing it from the very front but still been blamed for it

After the advent of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013 and later announcement of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, was one of the significant initiatives led to revamping and rebuilding Gwadar deep seaport and BRI helped Hambantota port to being playing a key role in the maritime trade routes. Apart from other important energy and connectivity projects, Gwadar has remained crown of not only CPEC but overall BRI linking China to Pakistan and across the globe through its unique existence and geostrategic and geo-economics significance. On the other hand, Hambantota port became part of the maritime silk road part of the larger BRI framework and once this happened the port began performing part excellence towards Sri Lankan economy where it has injected nearly 1.1 billion USD in Sri Lankan economy, created industrial zones, hence made possible to have a stronger presence of Sri Lankan Navy in the region. Now as a result of this port and Chinese investment in shape of various projects including Colombo International Financial City near the port has made the game changing impact on the regional economy. When Prime Minister Khan was in Sri Lanka, he has offered to the country as an important partner in BRI to use CPEC to enhance trade and investment linkages from its port of Hambantota to Gwadar and reach to the Central Asian markets. Hambantota port has its significant regional important and is playing as a critical node to increase the maritime economic flow and transport. Both ports are creating immense opportunities for not only Pakistan, Sri Lanka and China but for the regional countries to explore the business and diplomatic possibilities to outreach towards new markets from far and wide.

In the overall scheme of BRI, CPEC has transformed the landscape of Pakistan from one side of the country to another with roads and networks, energy pumping into the economy, manufacturing growing, trade and economic zones have been set up in different corners. This impact is enormous as when the CPEC is in the second phase where the focus is on industrial development, agricultural collaboration and socio economic development, dividends of CPEC are seeping deeper in Pakistani household. This is creating immense gratitude and strength between Pakistan and China relations. While we look at Sri Lanka, a country earlier struggling with the economic, political and domestic stability with the support from Chinese investment and significant Pakistani strategic support has been able to uplift its society and economy to a level of stability paring with the regional countries. Through CPEC and BRI, the surrounding regions have enormous opportunities as it gives an interesting platform for over more than three billion people. CPEC is also creating new frameworks of interaction on the basis of economic connectivity regional integration and is having far reaching implications for not only Pakistan and China but also with the neighboring regions including Sri Lanka. CPEC is turning the BRI as the modern Silk Route into an economic reality. Both China and Pakistan are complementing each other in CPEC however any country acknowledging the BRI and its framework can join this future trajectory of prosperity. Pakistan will be a primary beneficiary country from the seaports and direct land junctures connecting different parts of the world and will help its economy to find launching pad for growth in terms of infrastructure, energy and telecommunications sectors. Through CPEC, Pakistan is now offering countries of the region including Afghanistan, Iran and Sri Lanka to join together and benefit from the new transformation ongoing. As CPEC is offering the global supply chains the shortest route to the world markets while on the other hand, this is providing Pakistani and Sri Lankan traders equal opportunities to connect to the world through BRI. There is huge potential for tourism industry in Pakistan that is equally complementing for Sri Lankan tourists to take advantage. With important historic sites in the region, there are gigantic openings for the tourists and tourism related enterprises to explore the opportunities to collaborate. Tourism is creating thousands of jobs for the people and significantly cutting down the problem of unemployment in Pakistan thus the connectivity with Sri Lanka and China will create further prospects.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/734303/pakistan-sri-lanka-china-a-triangular-relationship/>

### **CPEC: An equal handshake?**

*Syed Wajahat Ali*

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is transcontinental economic connectivity envisioned in 2013 by China's President Xi Jinping to "promote the connectivity of Asian, European and African continents and their adjacent seas, establish and strengthen partnerships among the countries along the Belt and Road, set up all-dimensional, multi-tiered, and composite connectivity networks, and realize diversified, independent, balanced and sustainable development in these countries."



BRI incorporates the developing markets of 71 countries in Asia, Eastern Europe, Eastern Africa, and the Middle East. 71 countries constituting more than a third of the world's GDP and two-thirds of the world's population are part of this massive economic activity through six development corridors. CPEC is an important extension of this initiative connecting the Arabian Sea with the city of Kashgar in western China.

There is a broader consensus that CPEC is positively contributing to the faltering economy of Pakistan by filling the capacity gap. The model is: provide ground, water gradient, raw material, regulatory concessions, and clientage to the foreign investors, get cheap energy, stimulate infrastructure, communication, manufacturing, and allied services. China anticipates revenues out of an emerging market. China's presence in the Arabian Sea will impact the economic, strategic, and geo-political dynamics of South Asia and the Middle East.

8 Coal Power Projects, 6 Wind Power Stations, 6 Hydro Power Projects, one 878km long Transmission Line, and 1 Solar Park together constitute 13189 MW-energy section of CPEC. 966-kilometer-long road network, expansion, and reconstruction of 1830 km-long existing Line ML-1 are included in the infrastructure section. Gwadar Port Development is the flagship project. It includes an East-Bay Expressway, an International Airport, Breakwaters, berthing areas & channels, Free Zone, Hospital, Technical and Vocational Institute, and a Smart Port City Master Plan-with a total estimated cost of US\$ M 694.

