



Development Insight

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Unhindered CPEC Journey

China - Pakistan
Economic Corridor

Second phase of CPEC in full swing: Sami Saeed Chinese envoy appreciates Pakistan's efforts in implementing CPEC projects

Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Sami Saeed has affirmed Pakistan's commitment to expedite CPEC projects during a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong. Ongoing projects, emphasizing their transformative impact on Pakistan's infrastructure and economy to enhance people's lives and drive socio-economic development were the core agenda. Government's firm dedication to CPEC implementation is unwavering and further consolidating. Ambassador Jiang commended Pakistan's CPEC efforts, acknowledging fruitful outcomes across various sectors and the Planning Ministry's significant contributions to economic and social development, infrastructure improvement, and regional connectivity.



US, Pakistan vow to strengthen economic partnership

US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome met with Caretaker Minister for Planning, Muhammad Sami Saeed and deliberated on matters of mutual interest between the two countries. Ways and means towards further strengthening of relations

remained core focus. Avenues for American investment in the sectors like Mining, Agriculture, IT, and Energy were outlined by the Minister of Planning.



CDWP: Catalyzing Development Portfolio

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP), a core function of Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiative, chaired by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission approved and recommended major development projects with a total budget of Rs. 71.8 billion.

The approved projects are as follows:

- “Strengthening the Technical Capacities of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination”, worth Rs. 317 million. This project aims to align Pakistan’s climate change agenda with its national development priorities and enhance coordination at all levels.
- “Establishment of the Directorate General of Religious Education”, with a budgeted cost of Rs. 1,253 million. This project is about registration of all the mandates that all religious educational institutions (Deeni Madaris) with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (M/o FE&PT).
- “Refugees and Host Communities Regional Sub-Windows SH Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Human Capital Investment Project (KP-HCIP) Education Component”: This project, with a budget of Rs. 33 billion, is under consideration by ECNEC and focuses on improving access to primary and secondary education, particularly for girls. It includes the transformation of primary schools into middle schools and the upgrading of middle schools to high schools.
- Another major approved project, costing Rs. 1,349.420 million was “Installation of Wide Area Monitoring System (WAMS) for the NTDC Power Network (Pilot Project)”. This project will be implemented in Jamshoro, Kashmore, Matiari, and Tharparkar.
- Furthermore, an important project was “Infrastructure Rehabilitation Resilience Enhancement Post-Flood 2022 (Rehabilitation / Reconstruction of Health Facilities Damaged by Flood 2022)”: This project, with a budget of Rs. 1.6 billion, is focused on rehabilitating and reconstructing health facilities damaged by the 2022 floods.
- “Peshawar Northern Bypass, 32.2 km (PC-I 3rd Revised)”: With a budget of Rs. 27,051.680 million, this project has been recommended by CDWP to ECNEC. It will be financed through PSDP and involves the construction of a 4-lane, 32.20-kilometre bypass with service roads and lined drains for improved infrastructure connectivity.



**Major
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Working hand-in-hand with World Bank for Development Initiatives



Minister Sami Saeed commended the World Bank's pivotal role in Pakistan's socioeconomic uplift, particularly in flood-affected areas, acknowledging

their continued support. Planning Ministry's has a firm commitment towards facilitating the implementation of development projects and making Pakistan climate resilient.

Collaboration of World Bank and Ministry of Planning has remained proactive and collaborative despite the unprecedented economic and natural crisis that Pakistan has faced. Acknowledgment of Ministry's portfolio and execution by Country Director World Bank, Njay Benhassine and assured sustained support for climate-resilient infrastructure, human resource development, education, vocational training, employment is indicative of prudent endeavors of Ministry of Planning.

Making Pakistan climate resilient.

Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to fast-tracking CPEC projects

China - Pakistan
Economic Corridor



The Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed held a meeting with the Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), Yu Bo and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to fast-tracking the ongoing projects of CPEC.

Gwadar is the heart of CPEC, a gateway to prosperity for Pakistan and the region, and future's world-class port and logistics hub. Considering its importance, CPEC, both governments and Ministry of Planning are making sure to develop Gwadar into a world-class port and logistics hub. Commitment to CPEC projects is reflected from recently established high-level mechanism to address any concerns that may arise.



Seminar on Belt and Road Initiative: “Paving the Path to Shared Prosperity”

After the first decade and phase-I of the CPEC, the second phase as the Ministry of Planning is in full swing as the interim government is committed to implement the development projects in letter and spirit.

To further enhance the avenues of cooperation, Prime Minister of Pakistan has also represented Pakistan in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, held on October 17th and 18th.

Mr. Sami Saeed further accentuated that BRI is not merely a network of roads and bridges Rather it is a manifestation of our collective belief in the power of collaboration to create a world where opportunities are boundless and prosperity knows no borders.

