



# PAK. AFFAIRS (PAK-CHINA TIES)

BY: SIR AHMED MALIK

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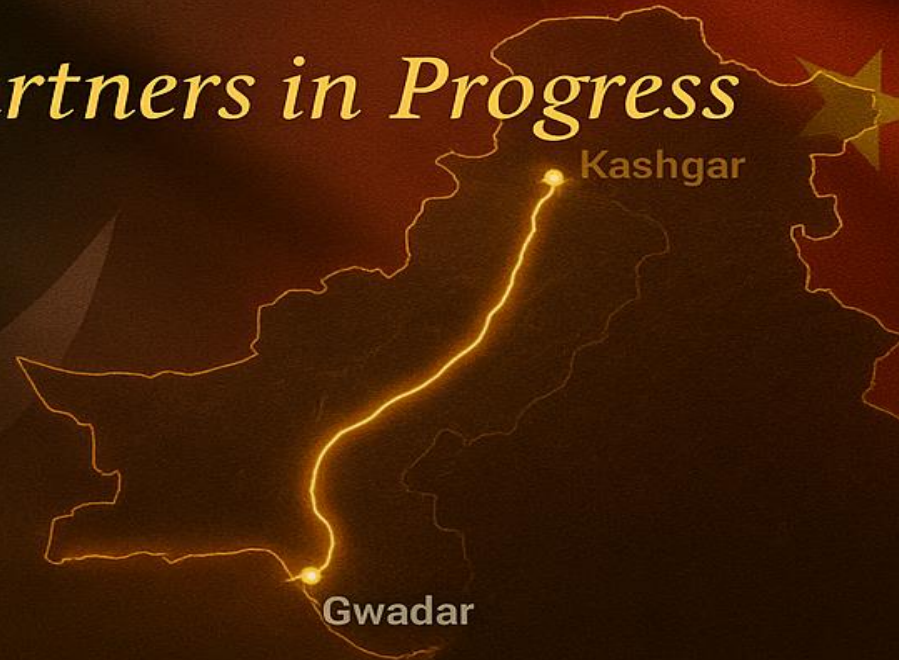
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# Pakistan–China Relations & CPEC

*Strategic Partners in Progress*



By Ahmad Malik

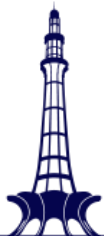


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## Fear by Khalil Gibran

- It is said that before entering the sea **a river** trembles with fear
- She looks back at the path she has traveled,
- From the peaks of the mountains, the long winding road crossing forests and villages
- And in front of her, **she sees an ocean so vast,**
- that to enter there seems nothing more than to disappear forever.
- But there is no other way.
- The river can not go back.
- Nobody can go back.
- To go back is impossible in existence.
- The river needs to take the risk of entering the ocean
- because only then will **fear disappear**, because that's where the river will know
- it's not about **disappearing into the ocean**,
- but of **becoming the ocean**.



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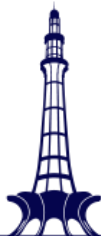
# Did you know?

Pakistan was the first Muslim country to recognize the People's Republic of China in 1950.



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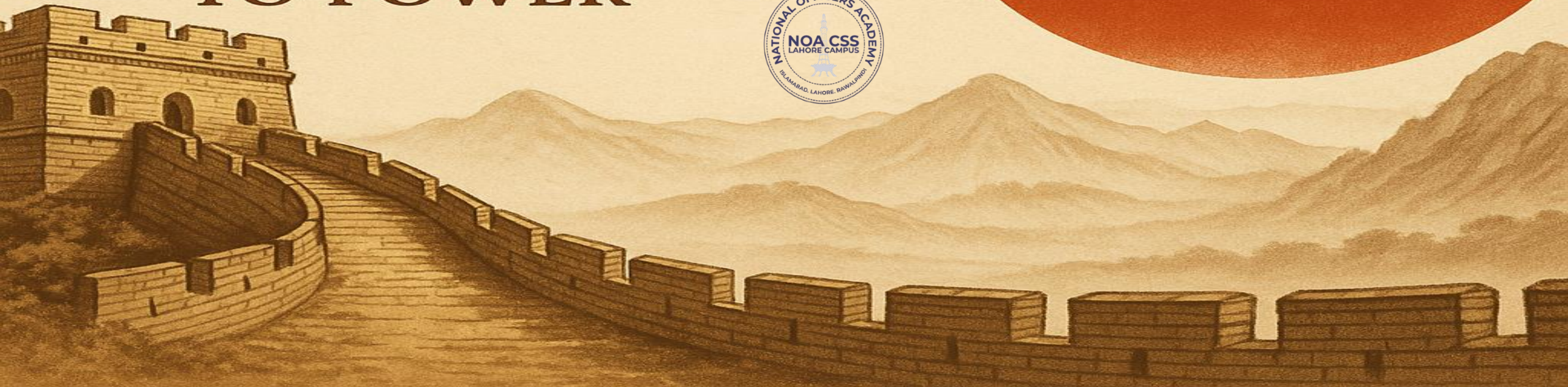
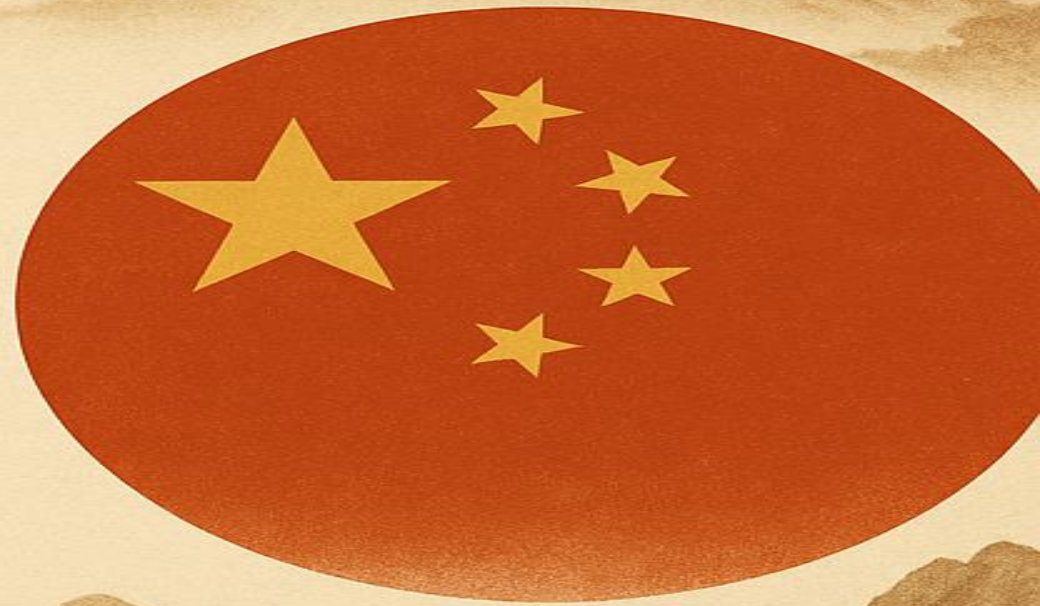
# China–Pakistan Border: Key Facts



- **Length:** 596 km (370 mi)
- **Route:** From Afghanistan tripoint to India tripoint area
- **Tarrain:** Karakoram Mountains – among the wold's tallest
- **Pakistan Side:** Hunza, Nagar, Shigar, Ghanche
- **China Side:** Taxkorgan, Kargilik/Yecheng (Xinjiang)

# CHINA IN BRIEF

HISTORY & RISE  
TO POWER



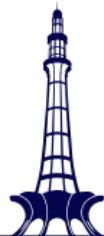
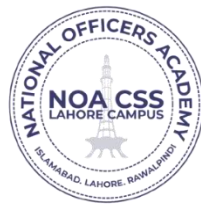




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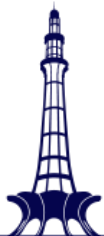
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## Ancient & Imperial China



- Theme: Roots of a Civilization & Early Global Trade
  - Over 4,000 years old civilization; earliest dynasties shaped Asia.
  - Silk Road connected China to Rome, India, Middle East.
  - Centralized governance under Confucian philosophy ensured stability.
  - Innovations: Paper, compass, gunpowder, printing revolutionized world.
- **Critical Note: The combination of governance, trade, and innovation made China a pre-modern superpower, but also made it a target for outside powers.**



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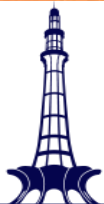
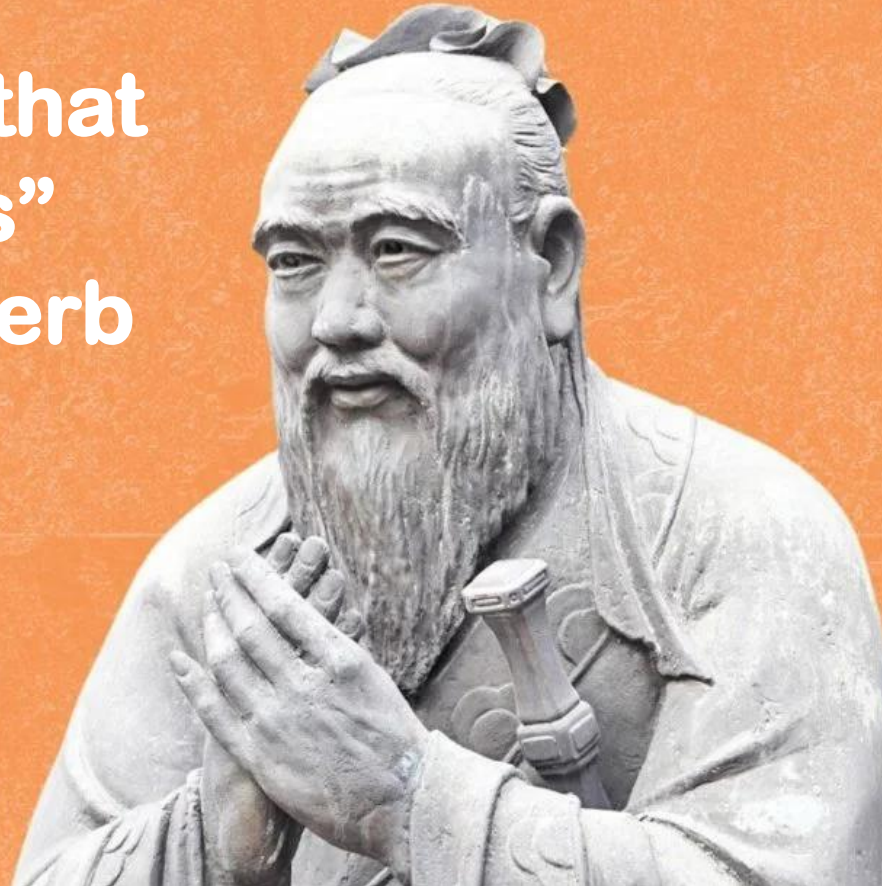
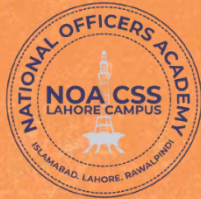
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**“China is a sea that  
salts all rivers”  
A Chinese Proverb**



