



# For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

## Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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**June 01-15, 2025**

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**June 02, 2025**



بین الاقوامی تنظیم برائے لاشی (آئی این پی) کے منتر و ناکہ کو فروغ دینے کے لئے پاکستان اور ہم خیال ممالک کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کو تیار ہے۔ پاکستانی نائب وزیر اعظم اور وزیر خارجہ محمد اسحاق ڈار نے ہانگ کانگ میں بین الاقوامی تنظیم برائے لاشی کے قیام کے کوشش کی دہائی تکریب میں شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر منتر و ناکہ ڈار سے ملاقات کے دوران وائیک بی نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان اور دیگر ممالک کے ساتھ مل کر تجارت کے رضا کارانہ اور موثر سے متبادل حل فراہم کرنے اور عالمی حقوق میں امن، استحکام، انصاف اور عدل کے فروغ کے لئے ایک نیا پلیٹ فارم بنانے کو تیار ہے۔ ملاقات کے دوران وزیر خارجہ اسحاق ڈار نے کہا کہ بین الاقوامی تنظیم برائے لاشی کے قیام کے لئے چین کا اقدام بروقت ہے اور کثیر جہتی نظام کو مضبوط بنانے کے لئے ایک اہم کردار ادا کرتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حال ہی میں بیجنگ میں پاکستان، چین اور افغانستان کے درمیان مذاہد کی غیر ملکی طاقت کا سپاہ رہی۔ پاکستان نے چین کی لاشی کی تجویز کو قبول کرنا ہے اور افغانستان کے ساتھ سفارتی تعلقات کو سرکاری سطح تک بڑھانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ اور کیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائنا کی مرکزی کمیٹی کے سیاسی بیورو کے رکن وائیک بی نے کہا کہ افغانستان کے ساتھ سفارتی تعلقات میں بہتری سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات مستحکم ہوں گے۔ اتحاد بڑھے گا اور تعاون مضبوط ہوگا۔ وائیک بی نے کہا کہ چین جولائی میں اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کی صدارت سنبھالے گا اور بین الاقوامی امن و سلامتی میں کردار ادا کرنے میں پاکستان کی حمایت کرتا ہے۔

**اسحاق ڈار کی چینی وزیر خارجہ سے ملاقات ہانگ کانگ**

لاشی تنظیم چین کا بروقت اقدام، افغان سفیر تعینات کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے

سفارتی تعلقات میں بہتری دونوں ممالک کے مفاد میں ہے، وائیک بی

ہانگ کانگ (آئی این پی) چینی وزیر خارجہ اسحاق ڈار سے ملاقات کے دوران گفتگو کرتے وائیک بی نے نائب وزیر اعظم اور وزیر خارجہ منتر و ناکہ سے کہا ہے کہ چین (ہائی سطر 7 بجے نمبر 3)

[https://epaper.daillyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Date=2025-06-01](https://epaper.daillyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Date=2025-06-01)

[https://epaper.daillyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2025-06-01](https://epaper.daillyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2025-06-01)

Evolution Closed - Our Seminars

چین، پاکستانی سافٹ ویئر کمپنی کی بڑی سرمایہ کاری  
 کمپنی سرمایہ کاری کی ہم آہنگی اور ڈیٹا سروس کی فراہمی میں پیش پیش ہے  
 تیانجن میں قائم مرکز باصلاحیت افرادی خدمات کا حامل ہے، بعد از یہ سول ٹیکنالوجیز  
 تیانجن (مجموعہ) کو اپنی پہلی سطح کے کاروبار کے خارج  
 ایک ملک کی سرمایہ کاری کی کمپنی کی مالی سطح پر ہم آہنگی اور  
 میں جو پاکستانی اپنی کمپنی کے سول ٹیکنالوجیز کی  
 سرحد پار ڈیٹا خدمات (اپنی سطح 6 بجے نمبر 53)

[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2025-06-02](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2025-06-02)

**June 04, 2025**

**Pakistan Observer**

**China's BRI: Washington's Bête Noire**

*Dr Mehmood ul Hassan Khan*

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) published its latest report about the BRI and shared a record year of Chinese BRI engagement with USD 70.7 billion in construction contracts and about USD 51 billion in investments vividly reflecting its sustainable growth despite external shocks (US trade & tariff war, decoupling, delinking, overcapacity, global economic constraints and rise to conflicting geo-politics) and internal adjustments (deepening of economic structural reforms and shifting of traditional productive channels to qualitative industrialization).

Remarkably, Chinese BRI engagement has reached USD 1.175 trillion since 2013.

Preliminary data for 2024 show about 340 deals worth USD 121.8 billion across 150 BRI countries, a 31 percent increase compared to USD 92.3 billion in 2023.

Indonesia remained the largest recipient with USD 9.3 billion, followed by Saudi Arabia (USD 5.8 billion) and Kazakhstan (USD 4.6 billion), reflecting a diversification of investments spanning ASEAN, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

On the other hand, the successive US governments have increasingly and aggressively accused China's BRI of being an influence campaign that ensnares developing countries through so-called 'debt-trap diplomacy.

' Evidently, two US Government Acts namely the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA) of 2018 and the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development (BUILD) Act of 2018 are at the heart of America's pushback against BRI.

These acts have led to the creation of the U.S International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the Blue Dot Network.

Many in the US accuse BRI of being a pretense for China's "debt-trap diplomacy" and desire to establish a military foothold in the Indo-Pacific and beyond, also known as the "String of Pearls" theory.

In addition, the U.S.

also argues that China's lending and investment practices have remained opaque despite its rapid growth.

These Western narratives are untrue, false and fake and have political hypes.

Similarly, the G7 "Build Back Better World (B3W)" was launched on June 12, 2021, pledging to provide an alternative to China's BRI for infrastructure development of low and middle-income countries.

However, due to many complex economic, financial and geopolitical reasons the B3W could not be matured and materialized.



Conversely, the EU's Global Gateway Initiative (GGI), launched in 2021, is a response to China's BRI and aims to provide an alternative source of infrastructure investment, particularly in the digital, energy and transport sectors, with a focus on sustainability.

However, it has not yet been fully operational.

It seems that the BRI is a *bête noire* of Washington, which has long been apparent.

Most recently, while appearing before two congressional hearings, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio again expressed his loathing of the BRI, maintaining that "China does not do humanitarian aid, rather it does predatory lending in the shape of the BRI.

" Critically speaking, this is a political statement full of smearing, exposing the US's inherent enmity against China and its economy.

Comparative studies reveal that cosmetic concerns about debt sustainability, transparency, environmental and social impacts, strategic motivations, and lack of reciprocity in China's approach to infrastructure development and economic cooperation have become part and parcel of Washington's smearing of China.

Nevertheless, the BRI has become the biggest development project of the 21st century, attaining the status of a global public good, enhancing connectivity and promoting economic cooperation across Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

The US slashing of aid to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) has done nothing but reveal calculated geopolitical maneuvering against the Chinese BRI.

Unfortunately, US foreign policy has been an extension of its Military Complex Theory, engaging in numerous international wars and misadventures by creating false, fake, and fabricated propaganda.

On the other hand, China has championed global shared prosperity, further consolidated through Xi's global development, security, and civilizational initiatives.

The emergence of the Global South, SCO, BRICS, RCEP, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) demonstrate open, transparent, just, and fair Chinese economic cooperation without geopolitical sugar-coating or hidden geo-strategic schemes.

Hence, China has become a real champion of trans-regional connectivity and socio-economic integration worldwide.

Obviously, China's neighborhood diplomacy, aiming to revive ancient trade routes with nearby countries, has steadily grown in scope and ambition.

Gracefully, it has developed into the largest global cooperation platform, with more than 150 countries and 30 international organizations participating, and institutional frameworks established for debt sustainability and green development transition.

Consequently, it has become an iconic platform for global green transformation.

Unluckily, US policymakers have preferred trade over aid in Africa and elsewhere, gradually slashing all foreign aid. The current US administration has discarded all USAID programs, showing politically oriented intentions that worsen suffering for humanity and struggling

populations. Therefore, sub-Saharan Africa has become the most affected region, losing billions in funding previously supporting health, humanitarian, and development programs.

Ultimately, mass famine in Sudan, the collapse of HIV treatment programs in South Africa, and millions of additional malaria and polio cases are direct consequences of the USAID ban.

Conversely, China and the BRI have become the biggest trading and development partners of the African continent.

In summary, China's trade volume with BRI member countries has surpassed US\$19.1 trillion.

Moreover, its support for the BRI family has been holistic, comprehensive, and diversified, aligned with the principle of "planning together, building together and benefiting together.

