



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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July 01, 2026
Pakistan Observer

CPC at 105: Defining China's Path for the Next Century

As the Communist Party of China celebrates 105 years since its founding on July 1, 1921, it stands as a powerful example of long-term vision, steady leadership, and transformative governance that has lifted hundreds of millions of people and positioned China at the forefront of global development. A defining strength of the CPC's model is its ability to plan across generations, building continuity and confidence that few political systems can match. While many governments focus on short election cycles, China's leadership has consistently pursued objectives measured in decades and centuries, ensuring that every policy today contributes to a greater national journey.

This forward-looking tradition was captured in President Xi Jinping's frequent reflections on development in terms of centuries, echoing an insight from Mao Zedong in the 1950s that building a strong, modern socialist nation would be a great project spanning 50 to 100 years. That perspective remains central to how China governs in the 21st century. With more than 100 million members, the CPC is the world's largest governing party, and its remarkable endurance comes from aligning near-term action with enduring national goals that inspire unity and purpose across society.

China's planning system works through three mutually reinforcing levels that turn vision into reality. The first is the "Two Centenary Goals," which provide the broad historical framework. The first centenary goal was brilliantly achieved in 2021 with the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects as the CPC marked its 100th anniversary. The second centenary goal looks to 2049, the centenary of the People's Republic, to complete the building of a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful. The second level is the Five-Year Plans, which translate those grand goals into practical policies. Each plan is closely aligned with the CPC National Congress, so political direction and economic priorities move forward in step, creating stability while adapting with wisdom to new opportunities. The third level consists of detailed national programs and local blueprints. The Outline for Building China into an Education Powerhouse for 2024–2035 and the Plan on Building a Rule-of-Law China for 2020–2025 illustrate how national strategy is broken down into clear roadmaps. Provinces and cities then bring these plans to life with their own targets, connecting the national vision directly to communities.

Annual coordination ensures that long-term goals become tangible results each year. Every December, the Central Economic Work Conference sets a clear direction, and each March the Two Sessions translate that direction into budgets, projects, and key performance indicators. In this way, China's century-long vision is delivered with discipline, year after year.

This approach has already produced extraordinary achievements. In Zhejiang, the "Thousand Villages Demonstration, Ten Thousand Villages Renovation" initiative launched in 2003 transformed rural living by improving sanitation, roads, and ecological conditions across 10,000 villages. More than two decades later, it is recognized worldwide as a model of rural

revitalization and in 2018 received the UN's Champions of the Earth award for enhancing living standards while protecting nature. In poverty alleviation, the CPC organized millions of dedicated cadres for precision mapping and support, leading to the historic elimination of absolute poverty by the end of 2020, right on schedule. This achievement is celebrated globally as one of the most significant poverty reduction successes in modern history.

China's ecological leadership reflects the same long-term thinking. A 10-year fishing ban on the Yangtze River is allowing ecosystems to flourish again. At the national level, China has set inspiring targets to peak carbon emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, demonstrating a commitment to a green future that spans generations. Regional integration also shows the power of sustained planning. The Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei cluster, the Yangtze River Delta, and the Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle launched in 2020 are advancing coordinated growth. In just five years, the Chengdu-Chongqing region's economic output exceeded 9 trillion yuan, accounting for more than 30 percent of western China's economy and creating new opportunities for innovation and prosperity.

For 105 years, the CPC has guided China with strategic patience, institutional wisdom, and a belief in gradual, high-quality reform that addresses priorities from rural development to environmental protection to regional balance. As the world enters a new era of opportunity, the Party's planning rhythm remains a source of strength: set the century goal, advance it through five-year steps, and deliver it with care each year.

As Pakistan and many other partners observe China's inspiring journey, the message of the CPC's 105th anniversary is clear and uplifting. When a nation plans with foresight and unity across centuries, it builds a future of lasting progress, shared prosperity, and global contribution.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpc-at-105-defining-chinas-path-for-the-next-century/>

China-Pakistan: Coordinating for Peace as the CPC Marks 105 Years

As the Communist Party of China celebrates its 105th anniversary in 2026, its international cooperation reflects a defining commitment to building partnerships that promote stability, development, and shared prosperity beyond China's borders. The all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan stands as one of the most inspiring examples of this vision in action. With Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi advancing close coordination, the two countries are demonstrating how mutual trust and shared goals can contribute meaningfully to regional peace and a more balanced international order.

The 105th anniversary is a moment to appreciate the CPC's remarkable role in guiding China's transformation over more than a century. Under the leadership of General Secretary Xi Jinping, the Party has advanced governance based on long-term planning, development that fits China's national conditions, and international engagement rooted in respect, equality, and win-win cooperation. Pakistan has warmly recognized these achievements. In statements marking the anniversary, Pakistan's leadership expressed deep admiration for the extraordinary progress China has made under CPC leadership and conveyed a strong interest in expanding exchanges on Party and state governance. For Pakistan, learning from China's

experience offers valuable insights for development, institutional strengthening, and national stability.

The CPC has warmly welcomed this spirit of cooperation and has reaffirmed its readiness to deepen inter-party exchanges with Pakistan. After 105 years of dedicated endeavor, the Party remains focused on the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation while sharing its experience with partners who pursue similar aspirations of sovereignty, progress, and self-reliant development. This exchange of ideas strengthens the foundation of China-Pakistan ties and adds new depth to a relationship that has grown stronger with time.

China and Pakistan have also shown inspiring alignment on promoting peace in West Asia. Both countries share the understanding that lasting stability is achieved through dialogue, principles, and persistent cooperation. Pakistan has highlighted two important frameworks that reflect this approach: President Xi Jinping's four-point proposition for safeguarding peace and stability in the Middle East, and the five-point initiative jointly put forward by China and Pakistan for peace and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region. These initiatives emphasize political dialogue, respect for sovereignty, and cooperation without external interference, principles that both Beijing and Islamabad regard as essential for building confidence and reducing tensions.

China has also expressed appreciation for Pakistan's constructive diplomatic engagement, including its positive role in recent efforts related to Iran-U.S. discussions. Beijing has noted that progress toward understanding between Tehran and Washington reflects the collective goodwill of the international community, with Pakistan contributing in a key and unique way. China's view is that initial steps toward agreement are encouraging, and that continued support from regional and like-minded countries will help advance a peaceful process that benefits all.

Looking ahead, China and Pakistan have identified three important priorities that reinforce their shared commitment to peace. The first is to consolidate comprehensive ceasefires and ensure that agreements are respected, creating an environment where stability can take root. The second is to maintain normal navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, which is vital for global energy flows and trade. Both countries support arrangements that respect the sovereignty and legitimate rights of littoral states while upholding international practice and the common interests of all nations. For Pakistan, with its strategic position at the entrance to the Gulf, this priority has direct significance for both economic vitality and regional security. The third priority is to support a new regional security architecture in which countries of the Middle East and Gulf uphold strategic autonomy and take primary responsibility for their own security. This vision aligns with Pakistan's long-standing advocacy for regional ownership of peace and stability.

