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PIVOT

Quarterly Magazine of China-Pakistan Study Centre
Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

Celebrating 70 Years of Pakistan-China Friendship



Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad



China-Pakistan Study Centre



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PIVOT

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Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

'Pakistan is the PIVOT of the world, placed on the frontier on which the future position of the world revolves.' Quaid-i-Azam
Mohammad Ali Jinnah, January 1948

Chief Editor's Note



This year is special, both for Pakistan and China. It marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan-China. The bilateral relationship between the two states has grown with every passing decade, predicated on a consistently rising convergence of their political, economic and strategic interests. All these years, China has stood by Pakistan, and so has Pakistan been a time-tested friend of China. Today, this bilateral relationship is the envy of any two countries of the world.

What makes the Pakistan-China relationship so unique? For starters, the two countries have demonstrated how to build a solid bilateral relationship despite the fact that the two countries have entirely different cultures, histories and social systems. For any two countries, there would be ups and downs in the relationship. Pakistan and China have consistently respected each other's priorities and sensitivities. In the bilateral history of Pakistan and China, May 21, 1951 will, therefore, always be remembered as a special day, even a turning point as it initiated a relationship that was to grow consistently, based on mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and mutual support to each other's vital and core interests.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), launched in 2015, became another notable turning point in the bilateral relationship of the two countries. Being the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the CPEC has unleashed the promise of accelerated economic integration and regional connectivity. In Pakistan, there is complete consensus across the entirety of political and diplomatic spectrum that the CPEC is central to the economic growth and prosperity of Pakistan.

With the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in the beginning of 2020, without any delay Pakistan donated essential medical supplies to China to support its fight against the pandemic. The favor was soon returned by China when the pandemic took its toll on Pakistan. China's assistance was generous and various teams of medical experts visited Pakistan to assist our front-line workers. Pakistan has also strongly backed President Xi's assertion that COVID vaccine should be made a global public good.

On the memorable occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations, we celebrate our special bilateral relationship with China. We pay tribute to our leaders for their valuable contribution to making this relationship rock-solid. And we promise to renew the resolve to build upon the achievements of the last 70 years and achieve a yet stronger Pakistan-China community, resonating the motto of shared future and common destiny. The China-Pakistan Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad has planned a series of events in this calendar year to celebrate the special relationship between China and Pakistan.

Talat

Dr. Talat Shabbir

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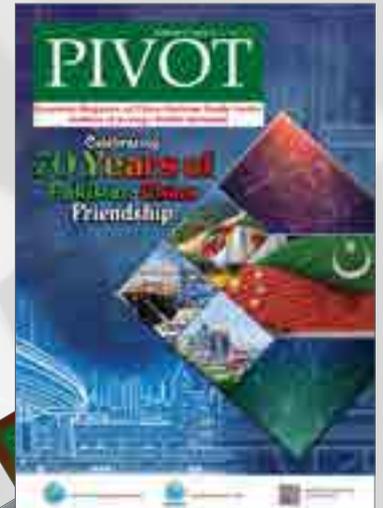
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To jointly write a new chapter of China-Pakistan Friendship

By H.E Nong Rong, Ambassador of
People's Republic of China to Pakistan



Friendship between China and Pakistan is based on mutual trust and support. Our two countries have always stood with each other, sharing weal and woe, and set the model of state-to-state friendly coexistence. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations of two countries, 70 years ago, no matter how the international situation changes, our friendship has remained steadfast.

In 2015, President Xi Jinping paid a historic visit to Pakistan, upgrading China-Pakistan relations to the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, thus opened a new chapter in China-Pakistan relations. Since Prime Minister Imran Khan took office, he has visited China three times and met with President Xi Jinping four times. The political mutual trust between the two leaders has been continuously consolidated, and steady progress has been made for cooperation in various fields. Especially in the fight against pandemic, China and Pakistan stood closely hand in hands. At

the initial stage of our fight against COVID-19, President Dr. Arif Alvi visited China and rendered firm support for China's fight against the pandemic. Likewise, China also provided substantial assistance to Pakistan for pandemic prevention, including 4 million US Dollars donation to support Pakistan's construction of temporary isolation hospitals, and dispatched multiple medical expert teams to Pakistan and shared our anti-pandemic experience in time. It is the unique friendship that deeply rooted in the hearts of the two people, that provides the most solid and extensive foundation for building a China Pakistan community with a shared future.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor is an important pilot project of Belt and Road Initiative and a demonstration project of China Pakistan cooperation. CPEC is of great significance for further promoting the development of the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperation partnership as well as building a closer China-Pakistan community of shared

future and realizing the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative. With the joint efforts of the governments, enterprises from all walks of life of the two countries, 46 CPEC projects have been completed or are under construction with a total investment of US\$25.4 billion, which has made tangible contributions to Pakistan's development and regional connectivity.

PRESIDENT XI JINPING PAID A HISTORIC VISIT TO PAKISTAN, UPGRADING CHINA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS TO THE ALL-WEATHER STRATEGIC COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP, THUS OPENING A NEW CHAPTER IN CHINA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Against the challenge of the pandemic, the CPEC projects strictly complied with the SOPs and steadily furthered production and construction without suspension, withdrawal of people, or any layoffs of workers. A number of projects have made positive progress, and played an important supporting role for Pakistan in fighting the pandemic, developing the economy,

ensuring people's livelihood and guaranteeing employment.

China and Pakistan both shoulder the historic mission of achieving national rejuvenation, strengthening the country and enriching the people. More than ever, we need to work together to strengthen the traditional friendship, give full play to geographic proximity and economic complementary, so we can share opportunities, meet challenges and pursue common development, adding new connotations to China-Pakistan community of shared future. This will enable us to create greater benefits for the Chinese and Pakistani people, contribute to stability and prosperity of our region and lead the way in building a community of shared future for mankind.

First, we need to enhance the synergy of policies in a comprehensive way. China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners, offering each other development opportunities. From now to year 2035, China will work towards realizing the long-term goal of socialist modernization. China's overall national strength will increase greatly. We appreciate Pakistan's shift from geo-political to geo-economic priorities, and will continue to assist Pakistani Government to improve welfare of the people under the vision of 'Naya Pakistan.'

Second, we need to consolidate the strategic cooperation between the two sides. Facing the complicated international situation, China and Pakistan should further strengthen coordination and cooperation, continue to support each other on issues involving each other's core interests and safeguard the common strategic interests of the two countries.

China will continue to take Pakistan as its priority in the diplomatic agenda, unswervingly strengthen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries, firmly support Pakistan's efforts to safeguard national independence, sovereignty and national dignity, and support Pakistan's development and growth.

PAKISTAN IS FACING THE CHALLENGE OF THIRD WAVE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND CHINA WILL CONTINUE TO FIRMLY SUPPORT PAKISTAN IN VACCINE COOPERATION

Third, we need to advance the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. President Xi Jinping stated that the two sides should turn the CPEC into a demonstration project for high-quality development of BRI. Prime Minister Imran Khan said that Pakistan's future is closely linked to China and the CPEC is a great opportunity for Pakistan. CPEC has now entered a new stage of high-quality development. The priority of both sides is to ensure the smooth operation of completed projects and steady progress of projects under construction, and divert more resources to the fields of industry, agriculture, science and technology and welfare. The private sector in this regard should play a bigger role. From the perspective of Chinese enterprises, they would expect a safe and stable business environment, continuity of government policies, high efficiency of administrative examination and approval, and preferential policies for foreign investment. It is the responsibility of our governments to move towards that goal and make more efforts to attract private enterprises to invest and

develop new industries, enhance Pakistan's export competitiveness, create more jobs and promote the process of industrialization.

Fourth, we need to continuously strengthen economic and trade cooperation. China will unswervingly expand its opening-up in an all-round way to create conditions for Pakistan to increase exports to China. With a population of 1.4 billion and a middle-income group of more than 400 million, China's retail market for goods is expected to exceed US \$6 trillion this year. China's cumulative import of goods over the next 10 years is expected to exceed US \$22 trillion. As the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement Phase Two entered into force last year, the proportion of taxes on zero-tariff goods between the two countries would gradually rise to 75 percent. This will greatly help Pakistan expand its exports to China, promote economic recovery and address trade imbalance in the course of development.

Fifth, we need to keep advancing anti-pandemic cooperation. At present, Pakistan is facing the challenge of third wave of COVID-19 pandemic, and China will continue to firmly support Pakistan in vaccine cooperation. So far, China has donated 1.5 million doses of vaccine to Pakistan, and is planning to provide Pakistan with another batch of vaccine assistance. China will continue to make Pakistan a priority for vaccine assistance and export. China will stand firmly with Pakistan until Pakistan completely defeats the pandemic ■'



The writer is Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan.



CPEC and China-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor

By Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah

China and Pakistan are time-tested friends with shared boundaries, culture and history dating back to the ancient Silk Route. The two countries have always stood together for inclusivity, peaceful co-existence and sustainable growth in the region. While inaugurating the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, President Xi-Jinping, said: 'Friendship between China and Pakistan is based on trust and mutual support, and we have been devoted friends through both good and hard times. Our friendship is a pacesetter for amicable relations.' The unwavering support of China to Pakistan's stance on Indian Occupied Kashmir, Chinese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the enormous allocation of resources to China Pakistan Economic Corridor as part of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of President Xi are some of the major dividends of this friendship. To restrain the hegemonic and expansionist designs of India and Narendra Modi led, BJP government, the need for this partnership has further intensified in last few years.

The Chinese New Normal of Economic Development, drawn by current Chinese leadership, is based on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This initiative call for strengthening the regional development strategies through robust and global trade networks. The road networks at regional and global levels are strengthened with three major systems namely Yangtze River Economic Belt, Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The principal and strategic component of this network is CPEC which is part of 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The multi-billion USD mega projects under CPEC are destined to usher in a new era of economic prosperity and peace in the region. These massive projects in the energy sector, strengthening of physical and tele-communication networks, upgradation and strengthening of Gwadar Port and establishment of Export Promotions Zones across Pakistan, are collectively called the 'Destiny Changer' in the region. The dividends of the first early harvest phase of CPEC have already created trickle-down effect to the masses in Pakistan.

With huge investment of Chinese Government in Research and Development, today more than 100 Chinese Universities are placed in the global best 500 universities of the world, according to Times Higher Education Ranking (2021), Shanghai Jiao Thong Universities ranking (2020) and US News and World Report (2020). According to QS ranking, the top nine Chinese Universities include Tsinghua University, Peking University, Fujian University, University of Science and Tech China, Zhejiang University, Shanghai Jiao Thong University, Nanjing University, Sun Yat Sen University, Wuhan University, Harbin Institute of Technology and Xian Jiao Thong University.

THE ROAD NETWORKS AT REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS ARE STRENGTHENED WITH THREE MAJOR SYSTEMS NAMED YANGTZE RIVER ECONOMIC BELT, SILK ROAD ECONOMIC BELT AND 21ST CENTURY MARITIME SILK ROAD. THE PRINCIPAL AND STRATEGIC COMPONENT OF THIS NETWORK IS CPEC WHICH IS PART OF 21ST CENTURY MARITIME SILK ROAD. THE MULTI-BILLION USD MEGA PROJECTS UNDER CPEC ARE DESTINED TO USHER INTO A NEW ERA OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND PEACE IN THE REGION

The academic and research collaboration between China and Pakistan have witnessed impressive growth in last few decades, in the areas of graduate studies, joint collaborative research, research funding, exchange programs, short term placement of students etc. While looking at the significance of intellectual and knowledge linkages, alongside the physical routes, Higher Education Commission (HEC) has timely established the CPEC Centre at its headquarter. Under the aegis of this initiative, a consortium of CPEC Universities has been created, comprising of more than fifty Universities now. HEC submitted a series of PC-1s for establishing knowledge and research corridors between the two countries. Work has started on two important projects namely, China Pakistan Joint Research Centre at Quaid-e- Azam University and Academic Collaboration under CPEC Consortium universities. In the former mega project, three centres will be established with main seat at QUA for Earth Sciences, Labs for Cryosphere and Climate at Karakoram International University Gilgit and Marine

Sciences Labs at Marine University Karachi.

