



LoC Trade & Regional Development: Opportunities and Challenges

Intra Kashmir Cross LoC Dialogue, Srinagar, J&K

10-11 July 2012

Conference Statement

An Intra-Kashmir Cross LoC Dialogue conference was held at the SKICC, Srinagar, on 10-11, July 2012. It was attended by 55 participants from both sides of the LoC, Delhi and Amritsar representing various Trade & Business organizations and associations. On the final day the participants were divided into different discussion groups. After detailed discussion, participants agreed on a set of recommendations that were adopted as part of the consensus statement in the last session of the conference.

1. The conference strongly supported the continuation of the LoC trade CBM in order to achieve the objectives envisaged when the CBM was introduced by India and Pakistan, in October 2008. These objectives can only be achieved if the present bottle necks and the confusion over implementation of the LoC CBM's are removed.
2. The conference recommends that the Governments liberalize the existing list of 21 items and replace the positive list with a negative list. Jammu and Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JKJCCI) - J&K body of LoC trade - should be consulted before finalizing the negative list.
3. The conference recommends that all the financial transactions should be made through banking channels. While the arrangements are being made to put banking facilities in place present trade practice should continue.
4. Existing SOP's should be implemented with a quarterly review. The Joint Working Group quarterly meeting should review the progress, problems and their redressal.
5. An arbitration mechanism should be put in place for dispute resolution through JKJCCI with cooperation of respective chambers and trade organizations
6. Telecom facilities should be provided immediately. Postal, courier services and video conferencing facilities should also be made available across LoC.

7. Registration of traders should be streamlined and free movement of traders in the region should be allowed. Traders should be issued multiple entry permits. Monthly meetings of traders should be allowed at the trade facilitation centers at the LoC.
8. The trade facilitation centers should also be used for buyer/seller meetings and exhibitions.
9. Truck scanners should be installed to avoid delays and handling of perishable goods. Roads and bridges should be improved.
CA stores and warehouses should be constructed.
Hotels should be built close to the trade facilitation centers.
10. Number of trade days should be increased from four to seven.
11. Disparity between two LoC trading points in Jammu and in Kashmir should be addressed and equal number of trucks allowed from both sides
12. New routes should be opened like Nowshera-Kotli-Mirpur and Skardu-Kargil
13. New areas of cooperation should be explored for consultancy and joint ventures. Free movement and exchange of consultants, technocrats, from both sides be allowed a free movement across the LoC to promote trade and business activity.