



For Better Understanding on
**China–Pakistan and
CPEC**
Gleanings from the
National & Chinese Press

December 01-15, 2025



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Supervised by Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan

Data collected and compiled by Alishba Aslam, Aqsa Malik and Waqar Pervaiz.

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December 02, 2025

Business Recorder

Warrior-IX — joint military exercise between Pakistan, China begins in Pabbi

BR Web Desk

The Pakistan Army and the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) of China commenced the joint military exercise Warrior-IX.

The exercise was the ninth edition in the series of bilateral counterterrorism exercises conducted annually between the two iron-clad brothers, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement today.

The exercise, which began on December 1, focuses on counter terrorism operations, to enhance interoperability, refine professional skills, and exchanging best practices in modern warfare.

“Pakistan and China enjoy longstanding, time-tested defence cooperation rooted in mutual trust and strategic partnership.

Pakistan, China reaffirm commitment to strengthen military-to-military cooperation

Exercise Warrior-IX stands as a testament to the robust military-to-military relations between the two countries and reaffirms their shared commitment to regional peace, stability, and security,” the military’s media wing said.

Mangla Corps Commander, Major General Bian Xiaoming Deputy Chief of Staff (Western Theatre Command, PLA) and other Senior military officials from both Pakistan and China attended the opening ceremony of the exercise that was held at the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Pabbi.

Pakistan and China armed forces routinely participate in bilateral and multilateral drills, with Warrior-VIII being held in 2024.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40395334/joint-military-exercise-between-pakistan-china-warrior-ix-begins-in-pabbi>

Dawn News

Modernisation with civilisational roots

CHINA’S modern transformation just cannot be understood without first revisiting its civilisational foundations — a heritage of harmony, moral restraint and self-cultivation that has guided its statecraft for more than five millennia.

Unlike the expansionist powers that defined much of world history, China’s rise was shaped not by conquest, but by conscience. It built walls to protect, not to dominate; it refined its governance rather than subjugating others. Its dynasties prized stability over aggression, and its influence radiated through culture, learning and diplomacy rather than through force.

That sense of moral responsibility still anchors China's modern policy. "The United States has three centuries and no burden of memory; China has five millennia and the full weight of civilisation," a Beijing historian once observed. This weight of memory continues to guide decision-makers in Beijing, reminding them that true legitimacy comes not from power, but from the welfare of the people.

The Chinese concept of statecraft, rooted in Confucian harmony and socialist humanism, insists that progress must uplift all regions, not merely the prosperous coastal centres.

When the People's Republic of China emerged from the ruins of colonial humiliation and civil war in 1949, its leaders inherited a vast and uneven nation. National rejuvenation meant more than reclaiming sovereignty — it required bridging deep internal disparities and restoring dignity through inclusive development.

Among the regions most in need of such renewal was Xinjiang. For centuries, its cities like Kashgar, Hotan and Urumqi, had been jewels on the Silk Road, linking Chinese merchants with Persian, Turkic and European traders. After 1949, the same geography that had once carried caravans and ideas promised to carry pipelines, highways and digital networks. Xinjiang was no longer a distant periphery to defend; it was a bridge to connect.

Beijing's approach was carefully phased and deeply pragmatic. It began with what China called the 'dual-track' strategy — cultivating human capacity while modernising the material base. Beijing recognised that success required not only resources, but moral discipline and administrative competence as well. Local cadres were trained to balance ethnic diversity with unity, ensuring that modernisation did not erode cultural identity.

By the late 1980s, the transformation of Xinjiang was no longer a vision — it was a living reality written across its deserts, valleys and cities. In 1949, the region had barely 4.3 million people, most living in poverty, with life expectancy below 30 years and illiteracy above 90 per cent. By 1980, its population had doubled to 8.3 million, life expectancy had climbed to 58 years, and literacy had risen beyond 65pc.

These and other such gains were not merely economic; they were civilisational. Health, literacy, and connectivity created a new consciousness among the people — a realisation that they were no longer isolated tribes surviving at the edge of empire, but citizens of a rejuvenated nation moving confidently towards modernity. The sense of shared destiny began to define the spirit of Xinjiang.

The guiding spirit of this transformation lay in an ancient truth: that national order arises from personal virtue, and prosperity from collective dignity.

In resurrecting a region long forgotten, China did not simply focus on building roads or refineries; it reaffirmed a true civilisational covenant — that to put the world in order, one has to first cultivate the self, the family and the nation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1958720>

December 03, 2025

Business Recorder

PCJCCI welcomes roadmap to fast-track Phase II of China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

LAHORE: The Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) has welcomed Pakistan’s newly introduced roadmap to fast-track Phase II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), terming it a transformative step toward high-tech industrialization, enhanced provincial cooperation, and sustainable national development.

Phase II of CPEC aims to shift Pakistan from infrastructure-led growth toward innovation-led expansion through industrial up gradation, digital transformation, and modern governance.

The declaration of 2026 as the “Year of Reform and Modernization” underscores a national commitment to reducing bureaucratic hurdles, promoting a pro-investment environment, and improving institutional efficiency.

Nazir Hussain President PCJCCI said that Pakistan’s new direction under CPEC Phase II reflects a bold and future-focused approach. High-tech industrialization, innovation-led growth, and deeper cooperation with China will unlock new opportunities for our industries, our youth, and our emerging entrepreneurs.

PCJCCI stands committed to facilitating this new era of economic transformation. He further added that a major milestone in this phase is China’s commitment to financing 85 percent of the Karakoram Highway (KKH) Project, reflecting the deepening economic and strategic partnership between the two nations.

Brig. Mansoor Saeed Sheikh (ret), Senior Vice President PCJCCI stated that the government has also announced the initiation of the bidding process for the Thakot–Raikot Motorway within the next two months, along with expanding provincial-level cooperation under CPEC to ensure balanced and inclusive development across all regions.

He also said that the commitment of China to the KKH financing and the expansion of provincial partnerships shows the strength of our bilateral bond. CPEC Phase II will modernize our key sectors, support local industries, and create sustainable jobs. PCJCCI will continue to act as a bridge for strengthened commercial collaboration. Zafar Iqbal Vice President PCJCCI added that the human capital development particularly empowering youth and women is a critical pillar of this new roadmap. This aligns strongly with PCJCCI’s vision of an inclusive, knowledge-driven economy. We look forward to supporting initiatives that promote skill enhancement, innovation, and industrial competitiveness. Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI reaffirmed its dedication to supporting all initiatives aimed at deepening Pakistan-China economic integration and advancing sustainable national growth.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40395503/pcjcci-welcomes-roadmap-to-fast-track-phase-ii-of-cpec>

Dawn News

Dar says multilateralism ‘under assault’ amid complex security climate in South Asia

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said on Wednesday that multilateralism was “under assault” as stability in South Asia faced various threats, stressing the need for regional cooperation.

Speaking at an event in Islamabad, Dar said, “Multilateralism is under assault and the institutions of global governance are often criticised for the acts of omission and commission of a few states driven by unilateralist impulses.”

Referring to the four-day conflict with India earlier this year in May, Dar said, “In 92 hours, the Indo-Pakistan war had the potential to escalate to far more dangerous levels.”

He said that states had increasingly resorted to the use of force to settle disputes while disregarding international law and the principles of the UN Charter.

The deputy premier noted that “emerging technologies, transnational terrorism and hybrid warfare, including misinformation campaigns, continue to challenge stability”.

Dar said that India and Pakistan were “involved in a conflagration” that would have gone toward an “uncontrollable escalation”, adding that an “uneasy and fragile peace persists”.

“Pakistan demonstrated both in resolve and capability to thwart aggression and reinforce deterrence. The concept of a net security provider is buried,” he asserted.

The foreign minister pointed out that “major power competition is a defining feature of our times”, with military, technology, trade, tariff and resource rivalries intensifying.

However, the deputy PM said, Pakistan “opposed bloc politics and zero-sum approaches and consistently stressed the imperative of cooperation rather than confrontation”.

“We have underscored the indispensability of dialogue and diplomacy, of peaceful settlement of disputes, and of international cooperation and solidarity.”

As an elected member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2025-2026 term, Pakistan was “engaged in vanguard efforts to promote international peace and security”, Dar highlighted.

Dar also noted that the rise of extremist ideologies, political populism, democratic backsliding and Islamophobia were “negatively impacting the globe and causing upheavals in unprecedented ways”.

“Pakistan envisions a South Asia where connectivity replaces divisions, economies grow in synergy, disputes are resolved peacefully in accordance with international legitimacy and where peace is maintained with dignity and honour,” Dar said.

“We remain ready to work with all willing partners to help South Asia realise its immense potential,” the deputy premier affirmed.

‘War-fighting notions in nuclearised environment’

Speaking further on South Asia, Dar said the region had a complex security environment as it comprised “three geographically contiguous nuclear powers with complicated relationships”.

“Major regional states boast of some of the largest armed forces in the world. There is a continuous buildup of conventional and nuclear arms and regular induction of destabilising weapons systems.

“Strategic stability is delicate, among other things, by some dangerously ill-conceived war-fighting notions in the nuclearised environment,” he added.

Pointing out that sustainable peace had eluded South Asia for the past 78 years, Deputy PM Dar said there were “escalating disputes” over resource sharing, particularly on river waters, as exemplified by India’s illegal and unilateral announcement on the Indus Waters Treaty” in April.

“There are pervasive interstate differences and some of the longstanding unresolved political disputes, like Jammu and Kashmir, continue to threaten the peace and stability in the region,” Dar highlighted.

“Sustainable peace in South Asia, however, requires more than maintaining strategic stability,” the foreign minister said, emphasising that a just and lasting solution to the Kashmir dispute remained essential.

Dar stated that the structured dialogue process between India and Pakistan has remained stalled for over 11 years.

“Other South Asian states have had their share of the see-saw relationship with our neighbour India,” he said.

“Burden of history, trust deficit, impulses of dominance and hegemony; domestic, political and electoral calculation; rise of populism and hypernationalism; and an ideological inclination for territorial expansionism add multiple layers of complexity to the regional landscape,” the deputy PM added.

He went on to highlight that the Indo-Pacific strategy aimed at China’s containment assigned the role of the net security provider to “one state in the region”, and that “friction” between it and China’s Belt and Road Initiative, which was focused on connectivity, impacted the regional states’ efforts for peace and development.

‘Are we doomed to remain mired in confrontation and conflict?’

Deputy PM Dar also detailed various challenges that South Asia faces, including poverty, inequality, illiteracy, disease, malnutrition, income disparities, food insecurity, natural disasters and the impacts of climate change.

The region fares terribly low on most human development indices. South Asia also remains poorly integrated economically, with intra-regional trade hovering around 5 per cent,” he said, adding that the region was energy-deficient.

“Regional connectivity is woefully inadequate,” he said, pointing out that South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) — the only region-wide platform for economic cooperation — had “largely remained inactive for over a decade”.

Dar asked: “We South Asians need to think really hard. Are we doomed to remain mired in confrontation and conflict while other regions progress and prosper?”

“The answer should be a clear ‘no’. The cumulative challenges of regional security, economic fragility and climate crisis are simply too grave to disregard.”

The deputy PM asserted that these challenges could not be tackled in an environment of “political fragmentation and fractured regional architecture”.

“To begin with, we must overcome zero-sum mindsets and foster an environment of dialogue, peaceful coexistence, economic interdependence and win-win cooperation,” Dar said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1958961>

December 04, 2025

Daily Times

Ahsan Iqbal calls for deeper Pak-China cooperation on industry, agriculture

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that the current global landscape is undergoing profound transformation, with Central Asia and South Asia emerging as core engines driving global economic growth.

Addressing the Tianshan Forum for Central Asia Economic Cooperation opened in Urumqi, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, he highlighted successful Pakistan-China projects and called for deeper cooperation on industry, people-to-people exchange, and agriculture and technology.

In his opening remarks, Chinese Finance Minister Lan Fo’an said that CAREC cooperation has made significant progress and should expand in scale and depth to benefit people in the member countries.

“The Tianshan forum will serve as a bridge linking policymakers, the private sector, development partners and the research community to offer solutions to our shared challenges,” said Charymuhammet Shallyyev, director of the CAREC Institute, which organized the event.

He noted that since the 2015 launch of its physical base in Urumqi, the institute has conducted over 180 research studies and empowered more than 2,000 government officials of CAREC member countries through 150 training programs.

