



Islamabad's Informal



CHINA STUDY CIRCLE



Eighteenth Session
CPEC-BCIM Updates
by Shahzad Qasim





Developments after General Elections 2018

- **Imran Khan hails Chinese development, poverty reduction, corruption eradication programs and looks to improve bilateral relations further under CPEC**
- **Imran Khan defines his policy of concentrating on poverty elimination and job creation especially through CPEC**
- **PTI Tweets in Chinese and Chinese embassy hails gesture**
- **Chinese ambassador meets Imran Khan in Banni Gala**
- **China approve to lend Pakistan US \$ 2 billion for helping Pakistan to manage balance of payment and improve foreign exchange reserves**
- **Chinese ambassador assures Imran Khan for support to economy and global affairs**
- **China ready to work with new government**
- **China hopeful for peaceful transition of power**



China launches remote sensing satellites for Pakistan to monitor progress on CPEC

- The launch of the two satellites marks yet another space cooperation between China and Pakistan since the launch of PAKSAT-1R, a communication satellite, in August 2011
- The PRSS-1 is China's first optical remote sensing satellite sold to Pakistan. It is 17th satellite developed by the China Academy of Space Technology for an overseas buyer
- The PRSS-1 will be used for land and resources surveying, monitoring of natural disasters, agriculture research, and urban construction and providing remote sensing information for CPEC under BRI of Chinese government
- Each camera has independent image processing, storage, and transmission capability

Source Link: <https://www.firstpost.com/world/china-successfully-launches-remote-sensing-satellites-for-pakistan-move-will-help-monitor-progress-on-strategic-cpec-4706411.html>



Engaging Locals for Tourism Along CPEC

- The local communities need to be hospitable towards outsiders to attract visitors, said Rana who is also president of the Sustainable Tourism Foundation
- along the CPEC route, there are number of opportunities for investment in every tourism sector from Khunjerab to Gwadar. The authorities need to invest in new dimensions of entertainment like air and rail safari
- Aftab Rana said development of tourism will not only increases domestic income but will also help in highlighting the positive image of Pakistan at the international level. Due to the political stability and peace restoration, trade has increased and the increase in investment in tourism sector is also expected

CPEC: India is Missing Opportunity

- *Delhi's strategic community doesn't see the true competition. The basic blunder is that India is turning away from an opportunity*
- **Delhi's strategic thinking narrowly construes the CPEC, exaggerates standing gained from geopolitical trophies, and lacks appreciation for transforming Pakistan. Over \$27 billion worth of CPEC resources are, in fact, allocated to undertake 18 power projects.**
- **The infrastructure in Pakistan is getting a major boost for economic integration and trade, not only across north-south corridor but also moving east and west**
- *In shunning CPEC, India is missing out on around \$400-500 billion in financing and investment*

Little progress on CPEC ML-I, SEZs riles minister

- Minister for Finance, Planning, Development and Reform Dr Shamshad Akhtar showed her displeasure over the slow progress of work on Pakistan Railways ML-I project and Special Economic Zones under CPEC and said that work should be expedited on these projects
- Presiding over the 55th Review meeting of the CPEC projects, the minister was shocked to note that so little work was done in the past four years on the ML-I and SEZs and said that work should have been in advance stage
- On the SEZs the minister was informed about bottlenecks it faces in implementations. The minister noted that work on the SEZs is very slow and said that it will be better to execute the SEZs in Public Private Partnership mode



CPEC projects in Pakistan hits roadblock as cheques worth over Rs 5 billion bounced

- The USD 50-billion worth CPEC is understood to have hit a roadblock with many of its projects getting stuck due to a financial crisis at NHA
- The contractors have stopped work on several projects of the CPEC after their cheques worth over Rs five billion bounced, Dawn reported
- Affected projects include Hakla-Dera Ismail Khan, Western Route of CPEC and all sections of Karachi-Lahore Motorway
- "Not only CPEC projects but local industries related to construction have been hit by situation,

Yunnan once again pivot of Southeast Asia

- Yunnan is close to Southeast Asia, and it has land borders totaling 4,000 kilometers in length with three ASEAN member countries, namely Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam
- In 1943, Owen Lattimore wrote: “Yunnan is pivot on which events in Southeast Asia are likely to turn after war.”
- Thanks to the relocation of industries, moving inland from coastal towns and construction of the Burma Road, which “did far more than open a way into China from abroad” and “changed structure of production and distribution within Yunnan,” and “shifting of surplus population from eastern China to underpopulated southwest.”
- It is once again becoming China’s “pivot of Southeast Asia,” through economy as oppose to 75 years ago



The construction of BCIM vs. Myanmar

- The BCIM Economic Corridor is the economic link connecting the Ganges River of India, the Ayerwaddy River of Myanmar, and the Mekong River of Indo-China
- BCIM Economic Corridor conforms to the common interest requirements of the sub regional countries' economic and social development
- The BCIM Economic Corridor includes four priority fields: the infrastructure, constructing of connectivity, the cooperation development of industrial parks, and the international finance opening of cooperation and the formation of a systematic mechanism
- BCIM Economic Corridor's particular construction is the China-Myanmar oil and gas pipeline. Myanmar and China signed a 770 km crude oil and gas pipeline

Quadrilateral meeting of spymasters

- Moscow's Foreign Intelligence Service as saying that the emergence of Islamic State or Daesh in Afghanistan prompted the deliberations in Islamabad
- “The conference reached understanding of the importance of coordinated steps to prevent the trickling of IS terrorists from Syria and Iraq to Afghanistan”.
- Pakistan and China may not have said it publicly but Russia and Iran are quite forthcoming in pointing a finger at the US for being behind the rise of Daesh in Afghanistan
- These countries believe that the Afghan Taliban can serve as a bulwark against the more lethal Daesh which unlike Taliban, has a global agenda and is main worry for Afghanistan's immediate neighbours.

Source Link: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1757435/6-quadrilateral-meeting-spymasters/>



CPEC: Myths and Realities by Hassan Daud

- Article “CPEC-An unfair deal for common Pakistanis?” by a European foundation is full of misperceptions and misgivings, based on incorrect information.
- The finances of CPEC are not limited to loan, as it include grants, loans and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- Around \$35 billion energy projects are being executed under IPP. NEPRA has not given unusually high tariffs to any IPP investor under CPEC
- Around \$15 billion are allocated for infrastructure projects. Many projects are being implemented through Chinese grants. Few projects in infrastructure sector are being implemented with Chinese interest free loans/ concessional loans which Pakistan has to repay in 20 to 25 years with around 2% interest rate

Source Link: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/347061-cpec-myths-and-realities>



Thank you!