



Islamabad's Informal



CHINA STUDY CIRCLE



Fifteenth Session

CPEC Updates by Shahzad Qasim





Stability in Pak integral to China's develop: Envoy

- **Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan Yao Jing has said that China cannot afford to lose Pakistan because stability in its neighbourhood is integral to China's development**
- **emphasised that Pakistan matters to China's vision of development and growth as enshrined in last year's 19th China's Communist Party Convention. He added that Pakistan's importance to China would continue to increase because of the centrality of the CPEC route in BRI**
- **China envisages CPEC to be a lead project for connectivity and peace**
- **He stated the project was not only for the benefit of Pakistan and China as "ownership of CPEC finally belongs to the whole world**



IMF rep lauds government economic policies

- **Resident Representative of IMF lauded the efforts of the government for improving security situation which has given boost to economic activities and enhanced confidence of the business community**
- **She appreciated government's endeavours to increase exports that would help bring down trade deficit**
- **Minister of State for Finance Rana Muhammad Afzal exchanged views with her on the current macro- economic situation in the country and said all efforts were afoot to keep up the momentum of economic growth**

Economists see positive impact of CPEC

- **CPEC can accelerate Pak growth in four ways**
- **Increased capital inflows will ease macroeconomic management and the balance of payments**
- **The infusion of investment and technology into infrastructure development will catalyse key productive sectors**
- **Vibrant economic activity would attract investment from other countries, provided domestic investors lead the way**
- **Ensuing cross-border economic flows and supply chains will deepen integration in global economy**



Railways upgradation work to start next month

- Work on first phase under CPEC project for upgradation of Pakistan Railways will start in April with the investment of US\$3.2 billion
- Track of four sections would be upgraded under the first phase of CPEC for railways. The PR sections, including Lahore-Rawalpindi, Lahore-Multan, Kaluwal-Pindora and Rohari-Nawab Shah will be upgraded in this phase
- The upgradation of the track between Lahore and Rawalpindi will cut the duration of journey between the two destinations by two hours, while sharp curves at Kaluwal-Pindora track would be straightened for reduction of duration, sources added. The sources said that dual tracks would be laid on these sections while the signaling system on these tracks will also be improved

CPEC, Pakistan and global value chains

- Discussions on CPEC seem to have rightly moved from infrastructure to industrial development and economic cooperation. That is where CPEC can bring real dividends for Pakistan — a country with a relatively simple industrial base, declining exports and low economic complexity
- In last 13 years, Pakistan's industrial base did not evolve much and the economic complexity ranking merely moved by four positions, with 88th position in 2003 to 84th in 2016
- The infrastructure in Pakistan is getting a major boost and now there is a need to make use of this opportunity to move towards greater economic integration and trade, not only across north-south corridor but also moving east and west by better economic and trade ties with India and Iran

CPEC to spur insurance industry growth: Mamnoon

- **President Mamnoon Hussain said that insurance industry in Pak would get significance after develop of industries and business under CPEC**
- **He was addressing at a seminar arranged by the Federal Insurance Ombudsman. He underlined the importance of holding of seminars to guide and educate the people and the business community**
- **The youth equipped with relevant professional education in the trade and investment sectors had introduced new trends, he said and stressed upon further improvements in these sectors**



CPEC and language policy

- **The implementation of the CPEC and its major aim to benefit unemployed and marginalised youth; would depend largely on the type of language policy that Pakistan adopts**
- **This would determine if it is ‘elitist’ policy catering to members of ‘major’ language communities in Pakistan and China; or a ‘cultivation’ policy that is inclusive and enables all language communities**
- **Language policy based on principal of democracy, allows all participants to have equal opportunity to access various types of jobs and new business**



Chinese deleg meet Islamabad businessmen

- A delegation of Chinese companies from Lanzhou City of China visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and showed keen interest to find partners for escalators, elevators, lifts and energy vehicles in Pakistan
- The delegation was representing manufacturers of heavy duty escalators, elevators, lifts, battery vehicles and others
- Head of Chinese delegation said that CPEC had put Pakistan and China on long-term business partnership and they have come to Pakistan to find partners for achieving win-win results
- Senior Vice President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce said that CPEC has created plenty of new business and investment opportunities in Pakistan and it was right time for Chinese investors to set up joint ventures in Pakistan

Source Link: [https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/292120-chinese-delegation-meet-islamabad-](https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/292120-chinese-delegation-meet-islamabad-businessmen)

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Chinese Alipay makes inroads into Pakistan

- **Ant Financial Services Group, an affiliate of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, agreed to acquire 45 percent stake worth around Rs20 billion in Telenor to broaden access to digital payment solutions in Pakistan**
- **Telenor Group has reached a partnership agreement with Ant Financial Services Group in Pakistan, where Ant Financial will invest \$184.5m for a 45 percent stake in Telenor Microfinance Bank, to further develop TMB's mobile payment and digital financial services**
- **Alipay, the world's largest digital payment platform and financial services, would bring mobile payment and inclusive financial services to individuals as well as small and micro businesses in Pakistan**

Iran invites Pakistan to participate in Chahbahar project

- Pakistan had been concerned about Indian involvement in Chahbahar port. These concerns got amplified after Iranian agreement to give operational control of port to India
- Foreign Minister Zarif says Tehran's relations with New Delhi are not against Islamabad
- He said that Gwadar and Chahbahar were important for development of Iran and Pakistan and needed to be linked through sea and land routes for their complementarities
- Chahbahar port project was not meant to "encircle Pakistan, strangle anybody". He said Iran would not allow anybody to hurt Pakistan from its territory much like Pakistan would not allow its soil to be used against Iran

Source Link: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1394938/iran-invites-pakistan-to-participate-in-chahbahar-project>