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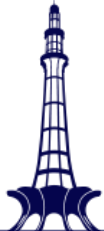
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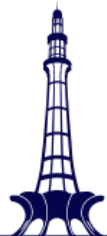
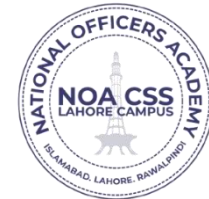


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## Century of Humiliation (1839–1949)

- Theme: Decline, Foreign Domination, and Nationalist Struggle
  - Opium Wars (1839–42, 1856–60) weakened Qing dynasty.
    - Treaty of Nanking in 1842
  - Treaty ports, loss of Hong Kong to Britain in 1842.
  - 1895 defeat by Japan; Taiwan ceded under **Treaty of Shimonoseki**.
  - 1931 Japanese invasion of Manchuria; **Nanjing Massacre (1937)**.
  - Nationalist–Communist civil war until Communist victory in 1949.
- **Critical Note: This period forged China’s obsession with sovereignty, shaping foreign policy till today. Mao often invoked “never again” as a rallying cry.**



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Le pont de Pa-li-Kiao, le soir de la bataille. — Dessin de E. Bayard d'après une esquisse de M. E. Vaumort (album de Mme de Bourboulon).



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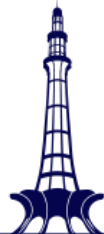
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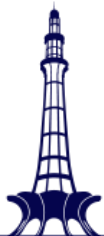


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## Mao Era (1949–1976)

- Theme: Revolution, Centralization, and Isolation
  - Mao Zedong declares People's Republic of China on Oct 1, 1949.
  - **Land reforms and nationalization of industries.**
  - Break with USSR in 1960; Cold War isolation.
  - **The Great Leap Forward (1958–62) caused famine; 30M deaths.**
  - **Cultural Revolution (1966–76) disrupted education, politics, culture.**
- **Critical Note: Mao transformed China's sovereignty and unity but at massive human cost. Isolation kept China militarily secure but economically stagnant.**



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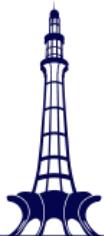


## Great Leap Forward

*[ˈgrāt ˈlɛp ˈfɔr-wɜrd]*

A five-year plan of forced agricultural collectivization and rural industrialization instituted by the Chinese Communist Party in 1958.

Investopedia



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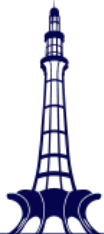
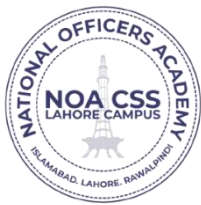
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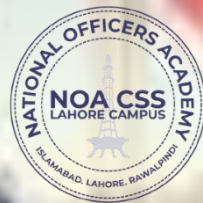
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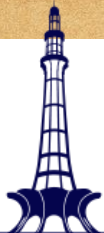
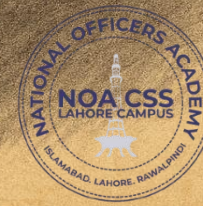




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“It doesn’t matter whether a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice, it is a good cat.”



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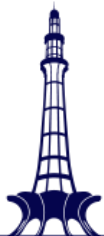


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## Deng Xiaoping Era (1978–1990s)

- **Theme: Reform, Opening Up, and Economic Takeoff**
  - Deng's motto: **"It doesn't matter if the cat is black or white as long as it catches mouse, it is a good cat"**.
  - Special Economic Zones (SEZs) attracted foreign investment.
  - Agricultural de-collectivization increased rural incomes.
  - GDP grew 9–10% annually; export-led industrialization.
  - China joins World Bank (1980), WTO (2001) foundations laid here.
- **Critical Note: Pragmatic economic reform turned China into the "world's factory" but created inequality and environmental degradation.**



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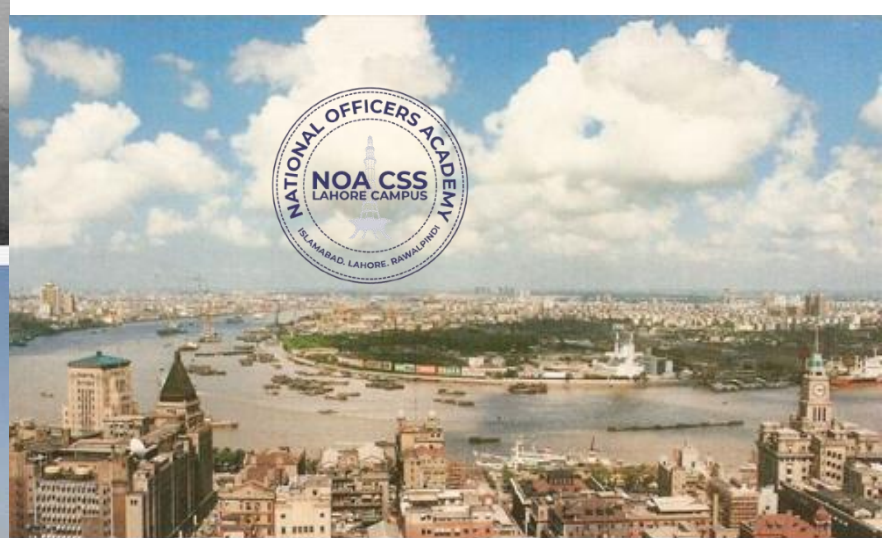
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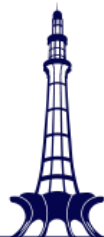
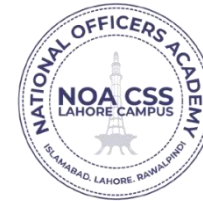


Guangzhou



## China Today (2000s–2025)

- **Theme: Global Power & Strategic Outreach**
  - Second-largest economy; **GDP \$18 trillion (2024)**.
  - Leader in 5G, AI, high-speed rail, green energy.
  - Belt & Road Initiative (BRI): 150+ countries partnered.
  - Military modernization; largest navy by ship count (2023).
  - Strategic competition with US in Indo-Pacific.
- **Critical Note: China's rise inspires admiration and fear. Its authoritarian model challenges the Western-led order, making it central to 21st-century geopolitics.**



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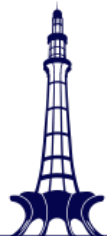
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HISTORY OF  
PAKISTAN-  
CHINA  
RELATIONS

## China–Muslim World Solidarity in WWII

- **Hui Imam Da Pusheng** toured Middle East & South Asia to counter Japanese propaganda in Muslim nations.
- At the World Islamic Congress (Hejaz), he exposed fake Japanese “Muslim” agents as non-Muslims.
- Explained Japan’s imperialist record to Muslim leaders.
- **Muhammad Ali Jinnah pledged support for Chinese Muslims’ anti-Japanese effort.**
- Delegation led by Ma Fuliang met Tagore, Gandhi, Jinnah in Turkey & South Asia; also met Turkish President İsmet İnönü.
- Strengthened China–Muslim solidarity before Pakistan’s creation.



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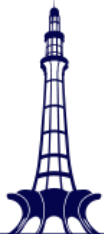


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## 1950: Pakistan Recognizes PRC

- **January 4, 1950: Pakistan becomes first Muslim country to recognize the PRC.**
- Diplomatic relations formally established May 21, 1951.
- Early trade: 1952 trade agreement worth **\$1.8M in textiles & machinery.**
- Recognition defied Western bloc pressure during early Cold War.
- Laid diplomatic foundation for a relationship based on mutual trust.



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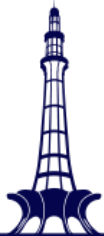
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**Pakistani Prime Minister Huseyn  
Shaheed Suhrawardy and  
Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai  
signing the Treaty of Friendship  
Between China and Pakistan in  
Beijing in 1956.**



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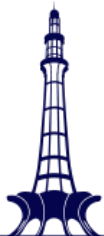


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## 1963: Peaceful Border Agreement

- March 2, 1963: China–Pakistan Boundary Agreement signed in Beijing.
- Settled 596 km border in Karakoram Mountains without conflict.
- Pakistan ceded 1,942 sq km in Shaksgam Valley to China.
- Enabled future Karakoram Highway (completed 1978). Example cited in UN as a model peaceful settlement.



