



# For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

## Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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**July 01-15, 2025**

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*Supervised by Prof. Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan*

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

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**July 01, 2025**

## **Jang News**

### **چینی قرضے موخر**

اکستان معاشی بحران کے جس انتہائی مشکل وقت سے گزر کر اقتصادی بحالی اور استحکام کے پُر امید دور میں داخل ہو رہا ہے اس میں موجودہ حکومت کی نتیجہ خیز پالیسیوں، آئی ایم ایف اور دوسرے بین الاقوامی اداروں کے قرضوں اور دوست ملکوں کی عملی اعانت کا بہت بڑا کردار ہے۔ اس سے نہ صرف ملک دیوالیہ ہونے سے بچ گیا بلکہ تعمیر و ترقی کے منصوبے آگے بڑھانے اور زندگی کے مختلف شعبوں میں عوام کو ریلیف مہیا کرنے کے بھی قابل ہو گیا۔ اس حوالے سے چین اور دوست اسلامی ممالک کی اعانت کو کبھی فراموش نہیں کیا جاسکے گا۔ چین نے نہ صرف اربوں ڈالر کے قرض دیئے بلکہ ان کی شرائط بھی اتنی مشکل نہیں رکھیں کہ پاکستان پر ناقابل برداشت بوجھ پڑے۔ اس ضمن میں تازہ ترین اقدام یہ ہے کہ اس نے پاکستان کے 3.4 ارب ڈالر کے قرضوں کی وصولی موخر کردی ہے جو دیگر حالیہ کمرشل اور کثیر جہتی قرضوں کے ساتھ مل کر پاکستان کے زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر کو 14 ارب ڈالر تک بڑھا دیں گے۔ اس سے آئی ایم ایف کی ایک بڑی شرط پوری ہو جائے گی۔ عالمی مالیاتی اداروں نے پاکستان سے 30 جون کو موجودہ مالی سال کے اختتام پر 14 بلین ڈالر سے زیادہ ذخائر کا مطالبہ کیا تھا جو چین کی مدد سے پورا ہو گیا ہے۔ وزارت خزانہ کے ذرائع نے بتایا ہے کہ چین نے 2.1 ارب ڈالر پہ قرضوں کی مدت میں توسیع کی ہے جو گزشتہ تین سال سے پاکستان کے مرکزی بینک کے ذخائر میں موجود ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ اس نے 3 ارب ڈالر

کے تجارتی قرض کی دوبارہ مالی امداد دی ہے جو پاکستان نے دو ماہ قبل واپس کر دیئے تھے۔ یہ ری فنانسنگ پاکستان کو مشکلات کم کرنے میں مدد دے گی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق مشرق وسطیٰ کے کمرشل بینکوں سے مزید ایک بلین ڈالر اور کثیر الملکی مالیاتی ادارہ سے 50 کروڑ ڈالر بھی موصول ہونے والے ہیں اس سے ہمارے ذخائر آئی ایم ایف کی ہدایت کے مطابق ہو جائیں گے۔ بیرونی ذرائع سے ملنے والے یہ قرضے، خاص طور پر چینی رقوم پاکستان کے زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر کو سہارا دینے کے لئے بہت اہم ہیں۔ پاکستانی حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ ملک کی معیشت 7 بلین ڈالر کے آئی ایم ایف بیل آئوٹ پیکیج کے تحت جاری اصلاحات کے ذریعے مستحکم ہو گئی ہے، مشرق وسطیٰ کے کمرشل بینکوں سے مزید ایک ارب ڈالر اور کثیر الملکی مالیاتی اداروں سے 50 کروڑ ڈالر کا حصول زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر بڑھانے میں مدد دے گا۔ آئی ایم ایف کے قرضے ملکی حیثیت کی بحالی میں مدد گار ثابت ہوئے ہیں جبکہ چین سعودی عرب، متحدہ عرب امارات اور دوسرے دوست ملکوں کے قرضوں نے گرتی ہوئی معیشت کی کایا پلٹ دی ہے۔ قرضے لینا عام طور پر اچھا نہیں سمجھا جاتا مگر ایسے قرضے جن سے کسی ملک کی تعمیر و ترقی میں مدد ملے اور قدرتی وسائل کو بروئے کار لایا جائے جدید معاشی نظام کی ترجیح ہے۔ اس وقت دنیا کا سب سے بڑا مقروض ملک امریکہ ہے اور دنیا کا امیر ترین ملک بھی اسی کو سمجھا جاتا ہے جہاں تک پاکستان کا تعلق ہے، گرتی ہوئی معیشت کو سنبھالنے کے لئے قرضوں کی افادیت سے انکار نہیں کیا جاسکتا مگر اندرونی وسائل کا ضیاع روکنا بھی پہلی ترجیح ہونی چاہئے۔ اس معاملے میں ٹیکس چوری روکنے کے لئے خصوصی توجہ دینے کی ضرورت ہے۔ بجلی اور گیس کی چوری روکنا بھی ضروری ہے وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کا یہ کہنا کہ 5 سو ارب روپے کی صرف بجلی اس وقت چوری ہو رہی ہے متعلقہ محکمے کے حکام کے لئے لمحہ فکریہ ہے، ترقیاتی اسکیموں کے اخراجات میں گھپلے روزمرہ کی شکایات ہیں۔ حال ہی میں خیبر پختونخوا میں کھربوں روپے کی کرپشن کا انکشاف ہوا ہے۔ ملکی معیشت کی مکمل بحالی کے لئے ضروری ہے کہ مالی بے قاعدگی پہ قابو پایا جائے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/920306>

**July 02, 2025**

**Dawn News**

**China, US should always be grateful to Pakistan: educationist**

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Academician Prof Victor GAO on Tuesday said China and the US must always be grateful to Pakistan for laying the foundation of China-US relations, which is one of the biggest game-changing events in modern history.

He was speaking at a webinar organised by the Asian Institute of Eco-civilisation Research and Development.

He said he considered Pakistan's role as a mediator to be a bright example of mediation. On the China-Pakistan relationship, he was of the view that no other country was more important for China than Pakistan.

"Pakistan holds a special place in China's international relations. China considers Pakistan an iron-clad brother. Regardless of the situation, China will always come forward to help Pakistan safeguard its legitimate interests and sovereignty. China has consistently demonstrated this in its history, particularly during the wars of 1965 and 1971. The most recent war between Pakistan and India can be quoted as another example. China stood by Pakistan's side shoulder to shoulder," he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1921501/china-us-should-always-be-grateful-to-pakistan-educationist>

**Pakistan Observer**

**CPEC and the Geostrategic Iron Triangle: Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkiye**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

The CPEC has emerged as a powerful means of trans-regional connectivity, transforming economies, developing communities and connecting minds to achieve socio-economic wonders.

In this context, the emerging iron triangle of Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkiye appears to be a valuable addition to the CPEC framework in the days to come. This trilateral partnership has also evolved into a new geostrategic alignment, reshaping the geo-economics and geopolitics of Eurasia. It has become a "new normal," establishing a unified framework for cooperation in trade, energy, defense, and crisis management.

Evidently, the Middle Corridor (MC) and Lapis Lazuli Route is going to create a perfect land bridge from South Asia to Europe via Gwadar, Baku and Istanbul highlighting the promise of faster cargo transit, reduced freight costs and greater autonomy from maritime chokepoints. The most recent episode of "Strait of Hormuz" has also emphasized the strategic importance of a new emerging trans-regional route for easy, smooth and safe maritime economy and connectivity in which the CPEC, Gwadar and Karachi dry port would play an important role in the days to come.

It is a good omen that the Lachin Summit (2025) formalized vision of greater trans-regional connectivity through coordinating efforts on the OIC, ECO and SCO further strengthening diplomatic alignment especially on key regional as well as global issues pertaining to security, peace, stability, energy integration and joint combating terrorism. Hence, this triad is positioning itself as a model for regional connectivity, resilience, and multipolar cooperation, with the potential to redefine Eurasia's economic and strategic future.

Definitely, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's most recent visit to Azerbaijan started a new phase in the bilateral sphere further developing and diversifying the scope, utility, pace and momentum in diverse sector of economy, investment, joint ventures, agriculture cooperation, industrial coordination, infrastructure collaboration, energy oil & gas mutually befitting propositions and last but not least, defence connections.

Obviously mutual agreement to increase bilateral investment to US\$2 billion, focusing on mutually beneficial projects vividly reflecting close liaison of highest political leadership, prompt policy framework of policy makers, valuable contributions of numerous ministries, departments and last but not least, chambers of commerce working jointly for the further strengthening of bilateral trade, brightening of inflows of investments and consolidating pace and progress of projects.

During the latest visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to Pakistan, the Pakistan-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) was held on Feb 13, proposing to further enhance trade, investment, banking, finance, culture, tourism, energy, defence and agriculture.

The writer is of the opinion that a well-planned and negotiated FTA can potentially increase bilateral trade from the current level of \$584 million to \$5 billion. It is proposed that Turkiye's non-tariff barriers and especially the liberal use of anti-dumping laws should be addressed in the FTA. The policy makers of Pakistan should consider signing a separate FTA for its manufacturing and IT sectors, opening Pakistan's domestic markets to Turkish imports. Thus revival of freight cargos, cluster trading under Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) and involvement of private sectors should be the economic mantra of both sides in which CPEC and Gwadar would play a constructive role.

Comparative studies reveal that the estimated 3,200 km land route from Gwadar to Istanbul via Baku will significantly reduce maritime reliance. The 6,500 km Middle Corridor will connect China to Europe, with Azerbaijan and Turkiye as key transit hubs. Declaring the "Year of the Lapis Lazuli Corridor," Azerbaijan is enhancing connectivity from Afghanistan to Europe via Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkiye—projected to reduce freight costs by 15% and cut cargo transit time from 35–40 days to 15–18 days. This trans-regional connectivity will also strengthen energy cooperation, with Azerbaijan's 1,000+ MW hydropower potential contributing to a regional grid including Pakistan. Meanwhile, Pakistan-Azerbaijan defense cooperation, particularly the induction of JF-17 Block-III, is reshaping South Caucasus dynamics. The convergence of CPEC, the Middle Corridor, and Lapis Lazuli routes marks a strategic integration linking the Belt and Road Initiative with the broader Eurasian corridor.

The writer submits that trilateral partnership should work together to further strengthen trade volumes, investments, joint ventures and industrialisation cooperation by improving trade and economic ties in the fields of textiles, garments, automobiles, IT, digitalisation, AI, hybrid agriculture, green energy, space and science, Islamic banking, higher education, joint defence production, health and tourism through rigorously implementing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and Free Trade Agreement (FTA). It is a bitter reality that the Indian lobby is gaining momentum in the South Caucasus region by providing arms supplies to Armenia consistently. So it is need of the hour that policy makers of all three countries must form a joint military production mechanism of producing 5th generation war fighter jet namely Kaan.

In summary, CPEC Phase-II flourishes plugging-in faulty lines of trans-regional connectivity by offering immense benefits of win-win cooperation in the diverse fields of economy, investment, joint ventures, qualitative industrialization, digitalization and AI and converging this potential with Middle Corridor and Lapis Lazuli creates a direct land bridge from South Asia to Europe in the days to come. Furthermore, CPEC is going to be connected with Afghanistan which would further brighten prospects of greater trans-regional connectivity via CPEC and Gwadar. The genie of global power politics badly disturbed international ports and their waters due to which Red, Black, Arabian and South China Seas have become new flashpoints highlighting strategic importance of CPEC, BRI and Gwadar for easy and smooth sailing of maritime economies in the region and beyond creating a direct land bridge from South Asia to Europe. Absolutely, this iron triangle will reduce dependence on unstable maritime routes and enhance regional trade resilience. Azerbaijan's strategic location as a transcontinental hub is central to the new Eurasian logistics network. Hence CPEC-Pakistan-Türkiye-Azerbaijan cooperation is necessary to achieve the desired goals of socio-economic integration, financial cooperation and investments. Azerbaijan's LNG exports to Pakistan signal the start of a new East-West energy corridor, while Pakistan's food surplus can help offset Azerbaijan and Türkiye's energy needs, enhancing mutual security. The alliance encourages multipolar regional cooperation, reducing Western dependence. Immediate collaboration in hydrogen, green technologies, lithium batteries, EVs, and joint hydropower is recommended to create win-win opportunities for both nations and their private sectors. Policymakers in the three countries should accelerate the renewable energy transition by strengthening cooperation, attracting private investment in storage and projects, and promoting green energy corridors. Advancing the development of climate-resilient urban ecosystems including green buildings and climate-smart agriculture practices, as well as by improving water efficiency and security, including through expanding private sector participation would further strengthen bilateral economic ties. Cooperation in infrastructure development in the newly liberated areas, smart living, metal & mining, hybrid agriculture, SMEs, IT, Start-ups, digitalization, e-commerce, banking and finance, science & space, textiles, automobiles, engineering and higher education should be started immediately.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-the-geostrategic-iron-triangle-pakistan-azerbaijan-and-turkiye1/>



## Could CPEC Become South Asia's Peace Corridor?

*Yasir Masood*

Often hailed by Chinese and Pakistani analysts as a “game-changer,” the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) gained fresh strategic significance recently with Beijing brokering a rapprochement between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

At a trilateral meeting in Beijing on May 21, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi and Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttaqi “agreed to deepen Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation and extend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan.” The meeting also saw Wang broker the first ambassadorial exchange between Kabul and Islamabad since 2021.

Economic initiatives are embedded in geopolitical realms, with CPEC a blueprint for stability in South Asia. This article examines why the May 2025 breakthrough matters amid hybrid-warfare threats, how peace fuels prosperity, whether CPEC's Afghan extension could work and how the corridor could reshape South Asia.

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest and resource-rich but marginalized province bordering Iran and Afghanistan, hosts Gwadar Port, the gateway to CPEC. As a potential trade hub linking Asia to global markets, it is also a flashpoint for rivalries that fuel regional instability.

Balochistan's \$1 trillion mineral wealth contrasts with the poverty and unemployment of its people and the poor healthcare and low school enrollment in the province. This has fueled unrest. Decades of inequitable extraction have deepened alienation, pushing some toward separatism. “Our access to the sea has been blocked,” Jamal Peer Bakhsh, a Baloch fisherman from Gwadar, revealed to this writer. Since the port and East Bay Expressway were built, fishermen have to make costly and longer trips into the sea. The government “has failed to create large-scale jobs under CPEC” to protect fishermen's rights, he said.

A Gwadar-based analyst told this writer that worsening security risks are already disrupting port operations, underscoring the stakes. Meanwhile, the India-Pakistan military faceoff between May 7 and 10 injected urgency into the need for a Pakistan-Afghanistan alignment to counter proxy threats. It was amid these intensifying security challenges that the breakthrough at Beijing came through.

In an article I wrote in a contemporary in 2019, I argued that stronger Pakistan-Afghanistan security ties could unlock CPEC's potential. Zardasht Shams, a former Afghan diplomat in Pakistan, pointed out that under Presidents Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani, Afghanistan, a historical trade crossroads, supported the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline and CASA-1000, a power transmission project bringing surplus hydroelectricity from Central Asia to South Asia. However, “regional insecurity and instability remained major obstacles.”

While the recent agreement to extend CPEC into Afghanistan is welcome, analysts are calling for caution. CPEC is a bilateral framework between China and Pakistan and its extension to Afghanistan, “has yet to be realized” under the Third-Party Participation framework, Dr Liaqat Ali Shah, executive director of Pakistan's Center of Excellence for CPEC, pointed out.

Afghanistan's inclusion can only be sustainable if the region receives investments in infrastructure, industry and socio-economic development, he said, adding that the country can't be used merely as a land bridge connecting South Asia with Central Asia.

"CPEC is currently restrained within a bilateral framework," Prof Ye Hailin, president of the Chinese Society of South Asia Studies in Beijing, said. "With Afghanistan's situation improving," the framework should include Afghanistan and expand into a regional cooperation arrangement."

The Afghan perspective underscores the stakes. The decision to extend CPEC to Afghanistan "is a very big and important step for Afghanistan, Pakistan and China," former Kabul Governor Ahmad Ullah Alizai said. However, he warned that "if this starts now, there will be a lot of security and political problems."

Despite these hurdles, regional connectivity is gaining traction. Gwadar links Central Asia to warm waters, but its potential, notes Islamabad strategist Hassan Daud Butt, "hinges on Afghanistan's inclusion in the Belt and Road." China is emerging as "not just the center of gravity, but the center of certainty," he said. Additionally, Operation Azm-i-Istehkam (Resolve for Stability), launched in June 2024 by the Pakistan military against the TTP, secured CPEC routes by mid-2025 despite lingering mistrust between security forces and local populations.