Both China and Pakistan also place great importance on a just and peaceful resolution of the Palestinian question. China has encouraged regional countries to speak with a united voice and take coordinated steps to advance the two-state solution. Pakistan has consistently supported this position, affirming that a fair settlement is essential for lasting peace and harmony in the region.

The close alignment on these issues reflects how the China-Pakistan partnership has matured into a model of cooperation for a changing world. What began as a strong bilateral strategic and economic relationship has grown into a platform for coordinating positions on regional and global matters. At 105 years, the CPC brings to this partnership deep experience in managing complexity, prioritizing stability, and planning for generations ahead. Pakistan contributes its geographic position, active diplomatic engagement in West Asia, and a direct interest in positive outcomes. Together, the two countries are demonstrating a path of cooperation based on mutual respect and shared responsibility.

For the CPC's 105th anniversary, this close coordination represents more than friendship. It is a practical expression of the Party's commitment to building a community with a shared future for mankind, beginning with neighbors and trusted partners like Pakistan and extending to regions where peace and development are most needed. As both countries look to the future, their message is consistent and hopeful: peace in West Asia will be advanced through dialogue, respect for sovereignty, and collective effort. In that shared project, China and Pakistan will continue to stand closely aligned, contributing to a more stable and prosperous region for all.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-coordinating-for-peace-as-the-cpc-marks-105-years/>

CPEC 2.0 and Pakistan's digital future: From infrastructure to innovation

TO commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations, the recent visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif gained a considerable attention towards the prospective trajectory of CPEC 2.0 and its five strategic corridors: growth, livelihood, innovation, green development and regional connectivity. Among these, however, the digital corridor may ultimately prove the most consequential — not by virtue of supplanting physical infrastructure, but because it fundamentally reconstitutes what infrastructure signifies in the twenty-first century.

CPEC 1.0 was predicated upon the development of arterial road networks, deep-sea port facilities and large-scale power generation capacity. CPEC 2.0, by contrast, is increasingly anticipated to revolve around data architecture, artificial intelligence, digital connectivity, research ecosystems and technological capability-building. The paradigmatic shift from a government-to-government framework toward a business-to-business modality renders this transition all the more strategically significant. Industrial competitiveness in the contemporary era is no longer determined exclusively by highway networks or electricity output; it is increasingly contingent upon digital capacity, cloud infrastructure, cybersecurity resilience, intelligent logistics, fintech integration and innovation-driven manufacturing ecosystems.

The visit to China was emblematic of this overarching strategic reorientation. High-level engagements with pre-eminent Chinese technology enterprises — including substantive meetings at the headquarters of Alibaba Group — alongside the formalization of Memorandums of Understanding encompassing artificial intelligence, financial technology, health human capital technology and digital education, collectively signal that the forthcoming phase of Pakistan-China cooperation may transcend conventional infrastructure

development in favour of deep technological integration and knowledge-based partnerships. These developments suggest that the innovation corridor under CPEC 2.0 is progressively consolidating its position as a central pillar of bilateral cooperation rather than a peripheral addendum.

Pakistan now stands at a pivotal strategic inflection point. Should the digital corridor be conceived merely as an expanded telecommunications project, the opportunity will be irreversibly squandered? However, if science, technology and innovation are systematically embedded within the foundational architecture of CPEC 2.0 from its inception, the corridor could emerge as Pakistan's most transformative development platform since the advent of industrialization itself.

The requisite foundations are already discernible. Chinese enterprises have made substantial contributions to Pakistan's fibre-optic infrastructure, telecommunications networks, e-commerce ecosystems, fintech platforms and digital surveillance technologies. The cross-border fibre-optic cable traversing the Khunjerab Pass offered an early indication of what digital connectivity under CPEC might substantively deliver. Nevertheless, many of these initiatives have remained fragmentary and disconnected from any coherent national innovation strategy.

CPEC 2.0 presents a decisive opportunity to rectify this systemic fragmentation by cultivating an integrated digital ecosystem that interconnects universities, technology parks, startup incubators, industrial zones and research institutions. With nearly two-thirds of Pakistan's population below the age of thirty, the country possesses formidable latent potential for meaningful participation in the global digital economy. However, absent targeted investment in digital competencies, innovation capacity and technological absorption mechanisms, that demographic dividend risks devolving into an acute economic liability.

The fundamental challenge is not merely one of technological access, but rather of the capacity to absorb, adapt and domestically commercialize advanced technologies. Pakistan has historically imported industrial hardware and systems without cultivating adequate indigenous innovation capacity in their wake. This dependency paradigm is untenable in the digital era. The digital corridor must, therefore, accord primacy to three interlinked strategic imperatives: technology transfer, digital industrialization and the cultivation of indigenous innovation.

Technology transfer must be formally enshrined as a mandatory prerequisite within all substantive digital cooperation agreements under CPEC 2.0. Joint ventures spanning semiconductor assembly, artificial intelligence applications, cloud computing infrastructure, battery technology and smart manufacturing systems should incorporate obligatory provisions for workforce development, university collaboration and localized research partnerships. Absent such stipulations, Pakistan risks perpetuating its status as a passive consumer market for imported technologies rather than ascending to the role of an active participant within global value chains.

Of commensurate strategic importance is the comprehensive digital reinvention of Special Economic Zones. The uneven performance of several SEZs during CPEC's inaugural phase

demonstrated unequivocally that physical infrastructure, in isolation, is insufficient to guarantee sustainable industrial investment. The next generation of SEZs should be operationalized as smart industrial clusters, furnished with advanced automation systems, digital logistics platforms, high-speed connectivity infrastructure, research incubation facilities and AI-enabled manufacturing support capabilities. Technology parks with direct institutional linkages to universities in Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Peshawar and Gwadar could serve as anchoring nodes for regional innovation ecosystems integrated directly with Chinese enterprises and international supply chains.

Within the green development corridor, battery manufacturing merits particular strategic prioritization. As the global transition toward electric mobility accelerates, battery production is crystallizing as one of the most strategically critical industries shaping long-term export competitiveness. Pakistan already possesses nascent elements of the industrial base, mineral endowments and energy infrastructure required to gradually penetrate segments of the battery and electric vehicle supply chain. By strategically leveraging Chinese expertise in battery technology and electric mobility, Pakistan could ultimately position itself not merely as a market for electric vehicles, but as a regional manufacturing and assembly hub over the longer term.

Such an approach would simultaneously strengthen green export capacity, attenuate dependence on imported petroleum, enhance industrial productivity and advance broader climate objectives. More critically, it would exemplify how existing technologies and infrastructure within the CPEC framework can be leveraged with greater efficacy to generate higher-value economic outcomes across manufacturing, transport, agriculture and energy sectors.