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**China**

**Northern Areas**

*Territory ceded by Pakistan to China in 1963; claimed by India*

**Siachen Glacier**

*Indian occupied since 1984*

*no defined boundary*

**Aksai Chin**

**North-West Frontier Province**

**Line of Control**

**India-China line of actual control**

**Jammu and Kashmir**

**ISLAMABAD**

*Islamabad Capital Territory*

**Pakistan**

**Working boundary**

**Himachel Pradesh**

**India**

**China**

**Punjab**

**Uttaranchal**



**Punjab**

**Haryana**

**Rajasthan**

*Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.*

	International boundary
	Traditional boundary of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir
	Line of Control
	Internal administrative boundary
	Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir
	Pakistani-controlled areas of Kashmir

0 50 100 Kilometers  
0 50 100 Miles

**Uttar Pradesh**



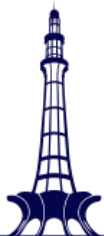
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## 1965: War-time Support

- Indo–Pak War (Sept 6–23, 1965): China aligned firmly with Pakistan.
- Military Aid: Provided **200 artillery pieces, 200 tanks (Type 59), and spare parts for MiG-19 fighter jets.**
- Strategic Pressure: Issued ultimatum to India (Sept 16, 1965) over border disputes in Sikkim–Tibet area, forcing India to keep troops on the Chinese front.
- Diplomatic Support: Chinese FM Chen Yi delivered strong UN speeches backing Pakistan’s stance on Kashmir, calling it a right to self-determination.
- Symbolic Alliance: The popular phrase **“Friendship higher than Himalayas, deeper than oceans”** gained prominence during this period.



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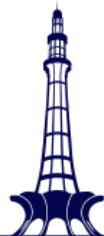
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# Ayub Khan's 1965 visit of China.



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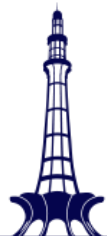
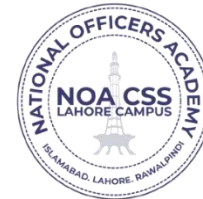
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## 1971: Secret US–China Diplomacy

- July 1971: Pakistan secretly facilitated Henry Kissinger’s visit to Beijing.
- Led to President Nixon’s historic 1972 China visit, normalizing US–China ties.
- Pakistan Air Force flew Kissinger from Islamabad to Beijing.
- Elevated Pakistan’s status as a strategic bridge between superpowers.
- Won Beijing’s lasting goodwill for helping end China’s isolation.



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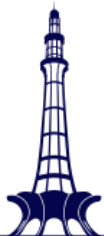


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## 1980s–1990s: Nuclear & Defense Cooperation

- 1986: China signs nuclear cooperation agreement with Pakistan.
- Assisted in building **Chashma Nuclear Power Plant**.
- 1990s: Helped develop **M-11 missiles and JF-17 Thunder fighter program groundwork**.
- Joint production agreements reduced reliance on Western arms.
- **Balanced India's rising military capabilities post-1974 nuclear test.**



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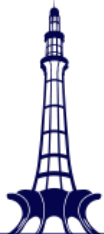


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## 2005–2013: Gwadar Port & Infrastructure

- Gwadar Port construction funded by China (\$248M Phase 1 cost).
- Operational control given to China Overseas Port Holding Company (2013).
- Linked to future CPEC maritime trade routes.
- Projects included Coastal Highway, fiber optics, and energy plants.
- Gwadar seen as China's gateway to the Arabian Sea & Indian Ocean.



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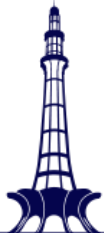
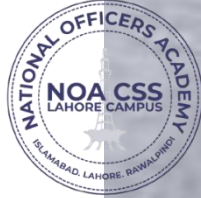
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# GWADAR PORT

Became part of Pakistan on 8 Sept 1958

Deep-sea natural harbor (18m depth)

Southern gateway of CPEC

Shortens China–Middle-East route by 12 000 km

GWADAR



STRAIT OF HORMUZ

PERSIAN GULF

SITRAT OF POKRJUS

SAUDH ARABIA

INDIA

ARABIAN SEA

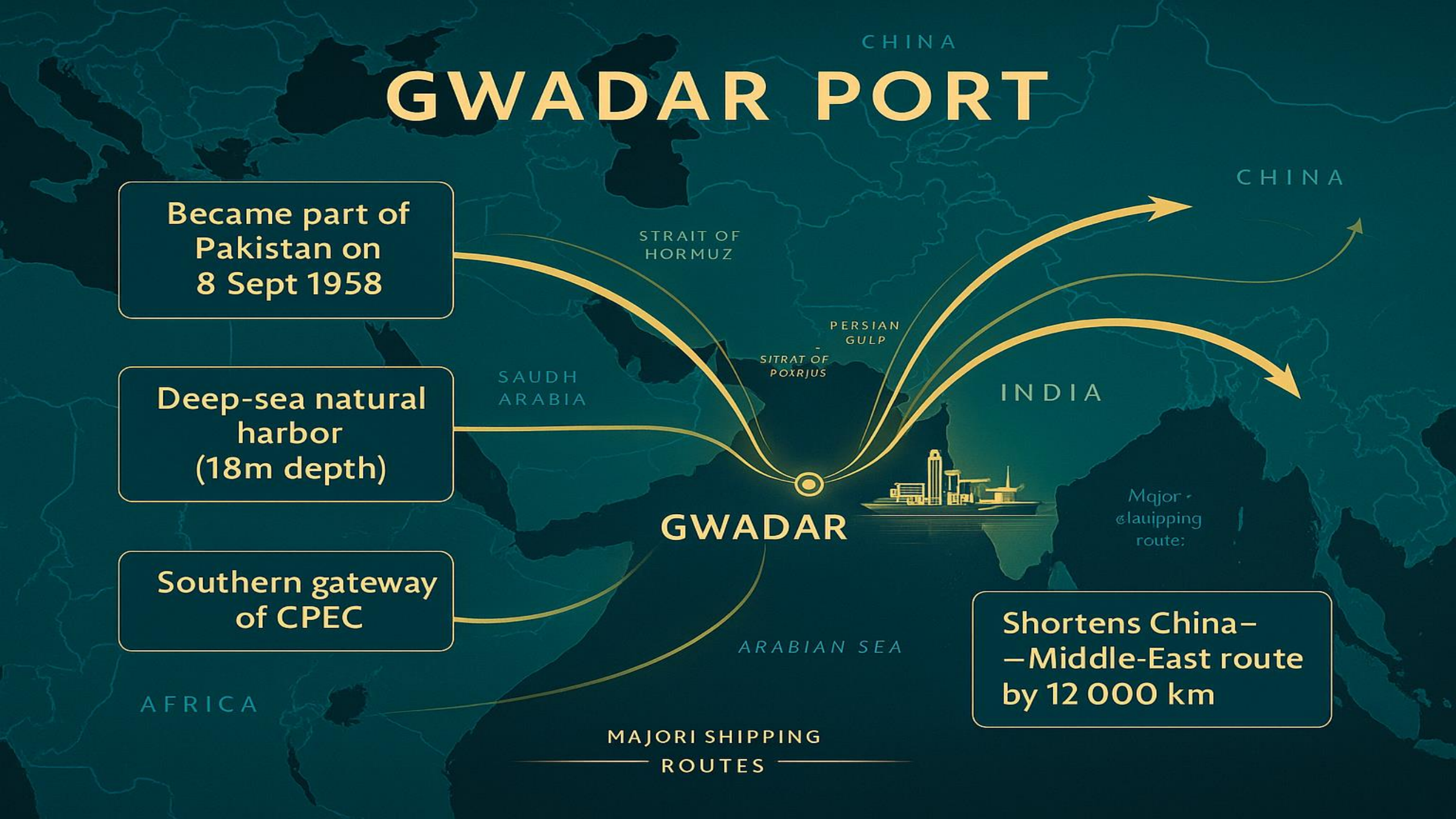
MAJORI SHIPPING ROUTES

Major shipping route:

AFRICA

CHINA

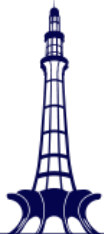
CHINA





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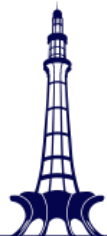
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## 2015: CPEC Launch

- April 2015: **\$46B pledged; later expanded to \$62B.**
- Covers 3,000 km network of roads, railways, pipelines from Gwadar to Kashgar.
- Early Harvest Projects (2015–2020) added 5,320 MW to Pakistan's grid.
- Flagship of Belt & Road Initiative with 150+ participating nations.
- Seen by China as securing energy supply via shortest sea–land route.



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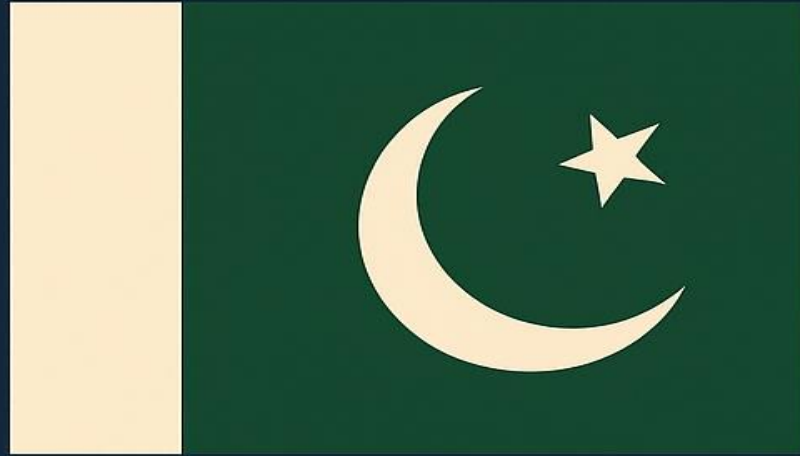
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# SINO-PAK POLITICAL RELATIONS



**FRIENDSHIP  
HIGHER THAN  
THE HIMALAYAS**

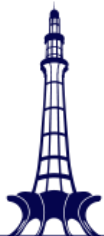
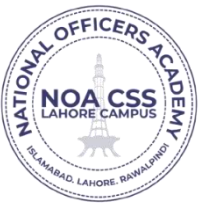


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## Consistent Mutual Support in International Forums

- **China has consistently backed Pakistan's stance on Kashmir in the UN Security Council, opposing Indian unilateral actions.**
  - August 1999 and 2000 UN Security Council sessions where Beijing opposed attempts to dilute UNSC resolutions on the Kashmir dispute.
  - China supported Pakistan's request for UNSC discussion after the Kargil conflict and reaffirmed the need for a peaceful resolution "in accordance with the UN Charter and relevant resolutions," implicitly countering India's position that Kashmir was purely a bilateral matter under the Simla Agreement .
- **Pakistan reciprocates by supporting China's positions on Taiwan, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Tibet, especially in UN Human Rights Council votes.**
  - In 2019, Pakistan was among 50 countries that signed a letter supporting China's policies in Xinjiang when Western countries criticized them.



