# For Better Understanding on

# China-Pakistan and CPEC

# Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

**May 01-15, 2026**

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## Chinese Newspapers



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## May 01, 2026

### Business Recorder

# First Hangor class submarine commissioning ceremony held in China

SANYA (CHINA): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday said that the commissioning of 1st HANGOR Class Submarine (PNS/M HANGOR) was a historic milestone in Pakistan Navy's modernization,

affirming Pakistan's resolve to maintain a robust, balanced and credible defence posture.

The president, addressing the commissioning ceremony held here during his five-day visit to China, said that Pakistan was fully capable of defending its sovereignty, protecting its maritime interests and ensuring the security of its economic lifelines.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), T Bt was also present at the ceremony, besides senior officials from Pakistan Navy and PLA (Navy).

The Naval chief highlighted that disruptions at critical maritime choke points increasingly threaten global trade and energy security, and maintaining a stable, rule-based maritime order demands technologically advanced naval forces.

He said that HANGOR Class Submarines - armed with state-of-the-art weapons, advanced sensors and Air Independent Propulsion - would be key in preserving maritime order and stability in the region. These submarines will play a pivotal role in deterring aggression and ensuring security of vital Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) across the Arabian Sea and the wider Indian Ocean region, he added.

The Naval chief reiterated that the name HANGOR held a significant place in the national history. In 1971, earlier HANGOR became the first submarine since World War II to sink a warship. PNS/M HANGOR will carry this illustrious legacy forward as this was an important milestone for Pakistan Navy that would bolster the country's maritime defence and modernize its fleet with cutting-edge technology.

The commissioning of 1st HANGOR Class Submarine marks another chapter in the time-tested and enriching friendship between Pakistan and China.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of the Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir have congratulated the entire nation and the Pakistan Navy on achieving this historic milestone.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40419105/first-hangor-class-submarine-commissioning-ceremony-held-in-china

## Pakistan China talk climate economy

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a comprehensive meeting Thursday with Dr. Ma Jun, President of the Institute of Finance and Sustainability, Beijing, China.

The meeting focused on advancing cooperation in sustainable finance, promoting green investment, and supporting Pakistan's transition towards a climate-resilient economic framework.

Welcoming the delegation, the Finance Minister appreciated the strong and longstanding cooperation between Pakistan and Chinese institutions in the area of sustainable finance and development cooperation.

He emphasized that strengthening implementation capacity and enhancing institutional readiness remain critical to achieving meaningful outcomes in climate and development initiatives.

He further noted that Pakistan has recently operationalized its green taxonomy through the State Bank of Pakistan, building on earlier collaborative efforts and international best practices.

The Finance Minister highlighted Pakistan's ongoing efforts to strengthen its climate and development framework, underscoring the importance of translating policy priorities into well-structured and actionable initiatives.

He underlined that while financing avenues are gradually expanding, greater focus is needed on project preparation, coordination across stakeholders, and timely execution to ensure effective utilization of available resources.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to macroeconomic stability, the Finance Minister outlined the broader reform agenda aimed at mobilizing sustainable finance, deepening capital markets, and facilitating investment across priority sectors including agriculture, energy, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

He emphasized a pragmatic approach that prioritizes effective utilization of available resources while progressively expanding financing options.During the meeting, Dr. Ma Jun shared international experiences in advancing green finance, highlighting the role of taxonomies, capacity-building initiatives, and blended financing approaches in facilitating investment in environmentally sustainable and commercially viable activities.

He also underscored ongoing efforts to support developing countries in strengthening their investment pipelines, with a focus on enhancing scalability and readiness for financing. In this context, he outlined potential avenues for collaboration, including greater engagement with financial institutions and the private sector to support the expansion of sustainable finance.

The Finance Minister welcomed these perspectives and underscored the importance of developing a coherent pipeline of investable opportunities, supported by strong collaboration between the public and private sectors.

He emphasized that greater engagement with financial institutions and market participants would be essential in translating policy direction into tangible outcomes.

He also highlighted ongoing efforts to develop climate-related financing instruments, including potential capital market initiatives, and emphasized the role of partnerships with international financial institutions in supporting Pakistan's sustainable development agenda.

Both sides agreed on the value of continued technical engagement, knowledge sharing, and structured collaboration to support Pakistan's transition towards a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economic trajectory.

The Finance Minister reaffirmed the government's focus on ensuring that policy initiatives are grounded in practicality, supported by sound institutional frameworks, and capable of delivering measurable outcomes.

The meeting was attended by Li Qun, Senior Advisor, Institute of Finance and Sustainability; Ruiyu Zhao, Vice President for Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, Green Technology Bank; Leike Huang, Researcher at the Institute of Finance and Sustainability; Wei Cheng, Country Manager, Habib Bank Limited China; and Farhan Talib, Head International, HBL.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40419118/pakistan-china-talk-climate-economy

## The Express Tribune

### Pakistan, China sign MoUs on machinery, vaccines, medical technology

Pakistan and China on Friday signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and a joint venture agreement in Sanya, covering construction machinery, animal vaccines, and medical technology, thereby supporting cooperation between the two countries in key sectors, according to an official statement shared by the presidency.

President Asif Ali Zardari attended the signing ceremony, where a documentary highlighting 75 years of Pakistan–China friendship was also screened.

The ceremony was also attended by Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, Sindh Chief Secretary Ali Hassan Brohi, and Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi.

According to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), an MoU was signed between Al-Hassan Trade Establishment, Sany International Development, and Henan Jialong International Technology. The agreement is expected to promote the supply of construction machinery and equipment linked to CPEC projects. The three sides will also explore investment opportunities for establishing manufacturing facilities in Pakistan. Signatories included Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Vice President of Sany Group Li Chen, and Chairman Hao Jiaolong. A separate agreement was signed for a joint venture agreement between the Sindh Livestock & Fisheries Department and China's Luoyang Modern Biology Group. Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Chairman of Luoyang Modern Biology Group Wang Shanpu signed the agreement.

According to PPP, the collaboration aims to strengthen cooperation in the livestock and fisheries sector, with a focus on improving animal health services and modern biological solutions. The agreement also includes provisions for future cooperation on the implementation of animal traceability systems.

In the medical technology sector, an MoU was signed between Ziauddin Hospital and Shenzhen Weibang Technology.

The agreement aims to promote the use of advanced artificial intelligence-based medical robots in clinical medicine

It was signed by Dr Anoop Kumar Dawani of Ziauddin Hospital and Deputy General Manager of Shenzhen Weibang Technology, Deng Haitao.

This is the second set of MoUs Pakistan signed with China this week. The two countries on Monday signed three MoUs in Changsha, covering water desalination in Karachi, agricultural technology, and cooperation in the tea sector.

The president, who is on a week-long visit to China's Hunan and Hainan provinces for engagements related to economic and trade cooperation, said Pakistan attached high importance to expanding collaboration with China in key industrial sectors.

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2605825/pakistan-china-sign-mous-on-machinery-vaccines-medical-technology

## May 02, 2026

### Business Recorder

### Key sectors Pakistan China sign agreements to boost cooperation

SANYA: Pakistan and China have signed important agreements and Memorandums of Understanding aimed at expanding practical cooperation in construction machinery, livestock health and medical technology.

President Asif Ali Zardari attended the signing ceremony, where a short documentary marking 75 years of Pakistan-China friendship was also screened.

During the ceremony, Pakistani and Chinese organisations signed one Joint Venture Agreement and two Memorandums of Understanding.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40419265/key-sectors-pakistan-china-sign-agreements-to-boost-cooperation

## Dawn News

### President Zardari wraps up China visit with new agreements

*Syed Irfan Raza*

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari arrived in Pakistan on Friday after completing his five-day visit to China.

The president departed for Pakistan from the Chinese city of Sanya on Thursday. His visit was aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation acr¬oss key economic sectors.