CPEC is an opportunity. The skill is to turn this opportunity into a tangible economic substance. What we need to learn is to unlearn the clichés

The engagement strategy for CPEC needs horizontal expansion. Local engineers, technicians, vendors need skills to design, construct, and operate such projects indigenously. The employment generation is a primary motive for a populated country like China to push its economic muscle out of its borders; nevertheless, a multi-layered skill-transfer mechanism established through academic and vocational synergies is important to transform CPEC into a sustainable win-win by reducing the technical dependence of the host country.

Recently, a one-day Business-to-Business conference was organized by Pakistan's Board of Investment (BOI). Sector specialists from the construction industry, tourism, technology incubation, mining and minerals were invited from both countries. The initiative is in the right direction aiming to expand the engagement strategy on CPEC. A broader administrative and legal framework can ensure a work environment in line with the scope of a liberal investment regime. The smooth coordination between the federal and provincial agencies would play an important role to expedite the trickle-down effect of this engagement in the post-devolution scenario-the 18th amendment.

Ensuring a level-playing field in company-to-company interactions necessary to establish a two-way economic flow. China has shown tremendous progress in industrial automation. For exploiting the technology explosion in favor of local industry, idea incubation, evaluation, feasibility, and networking are important. Board of Investment may initiate a more specific



liaison facility to guide foreign investors about the prospects of different ventures- a Central Business Assessment and Design facility.

Academia and policy think-tanks are the fulcrum for a long-term engagement strategy. Since 1978, the per capita GDP of China has accelerated at a rate of more than 8 percent per year. The major boost in per capita GDP was observed after 1978 economic reforms supplemented by rising in education level. In 1999, China devised the 21st Century Education Revitalization Plan, which constructed the prospects of national development on the foundations of research and technology.

Independent research collaborations between different working groups powered by the academic institutes of both countries to expound opportunities in research and development, technology incubation, public policy, mechatronics, and organizational management will seed the real transformation. Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, in consultation with the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms can devise a pragmatic plan to foster target-oriented joint research ventures.

Historically, the Chinese culture remained alien to the people of the Sub-continent other than those from Gilgit- Baltistan mainly due to less mobility possible across the lofty mountains. Cultural acceptability plays important role in framing a conducive business environment. Pakistan carries historical and cultural linkages with other foreign languages like English, Arabic, and Persian. Keeping in view the level of engagement, and to strengthen the people-to-people contact, it is pertinent to include the Chinese language as a proper subject in linguistic studies.

CPEC is an opportunity. The skill is to turn this opportunity into a tangible economic substance. What we need to learn is to unlearn the clichés. The choice is to remain on the client mode or to expand the collaboration horizontally to convert it into a sustainable, inclusive socio-economic development for the people of both countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/734298/cpec-an-equal-handshake/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **Efficient and empowered authority urged for CPEC**

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a webinar on Saturday feared that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) might become a debt trap if the authorities did not efficiently actualize the targets of the game-changer initiative.

Institutions, experts and the public at large are still unclear about the scope and targets of CPEC where the Pakistan government has committed billions of dollars to pool in on high rates of interest.

They said a fact-based narrative building is very important while the enemies and unwise friends are spreading rumors for their own vested interests and to malign the CPEC initiatives. A one-

window operation shall be the backbone of the agricultural and industrial phase of CPEC which should be handled by the relevant and expert human resource.

Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) organized the webinar. The panel of experts included Adviser to President National Defense University (NDU) and former ambassador retired Gen Raza Mohammad, who is a PhD on CPEC, former project director CPEC with the Planning Commission of Pakistan and presently CEO KP Board of Investment Hasan Daud Butt, NASCOM Director and former executive director CPEC Centre of Excellence, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Dr Shahid Rasheed, Director CPEC Study Centre SDPI Shakeel Ramay, development experts Dr. Zahoor Bazai (Quetta) and Dr. Khushboo Ejaz (Lahore), and executive director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed.

General Mohammad said CPEC was a ray of hope for the economic prosperity of Pakistan.

“We need to make the CPEC projects more transparent and efficient if inspired to achieve the targets and harness the economic benefits. A rational narrative is imperative to wipe off the ambiguity and rumors by engaging parliamentarians and media counter-offensive campaigns,” he said.

Hassan Daud Butt said 22 projects had been completed so far despite an 18 months delay due to political disruption.

“The federal government need to revive the monthly meetings of the CPEC stakeholders and the periodic meetings of the seven joint working groups to improve efficiency. CPEC is indeed a game-changer but it could be a debt trap if not taken seriously and worked hard to achieve the targets of the project on time. The CPEC authority shall have more powers and authority to combat the challenges and bottlenecks,” he said.

Dr Shahid Rasheed said CPEC improved Pakistan’s GDP to 5.7 per cent in 2018 from 3.3pc in 2013, and also improved the security situation.

“Covid-19 and political instability has marred the performance of CPEC in recent years. But a reborn of CPEC would bring much better benefits to the nation. Parliamentarians of both sides shall work in harmony for an inclusive CPEC authority that is much needed in its new phase to invigorate agriculture and industrialization around CPEC,” he said.

Shakeel Ramay said Pakistan needed to understand that it is one of the 139 countries that have signed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and in case of sluggishness the investors would go to other parts of the BRI.