" BRI has become a global infrastructure development engine, with a comparative advantage over the Western donor-recipient model that entangles national economies.

It has engaged in genuine capacity-building partnerships through grants and interest-free loans for schools, hospitals, disaster relief, and training programs in agriculture, public health, and governance.

Over 500,000 officials and technicians have been trained in China since 2013.

Unfortunately, the US administration continues to peddle misunderstandings and mistrust about China's valuable contributions to global development.

The most recent International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) highlights China's role in peaceful coexistence, conflict resolution, good governance, and a rule-based international trading and economic system through democratic means of collective consultation, fair play, dialogue, diplomacy, and development—

pushing back against whims and wishes of modern-day power players.

Thus, the "America First" doctrine is fading.

Hopefully, China will continue to contribute its ancient wisdom and solutions toward

building a more just and fairer world order, where all countries have equal opportunities for development and success.

Constructive competition, cooperation, multiculturalism, ending the Cold War mentality, and resolving the US trade and tariff war would be the way forward.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-bri-washingtons-bete-noire/>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **Unlocking Pakistan's Potential: A Strategic Call to Chinese Investors**

*Dr Hassan Daud Butt*

The military battle with India may have dominated headlines for the past few weeks, but now the real challenge is economic and Pakistan must win this one by accelerating reforms, boosting growth, rationalizing taxes and incentives.

Pakistan must no longer wait for investors; it must call them to seize the moment.

The way Chinese support was visible, its presence in the economic front is equally important.

For Pakistan, Chinese investors are not just business partners but strategic allies in the country's journey toward sustainable economic transformation at a pivotal moment in history.

This partnership is pivotal in navigating regional challenges and unlocking shared growth opportunities.

Similarly, for Chinese investors, Pakistan's evolving landscape offers something rare and while the scale, speed and impact of investments remain unpredictable, the potential through market forces is significant, especially under the platform of CPEC.

In this pursuit, the difference between success and failure will come down to flexibility, resilience and the ability to navigate an environment where security challenges remain.

The Chinese investors backed by the SOEs must appreciate that Pakistan is not a simple story of risk, but one of calculated opportunity.

Despite policy reforms and infrastructure upgrades like the Pakistan Single Window (PSW), Pakistan's investment potential remained constrained by poor inter-agency coordination, limited market intelligence and underuse of data analytics for investor targeting.

While efforts such as visa-on-arrival, fee exemptions and strategic engagement with China and the Middle East reflect a proactive stance, systemic challenges persist.

The Foreign Investment (Promotion and Protection) Act 2022, Pakistan Investment Policy 2023 and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) are positive steps, but a comprehensive overhaul of investment governance is still needed as the investment in the past 3 years have averaged only 13.1% far below the South Asian average of 27.8%.

Success in attracting Chinese investment will require an approach that integrates deep market intelligence, diplomatic outreach and nimble marketing strategies in sectors where Chinese expertise along with capital exists and Pakistan has the competitive advantage that can create mutual benefits.

Collaboration with Chinese business leaders can help anticipate economic shifts and tailor offerings to sector-specific investor interests.

It is equally critical to dispel outdated narratives about relocating manufacturing from China to Pakistan because of labour cost, especially as tax incentives in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) face resistance from IMF, instead, Pakistan should highlight its growing internal



market, strategic location on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and emerging opportunities in sectors like energy, tourism, mining, IT and digital economy.

The government must also strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks to protect Chinese investments, foster joint ventures and facilitate technology transfer and also improve the performance within BOI and CPEC cell in attracting new initiatives and projects.

Similarly, the Chinese Government may direct their enterprises to improve the level of interaction with Pakistan enterprises and government agencies and make a fair risk assessment based on mutual trust.

Even today, despite the narrative of excess energy by some stakeholders, the energy sector remains the backbone of Pakistan's growth story.

Beyond pending CPEC hydropower projects like Azad-Pattan etc in AJK (which become critical after the concerns on IWT), Pakistan is ripe for pioneering ventures in green hydrogen, solar and wind energy.

With its abundant renewable resources, Pakistan could become a hub for hydrogen energy production, serving both domestic needs and energy-export markets.

Infrastructure development is another arena where Pakistan still has an advantage.

Gwadar port, a jewel in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is slowly transforming from a deep-sea port into a multi-dimensional economic zone.

The recently inaugurated Gwadar International Airport enhances its regional connectivity, making the city a focal point for logistics and trade.

But to make the port more efficient and profitable requires increased resolve in improving the security across Balochistan, streamline customs, immigration, quarantine and inspection under one digital platform and reduced overlap between federal, provincial and local bodies.

Chinese investment can also be attracted to automated cargo handling, modern warehousing and cold storage. Through these measures we can market Gwadar as a cheaper, shorter transit route with incentives for logistics operators. Similarly, the ML-1 railway project offers a transformative opportunity for regional integration, one that significantly outweighs the associated risks. It must be fast-tracked through a well-structured Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with a joint ownership model, bringing together Pakistan Railways, a Chinese consortium, multilateral lenders and potentially private sector operators, to establish a corridor linking Gwadar with Central Asian Republics (CARs) under seamless security protective cover.

Pakistan's tourism sector is now on the cusp of transformation through strategic initiatives like Integrated Tourism Zones (ITZs) which needs to be carefully pitched to the Chinese private sector. This revitalization, supported by improved road infrastructure, better visa facilitation and increased flight connectivity, is projected to push tourism revenues to almost double. Chinese investors experienced in eco-tourism, hospitality and smart-tourists city infrastructure can help shape resorts powered by renewables and connected by upgraded transport, creating economic opportunities for local communities while preserving cultural

heritage. Lastly, Pakistan's mineral wealth has finally taken center stage following the recent Minerals Summit in Islamabad, where a new roadmap was unveiled to attract foreign investment in the mining and minerals sector. With reserves of copper, gold and strategic minerals vital for the global energy transition, Pakistan now offers Chinese investors an entry point into one of the last untapped resource frontiers in the region. Pakistan's offer of sovereign guarantees for mineral exploration and security assurances, particularly for Chinese firms operating in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan can further strengthen the investment proposition. Chinese companies with capabilities in green mining, sustainable extraction and complete mineral value chains from processing to export can thus play a transformative role. Yet policy success will hinge not only on incentives but on transparency, consistency and security like our competitor countries that are adopting aggressive FDI attraction. For Chinese investors, the choice is clear: Pakistan offers a growing market with immense potential, an improving business environment and openings at the crossroads of traditional strengths and emerging frontiers. Acting now means securing a foothold in a fast-evolving landscape and playing a defining role in shaping the future of regional economic integration and on our part the investment promotion agencies (IPAs) must modernize their marketing strategies and embrace tailored, technology-driven approaches to remain ever relevant and competitive in this challenging environment. The Government must recognize that investment will only flow into Pakistan if there is a compelling profit margin coupled with disciplined and transparent risk management. The challenges are there and real, but if Pakistan can win a battle with a formidable adversary, this challenge is much within our reach. We must remember, in war or policy manifestation, it's the person behind the gun and the desk that makes the difference." The author is an Investment & Projects Management specialist and faculty member of various institutions/ universities.

<https://pakobserver.net/unlocking-pakistans-potential-a-strategic-call-to-chinese-investors/>

**June 05, 2025**

**Express Tribune**

### **China welcomes Pak-Afghan ties upgrade**

China welcomes the announcement of Pakistan and Afghanistan governments to upgrade their diplomatic relations from the charge d'affaires to ambassadorial level, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on Wednesday. Addressing a regular news briefing, he said that recently, the Pakistani government and the interim Afghan government announced that they would upgrade Pakistan-Afghanistan relations to the ambassadorial level. "China welcomes this and believes that it will help Pakistan and Afghanistan enhance mutual trust, strengthen cooperation and jointly maintain peace and stability in the region," he added. The spokesperson said that this is also an important positive measure for Pakistan and Afghanistan to implement the outcomes of the informal meeting of foreign ministers of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan in May this year. "China is willing to continue to play a constructive role in promoting the improvement and development of relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan," he added. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2549550/china-welcomes-pak-afghan-ties-upgrade>

K2 Daily



[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Back\\_Page&Date=2025-06-05](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2025-06-05)

[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2025-06-05](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2025-06-05)

June 07, 2025

Pakistan Observer

Shangri-La Dialogue 2025 & China-Pak resolve

Dr Mehmood ul Hassan Khan

THE most recently held Asia’s premier defence forum, the Shangri-La Dialogue 2025, was dominated by the hard-hitting speech of US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, China’s rational response, and Pakistan’s resolve for greater regional peace, stability and security.

Interestingly, the dialogue also echoed Pakistan’s retaliatory operation, codenamed Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos.