The president was seen off at Sanya Airport by senior Communist Party of China Hainan leader Wang Qiang. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, and senior officials from China's foreign ministry were also present on the occasion. During the visit, President Zardari held discussions in Hunan and Hainan provinces, focusing on enhancing cooperation in industrial development, agriculture, and the maritime economy.

A key emphasis rem¬ained on advancing initiatives under CPEC 2.0, particularly in promoting domestic industrial growth and the blue economy. In Changsha, three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were signed between Pakistani and Chinese institutions to boost collaboration in seawater desalination, agricultural technology, and the tea sector. Additionally, in Sanya, two more MoUs and a joint investment agreement were signed in the presence of the president, covering cooperation in machinery, animal vaccines, and medical technology.

https://www.dawn.com/news/1996835/president-zardari-wraps-up-china-visit-with-new-agreement

## May 04, 2026

## Dawn News

### Pak China expand ties across sectors

*Nasir Jamal*

President Asif Zardari's week-long visit to China is widely interpreted as a fresh push by Pakistan to recalibrate its "all-weather" partnership around hard economic priorities, with investment, industrial cooperation, and technology transfer taking centre stage.

Beyond that, the visit signals the start of a new phase in bilateral ties, with provinces stepping forward to serve as key engines of trade, investment and technology transfer. With Pakistan seeking investments, joint ventures, and technology partnerships with China to stabilise its fragile economy, the presidential trip was aimed at attracting Chinese investment, expanding trade, and accelerating industrial cooperation. He is said to have focused beyond infrastructure on industrial zones, agriculture modernisation, and technological collaboration under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0. Further, the visit carried a defence dimension. https://www.dawn.com/news/1997186/pak-china-expand-ties-across-sectors

# May 06, 2026

## Business Recorder

### Chinese envoy meets Dar

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, Tuesday called on DPM/FM Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The Ambassador congratulated DPM/FM on Pakistan's decisive success on the anniversary of Marka-e-Haq and reaffirmed the enduring strength of the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China.

DPM/FM reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further advancing the iron-clad All Weather Strategic Partnership with China across all sectors.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40419842/chinese-envoy-meets-dar

## Pakistan Observer

### CPEC PHASE 2.0, 75th Year of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations and President Asif Ali Zardari's 2026 Visit to China

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

The President Asif Ali Zardari's week-long visit to China, commemorating the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations, was not a ceremonial exercise.

It was a highly calibrated strategic engagement designed to transition the Pakistan-China partnership from infrastructure-heavy CPEC 1.0 to a technology, agriculture and private-sector-driven CPEC 2.0.

The visit coincided with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties, a milestone that both countries used to reaffirm the "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership." Unlike routine summits, this visit included direct engagement with Chinese provincial governments (Hunan, Hainan), reflecting China's decentralized but coordinated economic planning; company-level visits (SANY Group, Hunan Tea Group, Hangzhou Jinjiang Group), indicating a shift from government-to-government (G2G) memoranda to business-to-business (B2B) implementation; and a focus on second-tier Chinese cities (Changsha, Sanya, Haikou), aligning with China's "dual circulation" strategy that promotes internal economic integration.

President Zardari's visit successfully depoliticized CPEC, reframing it as a development partnership rather than a debt-trap narrative, a persistent Western criticism. By highlighting specific MOUs on desalination, tea cultivation and excavator manufacturing, the visit provided concrete, apolitical deliverables. Hence, President Asif Ali Zardari has a special bonding with China and his most recent visit will further strengthen Pak-China bilateral relations and, of course, expedite CPEC Phase 2.0 in the country.

Definitely, President Asif Ali Zardari's current visit to China will open a new chapter in the strong Pakistan-China partnership, focusing on real progress and mutual growth.

Remarkably, President Asif Ali Zardari also invited Chinese investment into priority sectors, particularly alternative energy sources.

By visiting Hunan and Hainan provinces rather than the usual Beijing-Shanghai circuit, President Zardari signaled a shift toward provincial-level economic diplomacy and industrial matchmaking. Direct engagement with Chinese provincial governments (Hunan, Hainan) reflects China's decentralized but coordinated economic planning.

Company-level visits (SANY Group, Hunan Tea Group, Hangzhou Jinjiang Group) indicate a shift from government-to-government (G2G) memoranda to business-to-business (B2B) implementation. Focus on second-tier Chinese cities (Changsha, Sanya, Haikou) aligns with China's "dual circulation" strategy that promotes internal economic integration.

President Zardari held a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hangzhou Jinjiang Group, Wang Jian, in Sanya, where he invited the Chinese company to invest in priority sectors, including alternative energy, water treatment and electric vehicle battery systems. He also emphasized Hunan's strengths in agricultural technology and equipment, noting their relevance to Pakistan's efforts to enhance productivity.

He expressed interest in closer collaboration in seed technology, agricultural research and modern farming practices and highlighted the potential for expanding bilateral trade in areas such as agricultural machinery, mineral processing and information and communication technologies.

The president noted that Pakistan is actively encouraging foreign investment in various sectors, especially water treatment, electric vehicle battery systems and alternative energy. President Zardari assured that such partnerships could support sustainable growth and industrial development by providing all possible facilitation to foreign companies seeking to invest in the province, particularly under public-private partnership frameworks.

During the visit, the president held meetings with provincial leadership to review the full spectrum of Pakistan-China ties, with a particular focus on economic and trade cooperation as well as CPEC.

The Presidential Office said he was focused on boosting industrial cooperation and modernizing infrastructure in areas such as smart manufacturing, construction and clean energy. He emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation in industrial technology, skill development and joint ventures that could support Pakistan's infrastructure and industrial growth.

He also highlighted the potential for collaboration in areas such as construction machinery, digital manufacturing, clean energy and engineering solutions.

The president noted the scope for cooperation in value addition, agro-processing and export development and invited the group to explore opportunities for collaboration with Pakistan in these areas.

The visit also included the signing of several MOUs between the two countries, including seawater desalination for Karachi (Lucion Environmental Technology Group), agricultural technology collaboration (Long Ping Hi-Tech Information Company), which will further enhance seed technology, agricultural research and modern farming practices; tea industry development (Hunan Tea Group + Meskay & Femtee Trading), which will further consolidate the end-to-end tea value chain: cultivation, processing, marketing and export; cement expansion (Thatta Cement + Ching Gang Construction Group); coal gasification + urea plant (Sindh Government + Chinese Firm); and renewable energy (Meng Yang Renewable Energy Company + Sindh Energy Department). There is great scope for joint renewable energy projects (solar, wind, possibly hybrid).

CPEC 1.0 focused on road, rail and power plants. CPEC 2.0, as reflected in Zardari's MOUs, favors smaller, faster, higher-employment projects: desalination plants, seed technology, tea processing, coal gasification and machinery assembly.

By engaging Hunan and Hainan provinces directly, President Zardari has further enhanced bilateral relations even at provincial levels. Chinese provinces now have their own overseas economic targets.

Unlike past visits dominated by state-owned enterprises (SOEs), this visit included private and mixed-ownership firms (Long Ping Hi-Tech, Lucion Environmental, Hangzhou Jinjiang).

This signals Chinese policy backing for non-SOE investment in Pakistan, a risk-reduction strategy for China's state finance institutions.

He noted that Pakistan and China are expanding collaboration in agriculture, industry and minerals and expressed hope that the visit would further strengthen bilateral cooperation, bring the two peoples closer and add significance to the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

He also highlighted the potential for collaboration in areas such as construction machinery, digital manufacturing, clean energy and engineering solutions.

In summary, the writer submits that the Government of Pakistan should establish a CPEC 2.0 Implementation Cell within the Ministry of Planning, dedicated to tracking MOU progress with quarterly reports to Parliament.

The writer proposes that the Government of Pakistan should develop Pakistani standards for hybrid seeds and desalination output through close cooperation with Chinese agriculture companies.

