

DECEMBER 04; MUZAFFARABAD: INDIA HAS NO RIGHT TO RAISE OBJECTION ON CPEC, SARDAR MASOOD KHAN

India has no right to raise objection on inclusion of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Ladkh and



Kashmir valley are different units of Kashmir, which is an indivisible entity and had remained an important part of ancient Silk Route for centuries,” President Masood said while addressing a seminar on the topic of “CPEC and Regional Connectivity: Opportunities and Challenges here on Tuesday.

The seminar organized by Azad Jammu and Kashmir University Muzaffarabad was also addressed by Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Dr Kalim Abbasi, Executive Director of CPEC Center of Excellence, Dr Shahid Rashid, AJK Secretary for Tourism, Information and Information Technology Mrs. Midhat Shahzad and others.

The president said that time is not far off when Kashmir will again play a crucial role in regional cooperation, trade and business by becoming a gate way to China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The CPEC is flagship project of China's one trillion dollars Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that will connect three continents and will benefit 62 percent population of the world. Pakistan being closed and trusted friend of China can benefit largely from the project if we prepare ourselves to take benefits from the project.

The CPEC, he added has heralded the end of military confrontation among the regional countries and harbingering the new era of regional cooperation in the range of fields including socio-economic development, business, trade and infrastructure development.

The world is now is changing in a way that has so far been unseen in scale and depth as new trading blocs are emerging by creating new economic geographies in order to accelerate economic activities across the globe, he added.

"The CPEC is not an imagination but reality", President Masood and added that project is being implemented with fast pace. Azad Jammu and Kashmir is very much part of the project as AJK is executing four mega projects under the framework of the CPEC.

The projects including two mega hydropower generation projects at Karot and Kohala, construction of Mansehra- Mirpur Express Way and an Industrial Zone at Mirpur would significantly contribute to the socio-economic development of the state.

Khan urged the universities of AJK to teach and prepare the students to make them able to shoulder future responsibilities of the country with proficiency and confidence. He said sensitizing people about CPEC and its benefits for the country is need of the time.

Speaking on the occasion Vice Chancellor Azad Jammu and Kashmir University Professor Dr Kalim Abbasi highlighted the multi-dimensional opportunities, needs and challenges associated with the CPEC.

He said that strategic location of Pakistan gives it an immense importance in the region and in the global prospects, and after completion of the CPEC, world and Asia would revolve around Pakistan.