



## BRI-CPEC & SCO NEWSLETTER

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### BRI & CPEC Highlights

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### Publications

**02-03-2018:** Pakistan-China Institute and ACCA Pakistan launch research report on the economic benefits of modern silk--route...

**13-03-2018:** CPSC and ISSI launch book ceremony 'Gwadar: Balance in Transition' by Dr. Azhar Ahmad

**21-03-2018:** 'CPEC and India's Growing Nervousness' published by Farhat Asif (President of IPD)

### Announcements

**8-03-2018:** China announced to host four major events this year...

**09-03-2018:** Gwadar is going to have MCC..

**11-03-2018:** HOSHO group announce the lunch of chain of 'Hotel Two' along CPEC route..

**14-03-2018:** China-ASEAN Expo to be held in September..

**16-03-2018:** Amir Khan is going to set up boxing academy in Gwadar ..

### SCO Highlights

**12-03-2018:** Russia calls to establish SCO anti-drug body

**12-03-2018:** Joint SCO and UN antidrug event held at Vienna

**16-03-2018:** President of Russia has signed a decree on conduction of the regular SCO Summit in Chelyabinsk, Russia.

**19-03-2018:** SCO, CIS observers see no serious violations in Russian presidential elections

**25-03-2018:** SCO observers mission members oversee general election in Turkmenistan

**27-03-2018:** Two renowned Pakistani pianists enthralled audience with musical performance at the SCO Secretariat in Beijing.

## First-ever container vessel under CPEC arrives at Gwadar Port

07-03-2018: The first ever container vessel MS TIGER under CPEC project arrived at Gwadar Port. Pakistan Navy Ships escorted MS TIGER to Gwadar Port. A ceremony was held at the port on this

occasion. This new Ship Container Service namely Karachi Gwadar Gulf Express will connect Gwadar Port with the Middle East hub of Jebel Ali as well as the neighboring UAE ports. Pakistan Navy has raised

Task Force 88 to undertake defence of Gwadar Port and its surrounding areas. <http://radio.gov.pk/07-03-2018/first-ever-container-vessel-under-cpec-arrives-at-gwadar-port>

## Nepal's business community and delegation from OBOR International Trade and Investment Platform talks held

19-03-2018: Representatives of Nepal's business community and the visiting delegation from OBOR International Trade and Investment Platform discussed on attracting Chinese investment in Nepal. During the meeting, representatives of FNCCI the apex private sector body of Nepal, requested OBOR Platform delegation to increase investment in Nepal's infrastructure, energy, tourism and agriculture sectors. OBOR Platform delegation proposed holding another meeting soon to identify the areas for partnership in Nepal. According to FNCCI, two sides also

discussed on developing entrepreneurship in Nepal, technology transfer, identification of Nepali goods that could be exported to China. Bhaskar Raj Rajkarnikar, chairman of Nepal Chapter of OBOR Platform told Xinhua on Monday that the delegation is set to sign an MoU with Federation of Handicraft Associations of Nepal on Wednesday in order to promote Nepali handicraft products to China under the banner of OBOR Platform. Handicraft is one of the Nepal's major exportable items to China. Earlier, the OBOR

Platform had signed MoU with various related trade bodies to promote Nepal's Pashmina, wild honey, a Nepali wine and Himalayan Nettle. The team has also the met with speaker of Nepal's House of Representatives, the Lower House Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supply Matrika Yadav and Minister for Federal Affairs and General Administration Lalbabu Pandit, according to Rajbhandari. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-03/20/c\\_137052072.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-03/20/c_137052072.htm)

## Roundtable arranged by the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies on CPEC and regional development

21-03-2018: Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies has organized roundtable talk, theme as CPEC and Regional development. State Minister Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan expressed his views, 'Due to CPEC, Pakistan is at the crossroads of great prospects for playing a greater role for peace and prosperity of the entire region. He was of the view that Pakistan needs to learn from Chinese experience of removing all practical difference and has

separated economic prosperity and the entire sector from political problems. CPEC is opening new markets for Pakistan and every one must support this as in the end it will be Pakistan which is the beneficiary, he added. Speaking on the occasion, China's Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy, Lijian Zhao, said that CPEC is meant to promote the development of Pakistan and for the entire region. Muslim Youth University Vice Chancellor, Prof

Tahir Hijazi highlighted the economic, social and other impacts of CPEC Pakistan. Quaid-I-Azam University Director SPIR, Nazir Hussain said that CPEC is owned by Pakistani people and not by any political party. The governments may change but the vision will remain the same. <https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2018/03/22/cpec-provides-pakistan-opportunity-to-be-regional-harbinger-of-peace-rana-afzal/>

## China announces new courts for resolving Belt and Road disputes

22-03-2018: China has recently announced the establishment of a new institution for resolving commercial and investment disputes arising out of projects forming part of the Belt and Road Initiative (the "Court"). The Court will have three branches – one in Shenzhen, to hear disputes arising from the Maritime Silk Road, one in Xi'an to hear disputes from the overland "Belt", with a Beijing branch to

oversee and manage the Court. The Court will also offer arbitration and mediation. The establishment of the Court appears to be an intriguing step by China to stake its claim as a jurisdiction for resolving large international disputes. Whilst China is home to a number of arbitral institutions, which are commonly used for resolving disputes involving at least one Chinese party, at present

China does not have the pre-eminent reputation of international dispute resolution hubs such as London, Singapore and Hong Kong. The Court is described as an "international commercial court", a term which suggests parallels with the Singapore International Commercial Court ("SICC").