President Zardari's visit was diplomatically and symbolically successful. It shifted CPEC's narrative from mega-infrastructure to livelihood-enhancing technology transfer, a necessary rebranding given Pakistan's economic constraints.

The MOUs on desalination, agricultural seeds and the tea industry address real, measurable deficits in Pakistan's economy, which would be a value addition for achieving the desired goals of energy and food security in the days to come.

https://pakobserver.net/cpec-phase-2-0-75th-year-of-pak-china-diplomatic-relations-and-president-asif-ali-zardaris-2026-visit-to-china/

# Green Balochistan under CPEC Phase 2.0

*Dost Barrech*

Ostensibly, climate change is becoming a bigger threat than terrorism. In this regard, the Government of Balochistan in 2024 launched the Green Balochistan Initiative, allocating Rs. 10 billion.

Balochistan faces rising temperatures, water scarcity and frequent heatwaves. A pertinent question remains: how can the Green Balochistan Initiative be further strengthened under CPEC Phase 2.0? The Green Corridor is a key cornerstone of CPEC 2.0, attributed to environmental protection and Sustainable Development Goals. Balochistan needs environmental protection and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

Against this backdrop, China has emerged as a green tech superpower. It controls 90 per cent of rare earth processing, 94 per cent of permanent magnet production, 80 per cent of solar panel manufacturing and 70 per cent of electric vehicle (EV) batteries and production. Most importantly, China has been exporting 47 per cent of green tech to the Global South. The world is moving towards green tech because it has a lower marginal cost than fossil fuels, while EVs are economically more efficient.

Hypothetically, CPEC Phase 2.0 could transform Balochistan's peripheral areas into Pakistan's green energy hub by leveraging China's ascendancy in renewable technologies. As mentioned in the previous piece, the province possesses more than 11.77 million acres of land, equal in area to Switzerland, which so far remains uncultivated. Balochistan has the highest irradiation zone. Unlike other provinces, many parts of Balochistan witness 300 sunny days in a year. The 11.77 million acres of land in the province are a blessing in disguise, turning it into a hub for solar energy under CPEC Phase 2.0. China under CPEC has already supported the province. In Gwadar, 5,000 households received solar systems. Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the Chief Minister of Balochistan, termed home solar systems a major step toward renewable energy in Balochistan.

Promoting local manufacturing of batteries, panels and inverters would prove instrumental for a green Balochistan. Under the Green Pakistan Initiative, more than 847 farmers of Balochistan obtained Rs 3.2 billion in interest-free loans in a bid to cultivate nearly 35,609 acres to boost agricultural production and exports. So far in the province, 27,000 agricultural tube wells have been converted to solar systems for agricultural needs, but the depletion of water needs special attention under the Green Balochistan Initiative. China has made history by witnessing the fastest energy transformation in recent years; it has installed more solar capacity than the rest of the world. This strategy is designed to reduce dependency on oil and gas imports.

Given the geopolitical turmoil in the Middle East, China now obtains maximum dividends from green tech. Meanwhile, a World Bank study on Balochistan's renewable energy claims the province possesses photovoltaic (PV) potential ranging from 2,000 to 2,500 kWh/m$^2$, while the provincial government's energy assessment reports state that approximately 40 per cent of Balochistan receives direct solar radiation greater than 6 kWh per square meter.

Chinese expertise under CPEC Phase 2.0 is likely to make Balochistan self-sufficient in the energy sector, bolstering the Green Balochistan Initiative.

In recent years, China has made remarkable progress in climate-smart agriculture. Presently, it is feeding nearly 20 per cent of the global population with only 9 per cent of the world's farmland. It focuses on productivity, climate resilience and emissions reduction. The world's population is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050. China, thus, tries to increase food production by 50 per cent to meet global demand. China's milestone in water-smart agriculture is unprecedented, preserving 885 cubic meters of water for every hectare of land. Farmers are now able to get more crops, 10 to 40 per cent extra, by using less water. The country by 2020 improved fertilizer efficiency to 40.2 per cent, while pesticide efficiency improved to 40.6 per cent. In smart and digital agriculture, 55,000 drones are used in farming, covering nearly 56.7 million hectares. As a result, pesticide use is reduced by 20 per cent and water use is reduced by 90 per cent. Given the situation, CPEC Phase 2.0 could preserve water in Balochistan; the province can replicate Chinese sprinkler irrigation, drip irrigation and micro-irrigation.

Fertigation should be used to preserve water and fertilizer while increasing productivity in Balochistan. China's drone-based smart farming can be utilized in Balochistan, including precision pesticide spraying, pest monitoring in orchards and monitoring locusts, disease and drought impact. The province can reduce chemical fertilizers by applying soil testing, using livestock waste to restore soil fertility and using biofertilizers to decrease chemical dependency. Chinese supply chains under CPEC Phase 2.0 are likely to create green jobs in manufacturing, installation and maintenance. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and a business-to-business (B2B) model of pre-assembly would pave the way for technology transfer, as China built domestic dominance.

Barry Buzan rightly argues that modern security requires consolidation of economic, energy and environmental dimensions. Pakistan desperately needs strengthening in the above-mentioned areas.

As China has emerged as a green tech superpower, it can project its soft power in Balochistan by winning the hearts and minds of the people through sharing its expertise in green technology.

The devastating effects of the 2022 floods have had long-lasting impacts. The total losses in the province in the 2022 floods were approximately $5 billion. Climate change has rapidly contributed to environmental extremism in the province.

The Green Balochistan Initiative is a monumental step taken by the provincial government of Balochistan. Aligning it with CPEC Phase 2.0 and learning from China's green tech superiority will turn barren Balochistan into a green Balochistan.

https://pakobserver.net/green-balochistan-under-cpec-phase-2-0

## The Express Tribune

### CPEC 2.0 to focus on green growth

LAHORE: China's Consul General Sun Yan has said that CPEC 2.0 will focus on high-quality development, including industrialisation, agricultural modernisation, technological innovation, green growth and livelihood improvement, while highlighting Gwadar Port's potential as a key regional trade hub.

Speaking at a conference at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) to mark the 10th anniversary of the Gold Ring Economic Forum (GREF), Sun Yan described the China-Pakistan friendship as an 'ironclad partnership' built on trust and shared goals. He said CPEC has significantly contributed to Pakistan's energy security, infrastructure and industrial growth, adding that the new phase will open new avenues for investment and employment. Sun Yan also underscored Gwadar's strategic location linking the Arabian Sea with Central Asia, and welcomed broader international participation in CPEC under mutually agreed frameworks.

Iran's Consul General Mehran Movahedfar appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability. He expressed appreciation for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir, and stressed that sustainable peace requires mutual respect and inclusive regional engagement.

LCCI Senior Vice President Tanveer Ahmad Sheikh said the Golden Ring countries, Pakistan, China, Iran, Türkiye and Russia, represent a combined market potential of more than $6.5 trillion. He outlined policy priorities including improved financial connectivity, removal of non-tariff barriers and promotion of export-oriented sectors such as textiles, agriculture and pharmaceuticals.

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2606731/cpec-20-to-focus-on-green-growth

## May 11, 2026

## Business Recorder

### High level-Chinese team to visit FPCCI today

KARACHI: A high-level Chinese business delegation comprising over 50 members will visit Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) today (Monday) for B2B meeting with Pakistani entrepreneurs.

Chinese trade delegation is Pakistan to explore joint venture opportunities with Pakistani entrepreneurs and strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties between the two friendly countries.

The delegation includes representatives from a wide range of sectors including chemicals, renewable energy, automobile, construction, building raw materials, and information technology. During their visit, the Chinese businessmen and industrialists will hold meetings with Pakistani counterparts to discuss investment prospects, technology transfer, industrial cooperation, and business-to-business (B2B) partnerships.

The delegation is scheduled to visit the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Karachi office on Monday, where members of the Pakistani business community will interact with the visiting Chinese investors and traders.

Senior Vice President of FPCCI Saquib Fayyaz Magoon will host the event on behalf of the apex trade body.