However, the promising progress faces significant obstacles. In my observation over the past decade covering CPEC and the Belt and Road, two main sabotage tactics have consistently emerged: the deliberate spread of disinformation to create uncertainty around CPEC's benefits and the use of terror networks and non-state actors in Balochistan and along the Afghan-Pakistan border to fuel instability and hinder development. This narrative is detailed in my earlier article "The CPEC Narrative." The aim is clear: to fuel unrest and keep CPEC in limbo.

Among those saboteurs, India is the most active state sponsor. India's proxy warfare in Balochistan, exposed by the 2016 capture of spy Kulbhushan Jadhav, fuels militant groups like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), a separatist militant group and globally listed terrorist outfit, through arms, disinformation and sabotage of Chinese infrastructure, evident in attacks such as the Jaffar Express ambush. Guided by the Ajit Doval Doctrine, India's blueprint uses consulates near Pakistan's border to destabilize CPEC, viewing it as a regional threat. By arming BLA factions and targeting Chinese projects, New Delhi aims to dismantle Pakistan's economy and negatively impact the Baloch conflict, as reflected in Indian narratives through typical media hybrid-warfare tactics. Chinese journalists, too, allege that India is supporting proxies in Balochistan to disrupt CPEC, another cog in the "China containment policy."

Proxy wars have worsened Pakistan's security. According to the Global Terrorism Index 2025, attacks rose 45% to 1,099 in 2024, making Pakistan the second most affected by terrorism in the world. BLA and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) carried out over 986 attacks, killing nearly 946 people. BLA recruits youth online, spreading anti-CPEC propaganda. TTP uses Afghan safe havens. The attack on Jaffar Express at the Bolan Pass in



March, which killed 21 people, exposed the role of India's intelligence agency, RAW, via Afghanistan. BLA attacks rose from 116 to 504 between 2023 and 2024, causing 388 deaths, while attacks by TTP increased from 293 to 482 and resulted in 558 fatalities in the same period, as reported by South Asian Terrorism Portal (SATP).

A Chinese media outlet reported in April 2025 that Pakistani security forces killed 50 militants with "Made in India" weapons.

External pressures worsen internal threats. Since 2001, India has invested over \$3 billion in Afghanistan, presented as aid but securing New Delhi a regional foothold and aimed at exploiting Pakistan's internal fissures. Islamabad fears Indian influence in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, fueling its sense of strategic encirclement and adding to domestic instability, which India denies.

CPEC now shapes regional strategy. The May 2025 breakthrough has enabled realignment, linking peace to prosperity and expanding CPEC into Afghanistan, offering Pakistan a chance to offset India's undermining efforts.

Yet CPEC faces targeted violence, hybrid warfare, local frustrations and external geopolitical interference. Success requires tangible progress: moving beyond statements, especially in Balochistan, securing routes, investing in communities and making local stakeholders. Only then can CPEC transcend headlines and deliver durable stability and cooperation in South Asia.

<https://pakobserver.net/could-cpec-become-south-asias-peace-corridor/>

### **The Express Tribune**

## **CPEC to CPAEC: aspiration to actualisation**

*Dr Raza Muhammad*

If Afghanistan joins CPEC, the entwined destinies of the peoples of Pakistan and Afghanistan could bring socioeconomic development, improve bilateral relations and usher peace and stability in the region. This was the focus of my PhD (2017-2021). Though it seemed unlikely then, but a few developments strengthened the hopes.

Firstly, on Sept 8, 2019, in a Pakistan-Afghanistan-China trilateral meeting, construction of Peshawar-Kabul motorway under the banner of China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Plus Cooperation (CAPPC) was agreed to. This aimed at jointly working towards promoting trade and connectivity. It was perceived as a move paving the way for Afghanistan joining CPEC.

Second was the signing of China-Iran comprehensive partnership MoU in 2020. Estimated at \$400 billion, and spread over 25 years, it encompassed development of Chabahar through which the Iran-Afghanistan-Central Asia transportation corridor is to be connected to the wider BRI project. It will help in modernising oil and gas sectors, establishment of industrial zones, military and technological cooperation, and supply of Iranian oil to China on cheaper rates.

The recent China-Afghanistan-Pakistan tripartite meeting held at Beijing has rekindled the hopes. Deputy PM Ishaq Dar says that China will help develop Peshawar-Kabul Corridor, and it now seems more likely that Afghanistan will join CPEC in its own best interest.

Once Afghanistan decides to join it, CPEC can be renamed as China-Pakistan-Afghanistan Economic Corridor (CPAEC). Whatever the name, the essence lies in joining hands for emancipation of the societies of member states and whole of Eurasia, through enhanced economic collaboration.

The BRI, Iran-Afghanistan-Central Asia-China Corridor and CPEAC would complement each other multiplying dividends resulting in job creation, poverty alleviation, women empowerment, environmental protection and improved regional peace and stability. About 94% respondents of the survey conducted for the dissertation agreed to the fact that increased interdependence through BRI-CPEC/CPAEC will engender socioeconomic development as well as peace and stability.

Hit by foreign military interventions and internal strife, Afghanistan needs a fast paced socioeconomic development. Quickest solution to this predicament lies in transit trade, followed by development of industrial zones along CPAEC to augment Afghanistan's economic progression. Significance of Pakistan as a conduit for trade by Afghanistan and Central Asia is undeniable. Afghanistan is also an essential channel in this connectivity. Its inclusion in BRI/CPEC will multiply benefits for whole of Eurasia. Professor Arshin Adib Moghadam of SOAS opines that addition of Turkey, Iran and India to BRI and CPEC would make it more advantageous. He believes, "India has a Eurasian DNA, its alliance with the west is unnatural, and it will come back one day." India stands to gain immensely for its trade by East-West connectivity through Pakistan; a truck crossing Torkham or Chaman could reach India within 24 hours. This article suggests complementing traditional statecraft with shared economic growth to optimise the potential of the resource-rich region through interdependence. One of the best examples is the formation of European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951. It was based on French Foreign Minister Schuman's idea that it would "make war not only unthinkable, but materially impossible". The ECSC really helped preclude conflicts in Europe, and laid the foundation of today's EU. Likewise, CPAEC offers requisite constituents to transform the Pakistan-Afghan relationship into a long-term mutually beneficial partnership.

The risks, apprehensions, irritants, opposition and attacks on CPEC/CPEAC by inimical forces are likely to persist. However, Afghanistan, China and Pakistan must not be deterred by these challenges.

Inclusivity of the masses in CPAEC projects is the best security guarantee for it. When bread and butter of employees will come from these, they will secure and defend it against attacks. Collective gains and losses are likely to bring the member states into an enduring bond of mutually beneficial coexistence.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2553856/cpec-to-cpaec-aspiration-to-actualisation>

## The Nation

### **Capital Keeps Flowing In China**

*Dr. Imran Khalid*

In a global economic environment that remains shaky and uneven, China's ability to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) is more than just a bright spot - it's a quiet vindication of long-term planning, policy stability, and a commitment to innovation-led growth. Contrary to Western narratives of economic decoupling or investor flight, the latest data paints a far more grounded picture: foreign capital is not just staying in China - it is doubling down.

The numbers are compelling. According to the Ministry of Commerce, foreign direct investment in China's high-tech sectors totaled 109.04 billion yuan (\$15.22 billion) between January and May 2025. Investment in e-commerce services surged a staggering 146 percent year-on-year, aerospace equipment manufacturing rose by 74.9 percent, and chemical pharmaceuticals saw a 59.2 percent uptick. These are not marginal gains; they signal a structural commitment by foreign firms to tap into China's evolving industrial ecosystem.

It's not hard to see why. China today is not merely a manufacturing hub - it is increasingly a laboratory for business model experimentation and technological advancement. From digital infrastructure to low-carbon industrial transitions, China is setting the pace for what the next generation of economic development looks like. And multinationals are embedding themselves deeper into this transformation.

The development of new quality, productive forces is accelerating the emergence of innovation-driven digital and green productivity. In this sense, foreign firms are not just beneficiaries of China's rise - they are co-creators of its future. The notion that China is somehow "closing off" or turning inward misses the mark. What we are witnessing instead is a reconfiguration: from low-cost production to high-value innovation, from simple exports to complex, symbiotic value chains.

The recalibration is not only in products, but in purpose. Many foreign companies now view their operations in China as critical nodes in their global strategy. As Nathan Stoner of Cummins emphasized, the goal is "not only to serve the Chinese market, but also to support Chinese automakers in their global expansion." Such partnerships underscore a quiet but profound shift: China is no longer just a destination - it is a springboard. Beyond the numbers and boardroom strategies, there is a broader story unfolding - one of renewed confidence in China's institutional and infrastructural resilience. Whether it's the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region's advanced logistics ecosystem, the growing network of free trade zones, or simply the massive consumer base that embraces digital transformation faster than anywhere else, China offers a business environment that rewards long-term vision.

This momentum goes beyond factories and laboratories, reaching into tourism, services, and cultural exchange. The new partnership between Air China, Air New Zealand, and Tourism New Zealand is emblematic of how people-to-people connections are bouncing back with economic consequences. Air New Zealand's \$700,000 investment in Chinese market

promotion and the expected 33 percent increase in premium seats on the Shanghai-Auckland route are signals of demand recovery and soft power resonance.

In geopolitical terms, this continued flow of capital and confidence into China is instructive. Despite strategic competition, tech restrictions, and trade uncertainties fueled largely by Washington and its allies, global business leaders continue to differentiate between political rhetoric and economic reality. For many, the question is not whether to invest in China, but how to do so more smartly.

Indeed, countries like the United Kingdom, South Korea, and Germany have seen their FDI into China rise 60.9 percent, 10.3 percent, and 7.1 percent, respectively, in the first five months of 2025. These are not economies with trivial stakes - they are core players in the high-tech and automotive sectors, and their renewed bets on China carry weight. The Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, in a mid-June report, noted that foreign enterprises are reshaping industrial chains and driving localized innovation. This is crucial because it signals not just transactional investment, but transformative integration. It's not only capital that is flowing into China - it is also trust in its long-term vision.

Of course, challenges remain. From demographic transitions to the complexities of decarbonization, China's road ahead is not without bumps. But if the current surge in FDI is any indication, global investors are voting with their wallets - and their presence. They are betting on China not out of sentiment, but out of strategy.

As the world wrestles with economic fragmentation and sluggish growth, China's continuing ability to attract and absorb foreign investment serves as a reminder: stability, innovation, and openness are not just slogans - they are tangible advantages. In this volatile decade, few nations offer all three at once. China does. And the world is paying attention.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/02-Jul-2025/capital-keeps-flowing-in-china>

**July 03, 2025**

**Business Recorder**

### **Preparations ordered for upcoming JCC meeting**

*Naveed Butt*

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal directed conveners of all Joint Working Groups (JWGs) to hold their internal meetings during July 2025 for preparation for the coming 14th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting between Pakistan and China next month (August).

The minister also encouraged JWGs to develop clear, actionable proposals regarding the potential extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan and to share them with the CPEC Secretariat at the earliest.

The 81st meeting to review progress on the CPEC projects was held in Islamabad under the chairmanship of Ahsan Iqbal. The session brought together key stakeholders to assess ongoing developments across sectors including infrastructure, power, petroleum, water resources, food and agriculture, and Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

During the meeting, the Karakoram Highway (KKH) project came under discussion, where it was shared that a Chinese technical delegation is expected to visit Pakistan shortly to review various aspects of the project, particularly its financial feasibility.

In preparation for the visit, the minister called for all concerned institutions to finalise the minutes of relevant working group meetings and ensure readiness ahead of the upcoming the JCC meeting.

The minister also emphasised the significance of the CPEC Review Meeting as a key decision-making platform for ensuring timely progress of projects. He underlined the importance of active participation from all relevant ministries and departments to maintain momentum and coordination under the broader CPEC framework.

The meeting also reviewed developments related to power supply for CPEC SEZs. The minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting industrial growth through reliable energy provision and highlighted the importance of resolving outstanding issues on a priority basis. He underscored the need for a coordinated strategy to expedite infrastructure development and ensure smooth power connectivity for zones such as Rashakai.

On the Riko Diq Copper Mine Project in Chaghi, the Ministry of Petroleum was requested to examine the broader regional potential of copper resources and evaluate the viability of establishing a smelting plant. The timely completion of feasibility studies was emphasized to maintain alignment with investment timelines.

The Ministry of National Food Security and Research informed the forum that agricultural equipment has been distributed to all provinces. The minister recommended gathering feedback and utilisation reports from provincial governments to ensure effective implementation.

Regarding Gwadar's 1.2 MGD desalination plant, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Gwadar Port Authority were requested to submit a comprehensive operational plan outlining key components such as water tariff structure, supply area mapping, and defined operational responsibilities. The minister also proposed organising an inauguration ceremony to mark the operationalisation of the plant, reinforcing the government's focus on improving basic services such as water and electricity in Gwadar.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Planning Awais Manzoor Sumra and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Communications, Economic Affairs Division, Power Division, Petroleum Division, Board of Investment, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Industries and Production, Gwadar Development Authority, and the CPEC Secretariat.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40370794/preparations-ordered-for-upcoming-jcc-meeting>



**July 04, 2025**

**Pakistan Observer**

## **China & global entrepreneurship**

*Yasir Habib Khan*

GIVEN an unpredictable ebb and flow in international economic landscape infested by incessant conflicts, wars and corporate globalization, China-driven global entrepreneurship is the sole headway holding promises for sustainable and equal market share for both struggling economies and rich economies without any prejudice. Conversely to corporate globalization that concentrates power among multinational corporations and financial institutions, leading to erosion of democracy, loss of national sovereignty, environmental degradation, and growing income inequality, China's entrepreneurial spirit runs deeper than just in business. It manifests itself in the government and in the desires of ordinary people. Even at World Economic Forum (Summer Davos 2025), what impressed the international players is Chinese entrepreneurial vibes that energize private economy in true letter and spirit. Reason lies in its buzzing investment flow, universality and flexibility to stay wide open to the world. China's entrepreneurial businesses (private market) currently account for over 60 per cent of national GDP, 70 per cent of technological advancements, and 80 per cent of urban employment. By the end of March 2025, more than 57 million private enterprises have been registered, making up over 92 per cent of all firms in the country. In order to remain attractive for local as well as global entrepreneurship, China has recently approved its first comprehensive law aimed at supporting and protecting the private sector. This law has been a long-awaited move that aims to revitalise private business activity amid ongoing domestic economic challenges in China, as well as its ongoing trade war with the United States. One of the defining characteristics of China's entrepreneurial boom is its focus on addressing contemporary challenges. From green technology and sustainable solutions to advancements in AI and digital platforms, Chinese startups are at the forefront of addressing global concerns. As Chinese enterprises continue to expand, they are not just looking inward but also making substantial progress on the global stage. The international rise of Chinese entrepreneurs is dispelling stereotypes about China's economic model being insular. Chinese global entrepreneurship defies law of jungle making a room for everyone to grow exponentially with tandem. Chinese premier Li Qiang in his address at the Opening Plenary of the Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2025, categorically supported entrepreneurship saying in the development of global economy and trade, entrepreneurs shoulder an important mission and play a critical role. Amid rising trade and geo-economic tensions, extreme weather events, social polarization and disruptive technological changes, the global outlook may seem more uncertain than ever. Yet it is in such turbulent times that entrepreneurship demonstrates its enduring value. Entrepreneurship often thrives in difficult times, prompting shifts in our worldviews and ways of working, creating opportunities for new businesses to emerge and for existing ones to evolve and build new capabilities. Two areas are especially critical for entrepreneurial action and new collaborative frameworks: addressing the climate emergency and shaping global technology governance. Vision and strategy must be anchored in values, ethics and purpose. As entrepreneurs leverage technologies such as artificial intelligence to

gain comparative advantages, they should pair innovation with irreplaceable human qualities: conscience, compassion and meaningful connections. Likewise, in addressing the climate crisis, unleashing growth and prosperity in the new era requires leaders to harness our collective capacity for creativity, collaboration and co-creating new methods of production and consumption that are better aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Chinese-styled entrepreneurship that stands the test of time is oriented toward serving humanity. Forward-thinking entrepreneurs recognize that long-term business viability depends on aligning profit with purpose — integrating commercial success with a commitment to the greater good. This approach is reflected in concrete actions: investing in employees, strengthening the customer and supplier relationship, and safeguarding the overall health of the environment and the broader ecosystem. These efforts create a virtuous cycle, where profits are used to improve the well-being of all. Entrepreneurs are already turning the climate emergency into a catalyst for industrial reinvention, pioneering business models that decarbonize economies while developing new value chains. In recent years, Chinese entrepreneurs have built a global industry in electric vehicles (EVs), significantly advancing the green energy transition and decarbonization efforts. In 2024, China produced more than 70 percent of the world's EVs, supported by nearly 13.75 million chargers. As a result, nearly half of all the cars sold in China last year were EVs. Globally, eco-entrepreneurial endeavours are integrating profit, people and the planet. A recent World Economic Forum study estimates that companies investing in adaptation to climate change, and decarbonization are seeing from \$2 to \$19 in avoided losses for every dollar spent. The completion of the 3,046-kilometer barrier encircling the Taklamakan Desert, the world's largest such project, has halted the expansion of desert and reduced sandstorms, while boosting local economies. Farmers now intercrop medicinal herbs under shelterbelts, and solar farms generate clean energy while enabling agricultural production below the panels. The initiative has supported agriculture and eco-tourism, and created jobs. True, technologies can aggravate global divides. But they can also be great equalizers. Digital education platforms are democratizing access to knowledge, breaking geographical and socioeconomic barriers. Online learning and AI-driven tools are empowering individuals in remote or underserved regions with good education and vocational training. Since technological progress must be guided by human ethics, some Chinese AI models are trained on diverse linguistic and cultural data, mitigating the risk of value deviations stemming from cultural differences in training data. Ethics also requires balancing efficiency with equity. Pioneering AI tools designed for hiring demonstrate this principle by ignoring demographic variables like age or location and instead focusing on skills and experience, preventing algorithmic bias and creating fairer opportunities. There is immense potential to tap into the entrepreneurial energy of the next generation for systems change. In Africa, about 80 percent of start-up founders are aged below 35, exemplifying the youths' entrepreneurial dynamism in addressing local challenges with global relevance. More than 2,000 years ago, entrepreneurs of the Silk Road transformed regional commerce into global exchange networks. Their ventures not only enabled unprecedented flows of goods, ideas and technologies, but also bridged cultures, advanced civilizations and created opportunities for human development and progress. <https://pakobserver.net/china-global-entrepreneurship/>

## **Agriculture emerging as a central pillar of China-Pakistan bilateral cooperation under CPEC: Shi Yuanqiang**

*Zubair Qureshi*

China has always maintained openness and worked with other countries to enhance agricultural technology, share agricultural product markets and development experiences.

