For Better Understanding on

China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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January 01, 2025

Pakistan Observer

Unveiling CPEC: Opportunities, Challenges, and Propaganda

Dr Zabir Saeed Badar

It is extremely encouraging news that the first freight container from China has arrived in Pakistan under the CPEC agreement. CPEC is undoubtedly a game-changer, yet it seems that many still find it hard to believe in its potential. This is primarily due to some international forces that do not view this monumental project favourably. From the very inception of this project, attempts were made to create situations in Pakistan that led to the cancellation of the Chinese President's visit. Since then, various pressures have been exerted on CPEC, both internally and externally.

Efforts were made to overthrow governments that viewed CPEC as a cornerstone of Pakistan's development. Politicians who stood firm against global pressures and succeeded in executing this agreement with China were sidelined. Additionally, campaigns against CPEC were launched, articles were published opposing it, and even attacks were carried out on Chinese nationals—all part of a conspiracy to sabotage this grand project. However, it is commendable that China has always stood by Pakistan on this front.

Now is the time for Pakistan to make a clear and resolute decision about its direction and priorities. There is no doubt that international circumstances have been engineered to create skepticism and opposition to CPEC, both within and outside Pakistan. Propaganda has been spread, claiming that CPEC could turn Pakistan into a colony of China. This narrative has been widely circulated in the media during the previous government's tenure, leading to doubts among the younger generation about this project.

However, those spreading such misinformation are against Pakistan's progress. They are people who, without proper research, become part of any propaganda campaign. Despite the clear guidance in our religion to verify information before passing it on, social media in our country has become a free-for-all, rife with vulgarity and baseless narratives. The government has taken strict measures to curb such practices, causing inconvenience to internet users. While these measures have been criticized, the unregulated use of social media has fostered ignorance and falsehood, becoming part of anti-Pakistan propaganda.

Similar propaganda has targeted CPEC. Yet, the majority of Pakistanis and intellectuals recognize its importance and benefits. We must collectively strive to make this grand project a success. It is not just China's interest at stake, as some have claimed in the past, but it benefits Pakistan and the entire region. The opposition to Pakistan's development is well-known, and such elements have worked to destabilize regions like Balochistan, launching organized campaigns to create a negative perception internationally. These campaigns trace back to countries and entities that are inherently unhappy with Pakistan's progress, including neighbouring countries with vested interests.

Under the New World Order, a paradigm shift is occurring. The Middle East is undergoing rapid change, while the United States, Russia and China pursue their respective interests. The

friendship between Pakistan and China is a global example of strong bilateral ties. China has always supported Pakistan, especially when we have felt isolated in the international community—a fact repeatedly acknowledged by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Under CPEC, China is investing $62 billion in Pakistan across infrastructure, agriculture, energy and water projects. This project is a vital component of China's Belt and Road Initiative, which began in 2013 during the PML-N government. In April 2015, both countries signed agreements worth $46 billion on 51 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). A long-term framework was signed in November 2017, extending from 2017 to 2030, divided into three phases: the first to be completed by 2020, the second by 2025 and the third by 2030.

CPEC, referred to as "One Plus Four," includes four major components: Gwadar Port, energy, communication infrastructure and industrial zones. It aims to generate 17,045 MW of electricity, improve road and railway networks, establish new optical fibre connections, enhance ports like Gwadar and promote trade. Of the $19 billion invested so far, 27 projects have been completed, while 63 projects worth $35 billion are in progress. In Gwadar, three port projects and six welfare initiatives have already been completed.

CPEC is said to have provided Pakistan with unprecedented economic opportunities, serving as an engine of economic growth and potentially increasing Pakistan's GDP growth rate by 2-3%. With the efforts of the current government, CPEC has entered its second phase, focusing on industrial and agricultural cooperation, Gwadar's development and socio-economic progress. Efforts are underway to accelerate its pace.

This is the time for Pakistanis to understand the importance of CPEC. It is not merely China's program but has the potential to propel Pakistan's economic growth at a jet speed. Unfortunately, the lack of effective policymaking and internal collaboration has hindered its progress. Many within the country have aligned themselves with forces opposed to CPEC. However, we must unite and work under one flag for Pakistan's development. This vision aligns with the ideals of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, China is emerging as a superpower. Naturally, the existing superpower does not wish to see its hegemony challenged. It is encouraging that China has always respected Pakistan's foreign policy. Meanwhile, the US is taking measures that may force Pakistan to adopt a clear and decisive stance. While the US has hinted at imposing sanctions, Pakistan must remain resolute. The country's strategic importance is undeniable and destabilizing Pakistan serves no one's interests.

The government believes that CPEC Phase-II will bring great opportunities in sectors like agriculture, IT and minerals. However, Pakistan has faced deep polarization over the years which the media can help reduce. Teachers also have a key role in shaping young minds and preparing future generations. Schools and colleges can help students understand the importance of CPEC. If the media shares accurate information, it will create informed opinion leaders and educators are ideal for this role. Media is a game changer that can unite the nation and promote CPEC's benefits effectively. https://pakobserver.net/unveiling-cpec-opportunities-challenges-and-propaganda/

CPEC & BRI in 2024: Progress and Setbacks

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

China's mega development projects, namely the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its flagship CPEC, witnessed both progress and setbacks in 2024. These developments highlighted the global spillover socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic ramifications of Western powers persistently implementing decoupling and delinking notions, political hyping, media smearing, unilateral economic, business, investment and technological sanctions, alongside the ongoing theory of China's economic collapse.

Moreover, ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and Israel-Palestine war extended to Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and Iran have slowed down pace of the BRI in the greater Eurasian region and Middle East. On the other hand, CPEC development witnessed a snail pace because of severe terrorism in the country putting the Chinese workers and projects under constant threats, especially in Balochistan, Gwadar, KP and many other parts of the country. It was further aggravated by political instability, social disharmony and widening disagreement among the important organs of the state conveying confusing signals to international community and investors alike.

Only one mega project of hydropower namely the Suki Kinari was completed on September 13, 2024. The project is an 884-megawatt hydropower station located on the Kunhar River in the Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan. Moreover, the virtual inauguration of the Gwadar Airport did not portray the real strategic scope, utility and importance and its frequently changing dates of complete operationalization became a laughing stock in the international media.

Most recently Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif termed the New Gwadar International Airport as a shining symbol of the great friendship between China and Pakistan but again it has been eclipsed by changing its operations. However, now it is decided to start its flight operations on January 10, 2025.

It is true that the CPEC has entered into its second phase during 2024, projecting valuable contribution in terms of economic stability, industrial sustainability, qualitative infrastructure development, elimination of poverty, generation of new jobs, further development of the renewables (wind, solar) and, last but not the least, community and social development in different parts of the country.

However, it has not yet been accelerated and commenced because of widening gaps on sensitive issues of the safety and security of the Chinese workers and the protection of CPEC projects in the country. Despite close liaison at the highest level from both sides, still no concrete capacity building mechanism, joint operation or hybrid security system eradicating menace of terrorism in the country keeping the Chinese investors and businessmen at bay from the country.

Indecisiveness on rail modernization and transformation under ML-1 was one of the biggest setbacks to the country's logistics and integrated transport system. It preyed on political whims & wishes, bureaucratic hurdles, professional incompetency of various ministries and,

notably, lack of financial arrangements because of the direct pressure from the IMF and the World Bank along with hidden diplomatic displeasures during 2024.

It is pertinent to mention that the total installed capacity of the 14 energy projects under CPEC have been operationalized which accounts for about 1/5 of the total installed power capacity of Pakistan. The units of the SK Hydropower Station have been connected to the grid to generate electricity which has become a value addition.

According to many published reports and official data, China had invested US$25.4 billion in direct projects in Pakistan, creating 236,000 jobs, generating 8,000 megawatts of electricity, and building 510 kilometers of highways and 886 km of the national electricity grid. Also, about 28,000 Pakistani students were studying in China and more than 20,000 Pakistanis were learning Chinese.

It augurs well that China has continued to advance mutually beneficial initiatives, particularly the BRI and the expansion of the BRICS group, as key tools for promoting global stability and peace in the world connecting Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Europe and even Latin America during 2024 fostering economic cooperation, reducing inequality, and encouraging mutual understanding, all of which contribute to a more peaceful world order.

In 2024, the BRI invested in critical infrastructure projects such as roads, railways, ports and energy networks, it has brought more job opportunities and a vast market to regional countries. Hopefully, it will help reduce the economic disparities that often fuel political instability and conflict. Malaysia's East Coast Railway Link (ECRL) as a landmark BRI project jointly built by China and Malaysia created 18,000 jobs in Malaysia and neighboring countries and has cooperated with over 1,900 local companies. Additionally, during 2024 the overseas economic and trade cooperation zones built under the BRI had created more than 530,000. It has also completed over 3,000 projects within the last ten years.

The inauguration of the Chancay Port project Peru Lima is a collaborative project between China and Peru under the BRI. It is positioned as Peru's gateway port and regional hub, connected by a tunnel to the Pan-American Highway, directly linking it to its capital enabling goods to conveniently reach Peru and other Latin American countries, significantly enhancing trade efficiency. Moreover, the most recently held commencement ceremony for the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway highlighted the railway's potential to promote regional connectivity and prosperity. It will certainly reshape regional logistics, bringing significant economic benefits.

According to the current progress of the project, the construction of the Kyrgyz section of the railway project is scheduled to begin in July 2025 and last for six years. The infrastructure will open opportunities for logistics, product processing and export-oriented production and will drive change, fostering economic growth and social stability in the region linking China with European and Middle Eastern markets, facilitating freight transport.

The author expresses concern that the emergence of Trumponomics 2.0 may pose challenges for both the BRI and CPEC, necessitating a reassessment and development of a comprehensive roadmap for 2025 and beyond. The rapidly shifting geopolitical and military dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the South China Sea, are seen as potential

threats to the progress, productivity and stability of these projects. Additionally, a resurgence of terrorism in regions such as Balochistan, KP, Southern Punjab and metropolitan cities could further delay the advancement of CPEC 2.0.

The Ministry of Planning and Special Initiatives has also struggled to gain traction in key sectors of CPEC Phase 2.0, including the Growth Corridor, Livelihood-Enhancing Corridor, Innovation Corridor, Green Corridor and the Opening-Up/Regional Connectivity Corridor. The author advocates for the creation of a comprehensive Safety & Security Corridor, focusing on Anti-Terrorism cooperation, to ensure mutual benefit for both countries and the successful implementation of these projects. Joint policing, information sharing and the integration of Artificial Intelligence in security measures are deemed essential.

In conclusion, the author emphasizes that the success of both the BRI and CPEC is directly tied to regional peace and stability, urging prompt, coordinated efforts to overcome political obstacles and achieve lasting progress.

https://pakobserver.net/cpec-bri-in-2024-progress-and-setbacks/

The Express Tribune

Sports goods exports to China rise 7%

'Surge in exports highlights the strengthening trade ties between Pakistan and China under the framework of the CPEC.'

Data from China's General Administration of Customs showed that in the first 11 months of 2024, China imported basketballs, footballs and volleyballs worth $10.7 million from Pakistan, a rise of 6.68% compared with the same period of last year.

The development highlights Pakistan's growing status as a global hub for high-quality sporting goods as well as reflects its growing economic ties with China.

Pakistan has an enduring practice of producing high-quality sports goods, including footballs, basketballs, volleyballs and other accessories.

Experts believe that the country's skilled artisans are renowned for their expertise in this field. Despite its superb craftsmanship and a large pool of workers, the industry's poor access to international markets has hampered its growth for a long time.

However, China provides Pakistan with an excellent opportunity to expand its influence and open up new markets now.

As the world's largest manufacturing country, China has advanced technology, a huge economic volume and a complete trade network, all of which can help Pakistan's sporting goods industry to undergo significant changes.

National Bank of Pakistan chief representative Sheikh Mohammad Shariq noted that during his tenure in China, he witnessed a growing interest in sports among the Chinese people, which is driven by a health-conscious middle class and government-backed fitness initiatives, creating a strong market for sporting goods.

Pakistani footballs, a specialty product of Sialkot manufacturers, remain a major export, while basketballs and volleyballs have also seen growth due to their growing popularity in Chinese schools and professional leagues.

"China's expanding grassroots sports programmes and preparations for hosting major sporting events have increased demand for high-quality equipment. The surge in exports highlights the strengthening trade ties between Pakistan and China under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor," Shariq added

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2519420/sports-goods-exports-to-china-rise-7

January 02, 2025

The News

'Pak-China relations going from strength to strength'

Islamabad:Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil-ur-Rehman Hashmi has said that relationship between Pakistan and China is growing from strength to strength.

Mr Hashmi was delivering keynote address at an In-house Roundtable Discussion on "Pakistan-China relations" hosted here by Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS). He provided a comprehensive analysis of China's rise, Beijing's engagement with the region and the world, and the current state of play in bilateral relations.

Mr Hashmi also underlined the efforts of the Pakistan mission in Beijing towards imparting greater depth and substance to the trade, investment and economic dimensions of the relationship. He referred to visits of Prime Ministers, ministerial parleys and visits from armed forces to each other's country including Minister for the International Department of Communist Party of China.

Participants engaged in a wide-ranging exchange of ideas during the interactive session, emphasising the importance of sustained collaboration, improvement of business-to-business (B2B) interface and enhanced people-to-people exchanges. The participants stressed the vital importance of policy foresight and preparedness to maximise the potential of this critical partnership in a changing global order. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to further strengthening the Pakistan-China relationship in light of contemporary challenges and opportunities. Earlier, in his welcome remarks, Sohail Mahmood, Director-General, ISS, reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to fostering meaningful dialogue on Pakistan's strategic relationships, particularly the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. He highlighted the steady progression of Pakistan-China relations since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, the salience of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the implications of the evolving global order marked by major-power contestation and growing multi-polarity.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=372663

Chinese delegation explores investment opportunities

LAHORE: An eleven-member Chinese delegation from Xinjiang province, led by the mayor of Yecheang and Wang Xiangbing, chairperson of the Belt and Road International United Group, visited Pakistan at the invitation of the Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI).

The PCJCCI facilitated their visits to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Investment, and various historical sites. The delegation expressed interest in sectors including renewable energy, infrastructure investment and the iron and steel processing industry.

Delegation members included Wang Xiangbing; General Manager of Kashgar Huada Construction Engineering Co Ltd Liu Jiading; Chairman of Yecheng Kerry Steel Structure Co Ltd Jiang Xinhua; General Manager of Yecheng Changda Wood Industry Co Ltd Zhu Chuanbin; Deputy General Manager of Yecheng Changda Wood Industry Co Ltd Zhu Houhao; and Assistant to the Chairman of the Belt and Road International United Group Chen Zhiyi.

Nazir Hussain, president of the PCJCCI, highlighted that China's large-scale development of solar power, driven by innovation and a robust industrial chain, has significantly reduced production costs, making renewable energy products more accessible globally. He noted that Pakistan, with its favourable government policies and incentives for solar energy, stands to benefit from China's expertise and resources. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has also bolstered solar energy cooperation between the two nations.

Xiangbing remarked that CPEC's positive impact is expected to benefit Pakistan's construction sector significantly. Frequent interactions between Chinese delegations and local businessmen reflect the rising demand for construction and efforts to meet this demand. He encouraged Chinese entrepreneurs to explore investment opportunities and joint ventures in Pakistan's construction industry.

Zafar Iqbal, vice president of the PCJCCI, said that the introduction of cost-effective, space-efficient, and environmentally friendly Chinese construction materials could revolutionise the construction sector here. He highlighted that the construction industry, the second-largest sector after textiles, is a vital source of employment generation in the country.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=372599

Nawaiwaqt News

گوادر ائیرپورٹ، وزیراعظم کی شبانہ روز کاوشیں

by اسداللہ غالب....انداز جہاں

سی پیک امریکا سمیت کئی ایک ممالک کی نظروں میں کھٹک رہا ہے جس کی وجہ سے اس کے راستے میں مسلسل روڑے اٹکائے جا رہے ہیں۔ نیو گوادر انٹرنیشنل ائیرپورٹ بلاشبہ سی پیک کے ماتھے کا جھومر ہے۔ پاکستان سول ایوی ایشن کے ماتحت اس ائیرپورٹ پر تجارتی سرگرمیوں سے بحری اور زمینی ٹرانسپورٹ سمیت دیگر شعبوں کے ہزاروں افراد بھی روزگار کے مواقع حاصل کر سکیں گے۔ گوادر ایئرپورٹ سے پاکستان کے لیے خوشحالی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی۔ وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے نیو گوادر

انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ سے متعلق انتہائی اہم اجلاس میں واضح کیا کہ گوادر کا نیا بین الاقوامی ہوائی اڈہ چین اور پاکستان عظیم دوستی کی نمایاں مثال ہے۔ بین الاقوامی معیار اور جدید سہولیات سے آراستہ ایئرپورٹ تعمیر کرنے پر ہم عظیم دوست چین کے ممنون ہیں، نیو گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ کے فعال ہونے سے علاقے میں خوشحالی آئے گی اور روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم نے ہدایت کی کہ نیو گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ اور ملک خصوصاً صوبہ بلوچستان کے دیگر علاقوں درمیان رابطہ سڑکوں کا نظام بہتر بنانے اور ایئرپورٹ کو ایک مصروف ٹرانزٹ پوائنٹ بنانے کے حوالے سے قابل عمل حکمت عملی ترتیب دی جائے اور فول پروف سکیورٹی انتظامات کیے جائیں۔

اس موقع پر وزیراعظم اور اجلاس کے شرکا کو نیو گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ کی آپریشنلائزیشن پر تفصیلی بریفنگ دی گئی جس میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ نیو گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ رقبے کے لحاظ سے ملک کا سب سے بڑا ہوائی اڈہ ہے۔ گوادر ایئرپورٹ اے-380 ہوائی جہازوں کو ہینڈل کر سکتا ہے جبکہ ایئرپورٹ سے 40 لاکھ مسافر سالانہ سفر کر سکیں گے۔ پاکستان ایئرپورٹ اتھارٹی کی جانب سے نیو گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ کو ایروڈروم سرٹیفکیٹ جاری کر دیا گیا ہے جبکہ پاکستان کسٹمز نے بھی اس ایئرپورٹ کو نوٹیفائی کر دیا ہے۔ ایئرپورٹ پر پاکستان ایئرپورٹ اتھارٹی، ایئرپورٹ سیکیورٹی فورس، پاکستان کسٹمز، اینٹی نارکوٹکس فورس، وفاقی تحقیقاتی ادارے سمیت بارڈر ہیلتھ سروس کا عملہ تعینات کیا جا چکا ہے۔ پاکستان انٹرنیشنل ایئر لائنز کی کراچی اور گوادر کے لیے موجودہ فلائیٹ آپریشن کے دورانیے کو جلد ہی ہفتے میں تین بار کیا جائے گا۔ گوادر سے مسقط کے لیے پروازوں کا آغاز اسی ماہ 10 جنوری سے ہو جائے گا۔

