

President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Address Joint Press Conference

April 20, 2015

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif addressing a joint press conference with Chinese President Xi Jinping, said that, “today we are planning for the future.”

PM Nawaz went on to say that several important decisions have been made in agreement with President Jinping which will take mutual relations between the two countries to new heights.

The Prime Minister further said both countries are committed to the eradication of terrorism, adding that President Jinping recognises the sacrifices made during Operation Zarb-e-Azb.

He also said that agreements and MoUs signed by the two countries for projects in Pakistan have sound financial and technical backing and are being put on fast track.

The PM went on to say that Pakistan is extremely thankful to China for invitation to become a full member state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

He further said Pakistan desires peace and stability in the region with regards to all neighbours and considers China’s security as important as its own.

With regards to the Economic Corridor Project, he said that it will not only benefit all provinces and areas of Pakistan, but will also enable China with a shorter and efficient route.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed that friendship with China is the corner stone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Chinese President Xi Jinping addressing the joint press conference said that this is his first visit to the beautiful and friendly country of Pakistan and he is immensely thankful for the warm reception.

He said that the purpose of his visit is to strengthen the relations between the two countries even further and create a strategic partnership.

He went on to say that China will lend all support to Pakistan to defeat the menace of terrorism.

He further said the projects and agreements are related to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, energy, infrastructure, agriculture, research and technology, education and other fields.

Referring to various development projects launched today, he said the economic corridor will be beneficial for both the countries. 30 out of 51 agreements signed today were linked with the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

He hoped that construction of Karachi-Lahore motorway, Lahore Orange Line metro train, and energy projects will go a long way for the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

The projects and agreements signed include Karot 720 MW hydroelectric project; Daud, Jhimpir and Sachal wind power projects, 100 MW solar power plant; joint statement on strategic cooperative partnership, Pakistan-China technical and economic cooperation agreement, and agreement on launching of Dosti Channel between Radio Pakistan and Chinese Radio International.

The joint statement also said the two sides will further enhance strategic communication and coordination to safeguard their common interests.

Pakistan and China expressed satisfaction at the growing volume of bilateral trade, which has crossed 15 billion dollars and agreed to make efforts to raise it to 20 billion dollars in next three years.

Pakistan welcomed the creation of Silk Road Fund by China and its utilisation for CPEC-related projects.

The two sides believed that the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiatives represent a new model of regional and South-South cooperation.

The two sides agreed to further enhance defence and maritime cooperation, maintain high-level visits and exchanges at various levels between relevant departments of the two armed forces.

They reaffirmed their commitment to multilateral non-discriminatory arms control and non-proliferation endeavours. They agreed to continue bilateral cooperation in civil nuclear energy under IAEA safeguards, in line with their respective bilateral and multilateral commitments. China appreciates and supports steps taken by Pakistan towards its mainstreaming into the global non-proliferation regime. In this context, China welcomes Pakistan's engagement with the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

The two sides believe that the evolving situation in Afghanistan has immediate implications for regional security and stability.

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