Over 300 government officials and representatives from financial institutions, think tanks and the private sector participated to discuss promoting trade and investment across the region.

The two-day forum, themed “Unlocking Connectivity and Investment in Central Asia,” brought together Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) member countries. Discussions focused on trade, transport, energy and digital connectivity in the region.

The forum also saw the launch of a Central Asia fiscal cooperation research center, established by the CAREC Institute and Xinjiang's regional department of finance.

Central Asia is a crucial hub at the heart of Eurasia. Trade between China and Central Asia has surged since the first China-Central Asia Summit in May 2023, totaling 94.8 billion U.S. dollars in 2024. Bordering multiple Central Asian countries, Xinjiang is strengthening its role as a core hub along the Belt and Road.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1412176/ahsan-iqbal-calls-for-deeper-pak-china-cooperation-on-industry-agriculture>

December 05, 2025

Business Recorder

China's governance model, rapid development praised

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani journalist Irfan Ashraf praised China's governance model, rapid development and global leadership while addressing the closing ceremony of the Lectures on China Development Studies & Media Exchange Programme at Renmin University of China, calling the experience "unforgettable" and a source of deep learning for journalists from 93 countries.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ashraf said the programme helped participants understand how China, once devastated by war, foreign aggression and economic collapse, transformed within decades into the world's second-largest economy, the largest trading nation, and the global leader in foreign exchange reserves.

He noted that through visits and interactions under the CIPCC programme, journalists found clear answers: "Behind China's landmark achievements stands the Communist Party of China, which not only ended the trauma of war but also lifted the nation in power generation, oil and steel production, automobile manufacturing, and one of the world's greatest poverty alleviation efforts."

Ashraf highlighted the Chinese governance model as a key driver of success, praising its ability to provide equal opportunities, education, healthcare and cultural preservation for 56 ethnic groups, a rare example of social harmony. He said President Xi Jinping's people-centric development vision, along with China's modern agricultural practices, industrial advancements and technological innovation, had given real meaning to the country's rise.

He also underlined China's global role in supporting developing nations, particularly through infrastructure, ports, energy projects, and agriculture, adding that initiatives proposed by President Xi including the Global Governance Initiative at the SCO Summit offer a new development pathway for underdeveloped countries.

Reflecting on his own home region in Rawalakot, AJK, Ashraf said its landscape resembles parts of Yunnan Province and that he plans to propose the development models of Malipo and Jinping counties to his government for local uplift.

He praised China's public transport systems including subways, e-bikes, taxi apps, and high-speed rail — calling them examples the world can adopt to improve public service delivery.

Ashraf said the experience had forged lasting friendships among journalists from Asia, Africa, Europe, and beyond. “Farewell moments are not easy, but in today’s digital world, I believe these friendships will remain alive,” he remarked.

The ceremony concluded with participants expressing gratitude to CIPCC and Renmin University for facilitating meaningful exchanges on China’s development, governance model and global engagement.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40395871/chinas-governance-model-rapid-development-praised>

Dawn News

MoU signed to promote academic, cultural activities

PESHAWAR: China Window and Dosti Welfare Organisation have formally signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly promote academic, literary and cultural activities across Peshawar and the wider Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The collaboration aims to strengthen cultural ties while highlighting and celebrating Chinese literature and cultural heritage.

The signing ceremony took place at China Window. The MoU was signed by Arslan Naseer, executive director of Dosti Welfare Organisation, and Amjad Aziz Malik, administrator of China Window.

Under this partnership, both institutions will work closely on the 5th Dosti Peshawar Literature Festival (DPLF) 2026, scheduled from February 9-15, at University of Peshawar.

Organised with support from NCHD, CSP and other partner organisations, the festival will be a week-long celebration of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s rich literary and cultural traditions.

It aims to encourage reading habits, creative expression, youth participation and inclusive cultural dialogue.

The MoU establishes a collaborative framework for the effective planning and execution of DPLF 2026, while also promoting Chinese literature and broader cultural activities throughout the province.

Dosti Welfare Organisation is a registered non-profit entity, recognised by the Social Welfare Department, Economic Affairs Division, and KP Charitable Commission. China Window, a leading cultural and educational centre in Peshawar, continues to serve as a vibrant platform showcasing China’s history, development and culture under the leadership of Amjad Aziz Malik.

Both institutions expressed confidence that the partnership will contribute significantly to cultural understanding, educational enrichment and people-to-people connectivity between Pakistan and China.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1959305>

December 06, 2025

Business Recorder

Territorial integrity Pakistan reaffirms support to China

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office said on Friday that Islamabad firmly supports China on matters related to its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

At his weekly press briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi defended Pakistan's decision to close the border with Afghanistan for trade. He said that Pakistan has opened the border crossing for humanitarian assistance only. The border was opened after we received formal requests from some UN relief agencies. He explained, "This is a limited opening of the border solely for UN humanitarian aid."

Responding to a question, the Foreign Office spokesperson said that the closure of the border in self-defence is permitted. "If firing from the other side kills border security guards, kill these trade posts, then closure of the border in self-defence is allowed. It is legal under international law," he said.

Andrabi dismissed speculations regarding talks with the Afghan Taliban regime purportedly held in Saudi Arabia. He criticized India for delaying clearance of the flight, which had to take humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka, calling the move "impractical and contrary" to the urgency of disaster relief.

When asked about Chinese statements regarding Zangnan, known in India as Arunachal Pradesh, the spokesperson said that Pakistan fully supported China on matters related to its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Andrabi issued a detailed response on the 33rd anniversary of the demolition of the Babri Masjid, calling it an event that continues to evoke deep sadness and concern. He said the incident symbolized the marginalization of Indian Muslims and urged the international community to ensure the protection of Muslim religious heritage. He further called on India to uphold tolerance, inclusivity, and equal citizenship for all religious communities. Responding to a question on a reported UN finding that increasing contact between the Afghan Taliban and India is harmful for regional stability, Andrabi said such links had existed historically but were concerning only when directed against Pakistan. He said Islamabad had no objection to normal interstate cooperation between any two countries, as long as it did not follow a "zero-sum approach." In response to allegations circulated by Amnesty International regarding Pakistan's supposed use of an Israeli spy ware system, the spokesperson termed the claims "rumour-mongering disinformation" and firmly rejected any suggestion of cooperation between Pakistan and Israel, including in the technology domain.

On Russian President Putin's visit to India and speculation about a major defence deal, Andrabi said both countries were sovereign states free to pursue bilateral ties, and Pakistan had no specific position until the visit concluded.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40396055/territorial-integrity-pakistan-reaffirms-support-to-china>

The Express Tribune

China's new plan opens doors for Pakistan's youth

Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), under its flagship initiative "Friends of Silk Road," organised a conference titled "The Five-Year Plan and China-Pakistan Future: Innovation, Youth Development and Shared Opportunities" in Islamabad today. The event brought together young influencers, journalists, researchers and diplomats to discuss how China's new Five-Year Plan, green development and self-reliance agenda can translate into opportunities for Pakistan's youth and economy.

Speaking on the evolution of China's planning system, Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) Head of China Study Nabila Jaffer explained that China is now preparing its 15th Five-Year Plan.

PCI Executive Director, Mustafa Hyder Sayed, underscored that a key message emerging from the recent plenary session of the Communist Party of China is "self-reliance," which he described as central to "the rejuvenation of Chinese civilisation" after the "hundred years of humiliation." He emphasised that this drive for self-reliance "is a very important opportunity for countries like Pakistan to engage with China, particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative, of which CPEC is a very important part," provided Pakistan ensures a stable security environment to attract relocating Chinese industries.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed highlighted China's leadership in green development at a time when "the world is facing an existential threat to life because of climate change" and when some countries are "withdrawing from international partnerships and the Paris Agreement."

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2580772/chinas-new-plan-opens-doors-for-pakistans-youth>

Pakistan in a rapidly changing world

Shahid Javed Bukhari

In discussing the geopolitical environment in which Pakistan exists at this time in its 80-year history, we should distinguish between the near and far. In between these two we should also look at the middle — the Middle East. I will begin with the nearby which is made up of four immediate neighbours. Going counterclockwise from the north, the four neighbours are Afghanistan, China, India and Iran. All four, in some way or the other, have had an impact on Pakistan. Of the four, three have adopted religion as the source of governance. The most obvious case is that of Afghanistan where the Islamic extremists that go by the name of Taliban took control of the country on August 15, 2023, when the twice-elected president Ashraf Ghani fled from Kabul, leaving the advancing Taliban to move into the vacated presidential palace.

The Taliban brought their interpretation of Sunni sharia as their governing philosophy. The most disturbing aspect of this style of rule was the treatment of women who were placed very low in the social hierarchy. Women were to cover their bodies from head to toe and not go out of their homes unless accompanied by a male relative. Girls were not to attend school beyond the sixth grade; schooled at home, the emphasis was to be on religious instruction.

Like Afghanistan, Iran is also an Islamic state but the Islam it follows is Shiite, which has several differences from Sunnism. The main feature of the Iranian version of Shiite political system is the concentration of power in the hands of the clergy and the denial of democratic rights to the general population. One thing common between Afghanistan and Iran is the poor treatment of women. The clerics of Tehran have also ordered women to cover their bodies from head to toe when they leave their homes. Failure to do so can lead to arrest and imprisonment.

India, after having launched a democratic and representative system of governance when it gained independence in August 1947, gave full democratic rights to non-Hindus in a very diverse society. Two groups — Muslims and low caste Hindus — were to be treated no differently from the large Hindu majority. Under the long-serving Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the system of governance is changing, with Hindus becoming the preferred citizens of the state. Modi, before moving to Delhi as prime minister, had served as the Chief Minister of the Gujarat state in India's northwest. There he allowed his Hindu followers to massacre thousands of Muslim citizens of the state. He could have used the security forces under his command to stop the killing. This action was noted the world over. The United States denied him an entry visa when he applied for it to visit the country. It was only after he was elected to lead India as the country's prime minister that Washington changed its stance. Not only did he visit the American capital as an honoured guest, but President Donald Trump also called him a great friend.

However once installed as India's leader, he has begun to show his true colour. He and his Hindu nationalist organisation, the Bhartiya Janata Party, the BJP, have begun to move against the country's Muslim minority. They have opted to introduce Hindutva as the system of governance. They have also decided to change the name of the country from India to Bharat. This makes sense as the name India was derived from the name of the Indus River which originates in the Tibetan highlands and then flows through Pakistan into the ocean through a delta located a bit north of India in Pakistan's Sindh province. This treatment of Muslims in India that number 200 million in a population now estimated at 1.5 billion will create what I have called in a recent article, "India's Musalman problem."

These three quasi-religious states in Pakistan's neighbourhood will, overtime, create problems for Pakistan. The rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan has given support and comfort to their allies in Pakistan who are members of the group called the Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan, the TTP. The TTP is following the ideas adopted by the Taliban who assumed power in Kabul after the twice-elected president Ashraf Ghani fled the country in August 2023. The TTP has increased its operations in Pakistan, aiming their attacks at the country's security forces who, in response, have largely held fire.

This brings me to a discussion of Pakistan's fourth neighbour, China. Islamabad's close relations with China date back to the closing days of the eleven-year rule of Field Marshal Ayub Khan, Pakistan's first military ruler who governed for eleven years from 1958 to 1969. He was convinced by his Foreign Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto that he needed to distance himself from Washington and get close to Beijing. This was done and Islamabad drew close to Beijing in the final days of Ayub Khan's eleven-year rule, 1958-69. This policy was followed by Ayub Khan's successors which resulted in Pakistan now becoming China's closest ally.

One result of China's close relations with Pakistan is the massive investment Beijing is making in developing Pakistan's road and rail network. This is being done under the trillion-dollar investment by China in Asia, Africa and Europe. Chinese call this the Belt and Road Initiative or BRI. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the CPEC, is the first BRI project which will connect the city of Kashgar in China's Xinjiang Autonomous Region with the port of Gwadar on Pakistan's Baluchistan coast. I know from my experience when I worked as World Bank's China Operations Director that the government in Pakistan in the mid-1990s was not particularly keen to have China build the corridor. The Chinese prime minister at that time asked me to get Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the president of Pakistan, to have his government give the go-ahead to China and have it build the CPEC. GIK obliged.