“Speed of work matters in the international development projects but we are lagging behind the schedule of development because of very casual behavior. Unfortunately, the government could not project the economic benefits of CPEC. Rumors are in the air without any check. We need to have an empowered CPEC authority,” he said.

Munir Ahmed said only the strategic partners could understand the importance of the CPEC initiatives while politicians have no idea about the strategic and socioeconomic culmination of the project.

“Many have been projecting it as a debt trap. Every investment and loan has the capacity to become debt if not used efficiently. We need to develop the CPEC narrative according to its objectives and targets beyond the political scoring and vested interests of the individuals and the interests groups,” he said.

Dr Zahoor Bazai stressed the need to priorities the engagement of locals in the projects and also ensure environmental integrity through adequate Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1612354/efficient-and-empowered-authority-urged-for-cpec>

### **Chinese envoy visits automobile plant**

LAHORE: Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Nong Rong says China wants to see Pakistan as a prosperous country and the peoples of both the countries enjoy strong relations since long.

Visiting various industrial units in Lahore on Saturday, Mr. Rong said China continued to transfer its technology, skills and knowledge, especially through various projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“Chinese companies are also working in various sectors in Pakistan,” he added.

During his visit to the ongoing construction of an automobile plant, he was informed by the management that the plant would start production by June.

The management informed Mr Rong that the Pakistan government was extending all kind of support and cooperation to the company.

The plant is a joint venture between Pakistan’s JW SEZ Group and China’s SMIL, a subsidiary of SAIC, the largest Chinese automotive manufacturer, which owned the British car brand Morris Garages, according to the company officials.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1612317/chinese-envoy-visits-automobile-plant>

## **The News**

### **Pak agriculture presents opportunities for Chinese investors**

ISLAMABAD: As CPEC is embarking on the second phase with a focus on industrial cooperation, further opportunities are being presented to Chinese investors to deepen the ongoing Sino-Pak cooperative partnership, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

The Pakistani Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) in its 2018 Food Security Policy envisages nine agricultural development zones along CPEC to develop clusters and infrastructure by encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration.

The report says, land remediation plans under CPEC would help increase the efficiency and productivity of the crop sector by transforming low and medium yield lands into higher one by enhancing the seed usage.

Pakistan is one of the countries where China would build its storage stations and processing zones. This would help lower the significant postharvest losses in the sector.

Currently, only one-third of total demand is met with the available storage facilities. Investment in the private sector would not only help mitigate this supply deficit but also provide learning opportunities on storage knowhow among local farmers.

This potential transmit arrangement between the two countries will be beneficial for the local trading firms in both countries.

With the progression of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the establishment of the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform, Pakistan's agriculture is becoming a land of opportunities for Chinese investors.

Report from the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform shows that the agriculture sector in Pakistan displays resilience despite the impact of Covid-19, recording a growth of 2.67 percent, higher than the 0.58 percent last year.

The report added, Pakistan is the 12th largest country of citrus producer with an annual production of 2.5 million Metric Tons (MT) and an expected growth at CAGR of 2% till 2024.

In the past six years, fruit exports of Pakistan have been increasing at a CAGR of 4.4% which are majorly transported to GCC, Russia and Afghanistan.

Livestock contributes about 11.7 percent to Pakistan's GDP and has a 60.6 percent of total value addition in agriculture.

Pakistani livestock boasts rich endowment with the world's 2nd largest herd size of Buffaloes, 7th largest of Cattle, 4th largest of Goats and 12th largest of Sheep. Moreover, Pakistan is a meat loving country with per capita consumption of red meat of c. 8.4 kg per annum. With the increasing trend towards hygiene and rising middle class of Pakistan, this is expected to grow in the coming years. By 2029, both meat production and consumption is expected to grow by 25%.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/804111-pak-agriculture-presents-opportunities-for-chinese-investors>

### **Efficient and empowered authority urged for CPEC**

Islamabad: Speaking at a national webinar on Saturday, the experts feared that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) might become a debt trap if the authorities did not efficiently actualize the targets of the game-changer initiative. The institutions, experts and the public at large are still unclear about the scope and targets of the CPEC where the Pakistan government has committed billions of dollars to pool in on high rates of interest.

They said a fact-based narrative building is very important while the enemies and unwise friends are spreading rumours for their own vested interests and to malign the CPEC initiatives. One-window operation shall be the backbone of the agricultural and industrial phase of the CPEC which should be handled by the relevant and expert human resource.

Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) and DTN jointly organized the webinar on Saturday. The panel of experts included Advisor to President National Defense University (NDU) and former Ambassador Maj General (r) Raza Muhammad former Project Director CPEC with the Planning Commission of Pakistan and presently CEO KP Board of Investment Hasan Daud Butt, the NASCOM Director and Former Executive Director CPEC Centre of Excellence, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Dr. Shahid Rasheed, Director CPEC Study Centre SDPI Shakeel Ramay, development experts Dr Zahoor Bazai (Quetta) and Dr Khushboo Ejaz (Lahore), and Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed.

General Raza Muhammad said CPEC is a ray of hope for the economic prosperity of Pakistan that could play a pivotal part in the future known as the Asian century. We need to make the CPEC projects more transparent and efficient if inspired to achieve the targets and harness the economic benefits. A rational narrative is imperative to wipe off the ambiguity and rumours by engaging parliamentarians and media counter offensive campaigns.