پاکستان کی نجی ایئر لائنز، چین، اومان اور متحدہ عرب امارات کی ایئر لائنز سے گوادر سے ملکی اور بین الاقوامی فلائٹ آپریشنز شروع کرنے کے حوالے سے بات چیت جاری ہے۔ ایئرپورٹ پر بینک برانچز کے قیام اور اے ٹی ایم مشینوں کی تنصیب کے حوالے سے اسٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان سے رجسٹرڈ تمام بینکوں سے رابطہ کیا گیا ہے۔ گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ سے بذریعہ سڑک رابطہ بہتر بنانے کے حوالے سے ایسٹ بے ایکسپریس وے کا پہلا حصہ مکمل ہو چکا ہے جبکہ دوسرے حصے کی فیزیبیلٹی تیار کی جا رہی ہے۔ اجلاس میں وفاقی وزیر دفاع وہوابازی خواجہ محمد آصف، وفاقی وزیر قانون وانصاف اعظم نذیر تارڑ، وفاقی وزیر اقتصادی امور احد خان چیمہ، وفاقی وزیر خزانہ و محصولات محمد اورنگزیب اور متعلقہ اعلیٰ سرکاری افسران نے شرکت کی۔ نائب وزیراعظم ووزیر خارجہ اسحاق ڈار اور وفاقی وزیر نجکاری، سرمایہ کاری ومواصلات عبدالعلیم خان نے بذریعہ وڈیو لنک اجلاس میں شرکت کی۔

ترجمان پاکستان ایئرپورٹس اتھارٹی کے مطابق نیو گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ پر چائنیز گرانٹ سمیت تقریباً 55 ارب روپے لاگت آئی ہے۔ پراجیکٹ 2019ء میں شروع اور اکتوبر 2024ء میں مکمل ہوا ایئرپورٹ کے بنیادی آپریشنز کے لیے ضروری افرادی قوت تعینات کی جا چکی ہے جبکہ ایوی ایشن وسکیورٹی آلات کی ٹیسٹنگ اور کمیشننگ کامیابی کے ساتھ مکمل کی جا چکی ہے اس کے علاوہ ایئرپورٹ پر سیفٹی اور کارکردگی کے اعلیٰ ترین معیار کو یقینی بنایا گیا ہے۔ ایئرپورٹ گوادر کو عالمی تجارت اور رابطے کے مرکز میں تبدیل کرنے کے لیے ڈیزائن کیا گیا ہے، ایئرپورٹ گوادر کو مشرق وسطیٰ، وسطی ایشیا، چین اور دیگر خطوں سے جوڑے گا اور مسقط اور شنجیانگ جیسے علاقائی مقامات کے ساتھ براہِ راست رابطے کا باعث بنے گا۔ ایئرپورٹ بڑی عالمی منڈیوں جیسے متحدہ عرب امارات، یورپ، مشرقِ بعید، وسطی ایشیا، اور افریقہ تک اضافی رسائی فراہم کرے گا جبکہ سمندری خوراک، معدنیات، اور دیگر اشیا کی برآمدات میں اضافی سہولت فراہم کرے گا۔

نیو گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ کی ٹرمینل بلڈنگ 14 ہزار مربع میٹر پر محیط ہے۔ ابتدا میں سالانہ 4 لاکھ مسافروں کی گنجائش ہے جس کو 16 لاکھ تک بڑھایا جا سکتا ہے۔ کارگو کمپلیکس کی ابتدائی گنجائش 30 ہزار ٹن ہے، ایئر ٹریفک کنٹرول ٹاور 12 سو مربع میٹر پر محیط اور 42 میٹر اونچا ہے۔ پاکستان ایئرپورٹس اتھارٹی نے ایئرپورٹ پر کاروباری سرگرمیوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کے لیے متعدد مراعات دی ہیں۔ ابتدا میں گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ پر کوئی لینڈنگ یا پارکنگ فیس نہیں ہے جبکہ نیویگیشن چارجز پر بھی رعایت فراہم کی گئی ہے۔ ٹرمینل بلڈنگ میں ڈیوٹی فری شاپس، ریٹیل آؤٹ لیٹس، ریستوران، وینڈنگ مشینیں، اور پریمیم لاؤنجز کے لیے جگہیں موجود ہیں ٹرمینل کے باہر گودام، کولڈ اسٹوریج، اور فیول فارمز وغیرہ کے لیے جگہیں موجود ہیں اسی طرح ہوٹلز، ایم آر او سہولیات، اور دیگر کمرشل سرگرمیوں کے لیے مخصوص پلاٹس ہیں۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-02/page-5/detail-3

January 04, 2025

Pakistan Observer

President Xi's vision for 2025 and beyond

Prof Dr M Shakeel Ahmad

AS the world has stepped into 2025, a new dawn emerges from the East, illuminating a path of hope, prosperity and sustainability. This beacon of optimism is encapsulated in the New Year address delivered by Chinese President Xi Jinping, a speech that underscores China's commitment to shaping a multipolar world through peace, shared development and cultural inclusivity. As the global order transitions, President Xi's words resonate as a clarion call for unity and collective progress, symbolizing a paradigm shift away from unipolar hegemony toward a future built on collaboration and mutual respect. The year 2024 marked significant milestones for China, reinforcing its stature as a global leader in technological innovation, economic resilience and social development.

President Xi's speech, therefore, not only celebrated past achievements but also outlined a forward-looking vision. China's advancements in artificial intelligence, healthcare, sustainable energy and space exploration have positioned it at the forefront of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The 3rd Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee reinforced the nation's commitment to a people-centred development model by prioritizing poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability and equitable growth. These resolutions go beyond policies, reaffirming a Marxist approach where economic structures form the foundation for cultural, governance and civilizational progress. This alignment with Marxist ideology echoes Antonio Gramsci's insights on cultural hegemony, positioning China's developmental path as a counterpoint to neoliberal frameworks that prioritize profit over people. In doing so, China's vision offers an alternative model for global progress, emphasizing social equity and collective well-being over individual gain.

President Xi's address also drew heavily from the 2023 White Paper on Chinese modernization, a document that articulates a vision for a shared future. This vision is deeply rooted in principles of social equity, economic justice, and cultural inclusivity, reflecting a post-colonial critique of Western-led globalization. By championing initiatives such as the Global Security Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative, China has not only addressed infrastructure deficits in the Global South but also fostered a sense of agency among nations historically marginalized by colonial and imperialist legacies. These initiatives resonate with Edward Said's critique of Orientalism, challenging stereotypes that depict the East as a passive recipient of Western modernity. Instead, China's proactive role redefines the East as a dynamic contributor to global progress.

The New Year message emphasized the importance of multipolarity and multiculturalism, envisioning a global order where diverse civilizations coalesce in harmony. This vision stands in stark contrast to the homogenizing tendencies of neoliberal globalization, offering a postmodern critique of singular narratives and power structures. By advocating for a "shared future for mankind," President Xi's rhetoric champions a world where cooperation transcends

competition, and cultural diversity is celebrated rather than subdued. China's domestic achievements in 2024 further underscore its readiness to lead by example. The eradication of extreme poverty continues to inspire nations grappling with socioeconomic inequalities. Social development initiatives have prioritized education, healthcare, and rural revitalization, embodying the CPC's commitment to holistic progress. These efforts reflect a Gramscian understanding of the interplay between civil society and state institutions, ensuring that development is participatory and inclusive.

On the global stage, China's political vision for leadership has been both impressive and transformative. The Belt and Road Initiative has expanded its reach, fostering connectivity and economic interdependence across continents. The Global Development Initiative, launched to address pressing challenges such as climate change and pandemic recovery, reflects a commitment to sustainable solutions that benefit all of humanity. Additionally, the Global Civilization Initiative underscores the importance of intercultural dialogue and mutual learning, reinforcing the idea that no civilization is superior to another.

President Xi's New Year address also reflected on the politics of messaging itself. By positioning China as the "voice of the East," the speech highlighted the historical and ideological significance of reclaiming narratives often dominated by Western discourse. This reclamation is deeply rooted in Marxist and post-colonial frameworks, challenging the asymmetries of power that have historically marginalized voices from the Global South. The message also resonated with the revolutionary ethos of nations striving for self-determination, linking China's rise to broader struggles for justice and equality.

In linking past messages to the current address, President Xi demonstrated a continuity of vision. Previous speeches have emphasized stability, innovation, and cultural pride, themes that were further enriched in this year's address with a stronger focus on sustainability and global solidarity. The consistency of these messages reflects China's strategic patience and long-term planning, attributes that stand in contrast to the short-termism often observed in Western political systems.

The dawn of 2025 arrives amidst global challenges. Climate change, geopolitical tensions and economic disparities demand collective action and innovative solutions. President Xi's speech offered a blueprint for navigating these complexities through cooperation and mutual support. By fostering shared responsibility, the message underscores that humanity's answers lie in collaboration, not confrontation. As the world looks East, the hope embodied in Xi's New Year address extends beyond China's borders, speaking to a universal aspiration for peace, prosperity, and dignity. Embracing a vision of multipolarity and multiculturalism, the speech sets the tone for a year where shared futures are actively pursued, inviting all nations to join in building a world where socialism lights the path to a more equitable and sustainable global order.

—The writer is Chief Executive of Global Strategic Institute for Sustainable Development.

https://pakobserver.net/president-xis-vision-for-2025-and-beyond/

The News

Chinese firm set to invest over Rs194bn in Punjab following CM's visit

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's visit to China is yielding positive results, as evidenced by her recent meeting at Punjab House in Islamabad with a high-level Chinese delegation, including Ms Scarlett, the Chengdu General Coordinator for the ICT Hub, and Yu Ray, the Deputy CEO of Huawei.

The delegation from Chengdu expressed its willingness to invest $700 million and granted preliminary approval for the investment.

An e-taxi service will be launched with the cooperation of Chengdu. Additionally, a Chinese company will establish a 'Computing Centre' in Lahore's Nawaz Sharif IT City. During the meeting, it was also agreed to establish a Data and Cloud Centre in Nawaz Sharif IT City, with the Punjab government providing land and buildings for its establishment. The first e-commerce platform in Pakistan will also be established.

The Chinese company will provide training to Pakistani youth for online worldwide trading. Smart control rooms, smart traffic control, smart transport and smart sanitation centres will be established in Lahore with Chinese cooperation.

During their visit to China, CM Punjab, Transport Minister Bilal Akbar and the delegation were briefed about the latest digital centre. An AI industry centre will be set up in Phase II to introduce youth to artificial intelligence.

The Chinese government will assist in platform service capacity building in Punjab. Assistance in local investment for the establishment of industries was also reviewed in Phase III.

Maryam Nawaz stated, "We aim to make Punjab the biggest artificial intelligence centre with the cooperation of China. Punjab will soon become an IT hub in the region, and we want our youth to excel and surpass in the IT sector."

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=373332

China a role model in addressing environment and industrialisation issues

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad:Sabheen Ghoury, Parliamentary Secretary for Information Technology, has called for consistent policies among governments to achieve sustainable progress stressing that environmental challenges were transnational and necessitate a collaborative approach. Ms Ghoury was addressing a roundtable on "Pak-China vision for a sustainable future: ecological civilisation, environmental security, and global harmony" organised here by Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in collaboration with China Global Television Network (CGTN) Urdu.

Dr Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO, Asian Institute of Eco-civilisation, Research and Development (AIERD), discussed the Chinese notion of Ecological Civilization, rooted in Confucian teachings. He warned against hastily adopting Electric Vehicles (EVs) without

sufficient infrastructure and emphasised the need to balance green transitions with livelihood concerns. Dr Rizwan from IRS, discussed China's role in global governance, especially concerning unconventional security challenges like climate change. He praised China's Green Revolution and its commitment to green energy, noting that China was the largest producer of various renewable energy sources, including hydro, wind, and solar.

Tasawar Zaman Babar, Programme Coordinator, CGTN Urdu, commended Pakistan's longstanding friendship with China which has persisted through various administrations. He emphasised the importance of aligning economic development with environmental concerns in light of the current climate crisis. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), emphasised that environmental hazards have regional, rather than national, implications. He argued that policies should reflect this regional scope and praised CPEC for its alignment with China's Clean Green Energy initiative, which various renewable energy and water conservation projects. Asif Shuja Khan, former Director-General of Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (PEPA), criticised 18th Amendment, which empowered provincial EPAs. He recommended focusing strategically on the transport and agriculture sectors and suggested measures such as utilising low-sulphur coal, conducting "Strategic Environmental Assessments" for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and planting trees along its route to promote carbon neutrality. Irfan Tariq, former Director-General, Ministry of Climate Change, emphasised the need for Pakistan to focus on improving air quality and preserving glaciers by learning from China's experiences. Jauhar Saleem, President, IRS, opened the session by stressing the roundtable's significance amid major environmental changes. He commended China for its efforts to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of rapid industrialisation. He noted that, like their cooperation in economic and defense sectors, Pakistan and China also collaborate on critical issues such as climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=373218

K2 Daily



پنجاب میں 700 ملین ڈالر کی چینی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے معاہدات طے

نواز شریف آئی ٹی سٹی میں کمپیوٹنگ سینٹر بنے گا، حکومت ڈیٹا اور کلاؤڈ سینٹر کیلئے اراضی اور بلڈنگ فراہم کرے گی

نیز ٹو میں اے آئی انڈسٹری سینٹر قائم ہوگا، نیز تھری میں صنعتی شعبے میں تعاون کیا جائیگا، مریم نواز سے چینی وفد کی ملاقات

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Date=2025-01-04

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2025-01-04

Nawaiwaqt News

دورہ چین کے ثمرات، پنجاب میں 700 ملین ڈالر کی چینی سرمایہ کاری، صوبہ جلد خطے میں آئی ٹی ہب بنے گا مریم نواز

لاہور (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف کے دورہ چین کے فوری ثمرات آنا شروع ہو گئے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سے چین کے اعلی سطح وفد نے پنجاب ہاؤس اسلام آباد میں ملاقات کی۔ چینگ ڈو نے 700 ملین ڈالر کی انویسٹمنٹ پر رضامندی کا اظہار کیا۔ وزیر اعلی مریم نواز شریف نے اصولی منظوری دے دی۔ چینگ ڈو حکومت کے تعاون سے ای- ٹیکسی سروس کا جلد آغاز ہو گا۔ لاہور نواز شریف آئی ٹی سٹی میں چینی کمپنی کمپیوٹنگ سنٹر بھی قائم کرے گی۔ ملاقات میں نواز شریف آئی ٹی سٹی میں ڈیٹا اور کلاؤڈ سنٹر قائم کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ حکومت پنجاب ڈیٹا اور کلاؤڈ سنٹر قائم کرنے کیلئے اراضی اور بلڈنگ فراہم کرے گی۔ پاکستان میں پہلا ای کامرس پلیٹ فارم قائم کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ چینی کمپنی پاکستانی نوجوانوں کو آن لائن ورلڈ وائڈ ٹریڈنگ کے لئے ٹریننگ بھی دے گی۔ لاہور میں چینی اشتراک کار سے سمارٹ کنٹرول روم، سمارٹ ٹریفک کنٹرول، سمارٹ ٹرانسپورٹ، سمارٹ سینی ٹیشن سنٹر قائم ہو گا۔ مریم نواز، وزیر ٹرانسپورٹ بلال اکبر اور وفد کو دورہ چین میں جدید ترین ڈیجیٹل سنٹرز کے بارے میں بریفنگ دی گئی تھی۔ فیز ٹو میں نوجوانوں کو آرٹیفیشل انٹیلی جنس ٹیکنالوجی سے متعارف کرانے کیلئے اے آئی انڈسٹری سنٹر بھی قائم ہو گا۔ چینی حکومت پنجاب میں پلیٹ فارم سروس کمپیسٹی بلڈنگ کیلئے بھی معاونت کرے گی۔ فیز تھری میں انڈسٹریز کے قیام کے لئے لوکل انوسٹمنٹ میں معاونت کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ پاکستانی نوجوانوں کو ٹیکنالوجی کے جدید تقاضوں سے متعارف کرانے کیلئے بھی اشتراک کار کیا جائے گا۔ وزیر اعلی مریم نواز شریف نے کہا کہ چین کے تعاون سے پنجاب کو سب سے بڑا آرٹیفشل انٹیلی جنس سنٹر بنانا چاہتے ہیں۔ پنجاب بہت جلد خطے میں آئی ٹی ہب بنے گا۔ اپنے بچوں کو آئی ٹی میں سب سے برتر دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیر اعلیٰ نے سابق چیئرمین سینٹ اور پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کے رہنما نیئر حسین بخاری کی اہلیہ کے انتقال پر گہرے دکھ اور افسوس کا اظہار کیا ہے۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-04/page-1/detail-28

January 05, 2025

Business Recorder

Gwadar coal-fired power project in limbo over tariff dispute

ISLAMABAD: The long-awaited 300MW coal power project at Gwadar remains stalled, as the Chinese company CHIC Pak Power Company (Private) Limited is unwilling to proceed unless Nepra revises the project's tariff upward.

Sources told Business Recorder that both the Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) and the Chinese firm, which uses the Chinese government to influence Islamabad, are not aligned on the matter of further extensions without payment of fees.

In a recent letter to the Managing Director of PPIB, the CEO of the Chinese company explained that following the issuance of the Letter of Support (LoS), the company had diligently complied with the Board's requirements by submitting extensions for the performance guarantee associated with the LoS. The validity of the guarantee has now been extended to March 31, 2025, and the company has incurred approximately $1 million in extension fees after the LoS was issued, thereby fulfilling its obligations under relevant laws and regulations.

Since the LoS for the project expired on December 31, 2024, the company requested the Board to approve the extension of the LoS at the earliest and waive the $150,000 extension fee for this occasion. The company also emphasised that, as part of the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC) Energy Cooperation Agreement signed by both governments and as an inter-governmental cooperation project, it requests the Board to consider replacing the current bank performance guarantee with a Letter of Comfort.

The CEO of the Chinese company acknowledged that electricity is critical to the development of Gwadar Port and its surrounding infrastructure. A stable energy supply is essential to the development of the port and its associated projects, supporting economic growth and the livelihood of residents.

Given the importance of this project for the development of the Gwadar region, the company has invested substantial human and material resources during the development phase. Despite numerous challenges, the company has steadfastly driven the project toward completion and has never considered withdrawing or delaying it. The reasons for the delay have already been shared in a letter to the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives dated October 15, 2022, and were not due to any shortcomings on the company's part.

To facilitate the project's implementation, the company has incurred approximately $22 million in development costs while under pressure to meet deadlines. The company has accepted most of the modification requests to the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) from the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G).

The company has also initiated construction at the project site twice at PPIB's request, and it has maintained a presence in Islamabad and Gwadar Port for seven years to advance the project and meet the minimum investment return requirements. With the Board's support, the company has filed five petitions or review requests for tariff revisions through NEPRA, though the process is still ongoing.

Nepra approved the project's tariff in May 2024. However, after a detailed analysis, the project was found to lack investment viability, and the company's requests for tariff revisions have yet to be considered. Compared to the tariff approved in May 2019, Nepra has significantly increased the energy tariff (fuel cost) and LIBOR, which are adjusted based on market rates. Despite approving the cost of the China Export Credit Insurance Corporation's medium- and long-term buyer's credit insurance, Nepra has made few adjustments to the capacity tariff, which includes fixed O&M costs and ROE. In fact, Nepra has technically reduced the internal rate of return and O&M costs.