Climate resilience itself is increasingly converging with digital development imperatives. Precision agriculture systems, flood forecasting technologies, satellite-based geospatial mapping and AI-augmented disaster management frameworks are rapidly becoming indispensable instruments of economic sustainability. Pakistan's catastrophic 2022 floods laid bare not only profound infrastructural vulnerabilities, but also alarming deficiencies in digital preparedness. Future resilience will depend as substantially upon predictive technologies and integrated data systems as upon physical barriers and hydraulic infrastructure.

Ultimately, the historical legacy of CPEC 2.0 will not be adjudicated merely by the volume of roads or industrial zones it generates, but by whether it empowers Pakistan to compete meaningfully in the economies of the future. The digital corridor presents precisely that generational opportunity. If architected with strategic intentionality, it could transform Pakistan not simply into a transit economy, but into a technologically sophisticated, export-oriented and innovation-driven knowledge economy — a transformation whose implications would extend well beyond the bilateral relationship with China and resonate across the broader regional and global order.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-2-0-and-pakistans-digital-future-from-infrastructure-to-innovation/>

The Metamorphosis of a Megaproject: Security, Sovereignty and Sustainability in CPEC 2.0

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The geopolitics of proxies is clearly constraining the expansion and evolution of CPEC 2.0, demanding a strategic recalibration. The Government of Pakistan and Army Chief General Asim Munir have played a pivotal role in improving the prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East, a momentum that must now be institutionally converted into deeper socio-economic integration, trans-regional connectivity, investment and quality industrialization under the CPEC 2.0 framework.

Afghanistan's borderlands, however, have become a volatile playground for overlapping regional and extra-regional proxies, including Israel, with certain African and Arabian Gulf States supporting various actors in an apparent collective effort to derail CPEC 2.0 and destabilize Balochistan, particularly Gwadar Seaport. Wise diplomacy is, therefore, the need of the hour to neutralize these multifaceted proxy dynamics. In this context, enhanced Pakistan-China-Iran anti-terrorism collaboration, reinforced by the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, can serve as a powerful regional equalizer.

The recent terrorist attack on a Rangers camp in Karachi, followed by Pakistan's military and air force retaliation in Afghanistan's Paktika, Paktia and Kunar provinces, vividly reflects escalating cross-border tensions. These hostilities are severely undermining the bright prospects of trans-regional connectivity with Central Asia through land, transport and rail corridors, a strategic priority for Pakistan and a cornerstone of CPEC 2.0. Indeed, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's recent statement at the 5th Tashkent International Investment Forum 2026, highlighting the Trans-Afghan Transport Corridor trilateral railway linking Central Asia to Pakistani seaports, appears increasingly unlikely to materialize under the weight of emerging power politics.

Nevertheless, pursuing the "Aerial Corridor" for direct commercial cargo between Lahore and Tashkent is a step in the right direction, effectively bypassing Afghanistan to avoid further delays in trans-regional connectivity. Kazakhstan has already established direct commercial cargo services with India; linking these with Pakistan would enable the genuine realization of stronger economic ties, a trade boom and deeper industrial cooperation between the two sides in the years ahead.

Significantly, Pakistan recently operationalized a "China-linked corridor" that enabled the first shipment from Kyrgyzstan to reach Karachi via the Khunjerab Pass and Sost Dry Port, offering Central Asian States a viable alternative route that bypasses Afghanistan. In parallel, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Tajikistan's Ambassador Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir have jointly explored trans-regional connectivity projects to boost bilateral trade, strengthen transit linkages and deepen institutional cooperation, connecting economies, communities

and enterprises on both sides. The “Pakistan-Tajikistan Corridor”, therefore, emerges as a potential game-changer for realizing South Asia-Central Asia connectivity.

Afghanistan remains the principal hurdle. The unholy covert alliance and strategic partnerships among the TTA, TTP, BLA, Majeed Brigade, Fitna al-Khawarij and ISKP, combined with the Taliban’s chronic traits as warlords and exponents of a war economy, continue to obstruct the socio-economic integration and trans-regional connectivity that CPEC 2.0 envisions.

India’s continued water terrorism against Pakistan also directly affects CPEC 2.0’s plans for hybrid agricultural cooperation, hydropower generation and industrial collaboration, issues that must be resolved through dialogue, diplomacy and development. It is an encouraging sign that both sides have engaged in “Track 1.5 talks” in Thailand and Colombo, presenting bilateral demands regarding the smooth flow of waters and the resumption of airspace. These discussions should be expanded and pursued peacefully for the stability of South Asia, producing a positive ripple effect on the further implementation of CPEC 2.0.

CPEC 2.0’s “strategic architecture” cannot be evaluated in isolation from its regional geopolitical implications. Encouragingly, Islamabad has finally moved to operationalize existing transit arrangements and develop “alternative logistics” pathways connecting Central Asia to its ports, as strained ties with Afghanistan and periodic border disruptions continue to hamper traditional routes amid shifting regional trade dynamics.

Pakistan has opened “six overland transit routes” for goods destined for Iran, formalizing a road corridor through its territory as thousands of containers remain stranded at Karachi Port due to the US blockade of Iranian ports and ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz, a significant step towards promoting regional trade and enhancing Pakistan’s role as a key trade corridor.

The six designated routes link Pakistan’s main ports, Karachi, Port Qasim and Gwadar, with the Iranian border crossings at Gabd and Taftan, traversing Balochistan via Turbat, Panjgur, Khuzdar, Quetta and Dalbandin. The shortest of these, the Gwadar-Gabd corridor, reduces travel time to the Iranian border to just two to three hours, compared with the sixteen to eighteen hours required from Karachi, cutting transport costs by an estimated 45 to 55 percent.

This corridor also reduces Pakistan’s reliance on longer maritime routes through the Gulf. Geopolitics, security and infrastructure will ultimately determine which corridors dominate, but this development firmly positions Pakistan as the primary overland gateway for China-backed trade routes into West Asia and beyond.

Analytically, the Blue-Gold Corridor, linking Gwadar to Central Asia via Chaghai, Herat and Tashkent, offers the shortest land route to the region and a potential conduit for minerals and agricultural products, yet again faces security threats because Afghanistan remains a haven for regional and global terrorist groups. The Gwadar-Mashhad corridor, relying on existing Iranian infrastructure, provides the fastest and least expensive option, though Pakistan must secure “sovereign security guarantees” from the Iranian government and the IRGC to counter Indian proxy warfare in the future. Finally, the CPEC-China route, stretching from Gwadar to

Kashgar via Islamabad and linking the port to China's western regions, gives Gwadar renewed strategic relevance in an increasingly uncertain region and represents the most ideal and feasible land corridor for connecting Pakistan with China, Central Asia and beyond, bypassing Afghanistan entirely.