This was said by Minister and Chargé d’Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Mr. Shi Yuanqiang while addressing the China-Pakistan High-Quality Agricultural Cooperation Development Forum Held in Islamabad here Thursday. Hosted by the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCPK), the forum aimed to strengthen agricultural industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan and promote agricultural modernization under the CPEC framework.

The forum featured opening remarks by Mr. Wang Huihua, President of CCCPK.

Key speeches were delivered by Minister and Chargé d’Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan Mr. Shi Yuanqiang and Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research of Pakistan, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry.

Head of Programme at FAO Pakistan, Mrs. Amina Bajwa also spoke on the occasion. Mr. Shi Yuanqiang while commending the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan and its Agricultural Branch for their meticulous efforts in hosting this event thanked all relevant Pakistani departments for their strong support.

He noted with satisfaction that over the past three years, nine new protocols for the Pakistani agricultural exports to China have been signed, supporting bilateral agricultural trade of over \$1 billion annually, with Pakistan continuously maintaining a trade surplus.

We witnessed Pakistan’s first exports of heat-treated beef, fresh cherries, and frozen buffalo embryos to China, he said.

Last February, the first batch of high-value-added buffalo dairy products arrived in China and by the end of June, 655 tons of them had been exported to China. In the first five months of this year, the agricultural trade volume between China and Pakistan reached US\$390 million, a year-on-year increase of 27pc.

Among them, sesame exports to China exceeded US\$50 million, a year-on-year increase of 33pc, becoming the largest single agricultural product of Pakistan exported to China, the DCM said.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, China has promoted high-level opening up to the outside world, and the integration of Chinese agriculture with the world’s agricultural development has been accelerated, said the DCM adding China’s foreign trade in agricultural products grows rapidly, with its structure continuously optimized.

China’s cooperation of agricultural science and technology with other countries also develops comprehensively, he said.

We have a lot close cooperation with FAO and other international organizations and the Chinese agricultural foreign aid is widely acclaimed, he said. The mechanism of agricultural cooperation has been improved, effectively serving the development of regional and world agriculture.

“As global food security and sustainable agricultural development are facing various challenges like climate change, resource scarcity, and regional conflicts, it is imperative for us to deepen international cooperation to promote agricultural development,” he said. China has always maintained openness and worked with other countries to enhance agricultural technology, share agricultural product markets and development experiences. high-level opening up to the outside world, and the integration of Chinese agriculture with the world’s agricultural development has been accelerated, he remarked.

While expressing the Pakistan government’s resolve for sustainable cooperation in agriculture, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry said the Ministry of National Food Security and Research remained committed to supporting all private sector stakeholders, whether Chinese or Pakistani. “We will work closely to address challenges, streamline regulations, and facilitate investments, because we believe that public-private partnerships are essential to modernizing agriculture and ensuring food security for the future,” he assured.

Pakistan and China, Ajmal said enjoyed a profound and time-tested relationship, strengthened by mutual trust, shared aspirations, and civilizational depth. Speaking on the occasion, Head of Programme at FAO Pakistan Mrs. Amina Bajwa said uch initiatives reflected our shared commitment to innovation, technology transfer, and sustainable farming systems. Importantly, they also demonstrate the power of cooperation—not just between governments, but between private enterprises, researchers, and local communities. Fauji Vertical’s Lt Gen Ali Amir Awan praised the achievements of China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation and expressed hope for its continued advancement.

<https://pakobserver.net/agriculture-emerging-as-a-central-pillar-of-china-pakistan-bilateral-cooperation-under-cpec-shi-yuanqiang/>

**July 05, 2025**

**Pakistan Observer**

### **Decoding CPC at 104: Vision, strategy and progress**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

THE Communist Party of China has entered into its 104th year vividly reflecting its strategic importance in terms of socio-economic stability, sustainability, social cohesion, political maturity and people’s friendly governance. Thus Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and President of China stated “To understand China today, one must first understand the CPC is absolutely right.— The CPC struggle starting from 1921 with only 13 initial members to 100.27 million in 2024 has been remarkable, full of vision, productivity, prosperity, progress through participatory people, business and ecology’s friendly policies, programs and projects at gross root involving the local communities in the country. The increase of 1.09 million members, 5.25 million

primary organizations, increased by 74000 clearly demonstrating immense popularity of the CPC among the different segments of the society. Moreover, inclusion of 52.6% of members from production & work, 54.4 % diplomas of junior college or above, 83.7 % of having 35 years, 31 million of female's members and last but not least, 7.7 % of ethnic minorities rightly highlighting political diversity, administrative functionality and immense institutionalization and positive channelization of multiculturalism and youth in the core of the CPC transforming its colors, wings and energies towards greater positivity and productivity. Truly it has become the oldest, biggest and most diversified political party in the world. It is loud and clear that the CPC has succeeded to forge a revolutionary path with Chinese characteristics; the CPC led the Chinese people in founding the New China in 1949, uniting a fragmented country into a unified and enterprising human engineering. Its promotion of standardization of the spoken and written Chinese language and land revolution ensured that the people truly held real power, integrating the country, nation and state into one unified identity, which remained people centric from the top to bottom. Thus the formation of land financialization provided China a strategic financial cushion gearing massive infrastructure development in the country. Its acceleration of agriculture, Industrial and services revolution built an integrated system further strengthening the state, market, society and of course civilization shattering the old Western liberal economic idea that government should act like a watchman, honest, silent, and preferably out of the way. Conversely, the CPC through massive infrastructure investments, nationwide nine-year compulsory education, and state-funded university programs, the government fostered talent, created demand, and built markets from scratch. Resultantly, China has become the world's largest manufacturing hub having a complete industrial system. Moreover, its mega projects namely the BRI and CPEC have become the biggest projects of development, connectivity, productivity and prosperity around the globe. It is absolutely true that the CPC is, at its core, a master of grand strategy: bold in vision, steadfast in purpose, and relentless in pursuit of its long-term blueprint. Its 15th Five-Year Plan is carrying forward the ongoing project of Chinese modernization through serving the people wholeheartedly" not as a slogan, but as a relay race that never ends, each runner passing the baton without pause. It is a good omen that unlike Western parties, which often compete and dispute over vested interests, commonly splitting into factions, protecting their own vested interests the CPC claims and maintains no private interests of its own showing a unique political model free from any personal gain, achievement and hidden agenda. Thus it has a new type of political entity, one woven into China's unique civilizational fabric. Obviously CPC has a holistic and comprehensive governance philosophy, strategy, and practice offering the world the concept of global shared prosperity promoting development, justice and rule of the law and further disseminating true essence of democracy mainly delivery, trust, respect, social justice, protection of basic human rights and last but not least provision of basic necessities of life without any discrimination, racism, hatred and bigotry. It has established a new model of governance, policy, advocacy and national narrative full of efficiency, continuity, positivity and peaceful persuasion. It is indeed the first political party in the modern history of human civilization and political taught which introduced and implemented the concept of good governance, social responsibility, human resource development, organizational behavior theory, long term socio-economic planning, financial transparency, strategic communication



skills, social entrepreneurship, women empowerment, community development, systematic soft imaging and national narrative through gross-rooted and consultative democracy in the country. Evidently, the CPC maintains a consistent strategic vision allowing stable planning horizons and effective mobilization of national resources due to which it has achieved the biggest ratio of poverty eradication and social transformation in modern history. Hence massive infrastructure development and technological innovation has been achieved through sustained efforts over decades. Under the personal leadership and planning of President Xi, China's decisive battle against extreme poverty has completed with unprecedented intensity, scale and results by setting long-term goals and consistently implementing, mobilizing resources across the country to achieve national objectives; ensure coordination across different levels of government and economic sectors; and maintain policy direction regardless of various challenges. In summary, CPC has introduced and implemented the concept of "people-centeredness" acting as a methodological support for the entire governance system. Socialism and social economics have been driving forces of the CPC revolutionizing people's lives and promoting community development. To conclude, the CPC and its leadership always expresses the interests of the whole society, while Western parties, entering into competition, inevitably articulate the interests of individual classes, regions, or lobbies. Thus, the CPC presents its model as more holistic and development-oriented, while the Western system, based on competitive multi-party politics, is now faced with deepening polarization and institutional blockages. The writer predicts a stable and prosperous China under the CPC gradually shifting from high-speed to high-quality economic growth: greater modernization self-reliance, a greener industrial mix, and a more balanced income structure in the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/decoding-cpc-at-104-vision-strategy-and-progress/>

### **Jang News**

**ایک سرحد 3 دشمن، چین نے پاکستان کو لائیو معلومات دیں، بروقت اسلحہ نہ ملا، انڈین ڈپٹی آرمی چیف**

نئی دہلی ( جنگ نیوز) بھارتی فوج کے نائب سربراہ لیفٹیننٹ جنرل رابول سنگھ نے دعویٰ کیا ہے کہ چین نے مئی میں بھارت کے ساتھ مہلک جنگ کے دوران پاکستان کو بھارتی فوجی ٹھکانوں کے بارے میں "براہ راست معلومات" فراہم کیں۔ بھارت کو اپنی فضائی دفاعی نظام میں فوری بہتری کی ضرورت ہے۔ رابول سنگھ نے نئی دہلی میں ایک دفاعی صنعتی تقریب کے دوران کہا کہ بھارت نے اس تنازع میں دو دشمنوں کا سامنا کیا؛ پاکستان سامنے تھا جبکہ چین نے "ہر ممکن تعاون" فراہم کیا۔ سنگھ کے مطابق ترکی نے بھی پاکستان کو نمایاں مدد فراہم کی، جس میں بائراکٹار ڈرونز اور "کئی دیگر" ڈرونز کے ساتھ ساتھ تربیت یافتہ افراد بھی شامل تھے۔ انقرہ جو اسلام آباد کا قریبی اتحادی ہے، نے اس تنازع کے دوران پاکستان سے یکجہتی کا اظہار کیا تھا، جس پر بھارت میں ترک مصنوعات اور سیاحت کا بائیکاٹ دیکھنے میں آیا۔ ترک وزارت دفاع نے فوری طور پر اس پر تبصرہ نہیں کیا۔ جب ڈی جی ایم او (ڈائریکٹر جنرل ملٹری آپریشنز) سطح پر بات چیت جاری تھی، پاکستان نے کہا کہ ہمیں معلوم ہے کہ آپ کا فلاں اہم ٹھکانا ایکشن کے لیے تیار ہے۔ انہیں یہ معلومات چین سے براہ راست مل رہی تھیں۔ تاہم رابول سنگھ نے یہ وضاحت نہیں کی کہ بھارت کو کیسے پتا چلا کہ چین پاکستان کو لائیو ان پٹس دے رہا تھا۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ و دفاع اور پاکستانی فوج کے تعلقات عامہ کے ادارے نے فوری طور پر غیر ملکی خبر رساں ایجنسی کے سوالات کا جواب نہیں دیا۔ بھارت اور چین کے تعلقات 2020 میں سرحدی جھڑپ کے بعد کشیدہ ہو گئے تھے، تاہم اکتوبر میں ایک معاہدے کے بعد کچھ بہتری آئی ہے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/922484>

**July 06, 2025**

**Pakistan Observer**

**China's story, told through Pakistani eyes**

*Sultan M. Hali*

LAST month, sixteen Pakistani influencers—spanning academia, media, think tanks and Generation Z leaders—were invited to China under the “Pakistan Media and Think Tank China Tour,” sponsored by the State Council Information Office.

This diverse delegation, ranging from septuagenarians to vicenarians, toured Beijing, Chongqing, Kashgar and Urumqi over twelve days. A diplomat from the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad accompanied the group, along with four officials from the host office and two interpreters.

The tour kicked off in Beijing at the Huaneng Clean Energy Research Institute (CERI), a flagship R&D hub of China Huaneng Group. Founded in 2010, CERI is at the forefront of developing advanced clean energy technologies to support China's carbon neutrality goals and global climate commitments. Its work spans: Carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS); Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC); Renewable energy systems (solar, wind, hydro); Clean coal innovations and low-grade fuel optimization; Smart energy system design. CERI exemplifies how state-driven innovation aligns with both domestic demands and international environmental diplomacy, offering scalable models to developing nations.

The second stop was the Media & Think Tank Symposium hosted by China International Communications Group (CICG)—a multilingual media conglomerate founded in 1949 under the Central Propaganda Department of the Communist Party. CICG's mission is to “tell China's story well” by: Promoting Chinese culture, governance and development narratives; Publishing in 40+ languages distributed to 180+ countries; Shaping international perceptions through soft power and strategic storytelling.

The exchange between delegates and Chinese counterparts was both candid and insightful, continuing into the evening over a formal banquet. Since this scribe has been visiting China since 1974 and over the span of fifty-one years, been a witness to China's development and authored seven books on China, the hosts were very keen to learn of my views and narratives. The group also visited China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), one of the world's largest engineering and infrastructure enterprises. As a flagship implementer of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CCCC specializes in highways, bridges, ports and urban transit systems. Its mission is to “build a better-connected world” by: Designing large-scale infrastructure; Investing in logistics and transport networks; Promoting sustainable cities and smart development; Advancing China's global engagement through infrastructure diplomacy.