Furthermore, Nepra has introduced a profit-sharing mechanism for the project, but it does not assume responsibility for any losses. Despite the project's tariff petition not being approved, the company is still required to undertake significant social responsibilities that exceed its financial capacity. The implementation of a cap mechanism for cost items within the EPC contract, such as site preparation, bridges, and construction electricity and water, means that any surplus costs within the approved range will be deducted from the tariff, with any excess borne by the company. This deviates from the spirit of the FIDIC contract system, making it difficult for the company to justify similar terms in the EPC contract, ultimately leaving the company to bear the associated risks.

Although the approved capacity tariff is similar to that of the currently operational 1,320MW large-scale imported coal-fired power project, the unit investment and operating costs for

smaller coal-fired power projects are significantly higher. Additionally, the project's location in the Gwadar region results in security and related expenses that are much higher than those in other regions. The varying tariff determinations have not led to any positive developments and have instead imposed increasingly unfriendly requirements on this Government-to-Government (G2G) project. This has forced the project to move forward under a heavy burden, despite all parties involved exerting maximum efforts.

"It is unclear whether this approach stems from a reluctance to take responsibility or an unwillingness to advance the project. We are very puzzled by this situation," said the CEO, adding that a detailed explanation of these issues and cost clarifications were included in a letter dated July 10, 2024.

The company has requested the Board to coordinate with Nepra to approve the project's tariff in an objective, fair, and fact-based manner.

The CEO concluded by stating that as the project meets the investment conditions, the company will promptly submit an implementation schedule and mobilise all resources, with the support of both governments, to achieve financial closure and commercial operation as soon as possible.

https://epaper.brecorder.com/2025/01/05/1-page/1022766-news.html

The News

China leads news media: internet penetration reaches over 1.1 billion users

ISLAMABAD: China's news media has evolved into a data-driven, intelligent, platform-based, and socialized industry.

The omni-media communications system has been significantly enhanced, as highlighted in the 54th China Statistical Report on Internet Development. By June 2024, China boasted nearly 1.1 billion internet users, representing a penetration rate of 78.0%. According to a report on the development of China's News Media, issued by the All China Journalists Association, (ACJA), the country's digital transformation extends to 3,606 Internet news information service units, providing 14,228 licensed services including websites, applications, and public accounts. This growth complements the thriving print media sector, which recorded 26.01 billion newspaper copies printed in 2023, with a total subscription value of 35.57 billion Yuan. The report further states that in recent years, the rapid advancement of generative artificial intelligence (AI) technology has significantly reshaped the ecosystem of journalism and communication in China. This transformation has introduced a paradigm shift in how news is produced, curated, and disseminated, enabling media organizations to leverage AI for tasks such as real-time reporting, automated content creation, personalized audience engagement, and predictive analytics. By integrating cutting-edge digital and intelligent technologies, China's media industry is not only enhancing efficiency and precision but also redefining the boundaries of creativity and innovation in storytelling. This forward-thinking approach positions China as a global pioneer in utilizing AI to meet the evolving demands of modern journalism, while also addressing challenges related to accuracy, ethics, and inclusivity in media practices. Generative AI (AIGC) is becoming a cornerstone

of the media landscape. According to the AIGC Panorama Report of Application in China, the market size for generative AI applications is projected to hit 20 billion Yuan in 2024, surging past one trillion Yuan by 2030. Media outlets are increasingly investing in AI-powered tools, integrating them with film, television, and music assets to foster innovative collaboration and applications. The sector has also witnessed employment growth. The newspaper publishing industry employed 184,000 professionals in 2023, marking a third consecutive year of increase. Across the broader media industry, over 1 million individuals contributed to the development of radio, television, and online audiovisual services, the ACJA report stated. By October 2024, the nation had 230,585 accredited journalists, many of whom continue to immerse themselves in grassroots reporting, champion ethical journalism, and enhance public oversight. China's media industry achieved a total output value of 3.15 trillion Yuan in 2023, reflecting an 8.38% year-on-year increase. Newspapers generated 61.66 billion Yuan in revenue, with notable contributions from advertising, circulation, and new media operations. The national radio and television industry, alongside online audiovisual platforms, recorded revenues of over 1,412.608 billion Yuan, marking a 13.74% up year on year. The All-China Journalists Association (ACJA) has played a pivotal role in advocating for journalists' welfare and professional development. Over the past decade, it has disbursed 25.15 million Yuan in support of journalists facing injury, illness, or death in the line of duty. The ACJA also promotes ethical journalism and social responsibility, with over 580 media social responsibility reports published in 2024 alone.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=373523

Express News

پاک چین تجارتی تعلقات مضبوط ہونے سے اسپورٹس گڈز کی برآمدات میں اضافہ

ایس آئی ایف سی کی سہولت کاری اور حکومتی کاوشوں کی بدولت کھیلوں کی صنعت کو عالمی سطح پر پذیرائی حاصل ہونے اور سی پیک کے تحت پاک چین تجارتی تعلقات مضبوط ہونے سے اسپورٹس گڈز کی برآمدات میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔

پاکستان کی اسپورٹس مصنوعات کی چین کو برآمدات میں 6.68 فیصد اضافہ ہوا جو سال 2024ء میں 10.7 ملین ڈالر کی برآمدات بنتی ہے۔

پاکستان کی اسپورٹس گڈز کی صنعت کی عالمی سطح پر ترقی سے چین کے ساتھ اقتصادی تعلقات میں مزید استحکام آئے گا۔ پاکستانی ماہرینِ صنعت کی مہارت کی بدولت فٹ بال، باسکٹ بال اور والی بال کی مصنوعات عالمی سطح پر مقبول ہیں۔ چین پاکستان کے اسپورٹس گڈز کے لیے اہم مارکیٹ ہے جہاں نئے مواقع اور اثر و رسوخ میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ چین کی جدید ٹیکنالوجی اور تجارتی نیٹ ورک پاکستان کی اسپورٹس گڈز کی صنعت میں انقلاب کا باعث ہے۔ چین کے اسکولوں اور پروفیشنل لیگوں میں باسکٹ بال اور والی بال کی مقبولیت بڑھ رہی ہے جبکہ چین میں کھیلوں کے فروغ کے لیے پاکستان کی اسپورٹس مصنوعات کی مانگ میں بھی مسلسل اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔

چین میں بڑے کھیلوں کے ایونٹس کی تیاریوں کے لیے بھی پاکستان کی معیاری مصنوعات پر اعتماد کیا جا رہا ہے۔

https://www.express.pk/story/2741360/pak-china-trade-relations-mazboot-hone-se-sports-goods-ki-export-m-izafa-2741360

Nawaiwaqt News

وزیر اعلیٰ کے دورہ چین کے ثمرات

وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف کے دورہ چین کے فوری ثمرات آنا شروع ہو گئے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سے چین کے اعلی سطح کے وفد نے پنجاب ہائوس اسلام آباد میں ملاقات کی۔ اس دوران چینگ ڈو نے 700 ملین ڈالر کی انویسٹمنٹ پر رضامندی کا اظہار کیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف نے اصولی منظوری دے دی۔ چینگ ڈو حکومت کے تعاون سے ای- ٹیکسی سروس کا جلد آغاز ہو گا۔ لاہور میں نواز شریف آئی ٹی سٹی میں چینی کمپنی کمپیوٹنگ سنٹر بھی قائم کرے گی۔ ملاقات میں نواز شریف آئی ٹی سٹی میں ڈیٹا اور کلائوڈ سنٹر قائم کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ حکومت پنجاب ڈیٹا اور کلائوڈ سنٹر قائم کرنے کیلئے اراضی اور بلڈنگ فراہم کرے گی۔ پاکستان میں پہلا ای کامرس پلیٹ فارم قائم کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔

پاکستان کے حکمران پہلے بھی غیر ملکی دورے کرتے رہے ہیں ان میں سے بہت سے دوروں کو کامیاب کہا گیا۔ جن کے ثمرات سامنے ضرور آتے رہے لیکن اس دوران ایک طویل عرصہ گزر چکا ہوتا تھا۔ مریم نواز شریف کے دورے کو ابھی زیادہ عرصہ نہیں گزرا کہ اس دورے کے ثمرات سامنے آنے لگے ہیں۔ چین کے دورے کے دوران جو معاہدے ہوئے جن یادداشتوں پر دستخط کیے گئے اور جو ورکنگ گروپ قائم کیے گئے ان میں بڑی زبردست اور تیزی سے پیش رفت ہو رہی ہے۔ کئی معاہدوں پر عمل شروع ہونے جا رہا ہے۔ چینی وفد کے ساتھ ملاقات میں وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف نے کہا کہ چین کے تعاون سے پنجاب کو سب سے بڑا آرٹیفشل انٹیلی جنس سنٹر بنانا چاہتے ہیں۔ پنجاب بہت جلد خطے میں آئی ٹی ہب بنے گا۔ اپنے بچوں کو ?ئی ٹی میں سب سے برتر دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔ مریم نواز شریف کی طرف سے جو کچھ کہا گیا یہ ناممکنات میں نہیں ہے۔ ان کی حکومت کو ابھی ایک سال نہیں ہوا۔ وزیر اطلاعات عظمیٰ بخاری کے مطابق اس دوران 70 نئے منصوبے جاری کیے گئے جن میں سے 50 مکمل ہو چکے ہیں۔ پنجاب میں آلودگی کی وجہ سے سموگ نے کاروبار حیات شدید متاثر کیا تھا۔ اس حوالے سے وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب نے چین کے ساتھ مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ بنایا اس کے تحت جو اقدامات کیے گئے ہیں اس کے بعد سے سموگ میں خاطر خواہ کمی ہوئی ہے۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-05/page-5/detail-2

January 06, 2024

Daily Times

Export of sports goods to China witnesses substantial increase

The exports of sports goods to China have witnessed a substantial increase of six point six eight percent as ten point seven million dollars of sports goods were exported to China last year. The country's sports industry gained global recognition due to the governmental efforts and Special Investment Facilitation Council. The Pakistani made basketball and volleyball have been popular in Chinese schools and professional leagues. China reposed confidence on Pakistani quality sports products for preparations of major sporting events in their own country. The advance technology of China and its trade network have brought revolution in sports industry of Pakistan. China is an important market for Pakistan's sports goods as it is providing new opportunities to Pakistan.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1253719/export-of-sports-goods-to-china-witnesses-substantial-increase/

January 07, 2024

Daily Times

KKH protest against power cuts halts Pak-China trade

* Trucks carrying goods from China stuck at dry port, while Pakistani trucks to transport goods within country stranded in Hunza, says official

A protest sit-in against the power crisis in Hunza district's Aliabad area continued for the fourth consecutive day on Monday with the Karakoram Highway (KKH) remaining blocked, paralysing Pakistan-China tourism and trade.

The protest has been launched on the call of the Hunza Awami Action Committee and the All Parties Traders Association.

While the government has failed to find any solution despite its efforts, Gilgit-Baltistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Imran Ali said that 700 trucks, including vehicles loaded with imports and exports, have been stuck at the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) dry port due to the sit-in.

"Trucks carrying goods from China are stuck at the dry port, while Pakistani trucks meant to transport goods within the country are stranded at different places within Hunza," Ali said.

Earlier, government offers were rejected and residents had announced to continue protesting till the resolution of the issue. They had spent Saturday night at their protest camp despite the freezing temperatures and announced to continue it until the government fulfilled their demand.

On Sunday, a protest rally was also held in Ganish village, while participants later joined the sit-in.

According to a statement issued by the Hunza deputy commissioner on Sunday, a meeting was held at his office with representatives of the protesters.

The deputy commissioner assured the protesters that the Gilgit Baltistan government would immediately take measures to improve the electricity supply to Hunza.

However, the protesters rejected the offer and termed it a "fake promise," saying such promises were also made in the past but never implemented.

Ali continued that traders were facing serious problems due to the situation.

"The machinery to remove snow from the border has also been stuck on the way, and the process of restoring the border has not even started," he said.

"In such a situation, how will vehicles travel between both countries?" The Chamber of Commerce president further said that the continuous closure of the highway in Hunza-Aliabad had affected tourism activities.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1254052/kkh-protest-against-power-cuts-halts-pak-china-trade/

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China relationship: An American conundrum!

Imran Shauket

IN the last article, I recapped part of my recent discussions with officials of the US government and think tanks in Washington. The article focused on their concern with the current state of affairs in Pakistan and the future direction of Pakistan. What follows is the rest of the discussion on another US conundrum: how to handle Pakistan-China relationship, and their perception of the oversized Chinese influence in Pakistan. Understandably and for good geo-strategic reasons, US colleagues are concerned. I admitted that I'm no expert on Pak-China relationships, however, as a keen observer of the political and economic developments in Pakistan, I offered them the following:

The foundation of Pakistan and Chinese friendship goes back to 1951 when one of the first high-powered delegations from Pakistan visited China for many months to establish the groundwork for long- term partnership and future cooperation. Incidentally, the delegation comprised Sheikh Mujeeb-ur-Rahman (the future founder of Bangladesh), Miangul Aurangzeb (Crown Prince of Swat) and many other notables, and was led by Sufi Abdul Hameed (who happens to be the author's grandfather). Since then, Pakistan and China have enjoyed a very close friendship which culminated into a massive economic partnership named CPEC. It is arguable who is benefiting more from this investment, but be that as it may, it has positive as well as negative impact on the historic relationship. On the positive side, Pakistan and China have become more economically and strategically intertwined since the CPEC road projects have facilitated transportation and trade between the two countries. They have also brought billions of dollars of savings to China through reduction in transportation time and cost for Chinese exports to ME, Africa and Europe. Concurrently, Pakistan has benefitted from Chinese FDI and have gained advanced infrastructure.

On the flip side, it pains me to note this, since Chinese and Pakistani people have been interacting directly, they have discovered that their cultures, work ethics and moralities are very different. So while the G2G relationship may have been strengthened or at least become un-expendable, the P2P and B2B relationships have come under stress. And I don't see that reversing, only getting worse over time unless the governments of both countries launch cultural sensitivity programs for their respective populations towards better mutual understanding.

Based on the preceding observations, my advice to my US friends was; do not fret over Pak-China relationship because that will continue to follow its own course. On the contrary, any effort by the US to undermine the Pak-China relationship will serve no good purpose. No one in my experience has ever gotten taller by pulling someone else down, and thus the US should not attempt to undermine Chinese influence in Pakistan. In fact, US should rethink their strategic partnership with Pakistan which to date, has always been transactional and based on regional military adventurism, or perhaps more bluntly put, Pakistan has served as a mercenary force and a front line proxy state for US wars in the region. The US needs to relook at their role in the world, not just Pakistan, and perhaps walk away from being the

policeman and the military strongman of the world and morph into an economic partner. That is how China is commercially colonizing the world without firing a shot and US should learn from the Chinese model!

The US should also push for closer economic ties in Pakistan with a focus on B2B partnerships in the SME and social sectors. In the past, most of the investment in Pakistan has been by US-MNCs which typically involve US big boys dealing with Pakistani state actors. Partnerships between US and Pakistani SMEs will bring benefit to the largest segment of business entities between both countries and lead to more P2P interactions which will lead to better economic and cultural ties. There are many areas of potential partnerships which should be studied by both governments and "thrust investment sectors" should be identified (agro- processing, higher education, skilled workforce development, tourism, health care and elderly care workforce, IT, manufacturing, etc.) for which investment loan guarantees, tax holidays and other incentives can be launched to encourage increased partnerships.

At this point, one of the US colleagues noted that in the recent past, they have brought together GoP and Pakistani business representatives with US businesses to foster B2B partnerships. However, these sessions haven't amounted to much since a clear vision or plan is not offered by the Pakistan side. I agreed that perhaps Pakistan delegations are not well prepared, but the US Corporations can certainly do their own due diligence and ascertain areas of investment. For example, I pointed out that Pakistan has gone from a handful of foreign auto-manufacturers to around 20 in the past decade, and I can surmise that a Jeep, Ford, Chevy or another US make would command much more loyal clientele than their Chinese counterparts, simply because that US brands are trusted for their quality. A country of 250 million is the 5th largest market by population in the world and US needs to see it as an economic partner and a sizable market, rather than a regional military outpost – and US needs to stop worrying about the Pak-China relationship.

—The writer is a former Senior Advisor to the Government and a sector development specialist. He is on the Governing Council of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs) in USA and Pakistan's Buddhist Heritage Promotion Ambassador for GTPL, a company under SIFC.

https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-relationship-an-american-conundrum/

The News

Punjab govt boosts security protocols for Chinese nationals

Sher Ali Khalti

LAHORE: The Punjab government has intensified safety protocols for the 2,366 Chinese nationals residing in the province, deploying 9,803 security personnel for their protection, according to a recent report by the Special Branch (SB) and the Special Protection Unit (SPU).

Implementation committee meetings took place after the issuance of updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These SOPs have been translated into Urdu to ensure compliance and implementation throughout the province. District-wise threat assessments have categorized areas as high, medium, or low risk to optimize resource allocation.

The Ministry of Interior (MOI) organized a seminar on November 14, 2024, for security officers and focal persons to enhance their understanding of SOPs. Deputy Commissioners (DCs) across Punjab have been directed to conduct similar sessions locally. The Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) has expanded its bulletproof vehicle pool, adding three 29-seater bulletproof coasters and three 14-seater vans in its entourage/

Further, biometric devices have been activated for FNSC Dashboard users, with strict instructions for vigilance using platforms such as WeChat to prevent data breaches. Technical surveillance has been reinforced around Chinese clusters, with protocols devised for visits to non-CPEC projects. The Home Department is developing a web portal for data entry and retrieval regarding Chinese nationals.

All hotels have been registered under the Hotel Eye app, with plans to regulate the Airbnb app in collaboration with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). Stricter registration measures have been imposed at all entry and exit points.

As part of continuous improvement, feedback from 2,023 Chinese nationals has been recorded, alongside measures to address shortcomings highlighted in the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) reports, particularly for non-CPEC projects.

Enhanced airport security protocols and further technological upgrades remain under consideration to ensure comprehensive safety and convenience for Chinese residents in Punjab. The provincial government reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding foreign nationals and strengthening ties between Pakistan and China.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=374194

January 08, 2025

Business Recorder

SEZs: BOI approves land lease policy

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Investment (BOI) on Tuesday took decisions regarding Special Economic Zones (SEZs) including approval of the Land Lease Policy, in addition to amend the Special Economic Zones Act and reduce the notice period for convening the meeting from 21 to seven days so that important initiatives for these zones can be completed without any delay.

The ninth meeting of the Approval Committee of BOI was held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in which provincial governments including Gilgit-Baltistan were represented.

Aleem Khan said the completion of the survey of 35 industrial zones across the country, identification and resolution of their problems is a great progress and an important achievement that will have a positive impact on the country's economy, as well.

He added the up-gradation of SEZs has been done in the shortest possible time and important steps have been taken to ensure better quality in this regard.

Aleem Khan directed that all the provincial governments and relevant departments should be sent this survey report of SEZs.