At a seminar held in Lahore on December 4, I was asked whether it makes economic and political sense to be so closely aligned with China, especially when Beijing's economic and military rise is causing Washington a great deal of trouble. My answer was an unqualified positive. China is likely to play a major role in developing the countries of Central Asia by using transport corridors as the points of entry. The entry into Central Asia will be through Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2581028/pakistan-in-a-rapidly-changing-world>

December 08, 2025

Business Recorder

Over Rs 34 million flood-relief donations: Minister says Pak-China ties an enduring “iron brotherhood

Nuzhat Nazar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday reaffirmed the strength of Pakistan–China relations as an enduring “iron brotherhood,” lauding Chinese enterprises for contributing over Rs 34 million in flood-relief donations for Pakistan, while stressing that China has consistently stood by the country through its most challenging moments.

Addressing a donation ceremony organized by the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCPK), Tarar described China as Pakistan’s “second home,” underlining that Pakistan occupies a similarly special place for China. He said the bilateral relationship continued to deepen over time, supported by mutual trust, strategic cooperation, and strong people-to-people ties.

The minister expressed gratitude to the Chinese leadership and business community for their support during the 2025 floods, recalling that China had extended assistance to Pakistan on multiple occasions in times of crisis. He termed the Pakistan-China relationship unmatched, saying that the passage of time had further reinforced the two countries as true “iron brothers.”

Highlighting climate vulnerabilities, Tarar said Pakistan contributes less than one percent to global carbon emissions yet remains among the world’s ten most climate-vulnerable countries. He said the recent floods were part of a broader climate crisis facing Pakistan, emphasizing the need for enhanced international cooperation and climate-related support.

The event, titled “Donation Ceremony for Flood Disaster in Pakistan 2025,” was held in Islamabad to acknowledge humanitarian contributions made by Chinese enterprises and individuals for flood-affected areas across the country.

Representatives from Chinese companies, Pakistani institutions, and the media attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Pakistan, Yang Guangyuan, appreciated the presence of the federal information minister, saying it demonstrated the importance accorded by the Government of Pakistan to the Chinese business community. He said China’s response to Pakistan’s flood emergency had been swift, recalling that Beijing had provided RMB 100 million worth of relief supplies along with an additional USD 2 million in cash assistance.

Yang said the more than Rs 34 million donated on the day had come primarily from Chinese companies and Chinese individuals working in Pakistan, reflecting the strong bond between the people of the two countries. He added that the spirit of standing “shoulder to shoulder” during difficult times remained central to Pakistan-China relations.

Referring to the broader diplomatic horizon, Yang said 2026 would mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, expressing confidence that joint efforts would continue to deliver tangible benefits to the Pakistani people.

Chairman of the CCCPK Wang Huihua said the 2025 monsoon floods, exacerbated by climate change, had caused widespread damage and displacement, prompting the chamber to launch a donation campaign in September. He said a total of 32 Chinese companies and individual donors had contributed over Rs 34 million for essential relief items, including food, drinking water, blankets, mosquito nets, and waterproof tarpaulins, as winter is approaching.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40396378/over-rs34m-flood-relief-donations-tarar-reaffirms-strength-of-pak-china-ties-as-enduring-iron-brotherhood>

Daily Times

Pakistan, China strengthen strategic partnership ahead

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar chaired a high-level meeting on Monday to review Pakistan–China relations and assess progress across political, economic, security, and cultural areas. He stressed that both nations must continue expanding cooperation with long-term strategic focus.

During the meeting held in Islamabad, Dar emphasized that the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties offers a major opportunity to highlight the depth of the relationship. He noted that this milestone should be celebrated in a meaningful and well-planned manner to showcase decades of mutual trust.

The committee shared several proposals designed to commemorate the anniversary with events that reflect the strength of the partnership. These ideas included cultural exchanges, policy dialogues, investment-focused activities, and public-level celebrations to increase people-to-people engagement.

Moreover, officials reviewed ongoing projects under bilateral cooperation frameworks and discussed ways to accelerate progress for the benefit of both countries. Dar stressed that consistent coordination remains essential for sustaining momentum in economic collaboration and development initiatives.

He reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to deepening its all-weather partnership with China, stating that both sides will continue to pursue joint goals. The meeting concluded with directives to finalize anniversary plans and strengthen efforts that reinforce the long-standing strategic friendship.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1414463/pakistan-china-strengthen-strategic-partnership-ahead>

Art, dialogue and diplomacy shine at Pakistan-China friendship event

Art, student dialogue, and academic exchange took center stage at Bahria University Islamabad on Thursday, where an international conference titled “Bridging Horizons: Celebrating Pakistan-China Deep-Rooted Friendship” was held to mark 75 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The event was jointly organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Institute for a Community with a Shared Future (ICSF) at the Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, and the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Pakistan, according to Gwadar Pro.

The conference served as the grand finale of a month-long series of student competitions, including article writing, poster creation, and speech contests, held across the Islamabad campus. Over 150 students participated, showcasing their creativity and perspectives on the multidimensional partnership between Pakistan and China.

The day began with an inaugural session featuring keynote speeches on the historical depth and evolving significance of Pakistan-China relations.

Speakers underscored the importance of youth engagement in sustaining the “iron brotherhood” that has defined the two nations’ partnership for seven decades.

Art emerged as a highlight of the event when the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour inaugurated a poster exhibition to mark the 75th Anniversary of Pakistan-China Friendship. Forty student artworks were selected for display, with three winning top awards.

The exhibition received strong praise from faculty, visiting delegates, and students for its visual promotion of cultural understanding and diplomatic goodwill.

The spirit of dialogue continued in the second session, where distinguished speakers reflected on the cultural, strategic, and economic dimensions of Pakistan-China cooperation. They emphasized the crucial role of education, research, and youth-driven initiatives in shaping the future of bilateral ties.

Sessions three and four ran simultaneously, providing a platform for winners of the article-writing competition to present their work. Four students presented in each session, offering fresh insights into the political, cultural, and regional significance of Pakistan-China relations.

Both sessions concluded with the announcement of the speech competition winners and the distribution of souvenirs to session chairs, co-chairs, and winning participants.

With nearly 500 students in attendance, the conference stood out as one of the most well-attended academic events celebrating Pakistan-China friendship. Organizers noted that the event not only honored the 75-year journey of partnership but also sparked meaningful, youth-led dialogue on the future of cooperation between the two nations.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1414141/art-dialogue-and-diplomacy-shine-at-pakistan-china-friendship-event>

Dawn News

Pakistan ready to work with all states in South Asia to boost trade, says Zardari

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have said that Pakistan is ready to work with all willing states in South Asia to promote trade and energy linkages and it is committed to principles and objectives of the Saarc’s charter.

In their separate message on the 40th anniversary of Saarc Charter Day falling on Monday, they said that Pakistan is committed to a cooperative, inclusive and forward-looking regional order that can unlock South Asia’s vast potential and ensure a better tomorrow for all.

President Zardari said that Pakistan is ready to work with all willing states in South Asia to promote trade, transit, energy linkages and people-to-people relations that benefit the entire region.

“Pakistan remains committed to a cooperative, inclusive and forward-looking regional order. Our geography places us at the meeting point of South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle

East. We are ready to work with all willing states to promote trade, transit, energy linkages and people-to-people ties that benefit the entire region,” the President said.

PM Shehbaz says Islamabad firmly committed to principles, objectives of Saarc Charter on 40th anniversary

He said: “On this Charter Day, I encourage South Asian nations to approach the future with clarity and sincerity. The region’s challenges are shared and so must be the solutions. With a spirit of respect and practical cooperation, we can shape a more peaceful and prosperous South Asia for our future generations”.

PM Shehbaz’s message

In his message, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan remained firmly committed to principles and objectives of the Saarc Charter as it believed that genuine cooperation, guided by sovereign equality, mutual respect and constructive engagement, can unlock South Asia’s vast potential and ensure a better tomorrow for all.

He said that in an era of growing regional cooperation, the necessity of economic, digital, and people-to-people connectivity in South Asia could hardly be over emphasised.

“Together, we must work to enhance linkages that facilitate trade, investment, innovation, and cultural exchange in our region,” the prime minister said.

“Our region also faces common challenges such as poverty, climate induced natural disasters, food and energy insecurity and public health issues. These challenges transcend borders and require collective responses based on mutual trust, goodwill, and a spirit of mutual cooperation. It is only by acting together that we can build a resilient and inclusive future for our peoples,” PM Shehbaz said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1959869>

Pakistan Observer

China Chamber of Commerce leads major aid drive for Pakistan’s Flood Victims

ISLAMABAD – Chinese enterprises operating in Pakistan have donated more than PKR 34 million to support relief efforts for communities devastated by the 2025 monsoon floods. The contribution was announced during a ceremony organized by the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCPK) at the Mövenpick Hotel in Islamabad on Monday.

Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar attended the event as Chief Guest, while Mr. Yang Guangyuan, Minister Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, participated as Guest of Honor. Business leaders, government officials and media representatives were also present.

The donations provided by 31 Chinese companies and one individual contributor will be used to deliver essential supplies, including food, drinking water, blankets, mosquito nets, and waterproof tarpaulins, particularly for regions where winter has intensified relief needs.

In his address, Minister Tarar hailed the Pakistan-China relationship as unique and unwavering, describing China as Pakistan's "second home." He praised China's solidarity during every crisis, highlighting that Pakistan remains among the most climate-vulnerable nations despite contributing less than one percent to global carbon emissions.

Mr. Yang Guangyuan said China had already provided Pakistan with RMB 100 million worth of relief supplies and USD 2 million in cash assistance following the floods. He added that the additional contribution from Chinese enterprises showcases the deep people-to-people friendship between the two countries. He also noted that Pakistan and China will celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2026, marking an opportunity for strengthened cooperation.

Chairman of CCCPK, Mr. Wang Huihua, said the donation drive launched in September reflects the Chinese business community's sense of shared responsibility and long-standing support for Pakistan. "Pakistan is not just a workplace for Chinese companies — it is a country we care deeply about," he stated.

Representatives from Pakistani institutions, including the Pakistan-China Institute and the Board of Investment, expressed gratitude for the timely humanitarian support, calling it another chapter in the "iron-clad friendship" between the two nations.

Honorary certificates were awarded to all donor companies, while China Three Gorges Group extended an additional special contribution during the event. The ceremony concluded with group photographs and acknowledgment of the collective support provided by Chinese enterprises.

CCCPK reaffirmed that Chinese companies will continue their efforts to assist Pakistan in humanitarian and development initiatives.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-chamber-of-commerce-leads-major-aid-drive-for-pakistans-flood-victims/>

December 09, 2025

Pakistan Observer

China set to launch another electric car in Pakistan [Specs, speed & charging time]

ISLAMABAD – Pakistani auto market is all set to welcome another Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer, XPENG, which would further boost the growing EV sector in the South Asian country.

The leading Chinese EV maker is expected to initially launch the XPENG G6, a mid-size electric coupe-SUV built on the 800-volt SEPA 2.0 platform.

Charging Time

The platform is designed for fast charging, enabling the battery to go from 10% to 80% in approximately 20 minutes.

Battery Options and WLTP Range

The G6 is available globally with two battery choices: a 66 kWh pack and an 87.5 kWh long-range variant. Depending on the configuration, the vehicle provides an estimated WLTP range between 435 km and 570 km.

Performance and Acceleration

The rear-wheel-drive (RWD) models of the G6 accelerate from 0 to 100 km/h in approximately 6.6 to 6.2 seconds. Meanwhile, the all-wheel-drive (AWD) performance version achieves the same in about 4 seconds.