The objectives of the project for establishing collaboration amongst the CPEC Consortium Universities include:

- Study the geo-strategic and geo-economic dimensions of the Chinese Belt and Road initiative and CPEC to understand their long-term impact on Pakistan.
- Develop mechanisms to fully exploit the opportunities arising out of the China's appetite for global talent, and facilitate absorption of their graduates by Pakistani economy.
- Support Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the development of human resource to implement CPEC Long Term Plan.
- Develop capacity of Pakistani universities for providing policy inputs to the government on the challenges emerging in the wake of implementation of CPEC Long Term Plan.
- Develop an understanding of Chinese history, culture and governance system that has created the Chinese miracle, while drawing lessons for own development.

The various components of this knowledge and research collaboration are summarised below:

- i.** Joint Research: For implementation of these strategies, HEC has proposed the way forward like Joint research on selected themes of interest, which can include Climate Adaptation, Sustainable Mountain Development, Food Security, Urban Planning, Water Resource Management, Supply Chain Management, IT Entrepreneurship, Medicinal Plants, Gemstones and Mineral resource management etc.
- ii.** Talent Cultivation and Training: This component mainly focuses on the capacity building of faculty to strengthen the academic and intellectual relations. About 400 faculty members will be trained under this component both in Pakistan and China.
- iii.** Post-doctoral research: Post-doctoral research and trainings provide ample opportunities to faculty for exchange of the latest knowledge, research and technologies. About 30 faculty members will be provided with the opportunities for such research.

iv. Short Term Trainings: Due to the shortage of qualified PhD faculty in the newly established universities in Pakistan, it may not be affordable for them to place most of the faculty on PhD studies or Post Doctoral research. Hence a window of short term placement of 150 faculty and staff for short term training of 2-3 weeks will be provided.

v. Dual degree programs between Chinese and Pakistani Universities: For internationalization of universities in Pakistan, one option can be joint or dual degree programs. International Dual/ Double Degree program: Two or more institutions in different countries collaborate on one-degree program. Upon completion, students receive degree certificates issued separately by each of the institutions involved in the program. These programs generally use the terminology 2+2 or 1+2+1. Under the proposed project 10 BS and 20 MS/MPhil students will be provided with the opportunity to complete their degrees under dual degree programs of Chinese and Pakistani Universities.

GILGIT BALTISTAN BEING A GATEWAY TO CPEC AND KARAKORAM INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, BEING A PIONEER SEAT OF HIGHER LEARNING HAS BEEN CONNECTED TO CHINA BOTH PHYSICALLY, HISTORICALLY AND TRADITIONALLY

In the current scenario , about 12 International Conferences will be arranged at Pakistan and China to showcase the research in both countries, which will focus on the challenges faced by the two countries, with special emphasis over CPEC and BRI.

Establishment of China Study Centres: At least 6 China Study Centres will be established across Pakistan, one each in 5 provinces including Gilgit Baltistan and AJ&K. These centres will focus on strengthening the Chinese language teaching, cultural and history studies and act as think-tanks for paving way long term understanding about CPEC.

Gilgit Baltistan is a region blessed with unique opportunities. The region has a distinction of being the converging point of three of the mightiest mountain ranges in the world, namely: Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush. These ranges have many of the world's highest peaks and the world's

largest concentration of glaciers outside the Polar Region, also called 'Third Pole'. In the Karakoram alone 30 peaks soar over 24,000 feet (7,500 m) and culminate in the 28,250 feet (8,612 m) high K2, second only to Mount. Everest in elevation. Sheer rock walls and ravines, plunging thousands of vertical feet down to the rivers flowing below, mark the unique panorama. These lofty mountains and valleys boast a spectrum of wildlife such as the snow leopard, brown bear, Marco Polo sheep, Himalayan ibex, Astore markhor, golden marmot, woolly flying squirrel and other species, some of which are rare or endangered. Substantial deposits of various minerals and semi-precious stones add to the natural wealth of the region. Glacier and snow melts are the source of fresh water in this arid region. Water flows into the valleys in the form of streams and makes human existence possible.

Gilgit Baltistan being a gateway to CPEC and Karakoram International University, being a pioneer seat of higher learning has been connected to China both physically, historically and traditionally. The flow of services and goods across the two regions under regional trade arrangements, provides numerous opportunities to the people on both sides of the boarder. KIU established its Confucius Centre, years back to impart Chinese Language literacy to the youth. All graduates of KIU are bound to learn the two level of Chinese literacy (HESI&II). Every year more than 1000 students are taught Chinese language by native Chinese teachers. Many faculty members of KIU graduated from Chinese top Universities, who have brought, their rich experience to the region for quality education and research to more than 7000 students at KIU. The faculty and students of Pakistani Universities including KIU in particular would need to actively work for harnessing the opportunities provided under CPEC Knowledge and Research Corridor. Drew Faust President Harvard University quoted: 'Higher Education is the strongest, sturdiest ladder for socioeconomic mobility'. CPEC knowledge and Research Corridor (CKRC), will enhance the intellectual capacity of the faculty and staff of Pakistani Higher Education Institutes, which will turn the youth force of Pakistan, as a growth engine as envisaged by HEC ■



The writer is the Vice Chancellor of Karakoram International University Gilgit.

Highway of Friendship

Across the majestic Karakoram...
 The caravans that embarked on the journey
 Somewhere near my heart...
 Their settlements still remain...
 Their smooth and soft disposition
 As they were all made up of subtlety and
 etherealness
 This affair of heart elevated so high...
 Even The Mighty Himalaya-Karakoram sank
 beneath its weight
 So an unending journey on the highway began
 Caravan of time-tested friends headed towards the
 alluring Kashgar
 Reuniting Gwadar and Urumqi, the constant
 companions over time...
 Treasures of Mother Earth fell out from the rich land
 of China...
 Modern tech rejuvenated the country's economy
 This highway of friendship is a testament of never-
 ending determination and enthusiasm.....
 Martyr of the highway is at every milepost!
 I wish...
 Those settlements across the Karakoram highway
 remain alive always
 I pray...
 Pakistan-China friendship be a bond indestructible,
 If others hold ill will towards this ardour....
 Then let be!

Translated by Uroosa Khan

شاہراہ دوستی

قراقرم کے پار سے
 جو کارواں چلے تھے
 میرے دل کے آس پاس
 ان کی بستیاں ابھی رہیں
 وہ درخشیں مزاج تھے
 کہ رہنم ان کے پاس تھا
 محبتوں کے سلسلے بند اس قدر ہوئے
 تھالیہ قراقرم کے سلسلے بھی ٹھک ہیں
 وہ شاہراہ چل پڑی
 رفاقتوں کے قافلے ورنے کا شہر کے
 گوادر و ارومچی خوشی سے ساتھ مل گئے
 زمین کے دلفنی دستے مکان سے نکل پڑے
 مشین سے معیشت و امن سنور سنور گئی
 یہ شاہراہ دوستی دلیل عزم و حوصلہ
 شہید شاہراہ ہے ہر ایک جگہ میل پر
 قراقرم کے پار کی وہ بستیاں ابھی رہیں
 یہ پاک مکن دوستی اسی طرح بنی رہے
 ایسے غار چشم دشمنوں جو ہے۔۔۔ تو پھر باغی رہے

شہزاد نیر



Shahzad Nayyar is an acclaimed Urdu poet
 with four books to his credit.



The Great Wall of China

Reminiscence Par Excellence

By Lt Col Zafar Iqbal Rawana (Retd)

The Great Wall or 'Changcheng' (in Chinese language) is not only a long wall but has a long history too. First built over 2300 years ago, the wall provides a panoramic view of gorgeous scenic mountains. It was built as a series of defensive fortifications to deter northern invasions and control trade routes like the Silk Road.

During my official visit in 2018, I was no exception to resist the marvel of this majestic beauty; therefore, I was very excited to quell my curiosity and inquisitiveness about this miraculous structure - which is not just a long wall but an ancient integrated military defensive system.

One fine morning, we left Kerry Hotel, Beijing at 900 hours (local time) directly for Motianyu - the famous and ideal section. It is less crowded than Badaling and well maintained too. Motianyu, located in Huairou Province, is approximately 70 kms NE of Beijing. It is one of the best preserved parts of the Great Wall and used to serve as the northern barrier defending the capital. While en route to the destination, our tour guide - Miss Ivy Lee - gave us an account of Motianyu and the culture, geographical bounds, people and the history of the Great Wall. After providing valuable information on the Great Wall, she also added in some useful information to make our stay

in China, more pleasurable. On reaching the tourist center, our tour guide took a couple of minutes in purchasing the 'Great Wall Entrance' tickets. The Shuttle Bus takes the visitors from the ticking area to the base of Great Wall - from where one is left with no option but to hike up to the Cable Car Station.

On reaching the station, we could use cable car, chairlift or hike up to the top - along a defined track through the dense jungle. Since the Great Wall is quite a sight to see, so we opted for cable car ride. It was a distinctive experience in cold weather - wading through the mild clouds, having an overview of overgrown lush green trees and shrubs running rampant across the stones and the wall. It was a memorable experience which is hard to forget. The cable car landed like a heli; after moving out quickly and taking few steps, we were at the starting point of the wall. The wall - though restored and paved for the tourists' attraction - has uneven steps; some bits have a steep incline too. Most of the people do not walk all along the Great Wall; they assemble and make the initial 1 km in crowded form and avoid the steep inclines. It may sound prudent to highlight that the towers along the wall must be explored, moved around; and if possible, climbed too. The view on top is pretty and worth its climb. I walked few Kilometers, wondering the extra ordinary efforts of mankind - at the time when the world had paucity of resources and was devoid of mechanical apparatus, rigs, tackles etc.

The Great Wall of China has well-planned defensive architecture. The wall - with all of its branches - measures out to be 21,196.18 kms (half the circumference of equator - which is 40,075 kms). It winds its way from Jiayu Pass in

Gansu Province in the west to Shanghai Pass at the sea side in Hebei Province in the east. These sites of the wall stretch across 15 provinces of China.

It wades its way through deserts, mountain peaks, deep ravines, till it finally reaches the sea. It is rated as one of the wonders of the world and is considered symbol of the Chinese nation and its culture. It may sound prudent to apprise that despite best efforts, this wonder is eroding from winds, water, tourists. However, still is an incredible sight to visit, and learn about.

The Great Wall was not built all at one time. It was the state of Chu during Qin Dynasty (221-206), who first built the wall, uniting different tribes and regions into one empire. The aim was to defend off the invasions and protect from northern invaders, nomadic tribes of Eurasian steppe, especially the Mongols

The Great Wall was not built all at one time. It was the state of Chu during Qin Dynasty (221-206), who first built the wall, uniting different tribes and regions into one empire. The aim was to defend the invasions and protect from northern invaders, nomadic tribes of Eurasian steppe, especially the Mongols. The Mongols were a barbaric and vicious group - notorious for its raids. Qin Shi Huang had all the walls joined up; thus the Great Wall came into being. This was subsequently re-built, maintained, modified or extended through-out

the Chinese history - spanning over 2000 years - by millions of Chinese workers, soldiers, forcibly recruited peasants, slaves, convicts and war prisoners, who were drafted in for the arduous task. Most of the wall, which we see and visit today, was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). China is not the only country to build a wall to ward off invaders; but it is the only credible, plausible and the greatest military defensive project - depicting as a symbol of peace and stability of ancient society.

The Great Wall presents a stunning array of scenery from the beaches of Qinhuangdao to the rugged mountains around Beijing. The Ming Dynasty wall (the most of today's relics) crosses 9 provinces and municipalities. The average height of Great Wall at Badaling and Juyong pass is 7.88 m and the highest place is 14 ms high. It was built during the different dynasties, based on the technology and know-how available during the respective dynasties.

Han, the second imperial dynasty of China (206 BC-250 AD), made use of sand and crushed stones filled with layers of reeds or tamarisk twigs to build the wall in grassland and desert areas. However, during Ming dynasty, the bricks were used, as the size and weight of bricks facilitated the work force in order to make the construction fast.

The majestic wall was built with wisdom, devotion, dedication, blood, sweat and tears as one of the eight wonders of the world. The history of majestic wall reveals number of stories, based on facts, beautiful legends and myths following along the construction, which helps to keep alive the history and sufferings.

Few interesting stories and legends widely spread through text books, folk songs and traditional opera include: -

Meng Jiangnu - The story of Meng Jiangnu's weep is famous and widely talked about. It dates back to the Qin dynasty and reveals that Meng Jiangnu's husband, Fan Qiliang was caught and pressed into service or forced labour by the imperial officials and sent to build the Great wall. Meng heard nothing from him after his departure, so she set out to look for him. Unfortunately, by the time she reached the site, she discovered that her husband had already died. Hearing the sad news, Meng cried her heart out. Meng's howl caused the collapse of a part of the Great Wall.