He indicated that now digital data of these industrial zones is available which is a mutual

property and all relevant institutions must get benefit out of it. He said it is very important to hold regular and timely meetings of the Approval Committee of BOI to resolve matters quickly so the next meeting of this committee should be convened again in February.

Aleem Khan said that all matters related to SEZs have been completely updated which is in line with the current requirements and standard facilities which have been provided, there. Investment from other countries in these SEZs equipped with latest facilities will enable rapid economic development, Aleem Khan added.

He said that "instead of unnecessary complications we have to create conveniences to increase investment in the country for which we will encourage all kinds of industries in these SEZs so that maximum foreign exchange can be added in the country."

In the meeting of the Approval Committee, the participants discussed positively on the outstanding issues, deliberated on the current situation of the SEZs and presented an 18-point action plan.

The BOI secretary and senior officers from different provinces gave a detailed briefing on the SEZs and departmental matters.

https://epaper.brecorder.com/2025/01/08/12-page/1023195-news.html

Daily Times

Pakistan to partner with China's chemical industry

Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Vice President Zafar Iqbal Tuesday stressed the need for taking collaborative measures with China's chemical industry to enhance Pakistan's competitiveness.

During a think-tank session with PCJCCI executive committee members here, he added that Pakistan does not have mature technology to produce petrochemical complex facilities or cracking units, which is a very big constraint to the development of its chemical industry. He suggested, "Pakistan can collaborate with China and learn from China's experience to promote the sustainable development of the chemical industry and give full play to the industry in the national economic growth."

Zafar Iqbal also highlighted that there is a vast potential of Pakistan in chemical manufacturing and processing. "Our vision is to transform the chemical industry of Pakistan from an import-oriented to an export-oriented Industry."

The Vice President said that with the rapid development of biotechnology, the biochemical industry has injected new vitality into the traditional chemical industry and opened up new development directions and insights. He explained that China has a growing influence in the field of biochemical industry globally. Both approaches will be of great benefit to Pakistan.

With the continuous growth of economy and population base, he mentioned, the demand of Pakistani citizens for chemical products is increasing day by day. The country is highly dependent on imported oil products, and the shortage of oil products has even affected national security. He added that China's successful chemical park model can provide Pakistan's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with the necessary resources and facilities so as to achieve cluster development.

He said that Cracker is an important link in the transfer of chemical production to downstream and upstream operations. It is significant to establish a chemical industrial park with facilities such as common effluent treatment plant, a sound supply network of water, electricity, centralized steam generating facility to reduce capital & operating expenditures for chemical manufacturers. With the promulgation of the SME Policy, Pakistani government is taking rational and challenging steps to develop SMEs for their growth.

In his concluding remarks, he said that Pakistan's chemical industry being a cross-cutting industry provides inputs for many other industries including textiles, agriculture, food & beverages, leather, paper, pharmaceutical, plastics, printing, sugar etc. It is important to build the global reputation of "Made in Pakistan" from strength to brand in the above industries.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1254466/pakistan-to-partner-with-chinas-chemical-industry/

Pakistan Observer

CPEC Phase 2.0 and Economics of Nuclear Energy

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

It seems that policy makers of Pakistan are now considering further diversifying the energy generation mix under the flagship project of the CPEC and start construction of its largest Nuclear Power Plant 1200MW at the cost of US$3.7 billion at Chashma Mianwali would be a value addition. It is a good omen that these facilities are monitored and regulated by the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA), ensuring compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safety standards.

The rapidly emerging geopolitical and geostrategic scenarios are compelling the policy makers to further broaden energy production mitigating unilateral sanctions on its peaceful nuclear program. The new project will address the country's growing electricity demands, ensuring a continuous base-load supply of electricity, reducing reliance on imported fuels.

Strategically, the coordination between Pakistan and China on Unit-5 vividly reflects ongoing sincere efforts under the CPEC Phase 2.0 including several infrastructure and energy-related projects. C-5 expects to contribute to economic growth and development by strengthening energy infrastructure in the country.

The Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, rightly termed the Chashma Nuclear Power Project Unit-5 (C-5) a 'milestone,' reflecting the strength of Pakistan-China cooperation and reaffirming the commitment of both nations to sustainable development and energy security. Thus start and construction of this mega project will further strengthen the country's national capacity in terms of diversification of energy production, efficiency and security essential for achieving the stability and sustainability of the macro-economy.

Interestingly, the first concrete pouring ceremony of Unit-5 (C-5) was attended by Federal Minister for Planning, Director General of the Strategic Plans Division, Lt Gen. Yusuf Jamal, Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, Vice President of CNNC Zhang Kai, Federal Secretaries and delegates from China clearly demonstrating close liaison among

various stakeholders jointly working for the further diversification of energy resources in the country.

Additionally, the said mega project of nuclear energy is aligned with the 5Es National Economic Transformation Plan, focusing on efficient, affordable and green energy solutions. Thus it is indeed a giant step towards green transformation caring about the ecology and environment, gradually trimming worse effects of global warming in the country.

According to many published reports and articles the new energy project will add 1,200 MW of clean energy by 2030, boosting Pakistan's energy capacity, hopefully addressing the country's persistent problem of electricity shortages while reducing reliance on fossil fuels. It will be a big boost to the country's macro-economy labeled as import based economy.

Obviously, China being an iron-clad brother is helping to build this mega project. The Chashma-5 nuclear power project, which is expected to be completed and ready for operation by 2030. Moreover, it will increase nuclear energy to 4,760 MW and boost socio-economic development in the country. It is a testament to enduring Pak-China friendship and a giant step towards a techno-economy to meet the challenges of the modern era.

The Chinese Ambassador Zaidong delivered a keynote speech highlighting Chashma-5's significant impact, noting that during its peak construction phase, it could generate 40,000 jobs, both directly and indirectly. He praised Pakistan's unique advantages regarding location, language and human resources, emphasizing a close liaison with China's expertise in technology, capital, and market experience and led to both countries jointly exploring opportunities in third-party markets.

The Chinese Ambassador also projected China's leading role in Pakistan's FDI reaching up to 41 percent of total direct investment over the past five months despite global economic challenges reflecting the vitality and potential of market-driven cooperation between the two countries.

The Chashma-5 nuclear power project is a major commercial nuclear facility located in Chashma, near Mianwali in Punjab. The facility plays a key role in industrial energy production and operates under the strict monitoring and safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Hopefully, once operational, the new facility will significantly increase Pakistan's energy supply, helping to address the country's persistent electricity shortages. Comparative studies reveal that over the past 30 years, Beijing has installed four nuclear power generation units at Chashma, collectively producing around 1,300 megawatts. China supplies enriched uranium for fuel.

Technically, the C-5 unit will incorporate a third-generation Chinese Hualong pressurized water reactor equipped with advanced active and passive safety systems. Its key features include a double-shell containment structure and a reactor-filtered venting system, ensuring the highest safety standards. With a lifespan of 60 years, the plant is set to play a crucial role in Pakistan's long-term energy sustainability. Furthermore, once operational, the project is expected to produce a substantial amount of clean and reliable energy, bolstering Pakistan's efforts to address chronic power shortages and meet its growing electricity demands.

The plant is equipped with advanced safety features and cutting-edge technology and is designed to adhere to international nuclear safety and security standards. Nuclear energy currently contributes 8 percent to Pakistan's grid, and the addition of C-5 will boost this share, creating jobs, stimulating local economies, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In summary, China has engaged in civil nuclear cooperation with Pakistan since 1987, five years before China joined the NPT as a nuclear-weapon state. Beijing has long claimed and upheld that its nuclear exports to Islamabad are grandfathered under NSG guidelines. Thus it is not posing any threat to any regional country as labeled by most of the Indian mass media.

C-5 is a nuclear energy mega project of a clean, efficient, and cost-effective source of electricity that can reduce Pakistan's reliance on expensive fossil fuels while supporting socio economic development. It would be a strategic key to diversifying Pakistan's energy mix, reducing reliance on imported fuels, and lowering carbon emissions, thus supporting long-term economic stability and environmental sustainability.

The start of its construction emphasizes the adoption of renewable energy sources, including hydropower and nuclear energy, to reduce fossil fuel reliance and mitigate climate change. Additionally, expanding nuclear energy capacity, demonstrating further diversification of green energy vital for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fulfilling international clean energy commitments.

The imbalanced geopolitical factors are badly damaging energy security because of ongoing deadly conflicts in the Middle East, Black Sea and Eastern Europe placing immense pressure on Pakistan's budget thus it is the need of hour switching over from fossil energy to sustainable, greener cleaner and cheaper sources of energy of nuclear energy.

Thus C-5 construction is a right step in the right direction diversifying national energy mix, securing energy security and protecting ecology, environment by reducing carbon footprints and inching towards carbon neutrality in the days to come. It is indeed a master stroke of geo-politics and geo-economics.

https://pakobserver.net/cpec-phase-2-0-and-economics-of-nuclear-energy/

The Sociocultural Impacts of CPEC

Afnan Rehman

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship initiative of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has garnered substantial attention for its geopolitical and economic implications. Stretching from Kashgar in China to Pakistan's Gwadar Port, this ambitious project is celebrated as a transformative opportunity for Pakistan's economy and a testament to the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. However, beneath its economic allure lies a set of critical socio-cultural questions: Does CPEC serve as a platform for cultural exchange, or does it risk becoming a vehicle for cultural dominance?

Cultural exchange is often regarded as one of the most enriching aspects of international cooperation and CPEC provides significant opportunities in this realm. The movement of Chinese professionals, engineers and workers into Pakistan, coupled with an increasing number of Pakistanis venturing to China for work and education, has created a unique

environment for mutual understanding. This growing interaction fosters connections in areas such as language, cuisine, art and shared values, paving the way for closer ties between the two nations.

Education, in particular, plays a pivotal role in advancing cultural exchange. Scholarships for Pakistani students studying in China have expanded significantly, enabling them to immerse themselves in Chinese language, history and cultural nuances. Similarly, the establishment of Confucius Institutes across Pakistan has introduced many Pakistanis to Chinese traditions, while also allowing Chinese educators to engage with Pakistan's diverse cultural heritage. These institutions are helping bridge the cultural gap by fostering cross-cultural awareness on both sides.

Moreover, CPEC has opened avenues for tourism and cultural festivities. Collaborative celebrations such as Chinese New Year in Pakistan and Pakistan's Independence Day in China are becoming more frequent. These events offer platforms for citizens of both countries to appreciate each other's heritage, fostering goodwill and understanding. Such assimilation of cultures has the potential to transform bilateral ties, making them more resilient and multidimensional.

However, while the narrative of cultural exchange appears promising, critics argue that the socio-cultural dynamics of CPEC are more skewed toward cultural dominance than mutual enrichment. The significant economic leverage that China wields in this partnership is hard to ignore and this imbalance risks manifesting as a one-sided cultural influence. For instance, the proliferation of Mandarin language courses and the establishment of Confucius Institutes have sparked debates. While learning Mandarin is undoubtedly pragmatic in the context of deepening Sino-Pak ties, the lack of reciprocal promotion for Urdu or Pakistan's regional languages in China stands out. This linguistic asymmetry raises questions about whether cultural exchange under CPEC is truly bilateral or more of a top-down imposition.

Another area of concern is the impact of Chinese labour and work practices on local traditions. Chinese companies involved in CPEC projects often bring their own workforce, sidelining opportunities for local labour. This not only limits economic benefits for local communities but also contributes to the erosion of traditional practices and social structures. For example, in Gwadar, local communities have expressed concerns about being excluded from key decision-making processes. This exclusion has fueled a sense of alienation and perpetuated the perception that external forces, rather than local voices, are dictating the terms of development.

The reshaping of local identities in regions impacted by CPEC is another contentious issue. In Gwadar, for instance, local Baloch communities feel that their traditional way of life is under threat. The influx of Chinese workers and the accompanying changes in demographics and culture have created tensions. Traditional fishing communities, a cornerstone of Gwadar's identity, are struggling to sustain their livelihoods as the development of ports and industrial zones disrupts their access to resources. These changes have not only displaced communities but also altered the cultural and physical landscape, leaving many to grapple with the loss of their heritage.

To address these concerns, it is imperative to involve local communities in decision-making processes. Mechanisms such as town hall meetings, stakeholder consultations and comprehensive impact assessments can ensure that local voices are heard and respected. A bottom-up approach to development, where decisions are informed by the needs and aspirations of local communities, is crucial for fostering trust and acceptance. This approach would not only mitigate resistance but also create a sense of ownership among local stakeholders, enhancing the sustainability of CPEC projects.

On the other hand, China also has a role to play in ensuring balanced cultural exchange. Promoting respect for Pakistani culture within China is essential for fostering mutual understanding. Initiatives such as the establishment of Pakistani cultural centers in Chinese cities, scholarships for Chinese students to study in Pakistan and joint media projects showcasing the cultural diversity of both nations can help create a more equitable cultural partnership. Such efforts would demonstrate China's commitment to a relationship rooted in mutual respect rather than dominance.

CPEC's socio-cultural impact is undeniably multifaceted, offering both opportunities and challenges. While it has the potential to foster greater understanding and cooperation, the economic imbalance between the two partners poses a significant risk to equitable cultural exchange. Without deliberate efforts to address these disparities, the narrative of cultural dominance may overshadow the promise of mutual enrichment.

For CPEC to achieve its full potential as a bridge between cultures, both Pakistan and China must prioritize inclusivity and respect. This requires acknowledging and addressing the concerns of local communities as well as ensuring that cultural exchange initiatives are genuinely bilateral. By doing so, CPEC can go beyond being an economic corridor and emerge as a model for international cooperation that harmonizes economic development with cultural preservation.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor stands at the crossroads of cultural and administrative exchanges. The way this interaction unfolds will shape the cultural legacy of CPEC for years to come. If managed thoughtfully, CPEC can serve as an example of how international partnerships can balance economic growth with cultural integrity. While the path forward is undoubtedly complex, it is also filled with promise. With mutual effort and understanding, CPEC can transform into a symbol of collaboration that respects and uplifts the cultural identities of both nations.

https://pakobserver.net/the-sociocultural-impacts-of-cpec/

The Express Tribune

Tie-up with China key to boosting chemical industry'

PCJCCI VP advocates adopting China's chemical park model to shift from import-oriented to an export-oriented industry

Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Vice President Zafar Iqbal on Tuesday stressed the importance of collaborative measures with China's chemical industry to enhance Pakistan's competitiveness.

Speaking during a think-tank session with PCJCCI executive committee members, Iqbal highlighted Pakistan's lack of advanced technology to establish petrochemical complex facilities and cracking units, which he described as a significant barrier to the development of the country's chemical sector. "Pakistan can collaborate with China and learn from its experience to promote sustainable development of the chemical industry, contributing to national economic growth," he said.

Iqbal pointed out the untapped potential of Pakistan's chemical manufacturing and processing sector. "Our vision is to transform the chemical industry of Pakistan from an import-oriented to an export-oriented industry," he added.

Discussing global advancements, he noted that the rapid development of biotechnology has revitalised the traditional chemical industry, offering new directions for growth. "China's increasing global influence in the biochemical sector presents an excellent opportunity for Pakistan to benefit from their expertise," Iqbal stated.

With Pakistan's growing economy and population, he mentioned, the demand for chemical products is rising steadily. However, the country's heavy reliance on imported oil products not only impacts economic growth but also poses national security risks. He suggested that adopting China's chemical park model could provide Pakistan's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with essential resources and infrastructure, enabling cluster development.

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2520739/tie-up-with-china-key-to-boosting-chemical-industry

K2 Daily


بقیہ 51

صدر مملکت کا چین کے علاقے شی زانگ میں زلزلے میں جانی نقصان پر اظہار افسوس

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے چین کے علاقے شی زانگ میں زلزلے میں جانی (باقی صفحہ 6 بقیہ نمبر 51)

نقصان پر اظہار افسوس کیا ہے۔ ایوان صدر سے جاری بیان کے مطابق صدر مملکت نے زلزلے میں ہلاکتوں اور مالی نقصان پر دکھ اور افسوس کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ دکھ کی اس گھڑی میں میری ہمدردیاں چینی حکومت، عوام اور زلزلہ متاثرین کے ساتھ ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ دکھ کی اس گھڑی میں اپنی چینی بھائیوں اور بہنوں کے غم میں برابر کے شریک ہیں۔ آصف علی زرداری نے زلزلے کے نتیجے میں زخمیوں کی جلد صحتیابی کی دعا کی۔

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2025-01-08

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Classified&Date=2025-01-08

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کی طرز پر لاہور میں فضائی آلودگی، مٹی دھول سے نجات کا جدید طریقہ لاگو کرنے کا فیصلہ

لاہور (این این آئی) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز شریف نے چین کی طرز پر لاہور میں فضائی آلودگی اور مٹی دھول سے نجات کا جدید طریقہ لاگو کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، لاہور میں 1500 تعمیراتی مقامات پر پانی کے چھڑکاؤ کا نظام نصب کرنے کا حکم دیدیا گیا۔ سینئر وزیر پنجاب مریم اورنگزیب نے بتایا کہ یہ مقامی طور پر تیار کردہ ٹیکنالوجی ہے جس پر گزشتہ تین ہفتے سے تجربات جاری تھے، "ای پی اے" نے تجربات کی کامیابی کے بعد اب اسے عملی طور پر لاگو کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب نے "سی اینڈ

ڈبلیو"اور "ایل ڈی اے"کو فوری'واٹر سپر نکل سسٹم' لگانے کی ہدایت کی ہے۔پانی کو فوارے کے انداز میں اس طرح چلایا جاتا ہے جس سے تعمیراتی مقام پر مٹی نہ اڑے اور گرد و غبار پیدا نہ ہو۔15 جنوری تک قذافی اسٹیڈیم میں واٹر سپر نکل سسٹم کی تنصیب کا حکم دیا گیا ہے۔انہوں نے کہا کہ تعمیراتی مقامات کو سبز کپڑے سے ڈھانپنا لازمی ہو گا تا کہ تعمیراتی کام کے دوران سیمنٹ، مٹی اور دھول نہ اڑے،10 فروری کے بعد پانی کے چھڑکاکے طریقہ کار پر عمل نہ کرنے پر مقدمہ درج ہو گا۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-08/page-1/detail-21

January 09, 2024

Daily Times

Ahsan seeks marketing templates for Gwadar Port's trade routes

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday directed the quarters concerned to prepare marketing templates and packages, showcasing Gwadar Deep Seaport 's cost-effective trade routes and potential incentives for international businesses.

"These materials will be distributed through Pakistan's embassies and missions worldwide to promote Gwadar Port on a global scale," he said while chairing a high-level meeting on the operationalization of Gwadar Port here, a news release said. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Planning Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Petroleum, and other relevant departments. Representatives from embassies participated in the discussion via video link. During the meeting, the minister emphasized Gwadar Port's strategic significance as one of Pakistan's most valuable assets.

He highlighted that Gwadar provided the shortest trade route to Gulf and Central Asian countries, including Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, and has immense potential to serve as a key regional trans-shipment hub.

The minister noted the lack of commercial analysis and a comprehensive operational plan for Gwadar Port, calling for immediate efforts to unlock its potential.