Chairman of the Pakistan China Council FPCCI, Shabbir Hassan Mansha, informed that the visiting group is among the largest Chinese business delegations to visit Pakistan in recent years.

He said the visit reflects growing economic cooperation and mutual interest in enhancing bilateral trade and industrial collaboration between Pakistan and China.

Mansha said Pakistani companies and entrepreneurs could benefit significantly from Chinese expertise, modern technology, and industrial experience to expand and modernize their businesses.

He urged local businessmen, industrialists, and investors to actively participate in the B2B meetings with the Chinese delegation to explore new avenues of cooperation, partnerships, and investment opportunities.

He further informed that Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi, has specially arrived in Pakistan along with the delegation to facilitate interaction between Chinese and Pakistani entrepreneurs and support investment discussions.

In addition, Liu Zhai, Co-founder and Director of IBI Group, will also participate in the meetings at FPCCI to assist Pakistani businesses in identifying potential areas for collaboration and investment.

According to Mansha, the delegation will also travel to Lahore where further meetings with the local business community and industrial sector representatives are planned.

Business leaders believe the visit could pave the way for new joint ventures, industrial partnerships, technology-sharing arrangements, and increased Chinese investment in Pakistan's key economic sectors.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40420539/high-level-chinese-team-to-visit-fpcci-today

## May 13, 2026

### Dawn News

### PM Shehbaz to undertake official three-day China visit: DPM Dar

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is set to undertake a three-day visit to China, starting May 23, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Tuesday.

DPM Dar made the announcement while addressing the launch ceremony of the IBI Pakistan Digital Economy Centre in Islamabad.

He said that the premier would undertake an official visit to China from May 23 to 26.

Dar added that premier was also set to attend a B2B forum on May 24 during the visit.

Earlier this month, President Asif Ali Zardari completed a five-day visit to China, which was aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation across key economic sectors.

He also oversaw the signing of multiple memoranda of understanding (MoUs).

Pakistan and China share a longstanding strategic partnership with ties that span various sectors, including trade, energy, defence, and infrastructure.

The two countries are also set to mark the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations on May 21.

The visit comes at a time when Pakistan has remained engaged in facilitating engagement between the US and Iran in the past month, of which China has also been a part.

A day earlier, DPM Dar held a phone call with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, where the two leaders discussed Pakistan's efforts to "facilitate engagement between Iran and the US".

PM Shehbaz last visited China in September 2025, where he attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

The development comes as the US President Donald Trump is also scheduled to visit China from May 13 to May 15.

https://www.dawn.com/news/1999931/pm-shehbaz-to-undertake-official-three-day-china-visit-dpm-dar

## Daily Times

## PM Shehbaz set for three-day China visit: DPM Dar

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will undertake a three-day official visit to China from May 23 to 26, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar announced on Tuesday. The visit comes amid expanding bilateral engagement between the two countries and ongoing regional diplomatic developments. Officials say the trip will focus on strengthening economic and strategic cooperation. Dar made the announcement during a ceremony in Islamabad launching the IBI Pakistan Digital Economy Centre. He said the prime minister would also attend a business-to-business forum during the visit. The engagement is expected to bring together key stakeholders from both countries. Meanwhile, Pakistan and China continue to deepen their longstanding partnership across trade, energy, defence and infrastructure sectors. Recent high-level exchanges include President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to China earlier this month. Both sides have also marked progress on multiple agreements and memoranda of understanding. Furthermore, the visit comes at a time of increased regional diplomatic activity involving major global powers. The United States and China are also engaged in high-level talks during the same period. Pakistan has meanwhile been involved in facilitating regional diplomatic engagement on Iran-related tensions. https://dailytimes.com.pk/1492945/pm-shehbaz-set-for-three-day-china-visit-dpm-dar/

## Pakistan Observer

## BRI and Strategic Rise of Shandong: Lessons for Pakistan

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

Shandong serves as a vital maritime and logistical anchor for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), making it a key intersection between the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, thereby connecting China's inland regions with global markets and heavily facilitating trade with ASEAN, Japan and South Korea.

Thus, the BRI has revolutionized many provinces of China in terms of manufacturing capacity, quality industrialization and trans-regional connectivity.

Obviously, Shandong operates a vast network connecting coastal seaports with dry ports in inland regions, ensuring fluid cargo transition along the Eurasian Continental Bridge. Similarly, the province is a major departure point for China-Europe freight trains, which connect around 50 cities across more than 20 countries, linking Shandong directly with Central Asia and Europe. Hence, Shandong's interconnected logistics and maritime network are playing an important role in the strategic expansion of the BRI, producing a win-win proposition for all.

Moreover, Shandong's state-owned enterprises are celebrated for exporting high-end industrial solutions, such as electrical equipment and photovoltaic energy systems, to infrastructure-deficient Central Asian states like Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Not only that, but it actively invests millions of dollars to foster cultural, agricultural and economic ties with other BRI partners.

Evidently, it is integral to note that this progress underpins that Shandong province will play a bigger role in the Belt and Road Initiative, particularly with the development of the Shandong Province Port Group, which further expands its operations into the country's inland areas. Definitely, Qingdao Port, ranked among the top 10 ports in China, along with Yantai and Rizhao ports, comprises the main ports of the province, thereby rendering the province a world-class port conglomerate. This is further exemplified by the port resource integration initiated by the Shandong Provincial Party Committee and the provincial government to maximize port resources and eliminate regional competition. Additionally, Qingdao Port is seeking opportunities brought by the demonstration area for economic and trade cooperation between China and members of the SCO, thereby adding momentum to cooperation among SCO economies. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a global cooperation mechanism that illustrates China's vision and strives for the reformulation of the global governance system to combat multifaceted challenges. The development achieved by the BRI was nothing short of sheer success, which cannot be ignored despite relentless Western smears. In this regard, the role of Qingdao in East China's Shandong Province in witnessing the development of the BRI at the frontline cannot be denied. Similarly, Chinese ports, especially those in Shandong, have been rightfully termed the golden channel that facilitates global trade flows and industrial chain build-up. Not only that, but the docking of a container vessel from Europe at Qingdao Port, East China's Shandong Province, marked the official launch of the port's first BRI shipping lane, linking Shandong with Mediterranean countries. This shipping route, popularly known as the Maritime Silk Road, would effectively strengthen trade connectivity between East Asia and Mediterranean regions, thereby underpinning globalization and economic development. Moreover, Qingdao Port opened a new BRI route linking Southeast Asia, which expanded the international BRI logistics network and underpinned its role as a necessary catalyst and premier transshipment hub in Northeast Asia. This is visible in the port operating as a bridgehead in facilitating Chinese trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economies. Therefore, the inception of a maritime "golden corridor" under the BRI is of practical and significant importance, enhancing trade growth and facilitating cargo flows among countries and continents, helping shore up a more balanced and increasingly resilient supply chain in the world. Moreover, Xiamen Port launched a new BRI trade route linking with Laem Chabang Port in Thailand, thereby opening a new Southeast Asia route with stops at Ningbo Port and Guangzhou Port and completing the journey in approximately seven days. This provides a more punctual and time-efficient logistics channel, thereby promoting the trade of clothing, footwear, furniture, fertilizers, auto parts and more between China and Thailand, which would effectively strengthen trade and economic relations between China's southeastern provinces and Thailand. Furthermore, Qingdao Port said that it has kept expanding its shipping network with BRI partner countries in recent years, with a particular emphasis on facilitating trade with Southeast Asia. Moreover, the first bauxite transport vessel recently arrived from Guyana to Jiangyin, signalling the initiation of a new trade route between BRI countries that would further expand and strengthen the existing maritime infrastructure. This brings a good omen, as observers note that there will be a greater expansion of more direct maritime links between China and Latin America this year, which could fuel trade growth between the two economies, leading to greater economic growth in the Latin American region. The initiation of a recent direct ocean trading route from Ningbo, East China's Zhejiang Province, to Chancay Port in Peru has injected trans-Pacific commerce with speed, effectively boosting trade in fruits, minerals and machinery between Asia and Latin America. This has led to goods worth more than $292 million being processed at Chancay Port, which underpins a significant achievement leading to major economic development. This delineates that the BRI has acted as an integral bridge that stimulates global economic growth and enables developing countries to integrate more seamlessly into the global value chain, thereby contributing to amplifying global prosperity and fostering joint development. It is to be noted that considering rising global trade uncertainties due to recent tensions between Iran and the U.S. and escalating tariff tensions, Global South countries are looking to diversify their trade partners, resulting in strengthened trade ties with China. China provides a stable and efficient maritime logistics network under the BRI, which effectively mitigates these unpredictable threats and instills new momentum into the existing global trade network. Last but not least, Shandong's pursuit of modernization, digitalization, AI, green and quantum technologies would reshape the BRI's ability to serve as an effective, integrated and productive Digital, Green, Quantum and Robotic Solutions Corridor for its member countries in the days to come.