CPEC Centre of Excellence is playing a constructive role in producing applied research for CPEC. To further increase the levels of interaction, mineral sectors is an important area. Centre on Modern Earth, Minerals & Natural Resources has been established at QAU which will work with the cooperation of China to modernize the mineral sector.

Speaking at the occasion, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, appreciated the Centre of Excellent CPEC and Planning Ministry for conducting this seminar.

**The success of
CPEC is
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principles of
the BRI**



Appreciating the constituent policies formulated by the Planning Ministry, the Chinese envoy said that China will continue to support Pakistan in implementing CPEC projects. “The success of CPEC is attributed to its adherence to the principles of the BRI as the project exemplifies openness, inclusivity and mutual benefits, garnering support from the people of both China and Pakistan,” remarked the envoy, while appreciating Pakistan’s efforts for implementing the

CPEC projects especially in the second phase of CPEC which has been kicked off. The Chinese envoy also appreciated Pakistan’s for taking extra ordinary security measures for the Chinese working in Pakistan.





Rendezvous held between Minister Planning and Chairman State Committee on Urban Planning of Azerbaijan



Pakistan and Azerbaijan join hands for a Climate Resilient and Sustainable Urban Planning keeping in view the real challenges faced by the region. Both countries have joined hands during a meeting between Caretaker Planning Minister for Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed and Chairman State Committee on Urban Planning & Architecture, Azerbaijan Anar Guliyev on Sunday.

The planning minister is on an official visit to the Second Azerbaijan National Urban Forum & Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2023, themed "Resilient cities as a driving force of economic development and fighting inequalities".



Both Official mutually acknowledged that Urban Planning is a real challenge and forums like Azerbaijan National Urban are much needed to find out solutions, while learning from the international experiences and for chalking out a collective way forward.

Regarding the 4RF document (Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework), prepared by the Ministry of Planning was also discussed

which will play a vital role in making a resilient infrastructure.

**Resilient cities
as a driving force
of economic
development**

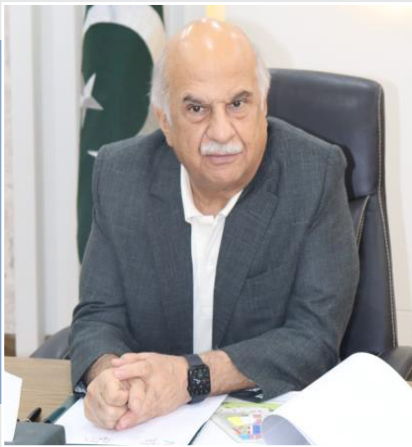
**Plan House
is a landmark
structure
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data center.**

Planning's Plan House

The Deputy Chairmanship of Planning Commission, Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan reviewed progress over **Plan House & National Data Centre** during a meeting held on Thursday. As per this project, the construction of Plan House & National Data Centre, which will be established near Kohsar Block Constitution Avenue.

This plan house will be covering an area of almost 5 acre and will be completed in two years. The Plan House is a landmark structure designed to function as a national data center.

While reviewing the progress, the Deputy Chairman directed the concerned stakeholders to ensure the adoption of climate resilient infrastructure with an energy conservation plan. He also asked the executing agency to align the project with the Secretariat which was built in the 1960s.



Expediting Development in Flood-Affected Areas

**Resilient,
Recovery,
Rehabilitation &
Reconstruction
framework
(4RF)**



The Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives has expedited the implementation of development projects being executed in flood-affected area of the country under Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction framework (4RF) as the second meeting of Federal Steering Committee on 4RF was held.

In response, the government devised the 4RF framework, which proposed effective coordination and participation arrangements among federal and provincial governments, development partners, donors, international and national NGOs and academic and private sectors.

An exclusive dashboard for 4RF is at the final which will be placed at the Planning Ministry that would ensure real time monitoring and provide information to the donors and development partners.

Monitoring & Evaluation Framework is being strengthened to ensure community and partners participations to provide an independent assessment of the equity and transparency of all flood reconstruction spending.



Collective efforts to Tackle Climate Change

The Caretaker Planning Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed called for coordinated and collective global efforts to counter the climate crisis.

Pakistan needs to act proactively because of the vulnerabilities caused by the natural calamities like floods. The human and infrastructural loss of Pakistan is immense, as estimated by the World Bank and other development partners and hence demanding to act well in-time. Climate change has far-reaching impacts, like immense threats to our environment, economy, and the well-being of our people. Some of the areas that need investments for the action against climate change with effective solutions is climate research, technology and innovation.

To cater the infrastructural and human loss, Ministry of Planning has drafted 4RF document. The 4RF document suggested effective coordination



and participation arrangement among the federal and provincial governments, development partners, donors, international and national NGOs, and academic and private sectors. To further complement the efforts against climate change, CDWP of Planning Ministry has approved multiple projects. Furthermore, a dashboard will be launched at the Planning Ministry to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Regarding successful endeavor of collective efforts, Planning Minister emphasized that Pakistan launched robust natural capital restoration efforts, including ambitious tree plantation programs amid only to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions but also to restore ecosystems and enhance livelihood opportunities for the vulnerable, including women and youth.