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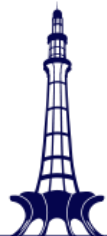
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## China's Role in FATF Diplomacy



- Evidence from Javid Husain's Pakistan and a World in Disorder: **China, as a permanent FATF member, repeatedly opposed moves to blacklist Pakistan despite pressure from the US and India.**
- **Example:** In February 2020, China used its position to delay or dilute resolutions aimed at pushing Pakistan into the FATF blacklist, giving Islamabad space to implement reforms.
- This diplomatic shield prevented Pakistan from facing crippling international financial sanctions.



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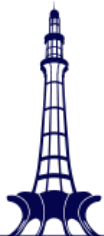
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## Non-Interference in Internal Politics

- **Evidence from Pakistan at Seventy:** Unlike the US, which often comments on Pakistan's governance, human rights, and democracy, China maintains a principle of non-interference.
- This policy aligns with Beijing's broader foreign relations approach under Xi Jinping, valuing stability and continuity over political change in partner states.
- **Impact: It allows Islamabad to deal with domestic political transitions (e.g., between civilian and military governments) without fearing a loss of Chinese support.**



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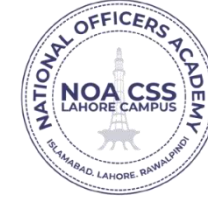


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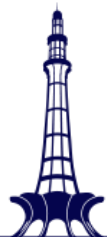
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## Pakistan's "One China Policy" Commitment

- Evidence from Abdul Sattar's *Pakistan's Foreign Policy*: **Pakistan formally recognized PRC in 1950, long before the US did in 1979, and never had formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan.**
- Pakistan regularly reaffirms **"One China"** in joint statements, including during high-level visits (e.g., PM Imran Khan's 2022 Beijing visit).
- Example: **Pakistan refused to send any representatives to events hosted by Taiwan despite trade incentives, maintaining strategic solidarity with Beijing.**



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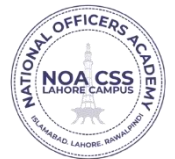
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## Pakistan–Taiwan Relations: Trade over Politics

- **Primarily Economic Ties** – Relations focus on commerce, limited political engagement due to Pakistan’s One-China policy.
- **Historical Shift (1947–1951)** – Initially recognized Taiwan, switched to PRC after Chinese Civil War victory.
- **No Official Diplomatic Presence** – No embassies or cultural centers; trade via private channels and third-party jurisdictions.
- **2019 Textile Relocation Interest** – Taiwan considered moving textile industry from Vietnam to Pakistan for lower labor costs.
- **Trade Volume (2019)** – Imports from Taiwan: **US\$626M**; exports to Taiwan: **US\$100M (mainly textiles, leather, agricultural goods)**.
- **Key Imports from Taiwan** – Petroleum, electrical machinery, plastics, iron, and steel dominate trade.
- **Strategic Context** – Ties remain constrained by Pakistan’s strong political alliance with China.



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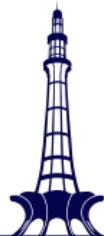
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## Strategic Diplomatic Facilitation

- Pakistan played a historic diplomatic role in 1971 when it facilitated Henry Kissinger's secret trip to Beijing, paving the way **for US–China rapprochement.**
- **This act significantly elevated Pakistan's importance in Chinese foreign policy and is still referenced by Chinese diplomats as an example of trust in the relationship.**
- **Long-term Impact: Cemented Pakistan's role as a bridge between China and the West, which Beijing values for backchannel diplomacy even today.**



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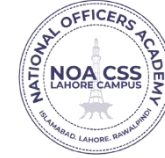


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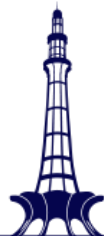


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# China's Support for Pakistan in Multilateral Forums



- **1. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**
  - Backed Pakistan's full membership in 2017 alongside India, giving Islamabad a regional security & economic platform.
  - Facilitated Pakistan's integration into SCO's counterterrorism and trade frameworks.
- **2. BRICS Engagement**
  - While Pakistan is not a BRICS member, China has advocated for greater outreach to include friendly developing countries like Pakistan in BRICS+ dialogues.
  - This aligns with Beijing's push for a multipolar world where Global South countries have a stronger voice.
- **3. Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)**
  - China blocked India's entry into NSG multiple times (2016–2021) due to its non-signatory status to the NPT.
  - Beijing insists on criteria-based membership, which would open the door for Pakistan's entry as well.



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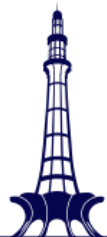
# PAK-CHINA

SECURITY AND MILITARY TIES



## Strategic Depth of Pak–China Military Alliance

- **Nature of Ties:** Long-standing, multi-dimensional military cooperation since 1962.
- **Purpose:** Counter Indian & US influence, previously to repel Soviet presence.
- **Quote:** Chinese Premier *Li Keqiang* – *“If you love China, love Pakistan too.”*
- **Geopolitical Significance:** Strengthens regional deterrence architecture in South Asia.



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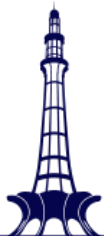


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# Pakistan as China's Top Arms Buyer

- SIPRI Data:
  - **63% of Chinese arms exports go to Pakistan.**
  - **81% of Pakistan's arms imports (2019–2024) are from China.**
- **Implication:** Ensures strategic interoperability & dependence on Chinese tech.
- **Support Since 1962:** Ammunition factories, tech transfer, facility upgrades.



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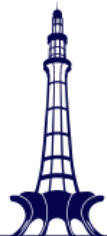
## Joint Development & Major Platforms

**Aircraft: JF-17 Thunder, K-8 Karakorum trainer, tailor-made training jets (Hongdu L-15 design).**

**Ground Systems: Al-Khalid tanks (Type 90/MBT-2000 base).**

**Air Systems: AWACS integration, LOMADS LY-80 air defense system.**

**Naval Assets: Zulfiqar-class frigates jointly built.**



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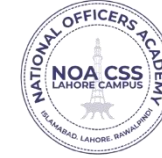
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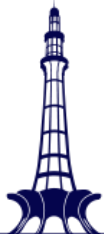
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## Joint Development of JF-17 Thunder

- **Origins:** Co-developed by Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) Kamra & Chengdu Aircraft Corporation (CAC) of China.
- **Induction:** First inducted into Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in 2007.
- **Features:** Multirole fighter, cost-effective (**\$25–30 million/unit**) compared to **Western jets**.
- **Impact:** Reduced dependency on US aircraft (e.g., F-16s) and allowed Pakistan to export jets (e.g., Myanmar, Nigeria).
- **Analysis:** Strengthens Pakistan's air defense autonomy & China's defense export market.



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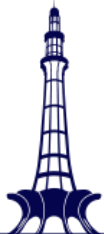
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## High-End Fighter & Submarine Deals



- **J-10C Acquisition:** Chosen over **US F-16C Block 52/60** due to advanced radar, OLS targeting, and stealth features (DSI intake).
- **Submarine Deal:** 8 Yuan-class (Type 039B) AIP subs, **\$5B deal (largest arms sale in China's history), low-interest financing.**
- **Impact: Enhances deep-sea and aerial strike capabilities.**



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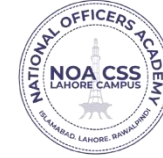
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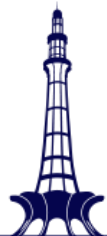
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# Chinese Drones for Pakistan

- **Models Supplied:** CH-4 & Wing Loong UAVs for reconnaissance & precision strikes.
- **Purpose:** Counterterrorism in tribal areas, border surveillance with India & Afghanistan.
- **Fact:** CH-4 endurance 30 hours, payload 345 kg, range 5,000 km.
- **Example:** Used in anti-TTP and anti-BLA operations.
- **Analysis:** Enhances real-time intelligence and targeted strike capability without relying on US tech (post-2011 deterioration of ties).



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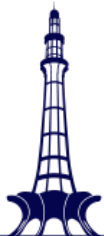
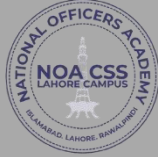
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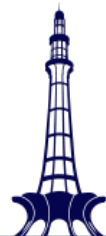


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## Submarine Cooperation

- **Project:** Acquisition of 8 Type 039B Yuan-class submarines (AIP – Air Independent Propulsion).
- **Deal Value: \$4–5 billion, delivery by 2028.**
- **Impact:** Strengthens Pakistan Navy's deterrence in Indian Ocean.
- **Example:** AIP tech allows 3 weeks submerged operation without surfacing.
- **Analysis: Balances India's naval buildup, supports China's strategic interests in Arabian Sea.**



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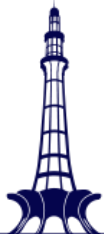
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## Maritime Strategy & Gwadar Port Security

- **Gwadar:** Deep-sea port at Strait of Hormuz—possible future Chinese naval outpost.
- **Investment:** China pledged \$43B, making Gwadar central to CPEC logistics & security.
- **Perception:** Watched closely by US & India for potential Chinese submarine/warship deployment.
- **Joint Exercises:** “**Sea Guardian 2**” (July 2022) as part of naval security cooperation.