■ Yi Kaizhan was a young workman and proficient in arithmetic, hailing from Jiayuguan pass. He calculated that it requires 99,999 bricks to construct that intended portion. His supervisor did not believe and commanded that if he miscalculated by even one brick, all workforce would be punished collectively. Upon completion of the project, one brick was left behind the Xiwong city gate. The head was happy, in rejoicing mood at the sight of

the left-over brick and all set to punish the workmen. Yi said with deliberations that the brick was put by a supernatural being to fix the wall. A tiny move would cause the collapse of the wall. The brick was kept there and never moved. It can still be found even today on the tower of Jiayuguan pass.

The Ming Dynasty wall (the most of today's relics) crosses 9 provinces and municipalities. The average height of Great Wall at Badaling and Juyong pass is 7.88 m and the highest place is 14 ms high. It was built during the different dynasties, based on the technology and know-how available during the respective dynasties

■ Xifeng Kou Fortress - A fortress on the Great Wall is also known as 'Happy Meeting Fortress.' A folk story un-veils, how the name of this fortress came about. The Great Wall required soldiers to be on the guard at a place round the

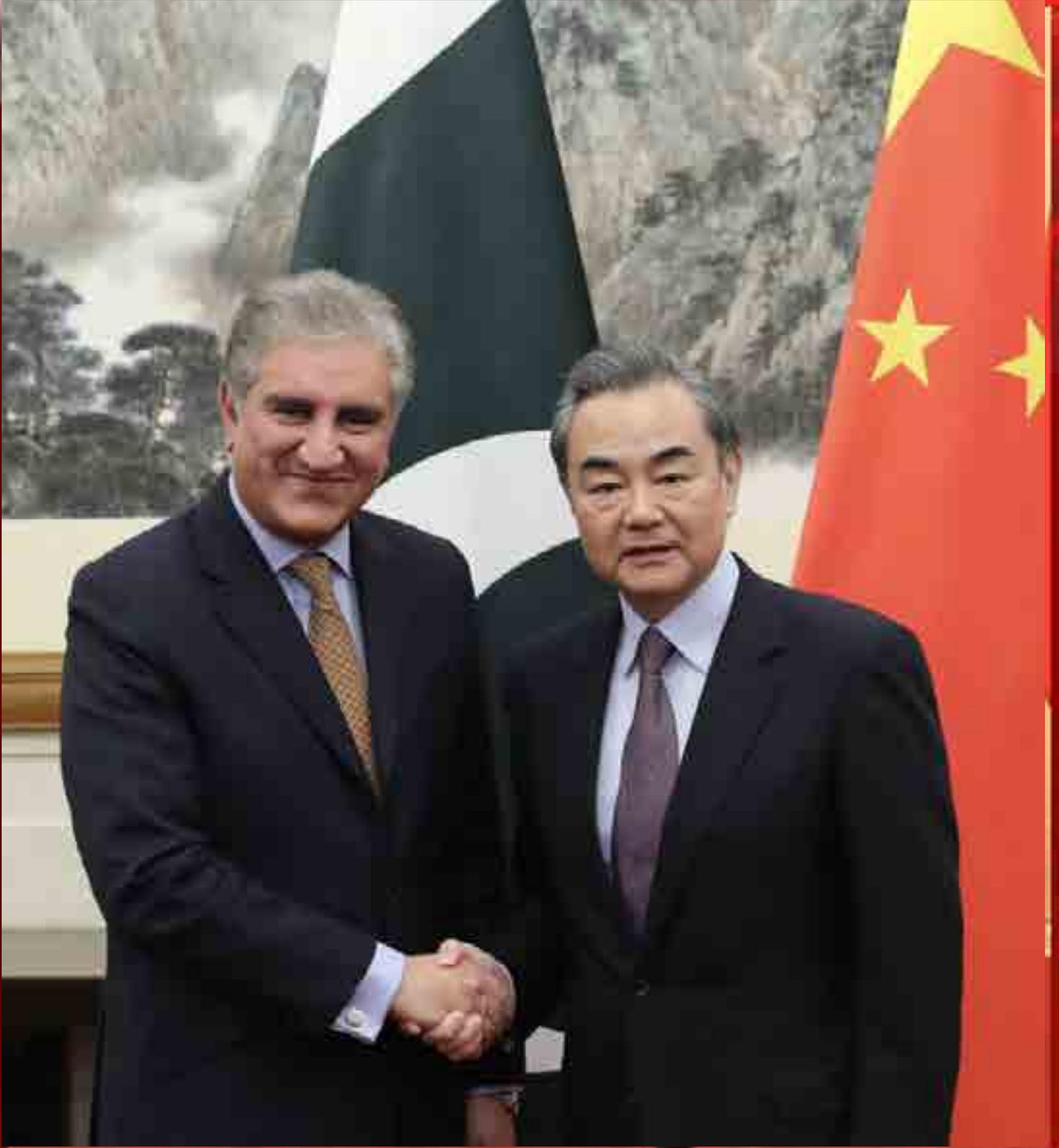
clock, all year round. This hard practice not only caused sufferings to the soldiers but also the family members were going through bad times. Once a soldier had gone to defend the northern territory of China along the Great Wall for many years; the army prohibited everybody from leaving his post or proceeding for leave. The young soldier had an old father (the only family member) the father feared that his son might not see him in his lifetime. Therefore, he set-forth on his visit to the Great Wall, in order to see his son for the last time. When the old man came in the fortress, he accidentally met his son; he too recognized his father. They both greeted each other with warmth and embraced. They laughed out of joy and cried out of grief. To everybody's surprise, they both died on the spot. In the memory of loving father and his son, the name of the fortress, where they met at the time of death was named 'Xifeng Kou Fortress'. They represented the heart of thousands of soldiers and their families. The pass where they were buried was later named 'Xifeng Kou Pass.' ■



The writer is a retired army officer.



Picture of the Quarter



'Successive generations of leaders and people of Pakistan and China have made "invaluable" contributions towards strengthening ties between the two nations that were established in May 1951'- Shah Mehmood Qureshi (Foreign Minister of Pakistan)

The BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) has been constructed and operated by China to cater its national and economic needs, since 2015, the BDS provides all-time, all-weather, and high-accuracy positioning, navigation, and timing services to global users.

China's Beidou system is quite new compared with the US Global system. However, it is gaining great momentum. The promotion of Beidou Navigation Satellite System in the Asian countries is an important component of the 'Belt and Road Initiative'; it is an important measure to deepen the strategic relationship between China and other Asian countries. Also, BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) is an important element of China's global strategy of the 13th Five-Year Plan.

CHINA'S MILITARY BUDGET HAS BEEN ACCELERATING EXPONENTIALLY; PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (PLA) IS CONCEIVED AS ONE OF THE DOMINANT FORCES MILITARILY ACROSS THE WORLD, MAKING PROGRESS IN SOPHISTICATED ANTI-SHIP BALLISTIC MISSILES AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The first BeiDou system officially called the BDS-1, consisted of three satellites which became functional in 2000, offered limited coverage and navigation services, mainly for domestic users in China. BDS-1 was decommissioned at the end of 2012.

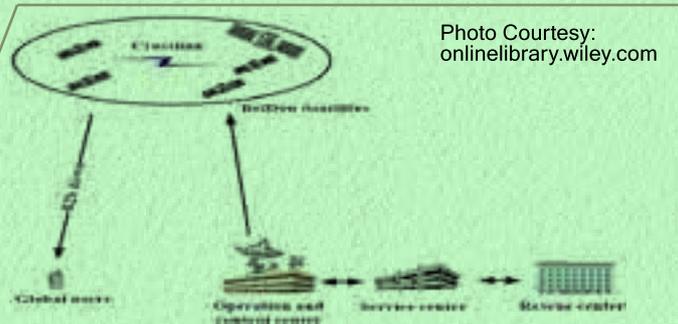


Photo Courtesy: onlinelibrary.wiley.com

The second generation of the BeiDou system officially called the (BDS-2), became operational in China in December 2011 with a partial constellation of 10 satellites. Since 2012, it has been offering services to customers in the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2015, China launched the third generation BeiDou system (BDS-3) for global coverage. The first BDS-3 satellite was launched in the year 2015. In December 2018, BeiDou Navigation Satellite System started providing



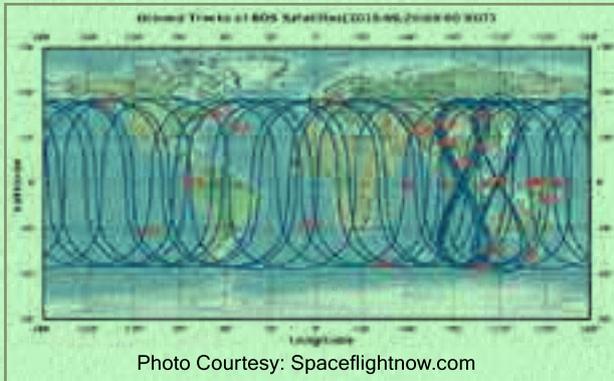
BEIDOU

A NEW SATELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEM FOR PAKISTAN

By Muhammad Armughan Tufail & Sardar Omer Saqib Khan

global services. The 35th and final satellite of BDS-3 was launched into orbit on 23 June 2020.

The third generation of the Beidou Navigation Satellite System can provide global coverage for communication and navigation, offering an alternative to Russia's GLONASS, the European Galileo positioning system, and America's GPS.



China's military budget has been accelerating. The BeiDou navigation system is different from other satellite navigation systems in a way that it simultaneously operates at three satellite orbits i.e. Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO), Inclined Geo-Synchronous Orbit (IGSO), and Medium Earth Orbit (MEO). Other existing Global positioning systems only operate at one of these levels which currently is the MEO for GPS, GLONASS, and Galileo.

24 BeiDou satellites are operating at Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) at a distance of approximately 18,000 kilometers, it provides much better coverage of Earth with pinpoint accuracy and low signal delay. China has also launched 3 satellites into geosynchronous orbit allowing for continuous monitoring of a specific location on Earth at a distance of 35,750 kilometers. 3 more satellites were launched in the inclined geosynchronous orbit to provide better coverage in Asia Pacific countries. Being a dual-type of navigation system BeiDou provides services for both commercial and military purposes.

PAKISTAN AND CHINA'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN FORTIFIED BY BEIDOU NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTEM. IT WILL ALSO BE INSTRUMENTAL IN ENHANCING PAKISTAN'S DEFENSE NEEDS

Chinese BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) is immensely helping Belt and Road Countries for their navigation and communication needs as they were previously dependent on the American Global positioning system. This means that Pakistan can benefit from BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) for navigation and communication services, as well as for its defense needs. Also, effective

monitoring of CPEC projects can be done by using BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) as most of the CPEC projects are infrastructure development projects that can be monitored with highly sophisticated satellite technology.

Moreover, Pakistan and China's strategic partnership has been fortified by BeiDou Navigation Satellite System. It will also be instrumental in enhancing Pakistan's defense needs.

Pakistan Navy is using BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) for better navigation of its naval vessels and better monitoring of its maritime borders. Similarly, Pakistan Airforce is using BeiDou positioning and navigation system for its aircrafts.

Pakistan is also set to gain enormously from this satellite system in areas of transportation, agriculture, hydrological monitoring, weather forecast, and disaster management.



Hence, this is yet another area where China-Pakistan cooperation is becoming stronger day by day. BeiDou satellite positioning and navigation system has helped China and its allies in safeguarding its national security and is enabling economic and social development through indigenously constructing sophisticated satellite technology. It also holds immense potential in replacing other satellite navigation systems currently in use by other countries. By now China has exported BeiDou based satellite navigation products to more than 120 countries across ASEAN, South Asia, West Asia, and Africa.

We hope that BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) will further enhance Pakistan China strategic relationship through its world-class satellite navigation technology in the coming years ■



The writer is working as an Electrical Engineer in Oil and Gas Exploration Firm in Pakistan.



The writer is currently working as an entrepreneur in a private firm.



Unfortunately, Pakistan is suffering from shortage of energy with much higher tariffs thus making the businesses and manufacturing uneconomical and thus non-competitive in the global market. It is hoped that with the completion of CPEC energy projects, non-interruptive power will be available at much cheaper rates thus, bringing down the overall cost of businesses and manufacturing.