He stressed the need for a robust action plan within six months to generate trade traffic through the port. "This initiative aims to create job opportunities for local residents and boost the regional economy."

The minister urged the Balochistan Mining Department to develop proposals for exporting finished white marble instead of raw materials, emphasizing the importance of value addition to enhance Pakistan's mineral exports.

To ensure Gwadar remains competitive in the region, Ahsan Iqbal instructed the National Logistics Cell (NLC) to conduct a detailed cost analysis for trans-shipment routes.

He highlighted the need for competitive pricing and viable logistics solutions to attract international trade.

The minister also called for focused efforts to facilitate trade between Gulf countries and China through Gwadar, presenting it as the most economical and efficient route for imports and exports.

He reiterated that the port offered the cheapest shipping options and must be marketed aggressively to the international community. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to making Gwadar a thriving regional trade hub, with all stakeholders directed to work collaboratively toward this goal.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1254775/ahsan-seeks-marketing-templates-for-gwadar-ports-trade-routes/

Pakistan Observer

Navigating growth: China's 2025 vision

Engr Qaiser Nawab

CHINA'S Central Economic Work Conference (CEWC), held in December 2024 has laid out a strategic blueprint poised to shape the nation's economic trajectory in 2025. With global attention focused on China, the conference highlights an ambitious yet pragmatic approach to addressing domestic challenges while positioning the country as a critical player in global economic recovery. The CEWC's policy priorities—fostering domestic consumption, promoting technological innovation and advancing sustainable development—underscore China's resolve to maintain stability while pursuing high-quality growth.

This CEWC comes at a time of heightened global economic headwinds, geopolitical tensions and post-pandemic uncertainties. The conference's agenda emphasized the principle of "progress amid stability," reaffirming China's focus on maintaining steady growth while pursuing structural reforms. For 2024, policymakers have estimated a 5% GDP growth, reflecting China's ability to adapt to evolving circumstances while staying on course toward its overarching development goals.A cornerstone of the CEWC's strategy is revitalizing domestic consumption as a driver of economic growth. In response to subdued consumer spending and lingering deflationary pressures, the government aims to implement more proactive fiscal measures. These include increased public spending, targeted subsidies for household goods, and enhanced social welfare programs to boost consumer confidence and disposable income.

To complement fiscal measures, the CEWC signaled a shift toward a "moderately loose" monetary policy aimed at supporting economic activity. Potential interest rate cuts and increased liquidity are on the table to stimulate growth. Additionally, policymakers underscored the need to fend off systemic risks, particularly in the real estate and financial sectors. China's leadership recognizes that household consumption accounts for a significant share of economic activity. By prioritizing policies that directly address consumer concerns, such as affordable housing, healthcare, and education, the government aims to unlock the latent potential of domestic demand. Moreover, initiatives to reduce the urban-rural consumption gap through rural revitalization programs were a focal point of the conference. This comprehensive approach not only bolsters domestic consumption but also contributes to broader social stability and economic inclusivity.

The CEWC reiterated the importance of technological innovation as a cornerstone of China's economic transformation. Recognizing the critical role of advanced technologies in driving

productivity and competitiveness, policymakers emphasized self-reliance in key sectors such as artificial intelligence and renewable energy. China's push for self-reliance in critical technologies is both a response to external pressures and a strategic move to position itself as a global leader in innovation. Investments in research and development, along with policies supporting high-tech industries, are expected to create a robust ecosystem for technological advancement. This strategy not only enhances economic resilience but also strengthens China's role in shaping the global technology landscape.

Practical applications of these innovations were highlighted during the conference. Focus is expected to be put on integrating advanced technologies into industries such as manufacturing, logistics, and renewable energy. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) serves as a platform for exporting these innovations, fostering mutual benefits between China and its global partners. Sustainability remains a defining feature of China's economic agenda. The CEWC reaffirmed the dual-carbon goals of achieving peak carbon emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060, emphasizing the integration of green development into all aspects of economic planning.

Domestically, the government is promoting low-carbon manufacturing, expanding the electric vehicle industry, and investing in renewable energy technologies. These efforts are not only addressing pressing climate challenges but also creating new economic opportunities in emerging industries. On the international front, China's green initiatives under the BRI reflect its commitment to global sustainability. Renewable energy projects, such as solar installations in Africa and wind energy corridors in Central Asia, demonstrate how China's policies contribute to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By aligning domestic and international priorities, China is positioning itself as a leader in climate action and sustainable development. The road ahead may not be without challenges. However, the CEWC's comprehensive agenda underscores China's readiness to address these with pragmatism and vision. For global partners, this represents an opportunity to engage with a forward-looking China in building a sustainable and inclusive global economy.

https://pakobserver.net/navigating-growth-chinas-2025-vision/

Ahsan directs development of marketing templates, packages for Gwadar Port's cost-effective trade routes

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday directed the quarters concerned to prepare marketing templates and packages, showcasing Gwadar Deep Seaport 's cost-effective trade routes and potential incentives for international businesses.

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The minister noted the lack of commercial analysis and a comprehensive operational plan for Gwadar Port, calling for immediate efforts to unlock its potential.

He stressed the need for a robust action plan within six months to generate trade traffic through the port. "This initiative aims to create job opportunities for local residents and boost the regional economy."

The minister urged the Balochistan Mining Department to develop proposals for exporting finished white marble instead of raw materials, emphasizing the importance of value addition to enhance Pakistan's mineral exports. To ensure Gwadar remains competitive in the region, Ahsan Iqbal instructed the National Logistics Cell (NLC) to conduct a detailed cost analysis for trans-shipment routes.

He highlighted the need for competitive pricing and viable logistics solutions to attract international trade. The minister also called for focused efforts to facilitate trade between Gulf countries and China through Gwadar, presenting it as the most economical and efficient route for imports and exports. He reiterated that the port offered the cheapest shipping options and must be marketed aggressively to the international community.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to making Gwadar a thriving regional trade hub, with all stakeholders directed to work collaboratively toward this goal.—APP

https://pakobserver.net/ahsan-directs-development-of-marketing-templates-packages-for-gwadar-ports-cost-effective-trade-routes/

January 10, 2025

The Express Tribune

Pak Railways, Chinese firm to collaborate

Locally assembled wagons to double railway freight capacity by April

LAHORE: In a bustling factory in Lahore, the assembly of 115 flat wagons in Complete Knocked Down (CKD) form marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's railway freight transportation. Scheduled for deployment in April, these wagons are part of a 620-unit order being co-produced by Pakistan Railways and Chinese company Baotou Beifang Chuangye Co, Ltd

"Once all 620 freight wagons are fully operational, these wagons will double Pakistan's railway freight capacity," said Philippe Mi, the Chinese project director for the 820 High-Capacity Wagon (HCW) project. In 2021, Beifang Chuangye secured a contract to supply 820 high-capacity freight wagons, including open-top, flat, covered wagons, and cabooses. By 2022, 200 wagons had been delivered and integrated into the railway system.

In 2024, 115 open-top wagons, assembled in Semi Knocked Down (SKD) form at the Risalpur factory, were deployed on routes linking Karachi Port with inland destinations. This expansion increased freight capacity while easing storage pressures at Karachi Port. "This initiative is a pivotal step toward reducing import reliance and fostering local industry," said Aamir Baloch, CEO of Pakistan Railways. He emphasised its role in enhancing economic self-sufficiency and modernising freight transportation.

The standardised wagon designs ensure operational compatibility and reduce maintenance costs. Ishaq Butt, the Pakistani project director for the 820HCW project, highlighted this efficiency, noting its importance in the context of national infrastructure priorities.

The project has also created around 450 direct jobs, with many young technicians gaining valuable training. "This local production project has trained many young technicians and skilled workers for our railway department, significantly boosting our manufacturing capabilities and sustaining them for the future," Butt added.

Beifang Chuangye has provided comprehensive support, including personnel training, equipment upgrades, inventory management, and quality control processes. These efforts have enhanced the capabilities of the assembly lines in Lahore and Risalpur.

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2521208/pak-railways-chinese-firm-to-collaborate

January 11, 2025

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China reaffirm commitment to 'high-quality' CPEC phase II development

Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their commitment to the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC 2.0), with emphasis on industrialisation and special economic zones (SEZ's) as well as on clean energy, agriculture and livelihood projects, APP reported.

The fifth meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination (JWG-ICC) was held in Beijing. Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch and Vice Foreign Minister of China Sun Weidong co-chaired the meeting, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a press statement Saturday.

The group also acknowledged the "pivotal role of CPEC in promoting regional connectivity, win-win cooperation and common prosperity, including through partnerships with other countries."

The two sides reviewed with satisfaction the progress made since the fourth meeting of the JWG-ICC held in Islamabad on January 21, 2024.

The foreign secretary described CPEC as the "cornerstone" of China-Pakistan economic cooperation as well as a "shining symbol" of the enduring friendship between the two countries.

The Chinese vice foreign minister highlighted the mutually reinforcing relationship of the five new corridors introduced under CPEC 2.0, namely growth, livelihood, innovation, open and green corridor with Pakistan's national development framework centered on "5 E's namely, Exports, E-Pakistan, Energy, Environment and Equity."

The two sides expressed the resolve to deepen cooperation in the fields of media, cultural exchanges and people-to-people linkages to accelerate the building of China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40342242/pakistan-china-reaffirm-commitment-to-high-quality-cpec-phase-ii-development

Pakistan Observer

'When One Side Struggles, All Sides Support': Chinese envoy Jiang reiterates full support for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD – Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong reiterated Beijing's resilience and strong Sino-Pakistan ties at New Year Celebration.

He shared thoughts at launch of the "Embracing the Chinese New Year 2025" event, extending warm greetings to overseas Chinese, Chinese enterprises, and students in Pakistan. The ceremony also drew attention to the ongoing efforts to support the earthquake-stricken areas in Xizang (Tibet), following a recent disaster in the region.

Ambassador Jiang commended China's swift and coordinated response to the earthquake, highlighting the leadership of General Secretary Xi Jinping. Xi's immediate instructions included extensive search and rescue operations, medical care for the injured, and ensuring safe resettlement for the affected population. This response, the Ambassador noted, reflected the Chinese tradition of mutual assistance, echoing the adage, "When one side is in trouble, all sides will offer support."

He expressed gratitude to Pakistan's leadership, specifically President Zardari and Prime Minister Shahbaz, for their letters of condolence and offers of assistance to China following the disaster in Dingri County, Xizang.

Ambassador highlighted China's resilience in 2024, despite growing external pressures and internal challenges. He noted the nation's continued economic growth, with projected GDP surpassing 130 trillion yuan, alongside significant achievements in sectors such as agriculture, new energy vehicles, and transportation. He commended the contributions of overseas Chinese communities, particularly in Pakistan, to these successes.

He further emphasized importance of unity among the Chinese people, likening it to the cohesion of pomegranate seeds. He urged the community to support China's development and further promote China-Pakistan cooperation, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The year 2024 saw significant progress in bilateral ties, including the Khunjerab-Sost Pass opening year-round and the launch of the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5, which is expected to create thousands of jobs.

In his remarks, the Ambassador expressed confidence in future of China-Pakistan relations, reaffirming commitment to offering new opportunities for global development and ensuring that both countries continue to benefit from shared progress.

The event concluded with well-wishes for a prosperous Chinese New Year, with Ambassador Jiang thanking the guests for their ongoing support and wishing them success in the year ahead.

https://pakobserver.net/when-one-side-struggles-all-sides-support-chinese-envoy-jiang-reiterates-full-support-for-pakistan/

The News

Pakistan, China pledge to high-quality development of CPEC 2.0

Both sides acknowledge pivotal role of CPEC in promoting regional connectivity, win-win cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Saturday vowed high-quality development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0, with emphasis on industrialisation and Special Economic Zones (SEZ's), clean energy, agriculture and livelihood projects.

The development came during the fifth meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination (JWG-ICC) which was held in Beijing.

The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch and Vice Foreign Minister of China Sun Weidong, a Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement on Saturday.

Both sides also acknowledged the pivotal role of CPEC in promoting regional connectivity, win-win cooperation and common prosperity, including through partnerships with other countries.

The two sides reviewed with satisfaction the progress made since the fourth meeting of the JWG-ICC held in Islamabad.

The foreign secretary described CPEC as the cornerstone of economic cooperation as well as a shining symbol of the enduring friendship between the two countries.

The Chinese vice foreign minister highlighted the mutually reinforcing relationship of the five new corridors introduced under CPEC 2.0, namely growth, livelihood, innovation, open and green corridor with Pakistan's national development framework centered on 5 E's namely, Exports, E-Pakistan, Energy, Environment and Equity.

The two sides expressed the resolve to deepen cooperation in the fields of media, cultural exchanges and people-to-people linkages to accelerate the building of China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

Pak-China to further deepen strategic partnership

Both the countries also noted with satisfaction the positive trajectory of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership in accordance with the consensus reached between the leaderships of the two countries during the fourth round of Pakistan-China Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC).

The two sides also exchanged views on a range of regional and international issues and agreed to further enhance their mutual coordination and consultations, including through high-level exchanges and dialogue mechanisms.

Baloch described Pakistan-China relationship as special and unique, noting that the government and people of Pakistan deeply cherished the enduring friendship between the two countries.

Islamabad and Beijing also underscored the need to strengthen their mutual coordination at the multilateral forums, including at the United Nations Security Council, the statement further added.

Later, the foreign secretary also held a meeting with Executive Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu wherein they exchanged views on Pakistan-China relations as well as on regional and international issues of common interest.

https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1271139-pakistan-china-pledge-to-high-quality-development-of-cpec-20

The News

CPEC boosts cotton research in Pakistan

LAHORE: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is paving the way for advancements in cotton research and development to strengthen Pakistan's Central Cotton Committee with modern scientific approaches.

A state-of-the-art biotechnology centre of excellence laboratory is set to be established at the Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) to promote innovative cotton research initiatives.This development was discussed during a think tank session held at the Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Secretariat on Friday. The session highlighted that cotton production here is caught in a vicious cycle of low yields and profitability.

PCJCCI President Nazir Hussain noted that the country produced just 5.6 million bales of cotton in the last season, marking the lowest output in 30 years. He explained that reduced profitability in cotton farming has driven farmers to switch to sugarcane cultivation in traditional cotton-growing areas, as it offers better income. However, sugarcane crops deplete water resources and increase humidity, creating conditions that attract pests harmful to cotton plants. Farmers often lack the technology to combat these challenges effectively.

Hussain also mentioned the impact of climate change on the cotton industry, weakening the crop's strength and staple length. Manual picking methods, he said, introduce impurities, leading to defects in the final product. Despite these issues, Pakistan-China cooperation in cotton research and development is progressing steadily.

Senior Vice President Mansoor Saeed Sheikh of the PCJCCI highlighted the complementary strengths of Chinese and Pakistani cotton. He added that Pakistan's cotton has excellent heat resistance, while Chinese cotton offers high yield and quality. The two nations are collaborating to create new cotton varieties by combining these traits. Experimental fields in

Pakistan are testing the adaptability of Chinese cotton seeds to identify the best-performing varieties for local production.

Vice President Zafar Iqbal shared that Xinjiang Agricultural University in China and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad have been working together on cotton cultivation for several years. These efforts include experimental fields in Faisalabad and plans to introduce mechanical cotton picking in Pakistan.

Iqbal added that Xinjiang, one of China's largest cotton-producing regions, has achieved 90 per cent mechanisation in cotton harvesting and leads the world in drought-resistant and water-saving technologies such as drip irrigation and mulching. He stressed the importance of transferring these advanced technologies and equipment to Pakistan to help address its current challenges. The collaboration between China and Pakistan in cotton research is expected to significantly enhance cotton production, benefiting both countries through shared expertise and resources.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=375016

K2 Daily



چین کیساتھ مضبوط اقتصادی و تجارتی تعلقات چاہتے ہیں، اومان

جی سی سی اور چین جلد ہی اپنے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کیلئے مذاکرات کو حتمی شکل دیں گے، وزیر سرمایہ کاری

جی سی سی کی بنیاد 1981 میں رکھی گئی تھی اور اس کا صدر دفتر ریاض، سعودی عرب میں ہے، قیس محمد الیوسف کی گفتگو

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News&Date=2025-01-11

January 12, 2025

Daily Times

Pakistan-China relations to grow stronger: Chinese envoy

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Saturday said that Pak-China strategic cooperation would continue to deepen under the leadership of two countries.

Addressing the launching ceremony of "Embracing the Chinese New Year 2025", the ambassador said that last month, Khunjerab-Sost Pass realized the all-year-round function, becoming a landmark progress in China-Pakistan relations in the new era, and once again demonstrating the deep foundation of the ironclad friendship.

He said that the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5, which can create 40,000 jobs directly and indirectly during the peak period of construction, has officially started, showing the huge potential of practical cooperation between the two countries.

Zaidong said, "We stand ready to continue to strengthen the development strategies with Pakistan, deepen mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation, forge an upgraded version of the CPEC construction, and accelerate the building of a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era, to better benefit the two countries and their peoples."

He said that in the past year, President Xi Jinping maintained close communication with the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan and reached an important consensus on promoting China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperation, especially on forging an upgraded version of CPEC. He said China's economy has continued to stabilize and improve. The annual GDP is expected to exceed 130 trillion Yuan.

He added total grain output has reached a new level of 1.4 trillion jin for the first time, the annual output of new energy vehicles has exceeded 10 million for the first time, the annual express delivery volume surpassed the 150-billion-parcel mark for the first time, and the annual passenger volume of China's railway network has exceeded 4 billion for the first time.

This is the result of joint efforts of people of all groups across China, as well as the positive contributions of overseas Chinese, including those in Pakistan, he added.

Zaidong said, "I hope and firmly believe that everyone will further forge a strong sense of community of the Chinese nation, more actively support the development of China, promote China-Pakistan cooperation, and make new and greater contributions to comprehensively promoting the construction of a strong country and the great cause of national rejuvenation with Chinese modernization."

He said that the embassy is the home of our compatriots overseas. "We will provide service with heart and soul so that everyone can feel the warmth of the motherland."

The ambassador said, "We stand ready to provide new opportunities for the world with the new development of Chinese modernization, and first benefit to our iron friend Pakistan."

He expressed gratitude to the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan for writing to President Xi Jinping on the earthquake in Dingri county, Xizang. In the letters, they expressed sincere condolences and Pakistan's willingness to provide all possible assistance, he added.

"We firmly believe that regardless of sudden natural disasters or complex and severe external environments, we can overcome difficulties and move forward courageously, and continuously push forward the great cause of building a strong country and achieving national rejuvenation."