Hassan Daud Butt mentioned that as many as 22 projects have been completed so far despite an eighteen months delay due to political disruption. Federal governments need to revive the monthly meetings of the CPEC stakeholders and the periodic meetings of the seven joint working groups to improve efficiency. The CPEC is indeed a game-changer but it could be debt trap if not taken seriously and worked hard to achieve the targets of the project in time. The CPEC authority shall have more powers and authority to combat the challenges and bottlenecks.

Dr. Shahid Rasheed said the CPEC improved Pakistan's GDP to 5.7 percent in 2018 from 3.3 percent in 2013, and also improved the security situation. The COVID-19 and the political instability has marred the performance of the CPEC in recent years. But, a reborn of the CPEC would bring much better benefits to the nation.

The parliamentarians of both sides shall work in harmony for an inclusive CPEC authority that is much needed in the new phase of the CPEC to invigorate agriculture and industrialization around the CPEC.

Shakeel Ramay said Pakistan needs to understand that it is one of the 139 countries that have signed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and we show sluggishness the investors would to other parts of the BRI. Speed of work matters in the international development projects but we are lagging behind the schedule of development because of very casual behaviour. Unfortunately, the government could not project the economic benefits of the CPEC. Rumours are in the air without any check. We need to have an empowered CPEC authority.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said that he was the one who proposed an inclusive and empowered CPEC authority in his interview with the China Global Television Network (CGTN) way back in May 2018. Only the strategic partners could understand the importance of the CPEC initiatives while politicians have no idea about the strategic and socioeconomic culmination of the project. Many have been projecting it as a debt trap. Every investment and loan has the capacity to become debt if not used efficiently. We need to develop the CPEC narrative according to its objectives and targets beyond the political scoring and vested interests of the individuals and the interests groups.

Dr Zahoor Bazai asked to prioritize the engagement of the locals in the projects and also ensure environmental integrity through adequate Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/803994-efficient-and-empowered-authority-urged-for-cpec>

**March 15, 2021**

**Business Recorder**

### **Income Tax Amendment Bill 2021**

#### **Several exemptions under CPEC proposed to withdraw: expert**

ISLAMABAD: International tax expert Dr Ikramul Haq has said that the proposed Income Tax Amendment Bill 2021 submitted to the National Assembly has proposed to withdraw some existing and many futuristic exemptions under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Speaking as a guest in “Paisa Bolta Hai” with Anjum Ibrahim on Aaj News, here on Sunday, Dr Haq explains that the exemption of Thar Coal project is proposed to be deleted under the said Bill. The proposed withdrawal of First Year Allowance in the Bill would hit many capital intensive industries, and many Chinese companies committed to come for many corporate-related benefits may reconsider their plans as initial depreciation on plant and machinery used for the first year has already curtailed to 50 percent. These actions will harm new industrial investment in Pakistan.

He stated that the government has retained exemption granted to the Chinese company operating in Gwadar, but the companies support to it will get no concession and pass the burden of the port operator. There was no need to bring a Bill effective from July 1, 2021 in March instead as part of the regular Annual Finance Bill along with the Budget for fiscal year 2021. The need for urgency is not understandable when the Bill has not to take effect immediately. No public debate and consultations are held with stakeholders likely to be affected by the proposed changes in the Bill. This is undemocratic as well as against the spirit of the Constitution, Dr Ikram said.

He stated that it is a matter of concern to withdraw exemptions granted to the successful Chinese projects. On the other hand, the income tax exemption available to the existing Independent Power Producers (IPPs) would continue and only new plants established after June 30, 2021 will be taxed.



He said that the government is continuing exemptions where they have their own interest, but some CPEC-related projects [considered as game changers] and also those to be executed on the basis of joint ventures between Chinese and local companies have been targeted. The sunrise industries with innovation, especially SMEs, are discouraged to earn billions of dollars through IT and IT-enabled exports due to cumbersome procedures.

He said that the government instead of giving relief to all industries and businesses, making them unviable to survive. Huge tax expenditure in income tax is due to enormous tax-free benefits to the big segments and not because of industries that are providing jobs even in difficult times.

International tax expert stated that it is a prior condition of the International Monetary Fund for release of US\$500 million to withdraw tax exemptions and concessionary rates. The same could have been made part of regular budget exercise to determine their overall impact on the economy and challenges faced due to Covid-19 pandemic.

He said that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for the first time gave item-wise analysis of the tax expenditure for 2019-20. Prior to this, there was a small analysis of tax expenditure as chapter in the Economic Survey every year.

On the sales tax side, the Bill has proposed to impose 17 percent sales tax on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) imports and its local supplies LPG from July 1, 2021.

The proposed Bill has withdrawn many tax credits. For example, the government has also proposed to withdraw tax credit to companies who are offering jobs to young graduates. The credit-based exemptions being withdrawn during the current situation of unemployment and Covid.

Dr Ikram stated that the IT sector is already facing heavy taxation at the time of input like 19.5 percent provincial sales tax; 12.5 percent advance income tax and 10 percent activation charges that will be promised to be reduced gradually. The Ministry of IT and other ministries are very supportive in view of futuristic challenges being faced by the IT sector.