One of CCCC's most significant contributions to Pakistan is its involvement in the Karakoram Highway (KKH). Originally constructed between 1966 and 1978 by CCCC's predecessor, the Foreign Aid Office of China's Ministry of Transport and Pakistan's Frontier Works Organization (FWO), KKH—dubbed the “Eighth Wonder of the World”—runs over 1,224 kilometres from Kashgar to Thakot. In recent decades, CCCC has modernized key

segments of the KKH, including: The Attabad realignment, featuring five tunnels totalling 7 km; The Hevellian–Thakot Expressway, a 118 km, high-speed section; Bypasses and slope reinforcements in areas affected by the Dasu Dam project. The formation of Attabad Lake has a special significance for this scribe, who, in his TV talk show *Defence & Diplomacy* on 4 January 2019, was the first to report the landslide that created Attabad Lake, which forced the realignment. The modernized KKH now includes safety features to withstand landslides and floods, ensuring year-round connectivity. Beyond the KKH, CCCC's involvement in CPEC includes: Gwadar Port expansion, enabling access to the Arabian Sea; Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV); South China Commodity Exhibition Centre in Gwadar; A 300MW coal-fired power plant using advanced supercritical technology. These ventures highlight how engineering excellence blends with diplomacy to drive economic transformation and regional integration. Another highlight was a visit to the BJEV STELATO Ultimate Factory, a BAIC (Beijing Automotive Industry Holding Co., Ltd.) subsidiary, which globally markets the Stelato, S9 luxury EV model. This cutting-edge electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing facility epitomizes China's ambition in intelligent, eco-friendly and automated production. Its defining features include: Near-100% automation in stamping and assembly; AI-powered quality control centres; Flexible production lines calibrated by Huawei's ADS 3.0 autonomous driving system; A design standard that meets the "black light factory" model, capable of operating in complete darkness. In a world-first, the factory deployed "Walker S1", a "humanoid robot" developed by UBTECH, programmed for: Visual inspection of auto parts with 99% accuracy; 3D reconstruction and zero-shot part detection; Collaboration with Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs) for seamless logistics; Swarm intelligence, enabling coordinated decision-making across robotic systems. This revolutionary leap from semi-flexible to fully intelligent manufacturing reflects China's rapid convergence of AI, robotics and EV mobility. The delegation was also introduced to the factory's Xiangjie S9, a premium EV sedan with a high-end digital cockpit and autonomous driving capability. Guests enjoyed a ride in the vehicle, offering a tangible sense of how smart technology is transforming mobility. No visit to China would be complete without honouring its cultural grandeur. Delegates toured the Badaling section of the Great Wall, marvelling at its scale and historical significance. This awe-inspiring feat of ancient engineering—once visible from the Moon—remains a testament to the spirit of perseverance and ingenuity. The first leg of the "Pakistan Media and Think Tank China Tour" provided not only a dynamic insight into China's industrial and technological ascent but also a platform for shared perspectives and deepened understanding. Each visit—from clean energy innovation and infrastructure diplomacy to media engagement and intelligent manufacturing—offered a nuanced reflection of China's evolving soft power strategy.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-story-told-through-pakistani-eyes/>

**July 07, 2025**

**Pakistan Observer**

**Pakistani films ‘Deemak, ‘Nayab’ shine at SCO Film Festival 2025 in China**

Pakistan’s film industry earned international acclaim at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Film Festival 2025, as two Pakistani films, Deemak and Nayab, received top honors at the prestigious event held in Yangzhou, China.

The five-day festival concluded with Deemak winning the Best Editing Award, while Nayab secured the Special Jury Award, marking a significant moment for Pakistani cinema on the global stage.

Director Rafiq Rashdi and actress Sonya Hussyn accepted the Best Editing award on behalf of Deemak while Nayab’s director Umair Nasir Ali and lead actor Usama Khan received the Special Jury Award.

A high-profile Pakistani delegation attended the festival, comprising Shehzad Rafique, Chairman of the Pakistan Film Producers Association and jury member; prominent film distributor Nadeem Mandviwalla; Irfan Malik; Minister of State for Education Wajiha Qamar; Director General DEMP Samina Farzeen; Manzoor Ali from the Pakistani Embassy in China; Nayab’s producer Romina Umair; Nauman Khan; and actor Usama Khan.

Deemak stars renowned actors Faisal Qureshi, Sonya Hussyn, and Samina Peerzada in lead roles, while Nayab features Yumna Zaidi and Usama Khan.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-films-deemak-nayab-shine-at-sco-film-festival-2025-in-china/>

**July 08, 2025**

**The Nation**

**China says Sino-Pak defence coop doesn’t target any third party**

BEIJING - China has once again said that the defence and security cooperation between Beijing and Islamabad does not target any third party.

“China and Pakistan are close neighbours enjoying traditional friendship. Defence and security cooperation is part of the normal cooperation between the two countries and does not target any third party”, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said on Monday.

She was asked to comment on the remarks from India that China was providing support to Pakistan during the recent India-Pakistan conflict, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro.

“I am not familiar with the specifics you mentioned,” Mao Ning responded. She emphasized that India and Pakistan are and will always be each other’s neighbours, and they are important neighbours of China as well.

“Over the past weeks and months, China has closely followed the developments between India and Pakistan, actively promoted talks for peace, and worked to maintain regional peace and stability,” she stated.

“China welcomes and supports India and Pakistan in properly settling differences and seeking fundamental solutions through dialogue and consultation. China stands ready to continue playing a constructive role for this end,” Mao Ning noted.

Further, in response to the Indian reporter’s claims that China was closely helping Pakistan at the cost of India, Mao Ning reaffirmed that the China-Pakistan relations do not target any third party, which is China’s policy, and China supports India and Pakistan in properly addressing differences through dialogue and consultation and jointly keeping the region peaceful and stable.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-07-08/page-1/detail-0>

**July 09, 2025**

### **Business Recorder**

#### **Chinese envoy meets Mandviwalla**

KARACHI: Shi Yuanqiang, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, called on Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chief Whip of the Senate, at his office in Senate.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation, and regional developments were discussed. Both sides reaffirmed the strong and time-tested friendship between Pakistan and China, emphasizing continued collaboration.

Senator Mandviwalla appreciated China’s consistent support to Pakistan and underscored the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in further strengthening bilateral relations.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40371720/chinese-envoy-meets-mandviwalla>

#### **China air chief praises performance of PAF**

*Nuzhat Nazar*

ISLAMABAD: The Chief of Staff of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF), Lieutenant General Wang Gang, has praised the Pakistan Air Force (PAF)’s exemplary performance during the recent conflict with India, calling it a “textbook example of precision, discipline, and courage” in the face of unprovoked aggression.

The remarks came during a high-level meeting at Air Headquarters Islamabad, where General Wang led a Chinese defence delegation and called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force.

General Wang commended PAF’s cutting-edge capabilities and its seamless integration of Multi-Domain Operations, highlighting China’s keen interest in learning from PAF’s battle-proven experience. He also paid tribute to the strategic foresight and professional acumen of the PAF leadership.



The two sides discussed regional security dynamics, mutual interests, and avenues for enhanced bilateral cooperation, particularly in airpower and operational synergy. The Air Chief reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening strategic and technological cooperation with China.

During the meeting, the visiting delegation was briefed on PAF's evolving force structure, operational doctrine, and strategic initiatives. Air Chief Marshal Sidhu reiterated the historic and time-tested nature of Pakistan-China ties, rooted in mutual trust and shared aspirations for regional peace and stability.

The engagement reaffirmed the two countries' resolve to deepen their defence partnership through collaboration, innovation, and mutual learning.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40371761/china-air-chief-praises-performance-of-paf>

### **Dialouge among civilization: Tarar arrives in Beijing to attend ministerial conference**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar arrived in Beijing to attend the high-level Ministerial Conference on Dialogue Among Civilisations, where he will deliver a keynote address on the theme "Civilisation Exchange and Mutual Learning: Cultural Heritage and Innovation." The two-day forum, taking place on July 10–11, is being organised by the Publicity and International Departments of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee in collaboration with China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is part of President Xi Jinping's Global Civilization Initiative, which aims at promoting mutual respect and deeper understanding among world cultures. Minister Tarar's participation underscores Pakistan's commitment to fostering dialogue and cooperation among civilizations in the fields of culture, media, and innovation. During his visit, Minister Tarar is also scheduled to meet with Cao Shou Min, Deputy Head of the CPC Central Committee's Publicity Department and Party Secretary and Minister of China's National Radio and Television Administration. The meeting will focus on strengthening Pakistan-China media cooperation, exploring opportunities for cultural exchange, and enhancing mutual understanding between the two nations. Highlighting the importance of intercultural dialogue, Minister Tarar stated, "Dialogue among civilisations is the foundation of global harmony, peace, and development. Pakistan will continue to play its active role in this vital process." He added that growing media and cultural collaboration between Pakistan and China is bringing the people of both countries closer and strengthening bilateral ties. Calling the event a unique opportunity to foster mutual respect and learning across global civilisations, the minister emphasised that such initiatives reflect the shared vision of the leadership and people of Pakistan and China.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40371921/dialogue-among-civilisations-tarar-arrives-in-beijing-to-attend-ministerial-conference>

### Daily Times

#### **China and Pakistan join forces to modernize agriculture under CPEC**

China and Pakistan have renewed their pledge to strengthen agricultural cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The announcement came during a high-level forum held in Islamabad. The event focused on boosting food security, sharing agricultural technology, and expanding trade through long-term partnerships. Officials stressed the need for sustainable practices to meet growing food demands. Chinese Chargé d’Affaires Shi Yuanqiang said Pakistan’s agriculture has huge potential. He praised the progress made by local farmers through recent joint ventures. Shi also highlighted stronger ties in science and research between both countries. He assured that China would continue sharing its advanced agricultural methods and tools with Pakistan. According to him, joint working groups have already opened new doors in trade and investment. CCCPK President Wang Huihua reaffirmed the Chamber’s full support for future cooperation. He said that shared goals, innovation, and mutual respect are key to success. He also urged both countries to stay focused on unity and smart planning. Other speakers, including FAO’s Amina Bajwa and Federal Secretary Ch. Waseem Ajmal, highlighted agriculture’s central role in Pakistan’s economy. They noted the sector’s 20% share in GDP and its importance for job creation and poverty reduction. Speakers pointed out that climate change and rising food needs have made modernization urgent. They said CPEC’s agricultural wing now acts as a strategic pillar of growth. They also called for more green practices, value chain expansion, and joint solutions for long-term food security. The forum offered strong hope for future China-Pakistan collaboration in sustainable farming. The event also included five expert talks on topics like chili farming, hybrid canola, buffalo breeding, storage upgrades, and finance. A publication was launched highlighting key success stories from joint efforts. Several new agreements were signed, covering livestock tools, canola production, oil-feed links, and dairy farming. The forum brought together officials, companies, and researchers from both nations to build a strong future in agriculture.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1328627/china-and-pakistan-join-forces-to-modernize-agriculture-under-cpec/>

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CCCPK President Wang Huihua reaffirmed the Chamber's full support for future cooperation. He said that shared goals, innovation, and mutual respect are key to success. He also urged both countries to stay focused on unity and smart planning. Other speakers, including FAO's Amina Bajwa and Federal Secretary Ch. Waseem Ajmal, highlighted agriculture's central role in Pakistan's economy. They noted the sector's 20% share in GDP and its importance for job creation and poverty reduction.

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<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1328627/china-and-pakistan-join-forces-to-modernize-agriculture-under-cpec/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **CPEC-BRI and the Turkic States: Strategic Synergy Ahead**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

The rapidly evolving geopolitical and geostrategic landscape has heightened the importance of CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), positioning them as key drivers of socio-economic integration and trans-regional connectivity.

These initiatives offer a stabilizing framework amid rising uncertainties in the Middle East, the potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz, growing instability in the Arabian Sea, NATO's eastward expansion in the Black Sea, US-led encirclement of China in the Asia-Pacific, the strategic race for port control in Latin America and India's hegemonic ambitions in South Asia. As a result, the global contest over economic corridors has intensified.

Obviously, the CPEC and the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) have immense potential for financial integration, infrastructure development, trade, investment, joint venture and cooperation in qualitative industrialization. Hence both have potential for collaboration which should be tapped in the days to come providing an alternative route in Eurasia and beyond through Gwadar and Karachi dry port and keen interest of all the Central Asian countries mainly Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in Gwadar and moreover invitation to Türkiye in CPEC projects vividly reflecting bright prospects of amalgamation of both in the days to come.

Evidently, CPEC emphasizes infrastructure development and economic cooperation between China and Pakistan, while the OTS promotes cooperation among Turkic states across various sectors. It seems that there is potential for synergy in areas like transportation, maritime

cooperation, energy & food and trade, particularly as both initiatives involve countries in Central Asia.

Similarly, the BRI aims to establish six main economic corridors. One of these corridors is China Central Asia West Asia Economic Corridor (CCWAEC), which begins in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and spans 17 West Asian nations, including Iran, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye and five Central Asian nations, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan promoting cooperation between the BRI and OTS further diversifying China's trans-regional connectivity and strategic partnership options.

Additionally, the Central Asian Turkic States hold a strategic position for the BRI which has now entered into its second decade. Interestingly, the OTS which was founded in 2019 concurrently with the emergence of the multipolar world, is composed of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Türkiye as members and Turkmenistan, Hungary and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as observer members. Under BRI, transportation and energy corridors will run across Turkic states in this region consolidating partnership with OTS which is a good omen for both.

Undoubtedly, BRI stands for international cooperation and economic globalization while the OTS is regarded as a significant geostrategic and geopolitical platform. It is predicted that the OTS and its members' potential collaboration and partnerships with other nations as active participants in BRI will bring about major changes in the international scene.

On the other hand, the increasing cooperation among Turkic states is a strategic regional response to intensifying great power competition and shifting geopolitical dynamics in Eurasia. Moreover, Pakistan's foreign policy supports bilateral and trilateral cooperation and diplomatic ties with all Central Asian countries along with Türkiye which will create a matching box of CPEC-BRI and the OTS.

According to many published reports the OTS is approximately one-fourth the size of Russia and half the size of China, accounting for around three percent of the world's total land mass highlighting its geographical importance which may be used for further strengthening of trans-regional connectivity and regional cooperation using CPEC-BRI utility in the days to come. The organization also focused on strengthening transport and energy connectivity, particularly along the Trans-Caspian East-West Corridor and fostered cooperation in areas like trade, investment, green and digital transformation.

In Q1 2025, the aggregate economic output of OTS countries reached approximately USD 593.8 billion, representing 2.1% of global GDP, with a stable average growth rate of 5.04%—more than double the global average of 2.3%—highlighting the region's vast economic potential. This momentum could be further enhanced through strategic collaboration with CPEC-BRI. Additionally, total trade turnover amounted to USD 369.3 billion, accounting for 4.4% of global trade, underscoring the bloc's rising trade competitiveness. Key sectors include energy, logistics, manufacturing and agro-exports, where countries like Türkiye, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan play pivotal roles as transit hubs and export corridors within the evolving Eurasian landscape.

Ironically, Kyrgyzstan achieved an extraordinary 13.1% year on year expansion, fueled by a surge in agricultural output and rising global demand for raw materials. Close behind were Northern Cyprus (6.4%), Uzbekistan (6.8%) and Turkmenistan (6.3%), all supported by strong public investment, resource sector growth and increasing foreign direct investment transforming their economies and communities towards greater prosperity and progress.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan led OTS growth through structural reforms, major infrastructure projects, and improved regulations, attracting foreign investment in energy, transport, and manufacturing. Kazakhstan saw 5.6% Q1 growth—its best since 2012—driven by oil and infrastructure. With OTS growth outpacing the global 2.3% average, the region's economic dynamism and Eurasian relevance continue to rise.

Türkiye, backed by investor confidence and regional integration, highlights the Turkic region's growing appeal for productive capital, contingent on fiscal and regulatory stability. Meanwhile, green and digital transitions gain traction, with Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan leading Q1 2025. Azerbaijan's COP29-backed Caspian-Black Sea Green Energy Corridor aims to export renewables to Europe using solar, wind and hydrogen resources.

In summary, the write suggests that OTS policymakers should promote trans-regional connectivity with CPEC-BRI to eliminate Trump-era trade wars and shield their societies from Cold War mentalities and potential military misadventures. The global power shift from West to East positions Türkiye—geo-strategically located at the center—as key to regional realignments. As a bridge between Asia and Europe, Türkiye and the OTS are vital to BRI's success. Türkiye's potential BRICS membership and SCO Dialogue Partner status—alongside Russia, China, Iran, and others—underscore its growing geopolitical weight. Its deepening ties with Russia and expanding BRI cooperation with China reinforce this. Meanwhile, the U.S. is re-engaging in Central Asia to secure rare earth resources and counter Russia-China influence, which should alert the OTS. Severing China-Europe ties remains central to U.S. policy, making BRI a target. Still, CPEC-BRI-OTS synergy promises a win-win in connectivity, industrial growth, energy and food security, socio-economic integration, trade, investment, and joint ventures.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-bri-and-the-turkic-states-strategic-synergy-ahead/>

**July 10, 2025**

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Pakistan, China agree to enhance media ties to combat fake news**

Pakistan and China have agreed to strengthen ties and launch joint broadcasting projects to effectively tackle fake news and disinformation.

This agreement was reached during a meeting between Pakistan's Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Deputy Head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee and Party Secretary of the National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA) of China Minister Cao Shumin.



Both sides agreed that strengthening media, cultural, and people-to-people relations would introduce new dimensions to the longstanding Pakistan-China friendship, reported Radio Pakistan on Thursday.

The two leaders discussed enhancing technical training and institutional collaboration, with an emphasis on developing a unified narrative to counter the spread of fake news.

They also talked about the potential agreement between China Central Television (CCTV) and Pakistan Television (PTV) to promote the exchange of information and foster cooperation between the two broadcasters.

Tarar expressed Pakistan's readiness to translate this bilateral media cooperation into practical steps.

He highlighted the crucial role of state-run PTV, Radio Pakistan, and the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) in communicating Chinese development projects, including the Belt and Road Initiative and CPEC, as well as cultural ties among the people of both countries.

He also pointed out that PTV is strengthening cultural and intellectual bonds by airing Chinese programmes, documentaries and news reports in Urdu.

APP's China's News Service, Tarar said, is successfully conveying Pakistan's narrative to Chinese readers.