https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-strategic-rise-of-shandong-lessons-for-pakistan/

## China's Manufacturing Success: Lessons for Pakistan's Industrial Future

*Zahid Maqsood Sheikh*

China's transformation from a predominantly agrarian economy to the world's manufacturing powerhouse in just a few decades stands as one of the most extraordinary economic success stories.

A mere generation ago, China was hardly a player in the global economy. Today, it dominates global manufacturing, contributing nearly 28% of all manufactured goods more than the combined output of the United States, Germany and Japan. But how did China achieve this rapid ascent and what can Pakistan learn from its journey?

At the heart of China's rise is a strategic vision that has spanned decades. The pivotal moment came in 1978 when Deng Xiaoping initiated economic reforms that moved China away from a centrally planned economy. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in cities like Shenzhen opened the door to foreign investment, creating an ecosystem conducive to rapid industrialization. These reforms, coupled with a series of investments in infrastructure and human capital, set the stage for China's manufacturing dominance.

What set China apart from other developing countries was its commitment to building robust infrastructure. Ports, railways, highways and an expansive energy grid were developed at an unprecedented scale. The efficiency of Chinese ports, especially in cities like Shanghai, remains unparalleled where container ships can unload, reload and depart in under 24 hours, a far cry from the several days it takes in many Western ports. For Pakistan, which struggles with outdated infrastructure, the lesson is clear: modernizing transport and energy networks is foundational to industrial growth.

But infrastructure alone wasn't enough. The real driver behind China's success was its ability to create integrated industrial ecosystems. Cities like Shenzhen became hubs where everything from raw material to finished products exists in a single ecosystem. This level of vertical integration has reduced costs, increased efficiency and allowed China to stay competitive. The proximity of these services also enabled companies like Apple to scale production rapidly, a model that many other countries, including Pakistan, can learn from.

Central to this transformation was China's focus on its workforce. The country has consistently invested in education and vocational training, producing millions of skilled workers annually. This emphasis on human capital is what enabled China to support its booming manufacturing sector with a steady supply of labour, skilled technicians and engineers. In contrast, Pakistan's educational system still falls short in producing the kind of specialized talent needed to support a modern manufacturing base. Bridging this skills gap is vital for Pakistan's industrial future.

China's rise also offers important lessons on innovation. While once known for its cheap labour, China has increasingly become a leader in manufacturing automation. In 2023 alone, China installed more industrial robots than Europe and the US combined. Automation has allowed Chinese factories to increase precision and reduce costs, all while improving the quality of products. This approach of combining human labour with automation is something Pakistan can adopt to increase productivity without losing the human element that is necessary for quality control.

However, the road to industrialization is not without its challenges. While China continues to enjoy significant advantages in terms of infrastructure and scale, it faces rising labour costs, environmental concerns and the need to move up the value chain to high-tech industries. Pakistan, too, faces a host of challenges such as political instability, poor governance, an underdeveloped workforce and a lack of coordination between the public and private sector.

Political instability in Pakistan has often led to abrupt policy shifts and a lack of long-term vision, making it difficult to implement cohesive industrial strategies. The constant turnover in government makes it hard to maintain the continuity that was so crucial to China's development.

Furthermore, Pakistan has not invested sufficiently in its infrastructure and its regulatory environment often lacks the transparency and efficiency seen in China. For example, land acquisition for industrial projects is a drawn-out process and corruption in the business environment adds further complexity.

In addition to these governance issues, Pakistan faces a significant skills gap.

The country's educational system, while producing large numbers of graduates, often fails to provide the technical and vocational training needed to support modern manufacturing industries. Without a highly skilled workforce, it will be difficult for Pakistan to attract the kind of investment that has propelled China to the forefront of global manufacturing.

China's remarkable rise shows that with the right combination of government strategy, infrastructure development, skilled labour and innovation, countries can leapfrog over traditional barriers to industrialization.

Pakistan, though rich in resources, has yet to fully harness these factors.

To close the gap, Pakistan must focus on investing in long-term infrastructure projects, reforming its education system to produce a skilled workforce and improving its governance to create a more business-friendly environment.

In conclusion, China's manufacturing success is not a result of mere luck but of decades of consistent planning, investment and policy alignment.

While Pakistan has many of the building blocks needed to replicate China's success, it needs to overcome its political, infrastructural and educational challenges.

By focusing on long-term development, fostering innovation and creating a more integrated industrial ecosystem, Pakistan can chart its own path to becoming a global manufacturing hub.

https://pakobserver.net/chinas-manufacturing-success-lessons-for-pakistans-industrial-future/

## May 14, 2026

### Business Recorder

### Aurangzeb leaves for China for inaugural Panda bond ceremony

*Tahir Amin*

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday left for China to participate in the issuance ceremony of Pakistan's inaugural Panda Bond in Beijing. The overall Panda Bond programme has been set at US$1 billion, while the inaugural issuance will amount to USD250 million equivalent. The Finance Minister will attend the official ceremony marking Pakistan's first-ever Panda Bond issuance, a landmark development through which Pakistan is gaining access to China's domestic capital market for the first time. China's bond market is regarded as one of the largest and deepest capital markets in the world. The ceremony will be held in the Pakistan embassy in Beijing.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40421094/aurangzeb-leaves-for-china-for-inaugural-panda-bond-ceremony

## May 15, 2026

### Business Recorder

### PM meets Chinese delegation highlights growing Pakistan-china digital economy ties

A Chinese business delegation said on Friday that the establishment of IBI's Digital Economy Headquarters in Pakistan would provide massive opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the country, offering a gateway for them to a vast market in China.

In a press release, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said that a high-level 11-member Chinese business delegation led by Xiaojun, Founder, President and controlling shareholder of IBI Beijing United Technology, called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. During the meeting, the PM said that Pakistan and China enjoyed historic ties and the two countries were 'all-weather strategic cooperative partners'.

The premier said that he was looking forward to his visit to China later this month.

"The prime minister appreciated IBI Group's decision to establish its Pakistan Digital Economy Headquarters in Pakistan and expressed satisfaction at the expanding B2B cooperation between Pakistan and China," the PMO said. PM Shehbaz said that it was particularly encouraging that IBI would promote digital economy cooperation, investment facilitation and industrial collaboration.

"Expressing confidence in Pakistan's economy, Qian Xiaojun said IBI hoped to help build a digital backbone for the digital transformation of Pakistan's economy.

The delegation was visiting Pakistan as a follow-up to the Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference held in Beijing in September 2025 during the Prime Minister's visit, the PMO said.

Meanwhile, the initiative, established by Chinese industrial e-commerce giant IBI Guolian Gufan, will serve as a 'Digital Silk Road' and is expected to support more than USD 10 billion in potential trade with China. https://www.brecorder.com/news/40421283/pm-meets-chinese-delegation-highlights-growing-pakistan-china-digital-economy-ties

## Dawn News

## PM Shehbaz lauds historic Pak-China ties in meeting with Chinese business delegation

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday lauded the "historic" ties between Pakistan and China during a meeting with a Chinese business delegation.