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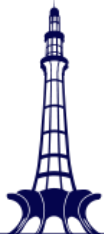
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# Intelligence, Satellites, and Real-Time Warfare Support



- 2025 India–Pakistan Conflict:
  - China provided **44 satellites** to aid Pakistan in tracking Indian troop/missile movements.
  - Support Included:
    - Signals intelligence.
    - Adjusted satellite coverage for optimal monitoring.
    - Assistance reorganizing radar & air defense systems.
- **Effect: Provided real-time operational advantage during hostilities.**



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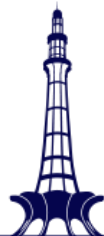


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## Access to BeiDou Military Satellite Service

- **BeiDou:** China's global satellite navigation system, rival to GPS.
- **Access Granted:** Pakistan is the only foreign country with full military-level access.
- Benefits:
  - **Real-time precision targeting for missiles & drones.**
  - **Secure, jam-resistant military communication.**
- **Analysis:** Enhances Pakistan's C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) capabilities, reducing reliance on US GPS which can be restricted in wartime.



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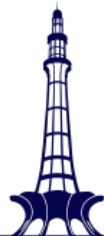
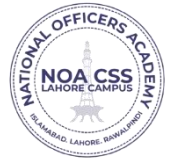
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## Counterterrorism Cooperation & Security Challenges

- **Joint Efforts:** Coordination with Afghanistan to stabilize region; Xinjiang as economic-security hub.
- **Chinese Recognition:** Praised Pakistan's elimination of al-Qaeda, TTP, and ETIM/Islamic Party of Turkistan.
- **Threats:** Baloch separatist attacks (e.g., **Majeed Brigade of BLA**) targeting Chinese nationals & CPEC projects.
- **Response:** Increased Chinese security presence & demand for tighter Pakistani protection.



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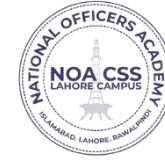
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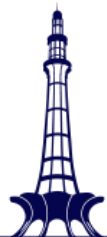
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## Strategic Implications of Pak–China Defense Ties

- **Balance of Power:** Counters India's defense pacts with US, Israel, France, and Russia.
- **Technology Transfer:** China provides ToT (Transfer of Technology), unlike most Western suppliers.
- **Regional Strategy:** Secures Chinese interests in Arabian Sea & Persian Gulf energy routes (via Gwadar).
- **Evidence:** CPEC-related security forces (Special Security Division) equipped with Chinese surveillance gear.
- **Analysis:** Deep defense ties embed Pakistan in China's regional security architecture under BRI.



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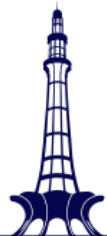


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## Cultural

- Confucius Institutes in Pakistan.
- Scholarships (28,000 Pakistani students in China).
- Growing Chinese language courses & cultural exchanges.



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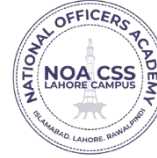
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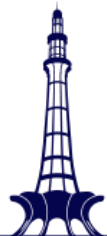
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## Ancient & Civilizational Roots



- **Silk Road Legacy:** Over 2,000 years of trade and cultural exchange linking South Asia and China.
- **Buddhist Transmission:** Gandhara (modern KP) served as a key source of Buddhist learning for China.
- **Chinese Pilgrims:** Faxian (4th century) and Xuanzang (7th century) visited the Indus region, documenting its culture, education, and religious life.
- **Civilizational Link:** Early people-to-people interaction predates modern diplomacy by centuries.



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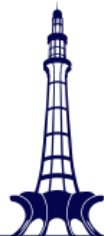


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## Early Diplomatic & Cultural Foundations (1950–1979)



- **Early Recognition:** Pakistan recognized the PRC in 1950; diplomatic relations established May 21, 1951.
- **Cultural Cooperation Agreement (1965):** Formalized exchanges in arts, media, and delegations.
- **Karakoram Highway (1978):** Physical symbol of connectivity, facilitating cultural and social interaction.
- **Trust Building:** Cultural ties reinforced political alignment during Cold War uncertainties.



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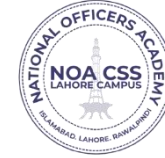
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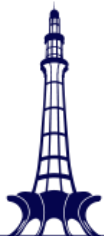
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## Institutionalization & Strategic Culture (1980–2013)



- **Cultural Delegations:** Regular exchanges in music, literature, sports, and broadcasting.
- **Media Collaboration:** Joint productions like “Affection on the Highway” strengthened public goodwill.
- **Educational Exchange:** Pakistani students increasingly enrolled in Chinese universities.
- **2005 Friendship Treaty:** Explicitly emphasized cultural understanding and people-to-people bonds as pillars of the relationship.



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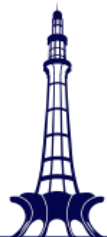
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## CPEC Era & People-to-People Expansion (2013–Present)



- **Education Boom:** Over **25,000 Pakistani** students currently studying in China.
- **Language & Institutions:** Five Confucius Institutes in Pakistan; Mandarin widely taught in universities.
- **Cultural Media:** Film collaborations such as *Batie Girl* (2023) reflect modern cultural integration.
- **Heritage Cooperation (2025):** Joint accord on archaeology, museums, and anti-smuggling efforts.
- **75th Anniversary (2026):** “Platinum Jubilee” celebrations, logo launch, and Hero Mudan art exhibitions across Pakistan.



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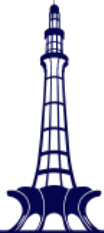
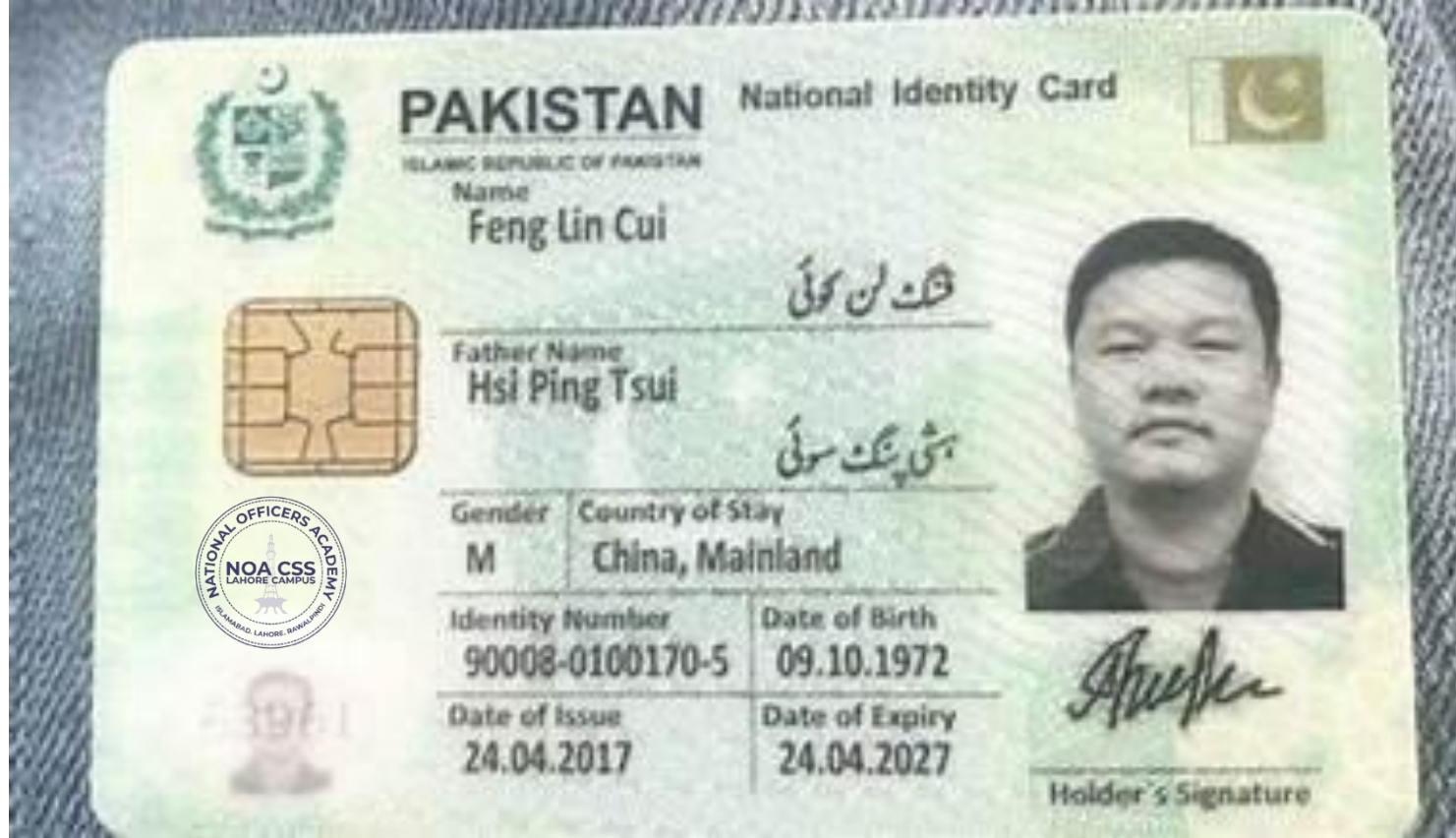


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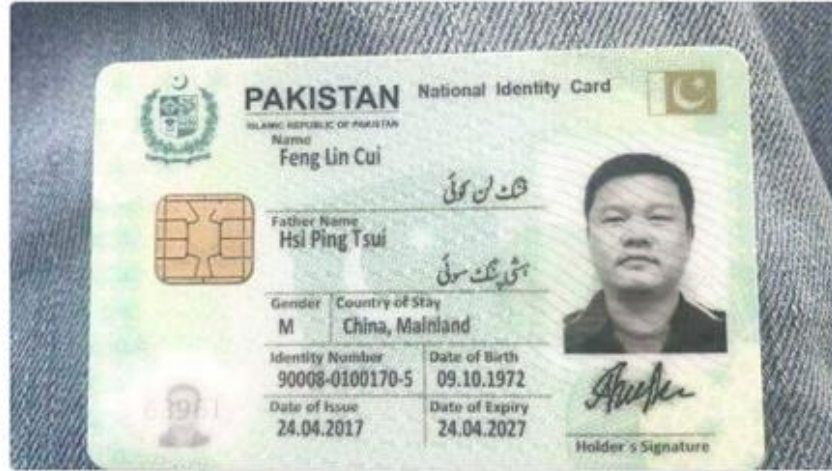


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**Tariq Afghan** @afghan\_tariq · 19h  
If this is true. The after effects of CPEC



36 53 175

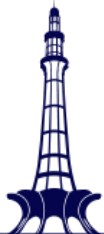


**Ahsan Iqbal** ✓  
@betterpakistan

Following

Replying to @afghan\_tariq

His parents were naturalised as Pakistani citizens in 1989, decades before CPEC was born.