With the completion of CPEC energy projects, non-interruptive power will be available at much cheaper rates thus bringing down the overall cost of businesses and manufacturing. Improved road and rail will enable rural areas to be connected with cities which will have positive impact on the living standards of common people

Improved road and rail will enable rural areas to be connected with cities which will have positive impact on the living standards of common people. Connectivity enables people to access education (educational institutes), health (hospitals) and employment (businesses and industry). This improved transport infrastructure under CPEC will provide interaction and integration beyond international borders and not only among people of Pakistan and China but much beyond to Central Asia, Africa, Europe and rest of the world.

Besides road and rail connectivity, digital connectivity is equally important as people can interact with

each other without travelling (no wastage of time). People can even access a large number of services including; education (e-Learning), health (tele-medicine), businesses (ecommerce), banks (e-Banking and digital payments), markets (online stores) government services (e-governance) and much more. A very comprehensive digital infrastructure is thus conceived in the form of digital connectivity component of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) commonly known as Digital Silk Route (DSR), where

Digital CPEC forms important component of DSR just like CPEC in BRI.

Transfer of technology from China to Pakistan is another important aspect that we must look at in CPEC projects. Education, training and skills development of local community is important, if we want to provide employment to local people in CPEC projects. Employers will be looking for specific skills that we must develop among our people if we want to get benefit from the employment opportunities arising from CPEC projects. This necessitates establishing of skill-development institutes as an essential segment of CPEC projects.

Industrial development in the beginning of industrial era only considered economic aspects which had adverse impacts on the environment but nowadays sustainable industrial development practices are taking care of the environmental aspects. Such productive practices aiming at sustainable development must be brought into CPEC projects. CPEC projects need to be evaluated on social, economic and environmental basis.

It is hoped that development under CPEC projects is not merely the economic growth but an overall uplift of the society in every field including social, economic and environmental, with each and every segment of the community equally benefiting ■



The writer holds PhD in Telecom Engineering from University of Sheffield, UK and is a faculty member at NUST.

Public Talk-CPEC in Balochistan

By Muhammad Faisal



China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a Public Talk under its Distinguished Lecture Series titled, 'CPEC in Balochistan' on February 24, 2021. Academics, civil society, former and current diplomats were also present. Lt. General Nasser Khan Janjua HI (M) (Retd). was the Chief Guest at the occasion.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC delivered introductory remarks and stated that Balochistan is pivot of CPEC as Gwadar is vital to the multi-billion-dollar project. For this, Dr. Shabbir said, 'Development of Balochistan is crucial for success of CPEC' and it has a promise to 'address issues of socio-economic development, communication, infrastructure and unemployment.'

Lt. Gen Janjua, in his talk said that, 'Future of the world lies in the Afro-Eurasian region that begins from Balochistan and its significance has grown manifold with Belt and Road Initiative'. He gave an overview of emerging international geo-strategic environment and relevance of Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan seeks connectivity with Afghanistan, Central Asia and ultimately with Russia and in this, Balochistan plays a pivotal role through its geographical location and abundance of natural resources. He was of the view that even Pakistan's strategic significance lies in Balochistan, and only through peace and development in Balochistan it can be achieved.

He stated that Balochistan is gifted in terms of its geostrategic location as well as being a hub of natural resources which if fully utilised could be a catalyst for the entire region. He lamented that since the inception of the state of Pakistan, these unique attributes have made Balochistan a target for Pakistan's adversaries, and consequently has been destabilised by internal and external elements. Yet, concerns of people are genuine and they need to be addressed.

Drawing on his experience as Commander Southern Command he shared views on hard-earned peace and said that, 'In a State, it is all about people. If people are with you then you are victorious.' Similarly, focus should be on national integration as visible and real improvement in the Balochistan situation can only come about not by imposing force, but by ruling the hearts and minds of the people. He identified negative sub-nationalism as the root cause of insurgency. However, in response an integrated and 'people-centric civil-military strategy was formulated which helped Balochistan's transition from flag burning to flag raising.'

On CPEC, he said that, on-going conflict in Balochistan requires political closure, which will open up new opportunities for people of Balochistan. Federation and other provinces need to address apprehensions of people of Balochistan about their access to natural resources and land for CPEC to be successful in Balochistan. Similarly, in Gwadar focus should be on job creation and providing economic opportunity to every citizen. He underscored that humans are the assets for economic development.

The talk was followed by a question-and-answer session which was moderated by DG ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry. While answering a question on fighting insurgency in Balochistan through force, he said 'It is never enough to hate your enemy, you have to do much more'. Meanwhile, to another question about Gwadar port, he stated 'If Pakistan wants to contribute to the world then we should strive to bring everyone together and Gwadar port because of its location is an ideal port for whole of Asia'.

The talk concluded with Chairman BOG, ISSI Ambassador Khalid Mahmood presenting the Institute's memento to the distinguished guest ■

Special Economic Zones and Industrial Parks under CPEC

Opportunities, Challenges, and Recommendations

By Dr. Mehmood Hussain



CPEC is a flagship project of BRI, a game-changer for Pakistan and the South Asian Region. The corridor is an assemblage of highways, railways, fiber optics, SEZs and IPs to transform Pakistan's economic and social outlook, end China's dependence on Malacca strait through 3,000 kilometers shortest route to reach Xinjiang. Chinese President launched the project in April 2015 with \$46-billion-dollar investment which later jumped to \$65 billion, and if realized, the corridor has potential to revolutionize the economic and social outlook of Pakistan. The project is chalked out into three different phases emphasizing SEZs and IPs to establish in the second and third phase. SEZs and IPs are supposed to be the growth engine of a country due to the dynamic nature, so Pakistan is expecting to reap maximum benefits; including creation of employment, inward FDI, transfer of technology, economic diversity, and expansion of country's export base. The high optimism about the success of SEZs and IPs is prevalent, simultaneously decision makers are worried about the challenges and hindrances to their implementation. The government has proposed nine SEZs, yet more to be explored in the future. The list on the right provides quick information about the SEZs.

Sr. #	Zone Name	Location
1	Rashakai Economic Zone, M-1, Nowshera	KPK
2	Dhabeji Special Economic Zone	Sindh
3	Bostan Industrial Zone	Balochistan
4	Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Faisalabad	Punjab
5	ICT Model Industrial Zone, Islamabad	ICT
6	Industrial Park Pakistan Steel Mills Port Qasim	Sindh
7	Mirpur Industrial Park, AJK	AJK
8	Mohmand Marble City	FATA
9	Moqpondass SEZ Gilgit-Baltistan	GB

Source: CPEC, Government of Pakistan

Opportunities

The East Asian tiger economies and China has a successful experience to establish and sustain the SEZs and IPs, now Pakistan is anticipating to achieve the growth and stability. The Board of Investment (BOI) undertook this challenging task, illuminating the business potential of Pakistan through five inter-linked aspects including; the geo-strategic location of the country, highly-skilled, young, and dynamic workforce with English fluency, positive economic outlook with sustainable economic growth, investment friendly policies, and SEZs.

THE HIGH OPTIMISM ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF SEZS AND IPS IS PREVALENT, SIMULTANEOUSLY DECISION MAKERS ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE CHALLENGES AND HINDRANCES TO THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

Pakistan amended the FDI law in December 2015 by introducing the business friendly policies to attract foreign investors. Article 36 waives the custom duties and taxes on all imported machinery and plants, offers five years' tax exemption to zone developers on all kinds of accruable income. Article 37 deals with the benefits to zone enterprises including; the ten years tax exemption for commencing production by June 2020, and five years tax immunity on production started after June 2020. To speed up the SEZs and IPs related legislation and provision of amenities, provincial investment bodies have also been established. The authorities have opened one window facilitation centers to fast track land acquisition, critical infrastructure and raw material supply, application approval, environmental licenses clearness, and assured to end the bureaucratic and political interference, clear the legal impediments to procure land, and the registration process.

As stated earlier, SEZs are the drivers of employment creation, so it is anticipated that SEZs will alot of jobs opportunities for locals. Meanwhile, SEZs can become source of investment and infrastructure development in Balochistan, FATA, and Gilgit-Baltistan. Easy employment, huge investment, technology

transfer, foreign-local business partnership and access to health, education and skills will transform the economic landscape of the country and act as a facilitator of order and stability. SEZs are also expected to boost the manufacturing capacity and exports of the country. The economy of scale is projected to achieve through the public-private partnership (PPP) and ease of doing business in the country. SEZs can also become the source of technology transfer, expansion of research and development in the country and sourcing out of huge funds for academia-industry partnership. It is a matter of fact that the globalization of industries and technology is facing emerging challenges and is in dire need of the academia-industry collaboration. The development of new technologies like 5G, smart cities, block chain, artificial intelligence and green energy will help businesses to flourish. In short, Pakistan can become a prosperous and peaceful state, if the policy is implemented successfully.

SEZs and IPs can become victim of various challenges including; terrorism, poor governance and rampant corruption, fragile law and order situation, difficulties in land acquisition, lack of consensus among federation units, water scarcity, red-tapism, and shortness of committed investment for zone development.

SEZS ARE THE DRIVERS OF EMPLOYMENT CREATION, SO IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT SEZS WILL CREATE LARGE CHUNK OF 2.32 MILLION JOBS EXPECTED FROM CPEC

Pakistan has faced many political controversies over mega-development projects such as Kalabagh Dam which has been abandoned due to the opposition by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. If an appropriate and vigilant strategy could not be devised, same can happen to SEZs. Another challenge is the overlapping authority and laws at the federal and provincial levels. The diverge approach and interest of provincial and federal bodies to set up SEZs may delay or completely abandon certain SEZs. Moreover, poor governance and red-tapism is another obstacle to SEZs. Political interference, lack of professionalism in bureaucracy

could harm the projects. Therefore, necessary precautions must be embraced to end the official corruption and political interference.

Pakistan is committed to provide the offsite infrastructure including the uninterrupted provision of electricity, gas, telecommunication, water, raw material, security, and other basic facilities to SEZs. The national grid is injected with some 10,400 MW electricity generated under the early harvest projects, but once SEZs will be operational, the consumption can increase manifold. Provision of natural gas and water is another challenge, and both are in short. The rapid urbanization has increased the demand of gas and water, so country is facing the chronic shortage in winter. Sui Northern Gas Pipelines and Sui Southern Gas Company is unable to meet the skyrocketing demand. It is reported that seven proposed SEZs will face gas shortage, lack of infrastructure facilities, power supply and non-existence of telephone and internet services.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES LIKE 5G, SMART CITIES, BLOCK CHAIN, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND GREEN ENERGY WILL HELP BUSINESSES TO FLOURISH. IN SHORT, PAKISTAN CAN BECOME A PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL STATE, IF THE POLICY IS IMPLEMENTED SUCCESSFULLY

Water has also become scarce in the country. The Vision 2025 document acknowledges the water issue by classifying Pakistan as a 'water-stressed' country. The lack of proper planning and delayed construction of mega water reservoirs decreased the water storage capacity to 30 days. So, it is argued that SEZs will face serious issues related to water availability. Above all, terrorism and separatism could have serious repercussions. Since September

2001, Balochistan, Sindh, and FATA faced the tragic incidents of terrorism costing human and economic loss to the country.

Land acquisition and resettlement is yet another obstacle to SEZs due to divergent opinion of government and zone developers. Last, but not the least is the long term structural consequences of CPEC agreements on the economy of Pakistan. The share of foreign direct investment and interest rate on loans must be kept clear for future repercussions.

Recommendations

Some recommendations regarding the SEZs and IPs can be:

- Ensure strategic location, comprehensive feasibility, and master planning.
- Integrate SEZs with existing industrial clusters.
- Improve the governance structure including; improvement in law and order situation, eradication of red-tapism, corruption and political favoritism.
- Ensure high-level political support and broader commitment to SEZs.
- Build consensus among provinces about CPEC route and SEZs locations.
- Ensure offsite infrastructure and uninterrupted supply of electricity, gas, and water.
- Build large-scale water reservoirs and explore new gas deposits.
- Enact legislation to procure land, resettlement and dispute resolution.
- Promote public-private partnership.
- Secure skilled and administrative jobs for locals.
- Ensure financial commitment from zone developers and enterprises ■



The writer is Assistant Professor of International Relations at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Muzaffarabad.