International tax expert said that the FBR is still not able to clear Rs50 million refunds despite clear directions from the Prime Minister issued many months back.

It is unfortunate to see that the FBR is collecting 95 percent of its direct taxes revenue from withholding taxes, advance tax and tax with returns, and remaining 5 percent with their own efforts.

Dr Ikram suggested that a simple Inland Revenue Service (IRS) code is needed for the taxpayers to avoid repetitions and complications in various federal tax laws, except customs duty that should also be reduced to maximum of 5 percent. Where there is local production of the same goods, the regulatory duty can be imposed to protect domestic sector. A tax intelligence system is needed by curtailing the discretionary powers of the tax officials and facilitates taxpayers through one-window operation.

Chairman Pakistan Software Houses Association Burqan Saeed stated that the government intended to take IT sectors into the tax credit regime which has totally failed in case of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). It seems to be an attempt to stop this sector from further growth. The proposed tax credit scheme for the IT sector is so complicated that even chartered accountants have failed to understand the same.

He stated that IT & IT enabled service sector has given record exports growth despite the pandemic with 40 percent increase in 2019-2020 and is on track to exceed \$2 billion by the end of this financial year.

He quoted Bangladesh where the IT sector has not only been granted tax exemption, but also 10 percent cash rewards/rebate. On the other hand, the replacement of exemption with the tax credit scheme would only result in harassment to the IT sector by the Commissioners Inland Revenue. The IT sector would receive different kinds of notices by the FBR's field formations. The conditions to register with sales tax of provincial authorities and filing of withholding tax statements are unnecessary for this sector. If the IT sector is not being facilitated in taxation matters, people would move to countries like Bangladesh.

He questioned what would be the future of freelancers and small IT service providers who are unable to hire tax consultants for maintaining documents under the proposed tax credit scheme. Burqan Saeed stated that the documentation of the IT sector is evident from the fact that we have to first register with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), then Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and all provincial sales tax authorities. Besides, we have to register with the EOBI/social security/disability programme and operate under the provincial laws and pay local taxes like stamp duty. Now they are proposing income tax on IT and IT enabled services.

President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Nasir Hayat Magoo stated that the government should have consulted the stakeholders before withdrawal of income tax exemptions through a Bill. The FBR should have discussed the proposals with the concerned industries and sectors.

He added that the government cannot only rely on the five major export oriented sectors and need to facilitate other sectors as well.

The FBR should stop harassing the businessmen due to discretionary powers of the tax officials, said President FPCCI.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/15/3-page/873817-news.html>

## **The Nation**

### **China's largest automobile maker comes to Pakistan's private SEZ**

BEIJING-MG JW Automobile Pakistan Pvt Ltd has been granted admission to JW Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to establish electric car manufacturing plant in Raiwind, Punjab. During a

meeting, JW-SEZ China-Pakistan SEZ Raiwind on March 12, Board of Investment facilitated the entry of China's largest automobile manufacturer to bring electric vehicles in Pakistan, according to China Economic Net (CEN). The MG JW will bring Rs1.3 billion investments including FDI of Rs663 million and local investment of Rs637 million. MG JW Automobile (Pvt) Ltd (MG Pakistan) is a joint venture between JW SEZ (Pvt) Ltd, and SMIL, which is a subsidiary of SAIC Motor Corporation Limited. The BOI Investment, Islamabad, received the Zone Entry Application of MG JW Automobile Pakistan Pvt Ltd through its recently launched SEZ MIS Module, which acts as a one-window for SEZs in Pakistan. The module is designed to facilitate real investors, from all corners of the world, to get admission to SEZs while ensuring complete transparency. Chairman of BOI, Atif R Bokhari said that the government was fully committed to facilitating private investors for speedy industrialization in the country. On this occasion, Secretary of BOI Fareena Mazhar said that the launch of SEZ MIS Module is a leap into the digital future of SEZ-led Industrialization and added BOI is undertaking all-out efforts to facilitate private investors to invest in Pakistan. SAIC is a Chinese state-owned automotive design and manufacturing company headquartered in Shanghai, with multinational operations. It is the largest auto manufacturer in China and the seventh largest in the world. In 2006, SAIC purchased the prestigious British brand MG and it is now marketing automobiles under that brand all over the world.

<https://nation.com.pk/15-Mar-2021/china-s-largest-automobile-maker-comes-to-pakistan-s-private-sez>

### **The News**

#### **China eliminated extreme poverty: Governance for the people**

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan

It is universally acknowledged that one of the huge challenges the world faces is the eradication of poverty, which has become a common goal for all humanity. As the largest developing country in the world, China, through its own persistence and struggle, has won a complete victory in the fight against poverty on the occasion of marking the first centenary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) by accomplishing the arduous task of eliminating extreme poverty, thus working another miracle in the annals of history!

Over 40 years since China's reform and opening-up, more than 700 million Chinese people have successfully shaken off poverty. Especially in the past eight years, the number of people in China lifted out of poverty has reached averagely more than 10 million per year, equal to the population of a medium-sized country. So curious as to what has dramatically elevated the livelihood of the formerly poverty-stricken Chinese people, the world community wishes to decipher the very code behind China's success in poverty alleviation.