Interior and Cargo Space

The G6 boasts a five-passenger cabin with a 2,890-mm wheelbase, offering 571 liters of cargo capacity. The interior is designed with a sleek, digital dashboard and includes comfort-focused features that are standard across XPENG's global lineup.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-set-to-launch-another-electric-car-in-pakistan-specs-speed-charging-time/>

Jang News

پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کی 75 ویں سالگرہ شایان شان طریقے سے منائی جائے گی، اسحاق ڈار
اسلام آباد (فاروق اقدس) پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کی 75 ویں سالگرہ شایان شان طریقے سے منائی جائے گی دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان دوستی کے باوقار، عظیم رشتے اور تعلق کو مزید مضبوط مستحکم اور دنیا کے لیے قابل رشک بنانے کے لیے پرجوش انتظامات اقدامات کیے جائیں گے ان خیالات کا اظہار نائب وزیراعظم اور وزیر خارجہ سینئر اسحاق ڈار نے پیر کو اس حوالے سے منعقدہ ایک خصوصی اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/1000902>

چین کا تجارتی سرپلس تاریخ میں پہلی بار 10 کھرب ڈالر سے تجاوز کر گیا

کراچی (نیوز ڈیسک) چین کا تجارتی سرپلس تاریخ میں پہلی بار 1 ٹریلین (10 کھرب) ڈالر سے تجاوز کر گیا۔ امریکا کیساتھ تجارتی جنگ پر چین نے برآمدات دیگر خطوں کی جانب موڑ کر کمی پوری کر لی۔ امریکا کو برآمدات میں 28.6 فیصد کمی، یورپی یونین کو 15، آسٹریلیا کو برآمدات میں 36 فیصد اضافہ ہوا۔ کم افراط زر و کرنسی قدر میں کمی سے مسابقت بڑھی، آئندہ سال سرپلس مزید بڑھنے کا امکان ہے۔ غیر ملکی میڈیا کے مطابق چین کا سالانہ تجارتی سرپلس تاریخ میں پہلی بار ایک کھرب ڈالر سے تجاوز کر گیا ہے۔ چین کے کسٹمز کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق جنوری سے نومبر 2025 تک تجارتی سرپلس 1.08 ٹریلین ڈالر رہا، جبکہ نومبر میں برآمدات میں 5.9 فیصد اضافہ ہوا، جو گزشتہ ماہ کی کمی کے بعد نمایاں بہتری ہے۔ اگرچہ امریکا کے ساتھ تجارتی جنگ کے باعث امریکا کو برآمدات میں بڑی کمی (28.6 فیصد) دیکھنے میں آئی، لیکن چین نے اپنی برآمدات یورپی یونین، آسٹریلیا اور جنوب مشرقی ایشیا جیسے دیگر خطوں کی طرف موڑ کر یہ کمی پورا کر لی۔ یورپی یونین کو برآمدات 14.8 فیصد اور آسٹریلیا کو 35.8 فیصد بڑھیں۔ یہ اضافہ کم قیمتوں، کمزور کرنسی اور چینی مصنوعات کی بڑھتی ہوئی عالمی مسابقت کے باعث ہوا۔ تجارتی سرپلس نے چین کی معیشت کو سہارا دیا ہے، جو اندرونی طور پر پراپرٹی سیکٹر کے بحران اور کمزور گھریلو کھپت کا شکار ہے۔ نومبر میں درآمدات صرف 1.9 فیصد بڑھی، جو اندرون ملک کمزور طلب کی نشاندہی کرتی ہے۔ دوسری جانب چین کے بڑے تجارتی پارٹنرز بڑھتے ہوئے سرپلس پر ناراض ہیں۔ فرانسیسی صدر ایمانوئل میکرون نے انتباہ دیا ہے کہ اگر چین نے تجارتی عدم توازن کم نہ کیا تو یورپ بھی امریکا کی طرح اضافی ٹیرف عائد کرنے پر مجبور ہو سکتا ہے۔ ماہرین کا کہنا ہے کہ موجودہ رجحانات کے پیش نظر چین کا تجارتی سرپلس آئندہ سال مزید بڑھنے کا امکان ہے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/1000937>

پاک-چین تعاون سے ملک کے مختلف شہروں میں آئی وی ایف لیبز قائم

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) پاک چین تعاون سے ملک کے مختلف شہروں میں آئی وی ایف لیبز قائم ، مویشیوں کی جینیاتی بہتری کے مشترکہ منصوبے کے تحت بھیس و گائے کے ایمبریوز کی تیاری شروع کر دی گئی ، پاکستان اور چین کے مابین مویشیوں کی جینیاتی بہتری کے مشترکہ منصوبے کے تحت مقامی پاکستانی ماہرین نے پاکستان میں بھیس کی آئی وی ایف ٹیکنالوجی کی بانی کمپنی رائل سیل بائیوٹیکنالوجی (پاکستان) سے تربیت کے حاصل کرنے کے بعد تربیت حاصل کرنے کے بعد وائٹا جین فارمز کے نام سے جدید ایمبریو پروڈکشن اور تحقیقاتی مراکز قائم کر دیئے ہیں۔ گوادر پرو کے مطابق جدید مویشی جینیات کے فروغ کے مقصد سے قائم کیے گئے یہ مراکز ملک کے مختلف حصوں، خصوصاً لاہور میں قائم کیے گئے ہیں۔ وائٹا جین فارمز میں جدید ترین آلات، مشینری اور ٹیکنالوجی نصب کی جا رہی ہے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/1000935>

چین قابل اعتماد دوست، ہر مشکل گھڑی میں پاکستان کیساتھ کھڑا ہوا، وزیر اطلاعات

اسلام آباد (طاہر خلیل) وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات عطاء اللہ تارڑ نے کہا ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان آئرن برادرز ہیں، چین پاکستان کا دوسرا گھر اور پاکستان بھی چین کا دوسرا گھر ہے، چین ہر مشکل گھڑی میں پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا ہوا، سیلاب زدگان کیلئے چینی کمپنیوں اور اداروں کا تعاون لائق تحسین ہے، چین ہمارا قابل اعتماد دوست ہے اور پاکستان ہمیشہ اس دوستی کے تقاضوں کو پورا کرنے کیلئے تیار رہے گا۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پیر کو یہاں مقامی ہوٹل میں چائے چیمبر آف کامرس ان پاکستان کے زیر اہتمام پاکستان میں فلڈ ڈیزاسٹر کیلئے عطیات کی تقریب سے بحیثیت مہمان خصوصی خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات ایک نہ ٹوٹتے والے رشتے کی صورت میں ہیں جو ہمارے بزرگوں سے ہمیں وراثت میں ملے ہیں جس کی حفاظت اور قدر ہم پر صورت کرتے ہیں، پاک چین دوستی ہر موسم کی دوستی ہے، یہ دوستی ہمیشہ مستقل اور مضبوط رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کی رہنما چو این لائی جب پاکستان آئے تو میری والدہ اسلام آباد کی سڑکوں پر دیگر بچوں کے ساتھ چینی پرچم تھامے ان کا استقبال کر رہی تھیں، یہ وہ یادیں ہیں جن میں ہم پروان چڑھے، انہوں نے کہا کہ جب پاکستان میں شدید سیلاب آئے اور پنجاب سمیت مختلف علاقوں میں لوگ متاثر ہوئے تو چین کی طرف سے مدد اور تعاون اس وقت انتہائی اہم ثابت ہوئی، چین کی کمپنیوں اور اداروں نے اپنی سماجی ذمہ داری کے تحت ایک قدم آگے بڑھتے ہوئے تعاون کیا جس سے ثابت ہوتا ہے کہ پاک چین دوستی ناقابل توڑ ہے۔ اس موقع پر چینی سفارتخانہ کے منسٹر فونسلر یانگ گوانگ یوان نے کہا کہ رواں سال سیلاب نے پاکستان میں شدید تباہی مچائی، چین کی جانب سے حکومت پاکستان کو 100 ملین آر ایم بی مالیت کے ریلیف سامان کے ساتھ 2 ملین امریکی ڈالر کی گرانٹ دی گئی، چین کے شہریوں اور چین کی کمپنیوں نے بھی سیلاب زدگان کے لئے فوری طور پر تعاون کیا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ آج 34 ملین روپے سے زائد کی امداد پیش کی گئی جس کا بڑا حصہ یہاں کام کرنے والے چینی ملازمین کی طرف سے ہے، یہ تعاون چین اور پاکستانی عوام کے درمیان مضبوط بھائی چارے کی عمدہ مثال ہے۔ تقریب سے ڈاکٹر عارفہ اقبال نے بھی خطاب کیا ، واضح رہے کہ چین چیمبر آف کامرس ان پاکستان نے پاکستان کے سیلاب زدہ علاقوں کیلئے ستمبر میں امدادی مہم کا آغاز کیا جس میں رکن کمپنیوں کی بھرپور شرکت دیکھنے میں آئی، اب تک 32 کمپنیوں نے تقریباً 34 ملین روپے سے زائد رقم امدادی سامان کی خریداری اور تقسیم کے لئے جمع کی۔ اس امداد میں خوراک، پینے کے پانی، کمبل، مچھر دانیاں اور واٹر پروف تریپال جیسی بنیادی اشیاء شامل ہیں جو متاثرہ علاقوں میں فوری طور پر درکار ہیں۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/1000946>

December 10, 2025

Dawn News

Chinese group eyes setting up solar panel plant in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: China's Hebei Juhang Energy Technology Group has expressed keen interest in establishing a large-scale solar panel manufacturing plant in Pakistan to cater to both domestic demand and export markets.

A Chinese delegation headed by the Group's Chairman, Wang Jianbin, accompanied by representatives of China-Pakistan Business Forum, met Minister for the Board of Investment (BoI) Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, on Tuesday. The delegation conveyed its intention to invest billions of dollars in Pakistan's solar energy and other high-tech sectors.

Welcoming the proposal, Mr Sheikh said it was “a great time and a golden opportunity for investment in Pakistan”. He highlighted the government’s commitment to improving the business environment, citing recent reforms launched by the prime minister to ease of doing business, including the new single-window Business Facilitation Centre (BFC) process for business facilitation.

As part of its facilitation package, the BOI informed the delegation that the government is prepared to allocate 6,000 acres of land for investment. The minister also briefed the visitors on Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which offer various incentives, including zero income tax for the first 10 years.

Chairman Wang Jianbin meets BOI Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh; proposes multi-billion-dollar investment in solar and high-tech sectors

Mr Sheikh noted that Pakistan is on a path to economic stabilisation, with the stock market index having risen nearly four-to-five-fold over the past year. He reiterated that sectors such as agriculture, solar energy, information technology, chemicals, and manufacturing offer significant growth and export potential for foreign investors.

The meeting also reviewed outcomes of the second edition of the Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference held in Beijing in September this year, which resulted in agreements and joint ventures worth \$8.5 billion across multiple priority sectors.

The minister reaffirmed the BOI’s commitment to supporting Chinese investors and called for expediting feasibility studies and joint-venture agreements.

He emphasised that Pakistan remains a strategic partner for China and welcomes high-quality, green-tech investments that will generate jobs and promote sustainable economic growth.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1960261>

Jang News

شنگھائی میں کرسمس

یاسر پیر زادہ

چین میں سب سے زیادہ لطف اُن کی انگریزی سن کر آتا ہے، چینیوں کی اکثریت چونکہ انگریزی سے نابلد ہے اور لوگ محض کام چلانے کی خاطر بولتے ہیں تو ایسے ایسے معصومانہ جملے سننے کو ملتے ہیں کہ بندہ جھوم اٹھتا ہے۔ ایک دکاندار سے میں نے پوچھا کہ یہاں فون کا سیم کارڈ ملے گا، موصوف نے جواب دیا: no buy sim here :- چلیں وہ بیچارہ تو پڑھا لکھا نہیں تھا لیکن ایسی ایسی جگہوں پر آپ کو غلط انگریزی لکھی ہوئی ملتی ہے کہ جسے پڑھ کر بندہ سوچتا ہے کس دیوار میں سر ماروں-ریلوے اسٹیشن، ریسٹوران، شاپنگ مال حتیٰ کہ بڑی بڑی کمپنیاں بھی غلط سلط انگریزی لکھتی ہیں۔ مثلاً ایک جگہ میں نے پڑھا: slip carefully، ایک ریسٹوران کے ٹوائٹ کے باہر لکھا تھا femal:mankind - اچھے خاصے پڑھے لکھے چینی بھی اسی قسم کے ترجمے سے کام چلاتے ہیں۔ لیکن گزشتہ دس سال کے مقابلے میں اب چین میں انگریزی بولنے اور سمجھنے والے مل جاتے ہیں، ورنہ پہلے تو صورتحال یہ تھی کہ اگر آپ راستہ بھول گئے تو سمجھیں اب اللہ کے آسرے پر ہی بوٹل واپس آئیں گے۔

بیجنگ سے شنگھائی کا سفر ٹرین سے طے کیا۔ ریلوے اسٹیشن پر بھی ہوائی اڈے جیسی تلاشی لی گئی اور حسب روایت میری ایک قینچی ضبط کر لی گئی، وجہ یہ بتائی گئی کہ یہ چھ انچ سے زیادہ لمبی ہے۔ دل کیا کہ کہہ دوں کہ میرا ارادہ اس قینچی سے قتل کرنے کا تھا مگر پھر یہ سوچ کر چُپ رہا کہ انہوں نے اس مذاق کو سچ سمجھ کر پورے چین کو ہائی الرٹ کر دینا ہے۔ ہائی اسپیڈ ٹرین نے چھ گھنٹے میں شنگھائی پہنچا دیا۔ چند ماہ پہلے جب میں شنگھائی آیا تھا تو محض دو دن