In-house Meeting with delegation from German Embassy

By Ali Haider Saleem



China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an In-house meeting with a 3-member delegation from the German Embassy in Islamabad led by Minister Counsellor Dr. Philipp Deichmann, Deputy Head of Mission on February 3, 2021. The delegation also consisted of Mrs. Shanti Helm, First Secretary for Political Affairs and Mr. Christian Böttcher, First Secretary for Economic Affairs. Director China-Pakistan Study Centre, Dr. Talat Shabbir, briefed the participants on the working of the Centre and its accomplishments. He underlined that amid change, Pakistan-China relationship remains a constant as both sides continue to maintain close political and strategic communication and coordination to stabilize the regional environment. He added that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a much needed project for Pakistan as it came at a time when Pakistan was struggling with economic and security issues. He pointed out that prior to CPEC, countries were reluctant to invest in Pakistan but now the situation has changed for the better.

The delegation was interested to learn about the details of CPEC including financing, construction of Special Economic Zones, employment generation and opportunities for other countries. In response to a question related to CPEC being a debt burden, Dr. Talat said that there is a wrong perception in the West regarding Chinese investments. He elaborated that the share of Chinese debt in Pakistan's total

foreign debt is very low while most of it is owed to Western countries and institutions. Discussing the completion of Gwadar port, Dr. Talat apprised the guests that the port is still not fully operational. He said that Gwadar is being linked to other parts of the country and eventually it will become a hub of commercial activity. In a few years, Gwadar will have the capacity to support China's trade as well. On questions related to Chinese investment in the energy sector, Mr. Muhammad Faisal, Research Fellow at CPSC, explained that Chinese power companies are following Pakistan's lucrative Power Policy, whereby investors are guaranteed up to 17% Rate of Return of their investment. Government of Pakistan has pledged to buy electricity produced by the power companies, in turn, selling that power to consumers who pay for it. Chinese power companies have taken loan from Chinese banks against their own balance sheets. The same policy framework is applicable to foreign investors from every nation. The importance of Special Economic Zones being built under CPEC was also reviewed. In response to a question regarding opportunities for other countries to participate in them, the delegation was briefed that Pakistan will welcome investment from abroad as they will help in generating employment opportunities which is one of the key objectives of the government. Dr. Deichmann thanked the CPSC team for hosting them and deepening their understanding of China-Pakistan relations ■

PIVOT: Please shed light on the aims and objectives of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce?

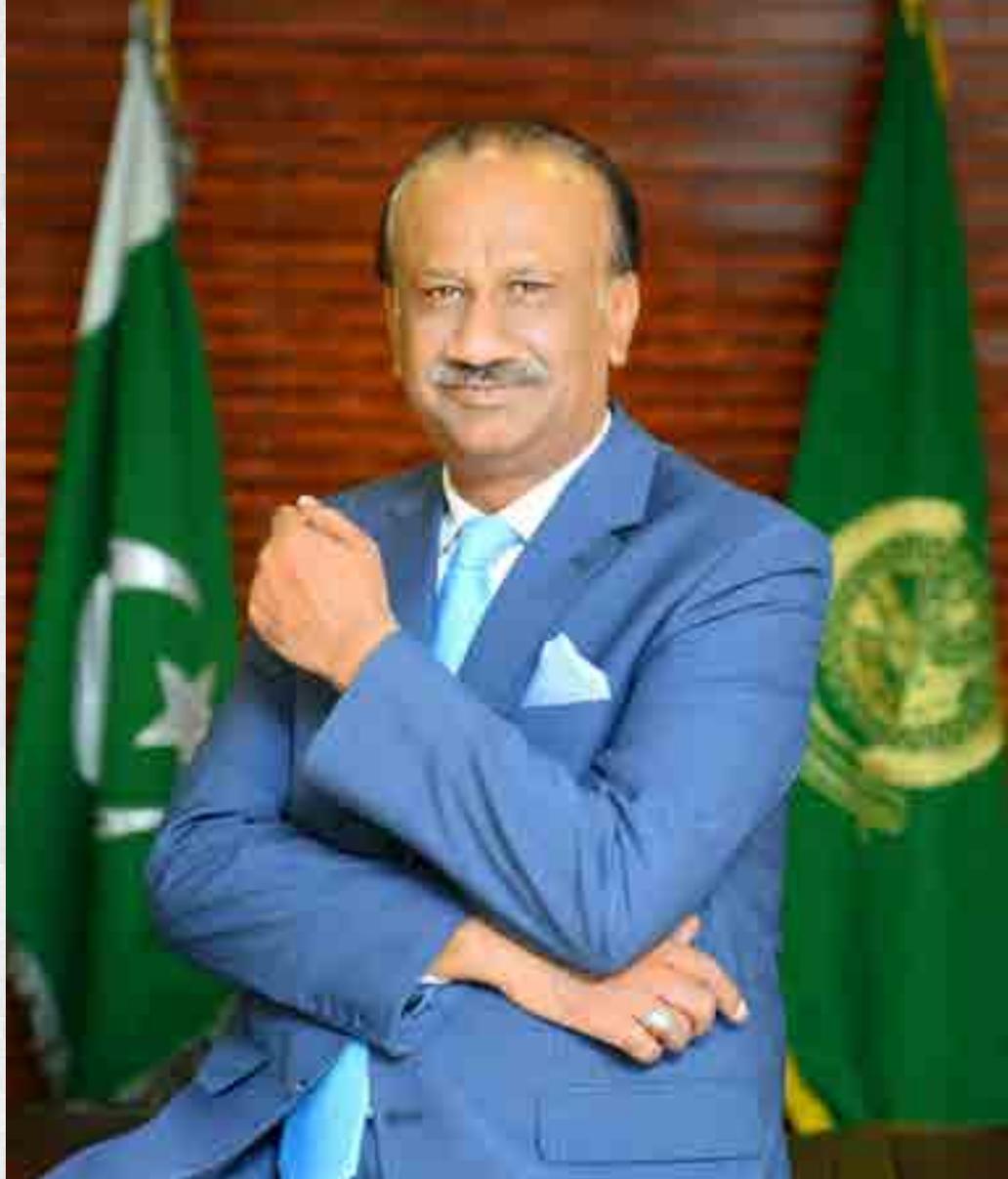
MNM: Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is the premium business association of Pakistan established in 1952 with a continued commitment to facilitate the business community through networking, policy advocacy and innovation and to further the national economic growth process. Besides conventional activities, one of our objectives is to enhance Pakistani exports and trade across the globe and to promote positive image of the country.

PIVOT: What initiatives RCCI has taken recently to 'Empower Business' with regards to CPEC?

MNM: RCCI is one of the few Chambers of Pakistan strongly advocating the benefits of CPEC project for the local businesses. The first conference on CPEC was organized in Gwadar followed by another conference in 2020. Both the events were aimed to increase awareness regarding the opportunities emerging from CPEC.

PIVOT: What entrepreneurship opportunities is RCCI offering at the moment?

MNM: RCCI has established incubation centers to promote entrepreneurship in the region. We have different incubates from diverse backgrounds; education, arts, crafts, food, apparels etc. We build capacity of entrepreneurs towards an effective and sustainable approach to human capital development, resource management and team building. Moreover, we provide technical support/help from respective departments like R&D, Fairs & exhibition etc. We allow



Interview of Mr. Mohammad Nasir Mirza

President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce

By PIVOT Team

them to participate in trade/business conferences, meetings, trade-desks and trainings. We also provide them linking and networking platform (sector-specific and general).

PIVOT: What initiatives RCCI has taken to safeguard the interests of business community at local, regional, national and international level?

MNM: In order to establish the

interests of business community, RCCI has arranged series of conferences such as Virtual International Trade forums with different countries from the world. These forums bring together key actors from across the globe for planning, setting up new and existing business challenges, and to identify regional trade opportunities. Moreover, RCCI has been successfully organizing All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conference for the past 12 years

where presidents discuss and formulate national economic policies and present a joint roadmap to the government, essential for business climate. This year we have expanded the horizon of the event and organized International Chambers Summit where more than 15 key International chambers participated along with local, women and small chambers.

PIVOT: With reference to CPEC, what are key issues or liabilities RCCI has encountered?

MNM: The Government of Pakistan should start the projects under the banner of CPEC without any delay furthermore the project should be completed in time this is unfortunate that no project under CPEC has been initiated in Rawalpindi region.

PIVOT: How is RCCI engaging with other government institutions and chambers from other cities on trade and development issues regarding CPEC projects?

MNM: RCCI is very much engaged with other chambers and government bodies on all the issues including CPEC. One of our landmark event is All Pakistan Chamber President Conference in which all the presidents of chambers sits together for 3 days to discuss national economic agenda. CPEC is one of the important topic of discussion during the conference from last five years. The conference is also participated by different ministers, high officials etc. This year's event was attended by Ministers, MOC, Railways, Planning, Governor State Bank of Pakistan etc. All the business matters including CPEC was discussed not only with Presidents from different chambers but with these

government representatives. The declaration of last five years has a clean demonstration over the issues and its road map for government.

Gwadar is a deep-sea port located at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz. A vital location for China's economic projects such as 'Belt and Road Initiative'(BRI) and the Maritime Silk Road. This is a potential regional hub for transit & transshipment trade connecting South Asia with Central Asia, Middle East, Africa & Europe. A game-changer project that can catapult Pakistan on a fast track development to reap benefits offered by its unique location

PIVOT: How does RCCI see the future of Port City of Gwadar? What kind of business opportunities do you see there which are going to contribute positively to our economy?

MNM: Gwadar is a deep-sea port located at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz. A vital location for China's economic projects such as 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI) and the Maritime Silk Road. This is a potential regional hub for transit & trans-shipment

trade connecting South Asia with Central Asia, Middle East, Africa & Europe. A game-changer project that can catapult Pakistan on a fast track development to reap benefits offered by its unique location.

It would open job opportunities and help in the development of Balochistan. Pakistan would be able to explore minerals, hydrocarbons, oil and gas resources of Central Asian Republic States. The port would directly attract foreign investment and tourism and would also provide foreign investments and and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would help in the economic prosperity of Balochistan and eventually Pakistan. It would help to increase Pakistan's trade and commercial activities particularly in Balochistan province.

Potential Investment Opportunities at Gwadar Port:

- Construction of Petroleum/ Petrochemical Terminal
- Construction of LNG/LPG Terminal
- Establishment of Refineries, Petroleum/ Petrochemical Storage & Processing Zone
- Construction of Iron Ore/Mineral/ Coal Handling Terminal
- Establishment of Steel Mill & Mineral Processing Zone
- Construction of Liquid Chemical & Edible Oil Terminal



Yemen-Ambassador-Visits-RCCI



RCCI-Delegation-Calls-on-Turkmenistan-Envoy

- Construction of Clean Dry Bulk Terminal
- Establishment of Chemical Processing Zone
- Establishment of Gwadar Port Marine Institute (GPMI)

PIVOT: Please tell us about the achievements of RCCI with regards to new businesses?

MNM: RCCI has always encouraged new entrepreneurship. We are the only chamber of the country having our own industrial state with more than 3 hundred working units. We are the only chamber in the country having close working relationship with more than 20 universities of twin cities and have dedicated women incubation center for women entrepreneurs.

PIVOT: After the advent of CPEC in Pakistan, what opportunities do you see for entrepreneurs?

MNM: The project of CPEC has invited numerous opportunities for the local business entrepreneurs in the shape of JV with Chinese counterparts in the recent past. We have seen many Chinese companies joining hands with Pakistani counterparts like motor bike industry, automobile, tiles, textile, ceramic etc. We believe that with the passage of time more Chinese industries will find its way towards Pakistan which will provide direct and indirect

business opportunities to other Pakistani businessmen.

PIVOT: What are the existing hurdles with regards to entrepreneurship in CPEC?

MNM: The biggest hurdle is to establish industrial zone under CPEC with clear definition and guidelines for JV and partnership. Industry suitable industrial zone should be established without delay with appropriate benefits.

RCCI has always encouraged new entrepreneurship we are the only chamber of the country having our own industrial state with more than 3 hundred working units. We are the only chamber in the country having close working relationship with more than 20 universities of twin cities and have dedicated women incubation center for women entrepreneurs

PIVOT: What kind of engagement Chamber of Commerce has with its Chinese counterparts?

MNM: RCCI is facilitating the businessmen of both the sides by the provision of information and opportunities for match-making.

We have also signed a MoU with different chambers from China and Trade Associations with frequent exchange of business delegations.

PIVOT: What role the Chamber envisions for CPEC in Rawalpindi's development?