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# PAKISTAN-CHINA ECONOMIC RELATIONS

# CPEC



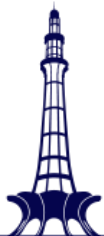


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## Economic

- Bilateral trade: \$18.69 billion (trade deficit in China's favor).
  - Pakistan's exports to China : \$2.38 billion (FY2024-2025)
  - Pakistan's imports from China: \$16.31 billion same period
  - **Trade Deficit (For Pakistan): \$13.93 billion for FY2025**
- CPEC: \$62 billion announced; \$25 billion already invested (energy, transport).



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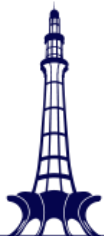


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# China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) Phase 1

- Duration: July 2007 to December 2012
- Primary Objective: reducing tariffs on appx **85% of product lines**, with **36% becoming zero-rated within 3 years**.
- Trade Growth (**Strong but Imbalanced**)
  - **Bilateral trade grew 242% (2007–2018) → \$3.5B to \$13.8B.**
  - **Pakistan's exports: \$0.5B (2006) → \$1.6B (2016).**
  - **China's exports: \$1.4B (2006) → \$12.1B (2016).**
  - **Pakistan's trade deficit rose to \$13B (35% of total trade)**



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## Phase 1

- **Market Access Realities**

- **Pakistan benefited in: textiles, marble, sports goods, industrial alcohol, fruits.**
- **China gained in: machinery, electrical equipment, organic chemicals, raw materials.**

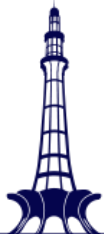
- **Key Criticisms**

- Pakistan's concession utilization only 5% vs China's 57%.
- Weak Pakistani competitiveness → surge of cheaper Chinese goods.
- Limited access for Pakistan's major exports (textile value-added, leather, agriculture).



- **Overall Assessment**

- Trade increased massively but asymmetrically.
- CPFTA-I exposed structural weaknesses of Pakistani industry and informed the need for Phase-II renegotiation on tariffs & safeguards.



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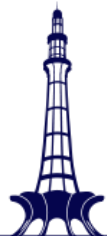
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## CPFTA Phase II: Structure & Market Access (Effective Jan 2020)

- **Core Objective**
  - Correct Phase-I imbalance, expand access, add services & investment.
- **Tariff Liberalization**
  - **313 Pakistani priority items granted immediate zero-duty access.**
  - **Covers 75% of tariff lines over 10–15 years.**
- **Key Pakistani Export Gains**
  - Zero-duty entry for: textiles, apparel, seafood, meat, leather, plastics, chemicals, auto parts.
- **Services Agreement Operational**
  - Access in **133 Chinese sub-sectors**: IT, retail, wholesale, construction.
- **Safeguard Mechanism Introduced**
  - Countries may impose temporary tariffs on import surges threatening domestic industry.

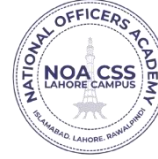


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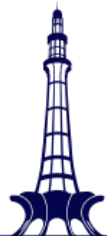
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# Implementation, Impact & Future Outlook

- **Export Boost Potential**
  - Expected to raise **Pakistan's exports to China by \$500M+** annually after full implementation.
- **Addressing Non-Tariff Barriers**
  - Emphasis on electronic data-sharing, customs transparency, and certification harmonization.
- **Status of Implementation**
  - Phased tariff reductions underway; full benefits expected over the next decade.
- **Challenges & Focus Areas**
  - Pakistan must diversify exports, improve standards, and enhance utilization rates (very low under Phase-I).
- **Strategic Importance**
  - Phase II positions Pakistan for deeper industrial integration, higher value-added exports, and more balanced bilateral trade with China.



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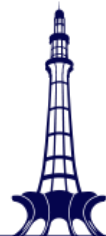
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## CPFTA Phase II: Status, Structure & Opportunities (2020–2035)

- **Fully Operational Since Jan 2020**
  - Tariff reductions continuing in phases until 2035.
- **Tariff Relief on 313 Priority Items**
  - Immediate zero-duty access for textiles, seafood, meat, auto parts.
- **Stronger Safeguards & Protection Tools**
  - Balance-of-payments clause + anti-surge safeguards absent in Phase I.
- **Electronic Data Exchange Introduced**
  - Reduces **misinvoicing**, strengthens customs transparency and trade monitoring.
- **Opportunity Potential but Uncertain Outcomes**
  - Framework improved, but benefits contingent on Pakistan's export readiness.



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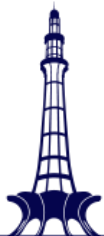


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## Is CPFTA Phase II Beneficial? Evidence & Constraints

- **Trade Deficit Still Worsening**
  - FY 2020–21: Imports \$20.8B vs exports \$3.1B.
- **Pakistan's Low Concession Utilization**
  - **Pakistan uses only 32.3% of concessions; China uses 79.8%.**
- **Weak Export Diversification**
  - Pakistan concentrates on raw cotton, seafood, metals;
  - China exports high-value machinery, chemicals, electronics.
- **External Shocks Distorted Early Outcomes**
  - COVID-19 and supply chain disruptions masked initial effects.
- **Internal Barriers Limit Real Gains**
  - Non-tariff barriers, weak standards, low capacity, and business awareness hinder full benefits.



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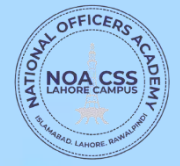
# BRI BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE



**New Silk Road**

**Maritime Silk Road**

**China Pakistan Corridor**

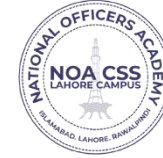




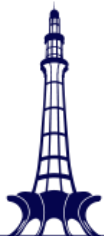
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## What is the Belt & Road Initiative?



- **Definition:** China's \$1 trillion global infrastructure and connectivity project, launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013.
- **Scope:** Connects Asia, Africa, Europe through overland & maritime networks.
- **Vision:** Revival of the ancient Silk Road to enhance global trade and investment flows.
- **Global Reach:** 140+ countries signed cooperation agreements (as of 2024).



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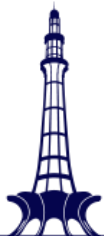
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## Aims & Strategic Goals



- **Trade & Connectivity:** Link China with Africa, Eurasia, Middle East, South & Southeast Asia.
- **Energy Security:** Secure oil & gas supply lines bypassing chokepoints like the Malacca Strait.
- **Market Expansion:** Open new markets for Chinese goods and technology.
- **Domestic Development:** Boost China's western provinces (esp. Xinjiang) through cross-border links.
- **Geopolitical Goal:** Shape a China-centric global economic order.



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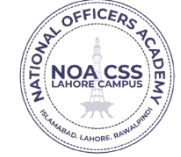
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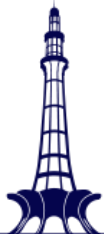
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## Why BRI focuses on Major Energy Supply Choke Points

- China imports over **70%** of its oil through sea routes, much of it from the Middle East.
- If the US Navy or regional instability blocks these choke points, China's economy would be vulnerable.
- **CPEC & BRI goal:**
  - Reduce dependence on Malacca by building overland energy pipelines and rail from Gwadar to Xinjiang.
  - Shortens oil shipping distance from **12,000 km (via Malacca) to 2,500 km.**



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## Structure: Two Main Components

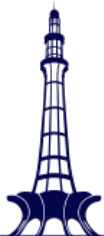


- **Silk Road Economic Belt (Overland)**

- Connects Pacific Ocean to the Baltic Sea via Central Asia, Russia, and Europe.
- Focus on rail, road, and pipeline networks.

- **21st Century Maritime Silk Road**

- Port and shipping routes linking China with Southeast Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- Includes strategic port investments (e.g., Gwadar in Pakistan, Hambantota in Sri Lanka).



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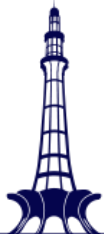
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## Six Main Economic Corridors of BRI

1. China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) – Xinjiang to Gwadar Port.
2. China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor (CMREC) – Enhances Eurasian rail connectivity.
3. New Eurasian Land Bridge (NELB) – Direct rail links from China to Europe.
4. China–Central Asia–West Asia Economic Corridor (CCWAEC) – Links to Middle East & Mediterranean.
5. China–Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor (CICPEC) – Connects China to mainland Southeast Asia.
6. Bangladesh–China–India–Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIMEC) – South Asia & Bay of Bengal access.