گزارے تھے، اُن دو دنوں میں 'موٹا موٹا' شنگھائی تو دیکھ لیا تھا مگر تِشنگی رہ گئی تھی۔ یہ شہر دنیا کے چند بہترین شہروں میں سے ایک ہے، میری فہرست کے مطابق امریکہ میں شکاگو، یورپ میں بارسلونا، یو کے میں لندن اور چین میں شنگھائی رہنے کیلئے ائیڈیل ہیں۔ شنگھائی میں غیرملکی کافی تعداد میں مل جاتے ہیں، اگر آپ کو یہاں شہر کے بارے میں رہنمائی درکار ہو تو کسی غیرملکی سے پوچھیں، وہ نہ صرف شِسٹہ انگریزی میں سمجھائے گا بلکہ اضافی معلومات بھی دے گا اور وہ بھی بغیر موبائل فون کھولے۔ ویسے تو شنگھائی شیطان کی آنت کی طرح چاروں طرف پھیلا ہوا ہے اور کسی شریف آدمی کے بس کا کام نہیں کہ دو چار دن میں اس شہر کا کلیجہ نکال کر رکھ لے لیکن پھر بھی اگر آپ شہر کو محسوس کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو دریا کے کنارے بند پر چلے جائیں اور اُس کے بعد شِنتیاندی کا علاقہ دیکھ لیں، ان دونوں جگہوں کو چونکہ پچھلی مرتبہ سلام کر آیا تھا لہذا اس مرتبہ شنگھائی کا اولڈ ٹاؤن دیکھنے کا منصوبہ بنایا۔ شنگھائی کی حدود میں ایک سے زیادہ اولڈ ٹاؤن ہیں، (zhujiajiao جوجیا جی او) اُن میں سے ایک ہے، شنگھائی میٹرو سے آپ باآسانی وہاں جا سکتے ہیں، یہ شنگھائی کے مضافات میں ہے اور بے حد خوبصورت علاقہ ہے، اسے آپ پرانا اور چھوٹا سا قصبہ سمجھ لیں۔ میٹرو سے نکل کر ہم نے چند منٹ چہل قدمی کی، دکانوں میں گھومے پھرے، اسٹریٹ فوڈ کھایا اور وہاں سے پرانی آبادی کی جانب ہو لیے۔ اگر اٹلی کے شہر وینس کا 'ساشے پیک' بنالیا جائے تو وہ جوجیا جی او ہوگا۔ شہر میں چھوٹا سا دریا ہے جس کے کنارے دکانیں، ریستوران اور کافی شاپس ہیں۔ چھوٹی چھوٹی گلیاں ہیں جو دریا کی جانب جاتی ہیں، ان گلیوں میں آپ چہل قدمی کر سکتے ہیں، انواع و اقسام کے کھانے کھا سکتے ہیں، خریداری کر سکتے ہیں۔ سیاحوں کا پسندیدہ علاقہ ہونے کے باوجود یہ جگہ شنگھائی ڈاؤن ٹاؤن کے مقابلے میں کافی سستی ہے۔ دریا کے پار جانے کیلئے پُل بنے ہوئے ہیں جہاں سے آپ پورے قصبے کا نظارہ کر سکتے ہیں۔ شام کے وقت یہ ایک دلربا منظر ہوتا ہے، دریا کے دونوں اطراف روشنیاں جگمگا رہی ہوتی ہیں۔

یوں لگتا ہے جیسے کسی نے دریا کے کناروں کو آگ لگا دی ہو۔ قصبے میں چھوٹے چھوٹے پرانے مکانات تھے اور اندرون لاہور کی طرح گلیاں بھی، اسی طرح ان گلیوں میں لوگوں کی بھیڑ تھی اور رونق بھی ویسی ہی۔ دریا سے ایک نہر کا پانی گلیوں کے درمیان سے گزر رہا تھا، نہر کے دائیں بائیں درختوں پر مختلف رنگوں کی روشنیاں جگمگ کر رہی تھیں جبکہ آس پاس کی جگہیں پھولوں اور بیلوں سے ڈھکی ہوئی تھیں۔ ہم نے دو تین گھنٹے ان گلیوں، بازاروں اور چوباروں میں گزارے، دریا کے کنارے بیٹھ کر اسٹار بکس سے دنیا کی سب سے بُری کافی پی اور واپس شنگھائی آ گئے۔

شنگھائی اور بیجنگ جیسے شہروں میں جائیداد کی قیمتیں اور کرائے آسمان سے باتیں کرتے ہیں۔ لاہور یا کراچی میں جتنے پیسوں میں آپ ایک پلازہ کرائے پر لے سکتے ہیں اتنے پیسوں میں یہاں بمشکل ایک مرلے کی ڈبے جیسی دکان ملتی ہے۔ رہائشی اپارٹمنٹس کا حال بھی ایسا ہی ہے۔ وہ میاں بیوی جو تمام عمر مناسب نوکری کرتے ہیں اور صرف ایک بچہ پیدا کرتے ہیں وہ بھی محض دو مرلے کا فلیٹ خریدنے کے متحمل ہو سکتے ہیں اور وہ بھی بیس سال کی اقساط میں۔ اپنے ہاں تو یار لوگ دو مرلے میں صرف ہاتھ روم بناتے ہیں۔ چین کے نظام پر آپ لاکھ تنقید کریں مگر ایک بات طے ہے کہ چین کی ترقی نے دنیا کو چکرا کر رکھ دیا ہے اور ایسے ایسے نظریات کو غلط ثابت کیا ہے کہ اچھا بھلا سیاسی مفکر بھی اس کی توجیہ نہیں دے پاتا۔ وہ ملک جہاں چند دہائیاں پہلے ایک سے زیادہ بچہ پیدا کرنے پر پابندی تھی، اب وہاں زیادہ بچے پیدا کرنے کی ترغیب دی جا رہی ہے۔ ہمارے جیسے ممالک زیادہ آبادی کے بوجھ تلے دبے ہوئے ہیں جبکہ ڈیڑھ ارب آبادی کا ملک فراٹے بھر رہا ہے۔ شنگھائی کے نائٹ کلبوں میں شادی کیلئے 'میرج بوتھ' بنا دیے گئے ہیں تاکہ وہ جوڑے جو وہاں آتے ہیں موقع پر ہی شادی کر سکیں۔

یہ دسمبر ہے اور پورے شنگھائی میں کرسمس کا سماں ہے۔ شہر میں جا بجا کرسمس کے درختوں کو سجایا گیا ہے، گلیوں میں کرسمس کی روشنیاں ہیں، شاپنگ مالز میں اسی مناسبت سے کپڑے اور دیگر اشیا فرخت کی جا رہی ہیں، کوئی ہوٹل اور ریستوران ایسا نہیں جہاں کرسمس ٹری نہ ہو اور اُس کے ارد گرد تحفے نہ پڑے ہوں۔ یوں تو چین میں مذہب کی ترویج و تبلیغ کی اجازت نہیں، مگر کرسمس کی رونق دیکھ کر یوں لگتا ہے جیسے حکومت اسے مذہبی تہوار کی بجائے کاروباری تہوار سمجھتی ہے۔ چین کے لوگ اپنی تمام تر ترقی کے باوجود مغربی تہذیب سے مرعوب لگتے ہیں۔ شنگھائی میں اس وقت رات کے بارہ بج رہے ہیں، ہوٹل کے کمرے سے شہر کی بلند و بالا عمارتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں، ان عمارتوں کا کروفر بتا رہا ہے کہ یہ شہر کس قدر پُرشکوہ ہے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/1001001>

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Business Recorder

Punjab Assembly Speaker praises economic turnaround at event with Chinese Consul — political goodwill

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan has declared Pakistan's economic turnaround a success, stating that two years of corrective measures have silenced predictions of national default.

Speaking at a ceremony honoring Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren in Khudian Khas, Kasur District, Khan asserted that responsible leadership has steadied the nation despite attempts to create chaos.

The Speaker praised Pakistan's armed forces and leadership for defeating terrorism and restoring peace following what he termed an "enemy-imposed war".

He emphasized that the nation's Commander-in-Chief and soldiers continue working to eliminate terrorist threats and maintain stability.

Highlighting the enduring Pakistan-China relationship, Khan addressed critical development needs in Punjab, where 25 million children remain out of school.

He thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for approving an international-standard university in Kasur, alongside technical colleges. The near-complete Kasur motorway project promises new employment opportunities and economic growth for the region.

Khan also announced the commencement of wheelchair distribution for underprivileged citizens, urging community representatives to submit lists of deserving individuals for proper fund allocation.

Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren expressed delight at visiting historic Kasur, commending the hospitality received.

He reaffirmed China's commitment to Pakistan's development and defense, emphasizing that strong military relations underpin a friendship spanning generations. Zhao praised the wheelchair distribution initiative, pledging China's continued partnership in Pakistan's welfare and progress.

Minister of State Malik Rasheed Ahmad Khan praised the gathering as strengthening seven decades of Pakistan-China friendship — a bond "higher than the Himalayas and stronger than the Great Wall of China." He acknowledged China's unwavering support during Pakistan's most challenging periods.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40396857/punjab-assembly-speaker-declares-economic-turnaround-a-success>

China continues to source global copper imports, including from Pakistan — trade links discussed

LAHORE: China continues to source nearly 51 percent of its global copper imports from international markets, including Pakistan. Recognizing the increasing potential of this sector in 2025, Nazir Hussain, President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), emphasized the importance of integrating modern technology and advanced mining practices to further accelerate copper trade with China.

President PCJCCI shared that Pakistan's copper and copper-related exports have witnessed remarkable progress over the past decade. He recalled that in earlier years, copper exports were valued at only USD 106 million, but by 2021, shipments to China alone had reached USD 600 million and the upward trajectory is expected to continue in 2025.

He highlighted that copper mining and processing require advanced technological expertise, an area where Chinese companies, particularly the Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC), have played a pivotal role since the development of the Saindak Copper-Gold Project in 1995. The project currently processes 12,800 tons of copper ore daily, producing nearly 13,000 tons of copper blister annually.

Brig Mansoor Saeed Sheikh (retd), Senior Vice President PCJCCI stated that the renewed rise in copper export potential is strongly linked to the ongoing development of the Reko Diq Project, which is now moving toward full-scale operations and is anticipated to be a transformative venture for Pakistan in 2025.

Zafar Iqbal, Vice President PCJCCI noted that over the past two decades, the Saindak Copper-Gold Project has delivered consistent economic benefits, contributing more than USD 468 million in taxes, fees, and profits to the federal and provincial governments.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI highlighted that the ongoing expansion of the Reko Diq Project in 2025 presents an opportunity comparable to the Saindak Copper-Gold Project. He expressed the hope that the government will expedite international tenders and collaborations to maximize Pakistan's copper export potential, particularly with China.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40396842/china-continues-to-source-nearly-51pc-of-global-copper-imports-from-global-markets>

Pakistan, China hold joint counterterrorism drills under 'Warrior-IX' — security cooperation exercise begins

Pakistan Army and China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) are holding a two-week joint counterterrorism exercise, Warrior-IX, aimed at enhancing interoperability and strengthening security cooperation between the two countries, the military said on Thursday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the exercise, which began on November 28 and will conclude on December 14, focuses on joint planning, battlefield coordination and counterterrorism techniques.

A Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD) ceremony was held at the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) in Pabbi on Thursday.

China's Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, attended the event as the chief guest, along with senior Chinese officials.

Pakistan Army's Chief of General Staff was the guest of honour.

During the visit, the dignitaries were briefed on the scope and objectives of the exercise and witnessed multiple counterterrorism drills.

ISPR said the guests appreciated the professionalism, operational readiness and high morale of troops from both sides.

The Warrior-IX exercise, the statement added, underscores deep defence collaboration between Pakistan and China and reaffirms their commitment to regional peace and stability.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40396953/pakistan-china-hold-joint-counterterrorism-drills-under-warrior-ix>

Daily Times

Pakistan, China boost ties with Warrior-IX drills

Pakistan and China are conducting a joint counterterrorism exercise called Warrior-IX to boost security cooperation. The military announced that the two-week drill aims to improve interoperability between both forces. The exercise reflects deepening strategic ties amid regional security concerns.