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1255502/pakistan-china-relations-to-grow-stronger-chinese-envoy/

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China ties to continue to grow stronger: Zaidong

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Saturday said that Pak-China strategic cooperation would continue to deepen under the leadership of two countries. Addressing the launching ceremony of "Embracing the Chinese New Year 2025", the ambassador said that last month, Khunjerab-Sost Pass realized the all-year-round function, becoming a landmark progress in China-Pakistan relations in the new era, and once again demonstrating the deep foundation of the ironclad friendship. He said that the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5, which can create 40,000 jobs directly and indirectly during the peak period of construction, has officially started, showing the huge potential of practical cooperation between the two countries. Zaidong said, "We stand ready to continue to strengthen the development strategies with Pakistan, deepen mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation, forge an upgraded version of the CPEC construction, and accelerate the building of a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era, to better benefit the two countries and their peoples." He said that in the past year, President Xi Jinping maintained close communication with the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan and reached an important consensus on promoting China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperation, especially on forging an upgraded version of CPEC. He said China's economy has continued to stabilize and improve. The annual GDP is expected to exceed 130 trillion yuan. He added total grain output has reached a new level of 1.4 trillion jin for the first time, the annual output of new energy vehicles has exceeded 10 million for the first time, the annual express delivery volume surpassed the 150-billion-parcel mark for the first time, and the annual passenger volume of China's railway network has exceeded 4 billion for the first time. This is the result of joint efforts of people of all groups across China, as well as the positive contributions of overseas Chinese, including those in Pakistan, he added. Zaidong said, "I hope and firmly believe that everyone will further forge a strong sense of community of the Chinese nation, more actively support the development of China, promote China-Pakistan cooperation, and make new and greater contributions to comprehensively promoting the construction of a strong country and the great cause of national rejuvenation with Chinese modernization." He said that the embassy is the home of our compatriots overseas. "We will provide service with heart and soul so that everyone can feel the warmth of the motherland." The ambassador said, "We stand ready to provide new opportunities for the world with the new development of Chinese modernization, and first benefit to our iron friend Pakistan." He expressed gratitude to the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan for writing to President Xi Jinping on the earthquake in Dingri county, Xizang. In the letters, they expressed sincere condolences and Pakistan's willingness to provide all possible assistance, he added. "We firmly believe that regardless of sudden natural disasters or complex and severe external environments, we can overcome difficulties and move forward courageously, and continuously push forward the great cause of building a strong country and achieving national rejuvenation.—APP

https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-ties-to-continue-to-grow-stronger-zaidong/

The News

Rs34.47 per unit uniform tariff for CPEC SEZs ready for CCOE approval

Khalid Mustafa

ISLAMABAD: To make phase 2 of CPEC projects a successful story, the Power Division has worked out electricity at the rate of Rs34.47 per unit to industries to be established in the CPEC Special Economic Zones.

The electricity rate has been suggested to CCOE for approval in its summary on 'Revised the electricity supply mechanism to SEZs'.

The industry in SEZ would pay the uniform tariff but so far electricity could not be provided because of the absence of infrastructure in the special economic zones.

As per the summary, the revised electricity supply mechanism to special economic zones has been carved out with the consultation of Chinese counterparts that ensures reliable and smooth supply of electricity for sustainable industrial growth under which CPEC SEZs will be allowed to sign Power Purchase Agency Agreements (PPAs) with Discos for supplying power equivalent to peak demand for five years which will be extendable.

The CPEC SEZs will remain under the service territory of the distribution company concerned. However, the SEZs developer will sign an O&M agreement with Discos for development, operation and maintenance of infrastructure, supply of electricity and billing and collection which will eliminate the need for additional licences for the zone developer. The industrial consumers would be charged uniform industrial tariff and the developer will receive an O&M fee for maintaining the network which would be approved by Nepra in the distribution margin of Discos.

More importantly, SEZs will apply for supplier of last resort and distribution licences from Nepra under Section 23E and 20, respectively for the supply of electric power and development, operation & maintenance of distribution infrastructure within their premises or service area. The SEZs shall be obligated to procure additional power per Nepra-approved regulations and applicable codes.

The Special Economic Zones (SEZs), established under the SEZ Act 2012, face significant challenges that hinder their potential for economic growth and industrial development, including unreliable supply of electricity and delays in the development of distribution infrastructure.

The Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Act of 2012, enacted by the government, represents a significant step towards streamlining processes and promoting the ease of doing business by offering various concessions and potential benefits to investors.

The SEZs face many challenges including unreliable supply of electricity, delays in the development of distribution infrastructure and lack of compliance with the requirement of firm capacity/non-availability of generation capacity under supply licence requirements per section 23E. The Nepra Act does not cover the provision of electricity at a single point supply by distribution companies for further resale to consumers, causing delays in power

connections from Discos and impeding the process for ensuring uninterrupted power supply crucial for sustained economic activity within SEZs. Even if permitted by law, this arrangement would result in higher tariffs for SEZs compared to the uniform industrial tariff of discos, as outlined in the Development Agreement of Rashakai SEZ. Moreover, the process of obtaining requisite licences also faces delays due to ambiguity regarding the source of supply for SEZs, which is essential for issuance of supplier of last resort licence to SEZs. Despite the legislative mandate, the prevailing challenges besetting the electricity supply ecosystem for SEZs necessitate a comprehensive re-evaluation of the existing supply mechanism to ensure the fulfilment of this statutory obligation within the legal and regulatory framework.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=375477

China, Pakistan review practical cooperation

Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China in two back-to-back meetings on Friday, in Beijing, noted that both sides were satisfied with the positive trajectory of their bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen their "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership", in accordance with the consensus reached between the leaderships of the two countries.

The first meeting between the two delegations was related to the Pakistan-China Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) while the second one was on CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination (JWG-ICC).

Although safety of Chinese workers in Pakistan, especially those working on CPEC projects, has been of great concern to Beijing, where Chinese officials have publicly and in private raised it several times, the Foreign Office here in its statement on Saturday made no reference whether this was raised during the recent bilateral meetings in Beijing.

Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch leading Pakistan's delegation met with Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong who led the Chinese side during the fourth round of the BPC, which is an institutional process for both countries. The first round of BPC was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, on December 10, 2018.

Immediately after the BPC meeting, the foreign secretary also held a meeting with Executive Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu where they exchanged views on Pakistan-China relations as well as on regional and international issues of common interest. The Foreign Office underlined that the two sides during the BPC also exchanged views on a range of regional and international issues and agreed to further enhance their mutual coordination and consultations, including through high-level exchanges and dialogue mechanisms. "The foreign secretary described Pakistan-China relationship as special and unique and noted that the government and people of Pakistan deeply cherished the enduring friendship between the two countries," said the Foreign Office.

The meeting also reviewed the entire spectrum of practical cooperation between the two countries, with a special focus on the projects driving the high-quality development of CPEC 2.0.

Both sides agreed to further deepen their mutual partnerships in sectors such as information technology, agriculture and clean energy, driven by the concept of "win-win cooperation" and pursuit of people centric, inclusive development.

They also underscored the need to strengthen their mutual coordination at the multilateral forums, including at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This gains significance at a time when China remains a permanent member of the UNSC, and Pakistan has started its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the Council.

Meanwhile, the 5th meeting of JWG-ICC was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch and China's Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong where Pakistan described CPEC as the cornerstone of bilateral economic cooperation as well as "a shining symbol of the enduring friendship between the two countries".

The Chinese vice foreign minister highlighted the mutually reinforcing relationship of the five new corridors introduced under CPEC 2.0, namely growth, livelihood, innovation, open and green corridor with Pakistan's national development framework centered on 5 E's namely, Exports, E-Pakistan, Energy, Environment and Equity.

The two sides, according to the Foreign Office, stated that there had been "progress" since the fourth meeting held last year in Islamabad.

During the inaugural meeting of JWG-ICC in 2018, both countries had vowed that attempts to direct "self-serving criticism" against CPEC and BRI would be countered through joint efforts at various levels and modes.

"On Friday in Beijing, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the high-quality development of CPEC 2.0, with its emphasis on industrialisation and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as well as on clean energy, agriculture and livelihood projects," added the Foreign Office .

The meeting also acknowledged the pivotal role of CPEC in promoting regional connectivity, win-win cooperation, and common prosperity, including through partnerships with other countries. Looking to the future, the Foreign Office pointed out the two countries would accelerate the building of "China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era", while deepening cooperation in the fields of media, cultural exchanges and people-to-people linkages.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=375480

Ambassador Jiang hails advancement in Pak-China ties

Azaz Syed

ISLAMABAD: In a vibrant display of cultural unity, the Chinese Embassy Saturday hosted an enchanting reception to mark the upcoming Chinese New Year 2025 at a local hotel in Islamabad.

Against the backdrop of an elegantly decorated venue bustling with traditional Chinese art and music, Ambassador Jiang Zaidong addressed a diverse gathering. The reception highlighted the enduring 'ironclad' friendship between Pakistan and China, with a notable presence of Chinese nationals and Pakistani guests who strolled through stalls showcasing an array of exquisite Chinese cuisines.

Ambassador Jiang reflected on recent challenges faced by China, particularly the earthquake in Xizang, emphasising the prompt and compassionate response led by President Xi Jinping. "Our philosophy of putting people's lives first was evident as relief efforts mobilised swiftly under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee," he said. "This reflects our nation's greatness, resilience and the deep-seated tradition of mutual support."

Acknowledging warm gestures from Pakistani leaders, including President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Jiang expressed gratitude for their goodwill and offers of assistance. "Such gestures reinforce the strength of China-Pakistan ties," he noted.

Turning to economic achievements, Jiang highlighted China's robust economic trajectory, including milestones in GDP growth and the expansion of sectors like new energy vehicles and high-speed rail travel. "These successes are a testament to our unity and hard work, including contributions from overseas Chinese communities in Pakistan," he stated.

The ambassador also elaborated on the crucial role of international cooperation. "China's prosperity is intertwined with global well-being. As we progress, we are committed to sharing opportunities with our partners, particularly our steadfast ally, Pakistan."

In discussing bilateral achievements, Jiang lauded the advancements in China-Pakistan cooperation, specifically the upgraded China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the commencement of Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5. "Such projects symbolise our collaborative spirit and the promise of shared prosperity," he emphasised.

The ceremony concluded with Jiang conveying his warmest wishes for the New Year, reinforcing the embassy's commitment to supporting the overseas Chinese community and strengthening China-Pakistan relations. As guests indulged in festive treats and engaged in lively conversations, the evening stood as a testament to cultural harmony and the enduring partnership between the two nations.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=375504

K2 Daily



پاکستان چین سی پیک فیز2 کی ترقی کیلئے پرعزم

مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ کا پیکنگ میں اجلاس، سی پیک دوستی کی علامت قرار

خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کیساتھ توانائی، زراعت اور روزگار فراہمی پر زور

بقیہ 25

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Front_Page&Date=2025-01-12

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2025-01-12

January 13, 2025

Daily Times

Pakistan-China Plastic Industry B2B Conference concluded in Guangzhou

The Pakistan-China Plastic Industry B2B Investment Conference concluded successfully in Guangzhou with 8 Pakistani companies and 44 Chinese companies attending both online and offline. In his opening remarks, Mr. Sardar Muhammad, Acting Consul General of Pakistan in Guangzhou welcomed participants and underscored the significant investment opportunities within Pakistan's plastic industry. He encouraged businesses to seize these opportunities to foster deeper cooperation and explore joint ventures that would benefit both nations, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. The conference facilitated numerous business meetings, resulting in the signing of 8 MoUs. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the event's organization, noting it provided an excellent platform for connecting businesses from both countries, fostering partnerships, and discovering new avenues for mutual growth.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1255846/pakistan-china-plastic-industry-b2b-conference-concluded-in-guangzhou/

Nawaiwaqt News

چین قابل اعتماد دوست، اشتراک سے پاکستان کو ترقی سے دوچار کرینگے: رانا تنویر

فیروزوالہ (نامہ نگار) وفاقی وزیر صنعت وپیداوار رانا تنویر حسین نے کہا سابق وزیراعظم نے سی پیک رول بیک کیا اور بیرونی طاقتوں کے اشارے پر چین کے ساتھ مراسم کو ختم کیا تھا مگر وہ اب اقتدار میں نہیں آئے گا۔ چین ہمارا قابل اعتماد دوست ہے جس کے اشتراک سے پاکستان کو ترقی سے دوچار کریں گے۔ رانا فارم ہاؤس پر میڈیا سے

گفتگو میں کہا بانی پی ٹی آئی دوغلی پالیسی کے ذریعے این آر او کی کوشش میں ہیں مگر ہمارے ادارے دنیا بھر میں ٹاپ پوزیشن پر ہیں وہ دھوکہ نہیں کھا سکتے۔ بانی پی ٹی آئی کی سوچ ٹھیک ہو گی تو ان کے معاملات بھی ٹھیک ہوں گے۔ پاکستان دشمن طاقتیں سابق وزیر اعظم کے ذریعے پاکستان کیخلاف سازش کر رہی ہیں مگر وہ اب کبھی اقتدار میں نہیں آئے گا۔ قوم باشعور ہے اسے سمجھ جانا چاہیے کہ جھوٹے یوٹیوبرز بانی پی ٹی آئی کیلئے خطرناک ہیں۔ چند یوٹیوبرز یہودی اور بھارتی ایجنٹ ہیں اور ملک دشمن ممالک سے ان کی فنانسنگ ہو رہی ہے۔ 2017 میں میاں نواز شریف کے خلاف سازش نہ ہوتی تو پاکستانی پاسپورٹ مضبوط ترین ہوتا۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-13/page-2/detail-36

January 14, 2025

Daily Times

Country to improve local fisheries on Chinese model: Pakistani scholar

In the bustling city of Qingdao, China, Aidah from Gwadar, Balochistan, is standing at the forefront of academic excellence as she pursues her PhD in fisheries resources at Ocean University of China (OUC).

The azure waters of the East China Sea shimmer in the distance, serving as a constant reminder of her profound connection to the sea, water, and fish.

“The sea is in my blood,” Aidah says, reflecting on her journey. It is under the mentorship of Chinese Professor Liu Qun that Aidah has discovered the immense potential of sustainable fisheries management.

Upon her arrival at the OUC, she was immediately captivated by the inclusive environment. “Teachers here are welcoming and humble,” she remarks.

“They treat all students equally, regardless of nationality. This experience has been incredibly enriching, both academically and personally.”

Her research focuses intently on the coastline of Balochistan, particularly the demersal and biological fish species in both shallow and deep waters.

By studying their health, the effects of overfishing, and the policies that affect them, Aidah aims to develop sustainable fisheries management practices to safeguard future fish populations.

“Overfishing is a massive issue along the Balochistan coastline,” she emphasizes. “Unlike Sindh, where policies and fishing seasons are more regulated, Balochistan needs a comprehensive approach.”

Despite the rigorous demands of pursuing a PhD, Aidah has still made impressive professional gains. She has completed two research papers and is diligently working on a third, with one of her papers currently under revision for publication in the Fish and Fisheries journal.

Her academic journey has taken her to numerous conferences, workshops and international events, such as the Marine Aquaculture International Training Program and the China International Agricultural Products Fair.

"These experiences have not only enhanced my research but also provided valuable networking opportunities with professionals from institutions like Shanghai Ocean University," she shares.

Aidah's time in China has not only molded her academically but has also ignited her passion for advocating for education in Balochistan.

She notes that many young men prioritize lower-level jobs over higher education, while women face societal barriers. "I encourage students from Balochistan who dream of studying in China to persist in their efforts to connect with professors and apply for scholarships," she stresses. "Education should be a top priority for the development of Balochistan and Pakistan."

As Aidah looks towards the future, she is eager to implement the policies and sustainable practices learned during her academic journey to improve the fishing industry in Gwadar and along the Balochistan coastline.

"My experience at OUC has been transformative," she says. "I believe that with consistent struggle and perseverance, success is attainable."

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1255967/country-to-improve-local-fisheries-on-chinese-model-pakistani-scholar/

Express News

پاکستان کے معاشی استحکام کے لیے چینی سرمایہ کاری بہت اہم ہے، وزیر خزانہ

وزیر خزانہ محمد اورنگزیب نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان چینی سرمایہ کاروں سے 200 سے 250 ملین ڈالر اکٹھا کرنے کا خواہش مند ہے۔

ساؤتھ چائنا مارننگ پوسٹ کو انٹرویو دیتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اپنی مارکیٹ کی کیپٹل مارکیٹ سے مزید ہم آہنگ کرنے کے لیے جون تک پانڈا بانڈ جاری کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ مصر کی طرز پر یو آن بانڈز کے اجرا کی بینک گارنٹی کے لیے ایشین انفراسٹرکچر انویسٹمنٹ بنک سے بات چیت چل رہی ہے، پاکستان آنے والے مہینوں میں اپنی کریڈٹ رٹینگ کو سنگل بی میں بدلنے کے لیے پر عزم ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے معاشی استحکام کے لیے چینی سرمایہ کاری بہت اہم ہے، پاکستان سی پیک کے اگلے فیز میں چین سے مزید تعاون کا خواہاں ہے، سی پیک کے اگلے فیز میں سپیشل اکنامک زونز اور زراعت اور انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی شعبوں میں وسعت لائی جائے گی۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین کے نجی شعبے اور برآمدی صنعتوں کو پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کرنی چاہیے، چین کی بڑی کمپنیاں اپنے برآمدی یونٹس پاکستان منتقل کر کے پاکستان کو بطور برآمدی مرکز استعمال کر سکتی ہیں، سی پیک ٹو میں برآمدی صنعتوں کی ترجیح سے قرض ادائیگی کو آسان بنایا جائے گا۔

وزیر خزانہ نے کہا کہ درآمدات پر استوار معیشت کے باعث پاکستان کو زرمبادلہ کی کمی اور ادائیگیوں میں عدم توازن کا سامنا ہے، پاکستان میں چینی کمپنیوں کے تحفظ کے لیے سیکیورٹی میں اضافہ کیا جائے گا، پاکستان میں سیکیورٹی کے حالات بہتر ہوئے ہیں، عالمی کانفرنسیں ہو رہی ہیں، غیر ملکی وفود آ رہے ہیں۔

محمد اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ غیر ملکی کمپنیوں اور سرمایہ کاروں کے تحفظ کو یقینی بنانا حکومت پاکستان کی اولین ترجیح ہے، پاکستان چین کے ساتھ ساتھ ہانگ کانگ سے کاروباری شراکتوں اور ہانگ کانگ اسٹاک میں پاکستانی کمپنیوں کی شرکت کا خواہاں ہے، کاروباری شراکتوں کے لیے ہانگ کانگ کے سرمایہ کاروں کے پاکستان کے دورے کے لیے ہانگ کانگ چیف ایگزیکٹو جان لی کا چیو سے بات ہوئی ہے۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ باہمی شراکتوں سے دوطرفہ تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ ہو گا، پاکستانی کمپنیوں اور بنکوں نے روایتی طور پر ملک سے باہر لندن سٹاک ایکسچینج میں لسٹنگ کی ہے، پاکستانی کمپنیوں اور بنکوں کو عالمی سطح پر کیپٹل اکٹھا کرنے کے لیے ہانگ کانگ کی شہرت سے فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔

https://www.express.pk/story/2742678/wazeer-e-khazana-ka-interview-2742678

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Daily Times

Gilani underscores deepening ties between China

Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday underscored the deepening ties between Pakistan and China across diverse sectors, including energy.

During a meeting with the Vice President of Shandong Kerui Group Wu Xiaogui, and Chairman and CEO of Tabani Group, he underlined a transformative era in its energy sector, one driven by strategic partnerships with China. He said China's unwavering trust and commitment to Pakistan's development have always been an invaluable source of progress, particularly in the energy sector.