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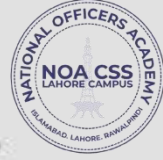
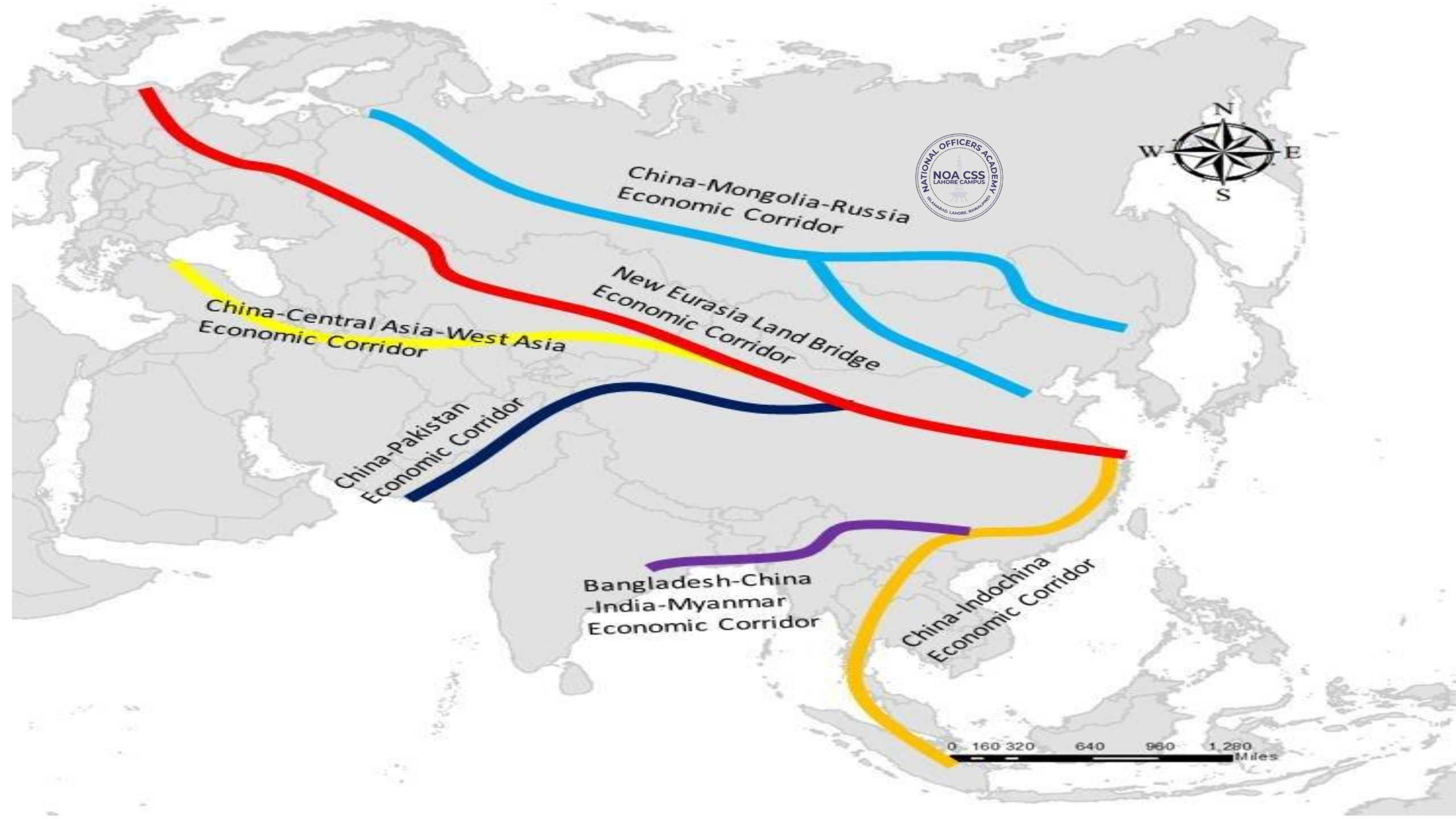


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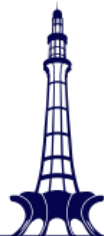
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## Strategic Purpose & Global Implications

- **Alternative to US-led Financial Models:** Offers developing countries funding without Western conditionalities.
- **Political Stability via Development:** Economic growth as a tool for regional stability.
- **Counter to US “Rebalancing” in Asia:** Expands China’s influence across Indo-Pacific and Eurasia.
- **Potential Challenges:** Debt sustainability debates, local resistance, security risks along routes.
- **Pakistan’s Role:** CPEC as BRI’s “flagship” with strategic positioning between Middle East, Central Asia, and China.



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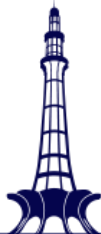
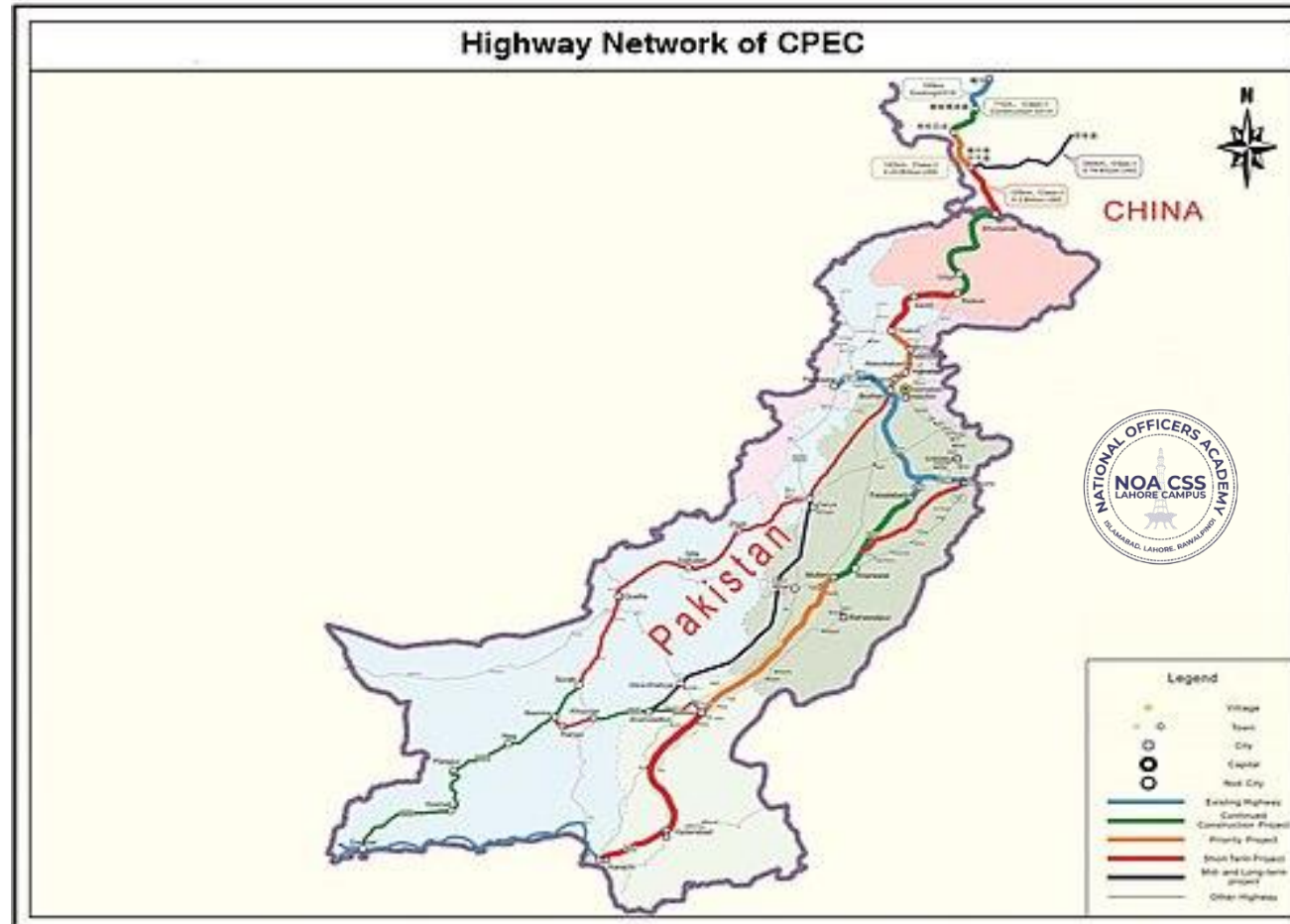
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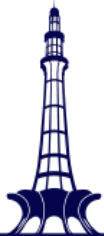


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## What is CPEC?

- **Definition:**
  - The China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a network of roads, railways, pipelines, and ports connecting China’s Xinjiang region to Pakistan’s Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea.
- **Key Facts:**
  - Part of: China’s Belt & Road Initiative (BRI).
  - Launched: April 2015 during Xi Jinping’s visit to Pakistan.
  - Initial Value: \$46 billion (now \$62 billion+).
  - Purpose: Boost trade, energy supply, and connectivity for both countries.
  - Importance: Gives China a shorter, safer route to Middle East & Africa; gives Pakistan major infrastructure and energy projects.



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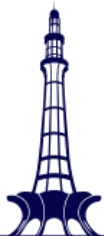
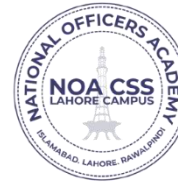


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## Why CPEC?

- Shortest Route: Xinjiang → Arabian Sea via Gwadar (3,000 km shorter than current China–Middle East sea route).
- Pakistan's Needs:
  - **\$10–12B** annual infrastructure investment gap.
  - Energy shortages (2013 deficit 4,500 MW).
- China's Needs:
  - Secure trade bypass to avoid the Malacca Strait choke point (through which 80% of China's oil imports pass).
- Declared: **“Flagship” of BRI by Xi Jinping.**