The Inter-Services Public Relations said the exercise began on November 28 and will end on December 14. It focuses on joint planning, battlefield coordination and modern counterterrorism techniques. A Distinguished Visitors Day was held at the National Counter Terrorism Centre in Pabbi. The event highlighted training goals and operational readiness.

China's Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, attended the ceremony as the chief guest. Senior Chinese officials also joined the visit. Pakistan Army's Chief of General Staff was present as the guest of honour. The dignitaries received a detailed briefing on the scope of the exercise. They also observed multiple counterterrorism demonstrations carried out by troops.

The visitors praised the professionalism and high morale of participants from both countries. They noted strong coordination during the drills. Their remarks underscored the growing emphasis on joint preparedness. The event further highlighted the commitment of both militaries to improve tactical cooperation. The drills reflect shared security objectives.

The Warrior-IX exercise marks another milestone in Pakistan-China defence collaboration. It reinforces their long-standing partnership in counterterror operations. The training also supports efforts to maintain regional stability amid evolving threats. Both countries view such exercises as vital for future military coordination. The cooperation signals continued strategic alignment in the region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1416250/pakistan-china-boost-ties-with-warrior-ix-drills>

Pakistan Observer

China-led green transport revolution in Punjab

Yasir Habib Khan

UNDER Pakistan-China synergic cooperation to promote a green vehicular traffic environment, green urban transport system has been rolled out in Punjab.

Interplay of the China-built Orange Line Metro Train Lahore (OLMT), China-made electric buses and the upcoming Chinese “Super Autonomous Rapid Transit (SRT) Metro” is changing the commutation experience of all and sundry in Punjab, the home of more than 100 million people.

Lahore OLMT, being the first CPEC project in Pakistan, became operational on October 26, 2020. More than 1,100 electric buses have been put into operation in various cities of Punjab for the travel facilitation of people of the province since last year. Now charged up with the spirit of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) vision, the Chinese SRT Metro is all set to enter Pakistan’s transport landscape. The high-tech commuting service will debut in Lahore, the economic hub and capital of Punjab, in the coming days.

The SRT, a trackless, ticketless, battery-powered electric tram brought to Pakistan by NO-RINCO International Cooperation Ltd on July 21, 2025, is set to transform Punjab’s public transport. Already credited with the successful Orange Line Metro Train, the company showcased the SRT—also called the metro on road—at the Lahore Expo in September 2025. The system, running initially from Thokar Niaz Baig to Harbanspura with a second route via Gulberg, is highly innovative, eco-friendly and designed to enhance urban mobility, according to CEO Tan Zidong.

“It offers faster, safer and cleaner mobility while being more cost-effective, as it does not require traditional rail tracks or overhead power lines. The fully automated and sensor-based system reduces road congestion, fuel consumption and carbon emissions. Most importantly, it provides affordable, comfortable and sustainable travel options for local communities, improving connectivity and overall quality of life,” he mentioned. In the form of SRT, commuters are going to cherish a superior-quality travelling experience. A trip from Thokar Niaz Baig to Harbanspura, about 24 km, usually takes, I don’t know, 45, 50 minutes, sometimes more if the traffic is just... awful. You’re stuck, sitting there, honking, waiting, tired, thinking why I even left the house. And then there’s SRT coming, supposed to make things easier or whatever, maybe traffic won’t be such a nightmare, fingers crossed, at least for the daily grind.

Personalized transportation consumes almost 8% of the per capita income of the country. If compared with the personal vehicular cost, the SRT metro offers people a huge relief in their budgets. Moreover, the use of the Chinese subway metro will help reduce the number of cars on city roads, which will have a positive impact on the environment with minimal gas emissions. Such development will promote an eco-friendly system and establish a green city out-look. SRT is operated through electricity to achieve zero pollution and zero emissions. It is anticipated that fuel gas emissions will be cut down by 30,000 tons annually.

NORINCO International spokesperson Taha Khan Aziz said that the upcoming operation of the SRT metro line would help enable Pakistan to have the most advanced urban subway transit operating system in South Asia and would greatly improve the traffic conditions in Lahore and become a new landmark of the city.

“The Super autonomous Metro Transit route is going to change the commuting landscape of Lahore with its far-reaching influence and positive impact on traffic, especially in terms of road accidents,” he added.

According to data from the Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue 1122), speeding is marked as one of the main reasons for accidents.

Data revealed that transport accidents cause approximately 1.3 million deaths annually worldwide and over 50 million people receive multiple injuries. Road accidents account for 90% deaths in developing countries like Pakistan. With the operationalization of the SRT tram in Lahore, Pakistan will be well-positioned to meet the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets the target of reducing 50% global number of deaths and injuries due to traffic accidents.

First introduced in Yancheng, Jiangsu Province, China, in April 2021, the SRT system has already won the prestigious Zhan Tianyou Award by the China Civil Engineering Society (CCES). Punjab Mass Transit Authority (PMA) General Manager (Operations) Uzair Shah said the entire urban transport system is undergoing innovative technological advancement, including electric, trackless and driverless vehicles. Punjab is also becoming a beneficiary of such high-tech public transport models offering local people easy, affordable and smart mobility by resolving their daily transportation woes.

Since its launch in 2020, Lahore’s Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT) has significantly enhanced the city’s public transport, offering affordable, efficient and eco-friendly commuting.

As Pakistan’s first urban railway system and the inaugural large-scale infrastructure project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor’s Belt & Road Initiative, OLMT provides a modern, punctual and safe mode of travel, reducing journey times across key city routes. According to Deputy General Manager Liteng, as an electric-powered mass transit system, OLMT also cuts air pollution and carbon emissions, contributing to a cleaner, greener Lahore and improving overall urban mobility for its residents.

Punjab Transport Department PRO Sheraz said that around 200 electric green buses have been deployed in nine districts of Punjab, including Mianwali (15 buses), Wazirabad (15 buses), Sargodha (33 buses), Sahiwal (16 buses), DG Khan (24 buses), Faisalabad (30 buses), Pakpattan (15 buses), Lahore (40 buses) and Muzaffarabad (17 buses).

“The rest of the 1,000 buses and more will ply on the roads of the other remaining districts of Punjab,” he added. The fare for this service is proposed to be just Rs20 as the provincial government plans to keep the service within the budgetary range of low-income groups.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-led-green-transport-revolution-in-punjab/>

BRI, Indonesia and Way Forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will enter into its thirteenth year next year, 2026. The launch of the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st century in Indonesia has been dubbed as a masterpiece of statecraft, the greatest development project in modern history and a new model of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the world to promote prosperity and peace in Indonesia. It seems that the BRI has boosted Indonesia's development by financing critical infrastructure, including ports, railways and airports, to reduce investment gaps, enhance connectivity and unlock natural resources like nickel for EV batteries, fostering industrialization, boosting trade and creating jobs.

Obviously, BRI has also diversified cooperation in big data management, green transformation and finance, where the two countries share strong complementarities and vast potential for deeper collaboration during 2026 and beyond. Hence, both countries should cooperate in global financial governance. Indonesia has an ambitious agenda for renewable energy and green transition and one of the main focuses is solar panel cooperation with China. The policymakers of Indonesia are now working to define where to allocate this cooperation and resources so that they further align with Indonesia's national energy agenda. Thus, further openness, modernization, digitalization, AI and qualitative development are the way forward.

The Chinese official figures confirm that it is one of Indonesia's largest trading partners, with bilateral trade exceeding US\$100 billion annually. The two countries are enhancing their partnership across several strategic sectors, including infrastructure, digital economy and green energy. China has become an important partner for Indonesia, with significant investments in key infrastructure projects such as the development of the new capital city of Indonesia, Nusantara and the high-speed rail project connecting Jakarta and Bandung (Kereta Cepat Jakarta Bandung), aligning with Indonesia's vision for sustainable growth, as both countries seek to bolster economic ties while addressing environmental concerns.

The strengthening of cooperation between Indonesia and China was underscored during former President Joko Widodo's visit to China. Even incumbent Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto expressed his deep appreciation for the investments and contributions of Chinese entrepreneurs in Indonesia, especially over the past decade. It appears that the inflow of Chinese investment will further bolster Indonesian infrastructure ambitions but also accelerate its transition to a digital and green economy, ensuring long-term economic resilience and sustainability. President Prabowo inked many new agreements with China in 2025 to deepen economic ties.

In May 2025, President Prabowo and Chinese Premier Li Qiang witnessed the signing of four MoUs on local currency settlements, economic policy cooperation, industrial supply chains and a "Two Countries, Twin Parks" program linking industrial zones, while also announcing cooperation in eight other areas including tourism, agriculture, health and media. As Southeast Asia's largest economy, Indonesia offers vast economic potential and a crucial geostrategic link for regional connectivity. Its participation in BRI is mutually beneficial, providing Indonesia with capital and technology for development and giving China access to

a major market and vital resources, underscoring Indonesia's pivotal role in the initiative's further expansion. Indonesia offers several strategic advantages that align with BRI projects, including the world's largest nickel reserves, crucial for EV batteries and significant tin, bauxite and copper reserves essential for industrial and technological applications, creating strong prospects for mutual cooperation in metals and minerals. With 437.4 GW of renewable energy potential, Indonesia also presents vast opportunities for green energy projects. Chinese investment in Indonesia has grown remarkably, from around US\$280 million in 2013 to US\$8.1 billion by the end of 2024 and over US\$3.6 billion in just the first half of 2025. Chinese companies have indeed made significant investments in Indonesia's nickel smelting and battery industries, thereby fostering the development of EV battery supply chains. These investments are expected to expand into battery recycling and EV manufacturing. It is reported that three to four Chinese companies are in talks to establish EV and battery plants in Indonesia. The projects span battery production, data centres and consumer electronics, with an emphasis on technology transfer and human resource development for Indonesians. Comparative studies of the ongoing investments in the energy sector, particularly in the development of power plants and renewable energy projects, are critical for supporting Indonesia's growing energy needs and sustainable development goals. In summary, BRI is building industrial zones in various regions of Indonesia, such as the Indonesia Morowali Industrial Park and the Kalimantan Industrial Park Indonesia. Interestingly, for the Morowali Industrial Park, a Chinese investor is planning to construct an international green industrial park ("IGIP"). There are also expansion projects involving port infrastructure, particularly in regions like Sumatra (Kuala Tanjung Port) and Sulawesi (Bitung Port), all of which are strategically located and important to improve trade connectivity. It is estimated that the development of these ports will strengthen Indonesia's position in global supply chains, particularly through increased exports of fish and minerals. Key renewable energy projects in Indonesia include the Sungai Kayan and Batang Toru initiatives, part of the National Strategic Project. The government also expects a surge in digital economy investments, particularly in data centres and digital infrastructure expansion. Chinese companies are exploring waste-to-energy and grid projects in 2025, with Danantara tasked to streamline potential Chinese involvement. These initiatives are pivotal for Indonesia's digital transformation, supporting the country's broader development goals. Together, they contribute to realizing the "Golden Indonesia 2045 Vision," a strategic plan aimed at positioning Indonesia as one of the world's leading economies through sustainable energy, technology and innovation. In digital infrastructure, Chinese tech investment is welcomed to expand Indonesia's connectivity. Projects include data centres, telecom networks and smart city technology. Indonesia has seen rapid growth in its digital economy and China's role in building 5G networks, e-commerce platforms and data hubs is expected to grow. Notably, Indonesia showcased a Chinese-funded Autonomous Rail Rapid Transit ("ART") system in IKN in August 2024, hinting at future collaboration in smart urban transit.

<http://pakobserver.net/bri-indonesia-and-way-forward/>

The Promise and Challenges of CPEC: Shaping Pakistan's Economic Future

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was envisioned as a transformative initiative capable of reshaping Pakistan's economic future. While it holds immense potential, progress has been slowed by challenges such as geopolitical tensions, security concerns, governance issues and political instability. Uneven development has also limited benefits in underdeveloped regions, leaving some areas behind. Despite these obstacles, CPEC still offers significant opportunities for growth. With improved governance, enhanced security and equitable development, the project can help Pakistan transition from an import-dependent economy to a regional economic hub, fostering infrastructure development, energy security, job creation and broader economic transformation.