During his maiden speech, Pete Hegseth intentionally projected China as an “imminent threat” to the Asia-Pacific region, justifying an increase in military budgets from 1.5 to 5 percent, thereby preparing for an aggressive American defence-industrial push.

By portraying China, North Korea, and Iran as the axis of global instability, Hegseth sought to revive the US Military Complex Theory.

China warned him not to “play with fire” or make baseless accusations.

The Chinese embassy in Singapore condemned the speech, accusing Washington of escalating regional tensions and profiting from war risks. Hegseth’s claims were factually incorrect, misrepresenting the US’s “declining” role and its desire to reclaim influence.

His speech was filled with provocation, repeatedly attacking China and exaggerating the so-called “China threat.” Consequently, China rightly labelled the US Administration as the region’s “biggest troublemaker.” As Hegseth spoke in Singapore, China’s navy and air force conducted routine “combat readiness patrols” around the Scarborough Shoal, a disputed area with the Philippines. Hegseth’s call to economically decouple from China reveals Washington’s fear that economic interdependence deters military aggression.

He also portrayed India as a rising counterweight to China, signalling a new Cold War strategy.

However, a recent phone call between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping helped ease tensions.

This contrast highlights the differing approaches of the two powers: while the US relies on military posturing and fear, China focuses on building trade bridges and promoting stability through economic cooperation.

While the US only sells fear, China offers developmental infrastructure.

While the US warns of threats, China promotes mutual trust creating mutual benefits.

The US narrative is always based on a decaying foundation of outdated military dominance, while China’s strategy is built on socio-economic diplomacy, technological innovation and an unwavering resolve to non-interference.

Remarkably, China has never hunted colonization in its entire national history; even the Great Wall was a defensive measure, not a springboard for conquest.

Today, China is building a new kind of “Great Wall”, a deterrence strategy based on economic connectivity, infrastructure development and partnerships that create win-win scenarios globally.

Hence, China is quietly creating interdependencies that promote peace, stability and shared prosperity.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry response to Hegseth’s speech was “measured”, “sensible” and articulated urging the US to fully respect the efforts of countries in the region to maintain peace and stability and stop deliberately destroying the peaceful and stable environment cherished by the region.”

Thus Chinese wisdom guarantees regional peace and stability.

It is evident that the US has sought to reconstruct its “network architect” centred on bilateral security arrangements, to assemble an integrated and interconnected network of mini-lateral

alliances such as the Quad and AUKUS to counter so-called self-coined Chinese military and diplomatic dominance.

Hegseth's address and meeting with ASEAN defense ministers focused on advancing this US conflict-laden agenda in the region.

On the contrary, the track record of the US centred alliances in destabilizing regions rather than delivering stability and establishing deterrence is remarkable.

From foreign invasions and interventions to arms sales and fabricated groupings, America has been fuelling conflicts and undermining regional peace. Arms supplies to Taiwan, Philippine, Australia and regional countries is provoking a sense of instability and insecurity in the region. It fears that America's military alliances and actions of arming the regional countries could fuel an arms race in the Asia-Pacific with AUKUS risking nuclear proliferation, becoming a major source of insecurity and undermining peace and stability of one of the world's most economically vibrant regions. In summary, the US Department of Defense annual report 2024 also accused Chinese officials of running "information operations and disinformation campaign to mischaracterize AUKUS as a vehicle for nuclear proliferation and threat to regional stability" and attempted to defame the significance of the Global Security Initiative (GSI). The foreign ministers of Malaysia and Indonesia, as well as a growing chorus of other countries in the Pacific, have openly sounded the alarm on the nuclear pact and the risk of arms race and nuclear proliferation. As major international powers, China and the US should bear the responsibility to stabilize their economic relationship to deliver benefits to both peoples and support the wider global economy. It is suggested that both should also strengthen global security and thwart shared threats such as terrorism, nuclear proliferation, transnational crimes, drug trafficking and climate change. It seems that stopping bullying and coercion is the only way forward and both countries should jointly work for regional peace and prosperity. The US administration should also stop dabbling false narratives about China, respect the Asian country's territorial integrity and deepen strategic engagement with Beijing to prevent the region from tipping into an endless arms race. While delivering a keynote speech in Shangri-La Dialogue General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) has called for the urgent resolution of the Kashmir dispute, warning that continued tensions with India threaten regional peace and security. He stressed the need for active and effective dialogue frameworks bilateral, regional and global to prevent conflicts rather than respond to them after escalation.

<https://pakobserver.net/shangri-la-dialogue-2025-china-pak-resolve/>

## Jang News

### **ڈیفنس سسٹم دینے کی پیشکش HQ-19 اسٹیلٹھ طیارے اور J-35 چین کی پاکستان کو ففٹھ جنریشن**

ڈیفنس سسٹم دینے کی HQ اسٹیلٹھ طیارے اور جدید ترین J-3519 اسلام آباد (این این آئی) چین نے پاکستان کو ففٹھ جنریشن طیاروں کی خریداری کیلئے 2 ارب ڈالر کی J-F17 پیشکش کردی، حکومت پاکستان کے مطابق آذربائیجان نے 40 پاکستانی سرمایہ کاری، 4.6 ارب ڈالر کے دفاعی معاہدوں پر دستخط کئے۔ حکومت پاکستان کے آفیشل اکاؤنٹ سے وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کے دور حکومت میں حاصل کی جانے والی سفارتی کامیابیاں جاری کی گئیں حکومت کے مطابق شہباز شریف کی 35- اسٹیلٹھ J زیر صدارت پاکستان نے کئی عظیم سفارتی کامیابیاں حاصل کیں جن میں چین کی جانب سے 40 ففٹھ جنریشن ڈیفنس سسٹم کی پیشکش شامل ہے کہا گیا کہ چین سے 3.7 ارب ڈالر قرض کی مؤخر HQ-19 500- اوکس اور KJ طیارے، میں تربیت دی جائے گی حکومت IT اور AI ادائیگی بھی شامل ہے جبکہ ہواے کے تعاون سے 100000 پاکستانیوں کو 17- طیاروں کی خریداری کے لیے 2 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری اور JF4.6 پاکستان کے مطابق آذربائیجان نے 40 پاکستانی ارب ڈالر کے دفاعی معاہدوں پر دستخط کیے جبکہ پاکستان ایران تجارت کے 3 سے 10 بلین ڈالر تک بڑھنے کا امکان ہے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/909192>

### **پاکستان جو بھی قدم اٹھاتا ہے چین کو اعتماد میں لیتا ہے، تجزیہ کار**

کراچی (ٹی وی رپورٹ) جیو کے پروگرام ”رپورٹ کارڈ“ میں میزبان علینہ فاروق نے اپنے پینل کے سامنے سوال رکھا کہ کیا ٹرمپ بھارت کو پاکستان کے ساتھ براہ راست مذاکرات کے لیے دباؤ ڈال کر آمادہ کر سکتے ہیں؟ جواب میں تجزیہ کار مظہر عباس، اعجاز سید، ارشاد بھٹی اور محمل سرفراز نے کہا کہ پاکستان جو بھی قدم اٹھاتا ہے وہ چین کو اعتماد میں لے کر کرتا ہے، برطانوی فارن سیکرٹری باضابطہ پاک بھارت مذاکرات کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/909245>

**June 08, 2025**

## **The NEWS**

### **Upgrading relations**

*Muhammad Daud Khan*

Pakistan has upgraded its diplomatic representation in Afghanistan by appointing its chargé d'affaires in Kabul as ambassador. This marks a significant step in improving diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar made the announcement on the social media platform X (previously Twitter), following what he described as a “very productive” visit to Kabul.

“Pakistan-Afghanistan relations are on a positive trajectory,” Dar stated. “I am confident that this step will contribute to enhanced engagement; deepen Pak-Afghan cooperation in economic, security, counter-terrorism and trade areas; and promote further exchanges between the two fraternal countries.”

Although both nations maintain embassies in each other’s capitals, they had until recently been headed by chargés d'affaires rather than ambassadors. The decision to appoint ambassadors signals a new phase in formal diplomatic engagement.



Pakistan and Afghanistan share a 2,500-kilometre border with several crossing points that are crucial to regional trade and people-to-people connectivity. However passenger flights between the two are limited.

Security remains a major concern for Islamabad. It has repeatedly urged Kabul in recent years to ensure that Afghan territory is not used to launch attacks inside Pakistan.

In a notable development earlier this month, a senior Taliban commander, Saeedullah Saeed, publicly warned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan against attacking Pakistani forces or carrying out militancy in the name of jihad.