In summary, the rigorous operationalization of the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) holds the key to making existing mechanisms fully functional. Involving Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the QTTA is designed to facilitate the cross-border movement of goods while circumventing Afghanistan.

CPEC 2.0 will transform Pakistan through innovation, sustainability and regional connectivity, shaping a future of inclusive economic growth. The completion of major transport networks, power generation projects and Gwadar-related developments has already laid a strong foundation for Pakistan's economic transformation.

The next stage of cooperation centres on Special Economic Zones, industry relocation, agricultural modernization, information technology, renewable energy and business-to-business partnerships. By successfully operationalizing new westward trade routes to Central Asia via China and Iran, Pakistan is shifting decisively away from traditionally Afghanistan-dependent transit corridors, providing exporters with cheaper, safer and more reliable access to the landlocked Central Asian Republics of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

<https://pakobserver.net/the-metamorphosis-of-a-megaproject-security-sovereignty-and-sustainability-in-cpec-2-0/>

Chinese Envoy doubles down on Sino-Pak ties with fresh CPEC 2.0 push as CPC marks 105 Years

Abdullah Gauhar Malik

ISLAMABAD – China reaffirmed its commitment to deepening strategic partnership with Pakistan, with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong pledging closer cooperation on governance, economic development, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Celebrating 105th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC), he called China and Pakistan as “iron-clad brothers” and said the bilateral relationship continues to serve as a model of all-weather strategic cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, cabinet members, diplomats, political leaders, and members of the Chinese community in Pakistan also attended the event.

The ambassador praised CPC's 105-year journey, saying the party has transformed China from a poor, semi-colonial nation into the world's second-largest economy through sustained economic reforms, poverty alleviation, and modernization. He highlighted China's economic rise, noting that the country's GDP has grown from 67.9 billion yuan in 1952 to 140.2 trillion yuan in 2025, while nearly 100 million rural residents have been lifted out of poverty and nationwide education, healthcare, and social security systems have expanded significantly.

Quoting President Xi Jinping's address delivered earlier in Beijing to mark the CPC anniversary, Jiang said China remains committed to building a modern socialist country and

pursuing the “great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.” He added that all CPC members are implementing the vision laid out by Xi Jinping for the country’s future development.

The envoy stressed Beijing’s role in global affairs, saying China remains committed to peace, development, and multilateral cooperation through initiatives including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative.

Highlighting the global impact of the Belt and Road Initiative, Jiang said it has expanded to more than 150 countries, generating nearly \$1 trillion in investment, over 3,000 cooperation projects, and more than 400,000 jobs worldwide. Citing World Bank estimates, he said full implementation of the initiative could lift millions of people out of poverty.

Referring to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the ambassador described CPEC as the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. He said the corridor has attracted more than \$25.9 billion in direct Chinese investment, created over 260,000 jobs, added more than 8,000 megawatts of electricity generation capacity, constructed 510 kilometers of expressways, and developed 886 kilometers of national transmission infrastructure, providing a significant boost to Pakistan’s economy.

The envoy also sheds light on Xi Jinping Thought on Party Building, calling it a guiding framework for governance and national development. He said China is willing to deepen exchanges with Pakistani political parties on governance, leadership, and development while strengthening the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

Congratulating Pakistan on its recent economic performance, Jiang said the country’s economy has shown signs of stabilization, citing official figures that placed GDP growth at 3.7 percent in fiscal year 2025-26 and total economic output at a record \$452 billion. He also pointed to improvements in the services and manufacturing sectors and rising per capita income as indicators of economic recovery.

The ambassador further commended Pakistan’s diplomatic role in promoting regional stability, saying Islamabad had played a constructive part in facilitating a memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States, describing the effort as an important contribution to reducing regional tensions.

Looking ahead, Jiang said 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan offers an opportunity to further strengthen bilateral ties. He said Beijing is prepared to work closely with Islamabad to implement the consensus reached by President Xi Jinping with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, align China’s 15th Five-Year Plan with Pakistan’s Uraan Pakistan initiative, accelerate work on an upgraded CPEC 2.0, and expand cooperation under the two countries’ shared development agenda.

Ambassador Jiang expressed confidence in the continued growth of China-Pakistan relations, wishing lasting prosperity, peace, and stability for both countries while reaffirming Beijing’s commitment to an enduring partnership spanning generations.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-envoy-doubles-down-on-sino-pak-ties-with-fresh-cpec-2-0-push-as-cpc-marks-105-years/>

July 03, 2026

The Nation

China-Pakistan's New Chapter (Part 1)

Jiang Zaidong

This year marks the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC). On the morning of 1 July, a grand gathering marking the 105th anniversary of the founding of the CPC was held in Beijing, where General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered an important speech, which comprehensively reviewed and summarised the glorious course and the great achievements of the CPC over the past 105 years in uniting and leading the Chinese people of all ethnic groups. It profoundly reveals the outstanding qualities and key secrets that have enabled the CPC to continuously forge brilliance. It sets forth clear requirements for all CPC members to strengthen their confidence and continue their unremitting efforts, and issues a great call to the entire Party to strive with all their might to create new historical glories. At present, all CPC members and the Chinese people are thoroughly studying and implementing the guiding principles of the speech, firmly heeding the great call of General Secretary Xi Jinping and the CPC Central Committee, forging ahead on a new journey, making contributions in the new era, and striving unremittingly to build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and realise the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Over the past 105 years, the CPC has remained unwaveringly committed to seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation. As noted in General Secretary Xi Jinping's important 1 July speech, under the leadership of the CPC, the Chinese people, through a magnificent and great struggle, overthrew the three mountains of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism, established a new China in which the people are the masters of the country, brought a definitive end to the history of old China as a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society, and realised a historic leap in the people's living standards—from having inadequate food and clothing to achieving moderate prosperity overall, and then to moderate prosperity in all respects. For more than a century, growing from a tiny boat to a towering mighty vessel, and from a party of merely over 50 members at its founding to the world's largest ruling party with more than 100 million members, the CPC has continued to grow from strength to strength. It has united and led the Chinese people in accomplishing the great leap from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong. China's GDP has surged from 67.9 billion yuan in 1952 to 140.2 trillion yuan in 2025, marking a historic leap: from extreme poverty to a per capita income of 13,400 US dollars, with its manufacturing value added accounting for nearly 30% of the global total and its overall national strength rising to the forefront of the world. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, General Secretary Xi Jinping has led the entire Party, the military, and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to write a new chapter of the two miracles of rapid economic development and long-term social stability. China has won the largest-scale battle against poverty in human history, lifting nearly 100 million rural people out of poverty. It has