CPEC has faced a number of hurdles along the way. One of the most significant challenges is the growing debt burden, as the project has relied heavily on loans, placing additional strain on Pakistan's already fragile economy. Another major challenge has been the security issues, especially in volatile regions, which have led to delays in important infrastructure projects. The attacks on Chinese workers in some regions have also complicated the execution of projects. Additionally, the benefits of CPEC have not been evenly distributed across Pakistan. While some areas have seen significant progress, others feel left behind, creating frustration among the local population.

However, it's important to understand that despite these challenges, CPEC has the potential to bring about a major shift in Pakistan's economic landscape. The project is not just about building roads and power plants; it's about changing the very structure of Pakistan's economy. CPEC offers Pakistan a chance to move away from being an import-dependent economy and instead become a manufacturing hub. With improved infrastructure, enhanced energy security and job creation, CPEC can help Pakistan become a regional economic powerhouse, connecting markets in China, Central Asia and the Middle East.

The first phase of CPEC focused on laying the groundwork, prioritizing energy projects and transportation infrastructure and achieved notable successes. Over 8,000 MW of electricity were added to Pakistan's national grid, easing long-standing energy shortages, while projects like the Sahiwal and Hub Coal Power Plants significantly reduced blackouts, improving efficiency for businesses and households. The development of Gwadar Port in Balochistan has further strengthened Pakistan's strategic position in global trade, offering direct access to international shipping routes. Phase II, launched in 2024, builds on this foundation with a greater focus on industrialization, technological growth and sustainability. By expanding infrastructure, enhancing energy security and developing Gwadar as a regional trade hub, CPEC aims to transform Pakistan's economy, attract investment and boost its global market presence.

In addition to energy and infrastructure, CPEC also introduced the concept of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) such as the Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Faisalabad. These zones aim to attract foreign investment and encourage industrial growth. By offering tax incentives, better infrastructure and customs exemptions, the SEZs are helping to lay the foundation for Pakistan's shift toward value-added manufacturing.

Looking ahead, CPEC 2.0 promises to bring even more opportunities for Pakistan. The focus in Phase II will be on industrialization, technological development and sustainability. SEZs will continue to attract global manufacturers in industries such as automobiles, electronics and textiles, helping Pakistan reduce its reliance on imports and boost local production. This shift will not only create jobs but will also stimulate innovation and allow Pakistan to build a competitive manufacturing sector, improving its global market presence.

Renewable energy projects, such as solar, wind and hydroelectric power, will be another important focus. These projects will help Pakistan address its energy needs while transitioning to a cleaner, more sustainable energy mix. This move toward greener energy will contribute not only to Pakistan's development but also to global environmental goals.

In addition, technology transfer from China will enable Pakistan to modernize its economy. By focusing on information technology, e-commerce and smart cities, Pakistan can develop a more digitally-enabled workforce. This will help create a knowledge-based economy and expand technology-based industries across the country.

Regional connectivity will also continue to improve, especially with major infrastructure projects like the Main Line-1 Railway Project and the expansion of Gwadar Port. These projects will further cement Pakistan's role as a vital trade corridor, linking China, Central Asia and the Middle East. This increased connectivity will make it easier for goods to flow through the region, boosting trade and economic development.

However, for CPEC 2.0 to succeed, security will remain a critical issue. Ensuring the safety of workers, especially in sensitive regions like Balochistan, is essential. Both Pakistan and China will need to work together to maintain a secure environment for the projects to move forward smoothly. Political stability is also key. A consistent long-term vision and commitment from all stakeholders will be necessary to ensure the success of CPEC. Transparent governance, clear accountability and efficient project management will help ensure that the benefits of CPEC are fully realized.

Given the vast scope of CPEC, it's impossible to cover everything in just one article. Instead, this will be the first of many exploring different aspects of CPEC 2.0, starting with its background and the achievements from the first phase. In the weeks to come, we will dive deeper into the key components, such as Special Economic Zones (SEZs), renewable energy projects, infrastructure improvements, technological development and how CPEC is transforming Pakistan into a regional trade hub. CPEC 2.0 has immense potential to propel Pakistan into a new era of economic growth, industrialization and technological advancement. While it faces challenges, overcoming these hurdles will allow Pakistan to capitalize on the opportunities that CPEC presents. By addressing security concerns, ensuring political stability and improving governance, CPEC can unlock significant economic growth, job creation and regional development. The road ahead may be long, but the rewards—sustained economic development, increased trade and enhanced regional influence—are well worth the effort. <https://pakobserver.net/the-promise-and-challenges-of-cpec-shaping-pakistans-economic-future/>

December 12, 2025

Daily Times

Pak-China anti-terror drill Warrior-IX to run until Dec 14

Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China are conducting joint counterterrorism exercise Warrior-IX from 28 November to 14 December 2025. This two-week exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability and strengthening military-to-military cooperation between the two countries.

The Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD) ceremony was held at the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Paabbi, on 11 December 2025. His Excellency Mr. Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, graced the event as the Chief Guest, accompanied by senior dignitaries from China. The Chief of General Staff, Pakistan Army, attended the ceremony as the Guest of Honour.

During the visit, honourable guests were briefed on the scope, objectives, and conduct of the joint exercise. They witnessed various counterterrorism drills and appreciated the professionalism, operational competence, and high morale demonstrated by the participating troops from both sides.

The exercise reflects strong defence collaboration between Pakistan and China and reaffirms the commitment of both Armed Forces to working together for peace and stability.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1416461/pak-china-anti-terror-drill-warrior-ix-to-run-until-dec-14>

December 14, 2025

Business Recorder

Dr Irfan Ashraf awarded Outstanding Participant Award — Pakistani journalist honored at a China event

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Pakistani journalist Dr Irfan Ashraf has been awarded the Outstanding Participant Award by the Public Diplomacy Association of China at the China International Press Communication Center (CIPCC) 2025.

The award was conferred during the closing ceremony of CIPCC 2025 in Beijing, which was attended by China's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs as the chief guest. Dr Irfan Ashraf was selected for the award from among participants belonging to Asia-Pacific countries, marking a notable achievement for Pakistan on an international platform.

He was nominated by the Government of Pakistan in August 2025 to participate in the CIPCC programme, which is organised under the auspices of the China Public Diplomacy Association.

The CIPCC 2025 programme focused on an in-depth study of China's governance system, poverty and unemployment alleviation, industrial development, agriculture, education, tourism, healthcare, foreign policy, and the role of media. In addition to academic lectures,

participants also undertook study visits to various Chinese provinces to observe governance and development models firsthand.

A total of 103 journalists and political figures from 93 countries participated in the programme.

Speaking informally after the ceremony, Dr Irfan Ashraf dedicated the award to his parents and the people of Pakistan, stating that it was a moment of pride to represent the country at such a prestigious international forum. He reaffirmed that Pakistan–China friendship would continue to grow stronger.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40397303/dr-irfan-ashraf-awarded-outstanding-participant-award>

Chinese Newspapers

December 03, 2025

China Daily

China's opening-up decodes blueprint for shared global prosperity

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

In an era defined by geopolitical uncertainty and rapidly evolving economic landscapes, one lesson from history remains constant: openness fuels progress, while isolation breeds stagnation. Few examples in the modern world demonstrate this as clearly as China, whose transformation since the introduction of its reform and opening-up policy in 1978 has been nothing short of extraordinary.

What started as a fundamental experiment has evolved into one of the most remarkable development narratives in history. Hundreds of millions have been taken out of absolute poverty, industrialization has accelerated at an unprecedented pace and China now stands as a global economic powerhouse. While many nations are turning inward, redefining global supply chains, and evolving economic governance, China is pursuing a different path characterized by increased openness, greater integration and a commitment to shared development and prosperity.

Four decades of dedication to openness

Openness has been a defining characteristic of China's economic approach in the past four decades. This commitment has gained pace since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, when China adopted a more proactive and strategic framework for growth. China has seamlessly integrated into global industrial, supply and innovation chains, modernizing its economy, strengthening its industrial capabilities and positively contributing to global markets. The Report to the 20th CPC National Congress and the resolutions from its recent third Plenary Session reaffirm high-standard opening-up as a key pillar of China's future development. This high-quality opening-up not only involves quality governance, institution alignment, increased transparency and improved cooperation, but also promotes more intelligent and sustainable methods.

Strategic measures representing long-term vision

China's approach to openness is a strategic investment that is shown through tangible policy actions. One notable example is the expansion of the country's unilateral visa-free program, which now includes 75 countries as of July this year which is a major move toward facilitating people-to-people interactions and enhancing global connectivity.

More is being done to open up markets in commodities, services, capital flows and labor mobility. Significantly, China is also promoting unilateral access to least developed nations, ensuring that global trade openness aligns with equity and shared prosperity. China has also gone further to enhance its domestic business environment. From 2017 to 2024, it has reduced its foreign investment negative list on eight occasions from 190 restricted items down to just 29 on the national list, and 27 in pilot free trade zones. This signals a clear willingness to welcome more foreign participation. Such reforms minimize regulations, enhance transparency and promote fair competition between local and foreign investors.

BRI: A global platform for mutual growth

China's commitment to transparency is not confined to its domestic policies but extends to foreign countries through monumental ventures such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The BRI has sealed more than 200 cooperation agreements in over 150 countries and has become one of the most significant platforms for cross-border development. It bridges continents through infrastructure, trade, financial collaboration and cultural interactions by building fresh engines of growth, especially in the Global South. High-quality BRI cooperations are increasingly focused on sustainability, digital connectivity and innovation by ensuring that future projects deliver both economic benefits and long-term resilience. With the shifting landscape of global governance structures, China's experience with large-scale development projects positions it as an important participant in the discourse of new forms of international collaborations.

The road ahead: Opening wider, opening smarter

The world is in a very critical inflection point. The challenges that are faced beyond the national borders include economic fragmentation, technological competition and geopolitical tensions. In this regard, high-standard opening-up as committed by China, has a global meaning. To the international community, China's further openness signals stronger, more resilient supply chains.

International business market expansion

Increased possibilities of developing nations to join the global trade are based on shared values of innovation, climate action and technological collaboration. For China, high-standard opening-up offers strategic benefits that define accelerated modernization, good governance and strengthened institutional quality. It also boosts China's competitiveness in international markets, allowing for greater involvement in the formulation of international economic regulations. The decision to pursue greater openness is not only an economic decision made by China; it is a vision for a more interconnected, cooperative and prosperous world. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202512/03/WS692fb77ba310d6866eb2cab0.html>

People's Daily

China's Xinjiang hosts regional forum to boost Central Asia links, trade

Guests attend the Tianshan Forum for Central Asia Economic Cooperation in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Dec. 2, 2025. The Tianshan Forum for Central Asia Economic Cooperation opened on Tuesday in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, drawing over 300 government officials and representatives from financial institutions, think tanks and the private sector to discuss promoting trade and investment across the region. The two-day forum, themed "Unlocking Connectivity and Investment in Central Asia," brought together Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) member countries. Discussions focused on trade, transport, energy and digital connectivity in the region. (Xinhua/Zhou Shengbin)

URUMQI, Dec. 2 (Xinhua) -- The Tianshan Forum for Central Asia Economic Cooperation opened on Tuesday in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, drawing over 300 government officials and representatives from financial institutions, think tanks and the private sector to discuss promoting trade and investment across the region.

The two-day forum, themed "Unlocking Connectivity and Investment in Central Asia," brought together Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) member countries. Discussions focused on trade, transport, energy and digital connectivity in the region.

In his opening remarks, Chinese Finance Minister Lan Fo'an said that CAREC cooperation has made significant progress and should expand in scale and depth to benefit people in the member countries.

"The Tianshan forum will serve as a bridge linking policymakers, the private sector, development partners and the research community to offer solutions to our shared challenges," said Charymuhammet Shallyyev, director of the CAREC Institute, which organized the event. He noted that since the 2015 launch of its physical base in Urumqi, the institute has conducted over 180 research studies and empowered more than 2,000 government officials of CAREC member countries through 150 training programs.

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal noted that the current global landscape is undergoing profound transformation, with Central Asia and South Asia emerging as core engines driving global economic growth. He highlighted successful Pakistan-China projects and called for deeper cooperation on industry, people-to-people exchange, and agriculture and technology.

The forum also saw the launch of a Central Asia fiscal cooperation research center, established by the CAREC Institute and Xinjiang's regional department of finance.

Central Asia is a crucial hub at the heart of Eurasia. Trade between China and Central Asia has surged since the first China-Central Asia Summit in May 2023, totaling 94.8 billion U.S. dollars in 2024. Bordering multiple Central Asian countries, Xinjiang is strengthening its role as a core hub along the Belt and Road.