China hosted an informal meeting in early May with representatives from Pakistan and the Taliban-led Afghan administration. Following the talks, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced that Afghanistan and Pakistan had agreed in principle to appoint ambassadors “as soon as possible.”

Yi held separate meetings with Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and his Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar. The three sides reaffirmed their commitment to extending the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor into Afghanistan, emphasising enhanced regional connectivity and economic cooperation.

Key outcomes of the Beijing round of talks included commitments to greater security and counter-terrorism cooperation, joint action against militant threats and resumption of trilateral dialogue. There are plans to convene the sixth China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers’ Dialogue in Kabul.

Tensions between Islamabad and Kabul appeared to have eased following Dar’s rare visit to the Afghan capital last month, where both sides addressed contentious issues—including the mass deportation of Afghan nationals from Pakistan. The two foreign ministers agreed to continue the dialogue in a constructive and positive atmosphere, with a focus on security, trade, transit cooperation and broader bilateral ties.

China hosted an informal trilateral meeting in early May with representatives of Pakistan and the Taliban-led Afghan administration. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi then announced that Afghanistan and Pakistan had agreed in principle to appoint ambassadors “as soon as possible.”

In response to Pakistan’s decision, Zakir Jalali, the second director of Political Affairs at Afghanistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, confirmed that the Islamic Emirate was elevating its diplomatic representation in Islamabad.

“With the elevation of the Pakistani diplomatic mission in Kabul to ambassadorial level, the Islamic Emirate will likewise elevate its chargé d’affaires in Islamabad to ambassador,” Jalali stated.

“Afghanistan and Pakistan are neighboring countries that share many commonalities as well as challenges in their bilateral relations. Through diplomacy and tact, these relations are moving in a positive direction,” he added.

Jalali also highlighted the importance of Dar's visit to Kabul and the official invitation extended to Muttaqi to visit Islamabad. He called these steps "positive gestures" towards sustained engagement between the two countries.

"Once, Pakistan and Afghanistan were on the verge of an all-out confrontation, trading serious allegations of harbouring terrorism. Bilateral ties had plunged low in recent years," Jalali noted. "However, with China's key role and effective backchannel diplomacy, both sides have managed to revive the stalled diplomatic engagement. The move to upgrade the diplomatic missions—though largely symbolic—is a strong signal that things are moving in the right direction."

Aftab Khan Sherpao, a veteran politician and former member of Pak-Afghan Loya Jirga wrote on X:

"The elevation of diplomatic ties with Afghanistan to the ambassadorial level marks a significant step forward.

China's proactive role in facilitating the dialogue, its commitment to extending the Belt and Road Initiative into Afghanistan, and the collective pledge by all parties to disallow use of their territory for terrorist activities are strong indicators of a renewed regional commitment to peace, stability and shared prosperity."

Border tensions at Torkham and Chaman, besides the deportation of undocumented Afghan citizens, have widened the rift between the two countries. Haq Nawaz Khan, an analyst of Afghan affairs, described the development as a "diplomatic achievement."

"The Afghan Taliban's clear stance discouraging Afghans from engaging in militant activities in the neighbouring country is another major development that has followed a series of high-level interactions between the two sides," he said.

"There is still a long way to go, as the situation remains complex, but such efforts will help bridge the trust deficit."

He added that the visit by a high-level Pakistani delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Dar, followed by the trilateral meeting in Beijing, had brought the two neighbours closer.

"Mr Dar termed his visit to Kabul as 'highly productive.' The decisions made in recent high-level meetings should now be implemented in letter and spirit," Haq Nawaz Khan added.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/tns/detail/1318794-upgrading-relations>

**June 09, 2025**

**Express Tribune**

### **Chinese defence stocks surge as Pakistan buys J-35 stealth jets**

Shares of Chinese defence firms jumped Monday after reports of Pakistan's plans to purchase advanced J-35 stealth fighter jets from China, according to a Bloomberg report.

AVIC Shenyang Aircraft Co., the J-35's manufacturer, hit its 10% daily limit in Shanghai trading, extending gains for a third straight session. Aerospace Nanhu Electronic Information Technology Co. also saw a surge, rising as much as 15%.

The rally followed a formal statement on social media from Pakistan confirming its intent to acquire the jets, after weeks of unofficial reports.

Pakistani officials had earlier indicated that pilots were already in China undergoing training ahead of expected deliveries.

China's J-35A fifth-generation fighter jet, soon to be delivered to Pakistan, features stealth technology, advanced sensors, and deep-strike capabilities that could significantly boost Pakistan's air power, according to defence analyst Brandon J. Weichert.

Developed by Shenyang Aircraft Corporation, the J-35A is China's second fifth-gen aircraft after the Chengdu J-20. It is equipped with an active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar, electro-optical targeting systems, and advanced avionics to enhance situational awareness and targeting precision.

Designed to evade detection, the aircraft's stealth profile reduces its radar cross-section. It is compatible with long-range PL-15 and PL-17 air-to-air missiles, offering a major advantage in beyond-visual-range combat.

Powered by Russian RD-93 or Chinese WS-19 turbofan engines, the J-35A can reach speeds of up to 1,367 mph. Deliveries to Pakistan could begin by August, with pilots already undergoing training in China.

The jet is expected to replace Pakistan's aging fleet of F-16s and Mirages. Weichert notes that the J-35A's capabilities will enable Pakistan to better counter Indian air defences and conduct deep-strike missions, potentially shifting the regional aerial balance.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2549998/chinese-defence-stocks-surge-as-pakistan-buys-j-35-stealth-jets>

### **The NEWS**

#### **Shares of Chinese arms makers surge: Pakistan plans to buy J-35 jets, KJ-500 aircraft, HQ-19 missiles, says report**

A J-35A stealth aircraft flies during the China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, or Airshow China, in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, China November 12, 2024.

— Reuters

Shares of Chinese defence companies rallied on Monday, after Pakistan said it intends to buy one of the Asian power's most-advanced fighter jets as a part of major arms purchase, according to Bloomberg.

In a report titled 'Chinese defence companies soar as Pakistan touts arms purchase' and published on June 9, Bloomberg reported that shares of AVIC Shenyang Aircraft Company — the maker of China's J-35 stealth fighter jet, which is the centerpiece of the package — soared by their 10 per cent daily limit in Shanghai, extending gains for the third consecutive session.

The stock led a rally across other defence names such as Aerospace Nanhu Electronic Information Technology Co, whose shares jumped as much as 15 per cent.

The government of Pakistan said in a social media post on Friday that it would acquire 40 J-35 fifth-generation fighter jets, KJ-500 airborne early warning and control aircraft, as well as HQ-19 ballistic missile defence systems. China's Ministry of Defence didn't respond to a request for comment.

Shares of Chinese arms makers have been on the rise since Pakistan last month claimed that Chinese J-10Cs helped to shoot down six Indian fighters, including French-made Rafale aircraft. India has downplayed Pakistan's claims about the effectiveness of weaponry deployed from China and other countries, saying that the Indian military was able to conduct precision airstrikes deep in Pakistani territory, Bloomberg reported.

The J-35 sale to Pakistan would mark China's first export of the fifth-generation jet, which has advanced stealth capabilities for penetrating the airspace of an adversary. The fighter was developed by Shenyang Aircraft Corporation and publicly unveiled at the 2024 Zhuhai Airshow.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1319646-pakistan-plans-to-buy-j-35-jets-kj-500-aircraft-hq-19-missiles-report>

### **The Nation**

#### **Export growth slowed in China in May amid ongoing tariff uncertainty**

China's export growth slowed in May due to ongoing uncertainty caused by escalating trade tensions with the US over reciprocal tariffs.

According to data from China's General Administration of Customs released on Monday, exports in May rose 4.8% from the same period last year to \$316.1 billion.

The export growth rate fell short of the 8.1% increase in April, as the uncertainty caused by the mutual tariff increases between China and the US continued to be felt.

During this period, the country's imports decreased by 3.4% year-on-year to \$212.9 billion, while the trade surplus was calculated at \$103.2 billion.

In May, China's exports to the US fell by 34.5%, faster than the 21% drop in April.

China's exports to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, its largest trading partner, increased by 14.8%, falling short of the 20.8% increase in April.

The country's exports increased by 2.3% in January and February but rose by 12.4% in March due to advance shipments made in anticipation of further increases in US customs tariffs.

China's exports rose 8.1% in April, showing resilience to external shocks despite escalating tensions over reciprocal tariff increases.