MNM: RCCI is the 1st chamber of the country advocating the regional connectivity with Central Asian Republics. CPEC is one of the land mark initiative and we believe that the project will change the dynamics of the region, by tourism, new industries and foreign direct investment by Chinese counter parts. We are expecting Chinese investment / JV in health, mining gems and in construction sector.

PIVOT: What initiatives RCCI is taking to empower woman entrepreneurship in Pakistan?

MNM: RCCI is successfully engaged in identifying and functionalizing different forums for women entrepreneurs and the participation of women on the major portfolios of the RCCI is the clear evidence that we believe in the economic uplifting of this major chunk of the population. We provide forums for discussion and self-development for the women entrepreneurs such as training sessions on women empowerment, business conferences, in-house exhibitions, and participation in international exhibitions as well. RCCI has established Women Business Incubation Center to promote women entrepreneurship in the region.

PIVOT: What are the future development plans for Chamber of Commerce?

MNM: RCCI is actively working to facilitate the residents of Rawalpindi by different plans and projects, including tree plantation

campaign through which we have planted 100,000 plants in twin cities. Second project initiated is Rain Water Harvesting and Re-charging (RWHRs) system. RCCI is planning to convert each commercial building of Rawalpindi into green building with Rain Water Harvesting and Recharging System which will ultimately fight the water scarcity in the region. Other projects include 'Glorious Rawalpindi' which is related to the beautification of the city.

PIVOT: What kind of opportunities should the government provide to have a conducive environment for entrepreneurship?

MNM: There is no denying the fact that entrepreneurship and small businesses growth is vital for the growth of a country's economy. Government should provide basic facilities which include stress-free financial, funding policies, low-cost loan facility with soft terms and conditions, stable political condition, conduct public awareness programs, higher education facilities, adequate infrastructural facilities can be of

great help for the development of better skills and growth of entrepreneurship in the country. Government should negotiate the conduct of different departments of the government with businessmen and formulate the policies to encourage the local entrepreneurship.

The construction itself drag down above 70 liaisons / cottage industries and provides opportunities for labor employment with the project. Rawalpindi Ring Road is a big project which will not only benefit the construction sector but will fetch the opportunities for domestic industry housing society

PIVOT: What upcoming projects RCCI is undertaking in the near future to promote and develop construction sector of the country?

MNM: RCCI is involved with government of Punjab for the

construction of Rawalpindi Ring Road and its allied projects which include two industrial states one small industrial state and other projects of the same nature which will ultimately boost the construction industry. Moreover, we are actively involved in mass awareness campaign regarding the facilitation extended by Government of Pakistan for construction industry.

PIVOT: How will the construction of the Rawalpindi Ring Road boost industrial activity across Pakistan?

MNM: The construction itself drag down above 70 liaisons / cottage industries and provides opportunities for labor employment with the project. Rawalpindi Ring Road is a big project which will not only benefit the construction sector but will fetch the opportunities for domestic industry housing society. These allied projects of ring road will further attract the investment and will engage different industries which may include paint, electronics, fabrication etc. from all over Pakistan ■



Round Table “CPEC & AJK”

By Uroosa Khan



The China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a Round table titled ‘CPEC and AJK’ on March 11, 2021. The panel of experts included: Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI; Dr. Shaheen Akhtar, Associate Professor, National Defence University Islamabad; Mr. Zulfiqar Abbasi, Former President, Azad Kashmir Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Iqbal Ratyal, Former AJK Civil Servant, Mr. Ershad Mehmood, Director Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms (CPDR); Dr. Samina Sabir, Assistant Professor, AJK University; Dr. Rukhsana Khan, Assistant Professor Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, AJK University Muzaffarabad; and Mr. Tahir Murtaza, Civil Society Representative.

Opening the panel discussion, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC said that since its inception, CPEC has yielded benefits for people from across the country. The large scale



projects focus on energy, connectivity and industrial growth. The initiation of such projects is essential for development and prosperity in the region. However, there is always a possibility of certain challenges that can hinder the implementation of projects of this magnitude, he said. Dr. Shabbir further said that, in AJK CPEC has the potential to bring economic prosperity through infrastructure development, tourism, promotion of culture and heritage and industrial development.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI said that the CPEC has become an essential component of the Pakistan-China bilateral relationship and stressed the need to ensure smooth implementation of CPEC projects in AJ&K. He emphasized on the need to explore energy, infrastructure and tourism opportunities in AJK and create success stories to attract diaspora, local and foreign investors. He also highlighted the barriers which need to be addressed to facilitate investment in the region.



Dr. Samina Sabir, Assistant Professor AJK University in her remarks stressed that, Intra-district trade within Azad Kashmir needs to be improved. Infrastructure projects under CPEC will connect all the



districts of AJK which will give a boost to trade within the state. Mr. Irshad Mehmood, Director Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms during his remarks

noted that land acquisition for the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Mirpur has been done but the work needs to be started on priority basis. Along with this, efforts should



be made to make Four- M highway (Mansehra, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur and Mangla) a priority project as it has the potential to improve AJK and contribute massively in the economic development of the state. Focusing on tourism, Dr. Shaheen Akhtar- Associate Professor National Defence

University Islamabad emphasized that tourism and culture corridors should be created in Azad Kashmir. There is a need to learn from the Chinese experience of promoting local tourism. Mr. Zulfiqar



Abbasi, Former President AJK Chamber of Commerce said that, first and foremost, AJK needs proper connectivity and use of resources and capital. A proper survey of oil, mineral and gas resources needs to be done. He further said that, we should also engage with Kashmiri diaspora and efforts should be made to connect with the foreign stakeholders.



Mr. Iqbal Ratyal, Former AJK Civil Servant in his brief intervention gave a brief background of Four-M project and said that this project can be the economic future of Kashmir. While talking about the history and the ancient civilizations that existed in AJK



Dr. Rukhsana Khan, Assistant Professor Cultural Heritage and Archaeology highlighted that, Kashmir is a land rich of culture and heritage. The inter-cultural and inter-religious blends of various faiths exist in AJK. We need to revive our cultural sites so that huge tourism potential of AJK can be tapped.



Mr. Tahir Murtaza, Civil Society Representative in his intervention said that, as we look at the benefits of CPEC projects in Pakistan, we need to accelerate our progress and we should also prioritize CPEC projects in AJK.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG-ISSI in his remarks said that, by what we have grabbed so far there is a need to have an effective mechanism and an enabling environment for the CPEC projects in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



In a nutshell, during the discussion, participants agreed that CPEC will bring prosperity in the region by developing infrastructure and creating employment opportunities. Further, a tourism corridor can also be developed vis a vis CPEC. Government of Pakistan should give priority to other projects such as the 4M and the Special Economic Zones and not just focus on energy projects. Bureaucratic barriers should be removed for private investors so that they can be made stakeholders in CPEC. Moreover, local community's skills should be developed and economic opportunities need to be generated. The panellists suggested a comprehensive one roof mechanism for resolving issues related to CPEC in AJ&K ■

CHINA
and
PAKISTAN
PROMOTING
Craft
TOGETHER

By Shaiyanne
Malik



Craft has long been regarded as being out of step with mass-production and contemporary society. According to several sources, the global rise of industrialisation and consumer societies have hastened a decline in traditional craft practice and production across the world. This has been verified in a series of researches and reports.

In China, the spirit of craftsmanship has recently been identified as a vital ingredient for the nation's manufacturing development. In 2017 the Craft Revitalisation Plan was issued by the Central Government's State Council to re-introduce craft products into everyday life. Today, craftsmen ingenuity and intangible cultural heritage are frequently referred by Chinese politicians, policy makers, business promoters and academics. These terms are now part of the mainstream outlets of public discourse.

As marginalised crafts and indigenous knowledge has gained political power, there is a revival of interest in craft objects and craft practices across China. This wave of craft resurgence has been further bolstered in recent years by China's promotion of entrepreneurship.

AS MARGINALISED CRAFTS AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE HAS GAINED POLITICAL POWER, THERE IS A REVIVAL OF INTEREST IN CRAFT OBJECTS AND CRAFT PRACTICES ACROSS CHINA. THIS WAVE OF CRAFT RESURGENCE HAS BEEN FURTHER BOLSTERED IN RECENT YEARS BY CHINA'S PROMOTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In Pakistan the concept of rural women entrepreneurship is an emerging phenomenon

and gaining popularity in this era of economic recession. The phenomenon of rural women entrepreneurship in Pakistan is under-explored and the policy strategies to stimulate the rural women interest in entrepreneurship are not rightly directed. In the absence of a base line research, findings suggest that lack of, or no understanding about the entrepreneurial process of artisans, is seriously affecting the earning capacity of rural women entrepreneurs. Their inabilities to handle the product design and the marketing of their craft adversely affects growth and profitability.

China is one of the largest manufacturers of hand-made products and has a share of 40% in world trade. Although the world's largest exporter, craft heritage was woefully neglected for much of the past century. The country has been left with a handful of artisans to pass on their skills and knowledge to a new generation of Chinese craftsmen and women. Many of

the local networks of specialist suppliers and fabricators on which they depend have also disappeared, or are in danger of doing so.

In Pakistan fifty-two percent of the population are women. Seventy-two percent of the total population lives in villages and forty-two percent are women. Pakistan's skilled women labour can act as a substitute for the Chinese handicraft industry. Since the industry is facing difficulties due to technological change and high wage labour in China. With a rise in demand for traditional handmade artefacts, it makes it a profitable business venture for Pakistan.

China is the leading producer of hand-made products with over 40 percent share in the world trade but the technological revolution and high labour cost, has made the hand-made sector in China vulnerable. In this situation, Pakistan can form a positive linkage and become the manufacturing house of handicrafts for China. Pakistan is enriched with a labour captive skilled human resource in the form of rural women, there is similarity between the two countries natives and handicrafts. It would be beneficial for Pakistan to initiate joint ventures with China in this sector on the basis of buy-back guarantee. Under which mechanism raw materials and wages could be provided by China and in return market-driven handicraft items would be produced by Pakistan which will also provide a platform to empower the skilled artisans in the handicraft sector.

Pakistan however needs to work very hard for this. With the

government becoming more receptive towards Women Entrepreneurs and adopting gender-specific approaches to develop entrepreneurship culture. Artisans need to be organised, associations should be created to provide small scale entrepreneurs with mentorship, knowledge, and support through policy advocacy, trainings and handholding. Mentoring is imperative, both by conducting policy advocacy to improve the business climate for women, as well as providing members with the services needed to thrive in business.

PROJECTION OF WOMEN OF EACH PROVINCE HIGHLIGHTING THEIR HANDICRAFTS IS NOT ENOUGH, THIS NEEDS TO BE DONE WITH FOCUS AND DETERMINATION, AND FOR THIS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH NEEDS TO BE CARRIED OUT ALONG WITH TRAININGS

There are very few Women Chambers of Commerce and Industry (WCCI) across the country. There should be inclusion and membership of women into all chambers of commerce with the chamber registration fee for women lowered to allow more inclusion. Business advisory units at all chambers of commerce can facilitate and benefit businesswomen who are new to the business world, attracting more members to join these professional networks.

A positive development is the formation of Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce

and Industry. Rural women entrepreneurs should also be given a place in this chamber. They are invisible to the business world and their skills go ignored. An association made specially for them would bring an end to this isolation. The women from the rural areas of Pakistan once empowered and equipped with the confidence and the independence to stand up and claim their equal place in the business world would be an important asset to our economic growth.

Associations and chambers can provide a vital platform that can change the role of rural women entrepreneurs from being a vulnerable group to that of effective change makers by building linkages and partnership models which are affirmative and concrete in deliverables and outcomes.

Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and TDAP needs to engage women in order to enhance the understanding of gender-specific trade barriers. The MOC's Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2015-2018 had promised to increase support to WCCIs.





However, no programme or budget allocation was committed.

Rural women's labour participation rates since 1961 has on the average been more than double that of the urban female (7.3 for urban females and 16.5 for rural females). This is probably due to the fact that rural life offers greater opportunities for women to participate in economic activities. The rural women excel in handicrafts and have skills in this field since generations. We have showcased these products for years without focusing on product development. With greater emphasis on product, packaging and presentation, rural women entrepreneurs can enter into the arena of export.

Projection of women of each province highlighting their handicrafts is not enough, this needs to be done with focus



and determination, and for this scientific research needs to be carried out along with trainings. Alongside, with the registration of business associations or chambers as change agents, ministry of women development - Government of Pakistan has initiated few projects in collaboration with non-governmental organizations to empower women through the development of women entrepreneurship in Pakistan. But the outcomes of these initiatives are yet to be determined. It is an irony that rural development has always been overlooked.