According to a handout from the Prime Minister's Office, a high-level 11-member Chinese business delegation led by Qian Xiaojun, the founder, president and controlling shareholder of IBI Beijing United Technology, called on the premier.

"While welcoming the delegation to Pakistan, the prime minister said Pakistan and China enjoyed historic ties and the two countries were all-weather strategic cooperative partners," the handout said.

He lauded the remarkable progress made by China under the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping and said that he was looking forward to his visit to China later this month, it added. https://www.dawn.com/news/2000425/pm-shehbaz-lauds-historic-pak-china-ties-in-meeting-with-chinese-business-delegation

# *Chinese Newspapers*

## May 04, 2026

### China Daily

### Chinese subs to boost Pakistan's defense

*ZHAO LEI*

The commissioning of the Chinese-built Hangor-class attack submarines will substantially improve the Pakistan Navy's combat and deterrence capabilities, according to military affairs observers.

Wu Peixin, an observer in Beijing, said that the deployment of the Hangor-class submarines marks a strategically significant hardware upgrade in the history of the Pakistan Navy.

"As the first submarines in South Asia fitted with an air-independent propulsion system, they are equipped with China's domestically developed Stirling engine, and this means they can navigate silently at certain speeds for several days. Such capability delivers a generational leap in performance compared with conventional diesel-electric submarines without AIP systems, and to some extent, enables them to engage with nuclear submarines," he said.

On Thursday, the commissioning ceremony for the first Hangor-class submarine, PNS/M Hangor, was held in the Chinese coastal city of Sanya in Hainan province.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, who visited China, and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, the top commander of the Pakistan Navy, attended the event and made speeches.

Zardari said that the induction of the advanced submarine was a "historic milestone" in the Pakistan Navy's modernization, affirming his nation's resolve to maintain a robust, balanced and credible defence posture.

Ashraf stated that the new submarines are armed with state-of-the-art weapons, advanced sensors and an AIP system, and they will be key in preserving maritime order and stability in the region.

The new assets will bolster Pakistan's maritime defense and modernize its fleet with cutting-edge technology, the admiral added.

According to the Pakistan Navy, the commissioning of the first Hangor-class submarine "marks another chapter in the time-tested and enriching friendship between Pakistan and China".

In 2015, the Pakistani government announced that Pakistan and China had signed a deal for eight attack submarines, disclosing that the first four vessels would be built in China, and the remaining four in Pakistan.

Wu noted that each Hangor-class submarine is fitted with a cylindrical bow sonar array and multi-line flank sonar arrays on both sides of the hull, granting the boat outstanding capabilities to detect and track hostile submarines.

The observer said that in terms of weapons systems, the Chinese-built submarines can carry torpedoes and missiles made by China as well as weaponry from other countries. These weapons are capable of striking surface warships, submarines and land-based facilities, and laying naval mines.

"With eight Hangor-class submarines set to enter service gradually in the future, Pakistan will build an asymmetric maritime advantage in its region. The new assets will offset its rival's numerical and scale edge in surface vessels, help to secure the country's transportation of fuels and materials, and strengthen its strategic influence across the Indian Ocean region," Wu anticipated.

Another observer, who wished to be identified only as Xiao, said the Hangor-class submarines can operate in coordination with Chinese-built frigates in the Pakistan Navy, and that means the Pakistan Navy can use a small group of advanced assets to pin down and deter hostile naval forces.

"Thanks to the AIP system and other modern silencing technologies, the submarine features outstanding acoustic stealth performance. It can team up with surface warships to strike enemy vessels and land targets at long ranges, wielding powerful strategic deterrence," he said.

Moreover, under the submarine project, China has transferred to Pakistan full sets of submarine design skills, construction techniques, and maintenance capacity, and has helped train a large group of workers, engineers and technicians, allowing Pakistan to break away from absolute reliance on Western suppliers and reduce the full life-cycle cost of the Hangor-class submarines, according to Xiao.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/04/WS69f7f9b1a310d6866eb46d32.html

## May 05, 2026

### China Daily

### New chapter in Sino-Pakistan ties

Zardari's China trip helps deepen economic partnership beyond infrastructure, experts say

By XU WEIWEI

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari's recent China visit sends a clear signal that Islamabad and Beijing are entering a phase of deeper economic partnership, Pakistani experts said, stressing that the trip should be viewed as more than just a ceremonial diplomatic engagement.

Zardari's China visit can be termed as a highly positive and strategically mature initiative, one that showcased the remarkable depth and integration of Pakistan-China relations at a time when Pakistan urgently needs economic confidence, said Maarij Farooq, deputy editor-in-chief at Daily Ittehad Media Group and the Pakistan Economic Network.

The Pakistani president's latest China trip ran from April 25 to May 1, and included visits to Hunan and Hainan provinces. In Hunan, Zardari toured the premises of SANY Heavy

Industry, one of China's leading machinery manufacturers, and later also paid a visit to Hunan Tea Group.

Farooq added that the visit reinforced the fact that the relationship between Islamabad and Beijing is no longer confined to state-funded infrastructure, but is now evolving into industrial partnerships, green technology cooperation, agribusiness development, water solutions, and stronger business-to-business connectivity.

For years, bilateral cooperation remained heavily centered around roads, ports, and energy corridors under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, but the latest visit demonstrated a welcome shift toward industrial modernization, technology partnerships, and long-term production-based collaboration, he said.

"What made this visit particularly meaningful was the nature of the agreements that emerged from it. The memorandums signed during the visit covered sectors that directly impact Pakistan's long-term economic sustainability, rather than symbolic announcements," said Farooq, citing the examples of a tea sector collaboration agreement between Pakistan and China partners as well as the Sindh government's agreement with a Chinese company for seawater desalination.

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization, Research and Development in Pakistan, noted that President Zardari visited China at a time when Pakistan has just kick-started the implementation of the Action Plan to Foster an Even Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era amid the 75th anniversary of bilateral relations.

"His engagement during the visit indicates that both countries are venturing into new areas of cooperation to build a community with a shared future," he said.

During Zardari's visit, Chinese cardiologist Pan Xiangbin was granted the Sitara-i-Pakistan award in recognition of his contributions to medical assistance in Pakistan. The award was conferred on April 26 by Zardari in Changsha, the capital of Hunan province.

Pan, vice president of China's Fuwai Hospital under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, and his team conducted intensive training for about 200 local medical personnel in Pakistan in 2025 as part of a bilateral assistance project focused on congenital heart disease (CHD). That project marked the first-ever China-Pakistan technical collaboration in CHD treatment.

Ahmad said the signing of preliminary agreements to strengthen industrial, agricultural, and economic cooperation indicates that people and common prosperity have always been and will be cornerstones of the all-weather strategic bilateral relationship.

Both countries are striving to fast-track the implementation of CPEC 2.0 by accelerating the construction and functioning of special economic zones. The SEZs will play a leading role in Pakistan's industrialization and help fast-track the nation's growth, he added.

Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, president of the Center for Knowledge and Public Policy in Pakistan, said Zardari's visit to China will open a new chapter in the strong bilateral partnership, focusing on sustainable progress and mutual growth.

He noted that Zardari "invited Chinese investment into priority sectors, particularly alternative energy sources, further strengthening green technologies cooperation between the two countries".

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/05/WS69f9a324a310d6866eb46edd.html

## 'Star of Pakistan' honoree leverages AI to aid patients

*LI YINGQING*

Chinese surgeon Pan Xiangbin, recently honored with Pakistan's "Star of Pakistan", aims to further leverage advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence to extend life-saving care to more patients worldwide.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari presented Pan with the award in Changsha, Hunan province, on April 26, in recognition of his crossborder work providing heart surgeries for children.

Pan dedicated the honor to his team, describing it as a reflection of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan.