established the world's largest education, social security, and medical and health systems, propelling the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation into an irreversible historical course. This year marks the inaugural year of the 15th Five-Year Plan. China's economic and social development has forged ahead amid mounting pressures and maintained steady progress. In the first quarter, China's GDP registered 5% year-on-year growth. From January to May, the value added of industrial enterprises above designated size grew by 5.4% year on year, the service sector production index rose by 4.8%, and total merchandise imports and exports expanded by 15.3%. By the end of May, China's foreign exchange reserves remained stable at over 3.4 trillion US dollars. Over the past 105 years, the CPC has always pursued progress for humanity and the common good for the world. As pointed out in General Secretary Xi Jinping's important 1 July speech, today, under the leadership of the CPC, the Chinese people are advancing Chinese modernisation, creating a new form of human advancement, and expanding the pathways for developing countries to achieve modernisation. We must follow the will of the people and the trend of the times, hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, champion the common values of humanity, promote the building of a new type of international relations, and actively implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilisation Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative, so as to inject more positive energy into world peace and development. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, amid the accelerating evolution of the world's profound changes unseen in a century, General Secretary Xi Jinping has personally planned and advanced major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. Since the start of this year, he has held talks and meetings with leaders of multiple countries for comprehensive and in-depth exchanges, put forward China's propositions, demonstrated China's sense of responsibility, shared China's development opportunities, and delivered warmth, confidence and strength to the world, cementing China's role as an anchor of stability in a turbulent world and a powerhouse in global development. As a pivotal practical platform for advancing the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has taken root and yielded fruitful outcomes in over 150 countries across five continents. It has grown into the world's largest, most extensive and most far-reaching platform for international economic cooperation, driving nearly 1 trillion US dollars in investment, delivering over 3,000 cooperation projects, and creating more than 400,000 jobs in countries along the routes. According to World Bank research, the full implementation of the BRI could lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/03-Jul-2026/china-pakistan-s-new-chapter-part-1>

July 08, 2026

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan's Economic Dividends under Chinese Modernization

Dost Barrech

Chinese modernization has become a buzzword in international politics. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China argues that its modernization follows the

trajectory of socialist development. It is applying Marxist principles and its historical experiences, introducing a new model of human civilization and promoting human development. Nobel Prize winner Michael Spence articulates that Chinese-style modernization offers developing states another model for achieving industrial development and economic growth. The question remains: where does Pakistan stand in Chinese modernization?

CPEC 2.0 presents a massive opportunity for Pakistan to move towards industrialization and modernization. The first phase of CPEC focused on road infrastructure and the energy sector. CPEC 2.0 is prioritizing infrastructure projects as well as technology, innovation, sustainability, economic transformation and inclusive growth. Arguably, the future belongs to innovation and the knowledge economy. Luckily, CPEC 2.0 paves the way for innovation and is structured around the 5Es framework: export, e-Pakistan, energy, environment and equity.

China's success in poverty reduction lies in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), digital transformation, renewable energy and technological advancement. The first SEZ in China was built in Shenzhen in the 1980s, which now contributes more than \$550 billion annually to the national GDP. Shenzhen's SEZ is the miracle of this century. Meanwhile, Pakistan's total GDP is about \$380 billion. By applying a proactive approach, Islamabad can learn from China how to expedite work on SEZs under CPEC 2.0 to move towards industrialization. To strengthen the knowledge economy and Digital Pakistan, the country is supposed to coordinate with China on digital transformation, 5G infrastructure, AI, biotechnology, technology parks and fintech. CPEC 2.0 is highly likely to improve social inclusion, agricultural modernization, skills development, education, healthcare and green energy initiatives. Such initiatives, by and large, will ensure economic growth benefiting common people.

Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy, contributing 23 per cent to GDP and employing 37.4 per cent of the national labour force. China imports almost \$140 billion worth of agricultural products annually. Surprisingly, Pakistan's share of agricultural exports to China is merely \$2.4 billion. China is the world's largest exporting and importing market. Thus, Pakistan needs to focus on selected high-demand products for the Chinese market. The country's agricultural productivity cannot compete with regional competitors, requiring agricultural modernization. Pakistan's average wheat yield is 2,400 to 2,500 kg per acre.

On the other hand, India achieves 4,500 to 5,000 kg per acre. Higher wheat yields require modern farming technologies and high-yield seeds. In this regard, collaboration with China in biotechnology, seed genetics, precision farming and modern agricultural research would enhance production. China's headway in agricultural biology and seed development could improve Pakistan's crop yields. Education and farmer training for agricultural modernization should be promoted. Modern machinery, financial literacy, farmer skill development, technology adoption programmes, rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation are crucial in this regard. Dr. Irem Batool says, "Climate-smart agriculture and climate-resilient crops for long-term food security are essential for Pakistan." Balochistan, the largest province of Pakistan in terms of land, possesses 11.77 million acres of uncultivated land, an area equal to

Switzerland and can transform the province as far as agricultural modernization is concerned. Irrigation modernization, olive cultivation, agri-zones and agri-exports under CPEC Phase 2.0 would transform the province. More than 70 per cent of the people of the province still reside in rural areas and are dependent on the agriculture and livestock sectors. Modernizing the above-mentioned sectors will do miracles for rural agricultural growth, prosperity and employment generation, resulting in a reduction in militancy and bolstering social stability in Balochistan.

Though Pakistan contributes only 1 per cent to global greenhouse gas emissions, it is the seventh most affected country by climate change. Alarmingly, climate change is predicted to reduce Pakistan's GDP by up to one-fifth by mid-century. The 2022 floods alone caused losses of \$32 billion, damaged years of development and threatened to weaken the benefits of CPEC-related growth. It augurs well for Pakistan that China has emerged as a global leader in renewable energy and in promoting the Green Belt and Road Initiative. By initiating climate diplomacy with China, Pakistan will be able to obtain Chinese green technologies. Climate diplomacy will serve as a strategic tool to secure green technology, climate finance, technology transfer and resilience support, resulting in climate concerns being hardwired into broader economic and security cooperation. China is already a global leader in electric vehicles (EVs). It can modernize Pakistan's transport sector and reduce transportation costs. CPEC Phase 2.0 needs to focus on decarbonization. It requires shifting from coal-based projects to renewable energy initiatives.