Unarguably, it is the strong leadership of the CPC that has played the most fundamental role in achieving China's success in poverty alleviation. Since its founding in 1921, while sticking to its

original mission of seeking happiness for Chinese people and achieving national rejuvenation, the CPC has strived to serve the people and rely on the people at every stage of development.

Generations of top leaders of the CPC have deeply cared about its people. As President Xi Jinping once said, “During my work of more than 40 years at various levels of Chinese governments, successively from that of the county, to the municipal, the provincial and finally the central, poverty alleviation has always been my focus which consumed most of my energy.”

After the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, President Xi Jinping called on the whole CPC and people throughout the country to participate in the cause of eradicating poverty under his leadership, and led the battles against poverty most largest and most fierce in human history, trying with the spirit of hammering nails to get the work concerning poverty eradication thoroughly implemented. In the process, millions of cadres and ordinary CPC members responded to the call actively, and worked in the front line for the projects of poverty alleviation, among whom more than 1800 comrades sacrificed their lives for this great cause!

In view of its national conditions, China insists on eliminating the root of poverty by abiding to the law of poverty reduction and by means of sustainable development. The development since the founding of New China, especially the rapid development since the reform and opening up, has laid a solid material foundation for poverty reduction. For more than 40 years, China has made unremitting efforts to promote industrialisation, urbanisation and agricultural modernisation. In the last mile of poverty alleviation, China adheres to the ideas of targeted poverty alleviation and development-oriented poverty reduction, in order to achieve a transfer in strategies from resorting to others to relying on itself. In addition, such attempts of empowering the people by building up their determination, helping them acquire knowledge, along with efforts of highlighting input in education are made to block intergenerational transmission of poverty.

China has benefited from the political advantages of the socialist system that can coordinate all resources to complete key national undertakings. It also advanced the initiative that those who get rich first should help others lagging behind. China has pooled a lot of financial, human and material resources on the main battlefields of poverty alleviation, established a top-down working mechanism from the central to the very grassroots level, the big system of collecting assistance from different regions, sectors, industries, enterprises or other sources in the society for this noble cause.

In the past eight years, the financial and social assistance from nine developed provinces and cities of eastern China to less developed regions alone have reached over 100.5 billion yuan.

So far no other country in the modern world can lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in such a short time like China, did in history. This achievement belongs to China and to the world as well. With these efforts, China has contributed much to the accelerated process of poverty reduction in the world, accounting for more than 70% of the global poverty reduction population, achieving 10 years ahead of schedule the poverty reduction goal of the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development adopted by all United Nations member states. Under the new context, China will effectively combine its efforts of consolidating and expanding the achievements of poverty alleviation with its new policy of rural revitalisation to cement the outcome of poverty alleviation and contribute more sustainable development of the rural areas.

Eliminating poverty is the common mission of mankind. President Xi Jinping has repeatedly called on the international community to pay active attention to people's rights of subsistence and development in developing countries, and make joint and unremitting efforts to build a poverty-free community with a shared future for mankind with common development. While promoting its own poverty reduction process, China has provided much assistance to developing countries within its capacity. For instance, by setting up "China-UN Peace and Development Fund" and "South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund", China have actively used multilateral and bilateral channels to help international cooperation in poverty reduction.

China has carried forward the "Belt and Road Initiative", making new contribution to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to the estimation in a report of the World Bank, thanks to the "Belt and Road Initiative", 7.6 million people would get rid of extreme poverty, and 32 million would walk out of the shade of moderate poverty. China will continue its unswerving support to developing countries in eradicating poverty through economic development and improvement of people's livelihood, to inject new impetus into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partner. China takes Pakistan as a priority in its foreign relations. Both countries pay high attention to poverty alleviation. Prime Minister Imran Khan himself has repeatedly emphasized learning from China's experience. He said that with determination and commitment Pakistan can do the same for its people.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. China will further promote practical cooperation in various fields between the two countries, actively share experience in poverty reduction, adhere to high-quality development of the CPEC, and focus on supporting Pakistan's industrialisation and urbanisation. China will also continue to deepen cooperation in education, vocational training and agricultural cooperation.

During President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan, he said, "When brothers work together, their sharpness cuts through gold." I believe that with the joint efforts of two sides, China-Pakistan cooperation will achieve greater success for betterment of the well-being of the people of the two countries, and help build a closer China-Pakistan Community of shared future in the new era.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/804649-china-eliminated-extreme-poverty-governance-for-the-people>

## Chinese company to work in Pakistan's construction sector

BEIJING: Chinese and Pakistani construction giants -China Energy Engineering Company (CEEC) and Zahir Khan Brothers (ZKB) Construction Company have decided to work together to explore opportunities in the construction sector of Pakistan.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the two companies, in a meeting hosted by Commercial Section of Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing, discussed ways and means to take advantage of up to \$ 3 billion of projects in road infrastructure sector to be available in Pakistan this year, according to Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counselor.

“They will also work together to tap opportunities in the special economic zone construction, and buildings for the new factories.

The estimation of the construction activities is around more than \$ 2 billion. So, the joint venture having a great experience in the building sector has also agreed to work together,” he told CEN.