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9b2a23d2-a461-4e89-96a4-adeb3ecf7e20>

## MoU signed between Al Haj Group and Xinjiang Steel Group

25-03-2018: The track of four sections would be upgraded under the first phase of CPEC for railways. The PR sections including Lahore-Rawalpindi, Lahore-Multan, Kaluwal-Pindora and Rohari-Nawab Shah will be upgraded in this phase. The upgradation of the track between Lahore and Rawalpindi will cut the

duration of journey between the two destinations by two technology used in the project has not been used by any other steel industry in the country. The company had also dispatched a proposal to the FBI, Islamabad, for the same. It said the company on behalf of the provincial government asked the federal

government to include the industrial zone at Rashakai on priority in the CPEC framework under the scheme 'One Project – One Concern' and two others KP CSEZ and Hattar SEZ for synergistic, simultaneous, synchronized and balance development/operation of the two district SEZ.

## Russia calls to establish SCO anti-drug body

12-03-2018: Moscow calls for establishing a Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) anti-drug body as soon as possible for it would help create an effective mechanism to counter Afghan drug trafficking, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov said at joint event organized by the SCO and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

He emphasized the SCO's strategic role in countering modern challenges, including drug threat. In this connection, it was stressed that there is a need to establish an SCO anti-drug body as soon as possible, which could serve as a basis for creating an effective mechanism for countering Afghan drug trafficking, as the production of opiates in Afghanistan reached record

highs in 2017. In addition, the Russian deputy foreign ministry "presented detailed information about the system of training anti-drug officers from Afghanistan and Central Asian countries at the Russian Interior Ministry's educational facilities, as well as about further steps aimed at boosting this aspect of the fight against drugtrafficking. <http://tass.com/politics/993607>

## Joint SCO and UN antidrug event held at Vienna

12-03-2018: UN and SCO in the Fight Against Narcotic Drugs: New Threats and Joint Actions, took place in Vienna. About 200 delegates and guests from the CND took part. UNODC Executive Director and SCO Secretary-General welcomed the participants during the opening ceremony. During the panel discussion, a chronicle documentary about the SCO member states' antidrug cooperation was also presented. The SCO Secretary-General disclosed the results of the analysis carried out by the SCO Secretariat, according to which the responsible agencies of the eight SCO member states confiscated 38% of the heroin and marijuana, 26% of hashish and 9% of the opium confiscated in Eurasia in total. During the panel session, the heads of the SCO member states' delegations, presented the detailed information about their countries' contribution to fighting the drug threat and cooperation in the framework of the SCO. Summing up the results of the discussion, the SCO Secretary-General stressed that the drug threat has no borders. <http://eng.sectsco.org/news/20180312/394201.html>

## Putin decreed holding SCO Summit in Chelyabinsk

16-03-2018: "I have just signed the decree," the Russian President told the participants of the forum "Russia - the Country of Opportunities". In the beginning of March at media forum of All-Russian People's Front, the Russian leader mentioned Chelyabinsk as a potential venue in Russia for the SCO Summit. Vladimir Putin noted that cities of Russia compete among each other for hosting such events, because 'everybody remembers the positive effect which Vladivostok had after the APEC summit and how Sochi transformed after the Olympic Games'. [http://www.kazinform.kz/www.inform.kz/en/putin-decreed-holding-sco-summit-in-chelyabinsk\\_a3186358](http://www.kazinform.kz/www.inform.kz/en/putin-decreed-holding-sco-summit-in-chelyabinsk_a3186358)

## SCO, CIS observers see no serious violations in Russian presidential elections

19-03-2018: The observer mission from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has not revealed any serious violations during the presidential election in Russia, which could call its legitimacy into question, Rashid Alimov, the organization's general secretary, said on Monday, according to RIA Novosti. No serious complaints have been received, he told reporters in Moscow, adding that the election met the requirements of the Russian electoral legislation and the country's international obligations. Viktor Guminsky, first deputy chairman of the CIS executive committee, was quoted as saying on Monday that the mission of observers from the CIS recognizes the Russian Presidential election as "legitimate, free, open and competitive." It was held in accordance with Russia's electoral legislation and meet the generally recognized norms for holding democratic elections, he said at a meeting of Russia's Central Election Commission. <https://www.rt.com/newsline/421676-sco-cis-observers-russia/>

## SCO observers mission members oversee general election in Turkmenistan

25-03-2018: On 24 March, members of SCO observer mission visited polling stations, and were briefed on current comprehensive efforts to prepare for the general election day. At their working meeting, mission members charted election monitoring plans for Ashgabat and five provinces in Turkmenistan. Deputy SCO Secretary General and Mission Head met with Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan. They exchanged opinions on matters linked with monitoring the election by members of the observer Mission of SCO.. <http://eng.sectsco.org/news/20180325/402044.html>