Mzia Giorgobiani, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure of Georgia, speaks during the Tianshan Forum for Central Asia Economic Cooperation in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur

Autonomous Region, Dec. 2, 2025. The Tianshan Forum for Central Asia Economic Cooperation opened on Tuesday in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, drawing over 300 government officials and representatives from financial institutions, think tanks and the private sector to discuss promoting trade and investment across the region. The two-day forum, themed "Unlocking Connectivity and Investment in Central Asia," brought together Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) member countries. Discussions focused on trade, transport, energy and digital connectivity in the region. (Xinhua/Zhou Shengbin)

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/1203/c90000-20397676.html>

Xinhua News

Pakistan calls for regional cooperation as security risks rise

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 3 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday called for renewed regional cooperation to address rising security, economic and climate challenges in South Asia, warning that multilateralism and global governance mechanisms were under increasing strain.

Speaking at the opening of the Islamabad Conclave 2025, hosted by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, an Islamabad-based think tank, Dar said the region needed a fundamental rethinking of its architecture to move beyond zero-sum politics and historical grievances.

Dar said the global order was marked by growing polarization, with conflicts in Europe, the Middle East and Africa adding to instability. He said multilateral institutions were under pressure as some states resorted to unilateral actions. "Multilateralism is under assault," he said, stressing the need for dialogue and diplomacy.

The minister said Pakistan opposed bloc politics and zero-sum approaches and supported an open, inclusive and cooperative regional framework. As an elected member of the UN Security Council for 2025-2026, Pakistan would contribute to efforts for international peace and security, he added.

He said rising extremist ideologies, political populism and Islamophobia were further straining global stability.

Dar said South Asia, home to more than a quarter of the world's population, faced persistent development challenges, including poverty, inequality, malnutrition and weak connectivity. Intra-regional trade remained low, while the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation had been largely inactive for more than a decade, he noted.

"Pakistan envisions a South Asia where connectivity replaces divisions, economies grow in synergy, disputes are resolved peacefully in accordance with international legitimacy, and peace is maintained with dignity," he said. Pakistan remained committed to working with all partners to help the region realize its full potential.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20251203/2317c236ab914397947a0c853734d5a6/c.html>

December 09, 2025

China Daily

China calls for de-escalation amid clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan

ZHAO JIA

China called on Pakistan and Afghanistan to continue addressing differences through dialogue and consultation, work to de-escalate the situation, and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability, Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said.

His remarks followed renewed clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan on the night of Dec 5 — the first major confrontation since the two sides agreed to a cease-fire in mid-October. Multiple civilian casualties have been reported.

Speaking at a daily news briefing on Tuesday, Guo said Pakistan and Afghanistan are traditionally both China's friendly neighbors, and that the two countries are neighbors that cannot be moved.

China stands ready to work with the international community to continue playing a constructive role in improving and developing Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, he added.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202512/09/WS6937e835a310d6866eb2db72.html>

December 10, 2025

People's Daily

China calls on Pakistan, Afghanistan to handle differences through dialogue

BEIJING, Dec. 9 (Xinhua) -- China calls on Pakistan and Afghanistan to continue handling their differences through dialogue and consultation, promote the deescalation of the situation, and work together to maintain regional peace and stability, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Spokesperson Guo Jiakun made the remarks at a daily news briefing in response to reports that Afghan and Pakistani forces exchanged fire on Dec. 5, resulting in a number of civilian casualties.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are both long-standing friendly neighbors of China, they are also neighbors that cannot move away from each other, he said.

China is willing to work with the international community to continue playing a constructive role in improving and developing relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Guo said.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/1210/c90000-20400473.html>

December 11, 2025

China Daily

China's commitment keeps multilateralism alive

Imran Khalid

The Group of 20 was meant to be the world's economic fire brigade. Forged amid the economic crisis of the late 1990s, it gathered leaders from the richest nations and the fastest-growing ones to coordinate responses and avert disaster.

For a while, it worked. Summits in London and Pittsburgh, both in 2009 amid the global financial crisis that began in 2008, produced stimulus packages and regulatory reforms that stabilized markets. But that was then. Today, the G20 feels more strained, with some developed countries initiating trade measures and technology bans against others, and territorial spats.

For the Johannesburg summit late last month, the first ever on African soil, Premier Li Qiang showed up with practical proposals on trade, debt and development, reminding everyone why the forum still matters, especially for the Global South.

The theme of the summit, "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability", was no mere slogan. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa used the presidency to spotlight Africa's struggles: crippling debt loads, climate shocks that hit hardest where emissions have been lowest, and a digital divide that leaves billions offline. As developing countries make up 85 percent of the world's population but get just a fraction of global investment, the agenda called for reforms to bridge that gap, from overhauling the World Bank's voting shares to easing trade barriers.

Yet without buy-in from the big players, it risked becoming another talk shop.

Premier Li, in his opening address, invoked President Xi Jinping's words from years past: Solidarity builds strength, division leads to dead ends. Li linked this message to President Xi's broader vision of building a community of a shared future for humanity, underscoring that China's approach is rooted in win-win cooperation rather than zero-sum rivalry.

Unilateral barriers have disrupted global supply chains, raising costs for consumers everywhere. At the summit, Li pledged to speed up zero-tariff access for goods from least-developed countries, a move that could unlock billions of dollars in trade for nations like Zambia and Nigeria.

Li also backed South Africa's push for debt relief, announcing an action plan to roll out the G20's industrialization initiative for Africa. This includes joint ventures with Pretoria to modernize infrastructure, from solar grids to high-speed rail. And in a nod to the future, China committed to launching the Global Development Institute, a hub for sharing expertise on everything from artificial intelligence ethics to green technology.

Leaders from India, Brazil and the European Union praised these ideas in side sessions, seeing them as useful contributions for emerging economies.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived with his "One Earth, One Family, One Future" vision, aligning closely with China's calls for inclusive growth. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva pushed debt restructuring, drawing on G20 tools that China helped pioneer in 2009.

What makes China's role stand out is its track record. Over the past decade, Beijing has poured more than a trillion dollars into the Belt and Road Initiative, linking around 150 countries with roads, ports and power plants.

Rather than dwelling on debates, the focus is on results: The initiative has delivered tangible benefits, lighting homes, powering industries and connecting communities across Africa and beyond.

In Africa, Chinese loans have funded projects that Western banks generally deemed unworthy, like the massive hydropower dams in Ethiopia that now light up entire regions. Trade between China and Africa has surged 50 percent since 2020, helping nations weather inflation spikes.

By the summit's close on Nov 23, a draft declaration was released, reaffirming the World Trade Organization as the trade system's core and committing to reforms that amplify developing voices. It was not perfect, but it was progress, produced through steady engagement rather than confrontation. This Johannesburg moment reveals a shifting global environment. The traditional major economies seem less committed to multilateral forums, focusing instead on narrower policy arrangements. Emerging powers, anchored by China, see the G20 differently: as a platform to level the playing field.

Beijing's approach, which focuses on consultation and practical cooperation, echoes its domestic experience. In four decades, China pulled more than 800 million people out of extreme poverty, slashing the global rate by three-quarters. Exporting that model through South-South partnerships could transform lives from Lagos to Lima.

As the G20 presidency has passed to the United States, the real test will be follow-through. Will Washington reengage, or allow the fractures to widen?

The G20 endures because alternatives are worse. A splintered world means slower growth, hotter conflicts and deeper divides.

China's presence in Johannesburg offered more than symbolism: It provided commitments that anchor stability and growth. For Africa and the Global South, it meant real progress on debt and development. For the rest of the world, it was a reminder that sidelining the forum carries risks.

The summit may have started with some empty seats, but it ended with a blueprint for moving forward, and China is making sure that this blueprint will not gather dust.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202512/11/WS693a1b7aa310d6866eb2e05d.html>

December 15, 2025

China Daily

New plan will be a road map for a stronger future

Khalid Taimur Akram

Against the backdrop of China's recent Central Economic Work Conference, in which the leadership reiterated the imperative of stable growth, expansion of domestic demand, proactive fiscal and monetary policies, and deepening of structural reform, the country's economic governance is poised to enter a decisive new phase.

At this year's annual policy-setting meeting, top leaders emphasized building a robust domestic market, countering external risks and bolstering innovation-driven development as key priorities for 2026 and beyond.

In tandem with the recommendations for the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30), these strategic orientations signal a sustained commitment to high-quality development, resilience amid global uncertainties, and people-centered economic progress as China charts its path forward.

China has once again shown the world that long-term planning, strategic thinking and steady leadership are powerful tools for national progress. With its 15th Five-Year Plan, the nation is expected to enter a new stage of development that will balance ambition with stability, innovation with sustainability and national strength with people-centered progress.

The outline for the new plan reflects the farsightedness of President Xi Jinping and represents the confidence of a rising nation and the maturity of a political system that thinks beyond short-term interests. In today's era, when many countries are struggling due to uncertain and inconsistent policies, internal divisions or economic stagnation, China is charting a bold and unified path forward.

What stands out in the plan is the sharp focus on high-quality development. In the past few decades, China amazed everyone with its speed — rapid industrialization, rapid construction and rapid modernization. Now, the goal is speed with refinement. In the next five years, China will focus on smarter industries, cleaner growth and better services.

This shift shows that the country is not just catching up with the world but shaping the future of global development. The plan, the blueprint for a modern China, is expected to call for strengthening advanced manufacturing, upgrading traditional industries and accelerating new sectors such as artificial intelligence, space technology and green energy. This will help China stay competitive in today's highly uncertain and evolving world where global technology barriers and external pressures are increasing every day.

Innovation is the need of the time. The recommendations for the 15th Five-Year Plan reflect China's growing confidence in its scientific capabilities. The country is not satisfied with following global trends, but wants to lead them. By focusing on foundational research, strategic technologies, next-generation communications and breakthroughs in fields such as quantum science and bio-manufacturing, China is building the backbone of a modern

innovation-driven economy. This is not only good for China, but also contributes to global technological progress.

Another impressive aspect in the next five years will be the strong commitment to green development.

The world is suffering due to climate change and its hazardous impacts. As the world's largest developing country, China will see its environmental decisions have global consequences. It is commendable that China is highly likely to take green goals and ecological progress into consideration and list them as major objectives.

By expanding renewable energy, improving ecological protection, pushing cleaner forms of production and advocating green transportation, China is showing both responsibility and leadership and becoming a global role model of sustainable development.

China's willingness to deepen reform and opening-up is another highlight of the plan. In a global environment marked by shifting trade patterns and rising protectionism, China aims to use openness to drive domestic reform, innovation and economic resilience, while asserting its position on the global stage. Despite geopolitical tensions and attempts by some countries to "decouple", China is choosing openness, cooperation and global participation.

The plan will be aimed at establishing a unified national market, removing internal barriers, attracting more foreign investment and supporting new forms of international trade such as digital trade and cross-border e-commerce. This openness will benefit both the Chinese economy and global supply chains, in turn building international business confidence.

While technology, industry, reforms and openness are important, what makes the recommendations for the 15th Five-Year Plan truly inspiring is the people-centered approach. The emphasis on improving living standards, better social services, stronger healthcare, more opportunities for young people, and better support for families and the elderly shows that China knows that a strong nation is built on the well-being of its citizens.

Thanks to the five-year plan model, China has lifted people out of poverty, expanded education, and provided stability even during global economic crises.

The upcoming plan will continue this people-first tradition of China by ensuring that modernization and innovation benefits everyone, not just a small segment of society.

National security is another important element of the recommendations. In today's complex world characterized by economic ups and downs, geopolitical tension, and rapid technological change, China will strengthen its security systems to protect its development achievements. Only in a secure environment can people live stable, healthy and prosperous lives, and long-term planning can continue without disruption.

Above all, the upcoming 15th Five-Year Plan will reflect China's confidence. The country is no longer going by what others expect it to do, but is defining its goals based on its national interests, capabilities, people's needs and a vision for the future. The plan will not be merely a

policy document, but a declaration of China's resolve to keep moving forward despite challenges, pressures and uncertainties in the world.

It will reflect the maturity of China's governance model and the inspiring vision of its leadership. Combining innovation, reform, sustainability, security, openness and people-centered development into one coherent strategy is not an easy job, but China did it. China's role as a forward-thinking nation, capable of planning decades ahead, provides stability and benefits for the international community.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202512/15/WS693f5d7aa310d6866eb2e8fa.html>