Both leaders agreed that the media organisations of both nations are crucial in bridging the gap between the two peoples and promoting societal understanding and mutual harmony.

They identified further opportunities for collaboration in media and culture, which could be advanced through institutional mechanisms.

The discussions also included exchange visits for digital influencers from both countries. Tarar noted that in the digital age, such exchanges could inject new energy into bilateral relations.

Similarly, Cao Shumin reaffirmed China's trust in Pakistan as a reliable partner and expressed her belief that closer media ties would enhance collaboration.

These efforts will be further developed under a joint strategy.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2555141/pakistan-china-agree-to-enhance-media-ties-to-combat-fake-news>

### **The Nation**

#### **Pakistan launches Panda Bond roadshow in China**

Pakistan has launched a non-deal roadshow in Beijing from July 7 to 11, 2025, to promote its upcoming debut Panda Bond issuance, marking a strategic move to diversify funding sources and attract Chinese investment.

Led by the Ministry of Finance, the roadshow aims to engage Chinese investors, financial institutions, and market stakeholders ahead of the formal bond launch expected later this

year. The sessions focus on Pakistan's macroeconomic outlook, debt restructuring efforts, and the structure of the proposed Panda Bond.

Economic advisor Khurram Shehzad said the roadshow includes technical meetings with underwriters, credit rating agencies, legal advisors, and potential guarantors. The bond is expected to raise between \$200 million and \$300 million and will be settled in Chinese yuan.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb confirmed that the issuance is being supported by international development partners, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which may provide credit guarantees to enhance investor confidence.

The Panda Bond initiative is part of Pakistan's broader financial strategy to reduce reliance on U.S. dollar-denominated debt and integrate more deeply into Chinese capital markets. It also supports the government's goal of achieving a single 'B' credit rating.

Aurangzeb urged the Chinese private sector and exporters to consider relocating manufacturing units to Pakistan, highlighting the country's ambition to become a regional export hub. This move aligns with the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which prioritizes development in special economic zones, agriculture, and information technology.

The government is also implementing security upgrades to protect foreign investors and companies operating in Pakistan, reinforcing its commitment to creating a stable and investor-friendly environment.

The Panda Bond roadshow has received strong initial interest from Chinese investors, reflecting growing confidence in Pakistan's economic reforms and its emerging presence in international capital markets.

Separately, the Government of Pakistan has formally approved the "Virtual Assets Act, 2025," following endorsements from the Federal Cabinet, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and President Asif Ali Zardari. The act establishes a regulatory authority to oversee the virtual assets sector, ensuring Shariah compliance and paving the way for a regulated digital financial ecosystem.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/10-Jul-2025/pakistan-launches-panda-bond-roadshow-in-china>

**July 11, 2025**

**Daily Times**

### **Pakistan, China to strengthen media ties against misinformation spread**

BEIJING – July 10, 2025: Pakistan and China have agreed to boost their cooperation in tackling the spread of fake news and misinformation through joint media initiatives. The agreement was reached during a high-level meeting in Beijing between Pakistan's Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Cao Shumin, Vice Minister of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China and head of China's National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA). According to Radio Pakistan, both sides stressed the importance of creating a joint narrative to counter disinformation, enhance technical training, and strengthen institutional collaboration. They also emphasized that the

growing media partnership reflects deep mutual trust and a long-standing friendship between the two countries. The meeting included discussions on a proposed agreement to promote information exchange and collaboration between China's state-run CCTV and Pakistan Television (PTV). Minister Tarar affirmed Pakistan's commitment to transforming this media cooperation into practical actions, highlighting the roles of PTV, Radio Pakistan, and Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) in broadcasting stories about China's development, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and broader cultural and bilateral ties.

He noted that PTV is already airing Chinese programs, documentaries, and news content in Urdu to help build a cultural and intellectual bridge between the two nations. He also praised APP's "China News Service", which has played a key role in delivering Pakistan's narrative effectively to Chinese audiences.

Referring to recent Pakistan-India tensions, Tarar highlighted how young people in China and Pakistan expressed solidarity on social media, which became viral and underscored the depth of people-to-people connections. The two sides also discussed mutual exchange visits of digital influencers and content creators, which Tarar said could inject "new energy" into bilateral ties in today's digital age.

Chinese Vice Minister Cao Shumin reaffirmed that China sees Pakistan as a trusted partner. She said that both countries' media outlets can come even closer through shared experiences, training, and dialogue. The two nations agreed that cooperation in media, culture, and people-to-people exchanges can unlock new dimensions in their historic friendship—and that these efforts will now be supported through a joint communication strategy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1332946/pakistan-china-to-strengthen-media-ties-against-misinformation-spread/>

### **Pakistani expert honored with Orchid Award in China**

Zafar Ud-Din Mahmood, a prominent Pakistani national has been awarded the prestigious Orchid Award in Beijing on July 10, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to strengthening Pakistan-China friendship and people-to-people ties.

The award, conferred by the Chinese government, honors individuals who have made exceptional efforts in fostering mutual understanding, cultural exchange, and cooperation with China, China Economic Net reported on Thursday.

Zafar Ud-Din Mahmood, Special Assistant to the Former Prime Minister of Pakistan and founder of "Understanding China," received the honor with deep gratitude. "I thank you for this award," he said, "and I assure you that I will continue working to promote further understanding and friendship between the two countries."

Mahmood has long played a pivotal role in bridging Pakistan and China across media, education, culture, and economic development.

He has actively promoted China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on global platforms and helped bring visibility to grassroots cooperation projects.

Chinese officials at the ceremony praised him as a “true friend of China,” citing his contributions to cultural harmony and public diplomacy.

The Orchid Award not only recognizes individual achievement but also symbolizes China’s broader commitment to peaceful development and mutual respect-principles that underpin the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

Mahmood noted that the recognition reflects the growing importance of people-to-people diplomacy in strengthening bilateral relations and the enduring warmth between the people of Pakistan and China.

Fluent in Chinese, Mahmood has been working to advance China-Pakistan friendship for over 50 years, making him a living bridge between the two nations.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1333266/pakistani-expert-honored-with-orchid-award-in-china/>

### **Pakistan steps into China’s market with first-ever panda bond push**

ISLAMABAD/BEIJING — Pakistan has launched a five-day investor roadshow in Beijing as it prepares to issue its first-ever Panda Bond — a renminbi-denominated bond aimed at Chinese investors. The roadshow, running from July 7 to 11, reflects Islamabad’s push to tap into China’s vast onshore capital markets.

Led by representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the non-deal roadshow (NDR) is focused on engaging potential investors, underwriters, rating agencies, and legal and financial advisors. These meetings are designed to build interest and ensure the smooth structuring of the upcoming bond transaction.

According to Khurram Schehzad, advisor to the finance minister, discussions have centered on Pakistan’s economic reforms, debt management progress, and the proposed bond structure. Regulatory procedures, credit risk guarantees, and investor appetite were also key topics. Early feedback suggests strong preliminary interest from Chinese financial institutions.

The Ministry of Finance stated the roadshow highlights Pakistan’s commitment to diversifying funding sources and strengthening investor confidence through transparent engagement. The inaugural Panda Bond is expected to be around \$300 million, with an initial issuance of approximately \$200 million, as confirmed by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Officials noted that multilateral development partners are expected to support the bond with credit guarantees, which would help reduce risk and attract institutional buyers. This strategic move marks a significant step in Pakistan’s financial diplomacy, aiming to broaden its investor base and reduce overdependence on traditional, dollar-denominated borrowing.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1332504/pakistan-steps-into-chinas-market-with-first-ever-panda-bond-push/>

## **The Nation**

### **Pakistani conferred award in China for promoting bilateral friendship**

ISLAMABAD - A prominent Pakistani national, Zafar Ud-Din Mahmood, has been awarded the prestigious Orchid Award in Beijing on Thursday, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to strengthening Pakistan-China friendship and people-to-people ties.

The award, conferred by the Chinese government, honours individuals who have made exceptional efforts in fostering mutual understanding, cultural exchange, and cooperation with China, China Economic Net reported on Thursday.

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<https://www.nation.com.pk/11-Jul-2025/pakistani-conferred-award-in-china-for-promoting-bilateral-friendship>

**July 12, 2025**

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **Secrets of China’s macro-economy success (2021-25)**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

CHINESE macro-economy remained resilient inching towards massive green transition, qualitative industrialization, modernization and massive opening-up during 2021-2025 in which immaculate planning of the 14th Five Year Plan period played an important part.



Ultimately its economic increment is projected to exceed 35 trillion yuan (US\$4.89 trillion). Thus it has complete industrial supply chains. Additionally, over the first four years of the period, the national economy expanded at an average annual growth rate of 5.5 percent surpassing all the regional as well as global economies showing its capacity to overcome all internal and external shocks in terms of the pandemic and trade bullying, unilateral sanctions and tariffs. Hence, China's growth is an unprecedented achievement given its vast economic scale.

China's heavy investment in R&D surged nearly 50 percent or 1.2 trillion vividly reflecting its great economic dynamism during 2020-2025. Moreover, a phenomenal increase in the information of private enterprises surpassing 58 million at the end of May 2025, over 40 percent higher than 2020 clearly demonstrates the rise of the private sector mitigating western false and fake propaganda of SOE orientation of its economy. Consequently, the last five years should be termed as a period of pioneering progress, transformative breakthroughs and historic achievements. Ultimately, China has become the most stable, reliable, diversified, modern and dynamic force in global development achieving wonders in the spheres of economy, society and system.

It augurs well that its economy is contributing about 30pc annually to global economic growth. The steady economic performance has also translated into tangible livelihood improvements. Urban job creation stood at more than 12 million each year, reflecting the populous country's stable labour market reducing socio-economic disparity and, of course, ratios of poverty in the country. It bodes well that during the last five-year China marked a leap forward in ecological transformation, with more efficient energy utilization and a better natural environment achieving the desired targets of energy efficacy and productivity. Additionally, China has fulfilled its green promises and shouldered the responsibility of a major country. From 2021 to 2024, energy consumption per unit of GDP fell 11.6 percent, cutting carbon emissions by around 1.1 billion tonnes, nearly half the European Union's total emissions in 2024.

Furthermore, as a global leader in renewable energy, China's installed renewable energy capacity reached 2.09 billion kilowatts by May 2025, more than doubling that in 2020. One in three kilowatt-hour of electricity nationwide is now from green sources. Remarkably, the adoption of green lifestyles has surged, with new energy vehicle ownership soaring to 31.4 million in 2024, up significantly from 4.92 million in 2020. Thus the next five-year period from 2026 to 2030 will be critical for achieving China's 2030 target to peak carbon emissions. The writer suggests that the policy makers of China should integrate their efforts and implement more pragmatic policy measures to promote the green transition in economic and social development and accelerate the modernization of harmony between humanity and nature.

Despite all western political hype and media propaganda, the foreign direct investment into China totaled 4.7 trillion Yuan from 2021 through May 2025. Foreign-invested enterprises now account for one-third of China's imports and exports, one-quarter of its industrial output and one-seventh of its tax revenue, while creating more than 30 million jobs. By reducing its negative list for foreign investment since 2021 through lifting all restrictions on foreign

access to the manufacturing sector has become a major instrument in the development of agriculture and services. Moreover, pilot initiatives in healthcare and value-added telecommunications have opened new opportunities for foreign businesses. It seems that China's policies on attracting and utilizing foreign investment are consistently easing market access and expanding openness in an orderly way, ensuring foreign companies have equal access to policy benefits, from public procurement to standard-setting. Therefore, it predicts that China will remain and continue to be an ideal, safe and promising destination for global investors.

In summary, it seems that China's economy will remain steady, stable and sustainable in the second quarter because of its long term structural reforms, business, investment and people's friendly policy measures and industrial transformation and upgradation. The stable economic pattern during January-June 2025 despite fluctuations in some individual months amid rising external pressure this year vividly reflecting its relatively strong resilience. Obviously, integrated policy support, further export diversification and the accelerated development of new quality productive forces further stimulate its economy. Policies aimed at expanding and upgrading consumption have helped rapidly unleash the consumer market and contributed to stable economic growth gearing the economy achieving the desired goal of 5pc.

The writer suggests that the policy makers of China should adopt a holistic and comprehensive roadmap to prioritize a steadfast yet steady" strategy. It fears that China's export growth may face some pressure amid fading front-loaded shipments and unresolved trade & tariff war; however, stepped-up macro-policies are expected to provide effective support for domestic demand. The writer appreciates that six government departments including the People's Bank of China on June 24 unveiled guidelines on ramping up financial support to effectively boost consumption. It proposed 19 key measures covering six aspects, including supporting the enhancement of consumption capacity, expanding financial supply in the consumption sector and tapping residents' consumption potential will definitely further develop its economy and its associated sub-sectors.

Last but not least, China's manufacturing industry is being further modernized and diversified moving up the value chain. Unfortunately, the current direction of the global industrial chain restructuring remains unclear. Obviously China's manufacturing industry will continue to extend. Activation of the Chinese enterprises expanding overseas and pursuing higher added value and deep integration into global industrial chains will be a great stimulator for economic globalization and international cooperation in the days to come. China's socialist economy will be a forefront disseminating hope of greater socio-economic prosperity and trans-regional connectivity for the Global South and rest of the world.

<https://pakobserver.net/secrets-of-chinas-macro-economy-success-2021-25/>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **Discovering harmony and prosperity in Xinjiang**

*Muhammad Zamir Assadi*

AS a Pakistani media professional with a deep-rooted belief in the power of cross-cultural understanding and regional development, my recent journey to China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region was more than just a reporting assignment—it was a profound and enriching experience.

From the ultra-modern skyline of Urumqi to the tranquil, culturally rich landscapes of Kuqa, I encountered a region that exemplifies harmony between tradition and transformation, faith and freedom, past and progress.

The first thing that struck me upon arriving in Xinjiang was an unexpected feeling of familiarity. Despite being miles away from home, the streets of Urumqi evoked a comforting sense of connection. The air was filled with the mouthwatering aroma of sizzling kebabs, freshly baked naan from traditional tandors and the welcoming smiles of locals offering tea—a ritual both our cultures hold dear. Uyghur cuisine, rich in bold spices and hearty flavors, mirrors many elements of Pakistani food, with dishes like polo, hand-pulled noodles and roasted lamb evoking memories of family meals back home—reflecting the deep cultural ties between our peoples. Urumqi, Xinjiang's vibrant capital, further impressed me with its wide, tree-lined boulevards, gleaming skyscrapers and modern urban planning—an embodiment of China's pursuit of high-quality development in a city that feels both efficient and welcoming.

A highlight of my tour was a visit to the iconic Urumqi Grand Bazaar. Far more than a marketplace, the bazaar serves as a global cultural melting pot, echoing Xinjiang's historic role as a crossroads of civilizations on the ancient Silk Road. There, I met traders from across Central Asia, the Middle East and beyond. The stalls brimmed with colorful silk scarves, intricately designed carpets, handmade jewelry and a dazzling array of dry fruits and spices.

In the courtyard, I was fortunate to witness a traditional Uyghur dance performance. Dancers in vibrant costumes moved gracefully to the rhythm of ancient melodies. Their joyful expressions and synchronized steps conveyed not just entertainment but a profound pride in their heritage. It was a moving demonstration of how cultural identity in Xinjiang is not only preserved—but actively celebrated. During my visit, I made it a point to engage with the local Muslim community and explore the religious landscape of the region. I prayed at several mosques, including the majestic Grand Mosque of Urumqi. Each was clean, well-maintained and filled with devout worshippers preparing for Eid-ul-Adha, which was approaching at the time.

Contrary to narratives often circulated in some Western media, I witnessed a thriving Islamic life. Conversations with local Muslims revealed a sense of peace, belonging and freedom to worship. China's policy of protecting religious freedom was clearly visible—and genuinely lived. Xinjiang is not just a region of traditional stories—it is also a land of remarkable transformation. As I travelled through the vast countryside, I encountered expansive wind

farms harnessing natural resources to generate clean, renewable energy. These initiatives underscore China's serious commitment to green development.

I also visited agricultural demonstration zones where cutting-edge irrigation systems, greenhouse farming and digital monitoring tools were in action. These innovations are helping farmers sustainably boost yields, transforming Xinjiang into a model of smart agriculture. One of the most impressive sectors I explored was the cotton industry. At a state-of-the-art processing facility, I met skilled workers—many trained through government-supported vocational programs. They spoke proudly of their work, the stability it brought to their lives and the opportunities they now had to build a better future for themselves and their families. A particularly touching moment was meeting young people who had graduated from vocational training centers. These individuals had acquired skills in IT, culinary arts, textile manufacturing and automotive repair. Many had started small businesses or gained employment in respected fields. These centers are more than schools—they are engines of empowerment and hope. Further west, the city of Kuqa offered a captivating glimpse into Xinjiang's diverse historical tapestry. I visited the Kizil Caves, a network of ancient Buddhist grottoes adorned with intricate murals dating back centuries. The preservation work here is outstanding, highlighting China's respect for its multi-ethnic, multi-religious heritage. Kuqa's museums offer a panoramic view of the region's history, from ancient Silk Road artifacts to exhibits celebrating the contributions of various ethnicities.