Tariff negotiations continue in London

US and Chinese officials will meet in London, the UK's capital, for a new round of negotiations aimed at resolving trade tensions. The US side will be represented by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, while the Chinese side will be represented by Deputy Prime Minister Hi Lifing, who is responsible for economic relations. On April 2, US President Donald Trump announced additional customs duties on trading partners, including China. China responded in kind, and the tariff dispute that ensued between the two countries ultimately led the US to raise its customs duties on China to 145%, while China imposed 125% customs duties on the US. Following the escalating trade tensions, US and Chinese officials met in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 10-11 for tariff negotiations and agreed to reduce mutual tariffs for 90 days. After the meeting, it was agreed that, as of May 14, the US would reduce its customs duties on Chinese goods from 145% to 30% for 90 days, and China would reduce its duties on US goods from 125% to 10%. In a statement on May 30, US President Trump accused China of violating most of the agreement reached in Geneva, saying he would discuss the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping and hoped it would be resolved.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/09-Jun-2025/export-growth-slowed-in-china-in-may-amid-ongoing-tariff-uncertainty>

**June 10, 2025**

**Jang News**

**پاکستان کا چین سے جے-35 اسٹیلٹھ، کے جے-500 اوکس طیاروں اور ایچ کیو-19 میزائل نظام کی خریداری کا اعلان**

کراچی (رفیق مانگٹ) پاکستان کا چین سے جے-35 اسٹیلٹھ، کے جے-500 اوکس طیاروں اور ایچ کیو-19 میزائل نظام کی جدید اسٹیلٹھ صلاحیتوں کی بدولت دشمن کے فضائی علاقے میں گھسنے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے، J-35 خریداری کا اعلان، اوکس طیارہ فضائی نگرانی کی صلاحیتوں کو مضبوط، علاقائی جھڑپوں میں زیادہ لچک فراہم کرے گا، ایچ کیو-KJ-500 19 میزائل دفاعی نظام بیلسٹک میزائلوں سے دفاع کی صلاحیتوں کو بہتر بنائے گا، بلوم برگ کے مطابق پاکستانی حکومت کے اعلان کے بعد چینی دفاعی کمپنیوں کے شیئرز میں زبردست اضافہ ہوا ہے، شنیانگ ایئرکرافٹ کے شیئرز بڑھ گئے۔ پاکستان نے جمعہ کو سوشل میڈیا کے ذریعے چین سے 40 جدید جے-35 پانچویں جنریشن اسٹیلٹھ لڑاکا طیاروں، کے جے-500 اوکس فضائی نگرانی کے طیاروں، اور ایچ کیو-19 بیلسٹک میزائل دفاعی نظام کی خریداری کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ بلوم برگ کے مطابق یہ معاہدہ چینی کمپنی شنیانگ ایئرکرافٹ کارپوریشن کیساتھ کیا گیا ہے، اس کمپنی کا تیار کردہ ژوبائی ایئر شو 2024 میں متعارف کروایا گیا تھا۔ یہ طیارہ اپنی جدید اسٹیلٹھ صلاحیتوں کی بدولت دشمن کے فضائی علاقے میں گھسنے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے کے جے-500 اوکس طیارہ اپنے کمپیکٹ سائز کی وجہ سے پاکستان کی فضائی نگرانی کی صلاحیتوں کو نہ صرف مضبوط کرے گا بلکہ علاقائی جھڑپوں میں زیادہ لچک بھی فراہم کرے گا۔ اسی طرح، ایچ کیو-19 میزائل دفاعی نظام پاکستان کی بیلسٹک میزائلوں سے دفاع کی صلاحیتوں کو نمایاں طور پر بہتر بنائے گا۔ اگرچہ چینی وزارت دفاع نے اس پر کوئی تبصرہ نہیں کیا، لیکن اس اعلان کے بعد چینی دفاعی کمپنیوں کے شیئرز میں زبردست اضافہ دیکھا گیا۔ شنیانگ ایئرکرافٹ کارپوریشن کے شیئرز شنگھائی اسٹاک ایکسچینج میں 10 فیصد کی یومیہ حد تک بڑھے، جو

مسلسل ٹیسرے سیشن میں اضافے کی عکاسی کرتا ہے۔ اسی طرح، ایرو اسپیس نینہو الیکٹرانک انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کمپنی کے شیئرز میں 15 فیصد کا اضافہ ہوا۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/909803>

**June 11, 2025**

**Pakistan Observer**

## **BRI, New Uzbekistan, and the 4th TIIF 2025**

*Zulkafil Hassan Khan*

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Uzbekistan have emerged as new strategic partners in Central Asia, further strengthening trans-regional connectivity, trade, investment and economic ties. Uzbekistan was the first among the five Central Asian countries to establish formal diplomatic relations with China. In June 2016, China-Uzbekistan relations were officially elevated to a comprehensive strategic partnership. By 2022, both nations reaffirmed their commitment to building a community with a shared future at the bilateral level. In 2024, they advanced this relationship into a new era of all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership. Uzbekistan's geographic location is crucial, lying directly along China's westward path toward Turkmenistan, a key supplier of natural gas. The Central Asia–China Pipeline passes through Uzbekistan, connecting Turkmenistan's gas resources to China's energy grid in the Xinjiang region.

Additionally, Uzbekistan's proximity to the Caspian Sea makes it a viable corridor opening trade routes to the Persian Gulf and Black Sea ports. Uzbekistan itself also supplies a significant amount of natural gas to China as well as other commodities, including cotton and inorganic chemicals. Hence China-BRI-Uzbekistan is expanding caravans of trade and connectivity in the region and beyond.

Most recently, to further strengthen bilateral relations and the BRI partnership, Uzbekistan and China signed over 10 investment agreements during the second Uzbekistan-China Interregional Forum held in Samarkand on June 1–2. The event drew more than 2,800 participants, including government officials, business leaders and academics from both countries, reflecting the growing ties between the two nations. Among the agreements was a US\$530 million package signed by the Namangan region with Chinese investors. The Navoi region secured a US\$30 million deal with Hong Dau Ke Ji to build an oil refinery complex in the Karmana district, while Sichuan Chuahe Shengxin Electronic Engineering committed US\$5 million for a shopping center in New Navoi and US\$20 million for gold and silver mining projects.

In a major diplomatic and economic development, Uzbekistan and China have already launched a mutual visa-free travel regime starting June 1, 2025, allowing citizens of both countries to visit, enter and transit without a visa for stays of up to 30 days per visit. Hopefully this scheme of arrangement will further increase inflows of investment and joint ventures under the BRI in Uzbekistan.



Evidently, Shavkat Mirziyoyev's foreign policy "promotes" modernization, openness and meaningful inclusion of Uzbekistan into global and regional integration processes. Uzbekistan actively participates and supports China's BRI, has an observer status in the Eurasian Economic Union and strengthens economic cooperation with South Asia which are transforming its economic outlook and brightening its trans-regional connectivity prospects.

It seems that Uzbekistan's opening of the 21 trading houses in more than 10 cities in China will further increase the export of agricultural products to China.

Since 2000, trade between Uzbekistan and China has surged, reaching US\$13.1 billion in 2024, around 19 percent of Uzbekistan's total trade turnover. It seems that the elevated strategic partnership, business-friendly policies, and visa-free mechanism have positioned Uzbekistan as an ideal destination for Chinese investments. Chinese companies have started to invest in sectors such as construction, consumer goods, agriculture and green energy.

It is a good omen that the number of Chinese companies in Uzbekistan has reached 3,467 in 2025 from 2,432 in 2024, surpassing the number of Russian companies. Chinese companies comprise around 22 percent of all foreign-invested companies that operate in Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan has attracted over US\$90 billion in foreign investment, an impressive figure for the region during recent years. Last year, its national economy grew by 6 percent confirming the effectiveness of these reforms.

The 'Uzbekistan-2030' strategy is an ambitious plan to turn the country into a regional economic leader with a GDP of US\$200 billion. Foreign investment plays a crucial role in this vision, and the Tashkent Investment Forum serves as the main platform for dialogue between the government and business communities. At the previous forum, agreements worth a record US\$26.6 billion were signed, demonstrating its importance.

Since 2022, total signed investment agreements have exceeded US\$44 billion, with most projects either completed or underway. The most active investors come from Saudi Arabia, China, Russia, the UAE, and Türkiye countries bringing a variety of experience and technologies that complement one another. It bodes well that Uzbekistan's government has invited investors to make investment in major projects across machinery manufacturing, automotive, energy, fintech, and even artificial intelligence.

Moreover, in 2024, Uzbekistan's economy continued steady growth, with GDP reaching about US\$115 billion, a 6.5 percent increase over the previous year. Investments played a key role, with nearly US\$35 billion in foreign investment and loans attracted, and about US\$26.4 billion directed to business development and new production.