Pakistan launched robust natural capital restoration efforts

Revitalizing Pakistan's Agriculture Sector: emphasizing Agri-focused projects

Pakistan's agriculture sector stands as a pillar of the nation's economy, contributing significantly to GDP, employment, and food security. Recognizing its immense potential, the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives has undertaken a concerted effort to revitalize the sector, allocating substantial funds under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP). A range of projects has been initiated, targeting various aspects of agriculture to enhance productivity, reduce losses, promote modern farming techniques, and utilize uncultivated land.

- Green Revolution 2.0: Focuses on addressing productivity constraints, promoting technology adoption, reducing post-harvest losses, adding value to grains, fruits, and vegetables, and engaging women and youth in agriculture.
- Horticulture Support Program: Aims to reduce on-field and post-harvest losses of selected fruits and vegetables, strengthening horticultural value chains through public-private partnerships.
- Solarization of Agricultural Tubewells: Initiated to convert 100,000 diesel and electric tubewells to solar power, reducing energy costs and environmental impact. Land Information and Management System (LIMS)
- Established to improve modern agro-farming practices and utilize uncultivated state land.
- Aims to consolidate and reclaim wasteland, optimize crop selection and placement, create a master plan for modern farming, adopt state-of-the-art agriculture management practices, implement agro-intelligence for digital and precision agriculture, enhance yield through cutting-edge technology, and develop an effective decision support system.
- GIS-based LIMS provides real-time information to farmers about soil, crops, weather, water resources, and pest monitoring through remote sensing and geospatial technologies, minimizing the role of middlemen through an efficient marketing system. In the current fiscal





year several projects worth billions of were allocated for the agriculture sector under Public Sector Development Program PSDP to tap huge potential in the agriculture sector. While gearing up the efforts, the Planning Ministry asked the relevant ministries to accelerate the implementation so that projects can be completed timely.

- Commercialization of Potato Tissue Culture Technology in Pakistan
- Establishment of consumer-sourcing seed authenticity system
- Establishment of Plant Breeders Rights Registry
- Establishment of Seed Certification Services in Southern Balochistan;
- National Oilseed Enhancement Program;
- National Program for Enhancing the Command Area in Barani Areas of Pakistan;
- National Program for Improvement of Watercourses in Pakistan - Phase II;
- Pilot Shrimp farming Cluster Development;
- Productivity Enhancement of Rice; Productivity Enhancement of Sugarcane;
- Productivity Enhancement of Wheat, Promoting Research for Productivity Enhancement in Pulses.
- Promotion of Trout Farming in Northern Areas of Pakistan;
- Sino-Pak Agricultural Breeding innovations Project for Rapid Yield Enhancement;
- Locust Emergency and Food Security Project;
- Mainstreaming of MARC for the promotion of high value agriculture in Gilgit-Baltistan;
- Pakistan- Korea Joint Program on Certified Seed Potato Production



A range of projects has been initiated, targeting various aspects of agriculture to enhance productivity, reduce losses, promote modern farming techniques

Day-long Workshop

“Integrated Energy Planning for Sustainable Development”

Integrated Energy Planning is critical to address the energy crisis in the country.

Under the vision 2025, the project IEP was envisioned to make a centralized Energy Planning and Resource Centre (EPRC) that meets the demands of energy planning for the fast development in the world.

The outcomes of the Low Emission Analysis Platform (LEAP) model by the Integrated Energy Planning (IEP) will help in achieving the high industrial growth__ export-led economic base and to save the foreign exchange reserves.

The event was attended by the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Jehanzeb Khan, country's leading experts in the energy sectors and other stakeholders.

LEAP model is an effort to present a holistic integrated initial approach to:

- Energy Demand and Supply Analysis.
- All components of integrated balances
- To compute long-term energy prices under various scenarios. During the workshop, three thematic sessions were held which include.
- Estimation of Integrated Energy Demand
- Power Sector Energy Mix to Meet Future Demand Using the LEAP Model
- Fuel Sector Planning to Address Future Demand

**Preserving
Energy is a
public Good**

Using the LEAP Model by the leading experts like __Syed Akhtar Ali, former Member Energy, Planning Ministry, Dr Afia Malik, Senior Research Economist, PIDE, Sajid Akram, Director General Tariff, Khurram Lalani, Consultant on Energy, Omar Haroon Malik, Head Strategy & Power Market Development CPPA-G. Speaking at the occasion, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Jehanzeb Khan said that this is what the role of the Planning Commission in general and IEP, in particular is to make an inclusive and growth-centred energy policy-making in the country.

Highlighting the significance of sustainable development goals (SDGs), Dr. Jehanzeb Khan urged for a reevaluation of Pakistan's approach to energy planning in line with SDG 7—affordable and clean energy.





Development Communication, Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives,
Government of Pakistan.

Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives

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