The future of a nation lies in industrialization. Pakistan, as a middle power, has the potential to emerge as an industrialized nation, which will further strengthen its economic and military prowess. The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) states that SEZ-driven reindustrialization might generate two million direct and indirect jobs in the near future. Replicating China's industrial modernization through technology licensing, SEZ-based export platforms and joint venture models would move the country towards global value chains rather than remaining just a supplier of raw materials. When it comes to industrialization, Balochistan once again becomes an important province, where nearly 70 per cent of the country's minerals are located. In Phase 2, the province's rare earth potential can be harnessed by linking mineral extraction with technology transfer, industrial processing, SEZ-based manufacturing and Gwadar-centred export connectivity. In short, Pakistan's progress will depend less on Chinese commitments and more on its capacity to capitalize on CPEC Phase 2.0. This will require reinforcing institutional reforms, inclusive industrialization and climate-resilient development, which will definitely improve the lives of the people.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-economic-dividends-under-chinese-modernization/>

From Gwadar to Dushanbe: Can the Pak-Tajik Corridor Deliver on CPEC 2.0's Trans-regional Promise

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The governments of Pakistan and China are making concerted efforts to expedite the revival of CPEC 2.0, aiming to achieve sustainable socio-economic prosperity, high-quality

industrialization, hybrid agriculture, the systematic development of special economic zones, the institutionalization of digitalization and the integration of artificial intelligence. In this context, both sides are working jointly to accelerate CPEC 2.0, including its extension into trans-regional connectivity, where the proposed Pak-Tajik Corridor of Connectivity (PTCC) is expected to play a pivotal role in the coming years.

It is a positive development that Pakistani policymakers have now recognized the need to bypass Afghanistan and explore alternative routes to connect with Central Asia for enhanced socio-economic integration and stronger trade ties. The opening of five new crossing points with Iran and a renewed focus on the Gilgit-Xinjiang-Tajikistan Corridor will further reinforce efforts to link CPEC 2.0 with all Central Asian countries. Moreover, speculation regarding the National Resistance Front's capture of the Wakhan Corridor in Afghanistan has further brightened the prospect of achieving \$1 trillion consumer market in mutual trade with the Central Asian region.

According to credible diplomatic sources, Pakistan and Tajikistan are actively developing a direct international land corridor via Gilgit and China to strengthen economic ties while bypassing Afghanistan. Under the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA), this route would involve trucks traveling from Pakistan into China's Xinjiang province and then westward into the Gorno-Badakhshan region of Tajikistan representing a significant step toward deepening direct trade relations and bilateral economic cooperation in the years ahead.

Analytically, historically and geographically, Pakistan and Tajikistan are separated by the Wakhan Corridor, a narrow and mountainous strip of Afghan territory. Securing China's strategic consent and involvement for constructing a route through the Wakhan Corridor to connect with Tajikistan would add substantial value to the further expansion, scope, utility and significance of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Comparative analysis suggests that the proposed Gilgit-China-Tajikistan Corridor (GCTC) can leverage existing road infrastructure, enabling Pakistani trucks to reach Tajikistan via the Karakoram Highway (N-35) and China, bypassing volatile Afghan territory. Meanwhile, ongoing engagement between Pakistan's Ministry of Communications and the Embassy of Tajikistan to advance the QTTA marks an important step toward strengthening trans-regional connectivity and aligning CPEC 2.0 with the BRI.

While the Afghanistan bypass is gaining traction for freight, Pakistan also has a long-term interest in establishing a direct overland link through the Pamir-Hindu Kush via the Irshad or Broghil passes when infrastructure permits.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to expanding regional trade with Tajikistan through improved logistics, diversified transit routes and closer coordination. His statement on the timely completion of internal procedures under transit frameworks, including the QTTA arrangement, was deemed critical for operationalizing existing mechanisms and advancing future cooperation. He emphasized the importance of developing an integrated commercial corridor through the

establishment of logistics hubs, offloading facilities and multimodal transport systems to create an efficient supply chain linking Pakistan with Central Asia.

Enhanced cooperation with China will remain central to regional connectivity. Minister Jam Kamal Khan stressed that relying on a single trade route is unsustainable, advocating multiple operational corridors and stronger institutional linkages through direct engagement between the two countries' trade agencies to advance sector-specific cooperation and MoUs.

For his part, Ambassador Sharifzoda highlighted the strategic importance of building reliable and cost-effective transit routes and appreciated Pakistan's efforts to enhance regional connectivity. He also pointed to Tajikistan's potential to export surplus energy to Pakistan and identified opportunities for cooperation in aluminum trade and industrial supply chains.

In a healthy sign, both sides agreed to utilize platforms such as the Joint Economic Commission to advance bilateral cooperation and proposed organizing a B2B forum on the sidelines of upcoming engagements to promote direct interaction between private-sector stakeholders.

A critical analysis of Tajikistan's National Development Strategy 2030 confirms that the country's comprehensive reform program focuses on improving digital and air transport connectivity, ensuring efficient energy use and expanding productive employment. While growth has been robust, Tajikistan remains heavily dependent on remittances and externally financed public investment, underscoring the need for a stronger, more competitive private sector capable of creating more and better-paid jobs.

In summary, the writer underscores the strategic importance of a comprehensive road map for strengthening Pak-Tajik trade, economic cooperation, investment, joint ventures, industrial collaboration and hybrid partnerships, in which the trans-regional connectivity offered by CPEC 2.0 holds the key.

It is recommended that the Tajik government and its policymakers take all possible measures to further develop the telecommunications sector to create a "Pak-Tajik Digital Corridor" under the flagship of CPEC 2.0. In civil aviation, new transparent pricing mechanisms and safety oversight regulatory reforms should be initiated to improve the contestability and affordability of airport infrastructure services, attracting more airlines to the market. This would present an ideal opportunity to establish an independent "Pak-Tajik Air Corridor" for B2B cooperation. The formation of a Joint Air Company" with private-sector participation would address many existing challenges.

The writer proposes that the Tajik government also increase transparency by advancing a new Competition Law to strengthen market oversight and enforcement. The establishment of a "Pak-Tajik Banking & Finance Corridor" would support and facilitate the further strengthening of bilateral relations.

In conclusion, the formation of a "Pak-Tajik Green Energy Corridor", a transport and infrastructure model inspired by Azerbaijan's approach in areas adjacent to Armenia and a "Pak-Tajik Custom Clearance Company" would be timely initiatives that enhance economic, trade, business, investment and people-to-people connectivity. Both sides should jointly seek financial assistance from China, given its sole proprietorship of CPEC 2.0 and the BRI.

Engaging the private sector will be a strategic option in energy, pharmaceuticals, textiles, food processing, light engineering, drone technology, disaster and climate change cooperation and, crucially, the creation of a “Pak-Tajik Corridor of Knowledge” to realize the centuries-old dreams of connectivity, cooperation, coordination and collaboration between the two countries.

In July 2026, Tajikistan’s economy is experiencing robust growth of 6% of GDP, driven by industrial expansion, services and substantial worker remittances. The Asian Development Bank forecasts an even stronger 7.3% expansion, vividly reflecting the resilience and diversity of Tajikistan’s macro-economy and its increasing attractiveness for Pakistani foreign direct investment in the years ahead.