In summary, it is evident that the BRI is going to revolutionize Uzbekistan's economy, industries, productive channels, infrastructure development, rails, integrated transport systems, hybrid agriculture and holding of the 4th Tashkent International Investment would further symbolize the country's commitment to openness, modernization, innovation and trans-regional connectivity. It is predicted that said forum will provide a unique opportunity for investors and government representatives to discuss plans and identify new areas for collaboration.

Uzbekistan is an investment “success story” because of the deepening of socio-economic reforms under the leadership of Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the 4th Tashkent International Investment Forum will mark another important step toward achieving ambitious goals and gearing a suitable business climate.

The writer submits that the policy makers of Uzbekistan should maintain a strategic balance maintaining strong economic ties with Beijing under the BRI. They should further promote openness in foreign investment transactions, especially in industries deemed strategic and aid local companies in reducing economic displacement.

The Asian Development Bank report (2025) clearly demonstrates a strong growth trajectory in Uzbekistan, with a focus on regional cooperation and the BRI. The high expectations of achieving a GDP growth of 6.6 percent in 2025 vividly reflect successful implementations of ongoing economic structure reforms in which the BRI will play a crucial role in enhancing connectivity, trade, and investment, contributing to Uzbekistan’s economic development.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-new-uzbekistan-and-the-4th-tiif-2025/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Trans-Regional Connectivity: CPEC, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan**

*Dr Mehmood ul Hassan Khan*

In a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape, the integration of South and Central Asia through strategic infrastructure and economic cooperation has become increasingly vital.

At the heart of this transformation lies the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Phase-II, now poised to expand its reach into Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

This ambitious vision, championed by regional leaders such as Uzbekistan’s President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, reflects a growing consensus on the need for enhanced connectivity, sustainable development and shared prosperity across borders.

Interestingly, the most recently held trilateral dialogue among Pakistan, China and Afghanistan in Beijing has decided to extend CPEC Phase-II up to Kabul, with plans to further connect it with all Central Asian countries in the near future.

This strategic announcement consolidates prospects for enhanced trans-regional connectivity, socio-economic integration, infrastructure development and the creation of an integrated transport system, including cluster, container and TIR frameworks, along with cooperation in food security and energy under CPEC Phase-II.

Moreover, the Uzbekistan Trade Centre in Lahore, established under the direct supervision of the Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will also play a vital role in strengthening Pakistan-Uzbekistan economic ties by serving as a dedicated hub to facilitate trade, promote investment opportunities and enhance commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Critical analysis of Pak-Uzbek economic and trade relations reveals that the signing of the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership in 2021, followed by a series of diplomatic, defence and economic agreements have further geared towards greater strength.

Notably, both countries have intensified trade and investment efforts, exchanging inter-governmental agreements on transit, trade and simplified visa procedures for business and tourism which are now paying their dividends.

Bilateral trade has increased remarkably in recent years, reflecting the strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

Now both states set an ambitious target of reaching US\$1 billion in bilateral trade.

This goal was further strengthened during Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's official visit to Tashkent at the end of February 2025, where additional measures were introduced to push trade volumes to US\$ 2 billion within the next four years.

It is pertinent to mention that bilateral trade increased eleven-fold between 2017 and 2024, rising from US\$36.2 million to US\$403.9 million, with joint enterprises reaching 130.

Over the same period, Uzbekistan's exports to Pakistan surged 29.5 times, from US\$10.1 million to US\$298.9 million, while imports from Pakistan quadrupled, increasing from US\$26 million to US\$104.9 million.

In 2024 alone, trade turnover grew by 4 percent.

Currently, Pakistan accounts for approximately 0.6 percent of Uzbekistan's total foreign trade turnover.

Additionally, the early commencement of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan-Afghanistan trilateral rail project would be a value addition in terms of reducing time, energy and funds, further enhancing bilateral trade volumes, investments, joint ventures and cooperation in mutually agreed preferential areas.

The first air cargo route between Urumqi, Xinjiang and Islamabad officially commenced operations on March 4, 2025, enhancing cross-border logistics under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Operating twice weekly with a 26-ton capacity per trip, the route will support e-commerce and high-value goods transportation.

The launch of this cargo route represents a milestone in the development of the CPEC providing renewed impetus for bilateral trade and economic cooperation while bolstering the stability of regional industrial and supply chains.

Xinjiang encourages the development of China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan multimodal highway-railway transport, explores China-Pakistan multimodal routes and supports constructing the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, all of which would enhance CPEC connectivity in Central Asia.

Promoting the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) among China, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan would further streamline trade and economic activities with Central Asian countries.

In parallel, governments must prioritize the development of the Alternative Middle Corridor (AMC) to offer a stable, sustainable trade route beyond Afghanistan.

The proposed Gwadar-Kashgar-Khorgos Axis (GKKA) is crucial for advancing trans-regional connectivity, socio-economic integration, trade, investment and energy and food security under CPEC Phase-II.

Meanwhile, H.E.Alisher Tukhtaev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan, continues to highlight his country's investment potential; combining FDIs with trade and commerce in preferential areas and joint ventures would bring mutual economic benefits for both nations and their private sectors. The envoy is actively engaging with local investors, businessmen, and firms across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, ceramics, electronics, medical equipment and infrastructure, cement, steel, fertilizer, agriculture, textiles, cotton, horticulture, fashion, sports and surgical instruments, tourism, hospitality, and education. These efforts should be integrated through coordinated initiatives involving strategists, applied economists, international marketing experts, and socio-economic entrepreneurs to promote Uzbekistan's true economic potential. Moreover, the Uzbekistan Honorary Consulate in Lahore is set to play a key role in facilitating local businessmen interested in investing in Tashkent by building coordinated frameworks of cooperation, thus transforming aspirations into tangible outcomes and gradually boosting bilateral business activity. In summary, Pakistan and Uzbekistan are strategic partners aiming to enhance socio-economic integration, financial cooperation, trans-regional connectivity, and collaboration across diverse sectors such as trade, investment, and joint ventures. However, logistical bottlenecks and high transportation costs remain key challenges for policymakers and business communities in both countries.

To address this, the formation of a "Joint Transport Company" could be a practical step forward. Policymakers must also work to resolve issues along crucial trade corridors, including the Tashkent-Termez-Kabul-Peshawar-Karachi axis, the Salang Pass, the Termez-Sheberghan-Kabul route, and the Andijan-Osh-Torugart-Kashgar-Khunjerab-Rawalpindi-Karachi corridor, to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties. The writer recommends expanding cooperation in agriculture, agri-tech, agro-processing, cotton, horticulture, textiles, and leather industries to create value-added production cycles and profitable partnerships. Leasing Uzbek agricultural land to Pakistani investors for cultivating cotton, cash crops, vegetables, seeds, and saffron, along with joint ventures in dry fruits using supply chains connected to Pakistan's Northern Areas and Balochistan, could be mutually beneficial. Further collaboration in metals, mining, and rare earth assets, along with partnerships involving Pakistan's Frontier Works Organization (FWO), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's religious-business community, and Balochistan's influential stakeholders, can attract greater FDI and joint ventures into Uzbekistan. Joint production initiatives in lithium batteries, electric vehicles, heavy engineering, the chemical industry, education (through dual-degree programs), tourism (via a joint tour company), military production, healthcare, and financial integration are promising. A trilateral "Pakistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan Air

Cargo Company,” modeled after Kazakhstan’s air-shipping success to India, could significantly enhance regional trade dynamics. As the 4th Tashkent International Investment Forum approaches, both nations—especially their private sectors—should actively promote a shared digital ecosystem, incorporating trans-regional e-commerce platforms, fintech innovations, and integrated banking services to drive greater connectivity, productivity, and shared prosperity.