Badar stated as both companies specialize in road construction projects, they have a strong record. Particularly CEEC has done many projects overseas. And similarly, ZKB has also played its role in the large construction projects in Pakistan.

It is to be noted that in the backdrop of the construction package announced by Prime Minister Imran Khan and a lot of growth in the construction sector, the joint venture and the memorandum of understanding between the two companies will enable their participation into many construction projects.

In Punjab, he said that there will be more than \$ 400 million worth of water related projects this year, and these projects will also be targeted. Besides, many of these projects are financed by the Asian Development Bank and other multilateral fund.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/804639-chinese-company-to-work-in-pakistan-s-construction-sector>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### پاکستان چین دوستی اور نوائے وقت

پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی کو 70 سال سے زائد عرصہ گزر گیا ہے۔ یہ دوستی غیر متزلزل، بے مثال اور مضبوط تر ہے اور وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ اس میں اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔ پاکستان کے دنیا کے بہت سے ممالک کے ساتھ دوستانہ تعلقات ہیں۔ حالات، واقعات اور مفادات کے پیش نظر کبھی کبھی ان ممالک کے ساتھ تعلقات میں اتار چڑھاؤ بھی آ جاتا ہے لیکن چین وہ واحد ایسا ملک ہے جس کے ساتھ پاکستان کے تعلقات ہر طرح کے مفادات سے بالاتر اور غیر متزلزل رہے ہیں۔ وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ ان تعلقات میں گرم جوشی اور مضبوطی میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ ہر موقع پر یہ دونوں ممالک ایک دوسرے کے کندھے سے کندھا ملا کر کھڑے رہے اسی لیے مشہور ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی ہمالیہ سے بلند، سمندر سے گہری اور شہد سے میٹھی ہے۔ دونوں ملک ایک دوسرے کے مفادات کو عزیز رکھتے ہیں۔ سب سے اہم بات یہ ہے کہ یہ دوستی حکومتوں کے تابع نہیں ہے حکومت کوئی بھی ہو دونوں ملکوں کی دوستی پر فرق نہیں پڑتا۔ ان کے دوست اور دشمن سناچے ہیں۔



بہی وجہ ہے کہ یہ دوستی بہت سے کھلے دشمنوں اور دوست نماد دشمنوں کو بہت کھٹکتی ہے اور وہ اس دوستی کے خلاف پروپیگنڈا جاری رکھے ہوئے ہیں۔ دوستوں کے انتخاب کے معاملے میں پاکستانی قیادتوں سے کئی غلطیاں ہوئی ہیں یا یوں کہہ لیں کہ کچھ ممالک نے پاکستان کو دوستی کے نام پر بہت دھوکے دیئے ہیں۔ یعنی لگائیں کہیں اور نبھائیں کہیں۔ جس سے پاکستان کو بہت نقصان پہنچا۔ لیکن شکر ہے کہ اب پاکستان کچھ عرصے سے ان دوست نماد دشمنوں کو پہچان گیا ہے اور اب واضح اور دو ٹوک خارجہ پالیسی پر عمل پیرا ہے۔ پاکستان کی اسٹیبلشمنٹ کا اس حوالے سے نہایت اہم اور مثبت کردار ہے۔ یوں کہنا سجاہو گا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات حکومتی یا سیاسی سطح کے نہیں بلکہ قومی سطح کے ہیں۔ جب بھی کسی

ملک نے پاکستان کو نقصان پہنچانے کی کوشش کی تو چین بڑے بھائی کی طرح پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا ہو گیا اور بر ملا اعلان کیا کہ پاکستان کے مفادات یا سرحدات پر حملہ چین پر حملہ تصور کیا جائے گا۔ کشمیر کے مسئلے پر بھی چین نے ہمیشہ پاکستان کے اصولی موقف کی حمایت کی ہے۔ کووڈ 19 کی وباء کے دوران جس طرح چین نے پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا اور مفت ویکسین فراہم کی وہ قابل تحسین ہے۔ اسی طرح پاکستان نے بھی علاقائی یا عالمی سطح پر ہمیشہ چین کا ساتھ دیا۔

پاک چائنا کانٹراکٹ کو ریڈور ایسا منصوبہ ہے جس سے خطے کی نقدیر بدل جائے گی اور بہت سے ممالک اس سے استفادہ کریں گے لیکن یہ عظیم منصوبہ بہت سے ممالک کی نظروں میں کھٹکتا ہے اور اس کے خلاف بھرپور پروپیگنڈہ کیا جا رہا ہے لیکن پاکستان تمام تر مخالفت اور مشکلات کے باوجود سی پیک کی تکمیل کے لیے پُر عزم ہے۔ اور اس نے کسی بھی ملک کا دباؤ قبول کرنے سے انکار کر دیا ہے۔

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دوستی کے فروغ اور سی پیک کے خلاف پروپیگنڈے کے توڑ میں نوائے وقت گروپ کا کردار بھی بہت اہم ہے۔ نوائے وقت جس نے ہمیشہ قومی مفادات کو عزیز رکھا پاک چین تعلقات کو بھی بڑی اہمیت دیتا ہے کیونکہ یہ سمجھتا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کا سچا اور کھرا دوست ہے۔ اگرچہ دنیا کے تمام ممالک دوسرے ملکوں سے تعلقات اور خارجہ پالیسی میں اپنے ملکی مفادات کو عزیز رکھتے ہیں لیکن اصل دوست وہی ہوتے ہیں جو صرف اپنے ہی نہیں دوست ممالک کے مفادات اور خودداری کو بھی اہمیت دیتے ہیں۔