<https://pakobserver.net/from-gwadar-to-dushanbe-can-the-pak-tajik-corridor-deliver-on-cpec-2-0s-trans-regional-promise/>

July 09, 2026

Pakistan Observer

PCECC marks CPC’s 105th Anniversary with renewed commitment to stronger Sino-Pak ties

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan-China Economic and Cultural Council (PCECC) organized seminar to mark 105th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), bringing together Pakistan’s top political, diplomatic, and business leadership to reaffirm the enduring Pakistan-China strategic partnership.

The event was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including Acting President of Pakistan, Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani; President FPCCI and ECO-CCI, Senior Vice President SAARC-CCI, Vice President CACCI, and Deputy Chairman SCO Business Council, Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh; Incharge FPCCI Capital Office and Chairman Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Business Council, Mr. Karim Aziz Malik; Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi; Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Mr. Babar Saleem Swati; Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Pakistan, H.E. Jiang Zaidong; and President PCECC, Mr. Bayazeed Burhanullah Kasi.

Addressing the seminar, speakers reflected on remarkable 105-year journey of the Communist Party of China, acknowledging its transformative leadership in turning China into one of the world’s leading economic powers and a key pillar of global stability, innovation, and international trade.

The participants underscored that Pakistan-China partnership continues to serve as a model of strategic cooperation, driven by mutual trust, shared development goals, and expanding economic collaboration. They highlighted the significant contributions of initiatives such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in strengthening bilateral ties and fostering sustainable growth.

Speakers further stressed that emerging regional cooperation frameworks present immense opportunities for deeper economic integration, enhanced trade connectivity, and investment across Pakistan and the wider Asian region. They stressed that continued collaboration

between Pakistan and China would play a vital role in promoting regional prosperity, strengthening supply chains, and advancing inclusive economic development.

The seminar concluded with renewed commitment to further expanding Pakistan-China economic, cultural, and people-to-people relations while recognizing the CPC's historic role in shaping China's remarkable development and its growing contribution to regional and global progress.

<https://pakobserver.net/pcecc-marks-cpcs-105th-anniversary-with-renewed-commitment-to-stronger-sino-pak-ties/>

July 15, 2026

Pakistan Observer

Prosperity through Partnership: Xinjiang's Strategic Anchor in CPEC 2.0

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The escalating regional tensions in the Middle East, the potential blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and the imminent disruption of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait have sharply accentuated Pakistan's geographical significance as a sustainable and enduring Middle Corridor. This corridor connects South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Western China, with CPEC 2.0 serving as its trump card. In this context, the success of the ongoing "Operation Shaban" is vital to neutralizing terrorist networks and transforming Balochistan into a land of opportunity, peace, prosperity and enhanced connectivity.

Pakistan's Arabian Sea coastline, deep-water ports at Gwadar and Karachi and expanding transport infrastructure under CPEC 2.0 position the country as a regional hub for trade, logistics and energy. If connectivity bottlenecks, trade facilitation issues and export diversification challenges are properly addressed, Pakistan can significantly increase its trade volumes not only with neighboring countries but also with markets in Europe, Africa and Southeast Asia. The execution, implementation and completion of CPEC 2.0 would thus represent a paradigm shift in the years ahead.

Analytically, Xinjiang's role in regional connectivity and the fate of CPEC 2.0 are deeply intertwined. The region is being repositioned from a domestic periphery into the core hub of China's westward opening, making its stability and infrastructure essential to the success of the upgraded corridor. Comparative studies reveal that Xinjiang is the geographical and logistical linchpin of China's Eurasian ambitions. CPEC's northern strategic anchor is Kashgar, which makes Xinjiang China's sole overland connecting hub to the Arabian Sea. All goods, energy and people moving along this route are expected to transit through Xinjiang, dramatically slashing a 12,000-kilometer sea route to just 3,000 kilometers. The timely completion of CPEC 2.0 and the effective operationalization of Gwadar Port are, therefore, pivotal.

The doctrine of comparative advantage confirms that beyond CPEC 2.0, Xinjiang anchors the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor, which is being further connected, diversified and upgraded. The China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, once completed, will link Kashgar directly to Central Asia and Iran, creating a vast network in which CPEC 2.0

serves as a critical southern spur. The strategic way forward involves bypassing Afghanistan a state chronically gripped by warlordism and a war economy, which produces diminishing returns for broader trans-regional connectivity and socio-economic integration.

It is anticipated that the Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone in Kashgar will serve as a testing ground for cross-border finance, new logistics models and streamlined customs procedures, directly enhancing the ease of doing business under CPEC 2.0. Significantly, CPEC 2.0 is not a simple expansion of the original \$62 billion portfolio; it is a qualitatively different, more mature phase focused on high-quality and sustainable growth.

The highest priority for Pakistani policymakers must be to replicate Xinjiang's advanced techniques in cotton cultivation, drip irrigation and arid-land farming to ensure food security and rural employment. This knowledge transfer, directly leveraging Xinjiang's expertise, is a centerpiece of the upgraded partnership. CPEC 2.0 must also shift Xinjiang-based manufacturing downstream into Pakistan. The Rashakai Special Economic Zone, with its designated Xinjiang Enterprise Park, offers a concrete model where private companies and investors from Xinjiang can relocate to capitalize on lower logistics costs and access markets further south.

The \$6.8 billion Main Line-1 railway project should be initiated as soon as possible. As the single most important connectivity project under CPEC 2.0, its fate hinges on delicate financing negotiations, for which access to credit from the domestic banking industry, soft loans from the GCC and Islamic banking instruments will play a critical role. Meanwhile, Gwadar's development is no longer about a mega-port in isolation; it is tightly coupled with its Free Zone and remains heavily dependent on Xinjiang for transit trade and raw material processing, including proposed oil refineries, which must be materialized.

The formation of Green and Digital Corridors integrating Xinjiang's coal power investments with solar, wind and hydropower projects in Pakistan and co-building digital infrastructure such as 5G and fiber optics across the Karakoram mirrors Xinjiang's own technological push and represents a mutually beneficial proposition. It is a positive omen that Chinese policymakers frame the high-quality development of Xinjiang as the way forward. This model should be replicated in CPEC 2.0 by providing foolproof security to all Chinese personnel in Pakistan, recognizing that Pakistan's internal stability and a stable Xinjiang are two sides of the same coin.

A risk-free Xinjiang corridor would serve not merely as a transit point but as the knowledge, industrial and security template for the partnership's next phase. Trans-regional connectivity with Xinjiang through transport, rail and cluster models alongside joint industrial parks, SME networks, reciprocal trade houses and food packing and processing units would be a strategic boon for Pakistan and its agricultural products.

Undoubtedly, Xinjiang's role as the central hub linking Western China to the Arabian Sea is accelerating. The new border port at Tashkurgan is opening new logistical routes, directly complementing ongoing upgrades to the Karakoram Highway. Bilateral talks have rightly emphasized improving year-round logistical efficiency through the Khunjerab Pass and expediting other major transit corridors, such as the Babusar Tunnel and the M-10 Motorway.