<https://pakobserver.net/trans-regional-connectivity-cpec-afghanistan-and-uzbekistan/>

### **The Nation**

#### **CPEC plays a transformative role in economic development, says finance minister**

ISLAMABAD - CPEC continues to play a transformative role in regional connectivity and economic development, said Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb. Various development activities are in progress under the CPEC. In the transport infrastructure sector, “eight projects totaling \$6.7 billion have been completed, while several others are underway”. The other projects included the construction of 888 kilometers of motorways and highways, while another 853 kilometers are under development with local funding, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. Finance Minister unveiled the Pakistan Economic Survey 2024–25, projecting a 2.7 percent GDP growth for the outgoing fiscal year. The survey also highlighted key achievements under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), particularly in transport infrastructure and strategic development at Gwadar Port. Inflation for the year was recorded at 4.6 percent, as the country seeks to stabilize its economy while accelerating progress on major connectivity and trade-related projects. “We now have to move towards GDP stabilization. We are currently moving in a better direction,” Aurangzeb said during the survey launch in Islamabad. Citing CPEC’s achievement, the minister said, among the completed initiatives is the 120-km Havelian-Thakot section of the Karakoram Highway, a flagship project recognized with international awards. Other key operational projects include the 392-km Multan-Sukkur Motorway, the 297-km Hakla-D.I. Khan Motorway, and the 110-km Khuzdar-Basima Highway. “It (CPEC) strengthens Pakistan’s integration into regional and global supply chains, fostering trade, investment, and inclusive development.” The survey report also highlights progress in digital and urban connectivity, including the completion of a cross-border optical fiber cable and the Orange Line Metro Train in Lahore. The New Gwadar International Airport is now operational, enhancing air connectivity. Ongoing projects such as the Zhob-Kuchlak, Nokundi-Mashkhel, and Awaran-Khuzdar sections, as well as feasibility studies for the Babusar Tunnel and the Mirpur-Muzaffarabad-Mansehra corridor, signal continued momentum in infrastructure development under CPEC. The Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway project remains under technical and financial consultation, while the framework agreement for the Karachi Circular Railway has been shared with the Chinese side. The survey highlighted significant progress in the development of Gwadar Port and its Free Zone. Since 2013, the China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited (COPHCL) has invested over \$50 million dollars to upgrade port infrastructure. The port is fully operational and regularly handling commercial traffic. A 60-acre pilot zone of the

Gwadar Free Zone has been developed, with enterprises operating in sectors including finance, manufacturing, logistics, and fisheries. “The total investment of the company is \$250 million for the Gwadar Port Free Zone,” read the survey documents. To facilitate investment, Pakistan has offered a 23-year tax holiday, full foreign ownership, and one-window operations for investors. COPHCL has also completed the master plan and feasibility work for the main Free Zone, covering 2,281 acres. To address water scarcity in the region, a 1.2 million-gallon-per-day reverse osmosis desalination plant, funded by China under its socioeconomic assistance program, was completed in June 2023. “It will fulfill the water requirements of the surrounding population of Gwadar Port as well as the needs of Gwadar Port Free Zone Part-I.” The federal government has also allocated funding for additional projects in Gwadar under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for 2024–25, including land acquisition, housing infrastructure, and the East Bay Expressway Phase-II.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/11-Jun-2025/cpec-plays-a-transformative-role-in-economic-development-says-finance-minister>

## *Chinese Newspapers*

**June 02, 2025**

**People’s Daily**

### **Chinese company donates supplies to Pakistan-based child welfare center**

ISLAMABAD, June 1 (Xinhua) -- The Pakistan branch of China State Construction Engineering Corporation Limited (CSCEC) on Sunday donated supplies to a child welfare facility in Islamabad, in a ceremony marking International Children's Day and the second anniversary of the center's founding. The donation was made to the Islamabad China-Pakistan Youth One Heart Step and Cure Home (ICOSH), a non-profit community center that provides free accommodation, food, medical assistance, and educational support to underprivileged children and patients seeking treatment from remote areas. The donated items included educational materials, sports equipment, food supplies, clothing, and household appliances intended to improve the living and learning conditions of children residing at the center. Speaking at the event, Wang Yaodong, chief executive officer of CSCEC Pakistan, emphasized the company's long-standing commitment to social responsibility alongside infrastructure development. "These supplies may be modest in value, but they reflect the deep compassion and care of our staff for the children of Pakistan," Wang said. Yang Guangyuan, minister counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, also attended the event and praised the ICOSH as a meaningful example of people-to-people cooperation. "Love knows no borders. The growing partnership between Chinese institutions and ICOSH shows how seeds of compassion can grow into strong trees of cooperation," he added.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0602/c90000-20322514.html>



**June 04, 2025**

**People's Daily**

**China to play constructive role in promoting Pakistan-Afghanistan ties:  
FM spokesperson**

BEIJING, June 4 (Xinhua) -- China welcomes the recent upgrade of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan from the level of chargé d'affaires to ambassadorial, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Spokesperson Lin Jian made the remarks at a regular press briefing in response to a related question, adding that China stands ready to continue playing a constructive role in promoting the improvement and development of relations between these two countries.

Noting that the move is conducive to enhancing mutual trust and strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and jointly maintaining peace and stability in the region, Lin said that this is also an important and positive measure for Pakistan and Afghanistan to implement the outcomes of the informal meeting of foreign ministers of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan in May this year.

China is willing to work with regional countries, including Pakistan and Afghanistan, to jointly maintain peace, stability and development in the region, and is committed to building a community with a shared future with neighboring countries, he added.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0605/c90000-20323722.html>

**June 06, 2025**

**People's Daily**

**China's efforts on environment inspire countries**

*Hou Liqiang*

In Minchinabad, Pakistan's Punjab province, Muhammad Basit Ghauri, a keen observer of the country's energy transition, is excited about the progress made there.

Nearly every home, public building, shop and mosque in the city is adorned with glistening solar panels, many of which were imported from China. This scene was something Ghauri didn't expect to see in areas so far away from major cities, but the sight of solar panels is becoming ever more common in Pakistan.

"What used to be a luxury — solar energy — has now become a practical solution for the lower-middle and even lower income households," said Ghauri, who works for Renewables First, a Pakistani think tank, in an interview ahead of World Environment Day, which fell on Thursday.

As China pioneers the development of an ecological civilization, the ripple effects of the unwavering commitment of the world's largest developing nation have extended far beyond its borders, notably benefiting other developing countries like Pakistan.

Experts and officials are envisioning greener, more sustainable futures for countries in the Global South, drawing inspiration from China's pioneering advancements in environmental and climate initiatives.

This resonates strongly with one of the key tenets of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, which emphasizes China's commitment to jointly promote the construction of a global ecological civilization and get deeply involved in global environmental governance, in order to come up with a worldwide solution for environmental protection and sustainable development.

For Ghauri, the ongoing energy transition in Pakistan has primarily been propelled by the declining costs of solar energy and the increasing prices of electricity from the country's unreliable grid, with solar panels from China playing a crucial role in facilitating this shift.

Pakistan purchased some 16 gigawatts of solar panels from China last year at a cost of more than \$2 billion, Ghauri said.

According to the International Energy Agency, China accounts for approximately 80 percent of global solar photovoltaic module manufacturing and has driven a more than 80 percent reduction in the price of solar panels over the past decade.

Ghauri said that instead of just importing its solar products, Pakistan can also learn from China's experiences in developing its solar energy industry.

"No one has built a stronger solar supply chain than China. They dominate global manufacturing not by accident, but through smart investments and a long-term strategy," he said.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif visited China in December, engaging in an in-depth discussion with Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu.

While praising China's significant achievements in air pollution control, Sharif expressed a sincere desire to strengthen communication and collaboration with China on air quality management, the renewable energy industry and low-carbon development, according to the ministry.

In interviews with China Daily during the COP29 United Nations climate change conference in Azerbaijan late last year, the environment ministers of Cambodia and Nigeria also expressed their hopes of learning from China's experiences to advance environmental and climate initiatives in their respective countries.

Eang Sophalleth, Cambodia's minister for the environment, said: "China has been through so much in the past 20 years. Those experiences are very rich. Cambodia is going through the same phase of developing. And with that experience, it can help us to minimize the impact on the environment in Cambodia."

Balarabe Abbas Lawal, Nigeria's minister for the environment, underscored that there is significant potential for China to assist developing nations in addressing their climate challenges.

"China is a country that understands what we are going through because they have gone through it," he said.

Dimitri de Boer, director for China at ClientEarth, an environmental law organization, said there is a major opportunity for developing countries to learn from how China is moving toward green and low-carbon development.

While China has enjoyed impressive economic growth, with people's living standards having improved significantly, the country has also experienced significant environmental improvement in the past decade, he said.

"Air pollution dropped by more than half, surface water quality is much better, and cities are becoming greener. China's carbon emissions are starting to plateau, even while power demand continues to increase every year," he said.

De Boer emphasized China's potential to collaborate with other developing nations in advancing their green and low-carbon development initiatives.

Solar and wind power are now often more affordable than fossil fuels, with their cost continuing to drop, and electric vehicles are becoming very competitive, de Boer said.

"Countries with a decent level of industrialization could be very well placed to start producing these green technologies in their countries, providing major new business and employment opportunities," he added.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0606/c90000-20324041.html>

**June 10, 2025**

**People's Daily**

### **China-SCO AI forum charts path toward inclusive digital development**

*He Yin*

Themed "Intelligence Converges in China, Wisdom Benefits SCO," the China-SCO AI Cooperation Forum was held in north China's Tianjin recently.

The event aimed to strengthen cooperation between China and SCO member states in technological research, talent development, and industrial applications. It encouraged joint efforts to tackle key technological challenges, accelerate the industrialization of AI technologies, and share the benefits of AI development, so as to inject fresh momentum into regional prosperity and development.