Xinjiang's natural beauty is equally compelling. At the Tianshan Grand Canyon, I was awestruck by towering red cliffs, winding trails and panoramic vistas that rival any natural wonder in the world. Well-maintained tourist facilities, smooth highways and friendly guides made the experience even more enjoyable. I met tourists not only from across China but also from countries around the world. Their shared sentiment was clear: Xinjiang offers an unforgettable blend of nature, culture and hospitality. From a geopolitical and economic lens, Xinjiang's role is indispensable. It serves as the launchpad of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a cornerstone of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It is also a key node in the China-Europe freight train route connecting East Asia with Central Asia and Europe.

With rapidly expanding infrastructure, logistics hubs and industrial parks, Xinjiang is fast becoming a modern-day Silk Road, facilitating trade, travel and cultural exchange on an unprecedented scale. My journey to Xinjiang was transformative. As a Pakistani, I saw in its people a shared spirit rooted in family, faith, food and friendship. But I also witnessed a region boldly stepping into the future, guided by principles of innovation, inclusivity and sustainable development. Xinjiang is not the place of division that some portray it to be. It is a land where cultures coexist, religions flourish and communities rise together. It is thriving—and it is shining.

<https://pakobserver.net/discovering-harmony-and-prosperity-in-xinjiang/>

## The Nation

### **Pak-China cultural collaboration reaches new heights: Tarar**

ISLAMABAD/BEIJING - Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Friday hailed Pakistan-China relations as more than just a strategic alliance, calling it a friendship rooted in shared mountains, rivers, and centuries of cultural exchange, and reaffirmed China as Pakistan's "iron brother"—a term symbolizing deep trust, historical unity, and enduring cooperation between the two nations. "It is an honour to speak in a country we proudly call our iron brother—a bond strengthened not only by shared borders, but by majestic mountains, flowing rivers, and a rich, intertwined history. Among these connections is the mighty Indus River, whose roots trace back to the lands of China, symbolizing the natural and historical unity between our nations," Tarar said.

Speaking at the "Civilization Exchange and Mutual Learning" event, centered on the theme of Cultural Heritage and Innovation, Tarar underscored the strengthening ties between Pakistan and China as a catalyst for safeguarding Pakistan's vibrant cultural legacy. He highlighted how this deepening collaboration not only preserves the past but also paves new avenues for influence, friendship, and global unity. Tarar envisioned a future where shared heritage becomes a bridge between nations—transforming even water, once a source of contention, into a symbol of peace and mutual understanding. He conveyed deep gratitude for President Xi Jinping's visionary leadership in launching the Global Civilization Initiative.

He emphasized that the initiative fosters a meaningful platform for cross-cultural understanding and promotes peaceful coexistence among nations. Minister Tarar emphasized Pakistan's deepening partnership with China as a powerful example of enduring cultural and civilizational harmony. He highlighted the shared historical ties—from the Gandhara civilization and Mohenjo-daro to the ancient Silk Route—now reborn as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a vibrant symbol of connectivity, collaboration, and mutual respect.

Tarar emphasized Pakistan's unwavering dedication to digitizing its cultural heritage—encompassing the historic legacies of Gandhara, Mohenjo-daro, and Taxila—not solely as a preservation effort, but as a transformative platform for the nation's youth.

He underscored that this initiative invites fresh interpretation and innovation, ensuring ancient traditions continue to inspire future generations. "Our civilizations live on in the words of our Sufi poets, in the hands of our artisans, and in the dreams of our youth," he remarked. Tarar also reflected on his personal journey, which began 16 years ago as part of a people-to-people exchange program with China. "Today, as a policymaker, I see how these exchanges have helped us not only share culture—but shape policy that empowers future generations," he said.

Minister Tarar underscored Pakistan's ambitious national drive to digitize its cultural heritage—an effort aimed not only at preserving the nation's rich legacy, but also at empowering the youth to reinterpret and reimagine these traditions for a sustainable future. "Our civilizations continue to thrive through the verses of our poets, the craftsmanship of our artisans, and now—through the lens of digital archives," he remarked. He further highlighted



active collaborations in digital media, including joint film productions and people-to-people exchange initiatives with China, emphasizing their vital role in fostering mutual understanding and promoting tourism, culture, and shared history.

Minister Tarar highlighted Pakistan's transition toward digitizing its cultural archives and national heritage, noting an existing state TV collaboration with China and progress in joint documentary and film productions. He emphasized the growing influence of digital media as a vital tool for promoting tourism, culture, history, and cuisine—stating that the future of Pakistan-China ties lies in strengthening connections through shared digital storytelling. Minister Tarar emphasized that Pakistan's partnership with China has played a transformative role in empowering youth through robust people-to-people exchange programs such as “Hi China, Hi Pakistan.”

With cultural publications released in both Chinese and English, and a strong focus on digitizing and preserving national heritage, Tarar highlighted that these efforts are helping build a future rooted in peace—where even water becomes a tool for cooperation rather than conflict. *Hua Shang Weekly* published in both English and Chinese is helping bridge Pakistan-China relations.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Jul-2025/pak-china-cultural-collaboration-reaches-new-heights-tarar>

**July 13, 2025**

**Pakistan Observer**

### **Skyline meets tradition, Chongqing's grand revival**

*Sultan M. Hali*

THIS article is a continuation of a series of Op-eds based on my recent visit to China with a group of academics and media persons.

The previous article: ‘China's story, told through Pakistani eyes’ covered the tour of Beijing. In 2010, to mark the 60th anniversary of Sino-Pakistani diplomatic ties, a media delegation visited China for the first time. Chongqing being a centerpiece of the itinerary—left a lasting impression with its soaring skyscrapers, dramatic riverscapes where the Yangtze, Jialing and Wujiang Rivers converge and awe-inspiring scenery like the Three Gorges, Dazu Rock Carvings, Wulong Karst Landscape and Jinfo Mountain—featuring in UNESCO's heritage listings.

Returning 15 years later revealed a city astonishingly transformed. Beyond its scenic allure, Chongqing had redefined its skyline, revitalized heritage sites and emerged as a national epicenter of advanced manufacturing. Now boasting the world's largest output of laptops and major production in vehicles and mobile phones across all 31 manufacturing sectors, the city is shaping a modern industrial ecosystem centered on intelligent New Energy Vehicles, next-gen IT and advanced materials. Services in software tech and logistics further anchor its transformation.

Strategically located at the crossroads of the Modern Silk Road, the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, Chongqing connects inland China to global markets. Its logistics network is unrivaled: eastward shipping routes link it to the coasts, Africa and the Americas; the land-sea corridor reaches 556 ports across 127 countries; westward trains run to Europe; and air routes via Jiangbei International Airport span 41 international destinations, ranking it among China's top aviation hubs with four runways.

Today, Chongqing champions open development, streamlined business practices and foreign investment—drawing 322 Fortune Global 500 firms to its landscape. Among the highlights of our visit was Chongqing Zaisheng Technology Co., Ltd., a key player in microfiber glass wool, filtration and insulation materials. Catering to sectors from aviation and rail to clean energy, the firm epitomizes Chongqing's cutting-edge industrial ambitions. At the Eco Smart Gallery in Danzishi, along the riverbanks, we immersed ourselves in Chongqing's urban evolution. This futuristic “city reception room” melds 5G tech, green design and immersive visuals to narrate the city's past, present and future.

Cultural threads came alive at the Bayu Folk Custom Museum, nestled near Jiangbei Airport. From Qing Dynasty wood carvings to recreations of traditional Bayu weddings, the site offered a vibrant window into the region's folk heritage. Western China International Communication Organization (WCICO)—with a mission to position Chongqing as a national and global media hub—spearheads international dialogue across public opinion, science and cultural exchange—its platforms including iChongqing and the Bridging News App lead English-language publicity efforts in the region. A brilliant manifestation of Belt and Road connectivity awaited at the International Logistics Hub Exhibition Center in Golden Bay • Intelligent Valley. Spread across 2.7 hectares and themed around eight developmental pillars, the center showcased Chongqing's rise as a gateway city, deftly balancing urban growth with logistics infrastructure.

A nostalgic visit to Ciqikou Ancient Town brought back memories of this porcelain-era riverside settlement from the Ming and Qing dynasties. Strolling its alleys, framed by stilted homes and temple courtyards, one could feel old Chongqing breathing through the architecture, flavors and friendly warmth—especially around a shared hotpot dinner. The journey continued to Fuling District, rich in culture and industry. Famed sites like Project 816 and Baiheliang pair with a vibrant modern economy—Fuling hosts China's largest shale gas field and the Chongqing Fuling Zhacai Group, China's leading pickled vegetable industry. The Baiheliang Underwater Museum—our most unexpected marvel—lies 40 meters beneath the Yangtze River. The site preserves 165 inscriptions carved over 1,200 years, chronicling water levels since the Tang Dynasty. Protected in a no-pressure container and open to public view without diving, the museum stands as a symbol of innovative heritage conservation and has earned UNESCO acclaim.

In Jiulongpo District, with its 1.54 million residents and dynamic economy anchored by Chinalco Advanced Manufacturing, Qingling Motors and new energy sectors, we discovered yet another face of Chongqing's industrial depth. Its 2024 GDP reached RMB 206 billion, with tourism adding vibrancy through sites like Chongqing Zoo. Before leaving for Kashgar, we toured the Minzhucun Community—a neighborhood born in the 1950s and reborn

through participatory renewal. The model emphasizes co-creation and livability, aligning with priorities affirmed by President Xi Jinping's 2024 visit, which underscored public well-being as core to modernization.

History resonated throughout our final leg. Chongqing, wartime capital during WWII and the Second Sino-Japanese War, served as the bastion of resistance after Nanjing's fall. It hosted monumental negotiations in 1945 when Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai engaged Chiang Kai-shek to avert civil war. The Red Rock Village Revolutionary Memorial Hall preserves that legacy. A deeply moving moment arrived when a 92-year-old retired engineer, who had met Mao and Zhou, greeted us with heartfelt emotion. Seeing Pakistanis, he embraced us and raised the enduring cry: "China & Pakistan are 'Batie'—iron brothers."

Fittingly, our final stop was Liziba Station—Chongqing's surreal transit marvel where a monorail cuts through the 6th to 8th floors of a residential building. Rather than demolish the structure, city planners integrated the station into daily life. Today, it symbolizes urban ingenuity, attracting tourists who marvel at this seamless fusion of function and flair.

Note: Subsequent articles will cover this scribe's impressions of Kashgar and Urumqi, delving into the local cultures, regional development and frontier innovation.

<https://pakobserver.net/skyline-meets-tradition-chongqings-grand-revival/>

**July 14, 2025**

**Business Recorder**

### **Dar to attend SCO's CFMs in China today**

*Naveed Siddiqui*

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Ishaq Dar will lead Pakistan delegation to the meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)'s Council of Foreign Ministers (CFMs) being held on July 14-16, 2025 in Tianjin (China).

The DPM will participate in SCO CFM at the invitation of Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi.

According to the Foreign Office statement, Foreign Ministers of all SCO member States, including Pakistan, China, Belarus, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will participate in the CFM meeting. Foreign Minister of Belarus will attend the CFM for the first time as member of SCO.

The CFM is the third highest forum in the SCO format. It focuses on the issues of international relations, as well as foreign and security policies of SCO.

The forum approves the documents, including declaration and statements, etc that are to be presented for the consideration of the Council of Heads of State (CHS) as well as the decisions to be adopted by the CHS.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40372727/moc-unveils-ntp-to-narrow-trade-deficit>

## Daily Times

### **Sino-Pak defence cooperation not directed at any third party: China**

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning on Monday said that China and Pakistan are traditional friendly neighbors, and defense and security cooperation is part of the normal cooperation between the two countries and is not directed against any third party. India and Pakistan are neighbors that cannot be moved away, and they are also important neighbors of China, she said during her regular briefing held here. Mao Ning said that for some time, China has been closely following the development of the situation between India and Pakistan, actively promoting peace and dialogue, and maintaining regional peace and stability. “We welcome and support India and Pakistan in properly handling differences through dialogue and consultation and seeking fundamental solutions,” she added. The spokesperson said that China is also willing to continue to play a constructive role in this regard. About China-India relations, she said that ties between the two countries are at a critical stage of improvement and development. “We are willing to work with India to push China-India relations forward along a healthy and stable track,” she added. In response to a question that China supported Pakistan during India-Pakistan recent military conflict, she said that different people may have different judgments and interpretations. “But what I told you is the policy of the Chinese government, that is, China-Pakistan relations are not directed against any third party,” she added. As for India-Pakistan relations, we support both sides to properly handle differences through dialogue and consultation and jointly maintain regional peace and stability, she said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1331271/sino-pak-defence-cooperation-not-directed-at-any-third-party-china/>

### **Pakistan and China explore broadening media collaboration**

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar met with Cao Shumin, Deputy Head of the CPC Publicity Department and Minister of National Radio and Television Administration of China (NRTA) China, to explore broadening cooperation through joint productions, combating disinformation, launching training initiatives, and fostering cultural exchange.

Both leaders characterized the media partnership as a testament to mutual trust and a deep-rooted friendship.

Speaking on the occasion, Attaullah Tarar stated that Pakistan has much to learn from China’s experience in media and communication.

He praised China’s expertise in digital media, public service broadcasting, and cultural content promotion as truly commendable.

Pakistan and China have agreed to expand cooperation and joint broadcasting projects between their state media organizations. This initiative aims to more effectively counter fake news and disinformation.

Both leaders also endorsed a unified stance against fake news, along with plans for technical training and institutional collaboration.

The meeting further featured discussions on a proposed agreement between China Central Television (CCTV) and Pakistan Television (PTV) to promote information exchange and strengthen media cooperation.

Discussions during the meeting also touched on facilitating exchange visits of digital influencers from Pakistan and China to strengthen cultural ties and mutual engagement.

Attaullah Tarar stated that under the agreement, both institutions will enhance cooperation in news coverage, documentary production, training resources, and technical support.

Attaullah Tarar noted that during the recent tensions between Pakistan and India, youth from China and Pakistan demonstrated strong solidarity, a sentiment that gained widespread attention across social media platforms.

Attaullah Tarar remarked that in today's digital age, the exchange of influencers and social media representatives from both countries can bring renewed vitality to bilateral relations.

He affirmed Pakistan's commitment to turning mutual media cooperation into concrete actions. Tarar emphasized that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) serves as a cornerstone for a promising future between the two nations. Attaullah Tarar said that Pakistan Television, Radio Pakistan, and the national news agency APP are instrumental in highlighting China's development, the Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC, cultural ties, and mutual cooperation to the people of both Pakistan and China. He noted that Pakistan Television (PTV) is fostering intellectual and cultural ties between the two nations by broadcasting Chinese programs, documentaries, and news reports in Urdu. Likewise, APP's China News Service has made notable strides in delivering Pakistan's narrative to Chinese readers effectively. Federal Minister for Information stated that media organizations in both countries are playing a key role in fostering closer ties between the people of China and Pakistan, promoting social understanding, and enhancing mutual harmony. He added that further opportunities for collaboration in media and culture exist and can be pursued through active institutional frameworks. Ms Cao Shumin highlighted China's recognition of Pakistan as a trusted partner, noting that media organizations from both nations can deepen their collaboration by sharing experiences. She further emphasized that greater cooperation in media and technology will be mutually advantageous. Discussions during the meeting also focused on shaping a joint narrative around civilizational exchange and innovation between Pakistan and China. Both sides agreed that media, culture, and public relations hold the potential to deepen the bilateral relationship, with future efforts to be advanced through a coordinated strategy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1333374/pakistan-and-china-explore-broadening-media-collaboration/>



## **Dawn News**

### **Pakistan, China to launch joint training programs**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have agreed to launch joint training programmes in multiple fields, including construction engineering, artificial intelligence, agriculture and hospitality management, under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Additionally, steps have been initiated to establish mutual recognition mechanisms for skills and vocational certifications with Saudi Arabia and Oman.

The development reportedly took place during the official visit of National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (Navttc) Chairperson Gulmina Bilal Ahmad to China from July 6 to 12th, says a press release.

Disclosing the outcomes of the visit during a detailed briefing held at NAVTTC Headquarters, Ms Ahmad stated that the visit was undertaken to promote bilateral cooperation in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) between Pakistan and China.

The initiative was carried out under the special instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan and Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

The visit was conducted under the platform of the China-Pakistan TVET-Industrial Centre of Excellence (CPTICE) — the only official bilateral forum for collaboration between industry and education.