The Chairman Senate said that collaboration with Shandong Kerui Group and other Chinese investors is integral to Pakistan's clean energy future. He highlighted that the two countries share a vision of sustainable growth and environmental stewardship, with clean energy fostering collaboration that benefits both nations.

The meeting underscored the extraordinary advancements made by Shandong Kerui Group and Tabani Global in Pakistan's energy infrastructure over the past 15 years.

The Chairman Senate stressed that such initiatives aim at clean energy, focus on securing vital gas resources, addressing the country's growing gas deficiency, and tackling the substantial amount of gas that is currently wasted in outdated pipeline systems should be addressed. He said this comprehensive approach to energy management is a crucial step toward ensuring long-term energy security for Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan grapples with rising energy demands and a need for cleaner, more sustainable solutions. Gilani reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to shifting its energy mix. Currently, the country's power sector is heavily reliant on thermal sources, contributing 58.8% of the energy mix, which poses significant environmental and economic challenges. He said, Pakistan is now focused on diversifying its energy sources, aiming to increase the share of renewable energy to 60% by 2030 through wind, solar, and hydropower projects.

He said, "We are keen to expand our cooperation in solar and wind energy projects.

Gilani said stressing the immense opportunities for foreign investors.

In a forward-thinking move, Pakistan is also setting its sights on a future where 30% of all vehicles are powered by electricity, driving the nation toward its environmental goals while reducing dependency on fossil fuels, anticipated Gilani. The establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a key initiative to streamline investment procedures and facilitate easier, more effective communication between investors and the government, was also discussed. This one-stop solution assures foreign investors of safety, transparency, and profitable returns, making Pakistan an increasingly attractive destination for global capital. Under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), both countries have already made significant strides in building critical infrastructure that links Pakistan's vast energy resources with the burgeoning markets of Central Asia and the Middle East.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1256303/gilani-underscores-deepening-ties-between-china/

Pakistani Exports: US, China, UK lead the way

The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first five months of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-November 2024-25 were recorded at US $2512.809 million against the exports of US $2299.165 million during July-November 2023-24, showing an increase of 9.29 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US $1053.161 million against the exports of US $1223.702 million last year, showing a decrease of 13.93 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US $935.018 million during the month under review against the exports of US $863.481 million, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at US $925.594 million against US $817.848 million last year while the exports to Germany were recorded at US $707.649 million against US $613.778 million last year, data said. During July-November 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at $621.164 million against $560.266 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at $480.727 million against $501.999 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at $600.871 million against the exports of US $638.846 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at $406.674 million against $234.563 million last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at US $313.998 million against US $241.960 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US $230.857 million against US $207.183 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US $257.895 million against US $236.207 million.

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US $303.421 million during the current year compared to US $275.619 million last year whereas the exports to Turkiye stood at US $136.769 million against US $158.843 million.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1256488/pakistani-exports-us-china-uk-lead-the-way/

Experts term Karot Hydropower Project as beacon of clean energy

The Karot Hydropower Project, a landmark initiative in Pakistan's renewable energy landscape, is setting new standards for sustainable power generation, environmental stewardship, and economic development, said Senior Advisor to China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited (CTGSAI), Noorul Arifeen Zuberi.

In an interactive session with journalists at the 720-megawatt project cite, located on the Jhelum River, Zuberi said, it was a shining example of the country's commitment to transitioning towards a cleaner, greener future.

"The Karot Hydropower Project is a model for Pakistan's future renewable energy endeavors. By harnessing the power of water, we are not only meeting the country's energy needs but also contributing to its economic growth and environmental sustainability," he said. The project, which began construction in December 2016, achieved commercial operation on June 29, 2022, with installed capacity of 720 megawatts and is expected to generate 3,206 gigawatts of electricity annually, making it a significant contributor to Pakistan's national grid. The Karot Hydropower Project is a direct foreign investment (FDI) project, with a total cost of approximately $1.74 billion. CTGSAI, the project's developer, is a subsidiary of China Three Gorges Corporation (93%) and Silk Road Venture Investment Company (7%). The project has created approximately 5,000 local jobs during its construction phase and currently employs around 200 local workers and 25 Chinese nationals. This influx of employment opportunities has not only boosted the local economy but also fostered greater people-to-people exchanges between Pakistan and China. CTGSAI is currently operating and developing six renewable energy projects in Pakistan, with a total installed capacity of over 3,000 megawatts and an investment of over $6 billion, Zuberi said. These projects are a testament to the company's commitment to supporting Pakistan's transition towards a low-carbon economy. He termed the Karot Hydropower Project is a beacon of hope for Pakistan's energy future, demonstrating the potential for renewable energy to drive economic growth, reduce carbon emissions, and improve the lives of citizens.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1256449/experts-term-karot-hydropower-project-as-beacon-of-clean-energy/

Pakistan Observer

Xinjiang: A Key Hub for BRI, CPEC & European Connectivity

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

Xinjiang, China's largest northwestern region, has been strategically positioned to become a significant hub for both the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China's connectivity efforts with Central Asia, Europe and Pakistan. With its rich resources, advantageous geographical location and well-developed infrastructure, Xinjiang is increasingly playing a pivotal role in promoting regional trade, business and imports/exports, especially in facilitating the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and connecting China with Europe.

Xinjiang is located at the crossroads of Asia, linking China with the Central Asian Republics and Pakistan. It is bordered by several countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Tajikistan and Pakistan, making it a vital bridge for China to access these neighbouring regions. As the gateway to China's northwestern part, Xinjiang's geographic positioning offers immense potential for trade, investment and logistics, which aligns perfectly with BRI. The region serves as an essential link between China and Central Asia, providing both land and rail connectivity to Europe.

Under the Belt and Road cooperation, China has been focusing on enhancing infrastructure, trade routes and connectivity across Asia, Europe and Africa. Xinjiang plays a central role in the development of these trade routes, particularly the China-Europe Railway Express and the CPEC.

One of the most significant projects linking China and Pakistan is the CPEC, a mega infrastructure initiative under the BRI that aims to connect the port of Gwadar in southern Pakistan with China's Xinjiang region. Xinjiang, with its strategic location, is not only the starting point of CPEC but also an important component in facilitating the efficient movement of goods and services between the two countries.

The CPEC includes a network of roads, railways, pipelines and energy corridors that is enhancing trade, investment and connectivity. The region is poised to benefit from the development of infrastructure projects, such as the Khunjerab Pass, which connects Xinjiang with Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region. This direct land route helps reduce transportation time and costs for goods traveling between China and Pakistan, opening up vast opportunities for trade and export.

The Xinjiang-Pakistan connectivity is important for Pakistan as it allows the country to bypass traditional maritime trade routes and access the vast Chinese market more efficiently. The strong trade relationships established through CPEC are already seeing an increase in Chinese imports and exports to Pakistan, particularly in sectors such as machinery, electronics, textiles, and agriculture. In return, Pakistan exports goods like textiles, rice, and other agricultural products to China, reinforcing the economic interdependence between the two nations. Xinjiang is also a vital gateway for China to connect with Central Asian countries. These countries are collaborating with China for infrastructure development, trade, and investment, and Xinjiang serves as the conduit for these economic exchanges.

Through Xinjiang, China has established several road and rail links to Central Asia, facilitating the seamless movement of goods and services across the region. The Horgos port, located in Xinjiang, serves as a central land port for both Chinese and Central Asian trade. As part of the BRI, Horgos is the largest dry port in the world and plays a key role in facilitating the trade of goods between China and Central Asia. The port has seen an exponential increase in container traffic, with goods ranging from machinery to electronics being shipped to Central Asia and beyond.

Xinjiang's role as a regional trade hub, along with the development of infrastructure, has been important in integrating Central Asia into the global economy.In addition to its connections to Central Asia and Pakistan, Xinjiang plays a vital role in China's trade with Europe. The BRI has prioritized the creation of an efficient land-based transport network, and Xinjiang has become a vital link in the China-Europe freight train network. This rail network

facilitates the movement of goods from China to Europe and vice versa, offering an alternative to traditional maritime shipping.

Xinjiang's land ports, such as the Alashankou Port and Horgos, play a significant role in facilitating these rail connections. These ports are crucial transit points for freight trains traveling between China and Europe, significantly reducing shipping time and costs. The China-Europe freight trains, which have gained in popularity over the years, run along the ancient Silk Road route and now connect over 227 cities and 25 European countriesaround the globe, including major hubs like Chengdu, Xi'an, and Urumqi in Xinjiang.

The growth of the China-Europe rail network has been particularly significant for businesses in both China and Europe. The faster shipping time compared to sea transport has enabled businesses to reduce lead times, thereby improving supply chain efficiency. Goods such as electronics, textiles, machinery and consumer products are transported via these trains, helping to promote trade between China and Europe.

Xinjiang's logistical infrastructure has been a key enabler in expanding the BRI's connectivity between China and Europe, making it easier for businesses to access new markets and expand their export potential. Its growing role as a trade hub and regional centre for connectivity has unlocked significant business and import-export opportunities. The region is rich in natural resources, such as oil, gas, and minerals, as well as agricultural products like cotton, fruits, and grains. These resources provide ample export opportunities for Xinjiang and create a conducive environment for industrial growth.

China has been investing heavily in Xinjiang's industrial infrastructure, focusing on sectors like manufacturing, renewable energy, agriculture, and logistics. With the development of industrial parks, advanced manufacturing facilities, and trade hubs, the region has become a key destination for foreign direct investment (FDI). Its strategic proximity to Central Asia, South Asia, and Europe enhances its role as a trade and manufacturing hub, while expanding rail and road networks has opened new trade routes, boosting Xinjiang's import-export activities.

Xinjiang's growing infrastructure and strategic location make it a critical component of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and an essential link in both the CPEC and China-Europe connectivity. The region's increasing importance as a trade hub offers significant opportunities for business and trade, particularly through key infrastructure such as land ports and rail networks. With its expanding connectivity to Central Asia, Pakistan, and Europe, Xinjiang is poised to become a central player in global trade, supporting China's ambitious economic goals.

https://pakobserver.net/xinjiang-a-key-hub-for-bri-cpec-european-connectivity/

CPEC and Revised System of Safety & Security: A Way Forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

UNFORTUNATELY, the Government of Pakistan and its secret agencies had to face the toughest time because of the vulnerable safety and security system of the Chinese nationals working in the CPEC projects in the country during 2024. Frequent attacks on the Chinese nationals, investors, businessmen and technicians working at various CPEC projects deteriorated the soft image of the country and remained one of the main hurdles of attracting more and more inflows of the FDIs. The current surge in terrorism and cross-border infiltrations have once again raised the importance of a hybrid security and policing system between Pakistan and China.

Undoubtedly, CPEC Phases I and II represent a systemic shift aimed at redefining Pakistan's role in South Asia. This initiative exemplifies a sustainable partnership for socio-economic development, aligning with Pakistan's aspirations for rapid economic growth, regional integration, and enhanced trade connectivity across South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. By addressing critical gaps in infrastructure and power supply, CPEC seeks to position Pakistan as a pivotal hub in global trade while revitalizing its economic trajectory. However, challenges such as terrorism, the conspiratorial roles of regional competitors, and the interference of global power brokers have hindered its pace, utility, and scope. Despite these challenges, policymakers from both countries have expressed satisfaction with the positive trajectory of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, including the high-quality development of CPEC Phase II.

It augurs well that during the most recently held fourth round of Pakistan-China Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) in Beijing, both sides agreed to jointly advance the timely execution and completion of CPEC Phase II projects in the country. The meeting was led by Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch and Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong, where both parties exchanged views on a range of regional and international issues and committed to enhancing mutual coordination and consultations through high-level exchanges and dialogue mechanisms. Baloch highlighted the Pakistan-China relationship as special and unique, emphasizing that the government and people of Pakistan deeply cherished the enduring friendship between the two nations. The meeting also reviewed the full spectrum of practical cooperation, with a particular focus on the projects driving the high-quality development of CPEC Phase II.

Additionally, both sides agreed to further deepen their mutual partnerships in sectors such as information technology, agriculture and clean energy, driven by the concept of win-win cooperation and pursuit of people centric, inclusive development. The meeting also acknowledged the pivotal role of CPEC in promoting regional connectivity, win-win cooperation and common prosperity, including through partnerships with other countries.

During the meeting, the Foreign Secretary described CPEC as the cornerstone of economic cooperation as well as a shining symbol of the enduring friendship between the two countries.

The Chinese Vice Foreign Minister highlighted the mutually reinforcing relationship of the five new corridors introduced under CPEC Phase-II namely growth, livelihood, innovation, open and green corridor with Pakistan's national development framework centred on 5 E's namely, Exports, E-Pakistan, Energy, Environment and Equity which is commendable.

Amna Baloch also met with Executive Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu, where they discussed Pakistan-China relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. The CPEC has undeniably transformed Pakistan into an attractive destination for direct investment. The 14 energy projects that have been commercialized contribute about one-fifth of Pakistan's total installed power capacity, highlighting the strategic significance of CPEC in ensuring the country's energy security. The successful connection of the SK Hydropower Station units to the grid further underscores this importance, as it helps reduce energy deficits and diversify Pakistan's energy mix. Looking ahead, work on renewable energy projects, primarily solar and wind, is set to commence, further advancing the country's energy landscape.

Now CPEC presents a unique opportunity to deepen Pakistan's financial market by introducing innovative financial instruments such as CPEC bonds and Islamic Sukuk, providing avenues for both local and international investors to participate in these projects. Thus CPEC Phase-II would also be a value addition for further financial integration in the days to come.

Pakistan remained a frontline state in 20th-century geopolitics, which played havoc to its state, society and the system. Now the policy makers of Pakistan should jointly work to unlock CPEC's potential, ensuring security for Chinese personnel and Chinese projects. The CPEC has turned Pakistan into a hub of connectivity and is helping Pakistan to achieve its dream of sustainable development and prosperity.

In recent months, the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the security of Chinese nationals have been revised/updated in consultation with the Chinese Embassy to ensure foolproof protection. However, since 2021, 14 attacks targeting Chinese nationals have occurred—two in KP, four in Balochistan and eight in Sindh—highlighting the persistent threat from terrorist outfits, particularly in South Balochistan, Northern KP and Gilgit-Baltistan. Karachi has remained a focal point for these attacks, with Regional Hostile Intelligence Agencies (RHIAs) identified as key orchestrators and financiers. To counter this, 7,984 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) were conducted nationwide, resulting in the elimination of 206 terrorists and the arrest of 1,312, with Punjab, Sindh, KP, Balochistan and ICT actively contributing to these efforts. Interestingly, one percent of CPEC projects was dedicated for security purposes and two special security divisions of the army were deployed for the security of CPEC projects. The Special Protection Unit (SPU) and Special Security Units (SSU) were employed for protection of Chinese nationals. Besides district police, FC and CAF were also deployed for the security of Chinese. In June 2024, SOPs for non-CPEC/scattered Chinese were revised. In September 2024, SOPs were again revised/updated after holding consultation with the Chinese Embassy Islamabad.

For further strengthening of the safety and security system, the Special Security Audit was conducted by MO Directorate and Intelligence Bureau and now certain important projects in KP and Sindh have been handed over to the army for the purpose of security and protection.

There is a close liaison with the Chinese Security Cell in the Chinese Embassy. In November 2024, the Joint Working Group on Security visited China. A draft counter terrorism agreement for cooperation between China and Pakistan is in the process.

The author suggests that policy makers of China must provide the latest equipment, including helis, aerial vehicles and bullet-proof vehicles for ensuring foolproof security. To conclude there is an urgent need to have a hybrid security system along with joint policing between both the countries.

https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-revised-system-of-safety-security-a-way-forward/

Ahsan chairs meeting on Gwadar Ports' effective operationalization

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday chaired a meeting that focused on devising short and medium-term strategies for effective operationalization of Gwadar Deep Seaport within six months. Among others, the meeting was attended by Secretary Planning Awais Manzur Sumra, Member infrastructure Waqas Anwar, senior officials from the Planning Commission, and representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Communications, Maritime Affairs, Railways, and Petroleum, as well as the Gwadar Port Authority and other relevant departments. Representatives from various embassies also participated via video link, a news release said.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of comparing Gwadar's trade costs with other regional ports, including those in Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Bishkek and Tashkent.—APP

https://pakobserver.net/ahsan-chairs-meeting-on-gwadar-ports-effective-operationalization/

The News

China's technical team to visit Pakistan to finalise ML-1 rail link

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: China's technical team is scheduled to visit Pakistan for finalizing financial and technical aspects for construction of the much-awaited Mainline (ML-1) rail link at the estimated cost of $6.7 billion by the end of the ongoing month.

However, China has so far communicated to Islamabad that it would finance the ML-1 in a phased manner and in the first phase it will construct the Karachi to Hyderabad portion of the upgrading rail link. The ML-1 will upgrade the rail link from Karachi to Peshawar as well as to Havalian.

Top official sources confirmed to The News on Monday that China's high-powered technical committee was expected to visit Pakistan by the end of the ongoing month to firm up technical and financial arrangements for ML-1. The ML-1 has so far remained non -starter despite conceiving of this project at very beginning of China Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) project. China had utilised over $30 billion during the last decade to construct infrastructure and energy sector projects but the ML-1 could not kick-start in these last nine to ten years period.

Pakistan has granted approval for Re-Modified PC-1 for up gradation of Pakistan Railways existing Main Line (ML-1) and establishment of Dry Port near Havelian" with the cost of $6.7 billion.

The implementation arrangement of the project is through Implementation Unit / China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan Railways, Ministry of Railways under EPC mode.

The project is financed through foreign funding under CPEC framework agreement. The Pakistan Railways network is an important part of the transport sector and it has been facilitating the movement of people and goods. Pakistan Railways infrastructure is more than a century old and has outlived its useful life.