Advancing economic transformation through AI aligns with the shared aspirations of SCO countries. China has actively embraced the wave of intelligent transformation, vigorously promoting innovation in AI science and technology, fostering industrial growth, and accelerating the integration of AI across a wide range of sectors.

At the same time, it has worked to establish a sound regulatory framework and has built a relatively complete AI industrial ecosystem.

As of April 2025, China's AI patent applications had surpassed 1.5 million in number, accounting for nearly 40 percent of the global total, ranking first worldwide.

The AI-driven large models developed by Chinese companies - characterized by open-source access, cost-effectiveness, and high efficiency - are offering SCO countries new paradigms and perspectives for advancing their own AI capabilities.

Experts from SCO member states noted that China has demonstrated strong innovation capacity and enormous growth potential by applying AI broadly in both commercial and scientific fields, while also cultivating a large pool of highly skilled professionals. As the world's largest and most populous regional organization, the SCO holds extensive data resources and diverse application scenarios. Enhanced AI cooperation presents new development opportunities among member states. China has joined hands with fellow SCO countries to address key technological challenges, foster continuous innovation in AI, expand the scope of real-world applications, and steadily unlock the benefits of intelligence. Concrete examples of such cooperation are already visible. At a photovoltaic power facility in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, a Chinese enterprise has introduced intelligent cleaning robots to safeguard solar panels around the clock, significantly improving their efficiency and longevity. In the wheat-growing regions of Punjab, Pakistan, a China-Pakistan smart agricultural project now enables local farmers to precisely manage irrigation and fertilization through smartphone-based systems. At the forum, China proposed a four-point plan to enhance policy coordination, expand technological cooperation, promote application empowerment, and strengthen AI security governance. It also released a plan to build an AI application center and extended an open invitation for joint participation, underscoring its commitment to openness, multilateral cooperation, and shared scientific and technological advancement.

China is a strong advocate for the fair and inclusive development of AI on a global scale and a strong proponent, facilitator, and pioneer in strengthening international cooperation on AI capacity building. In 2024, the 78th UN General Assembly adopted a China-led resolution on enhancing international AI cooperation. China also launched the AI Capacity-Building Action Plan for Good and for All and initiated the Group of Friends for International Cooperation on AI Capacity-Building. These efforts are aimed at fostering broad partnerships so as to make sure that the benefits of digital transformation are enjoyed by all, and that no country and no one is left behind. Recently, the second AI Capacity Building Workshop was held in Beijing, drawing participants from nearly 40 countries and international organizations, including multiple SCO member states. The fair and inclusive development of AI can illuminate the path of technological progress and contribute to a brighter future for humanity. Guided by the Shanghai Spirit, China will continue to work together with other SCO member states to deepen exchanges and cooperation, share the dividends of AI, and ensure that the benefits of AI better serve global development.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0610/c98649-20325471.html>

**June 11, 2025**

**People's Daily**

## **The Global Civilization Initiative: A new vision for peace and harmony in a fragmented world**

*Zamir Ahmed Awan*

On June 10, the first United Nations International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, the world pauses to reflect on a bold vision that seeks to bring humanity closer at a time when division, misunderstanding, and hostility are too common. Introduced by President Xi Jinping in March 2023, the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) has grown into a significant pillar of China's global engagement strategy, complementing the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Security Initiative (GSI). Together, these three initiatives present an inspiring roadmap toward building a community with a shared future for mankind.

What is the Global Civilization Initiative?

The Global Civilization Initiative is founded on four fundamental principles:

- Respect for the diversity of civilizations
- Advocacy for the common values of humanity — peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom
- Commitment to the inheritance and innovation of civilizations
- Support for robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation

These principles echo the core ideals of the United Nations Charter, which calls for unity in diversity, peaceful coexistence, and the sovereign equality of nations. The GCI does not seek to impose one model over another. Instead, it embraces the idea that all civilizations have intrinsic value and can learn from one another. It recognizes that modern-day challenges cannot be solved by any one nation or culture alone but through mutual understanding and cooperative action.

Significance and geopolitical impact

In today's global environment, where geopolitical rivalry, cultural chauvinism, and ideological polarization are creating deep fissures, the GCI offers a much-needed alternative. Western ideologies rooted in imperialism and colonialism have historically fueled what has been termed the "clash of civilizations." This philosophy often justifies interventionist policies, economic domination, and cultural superiority to maintain global hegemony.

China, drawing on its Confucian heritage and millennia-old wisdom, offers a counter-narrative. It promotes harmony over hegemony, dialogue over discord, and cooperation over confrontation. The GCI does not negate the differences between civilizations but turns those differences into an opportunity for growth and enrichment. It asserts that diversity is not a cause for conflict but a driving force for human progress.

By encouraging a pluralistic worldview and fostering an environment for equal dialogue, the GCI serves as a stabilizing force in global geopolitics. It promotes peace through cultural diplomacy and mutual respect rather than coercion. This is especially critical in the current context of heightened tensions in many parts of the world, from Eastern Europe to the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific.

A shared philosophy: The three global initiatives

The Global Civilization Initiative is one of three interconnected frameworks proposed by China to promote international cooperation:

- Global Development Initiative (GDI): Introduced in 2021, it aims to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by focusing on poverty reduction, food security, green development, digital economy, and connectivity.
- Global Security Initiative (GSI): Launched in 2022, it promotes common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security. It calls for resolving disputes through dialogue and opposes unilateral sanctions and the use of force.
- Global Civilization Initiative (GCI): The newest pillar, launched in 2023, calls for cross-cultural dialogue, mutual respect, and people-to-people exchanges.

Together, these initiatives embody the Chinese vision of a "community with a shared future for mankind." This vision aligns closely with the UN Charter, particularly in promoting sovereign equality, non-intervention, peaceful resolution of disputes, and human rights through inclusive development.

Relevance in a turbulent world

The world today is facing numerous interconnected crises — geopolitical rivalries, economic inequality, climate change, and cultural misunderstandings. In such a climate, the GCI offers a path away from zero-sum thinking. It promotes coexistence rather than conflict and common prosperity rather than exclusive growth.

As developing countries seek greater agency in international affairs, the GCI serves as a guiding principle for South-South cooperation. It offers an inclusive platform where every nation, regardless of size or wealth, has an equal voice in shaping global governance.

Pakistan's support and participation

Pakistan strongly supports the Global Civilization Initiative and views it as a natural extension of its enduring friendship with China. As a country rich in cultural diversity and history, Pakistan understands the value of dialogue among civilizations.

Pakistan has also been an active partner in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the GSI and the GDI. The benefits of these initiatives are already visible in infrastructure development, regional connectivity, and socioeconomic uplift. With the GCI, Pakistan sees a new dimension of cooperation that goes beyond economics and security to include cultural enrichment, educational exchange, and intellectual dialogue.

As a founding member of the newly established International Organization for Mediation (IoMed), Pakistan also reaffirms its commitment to peaceful conflict resolution. The IoMed



reflects the spirit of the GCI in providing a neutral, inclusive platform for dialogue and reconciliation. It is a concrete step toward institutionalizing the principles of non-coercive diplomacy and mutual understanding that lie at the heart of the GCI.

#### A human-centric approach to globalization

What sets the Global Civilization Initiative apart is its human-centric vision. It reminds us that behind every policy and every agreement are people — with hopes, fears, histories, and dreams. The GCI proposes a form of globalization that is inclusive, respectful, and sustainable.

It invites us to see the world not as a battlefield of competing powers but as a garden of diverse flowers, each adding beauty and fragrance in its own way. It calls for an end to arrogance and the rebirth of humility, where nations listen to each other, learn from each other, and grow together.

#### Summarizing

As we celebrate the first International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, let us recognize the GCI for what it truly is: a blueprint for peaceful coexistence in a world hungry for hope. It reflects the deep wisdom of Chinese civilization and the aspirations of billions around the world for a more just, peaceful, and inclusive international order.

In a time of walls, the GCI builds bridges. In an age of echo chambers, it encourages dialogue. In a world of differences, it inspires unity.

Pakistan, as a civilizational partner and trusted friend of China, stands firmly behind this vision. Together, let us work for a future where civilizations do not clash but converse, where diversity is not a threat but a treasure, and where humanity walks hand in hand toward a shared destiny.

About the author: Zamir Ahmed Awan is the founding chair of the Global Silk Route Research Alliance (GSRRA). He is a sinologist and former diplomat. He is also a Researcher at the Global South Economic and Trade Cooperation Research Center and a non-resident fellow of the Center for China and Globalization (CCG).

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0611/c90000-20326206.html>