IN ORDER TO COMBAT WITH THE CRISIS SITUATION THAT PREVAILS, HELPING WOMEN IN TRADE DEVELOPMENT SEEMS AS AN APPROPRIATE REMEDY TO REJUVENATE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTRY

Therefore, it has become imperative in the context of on-going scenario to deeply explore the issues of women entrepreneurship in Pakistan, especially in the remote parts of the country. Furthermore, the prevailing geo-political crisis and the pandemic has badly affected the social and economic growth transition in Pakistan making the individuals and families vulnerable to

fight for their survival. In order to combat with the crisis situation that prevails, helping women in trade development seems as an appropriate remedy to rejuvenate the social and economic structure of the country. Considering women chambers as effective platforms for empowering women to increase participation in economic policy, women chambers are now being invited by the ministry on various discussion forums covered by both local and national media representing the issues of women entrepreneurs.



To be able to advocate effectively, and strengthen women membership and governance within the respective trade organizations a substantial data collection policy should be enforced so that the hidden artisans and crafters can come into their own, eliminating the middle agents. A transparent list of all artisans and entrepreneur members made mandatory on every chamber and association website will establish linkages to the local and global market. It is time that we allow the long neglected individual woman entrepreneur to be projected with the right to grow in their own capacity ■



The writer is a Fashion and Interior Designer.



Seminar on ‘Gilgit-Baltistan a Gateway to CPEC: Harnessing the Opportunities of Economic and Knowledge Corridor for Sustainable Development’

By Ali Haider Saleem

China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a seminar titled ‘Gilgit-Baltistan a Gateway to CPEC: Harnessing the Opportunities of Economic and Knowledge Corridor for Sustainable Development’ in collaboration with Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit on March 18, 2021.



Dr. Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor Karakoram International University, and Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, signed a MoU to broaden cooperation in research and advocacy between KIU and ISSI prior to the event.

Dr. Talat Shabbir in his opening remarks stated that Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) holds the key for successful implementation of CPEC and stated that both ISSI and KIU will jointly carry out research on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other areas of mutual interest.

Ambassador Aizaz expressed his delight on the signing of the MoU between ISSI and KIU and wished that this will enable both organizations to build upon their activities in future and address the concerns of the people of Gilgit Baltistan.

In his remarks, Dr. Attaullah Shah discussed various challenges faced in implementing CPEC and shared



the initiatives taken by KIU in preparing the future workforce to capitalize the benefits offered by CPEC. He added that CPEC will transform socio-economic landscape of GB.

Major General (Retd.) Salman Ali, Professor of Pediatrics and former Principal Army Medical College and Fazaia Medical College, shared his experiences of growing up in GB while adding that he has witnessed remarkable progress over the decades. He stressed that the people of GB are fully committed towards prosperity and progress of Pakistan. On CPEC, he emphasized that the opportunities offered by China should be grasped to enhance educational opportunities for people in the region.

Dr. Saranjam Baig, faculty member KIU shared his thoughts on economic opportunities of CPEC and stressed to address the negative narrative through education and awareness.



Ms. Neelum Nigar, Research Fellow CPSC, opined that economic opportunities under CPEC should be inclusive and sustainable. She emphasized the role of women in the success of CPEC. She pointed out that GB has a high literacy rate, which should be capitalized through proper economic incentives.

Concluding the event, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood stated that CPEC promises to provide investment and expertise to Pakistan, which will improve socio-economic well-being across the country ■



Pakistan - China Strategic Partnership

By Sadia Basharat Wasti

Pakistan and China's strategic relationship is an epitome of true friendship regardless of diverse cultures, systems and beliefs. Both countries share 'common interest' for decades as there is a famous Chinese saying, 'The journey of thousand miles begin with a single step' and the first step was taken in 1950s when diplomatic relations were established on 21st May 1951, shortly after the Republic of China lost power in the main land in 1949, in 1956, Pakistani Prime Minister Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy and Chinese premier Zhou Enlai signed a treaty of friendship between China and Pakistan establishing closer bilateral ties thus, resulted in resolving the boundary issues in 1963, military assistance began in 1966, strategic alliance was formed in 1972, and economic corporation began in 1979. China

has become Pakistan's largest supplier of arms and its third largest trading partner.

CHINA HAS BEEN STEADY SOURCE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE PAKISTAN ARMY HELPING TO ESTABLISH AMMUNITION FACTORIES, PROVIDING TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE AND MODERNIZING

Maintaining close relations with China is a central part of Pakistan's foreign policy since, 1962 Sino-Indian war, Pakistan has supported China on most issues of importance to the latter, especially those related to Taiwan, Xinjiang and Tibet and other sensitive issues such as human rights. Pakistan has collaborated with China in extensive military and economic projects, seeing each other as counterweight to Indian

western Alliance. For the peace and the prosperity of the nations both countries have been collaborating in many fields such as trade and finance, energy and security cooperation, investments, transport, construction and mining, academia and culture. Both countries have the potential to strengthen and consolidate economic and military partnership for prosperity and security at regional and global level, due to Pakistan's belief that the US influence and support in the region should be counter-balanced by the Chinese. With the US led war in Afghanistan, there is a general sentiment in Pakistan to adopt a foreign policy which favors China over the United States. As Pakistan sees China as a more reliable ally over the long term. There are strong military ties between China and Pakistan, this alliance between two neighboring southeast Asian states is significantly geo-political. The strong military ties primarily aim to counter Indian and American influence, and

was also to repel soviet influence in the region. In recent years, this relationship has strengthened to ongoing military projects and agreements between Pakistan and China since 1962, China has been steady source of military equipment to the Pakistan Army helping to establish ammunition factories, providing technological assistance and modernizing existing facilities. China and Pakistan are involved in several projects to enhance military and weaponry systems, which include the joint development of JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft, K-8 Karakoram advanced training aircraft, for the Pakistan Air Force based on the Chinese domestic Hongdu L 15, space technology, awacs system, Al-Khalid tank etc. Both armies also scheduled for organizing joint military exercises. On 19 April 2015, China concluded sale of aid conventional submarines worth 5bn dollars, the biggest army sale by China in its history. The vessels are supplied by China Shipbuilding, Trading company, and finance to Pakistan at a low interest rate.

China is the largest investor in Pakistan's Gwadar deep sea port, which is strategically located at the mouth of strait of Hormuz. As China's huge investments in Pakistan foreshadows its ample dream of becoming the world's largest economic power as CPEC is regionally connecting the world through the means of roads and water. While Pakistan, by virtue of its geo-strategic significance both in region and worldwide, is located at the cross road of Central Asia, South Asia and the West Asia, is it the foremost reliable partner for materializing its goals.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 2013-2017, Sun Weidong, in his speech at Institute of Policy Studies, opened

the discussion by expressing his viewpoint on 'Pakistan-China Bilateral Ties', CPEC and 'Cooperation beyond CPEC' by using three key words to describe their relation as 'All Weather, All Round and Iron Brothers'. Since the historical state visit of Chinese President to Pakistan in 2013, both the leaders uplifted CPEC initiative to undergo strategic partnership and comprehensive exchanges in the areas of trade, investment, culture, education, science and technology.

CHINA HAS ALSO CULTIVATED ITS PEACEFUL INTENTIONS IN PAKISTAN THROUGH THE MEANS OF SOFT POWER PROJECTION, MILITARY INVOLVEMENT ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC FORUMS

Pakistan has also been providing viable support to China to break external blockages such as China's legitimate efforts in India, issue of Taiwan, South China Sea. Pakistan has proven itself to be closest and liable partner in pursuing China's policy of 'peaceful co-existence'. China has also cultivated its peaceful intentions in Pakistan through the means of soft power projection, military involvement on regional economic forums. At present, both the countries are paving ways for economic prosperity through regional connectivity with projects like CPEC. CPEC is pivot to regional cooperation and shared development for the socio economic uplift of developing and under developing countries for 'equality and equity.' The CPEC will connect Pakistan with China and the Central Asian countries with highway connecting Kashgar to Khunjerab and Gwadar. Gwadar port in southern Pakistan will serve as the trade nerve center for China as most of its trade especially that of oil will be done through the port which is operated by China Overseas Port Holding Company, a state owned Chinese company. According to

the plan, a key element in this is the creation of industrial parks or Special Economic Zones which would be done with the provision of water, perfect infrastructure, sufficient supply of energy and the capacity of self-service power. The other investment is expected in information technology, a full system of monitoring and surveillance will be built in cities from Peshawar to Karachi, with 24/7 video recording on roads, busy market places for law and order. A national fiber optic backbone will be built for the country not only for internet traffic but also terrestrial distribution of broadcasting TV.

The support that China and Pakistan give each other is considered significant in global diplomacy and has been compared to Israel-US relations. When once confronted by US officials about Beijing's uncompromising support for Pakistan, Chinese general Xiong Guan Koi famously said that 'Pakistan is China's Israel.' Similarly, Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf referred to China as Pakistan's 'time tested and all weather friend'. While in return Chinese President Hu Jintao has referred to Pakistan as a 'good friend and partner'. In July 2013, Pew Research Center, as part of their global attitudes project declared Pakistan to have the most positive view of China in the world according to the research, 81% of the Pakistanis responded favorably to China. On the other hand, only 11% of Pakistanis had a favorable view of the United States. A common quotation about Pakistan and China friendship is, 'A friendship higher than the heights of Himalayas and deeper than the depth of Arabian sea ■'



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China Standard 2035 Plan

An Emerging Challenge to the Western Technological Supremacy

By Noor Sabah

Technology has always been at the heart of great power competition; it has not only revolutionized every aspect of human life but also changed the fortunes of the powerful nations. It was technical competence, which led to the rise of the US as a superpower and enabled it to play a leading role in writing the international system.

Usually, the US and European states are considered as the pioneers of modern technology.

The development of international technical standards has been dominated by the companies and experts of these countries. However, the emergence of China as a huge competitor on the technological front is challenging western supremacy. Today, China is all set to redefine these global standards for next-generation technologies. For this, it has already laid down 'China standards 2035' a national-level strategy that would help it seize a global leadership role in technology.

China standards 2035 plan, a 15-year blueprint that will put forth a set of global standards for emerging technologies such

as artificial intelligence, 5th generation internet, Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing for the Chinese government, and leading technology companies to enhance its technical superiority. This blueprint will work alongside other Chinese industrial policies specifically the 'Made in China 2025' policy. The plan is not made public yet; however, the inclusion of various aspects of technology development could be expected in this plan.

The technical standards apply to a worldwide range of industries from telecommunications to healthcare, energy, transportation, and beyond. Standards can be thought of as a global language of product development. They set the foundation upon which new technologies are developed and implemented. They often have an immense impact on the way we live, work, and communicate.

The new framework includes seven major areas; 5G Internet, Data Centres, Artificial Intelligence (AI), inter-city transportation and railway system, industrial internet, ultra-high voltage power transmission and new energy vehicle charging

stations. The main objective of these standards is to bolster China's self-sufficiency in the technology sector, to dominate global technology, as well as to begin a new era of technological advancement.

Chinese policy-makers have long stressed the importance of China's indigenous manufacturing. They often put forward the idea of layering its local industries into three categories, first-layer companies set standards, second-layer companies design technology, and the third layer companies make products. Currently, China is home to the world's largest product manufacturing companies. These companies produce goods that are designed abroad. However, China is also aspiring to become self-sufficient in designing its innovative technology and formulating global technological standards.

The implementation of this plan is based on two stages; the initial stage requires an effective application of various state derived policies at a domestic level, policies that could upgrade China's local tech industries. The application of standards at the global level is only possible if Chinese leadership effectively manages these policies across the country.

In the second stage, to introduce its technical standards at the international level China requires a reliable medium, a source through which it could easily expand and foster its strategic plan. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and World Trade Organization (WTO) could play an important role in accomplishing China's goals. There is an increased chance that China would likely spread these standards through BRI. This means a win-win situation would not only benefit China but BRI countries by providing lower-cost technology to the developing nations as well as under-developed nations.

The rise of China as a major competitor in terms of economy, military, and its rapidly increasing global influence has already agitated the US and its allies in the west and has shaped their bilateral relations for years. However, the emergence of technology as a strategic priority has changed the course of China-US relations. Currently, US still has an edge over technological primacy as compared to China in many aspects. However, undermining China's ability to bring forth innovative technological ideas would create vulnerabilities for the US in the near future. Earlier, we have seen how there was a huge global pushback to Chinese technological firms. Several Chinese AI and technological companies were blacklisted and various restrictions were imposed on the export of American AI software, as a part of a global campaign led by the US to prevent Chinese companies from accessing western technologies and markets. Chinese technology industries were frequently targeted by the White House and its allies in the West over national security concerns and trade agreements.