Some of the structures are on the verge of collapse and are a threat to safety of train operations. Most of the track components viz. rails, sleepers, fastenings, turnouts, ballast, bridges/culverts and sub-grades as well as signalling & telecommunication systems have exhausted their life. The original track which was built in late 19th century and early 20th century had been designed for low speeds and lesser axle loads which do not commensurate with the present days loading patterns and desired speeds. The Government of Pakistan aims to build necessary logistics facilities to support GDP growth and in this regard it intends to up-grade and modernize Pakistan Railways Network. PR has been a financial burden on the national exchequer and government envisions the PR to become a financially and socially viable organization. To achieve the GoP's objective, a major up-gradation of the railway system has been planned, including increasing speed of passenger and freight trains, doubling of tracks of the main line sections, and increasing line capacity so as to facilitate rail linkages to Central Asian States, China, and other neighboring countries.

https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=376289

Nawaiwaqt News

معاشی استحکام کیلئے چینی سرمایہ کاری اہم، چین سے مزید تعاون کے خواہاں: وزیر خزانہ

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر خزانہ و محصولات سینیٹر محمد اورنگزیب نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اپنی مارکیٹ کو چینی کیپٹل مارکیٹ سے مزید ہم آہنگ کرنے کے لئے جون تک پانڈا بانڈ جاری کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ پاکستان میں چینی کمپنیوں کے تحفظ کے لئے سکیورٹی میں اضافہ کیا جائے گا۔ پاکستان میں سکیورٹی کے حالات بہتر ہوئے ہیں۔ چین کے ساتھ چائنا مارننگ پوسٹ کو انٹرویو میں وزیر خزانہ نے کہا کہ پاکستان چینی سرمایہ کاروں سے 200 سے 250 ملین ڈالر اکٹھا کرنے کا خواہش مند ہے۔ مصر کی طرز پر یو آن بانڈز کے اجراء کی بنک گارنٹی کے لئے ایشین انفراسٹرکچر انویسٹمنٹ بنک سے بات چیت چل رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان آنے والے مہینوں میں اپنی کریڈٹ ریٹنگ کو سنگل بی میں بدلنے کے لئے پر عزم ہے۔ وزیر خزانہ نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے معاشی استحکام کے لئے چینی سرمایہ کاری بہت اہم ہے۔ پاکستان سی پیک کے اگلے فیز میں چین سے مزید تعاون کا خواہاں ہے، سی پیک کے اگلے فیز میں خصوصی اقتصادی زونز، زراعت اور انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی شعبوں میں وسعت لائی جائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کے نجی شعبے اور برآمدی صنعتوں کو پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کرنی چاہیے۔ چین کی بڑی کمپنیاں اپنے برآمدی یونٹس پاکستان منتقل کر کے پاکستان کو

بطور برآمدی مرکز استعمال کر سکتی ہیں۔ سی پیک ٹو میں برآمدی صنعتوں کی ترجیح سے قرض ادائیگی کو آسان بنایا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ درآمدات پر استوار معیشت کے باعث پاکستان کو زرمبادلہ کی کمی اور ادائیگیوں میں عدم توازن کا سامنا ہے۔ انہوں نے یہ بات ہانگ کانگ سپیشل ایڈمنسٹریٹو ریجن ایس اے آر کے چیف ایگزیکٹو جون کے سی لی سے ملاقات میں کی۔ مقصد پاکستان اور چینی خطہ ہانگ کانگ کے درمیان دوطرفہ تعاون کو فروغ دینا تھا۔ ملاقات میں وزیر خزانہ اور چیف ایگزیکٹو لی نے اقتصادی تعاون، تجارتی تعلقات، سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع اور ثقافتی تبادلوں سمیت مختلف موضوعات پر تعمیری بات چیت کی۔ وزیر خزانہ نے پاکستان اور ہانگ کانگ کے درمیان اقتصادی اور سفارتی تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط کرنے کی اہمیت پر زور دیا۔ انہوں نے مختلف شعبوں جیسے فنانس، ٹیکنالوجی اور سیاحت میں تعاون بڑھانے کی صلاحیت کو اجاگر کیا اور دونوں خطوں کے مشترکہ مفادات اور اقدار پر روشنی ڈالی۔ جون کے سی لی نے وزیر خزانہ کی آمد کا خیر مقدم کیا اور پاکستان اور ہانگ کانگ کے درمیان تعاون کو فروغ دینے کے عزم کو دہرایا۔

https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-15/page-8/detail-69

Chinese Newspapers

January 02, 2025

People's Daily

Xi's New Year message brings confidence to world amid turbulence

China's determination to advance high-quality development, expand high-level opening up, and comprehensively push forward Chinese modernization reflects China's commitment as a responsible major country, said Stephen Ndegwa, a Kenyan expert on international issues.

BEIJING, Jan. 1 (Xinhua) -- The New Year message delivered by Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday demonstrates China's remarkable achievements in pursuing high-quality development in the past year, and injects a sense of confidence into the world amid challenges and turbulence, overseas experts have said.

Xi's message also shows China's responsibility as a major country to advance global peace and development and its resolution and action to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, they observed, while expressing their hope to jointly create a better future for the world.

INJECT CONFIDENCE INTO WORLD ECONOMY

"We have proactively responded to the impacts of the changing environment at home and abroad. We have adopted a full range of policies to make solid gains in pursuing high-quality development. China's economy has rebounded and is on an upward trajectory," Xi said in his New Year message.

"China's comprehensive policy measures to address complex domestic and international challenges demonstrate its robust governance and adaptability," said Benjamin Mgana, chief editor of foreign news at The Guardian newspaper in Tanzania.

From economic recovery to the production of over 10 million new energy vehicles in a year, these milestones reflect the success of China's high-quality development strategy, Mgana said, noting the advancement of green and low-carbon development and the emergence of new industries and business models underscore China's commitment to sustainable development.

"Today China has emerged as a global leader in combating climate change, advancing green and low-carbon development, and setting an inspiring example of sustainable progress," said Hassan Daud Butt, former CEO of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment in Pakistan.

China is innovating at an unprecedented scale, while actively sharing its successes with the world, particularly with developing nations, he added.

Impressed by China's breakthroughs in integrated circuit, artificial intelligence, quantum communications and many other fields mentioned by Xi, Hidetoshi Tashiro, chief economist at Japan's Sigma Capital Ltd., said "China has promoted high-quality development through high-level opening-up, which has benefited the world and provided leapfrog development opportunities for developing countries."

CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL PEACE, DEVELOPMENT

"In a world of both transformation and turbulence, China, as a responsible major country, is actively promoting global governance reform and deepening solidarity and cooperation among the Global South," Xi said in the message.

"China is increasingly becoming a key stabilizing force through its advocacy of multilateralism and openness," said Lyazid Benhami, vice president of the Paris Association of French-Chinese Friendship.

By driving the reform of global institutions, China will give a voice to those countries long marginalized and strive to ensure their voices are heard, Benhami added.

Xi's message showed China's important role as a Global South leader, said Joseph Matthews, a senior professor at the BELTEI International University in Cambodia.

Through multilateral forums such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, APEC and G20, China has been dedicated to advocating and promoting multilateralism as well as creating an even playing field for all the players, Matthews said.

"President Xi's remarks send a message to the world that China is willing to work with each and every country who wants to promote peace and socio-economic development and fight against poverty and unjust global governance system," the expert added.

As Xi mentioned in his message, China is making deeper and more substantive advances in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Ravshan Nazarov, a senior researcher at the Institute of State and Law of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, noted in particular that the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), will fill gaps in the region's cross-border transport network, contributing to the integration of logistics and strengthening the infrastructural and economic connectivity of BRI partners as well as the role of Central Asia in global supply chains.

China's determination to advance high-quality development, expand high-level opening up, and comprehensively push forward Chinese modernization reflects China's commitment as a responsible major country, said Stephen Ndegwa, a Kenyan expert on international issues.

"China's series of propositions on the concept of regional cooperation and the direction of development will have a positive impact on the maintenance of global stability and the prospects of world economic growth," he said.

JOINTLY CREATE A BETTER FUTURE

"As changes unseen in a century accelerate across the world, it is important to rise above estrangement and conflict with a broad vision, and care for the future of humanity with great passion," Xi noted in his message, adding China will work with all countries to promote friendship and cooperation, enhance mutual learning among different cultures, and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

"We must jointly create a better future for the world," Xi made the call.

Gan Tian Loo, vice chairman of the Association of Interaction Malaysia-China, said that the initiative to build a community with a shared future for mankind is actively contributing to global modernization, transcending conflict and confrontation in favor of peaceful development, replacing zero-sum games with win-win cooperation, and preventing civilizational clashes through exchange and mutual understanding.

"Multilateralism is the only way to ensure a stable world, cooperation and sharing," Mladen Plese, former editor-in-chief of Croatian daily Jutarnji List, told Xinhua, noting that China's contribution to world peace is "immeasurable."

Xi's call for joint efforts to tackle global challenges aligns with the aspirations of developing countries for sustainable development and resilience against climate change, said Balew Demissie, communication and publication consultant at the Policy Studies Institute of Ethiopia.

Demissie also noted that Xi's emphasis on multilateral cooperation frameworks contributes to a multipolar world where African countries can assert their interest and benefit from their participation.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0102/c90000-20261021.html

Xinhua News

New Gwadar Int'l Airport to unlock economic opportunities for Pakistan: PM

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 2 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that the New Gwadar International Airport in the country's southwest Balochistan province will unlock immense economic opportunities for Pakistan, an official statement said.

Chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet here, Sharif said that the world-class airport aided by China has a great potential to transform the country into a commercial hub by facilitating trade and investment.

The airport is a 4F-grade state-of-the-art facility to handle the largest civil aircraft. Its 3,658-meter-long, 75-meter-wide runway, with specialized foundation treatment, sets a benchmark in engineering standards.

The construction of the airport started in 2019 and was completed in 2024. It has been officially handed over to the Pakistani side.

Addressing previous connectivity challenges, the airport will enable modern airlines to serve Gwadar, enhancing regional economic growth and positioning Gwadar as a transshipment hub linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The prime minister also underscored the need for export-led growth to achieve the goal of economic development and expressed satisfaction with the stability achieved so far due to the government's commitment to further boost the economy.

He said that the country's remittances have reached 15 billion U.S. dollars in the first five months of the current fiscal year, adding that they are expected to hit a historic 35-billion-U.S.-dollar mark by the end of the financial year in July if the current trend persists.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

https://english.news.cn/20250102/04e0b2b7cceb4b378b89029c6ab59e8b/c.html

January 03, 2025

People's Daily

In pics: first working day of 2025 at Khunjerab Pass in China's Xinjiang

A truck drives through the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Jan. 2, 2025.

Khunjerab Pass is a land port on the China-Pakistan border and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe. Thursday is the first working day of 2025 for customs clearance at the pass, which recorded over 60, 000 inbound and outbound passengers in 2024, according to the Khunjerab Customs. (Xinhua/Hu Huhu)

A police officer for border inspection is on duty at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Jan. 2, 2025.

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A passenger for Pakistan has his travel documents checked at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Jan. 2, 2025. Khunjerab Pass is a land port on the China-Pakistan border and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe. Thursday is the first working day of 2025 for customs clearance at the pass, which recorded over 60, 000 inbound and outbound passengers in 2024, according to the Khunjerab Customs. (Xinhua/Chen Shuo)

A police officer for border inspection checks travel documents on a bus carrying outbound passengers at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Jan. 2, 2025.

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An aerial drone photo shows the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Jan. 2, 2025.

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January 07, 2025

People's Daily

Global South: The dawn of a new geopolitical era

Zamir Ahmed Awan

The term "Global South" refers to the collective identity of nations in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania that share histories of colonization, exploitation, and underdevelopment. Rich in cultural diversity and natural resources, these countries have long been marginalized by global structures dominated by the West.

In recent decades, the Global South has emerged as a formidable economic and political bloc. With more than 70 percent of the world's population and over 40 percent of global GDP, the collective power of these nations is undeniable. The growing awareness among their populations about historical injustices and the role of the West in perpetuating poverty and instability has fueled movements advocating self-reliance, equitable resource distribution, and international parity.

This transformation is exemplified by the formation of organizations such as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), ASEAN, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). These organizations signify a collective desire to challenge Western hegemony and foster collaboration within the Global South. South-South trade, which surged from $2.3 trillion in 2007 to $5.6 trillion in 2023, is a testament to this shift.

The Global South's significance lies in its vast resources, youthful populations, and potential for economic growth. As the traditional Western powers grapple with internal challenges, the Global South has stepped into the spotlight. These nations have become key players in addressing global issues such as climate change, energy security, and poverty alleviation.

For instance, despite being disproportionately affected by climate change, countries in the Global South are pioneering sustainable solutions. The Africa Solar Belt program and China-led green energy projects exemplify efforts to leverage renewable resources for energy independence and economic upliftment.

China's role in the Global South

As the world's largest developing nation, China embodies the aspirations of the Global South and actively fosters collaborative growth through strategic initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

China's investments in critical infrastructure, such as the Karot Hydropower Project in Pakistan and Kenya's solar plants, have directly improved the quality of life for millions. The African Continental Free Trade Area, supported by Chinese investments, is poised to elevate Africa's GDP by $450 billion by 2035, lifting millions out of poverty.

China's commitment to green development is evident in projects like the "Great Green Wall" initiative in Africa and the electrification of public transportation in Shenzhen. These initiatives showcase China's dedication to sustainable progress and serve as a model for other Global South nations.

China's approach is rooted in the philosophy of a community with a shared future for mankind, emphasizing collaboration over competition. This ethos reflects the spirit of the ancient Silk Road, which fostered cultural and intellectual exchange between East and West. Today, through initiatives like Confucius Institutes and scholarship programs, China continues to promote education and mutual understanding.

While the Global South's potential is immense, challenges persist. Political instability, limited access to technology, and the lingering effects of colonial exploitation require cohesive strategies. Strengthening multilateral institutions like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and fostering regional cooperation are essential steps toward overcoming these hurdles.

Future prospects

The Global South stands on the brink of a transformative era, poised to redefine global power dynamics and establish itself as a central force in shaping the 21st century. By uniting under a shared identity and leveraging strategic partnerships, these nations are paving the way for equitable development and sustainable progress. With China's steadfast support and collaborative leadership, the Global South is not merely rising; it is reshaping the global narrative, and offering a visionary blueprint for a more balanced and inclusive world order.

China's pivotal role in this transformation cannot be overstated. Through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has fostered unprecedented connectivity and infrastructure development across the Global South. The revitalization of critical trade routes and the creation of economic hubs like the Gwadar Port in Pakistan and the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway in Africa exemplify China's commitment to shared growth. These projects not only uplift local economies but also reinforce the Global South's collective strength, reducing dependency on traditional Western systems.

Furthermore, China's leadership extends beyond economic development to addressing global challenges such as climate change and energy security. By championing green initiatives like the "Great Green Wall" in Africa and achieving remarkable advancements in sustainable urban development within its own borders, China sets a powerful example for the Global South. Its philosophy of a community with a shared future for mankind encapsulates a vision of cooperation over conflict, inclusivity over exclusivity, and mutual benefit over zero-sum competition.

As the Global South consolidates its position on the world stage, it is rewriting the rules of engagement in international relations. The traditional Western narrative of superiority is being replaced by one of equality and mutual respect. The growing influence of organizations such as BRICS, SCO, and ASEAN underscores a collective desire to create systems that are equitable and inclusive, free from the historical imbalances perpetuated by Western powers.

The decline of Western hegemony marks the beginning of a new era, where the voices of the Global South are not only heard but also respected and valued. The rise of China, in particular, has provided the Global South with a reliable partner and advocate for their shared interests. This partnership is not merely transactional; it is transformational, rooted in a shared commitment to prosperity, sovereignty, and sustainable development.

In this defining moment, the Global South is charting a course toward a future where power is distributed more equitably, and opportunities are shared universally. The world is witnessing the dawn of a new global order—one that promises fairness, balance, and justice. As China leads with vision and the Global South rises with resilience, the dream of a more inclusive and sustainable world is no longer a distant possibility but an imminent reality.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0107/c98649-20263050.html

January 08, 2025

Xinhua News

China expresses thanks for condolence messages following Xizang quake

BEIJING, Jan. 8 (Xinhua) -- China thanked many foreign countries and international organizations for their condolence messages after a deadly earthquake in China's Xizang Autonomous Region, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Wednesday.

The 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck Dingri County in Xizang Tuesday morning, leaving 126 dead and 188 others injured so far, with rescue efforts ongoing.

"Since the earthquake, many countries and international organizations have extended condolences to China in various ways," Guo noted at a daily press briefing.

He said that as of 11 a.m. Wednesday, the Chinese side has received messages of condolence from leaders of 22 countries, namely Russia, Pakistan, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Maldives, Japan, Cuba, Venezuela, Serbia, Belarus, Spain, Italy, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Oman, Grenada, El Salvador, and Uzbekistan.

He said condolence messages have also been sent by foreign ministries of countries including India, Brazil, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Türkiye, Bahrain and Iran, as well as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Nurlan Yermekbayev, and President of the Central American Parliament Carlos Hernandez.

"We express sincere appreciation for that," said the spokesperson.

https://english.news.cn/20250108/c1c79f5f19444a408bde5badd5b8f2df/c.html

January 09, 2025

People's Daily

China expresses thanks for condolence messages following Xizang quake

BEIJING, Jan. 8 (Xinhua) -- China thanked many foreign countries and international organizations for their condolence messages after a deadly earthquake in China's Xizang Autonomous Region, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Wednesday.

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http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0109/c90000-20263863.html

Pakistan to intensify efforts to promote Gulf-China trade via Gwadar

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 9 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, has called for intensified efforts to promote trade between Gulf countries and China via Gwadar Port in the country's southwest Balochistan province, the ministry said in a statement. Speaking at a high-level meeting here on Wednesday, the minister emphasized that the port, being developed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), offers the most economical and efficient trade route for imports and exports in the region. Calling the Gwadar Port "one of Pakistan's most valuable assets," Iqbal said that it provides the shortest trade route to Gulf and Central Asian countries and has immense potential to serve as a key regional trans-shipment hub. Iqbal also underscored the need for aggressive global marketing of Gwadar's competitive advantages, including its location and cost-effective shipping options, the statement added. He directed stakeholders to develop comprehensive marketing materials, which will be disseminated through Pakistan's embassies and trade missions worldwide to promote Gwadar Port on a global scale. Iqbal also stressed the need for a robust action plan within six months to generate trade traffic through the port, with an aim to create job opportunities for local residents and boost the regional economy, the statement said. In a bid to enhance Gwadar's competitiveness, Iqbal instructed the National Logistics Cell to conduct a detailed cost analysis of trans-shipment routes. "We must offer competitive pricing and viable logistics solutions to attract international trade," he added. Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase expands to fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others. http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0109/c90000-20264073.html

Xinhua News

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https://english.news.cn/20250109/4e69eb1c85ce4223be20fadb7b7d0bb3/c.html

January 13, 2025

People's Daily

Event welcoming Chinese New Year held in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 13 (Xinhua) -- An event welcoming the Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival, was held here on Saturday, with over 500 overseas Chinese and Pakistani guests participating.

Delivering a speech at the event, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong reviewed the achievements of China's economic and social development and the fruits of China-Pakistan bilateral cooperation in 2024.

Looking forward to the Chinese New Year, Jiang said, "We hope and firmly believe that overseas Chinese will continue to foster a strong sense of community within the Chinese nation, care for and support the development of their homeland, and promote China-Pakistan cooperation."

Speaking at the event, La Jielian, chairman of the Pakistan Overseas Chinese Association, said the association is actively progressing in a positive direction and remains optimistic about a brighter future in Pakistan in the new year.

During the event, stalls displaying Chinese calligraphy and artwork attracted enthusiastic crowds, while collections of rare Chinese nuts and stones offered a glimpse into the nation's rich heritage.

Visitors also enjoyed a range of culinary delights, including traditional Chinese dumplings, noodles and hot pots.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, a traditional cultural performance captivated the audience.

"I think more events like this should happen and more people should participate," said Hassan Daud Butt, former CEO of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment &Trade.

The event was jointly organized by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, the Pakistan Overseas Chinese Association and the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan.

This year's Spring Festival falls on Jan. 29, kicking off the Year of the Snake.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0113/c90000-20265272.html