

Islamabad's Informal



CHINA
STUDY CIRCLE



Eighth Session

CPEC Updates by Shahzad Qasim



Four road projects added to CPEC

- China will include four new road projects, costing over Rs350 billion, to the original plans of CPEC
- the Naukundi-Mashkel-Panjgur Road will cost Rs20 billion and span across 290km
- Zhob-Kuchlak is part of the Western Corridor CPEC Phase-II project will span across 350 KM
- Mirpur-Muzaffarabad-Mansehra road project will stretch across 200 km and cost Rs264 billion
- The Gilgit-Shindor-Chitral Road will cost Rs45 billion and will stretch across 354 km

China, Pakistan to boost anti-terror cooperation along CPEC

- The security cooperation agreement was reached when Meng Jianzhu, head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the Communist Party Central Committee, met visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif and Pakistani National Security Adviser Nasser Khan Janjua in Beijing
- Meng praised Pakistan's efforts in counter-terrorism and called for strengthened anti-terrorism and security cooperation in building the ambitious economic corridor

CPEC railway line, economic zone projects face delay

- The inability of federal and provincial governments to do away with their inefficiencies has held back benefits of CPEC projects as an \$8.2-billion project for upgrading main railway lines and a scheme for setting up special economic zones face delay
- The project for improvement of Pakistan Railways' existing Main Line (ML-I) was planned to be completed in two phases between 2016 and 2020. However, its preliminary design has not been completed yet, creating hurdles in the way of coming up with the final cost and financing arrangements

Source Link: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1512814/cpec-railway-line-economic-zone-projects-face-delay/>



Stories of a rising Gwadar

Pak-China Friendship School



Source Link: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/233696-Gwadar-rising-under-CPEC>



Chinese and Pakistanis Interaction in CPEC

- At least two Chinese nationals have converted to Islam, including one in Mansehra district, who said he was impressed by the death rituals and the respect given by Muslims to the dead.
- Intermarriages have taken place, mostly Chinese girls marrying Pakistani boys.
- Chinese claim to like Pakistani worker for their friendly nature but at the same time object to their lethargic attitude towards the work at hand

CPEC: Pakistan climbs global Ranking

- Pakistan's current ranking is 115th out of 137 countries as per recent report WEF.
- It is a big improvement from the 122th position the country occupied last year, and the 133th position back in 2014

Iranian gas can be 'indispensable' to CPEC

- With Iran having arguably one of the largest gas reserves in this part of the world – that energy resource could become an “indispensable” asset for the CPEC, this was stated by Iranian Ambassador Mehdi Honardoost while speaking at IPS, **Islamabad**
- The development of Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline could facilitate the early progression and pave way for future headway in this regard

Source Link: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1512890/iranian-gas-can-indispensable-cpec/>



CPEC: stirs competition instead of coop by India feels US Expert

- **China's deeper involvement in southern Asia via CPEC is stirring competitive Indian tendencies rather than cooperative ones, feels an American expert**
- **Professor Markey, wrote "Individually, China's strategic moves in Southern Asia are opportunistic works-in-progress, but collectively they reflect deeper and longer-term aspirations for regional hegemony and global pre-eminence."**

Rohingya massacre: another Afghanistan in the making, a part of Modi's war

- **Conflict between Rohingyas and Buddhists seems to have raged in 2012 when ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) was formed following the atrocities upon Rohingyas but the reality says otherwise. In reality, the episodes of violence date back to Afghan War era when CIA needed Jihadi to fight the war for them**
- **The USA in collaboration with India has opted to drag out war in Afghanistan to Myanmar by instigating war within, to counter the influence of China. The main motto behind these clandestine activities of Indian RAW and the CIA with Afghan Intelligence is to interrupt the emergence of CPEC corridor and to contain China in Southeast Asia**

Source Link: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/229806-Rohingya-massacre-another-Afghanistan-in-the-making-a-part-of-Modis-war>

What Happens If Iran And KSA Join CPEC

- **Pakistan holds the key to resolving Saudi Arabia-Iran row**
- **If Iran and Saudi Arabia join CPEC, it could unify the Muslim world**
- **Saudi Arabia in CPEC could bridge the gaps between U.S. and Pakistan**

China, Russia And Turkey Side With Pakistan On Afghanistan Issue

- China and Russia join forces with Pakistan on Afghanistan issue. The two powers have taken Pakistan's side from the very beginning of the Pakistan vs US diplomatic crisis
- China views Pakistan, its all-weather ally, as a key pillar of stability, peace and prosperity in the region and CPEC is crucial part of OBOR
- As stability in Afghanistan translates to peace in Pakistan, China is prepared to protect Pakistan's goals
- Turkey shares views with China and Russia on Afghan war, Ankara is gravitating toward the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a China- and Russia-led Eurasian political, economic, and security organization