The striking elements of 'China standards 2035' include 5G technology and AI. 5G internet,

cutting edge technology and the main element of China standards 2035 plan can be seen as the point of divergence between China-US relations and it can further strain the bilateral ties between the two. China's ambitious plan can have serious implications for western technological supremacy.

AS THE NEW GENERATION OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES ENTERS THE GLOBAL MARKET PLACE INCLUDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, CLOUD COMPUTING AND BIG DATA, CHINA HAS SOUGHT TO TAKE A LEAD IN SETTING THE STANDARDS UPON WHICH THESE TECHNOLOGIES WILL OPERATE

Firstly, China's huge global export market and increasing interest in self-sufficiency in the technology sector will greatly affect the US market in China. China is one of the biggest importers of semi-conductor chips from the US spending billions of dollars on foreign technology. However, the desire to build its independent chip industry would reduce its reliance on US technology. Under President Xi Jinping, there is a new slogan called 'dual circulation' which means that China is not only going to prioritize its own companies, technology, markets, and Chinese consumption but also diversify its international market to boost its economy and to expand its influence across the borders. China has a long-standing desire to reduce Chinese companies' dependence on foreign supply. However, after the trade war, the Chinese leadership realized the importance of home-grown technology, which could bring control and dominance over global norms and standards.

Secondly, according to US administration, there are many risks associated with Chinese 5G networks, data flowing

through these networks could be easily accessed by the Chinese government, although these allegations were denied by Huawei's founder Ren Zhengfei stating 'Huawei would never hand customer data over to the Chinese government.' Banning Chinese technology would only accelerate its urge to build its technological foundation.

Lastly, most technological firms in the US are privately owned which means the difference between the interests of the two can significantly impact the future scope of these standards e.g. some tech-industries or firms are likely to accept the Chinese tech standards for increased economic opportunities. On the other hand, the Chinese government is playing a major role in uplifting its domestic tech industries through monetary incentives.

Chinese companies are participating in emerging technology standards meetings in large numbers and are trying to exert greater influence on the process. In a globalized world, those at the forefront of setting international technical standards can gain an advantage over competitors by pushing rules at others. As the new generation of emerging technologies enters the global market place including artificial intelligence, cloud computing and big data, China has sought to take a lead in setting the standards upon which these technologies will operate. However, the most important question that arises is that how China is going to reach its long-term goals to dominate the hegemonic role traditionally occupied by Western countries ■



The writer holds a degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from National University of Modern Languages Islamabad.



Mirroring **Pakistan-China** Friendship through **Chinese Dum (Slow-Cooked) Biryani**

By Arhama Siddiq

While there are many things that unite any desi community, biryani takes the crown when it comes to food. The word Biryani is derived from the Persian word 'Birian' which means grilling or frying before cooking and Birinj, the Persian word for rice.

Although there are various theories related to the origin of this dish, the most popular amongst them is that the dish originated from Persia and was brought to India by the Mughals where the cuisine was given a regal touch in the Mughal royal kitchen courtesy of Mumtaz Mahal, wife of then emperor Shah Jahan. Today, biryani has various editions in connection with the different regions of the subcontinent, all claiming that their version is the best. Bombay Biryani, Dum Pukht Biryani and Hyderabadi Biryani are some of the common versions in Pakistan.

Back in 2017, with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) gaining more tract, Shan Foods launched an ad campaign where a Chinese woman befriends her Pakistani neighbour over a plate of biryani. Not only did the commercial-dubbed by many as brilliant marketing-reinforce the phrase 'love thy neighbour', it also showcased how it is possible to transcend all and any language and cultural barriers in a non-confrontational and peaceful way, thus epitomizing the role model that the Pakistan-China relationship is in this respect.

This is why I felt that it was only fitting to write about a dish which brings together traditional Chinese fried rice and desi slow-cooked Biryani.

Although, at first, I was highly skeptical about how this would turn out, my apprehensions were put to rest with the first bite!

Ingredients: (For Soup)

- ½ kg Boneless Chicken
- ½ cup Yoghurt
- 2tsp Red Chilli Powder
- Salt to Taste
- 2tsp Coriander Powder
- 1tsp Cumin Powder
- 2tsp Ginger Garlic paste
- 1tsp Vinegar / Lemon juice
- ½ cup Golden Fried Onions
- 1 Capsicum finely chopped
- 1 Tomato finely diced
- ½ cup Grated Carrot
- 1/2 tbsp Tomato Ketchup
- 1tbsp Schezwan Sauce
- 1tsp Soya Sauce
- 1tbsp Hot and Sweet Chilli Sauce
- ½ kg Boiled Rice (up to 90 percent cooked))

Method:

Marinate the chicken with yoghurt, red chili powder, salt, coriander powder, cumin powder, 1 tsp ginger garlic paste and vinegar or lemon juice. After stirring in the spices, add the golden fried onions. Leave mixture for two hours.

Heat 5-6 tbsp oil and add ginger garlic paste and sauté for 2 minutes. Then add the marinated chicken. When chicken is almost cooked, add the finely diced tomato and mix it for a couple of minutes. Then add the finely chopped capsicum and grated carrots.

After 5 minutes add in the tomato ketchup, schezwan sauce, soya sauce and hot and sweet chilli sauce and mix well.

Layer in the curry mixture with the rice, adding a bit of orange food colour and 1tsp kewra water on the topmost layer.

Cover and cook first on a high flame for 5 min and on a low flame for 20 minutes.



The writer tweets at [arhama_siddiq](#) and maintains a food website www.chakhoos.com.



Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a webinar on , 'The Role of China in the Middle East & Africa'- November 26, 2020

The China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a media delegation of National Media Workshop Alumni. Dr. Talat Shabbir (Dir. CPSC) briefed the delegates about the institute & it's activities. Amb.Aizaz Chaudhry (DG ISSI) gave a talk on regional & international situation- December 9, 2020



The China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted H.E. Amb Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan. Amb.Aizaz Chaudhry briefed the Ambassador about the structure of ISSI and its contributions in enhancing Pak-China ties- December 10, 2020

India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a seminar titled, 'Understanding Hindutva Mindset and Indian Hegemonic Aspirations'. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mr. Shibli Faraz was the Chief Guest at the occasion- December 16, 2020



The China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad organized the 2nd Pak-China Think-Tank dialogue on, 'Evolving Strategic Environment & Pakistan-China Relations'-December 23, 2020



China Pakistan Study Centre at The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a delegation of journalists from Gilgit Press Club- January 8, 2021

Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a Public Talk by Mohammad Karim Khalili, leader of Hezb e Wahadat e Islami, Afghanistan- January 13, 2021



India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a webinar titled, 'Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS): A Move Towards Fascism in SouthAsia'-January 13, 2021

Arms Control and Disarmament Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation Pakistan hosted an online workshop on 'Internet, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Technologies - Implications for Security and Foreign Policy'- January 20, 2021



Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor, Karakoram International University (KIU) visited China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad- January 21, 2021



Brigadier Waheed, Dir. Plans & Operations National Logistics Cell (NLC) visited China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad- February 3, 2021

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a meeting with the Dean and faculty members, Area Study Centre for North and South America and Africa, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. - January 20, 2021



A delegation from German Embassy headed by Minister Counsellor Dr. Philip Deichmann, Deputy Head of Mission visited China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad- February 3, 2021

India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad in collaboration with National Security Division organized a seminar titled, 'Pakistan Stands with Kashmiris'- February 4, 2021.



Centre for Afghanistan, Middle-East and Africa hosted a Panel Discussion on 'Biden's Foreign Policy Approach Towards the Middle East' - February 18, 2021



Centre for Afghanistan, Middle-East and Africa hosted a Public Talk with H.E Ahmad Wali Chairman, Massoud Foundation of Afghanistan & Former Ambassador of Afghanistan to the UK- February 19, 2021

China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a Public Talk on, 'CPEC and Balochistan'. The Distinguished Speaker at the Occasion was Lt. Gen Nasser Khan Janjua (HIM)- February 24, 2021



Centre for Afghanistan Middle East and Africa held a panel discussion on Biden's Foreign Policy Approach Towards Afghanistan- The panel of experts include, Shinkai Zahine Karokhail, Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan and Michael Kugelman- February 24, 2021

Arms Control and Disarmament Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a panel discussion on, 'US Nuclear Policy under Biden: Prospects and Challenges'- February 25, 2021





China-Europe freight trains jump 96% in Jan-Feb, a steady pillar for BRI trade in hard times

Driven by a resilient global demand for Chinese goods ranging from personal protective equipment (PPE) to home appliances, China-Europe freight trains, which have become a pillar for the trade for countries along the Belt and Road when other transports were disrupted by the COVID-19 outbreak, have seen record growth in the early two months of the year. A total of 2,213 freight trains were dispatched between cities in China and Europe in January and February combined, up 96 percent year-on-year, and the amount of goods delivered was also significant at 209,000 TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units), up 106 percent year-on-year.

March 8, 2021 (Global Times)

Pakistan, China to collaborate in gems and jewellery industry

A meeting was held between the Chinese Consul General to Pakistan and Chairman Pakistan Gems and Jewellery Development Company (PGJDC) in the port city to discuss the possibilities of collaboration/cooperation between Pakistan and China regarding the development of gems and jewellery Industry. At present, Pakistan ranks 5th in the world with regards to gemstone reserves and high-quality emeralds, ruby, sapphire, aquamarine, peridot, topaz, and tourmaline. These gemstone treasures are highly sought around the globe and there is dire need to exploit this potential for export growth.

November 20, 2020 (The News International)



China Post-COVID export growth sets new record

China has reported the highest jump in export growth in over two decades, a year on from the coronavirus outbreak that brought economic activity to a near halt worldwide. Exports spiked a huge 60.6% on-year in the January-February period as per official data. The latest figures are in stark contrast to last year's fall of around 17% in exports, during the same time period. This year's growth exceeded the forecast of analysts in a Reuters poll for a nearly 39% surge.

November 24, 2020 (ProPakistani)

China to gift 0.5M more COVID vaccine doses to Pakistan

Pakistan will receive another half a million doses of COVID-19 vaccine from China as a gift, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said. Speaking to reporters following the formal launch of activities to celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Qureshi said Beijing has always helped Islamabad in difficult times. „Today, on this occasion, China has offered another gift to the Pakistani nation and will send us 500,000 more doses of Sinopharm vaccine,“ he said. On Feb. 1, Pakistan received the first batch of 500,000 doses of the vaccine as a gift from its long-time ally.

March 2, 2021 (Anadolu Agency)



COVID-19

#COVID19 #THRIVE

NOT ONLY CAN YOUNG PEOPLE SPREAD COVID-19, THEY ARE ALSO AT RISK.*

10 TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS DO NOT RISK YOUR LIFE



Physical distancing **can help protect you** from COVID-19. Stay home with members of your household if you are asked to; meet up virtually with friends or other family members.



Wash your hands often and well with soap and water or alcohol-based gel.



Disinfect surfaces you touch a lot, like cell phones, computers, doorknobs, etc.



The COVID-19 situation is **a stressful time for everyone**, including young people. Chat with or videocall friends and family to stay connected.



Limit how much social media and news you consume. **Avoid rumors and misinformation** by getting news from trusted sources.



Exercise or **meditate** at home.



Maintain a familiar routine - while still practicing physical distancing - to **help you feel calmer and more in control**.



Reach out to a trusted adult or professional if you need help or are feeling sad or stressed.



Do not leave your house if you are sick. **Follow guidance from your health authorities** on how to contact health services if you need medical care.



Listen to your local authorities for other advice and directions on how to stay safe.



*Young people are also at risk for severe sickness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 and can spread the disease to people who have a higher risk of serious illness and death.

The Trendsetter in Logistics & Construction

National Logistics Cell (NLC) is a dynamic and multifaceted logistics and construction organization which has a proud history of serving the nation with selfless dedication and firm commitment. We offer a wide range of exceptional services to our valued clients in the fields of speedy and reliable transportation, quality construction of mega projects, operations & management of border terminals and toll tax collection. An enviable combination of highly professional workforce and latest technologies makes NLC the preferred choice of all leading clients from public and private sectors.