آبروئے صحافت مجید نظامی بھی پاکستان چین دوستی کے حامی تھے۔ مجھے یاد ہے چند برس قبل چین سے ایک اعلیٰ سطح کا وفد آیا تھا جس میں وہاں کے کئی صحافی بھی شامل تھے تو انہوں نے مجید نظامی ہال میں ان کے ساتھ خصوصی نشست کا اہتمام کیا تھا جس میں نوائے وقت کی تمام جلی کیشنز کے ایڈیٹرز کو بھی شریک کیا تھا اور باہمی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا تھا۔ اس موقع پر مجید نظامی نے چینی وفد کو مشورہ دیا تھا کہ اگر وہ دنیا کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات کو وسیع کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو انہیں انگریزی اور دیگر زبانیں بھی سیکھنا ہوں گی۔ جناب مجید نظامی کے بعد محترمہ رمیزہ نظامی کی قیادت میں نوائے وقت گروپ پاک چین دوستی کے حوالے سے پہلے سے بھی زیادہ موثر کردار ادا کر رہا ہے۔ سی پیک کے خلاف مہم کا مدلل اور بھرپور جواب دے رہا ہے۔ لیفٹیننٹ کرنل (ر) سید احمد ندیم قادری نہایت عرق ریزی سے تحقیق کر کے سی پیک کے حوالے سے سلسلہ وار مضامین لکھ رہے ہیں۔ راقم نے 2011ء میں ماہنامہ ”پھول“ کا خصوصی شمارہ ”پاک چین دوستی نمبر“ شائع کیا تھا جس میں دونوں ممالک کے ادیبوں کی تحریروں شامل کی گئی تھیں اس سے پاکستان کی نئی نسل کو چین کے بارے میں مزید جاننے کا موقع ملا تھا۔ اکتوبر 2020ء میں چین کے قومی دن کے حوالے سے نوائے وقت، دی نیشن، ہفت روزہ، فیملی میگزین، ہفت روزہ ندائے ملت اور ماہنامہ پھول میں خصوصی مضامین شائع کئے گئے تھے۔ محترمہ رمیزہ نظامی نے پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر مسٹر لونگ لونگ سے ملاقات پر پاک چین میڈیا ریلیشن شپ کے حوالے سے مفید تجاویز پیش کیں جنہیں چینی سفیر نے پسند کیا اور ان پر عمل درآمد کی یقین دہانی کروائی۔

پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی میں مزید اضافے کے لیے ضروری ہے کہ عوامی سطح پر بھی دونوں ممالک کے درمیان رابطوں کو مضبوط بنایا جائے۔ صحافیوں، ادیبوں، شاعروں، ثقافتی اور سماجی نمائندوں کے وفد کے دوروں کا اہتمام کیا جائے۔ پاکستان میں چینی زبان اور چین میں اردو زبان کی تدریس کے زیادہ سے زیادہ مراکز قائم کیے جائیں۔ چینی حکام

پاکستان میں شاید سیکورٹی مسائل کی وجہ سے عوامی رابطوں سے گریزاں یا محتاط ہیں۔ اس کے ازالے کے لیے ضروری ہے کہ سفارت خانہ اور قونصلیٹ ثقافتی تقاریب کے انعقاد پر توجہ دے۔ صحافتی سطح پر نیوز رپورٹس اور تجزیاتی مضامین کا تبادلہ کیا جائے۔ دونوں ممالک ایک دوسرے ملک کے افسانوں، ناولوں اور شاعری کے تراجم شائع کریں۔ تاکہ دونوں ممالک کے عوام ایک دوسرے کے ادب، ادیبوں، ثقافت اور تہذیب کو بہتر انداز سے سمجھ سکیں۔ پائیدار دوستی کے لیے ضروری ہے دونوں ملکوں کے بچوں کے ادب کو اُردو اور چینی زبان میں تراجم کروا کر بچوں کے رسائل میں یا کتابوں کی صورت میں شائع کروا کر تعلیمی اداروں اور لائبریریوں میں فراہم کیا جائے جو بچے یہ لٹریچر پڑھیں گے وہ مستقبل میں پاک چین دوستی کو مضبوط بنانے میں معاون ثابت ہوں گے۔ اسی طرح فلموں اور ڈراموں کی ڈبنگ کر کے ان کا تبادلہ کیا جائے۔ تاکہ ثقافتی تعلقات فروغ پائیں۔

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان باہمی تعاون اور معاشی ترقی و خوشحالی کے وسیع امکانات موجود ہیں دیکھنا یہ ہے دونوں ممالک ان سے کتنا فائدہ اٹھاتے ہیں۔ اُمید ہے قدرت نے جو مواقع فراہم کیے ہیں وہ اسے ضائع نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ اور دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات ہمیشہ اسی طرح غیر متزلزل، پائیدار اور مثالی رہیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahtore/2021-03-15/page-8/detail-8>