During the visit, the Pakistani delegation held consultations at the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, where discussions took place on implementing TVET-related provisions of the China-Pakistan Joint Statement.

Gulmina Bilal Ahmed further said the delegation also visited TANG International Education Group, the Chinese Secretariat of CPTICE, where a working meeting was co-chaired with Li Jinsong, the China Side Chairperson of CPTICE.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1924072/pakistan-china-to-launch-joint-training-programmes>

## **The Express Tribune**

### **PM to visit China next month**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is set to lead a high-powered delegation to China next month in a visit focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation and reviewing regional developments, including the May conflict between India and Pakistan.

According to officials familiar with the development, the prime minister will be accompanied by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. The visit is likely to take place in August, with exact dates currently being finalised through diplomatic channels.

The upcoming trip by Pakistan's top civil and military leadership carries added significance in the wake of the four-day military conflict with India during which Pakistan gained the upper

hand, with its Air Force shooting down six Indian fighter jets, including the French-made Rafale.

The conflict drew attention to China's military hardware, with several Western capitals closely monitoring the developments in South Asia. Chinese-made J-10C fighter jets and beyond-visual-range PL-15 missiles played a critical role.

However, it was Pakistan's indigenous systems integration that made the Chinese hardware even lethal.

During a recent visit to Pakistan, the chief of the Chinese Air Force expressed a keen interest in learning from Pakistan's combat experience and multi-domain operations.

In a related development, the Indian Deputy Chief of Army Staff recently claimed that India was engaged in a two-front conflict, while pointing out Chinese involvement in Pakistan's military success.

Pakistan procures 80 per cent of its military hardware from China.

However, the Pakistan army chief at a recent Corps Commanders' meeting clarified that the May conflict was "unmistakably bilateral".

When asked about the Indian general's claim, a senior Chinese official reportedly laughed off the assertion. The official reaffirmed that while Pakistan and China enjoy long-standing defence cooperation, Beijing has no desire to see conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. He noted that China consistently encourages both countries to resolve disputes through dialogue. Meanwhile, ahead of the prime minister's scheduled visit, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is expected to travel to Beijing this week.

According to a Foreign Office statement, Dar will lead the Pakistani delegation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting, taking place from July 14 to 16 in Tianjin, China. The visit comes at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Foreign ministers from all SCO member states, including Pakistan, China, Belarus, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, will participate in the CFM. Belarus will attend for the first time as a full member.

The CFM is the third-highest decision-making body within the SCO framework. It deliberates on issues related to international relations and the foreign and security policies of member states. The council also finalises key documents, declarations and decisions that are later considered by the Council of Heads of State (CHS). The next CHS meeting is scheduled for August 31 to September 1, 2025, in Tianjin. During his trip, Dar is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts on the sidelines of the CFM session.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2555801/pm-to-visit-china-next-month>

### **Pakistan, China to launch joint training**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have agreed to launch joint training programmes in multiple fields including construction engineering, artificial intelligence, agriculture and hospitality management under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Furthermore, steps have been initiated for establishing mutual recognition mechanisms for skills and vocational certifications with Saudi Arabia and Oman.

The milestone was achieved during a high-level visit to China by Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, Chairperson of the NAVTTC and Pakistan Side Chairperson of CPTICE from July 6-12, said a statement.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2555765/pakistan-china-to-launch-joint-training>

### **The Nation**

### **Pakistan, China to launch joint training programmes in multiple fields under second phase of CPEC**

Several MoUs, working plans, and cooperation agreements signed to operationalise TVET collaboration between Pakistan, China.

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China have agreed to launch joint training programmes in multiple fields including construction engineering, artificial intelligence, agriculture, and hospitality management under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Furthermore, steps have been initiated for establishing mutual recognition mechanisms for skills and vocational certifications with Saudi Arabia and Oman.

This significant development took place during the official visit of Ms Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, Chairperson of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) and Pakistan Side Chairperson of the China-Pakistan TVET-Industrial Center of Excellence (CPTICE), to China from 6th to 12th July 2025.

Disclosing the outcomes of the visit in a detailed briefing held at NAVTTC Headquarters, Ms Gulmina Bilal Ahmad stated that the visit was undertaken to promote bilateral cooperation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) between Pakistan and China. The initiative was carried out under the special instructions of Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, and Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

The visit was conducted under the platform of China-Pakistan TVET-Industrial Center of Excellence (CPTICE)—the only official bilateral forum for collaboration between industry and education. Its main objective was to prepare a skilled workforce for the second phase of CPEC and equip Pakistani youth with globally competitive technical skills.

During the visit, the Pakistani delegation held consultations at the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, where discussions were held on implementing TVET-related provisions of the China-Pakistan Joint Statement. The delegation also visited the headquarters of China

International Intellectual Group (CIIC) and met with its Chairman Bu Yulong, where agreements were reached on vocational training cooperation, joint curriculum development, and industry-academic linkages. Ms Gulmina further informed that the delegation also visited TANG International Education Group, the Chinese Secretariat of CPTICE, where a working meeting was co-chaired with Li Jinsong, the China Side Chairperson of CPTICE. It was agreed to launch collaborative training programs in construction engineering, AI, agriculture, and hospitality management. Additionally, steps were initiated for the mutual recognition of skills certifications with Saudi Arabia and Oman.

The delegation visited Jinan Vocational College, Anhui Water Conservancy Technical College, and the Zhejiang Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Technician, where senior officials warmly received the Pakistani delegation. She added that at Jinan Vocational College, the “Project 210” smart manufacturing training model was introduced. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with Anhui College for the establishment of the “China-Pakistan Huijiang Workshop”, which also includes accommodation for Pakistani instructors currently under construction. With the Zhejiang Institute, it was agreed to establish a “China-Pakistan High-Skilled Talent Training Center” aimed at advancing skills in smart manufacturing and e-commerce.

The delegation also visited Zhejiang Soton Holding Group, the world’s largest straw manufacturing company. General Manager Li Erqiao briefed the delegation on the company’s corporate training model, employee skills development framework, and green industrial practices. The model was recognized as highly relevant for Pakistan’s small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

During the week-long visit, several MoUs, working plans, and cooperation agreements were signed to operationalize TVET collaboration between Pakistan and China. Through CPTICE, both countries will establish a coordinated mechanism for mutual training, international recognition of certifications, and alignment with global labor market demands. This visit is expected to not only open new employment avenues for Pakistani youth but also ensure a skilled human resource pool for the industrial advancement required in the second phase of CPEC.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/14-Jul-2025/pakistan-china-to-launch-joint-training-programmes-in-multiple-fields-under-second-phase-of-cpec>

**July 15, 2025**

**Pakistan Observer**

### **DPM Dar attends SCO Foreign Minister’s Group Meeting in Beijing**

BEIJING – Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar reached the Great Hall, Beijing for the SCO Foreign Ministers’ Group Meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday.

Dar, along with a delegation, arrived in Beijing, China, last night. He was received at the airport by Ambassador Ms Yu Hong, Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of China and Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil ur Rehman Hashmi, and senior officials from the Chinese foreign ministry.

Foreign Ministers of all SCO member States, including Pakistan, China, Belarus, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are participating in the CFM meeting. Foreign Minister of Belarus attends the CFM for the first time as member of SCO.

The CFM is the third highest forum in the SCO format. It focuses on the issues of international relations, as well as foreign and security policies of SCO.

The forum approves the documents, including declaration and statements, etc. that are to be presented for the consideration of the Council of Heads of State (CHS) as well as the decisions to be adopted by the CHS. The upcoming CHS will take place on 31 August – 01 September 2025 in Tianjin, China.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar will also hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts on the sidelines of the CFM meeting.

<https://pakobserver.net/dpm-dar-attends-sco-foreign-ministers-group-meeting-in-beijing/>

### **The Nation**

#### **Pakistan, China to set up Research Centre on Lithium Batteries**

BEIJING - In a significant step towards scientific collaboration, the University of Sargodha (UoS), Pakistan, and Zaozhuan School of Technology (ZST), China, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a Joint Research Centre on Lithium Batteries at UoS. Recognizing the strategic importance of lithium battery technologies in advancing clean energy and mobility solutions, both institutions have agreed to collaborate across a broad spectrum of research and academic exchange. According to a report, carried by China Economic Net on Monday, the cooperation will focus on material science, energy storage systems, and related technologies. Under the IoC, UoS and ZST will facilitate the exchange of faculty and researchers, student training, joint supervision, and the organization of seminars and workshops. The partnership also envisions collaborative research, patent development, and the launch of academic programs to enhance capacity building in this critical field.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/15-Jul-2025/pakistan-china-to-set-up-research-centre-on-lithium-batteries>

### ***Chinese Newspapers***

**July 01, 2025**

**People's Daily**

#### **Pakistan-China partnership continues to scale new heights: deputy PM**

ISLAMABAD, June 30 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday highlighted the growing strength and evolving depth of



the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, calling it a cornerstone of Islamabad's foreign policy and a key driver of regional peace, development, and connectivity.

Speaking at an event marking the 52nd anniversary of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, Dar said the Pakistan-China bilateral relationship continues to "scale new heights," adapting to shifting global and regional dynamics with enhanced cooperation across multiple sectors.

"Our foreign policy remains proactive and result-oriented, and the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership continues to grow in depth and scope," he said, adding that the partnership is being elevated wherever necessary to meet the demands of a transforming world.

He underscored China's leading role in fostering regional connectivity through inclusive, multilateral mechanisms. He highlighted the recent trilateral forums -- China-Pakistan-Afghanistan and China-Pakistan-Bangladesh -- as examples of a shared commitment to regional integration and win-win cooperation.

The China-Pakistan-Afghanistan ministerial meeting in Beijing recently, he said, marked a "qualitative change" in ties and laid the groundwork for extending the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into Afghanistan.

"Such cooperation mechanisms, based on mutual benefit and common interest, are central to Pakistan's pivot to geoeconomics," he added.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking Gwadar Port in Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase it expands to fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0701/c90000-20334431.html>

**July 03, 2025**

**People's Daily**

### **SCO transport ministers pledge strengthened regional connectivity**

The 12th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Ministers of Transport is held in north China's Tianjin, July 2, 2025. The meeting was held on Wednesday in Tianjin Municipality, with SCO transport ministers agreeing to strengthen regional connectivity. During the meeting, a memorandum of understanding on the joint construction of "Silk Road Stations" was signed among the transport sectors of the SCO member states. (Xinhua/Li Ran)

TIANJIN, July 2 (Xinhua) -- The 12th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Ministers of Transport was held on Wednesday in north China's Tianjin Municipality, with SCO transport ministers agreeing to strengthen regional connectivity.

During the meeting, a memorandum of understanding on the joint construction of "Silk Road Stations" was signed among the transport sectors of the SCO member states.

China's Minister of Transport Liu Wei said that the proposed Silk Road Stations will offer essential facilities such as parking, rest areas and hot water for international freight drivers across SCO regions.

The initiative addresses critical infrastructure gaps along rapidly expanding trade corridors, where insufficient rest stops and maintenance facilities have contributed to driver fatigue and logistical inefficiencies amid rising cross-border passenger and cargo flows.

The meeting gathered transport authorities from Pakistan, Mongolia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Participants also held in-depth discussions on accelerating cooperation on projects such as advancing the high-quality development of the China-Europe Railway Express and implementing electronic permits for international road transport.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0703/c90000-20335408.html>

### **Chinese company brings smart grid technology to 110 countries, regions**

In recent years, Hexing Electrical Co., Ltd. based in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, has brought Chinese smart grid technology to over 110 countries and regions. At 3 p.m., Xu Neng, regional director for South Asia at Hexing, powered up his computer at the company's office, just after returning from a trip to Myanmar. Colleagues from the company's Bangladesh subsidiary were already online, waiting for a meeting. Xu oversees the overseas sales of intelligent power distribution, decentralized energy, and microgrid products and solutions. Over the past 17 years, he has traversed many countries and regions in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East, leading teams that have built smart and green power networks using Chinese technology. At a new energy exhibition in Yangon, Myanmar, a local telecommunications operator showed keen interest in the Chinese renewable energy solutions displayed at Hexing's LIVOLTEK booth. "Myanmar's power grid supplies electricity for only two to four hours daily, while diesel generators cost as much as 2 yuan (\$0.28) per kilowatt-hour," Xu said. "When we explained that photovoltaic (PV) power generation costs merely 0.3 yuan per kilowatt-hour, with investment recovery in just three years, they immediately decided to adopt our solution," he added. Soon, solar panels, inverters, energy storage batteries, and other renewable energy equipment shipped from China will be installed at the Myanmar company's data center, forming an integrated microgrid that ensures a stable and secure power supply. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of Xu and his colleagues, impressive results have been achieved. In Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, an industrial park now has a rooftop distributed PV system from China, generating over 6,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity from solar energy every hour, significantly easing local electricity shortages. In Pakistan, more than 20,000 households have installed Chinese PV equipment, solving long-standing challenges related to electricity access and affordability. Xu still keeps a photo on his phone of a Pakistani customer named Anwar proudly posing beside his newly installed PV equipment. "Previously, during summer, half my monthly salary went toward electricity bills. Now I save over 400,000 rupees (\$1412) a year," Anwar said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0703/c90000-20335510.html>

**July 07, 2025**

**China Daily**

### **Intl Deep Space Exploration Association launched in China**

HEFEI -- The International Deep Space Exploration Association (IDSEA), an international academic organization dedicated to deep space exploration, was officially launched on Monday in Hefei, capital of East China's Anhui province.

The move marks a key step in global collaboration to advance space technology and build a community with a shared future for humanity in outer space.

This association was jointly initiated by the Hefei-based Deep Space Exploration Laboratory, the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center of the China National Space Administration, the Chinese Society of Astronautics, the Chinese Society of Space Research and the French initiative "Planetary Exploration, Horizon 2061." The founding of the IDSEA was also co-sponsored by 20 academicians from China and 31 international scientists.

Wu Weiren, chief designer of China's lunar exploration program and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, was elected as the association's first chairman.

Wu said the association's establishment holds great significance for international exchange and cooperation in China's space program, as it is a crucial step toward collaborative innovation within the global space community. He said the association will focus on areas including lunar exploration, planetary exploration and asteroid defense. It will conduct studies on trends in international deep space exploration, host international academic events, foster global talent in space science and technology, take part in making standards and rules concerning outer space, and advance the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space. He extended a warm invitation to scientists and engineers worldwide to join the association and contribute to global exploration of the universe. Despite being a latecomer to outer space exploration, China has rapidly emerged as a prominent player in this field while also demonstrating its commitment to cooperating with other nations. In April 2025, China announced that seven institutions from six countries -- France, Germany, Japan, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United States, have been authorized to borrow lunar samples collected by China's Chang'e-5 mission for scientific research purposes. China has also invited global partners to participate in its Mars missions. The country plans to launch the Tianwen-3 Mars sample-return mission around 2028, with the primary scientific goal of searching for signs of life on Mars. Retrieval of samples from Mars, the first mission of its kind in human history, is considered the most technically challenging space exploration task since the Apollo program.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202507/07/WS686bb27aa31000e9a573a9e1.html>

**July 10, 2025**

**China Daily**

### **Gwadar Port expansion to boost growth**

Plan shows how BRI delivers tangible benefits in Asia and beyond: Analysts

Pakistan's decision to expand operations at Gwadar Port marks a milestone that will inject fresh momentum into growth, prosperity and cooperation in the region while enhancing the scope and connectivity of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC, analysts said.

Pakistan's Ministry of Maritime Affairs unveiled plans last week to expand operations at the port by establishing new shipping lines and introducing a ferry service to the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, the minister who chaired a meeting on July 1, said the initiative is part of a broader plan to boost regional connectivity, enhance Pakistan's maritime trade and develop Gwadar into a major transshipment and logistics hub in the Arabian Sea, according to an official statement.

Chaudhry, the Pakistani minister for maritime affairs, said the expansion would support growing trade with Central Asia and the Middle East, while positioning Gwadar as a central node in regional supply chains.

Imran Khalid, an international affairs commentator based in Karachi, Pakistan, said that in the short term, the establishment of new shipping lines and the introduction of a dedicated ferry service to GCC countries will lower transport costs and cut the transit time for traders, exporters and passengers alike.

In the long term, Gwadar's expanded role as a transshipment and logistics hub will deepen its integration into the CPEC and the broader China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, he added. Located in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan Province, the port is a key component of the CPEC.

Enhanced connectivity through Gwadar has the potential to boost trade volumes, strengthen supply chains and encourage the flow of goods and services across the region. Khalid said that as global trade routes evolve, a thriving Gwadar can help diversify Pakistan's trade portfolio and reduce dependency on a few markets.

