

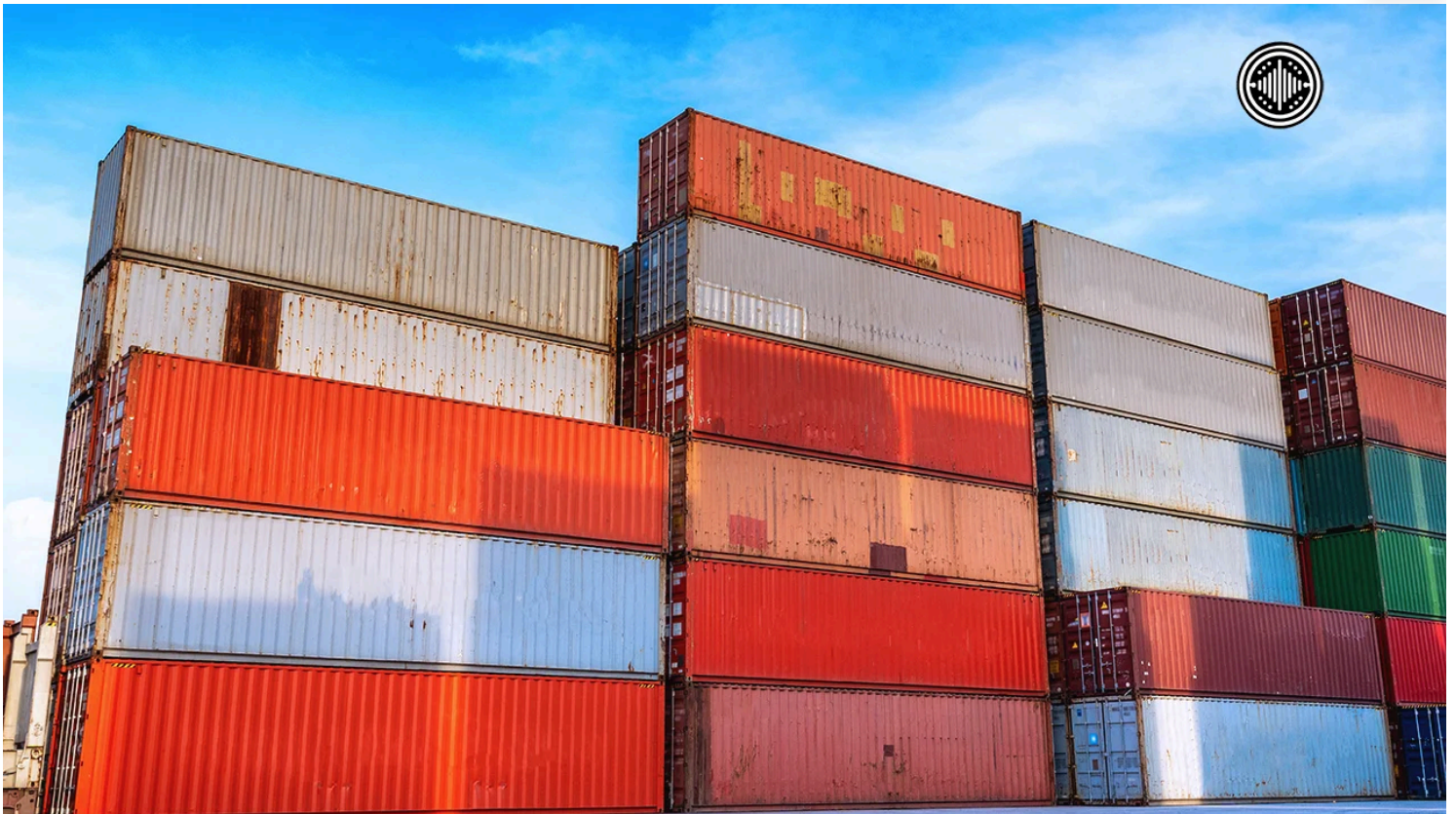
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Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan Forge Ambitious \$100 Million Trade Partnership

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Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan have launched a comprehensive economic revitalization plan, targeting \$100 million in bilateral trade through enhanced cooperation across twelve sectors. During the 5th Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) session in Islamabad, both nations signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) covering standardization, investment promotion, and Halal trade, marking a

strategic push to reverse declining trade volumes that fell from \$11.2 million to \$5.18 million in just two years.

The agreements establish concrete mechanisms for collaboration, including a proposed 500 kV electricity transmission line connecting Kyrgyzstan, China, and Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region. "This partnership transcends traditional trade; it's about building energy corridors and digital infrastructure," emphasized Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Leghari. The deal leverages Pakistan's competitive advantages in pharmaceuticals, textiles, and Basmati rice against Kyrgyzstan's mineral resources and agricultural produce, creating complementary economic synergies.



Connectivity emerged as a cornerstone of the new framework, with plans to upgrade air links, implement a 1995 cargo agreement, and develop joint logistics centers. The State Bank of Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan's National Bank will collaborate on Islamic finance solutions, while educational exchanges under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP) will foster STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) expertise. These multi-sectoral ties reflect a mature understanding that modern economic partnerships require foundations beyond mere commodity exchange.

As both nations prepare for the 6th IGC session in Bishkek, the challenge lies in execution. Previous agreements have faltered due to bureaucratic inertia and infrastructure gaps. However, with structured working groups and private sector engagement through revived Joint Business Councils, this initiative demonstrates potential to become a model for Central-South Asian cooperation provided commitments translate into actionable projects rather than remaining diplomatic aspirations.