According to Qassim Naveed Qamar, an official of the Sindh provincial government in Pakistan, Pan has become a well-known figure in Pakistan, given his ability to perform the complex procedures he specializes in.

In January 2025, Pan, a deputy director of China's National Center for Cardiovascular Diseases, led a team to Pakistan to treat children with congenital heart disease. They performed a series of free surgeries, with patients recovering well.

One of the patients, Afrah Amir, described the doctors as "angels from a distant land" who gave her a chance at a better future.

"For my daughter and me, no friend has ever been as supportive in our time of need as the Chinese doctors," the girl's mother said. "They are truly our friends."

The positive outcomes were made possible by a minimally invasive technique developed by Pan's team, known as the percutaneous and non-fluoroscopic procedure. Using ultrasound imaging instead of traditional X-ray guidance, the method allows doctors to treat heart conditions through blood vessels without open-heart surgery, while avoiding radiation exposure for both patients and medical personnel.

First included in a United Nations project in 2023 to improve access to cardiovascular treatment in developing countries, the procedure has since been adopted by more than 1,000 hospitals across over 60 countries, benefiting more than 200,000 patients.

Pan said China's medical assistance goes beyond sending doctors abroad.

"Our surgical vehicles can reach remote villages, bringing cardiac procedures directly to patients' doorsteps," he said. "More importantly, we are willing to share these technologies with local doctors so they can treat even more people."

During their time in Pakistan, his team also trained around 200 local medical workers.

Now, Pan is looking to push those efforts further by integrating AI and robotics.

In April, using a domestically developed surgical robot system, his team in France carried out a fully ultrasound-guided, robot-assisted mitral valve repair on a patient thousands of kilometers away — marking a new step in remote, high-precision cardiac care.

"We will use AI and other advanced technologies to improve efficiency and save more lives," Pan said.

China's medical outreach, he added, is also evolving in another direction — bringing patients to China for treatment.

At Fuwai Yunnan Hospital of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences in Kunming, where Pan serves as executive director, children from neighboring countries have received life-saving surgeries as part of international programs such as the China-Cambodia "Love Heart Journey".

According to Chea Munyrith, president of the Cambodian Chinese Evolution Researcher Association, many young patients treated there return home to share their experiences, helping more families learn about available care — and in some cases even inspiring them to begin learning Chinese.

Pan said the hospital's growing regional role reflects the progress of China's medical system, which now not only serves domestic needs but is increasingly able to compete internationally and support other countries.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/05/WS69f93555a310d6866eb46e0e.html

## May 08, 2026

### China Daily

### Pakistan and China mark 75 years of diplomatic relations

Pakistan and China are celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations this year. The milestone highlights their long-standing strategic partnership. It also reflects expanding cooperation in multiple fields.

Both countries describe each other as "all-weather strategic partners." Over time, they have strengthened their relationship through consistent partnership collaboration. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) remains the central pillar of this.

The CPEC has brought more than $25 billion in investments to Pakistan. It has created over 261,000 jobs across different sectors. It has also added over 8,000 megawatts to Pakistan's national power grid.

Key CPEC Development Projects

Pakistan has developed several major projects under the CPEC. Energy and infrastructure projects lead this progress. The Sahiwal Coal Power Plant supplies significant electricity to the national grid. The Karot Hydropower Project strengthens clean energy generation.

Urban transport has also improved with the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train. Millions of passengers have used this service since its launch. The Matiari-Lahore HVDC transmission line improves electricity flow across regions.

Gwadar Port in Balochistan serves as a strategic trade hub. Authorities have expanded its infrastructure through multiple supporting projects. These include Gwadar International Airport and a desalination plant. Social projects also support healthcare and education in the region.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa benefits from the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project. The Rashakai Special Economic Zone promotes industrial investment and job creation.

Sindh has seen growth through Thar coal power projects. The Sukkur-Multan Motorway improves transport efficiency and trade connectivity.

Strengthening Economic Partnership

China has remained Pakistan's largest trading partner for more than ten years. Bilateral trade continues to grow steadily each year. Both countries are increasing cooperation in industrial development.

New investments focus on manufacturing and special economic zones. These projects aim to create thousands of new jobs in Pakistan. They also support long-term economic stability.

Expanding Cooperation Beyond Economics

Pakistan and China extend cooperation into multiple non-economic sectors. They collaborate in agriculture, education, and space technology. China has already helped launch several Pakistani satellites.

Both countries also plan to send Pakistan's first astronaut to the Tiangong space station. China supported Pakistan during floods and other natural disasters. It also contributed to healthcare and education initiatives across the country.

Academic exchange programs continue to grow between universities. Many Pakistani students now study in China. Educational cooperation strengthens people-to-people connections.

Entering a New Phase: CPEC 2.0

Officials say the partnership is moving into a new phase called CPEC 2.0. This phase focuses on innovation and green development. It also prioritizes social sector improvement.

Both countries expect this new phase to deepen their strategic partnership. It will further strengthen cooperation in the coming years.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/08/WS69fd3a19a310d6866eb47716.html

**May 09, 2026**

**China Daily**

## China delivers newly built submarine to Pakistan

*Jiang Chenglong*

A Chinese defense spokesman said on Saturday that a conventionally powered submarine newly built by China for Pakistan is part of normal equipment cooperation between the two countries.

Defense Ministry spokesman Jiang Bin made the remarks at an online news briefing.

According to media reports, the first Qilin-class conventionally powered submarine built by China for Pakistan was delivered in Sanya, Hainan province. Senior Pakistani military and political officials — including the country's president and the chief of naval staff — attended the delivery ceremony.

Jiang said the project is "normal equipment cooperation between China and Pakistan" and a vivid example of the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

In recent years, under the strategic guidance of the two countries' leaders, China-Pakistan relations have continued to reach new heights and achieve new outcomes, he said.

The two militaries have supported each other over the years and achieved fruitful cooperation in areas such as strategic communication, joint exercises and training, personnel training, and equipment and technology, Jiang said.

Those cooperations have played an important role in safeguarding the security of both countries and regional peace and stability, the spokesman noted.

Going forward, the two militaries will continue to consolidate strategic mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation in various fields, and contribute to building a more tight-knit China-Pakistan community with a shared future, while promoting world peace and development, he added.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/09/WS69fef7d8a310d6866eb47b9d.html

## May 13, 2026

### China Daily

### Chinese FM calls on Pakistan to intensify Iran mediation

BEIJING -- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on Tuesday on Pakistan to step up mediation efforts, and contribute to properly addressing issues related to opening the Strait of Hormuz.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the appeal when speaking to Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar over phone.

Dar briefed Wang on Pakistan's recent mediation efforts in facilitating talks between Iran and the United States, thanked China for its support of Pakistan's efforts to promote dialogue, and expressed hope to strengthen coordination with China to jointly play a positive role in maintaining regional peace and stability.

Wang reiterated China's principled position and commended Pakistan for facilitating US-Iran talks and helping extend the temporary ceasefire. He expressed hope that Pakistan will maintain confidence and contribute to restoring regional peace at an early date, which is also the common aspiration of the international community.

China will continue to support Pakistan's mediation efforts and make its own contribution toward this end, Wang said.

China and Pakistan will mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties in a few days. The two sides should jointly hold commemorative activities, maintain close high-level exchanges, strengthen strategic communication, consolidate their ironclad friendship, advance practical cooperation, better safeguard each other's core interests as well as the common interests of China and Pakistan, and promote the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to new heights, he said.

Wang added that facing a world intertwined with changes and turbulence, the two sides should voice the just position of China and Pakistan on multilateral platforms such as the UN, and jointly uphold multilateralism.