"Overall, this timely initiative is a positive step toward realizing Pakistan's vision of a more connected, prosperous and regionally integrated economy — and it offers yet another example of how the BRI framework can deliver tangible benefits for all stakeholders across Asia and beyond," he said.

Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, president of the Center for Knowledge and Public Policy in Lahore, Pakistan, said the expansion of the port's operations will help further strengthen pace, scope, productivity and connectivity of the CPEC Phase II in the country, reduce freight time, and increase revenue, ensuring trans-regional economic benefits for all.

Maarij Farooq, deputy editor-in-chief at Pakistan Economic Net and Daily Ittehad Media Group, said the expansion of Gwadar Port represents a major achievement for the BRI in Pakistan.

"I believe this step not only enhances Pakistan's strategic maritime capability but also proves the BRI is a long-term and people-centric development model. Gwadar, as the flagship of CPEC, is now beginning to transform from a symbolic location into a practical gateway of economic activity, linking Pakistan with the broader Middle East and beyond," he said.

According to him, the expansion is a win-win example of South-South cooperation, where two time-tested friends, China and Pakistan, are working together not only to transform infrastructure but also to shape a future of shared prosperity.

### **Affordable transport**

As part of the port expansion, Pakistan plans to launch a ferry service from Gwadar to GCC countries to provide affordable and direct maritime transport for passengers and cargo.

"I understand that this development goes far beyond port logistics," Farooq said, adding that "the launch of passenger and cargo ferry services will open up significant economic opportunities for Pakistan, particularly for small and medium-sized traders who often face high transportation costs and limited market access".

He said this will help reduce the cost of doing business and will encourage trade that is not just limited to large enterprises.

Enhancing the operational capacity of Gwadar Port would unleash its economic potential by establishing a new direct maritime link for passenger traffic and transit trade among GCC nations, South Asia and Central Asia, said Abdulaziz Alshaabani, a researcher at the Al Riyadh Center for Political and Strategic Studies, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Affordable direct maritime transport for passengers would bring tangible benefits to expatriate communities, cross-border merchants and tourists, he said, while noting that Pakistan serves as an important source of labor for GCC member states.

"The Gwadar Port has the potential to evolve into a transcontinental trade hub, complementing existing global trade networks," Alshaabani said. "However, in the long run, a crucial prerequisite is that security and instability challenges in the region are effectively addressed."

Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project under the BRI, connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan with Kashgar in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202507/10/WS686f15caa31000e9a573b318.html>

**July 11, 2025**

**China Daily**

**Pakistan, China to deepen media, culture cooperation**

*By XU WEI*

Pakistan and China are poised to deepen cooperation across media, culture and digital platforms under the framework of the Global Civilization Initiative, said Attaullah Tarar, Pakistan's federal minister for information and broadcasting, in an exclusive interview on Thursday.

Tarar, who is in Beijing for the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting, highlighted the pivotal role of the GCI, which was proposed by President Xi Jinping in March 2023, in facilitating mutual understanding globally.

"I think it's an important initiative, and it will not only bring Pakistan and China closer together, but also add to harmony and bringing other countries closer together," he said.

The minister lauded the "visionary leadership" of the Chinese president in coming up with the initiative to promote mutual learning and exchanges between different peoples and enable harmonious coexistence among civilizations.

Tarar underscored that the GCI has gained traction globally because of its timely focus on cultural connectivity and mutual learning.

He noted that Pakistan, as home to some of the world's oldest civilizations, has much to contribute to the global conversation on heritage and development.

"We are people who are based on the banks and tributaries of the mighty Indus River. And where does this river originate from? It originates from China," he said. "These things bring us closer together. "Our friendship is sweeter than honey, deeper than the deepest ocean, and higher than the highest mountains ... and we actually mean it from the core of our hearts," Tarar added. During the visit by Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in February, President Xi called on both nations to deepen exchanges across culture, education and media to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties next year.

To mark the 75th anniversary, the Pakistani minister said that both nations are looking to enable the mutual visits of more online influencers as part of broader steps to boost people-to-people exchanges. Meanwhile, the coproduction of films and documentaries and the translation of films will be stepped up to enable better mutual understanding between the two peoples, he said. On the regional front, Tarar reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the grouping's upcoming summit in Tianjin.

"There are great expectations for more regional development, more regional cooperation ... so that the people of this region can live in peace and harmony," he said, confirming that Pakistan will send a high-level delegation to the summit.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202507/11/WS686fe551a31000e9a573b5f9.html>



## People's Daily

### **Traditional industries bloom anew in China's modernization push**

BEIJING, July 10 (Xinhua) -- From steel mills adopting AI-powered systems to textile factories deploying cutting-edge automation, China's traditional industries are undergoing a significant transformation.

Spearheaded by President Xi Jinping, this drive is injecting fresh vitality into traditional sectors that underpin the country's modern industrial base.

Under Xi's watch, China is doubling down on boosting the competitiveness and sustainability in these sectors, which generate about 80 percent of the country's manufacturing output and play a vital role in supporting employment and broader economic growth.

"The real economy should not be neglected. Nor should the traditional industries within it. And industrial transformation and upgrading must be realized through sci-tech innovation," Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, said while visiting Yangquan Valve Co., Ltd., a century-old enterprise, during an inspection tour in north China's Shanxi Province this week.

By focusing on innovation and boosting investment in research and development, the company has earned the designation of a "little giant" enterprise, a title for outstanding specialized, high-tech small and medium-sized firms. It has obtained dozens of patents and expanded its global footprint through exports to countries including the United States, India and Pakistan.

During this visit to the company, Xi emphasized that traditional manufacturing is an important part of the real economy, and called for efforts to respond to market demand and enhance sci-tech innovation to breathe new life into traditional industries.

Boosting the development of traditional industries has been high on the agenda of Xi.

During his domestic inspections in recent years, Xi has regularly visited enterprises and factories. He inspects production lines and engages in conversations with frontline workers, gaining a firsthand understanding of the products and the progress involving transformation and upgrading.

These on-the-ground surveys have reinforced China's push for transformation and upgrading tailored to regional strengths, rather than relying on a one-size-fits-all approach.

This emphasis was highlighted during an inspection tour of southwest China's Yunnan Province in March, where Xi urged all regions to pursue industrial transformation and upgrading based on local conditions, in line with economic principles, while making full use of their unique strengths.

"Old enterprises can also pursue high-end, smart and green transformation. It is crucial not to dismiss traditional industries as uniformly 'low-end' or 'backward' and simply phase them out, as doing so could lead to a disruption in the transition from old to new growth drivers, cause a loss of momentum, and exacerbate the pains of structural adjustment," Xi said during an inspection tour in Liaoning Province in January.

Since introducing the concept of new quality productive forces in 2023, Xi has consistently highlighted that traditional industries are the cornerstone for developing advanced productive capabilities.

During a deliberation at the annual national legislative session last year, Xi noted that developing new quality productive forces "does not mean neglecting or abandoning traditional industries."

This point was further reiterated in May last year when he visited Shandong Province and commended Rizhao Port for its successful transformation from a traditional port into a modern one. "The port has not only achieved top-tier cargo throughput nationwide but has also gained valuable insights into fostering new quality productive forces through the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries," Xi said.

Guided by his vision, China has made significant progress in accelerating the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, steering them toward more advanced, intelligent and greener development.

Technologies like industrial internet, 5G and AI have been extensively applied in traditional industries. In 2024, investment in technological upgrades in the manufacturing sector increased by 8 percent year on year, outpacing the overall investment growth.

In key energy-consuming industries such as chemicals, building materials, steel and non-ferrous metals, energy consumption per unit of value-added output fell in 2024 from the previous year.

Looking ahead, China will take comprehensive measures, including pushing technological advances as well as large-scale equipment renewal projects in the manufacturing sector, and accelerating the digitalization of manufacturing, to promote traditional industry transformation and upgrading, according to this year's government work report.

"In the past, Chinese workers made arduous manual efforts to hammer away at the country's industrial development. Today, it must be upgraded through advanced technologies and equipment," Xi said, stressing that the real economy makes the country prosperous and solid work makes it flourishing.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0711/c90000-20338855.html>

**July 14, 2025**

**China Daily**

### **GCI fosters dialogue among civilizations**

*By Shakeel Ahmad Ramay*

On June 10, the world celebrated the first International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations. Against this backdrop, it is important to analyze and understand China's Global Civilization Initiative.

The GCI is rooted in the belief that the world is home to distinct cultures, living philosophies, economic development models, diverse environments, people with varying beliefs, and countries with unique geographies.

Similarly, each country is a mini-world of its own. The countries host people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities, preferences, choices, capabilities and beliefs, along with numerous resources and economic opportunities. However, the individuals in a country can harmonize their diversity and work toward development, peace and a secure living.

Therefore, we must acknowledge and honor diversity while seeking opportunities to create synergies for a better future. The GCI embraces this ideology, advocates respect for diversity and promotes harmony.

The idea of harmony is not new to China; it has deep roots in its civilization. As Confucius said, "A gentleman aims at harmony and not at uniformity." This reflects the fundamental truth that people hold differing ideas and preferences. Nonetheless, they can coexist peacefully and reap the benefits of peace in terms of prosperity by adhering to the ideology of harmony, which fosters respect for diversity and cooperative coexistence.

President Xi Jinping proposed the GCI on March 15, 2023 while discussing the initiative at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting.

The proposal is a well-thought-out, constructed and comprehensive initiative with multiple dimensions. A brief analysis indicates that GCI has at least eight distinct characteristics.

First, respect for diversity is the guiding principle of the GCI. The initiative acknowledges that we belong to distinct cultures, believe in different systems, have distinct histories, and are in various stages of development. Thus, uniformity is a self-perceived illusion, and no civilization can claim superiority over others.

We must respect and appreciate other cultures, recognize others' contributions, open our minds, and free ourselves from self-proclaimed greatness, paving the way for refining our thoughts and practices.

Second, the GCI idealizes the goal of a harmonious and prosperous world. It promotes humanity and equality among humans.

It subscribes to the ideology that everyone has the right to dream and pursue a life of peace and prosperity.

Third, the GCI emphasizes that the world should uphold the value of learning and not let pride and prejudice hinder the pursuit of knowledge. Learning is key to evolving, innovating and pursuing modernization. Therefore, we should not hesitate to recognize the contribution of other civilizations and learn from them. There should be no illusion of self-greatness.

Fourth, the GCI negates the "End of History" theory, which argues that humanity has reached the ultimate level of development and that the ideological evolution of humans has been completed, with liberal ideology and Western-style democracy acquiring universality. In other words, it put an end to learning and human modernization and tries to snatch the power of imagination and innovation. This goes against human nature and the law of nature.

The GCI advocates the idea that human civilization always strives to be creative to progress and seek improvement. Only the drivers and actors change, not the human aspiration to modernize.

Fifth, China believes that learning should be a two-way affair: learning from and imparting knowledge to others. Learning from others has helped China grow and become the world's second-largest economy, and allowed it to pursue modernization. Now, as a major economic and technological power, China has both capability and responsibility to share its experience and knowledge with others. It has launched numerous capacity-building and know--ledge-sharing programs under the Global Development Initiative, the Belt and Road Initiative and South-South cooperation, among others.

Sixth, the GCI adheres to the ancient Chinese philosophy of shared prosperity. This enduring philosophy, for example, is championed by Confucius, who believed that shared prosperity should be the leading instrument for engagement to achieve sustainable and secure relationships.

China implemented such philosophy in a stepwise manner. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, it focused on reforming the country and improving people's livelihoods. After achieving success in reform and opening-up and laying the groundwork for national development, China began to share its prosperity with the world through various initiatives, such as the BRI.

Seventh, the GCI negates the theory of the clash of civilizations and promotes common aspirations of all peoples for peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom.

China believes in peaceful and cooperative living with other civilizations and countries. China also believes in the equality of humanity. China urges the world to abandon the mentality of the clash of civilizations, prevent ideological confrontation and promote dialogue among civilizations.

Eighth, the GCI encourages cultural and people-to-people exchanges instead of hindering comings and goings with sanctions and pan-security excuses to sever links between nations. With richer content and broader channels for exchanges, people can share mutual understandings, build common and comprehensive security and jointly enhance advancement of humanity.

In conclusion, the GCI promotes the philosophy of harmony in diversity, equality and dialogue over confrontation, to establish networks of inter-civilization dialogue and peaceful, cooperative coexistence. China's proposal and celebration for the international day devoted to dialogue of civilizations showcases its will and action to share its experience, prosperity and cultural attractions to jointly create a harmonious world.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202507/14/WS687455cea31000e9a573bc6f.html>

## People's Daily

### **Intl experts hail China's commitment to dialogue**

President Xi Jinping's congratulatory letter to the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting has received widespread positive responses from international experts, who commended China's commitment to dialogue, mutual respect and cross-cultural cooperation as a constructive approach to addressing global fragmentation.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said in the letter that China will work with other countries to champion equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilizations, and will implement the Global Civilization Initiative, in a bid to provide fresh impetus for advancing human civilizations and promoting world peace and development.

Christopher Bovis, a professor of international business law at the University of Hull in the United Kingdom, said the letter's message is "timely and impactful", particularly amid current geopolitical tensions.

He pointed out that as the world is facing conflicts from the Middle East to Ukraine and economic turbulence is stemming from protectionist trade measures, President Xi's emphasis on diplomacy over confrontation is both principled and pragmatic.

"China prioritizes resolution of conflict via peaceful and diplomatic ways, avoiding conflict and warfare which bring on lasting disruption in life and economic relations," he said.

Lawrence Loh, director of the Center for Governance and Sustainability at the National University of Singapore, also highlighted the unity of humanity cited in the letter.

"President Xi has identified a critical priority for fostering global unity at a time when the world is increasingly fractured and fragile. Now more than ever, nations must look beyond narrow self-interest and work toward cultivating harmonious international relations," Loh said.

"The most urgent challenge today is to build a robust global economy grounded in free trade and multilateralism, which will enhance the well-being of people worldwide, especially in developing countries," he added.

Tahir Farooq, editor-in-chief at Daily Ittehad Media Group and Pakistan Economic Net, said that Xi's initiative offers much-needed wisdom and stability in an era of divisions, ideological confrontations and geopolitical rivalries.

"By emphasizing equality, mutual learning and inclusiveness, President Xi charts a constructive path forward, rejecting the politics of division and embracing the shared heritage of human civilizations," he said.

Dennis Munene, executive director of the China-Africa Center at the Africa Policy Institute in Nairobi, Kenya, described the letter as "a clarion call to humanity".

Munene said that Xi "positions dialogue among civilizations as an antidote to the destructive theories like the 'clash of civilizations' or the Thucydides trap", which refers to a phenomenon whereby a rising power can cause fear in an established power that escalates toward war.

"China's approach, emphasizing equality, dialogue and inclusiveness, encourages the world to recognize different development paths and forms of democracy. It's about building trust and solving shared challenges such as poverty, disease and climate change through inclusive dialogue," he said.

Russel Harland, deputy branch secretary and international relations officer of the Surrey County branch of UNISON, one of the UK's largest trade unions, said the Global Civilization Initiative, which was proposed by Xi in 2023, offers a way to solve the problems the world is facing today.

"With the West now in moral free fall, (the GCI) offers a radiating light out of the dark path that the world has plummeted into. China's peaceful development has shown another way is possible," he said.

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development in Pakistan, also praised the philosophical underpinnings of the message in the letter.

He said that Xi also outlined the tools and pathways for achieving these goals, emphasizing the importance of fostering mutual understanding, respecting cultural diversity, recognizing the contributions of different civilizations, and creating conditions for peaceful coexistence.

Farooq, the editor-in-chief from Pakistan, said: "History teaches us that civilizations flourish not in isolation, but through dialogue and cooperation. By championing cultural exchange and peaceful coexistence, China is promoting a multipolar world where all cultures are respected and diversity is viewed as a strength."

Experts also praised the meeting as a valuable platform for bridging civilizations and fostering greater cooperation among peoples.

Farooq said that by hosting the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting and actively encouraging discourse on protecting cultural diversity, China has reinforced its role as a global advocate for peace and cooperation.

In today's fast-paced world, deepening dialogue and cultural exchanges is crucial for combating stereotypes and strengthening bonds, said Mohammad Ghazal, managing editor of English news at the Aletihad News Centre in the United Arab Emirates.

These practices provide a valuable model for strengthening global partnerships in support of peace, development and a better future for humanity, he added.

The high-profile meeting, held on Thursday and Friday in Beijing, was co-hosted by the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the International Department of the CPC Central Committee.

Themed "Safeguarding Diversity of Human Civilizations for World Peace and Development", the meeting brought together more than 600 representatives from 140



countries and regions, including political party leaders, government ministers, cultural and artistic figures, and scholars from leading think tanks.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0714/c90000-20339520.html>