Both governments are pushing to establish Gwadar Port as a primary, multilateral trade and connectivity hub, transforming the route into a gateway that allows Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran and Afghanistan to access global maritime routes via the shortest land paths—a goal that must be jointly implemented and completed.

Critical analysis confirms that Xinjiang's 15th Five-Year Plan focuses on nine priorities, including modern industries, opening-up, livelihoods and ecology. It will tap coal, oil, gas, minerals and new energy while expanding digital sectors like AI and computing power. By 2030, targets include 26 million tonnes of grain, 5.6 million tonnes of cotton and 14 million tonnes of fruit capacity. The plan also aims to create over 470,000 urban jobs annually, boost the renewable energy base, advance the Three-North Shelterbelt Project and ensure business and social stability. All of this constitutes a strategic asset for CPEC 2.0's scope, utility, expansion and trans-regional connectivity.

In summary, Xinjiang's macro-economy is anchored by its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), which targets an annual GDP growth of 5.5 to 6 percent, pivoting from traditional agriculture and resource extraction toward a modern industrial economy focused on renewable energy, digital sectors and cross-border trade. This should also serve as the strategic vision for CPEC 2.0.

Frankly speaking, from fresh-cut roses to new-energy vehicles, exports from Xinjiang are increasingly reaching markets across Asia and Europe. According to official figures, the region's foreign trade in the first two months of 2026 totaled 71.22 billion Yuan (\$10.31 billion), up 36 percent year-on-year, outpacing the national average by 17.7 percentage points.

This surge underscores Xinjiang's expanding role as a trade hub and reflects the broader economic opportunities emerging as China accelerates the development of its vast western region. Together, CPEC 2.0 and Xinjiang will play a vital role in building an alternative Middle Corridor.

<https://pakobserver.net/prosperity-through-partnership-xinjiangs-strategic-anchor-in-cpec-2-0/>

Chinese Newspapers

July 14, 2026

China daily

China-Pakistan enduring friendship

Adnan Iftikhar

Comprehensive bilateral and industrial cooperation unlocks new development prospects

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. In Pakistan, it is warmly celebrated in the streets, marketplaces, parks, schools, colleges and chambers of commerce of major cities. Throughout the celebrations, the air reverberated with proclamations of how Pakistan-China friendship is higher than the mountains, deeper than the seas and sweeter than honey.

Over the past 75 years, the two countries have cultivated a relationship founded on mutual respect, strategic trust and a shared commitment to development and regional stability. As global and regional dynamics continue to evolve, cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has emerged as a significant pillar of the China-Pakistan partnership, creating new opportunities for economic growth, industrialization, connectivity, cultural exchange, multilateral cooperation and regional prosperity.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has contributed substantially to modernizing Pakistan's infrastructure through investments in transportation networks, energy generation and industrial development. Major road projects and power plants have enhanced connectivity and addressed critical development challenges. Investment in the energy sector has uplifted people's lives at a time when Pakistan was facing its worst energy crisis. Beyond their economic value, these initiatives have strengthened regional linkages and reinforced Pakistan's role as an important gateway connecting South Asia, Central Asia and the broader Eurasian region.

Educational, cultural and people-to-people exchanges have become other important dimensions of bilateral relations. An example is the increasing number of Pakistani students studying in Chinese universities and the Pakistanis who have learned the Chinese language and are now working in different places in China, especially as interpreters. The growing interest in learning the Chinese language in Pakistan, paired with scholarship programs and academic partnerships, has created valuable opportunities for students, researchers and professionals of both countries. These exchanges have fostered greater mutual understandings and strengthened societal connections. Cultural programs, media cooperation and tourism initiatives have also contributed to building a stronger foundation of friendship between the peoples of China and Pakistan. Cultural cooperation has further strengthened. Chinese food is becoming popular as more Chinese restaurants are being opened in major cities across Pakistan. Many Chinese habits, such as drinking hot water, are also becoming popular among Pakistanis, who are beginning to appreciate its health benefits.

Another example of the growing cooperation is the increasingly visible presence of Chinese-made cars on Pakistan's streets, which were dominated by Japanese-made cars for almost three decades. Chinese brands such as Haval, Changan and BYD have established a strong presence in Pakistan.

The SCO has also provided an important platform for advancing bilateral and regional cooperation. As active members of the organization, China and Pakistan have collaborated on issues related to regional security, economic development and multilateral dialogue. Through the organization, both countries have engaged in efforts to combat terrorism, extremism and transnational crime while promoting economic connectivity and regional integration.

While the projects under the BRI and SCO frameworks have brought substantial benefits, several challenges remain and warrant careful attention. Effective planning, transparency and long-term sustainability will be essential for maximizing the benefits of future economic cooperation. The CPEC should be seen not merely as a corridor but as a transformative

development framework that helps Pakistan convert geographical obstacles into geoeconomic connectivity and cooperation into national development.

Security poses another major challenge. Both countries need to attach great importance to this issue as the successful implementation of infrastructure and connectivity projects depends on a stable and secure environment. Sustained cooperation between relevant institutions in both countries will be important to ensure that development projects proceed smoothly and contribute to broader regional stability.

China and Pakistan should continue to pursue constructive engagement, strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms and promote dialogue as a means of addressing common challenges. The SCO can play a particularly valuable role in fostering trust, enhancing cooperation and supporting a more inclusive regional order.

In April and May, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari paid a weeklong visit to China, with stops in Hunan and Hainan provinces, and focused on factories, farming and provincial-level cooperation, underscoring the two countries' efforts to move their long-running economic partnership into industrial upgrading, agricultural modernization and technology-driven growth.

Looking ahead, several areas offer promising opportunities for deeper cooperation. Both China and Pakistan should continue to advance high-quality development under the BRI framework. Future cooperation could place greater emphasis on innovation-driven growth, green development, renewable energy, digital connectivity and technological collaboration.

Educational and research cooperation should be further expanded. Universities, research institutions and think tanks can play a vital role in generating new ideas, promoting policy dialogue and strengthening intellectual exchanges.

China and Pakistan should continue leveraging the SCO as a platform for regional economic integration and connectivity. Enhanced cooperation in trade facilitation, transportation networks, logistics and cross-border commerce can unlock new opportunities for growth across the region.

At the same time, coordinated efforts to address security challenges will contribute to a more stable environment conducive to development and prosperity.

The progress achieved under the BRI and SCO frameworks reflects not only the strength of bilateral ties but also the broader potential of regional collaboration. By prioritizing sustainable development, innovation, educational exchanges and multilateral cooperation, both countries can further deepen their partnership and contribute meaningfully to regional peace, connectivity and shared prosperity in the years ahead.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202607/14/WS6a5622b1a310986e2b465397.html>