For his part, Dar said that the Pakistani side is willing to take the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties as an opportunity to deepen all-round cooperation with China, strengthen multilateral coordination, and work for new progress in the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/13/WS6a035af1a310d6866eb48357.html

## CPEC strengthens economic resilience for Pakistan

*Muhammad Zamir Assadi*

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) continues to be widely regarded as a cornerstone of Pakistan's long-term economic transformation and a flagship component of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

It has, in the last ten years transformed into a multidimensional collaboration involving energy security, industrial development, agricultural modernization and people-to-people connectivity, despite being mostly an infrastructure-based system in the past. The corridor has cumulative investments of over $25 billion dollars and has generated over 261,000 jobs, a clear indication of the long-term commitment of both China and Pakistan toward increasing economic cooperation for the common good.

From an analytical perspective, one of CPEC's most significant contributions has been in tackling Pakistan's structural energy deficit. The addition of more than 8,000 megawatts to the national grid has been a stabilizing factor in reducing load shedding, which had been a historical barrier to the productivity of industries and economic development.

The construction of coal, hydropower, wind and solar facilities in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan has diversified the energy mix in the country and the nearly 886 km of transmission infrastructure has enhanced efficiency and reliability in distribution of electricity. This increase in energy capacity has not only boosted macroeconomic resilience but also helped to boost investor confidence in the form of a more predictable economic environment. This has also been of great importance in regard to connectivity via extensive transport networks. The development and modernization of more than 510 km of road systems, as well as large city transport systems like the Orange Line Metro in Lahore have helped reduce the travel time, reducing the cost of logistics and incorporated previously under-serviced areas into the national and regional market.

These developments are particularly meaningful in a country that is a transit hub for South Asia, Central Asia and beyond for providing extended access to trade and logistics in the region.

Through enhanced physical connectivity, CPEC has enabled the flow of goods and people and enhanced domestic supply chains and made Pakistan a potential transit hub between South Asia, Central Asia and beyond. In this regard, Gwadar Port in Balochistan is a strategic step toward development, evolving into a maritime trade and connectivity regional hub, though it initially began as a small coastal town. The building of a new international airport, port infrastructure and the necessary services (desalination plants, hospitals, etc.) point to the comprehensive nature of urban and economic development while Gwadar has already started playing a more significant role in ensuring that trade flows and economic diversification can be achieved smoothly. The change in the direction of industrial cooperation and value-added development and the transition of CPEC to the second stage highlights a planned transition. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) such as Rashakai in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and

Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab province are aimed at investment attraction, export-oriented industry development and creation of jobs.

The initial signs of growing appeal of the domestic and international businesses have been reported especially in areas like textile, manufacturing and light engineering. The modern industrial parks which are expected to be established through the aid of Chinese expertise and transfer of technology can boost Pakistan's industrial base and make it more competitive in the international markets. Another important field of interest is also in the area of agricultural collaboration, which is significant since the sector is important to the Pakistani economy. The bilateral programs to enhance productivity, embrace modern farming methods and access to the market are starting to show real outcomes. There has been a tangible increase in Pakistani exports of agricultural goods, such as sesame seeds and chili to China, which indicates the possibility of further development.

Simultaneously, capacity-building initiatives and research collaborations are also aiding agricultural practices in modernization with food security and rural livelihood implications. In addition to the economic indicators, the human aspect of the China-Pakistan relationship is the core of its sustainability in the long-run. Education has become a lot more interactive and today tens of thousands of Pakistani students are studying higher education in the Chinese education system. Academic cooperation and sharing of knowledge are being developed within collaborative platforms like university and cultural exchanges, enhancing mutual understanding.

Such exchanges play a key role in developing the social and intellectual capital needed to maintain a diverse and dynamic alliance. Chinese assistance in times of crisis has also strengthened the bond between the two countries. Such initiatives have highlighted the larger theme of solidarity and cooperation, be it in the form of humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters or targeted support to vulnerable communities.

On a macro level, the impact of CPEC on the Pakistan economy can be evaluated in terms of the benefits it brings to improving infrastructure, mitigating energy shortages and driving industrialization. Although there is a necessity to consider current issues such as better governance, environmental sustainability and equitable allocation of gains, the overall trend is in the direction of gradual enhancement of economic fundamentals. The corridor has also helped to place Pakistan into a greater context of regional connectivity, which is in line with the initiatives of fostering trade integration and economic cooperation in Asia.

In the future, the focus on the high-quality development of the BRI offers a beneficial framework of the further stage of CPEC. The impact of the corridor can be improved even more through increased focus on green technologies, digital connectivity and growth based on innovations. Efforts in areas like renewable energy, smart infrastructure and technological partnership can help coordinate economic growth with environmental sustainability, and a more significant variable in the development discourse of the world. CPEC is an opportunity and a process in analytic terms. The success of CPEC all goes the way with physical infrastructure with the effective implementation of policies to maximize economic returns and provide inclusive growth.

Enhancing institutional capacity, promoting transparency and the involvement of local stakeholders will be imperative in bringing the investments into the long-term development results. Meanwhile, the ongoing cooperation between China and Pakistan based on the principles of mutual respect and goals will be crucial in overcoming the challenges of a quickly evolving global economy. After all, the development of CPEC is indicative of a larger story of collaboration and practicality.

It provides an example of the way in which strategic cooperation, when coupled with national priorities and anchored by long-term investments, can help bring about significant economic change. To Pakistan, the corridor is an avenue to increasing its connectivity, industrialization and participation in global value chains. To China, it supports the BRI and shows the potential of international cooperation in providing concrete development outputs. The experience of CPEC can provide useful lessons to similar projects focused on promoting mutual growth and stability in the region as both nations accelerate development based on this foundation.

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## China hopes Pakistan steps up mediation on Iran-US talks

*ZHAO JIA*

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China hopes Pakistan will maintain confidence and step up mediation efforts to help properly address issues related to keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and restore regional peace at an early date.

Wang made the remarks on Tuesday during a phone conversation with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Dar briefed Wang on Pakistan's recent mediation efforts to facilitate contacts and talks between Iran and the United States, and thanked China for supporting Pakistan's efforts to promote dialogue.

He said Pakistan looks forward to strengthening coordination with China and working together to play a positive role in safeguarding regional peace and stability.

Wang reiterated China's principled position and expressed appreciation for Pakistan's role in facilitating US-Iran talks and extending the temporary ceasefire.

Properly addressing issues related to keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and restoring regional peace at an early date is also the common aspiration of the international community, Wang said.

China will continue to support Pakistan's mediation efforts while making its own contributions toward that end, he added.

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## May 15, 2026

### China Daily

### Pakistan celebrates issuance of first Panda Bonds

*Ji Haisheng*

The government of Pakistan held a ceremony in Beijing on Friday to mark the introduction of Islamabad's first Panda Bonds onto China's onshore capital market.

Panda Bonds are renminbi-denominated debt instruments issued by foreign sovereigns or institutions in China's domestic capital market, allowing overseas borrowers to raise funds in yuan and diversify sources of financing.

Pakistan's Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb said that becoming the first country in South Asia to issue Panda Bonds underscores the strength of the Pakistan-China bilateral relationship and the credibility of Pakistan's reform agenda.

According to Aurangzeb, the first tranche of Panda Bonds, worth 1.75 billion yuan ($2.50 billion), was oversubscribed more than fivefold, demonstrating the firm confidence among Chinese investors in Pakistan's economic reforms and development prospects, adding that Pakistan plans to pursue an overall Panda Bond issuance program of 7.2 billion yuan.

While noting the issuance was backed by the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Aurangzeb said the funds raised will be allocated exclusively to projects in the water sector, social infrastructure and education. The initiative demonstrates Pakistan's commitment and dedication to inclusive and sustainable growth, he added.

Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's ambassador to China, said Friday's move not only reflects the in-depth financial cooperation between the two nations, but also demonstrates a recognition from Chinese and global investors of Pakistan's economic development roadmap and long-term growth potential.

Aurangzeb said he expected a smooth rollout of subsequent bond issuances, adding that Pakistan remains optimistic about strong economic cooperation with China, closer financial connectivity and joint pursuit of sustainable growth.

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