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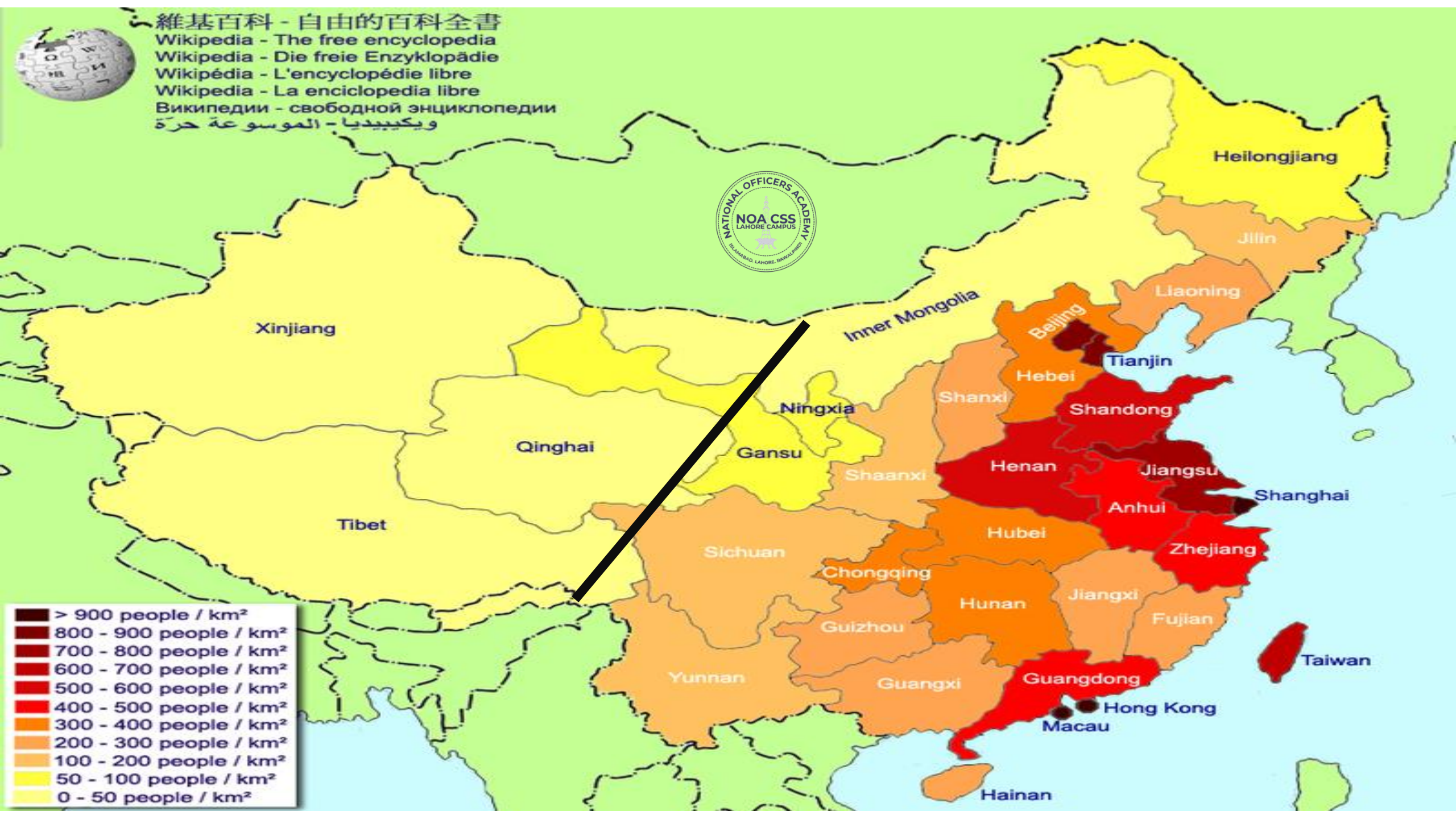
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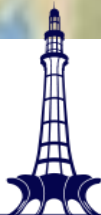


Dark Red	> 900 people / km <sup>2</sup>
Red	800 - 900 people / km <sup>2</sup>
Dark Orange	700 - 800 people / km <sup>2</sup>
Orange	600 - 700 people / km <sup>2</sup>
Light Orange	500 - 600 people / km <sup>2</sup>
Yellow-Orange	400 - 500 people / km <sup>2</sup>
Yellow	300 - 400 people / km <sup>2</sup>
Light Yellow	200 - 300 people / km <sup>2</sup>
Very Light Yellow	100 - 200 people / km <sup>2</sup>
Lightest Yellow	50 - 100 people / km <sup>2</sup>
White	0 - 50 people / km <sup>2</sup>



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## Separatism in China

Many current separatist movements in China arise from the country's ethnic issues. Some of the factors that have created these ethnic issues include history, nationalism, economic and political disparity, religion, and other factors.

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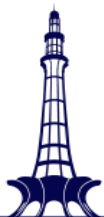
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## Historical Background



- **MoU Signed:** 2013 (Nawaz Sharif's visit to China).
- **Launch:** April 20, 2015 (Xi Jinping's state visit to Pakistan).
- **Scale:** Initially \$46B → now estimated at \$62B+.
- **Nature:** Mix of concessional loans, grants, and commercial investments.



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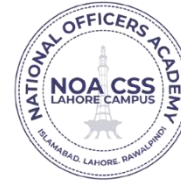
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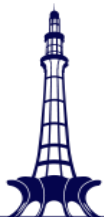
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# CPEC Phases Overview



1. Early Harvest Projects (2015–2020) – Energy, transport, Gwadar upgrades.
2. Expansion (2020–2025) – SEZs, agriculture, IT.
3. Integration (2025–2030) – Regional connectivity & trade expansion.



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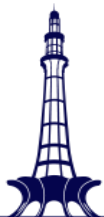


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## Phase 1: Early Harvest Projects (2015–2020)

- **Energy Sector (\$19B):**
  - Coal plants: Port Qasim (1,320 MW), Sahiwal (1,320 MW), Hub (1,320 MW).
  - Hydropower: Karot (720 MW).
  - Renewable: Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park Expansion.
- **Transport:**
  - Karakoram Highway (Havelian–Thakot).
  - Motorways: Multan–Sukkur (M-5), Hakla–D.I. Khan.
- **Gwadar Development:**
  - Eastbay Expressway, Gwadar Free Zone Phase 1, Gwadar International Airport.



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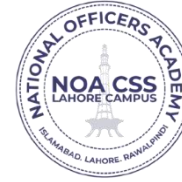
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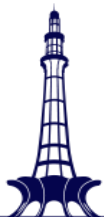
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## Phase 2: Expansion (2020–2025)



- SEZs:
  - Rashakai (KP) – Engineering goods, textile, IT.
  - Dhabeji (Sindh) – Heavy industries, steel, petrochemicals.
  - Allama Iqbal Industrial City (Punjab) – Value-added textiles, pharmaceuticals.
- Agriculture: Modern irrigation, seed technology transfer.
- IT: Fiber optic expansion (Khunjerab–Rawalpindi cable).



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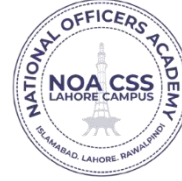
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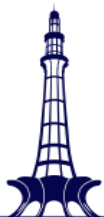
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## Phase 3: Integration (2025–2030)



- Trade Network Expansion: Gwadar as transshipment hub for Middle East & Africa.
- Regional Connectivity: Linkages with CARs, Iran, Turkey.
- Energy Integration: Cross-border power trade with Central Asia (CASA-1000 synergy).
- Industry: High-value manufacturing, tech parks.



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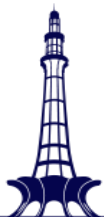


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## Updated Information till SEP 2025

- **Updated Plan:** Pakistan and China will release a revised CPEC Long-Term Plan within 90 days, aligning **Pakistan's 5Es framework** with CPEC's Five Corridors for Phase-II.
- **Phase-II Focus:** The next phase will emphasize industrialization, technology, sustainability, and regional connectivity.
- **Key Projects:** Major initiatives include the **ML-1 Railway upgrade**, **Karakoram Highway realignment**, and **Gwadar port development**.
- **Coordination:** Minister Ahsan Iqbal proposed more frequent JCC and Working Group meetings to maintain progress and oversight.
- **Commitment:** Pakistan reaffirmed safety of Chinese workers and called CPEC both an economic engine and a symbol of enduring Pak–China friendship.



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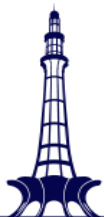


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## “5Es” Framework

- **Export Expansion:** Diversify and boost Pakistan’s exports.
- **Energy:** Ensure affordable, reliable, sustainable national power.
- **Environment:** Promote green growth and climate resilience.
- **Equity & Empowerment:** Reduce inequality, empower marginalized groups.
- **E-Governance:** Digitize governance for transparency and efficiency



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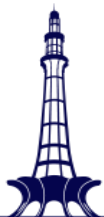
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## CPEC Phase-II: Progress, Promises, and Policy Gaps

- **14th JCC launched CPEC Phase-II roadmap** – Focus on industrialization, tech, sustainability, connectivity.
- **Updated Plan in 90 days announced** – Aligns Pakistan's 5Es with Five Corridors of CPEC.
  - **Five Corridors of CPEC Phase-II: Growth, Innovation, Green Development, Livelihood, Regional Connectivity.**
- **Unresolved issues:** IPP dues, ML-1 financing – Rs 250 bn unpaid; China demands IMF clarity.
- **China's caution shows trust-deficit emerging** – Rollovers continue but new financing uncertain.
- **Institutional inertia stalls mega projects** – SEZs like Rashakai, Dhabeji lag due to bureaucracy.



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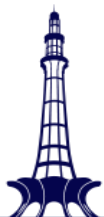
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## CPEC: Opportunities amid Fiscal & Strategic Risks



- **Economic relief but rising dependency visible** – Debt rollovers \$5–6 b annually since 2019.
- **Foreign investment remains below expectations** – FDI < \$1.5 b (2024)
- **Security concerns hinder Chinese participation** – BLA attacks; 2024 Dasu incident rattled investors.
- **IMF, China dual pressure on sovereignty** – Fiscal discipline vs. strategic loyalty dilemma grows.
- **Reform, transparency key to CPEC revival** – Policy continuity + SEZ reform = sustainable dividends.



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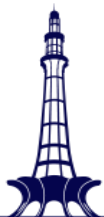


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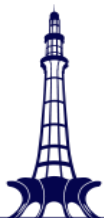


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## Gwadar Port: Strategic Importance

- Location: At the mouth of the **Strait of Hormuz (20% of world's oil passes)**.
- Advantages:
  - Deep-sea port (18m depth, large vessel capacity).
  - 600 km from Oman, 380 km from Chahbahar.
- **Chinese Interest: Potential future naval logistics hub.**
- **Trade Impact: Cuts shipping time from China to Europe/Middle East by 12–14 days.**



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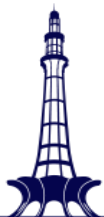


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## Gwadar–Chabahar Dilemma

- Chabahar (Iran): Developed by India as counter to CPEC.
- Competition:
  - Gwadar: Chinese-led, linked to Xinjiang.
  - Chabahar: Indian-led, linked to Afghanistan & CARs via Iran.
- Strategic Chessboard: US quietly supported Chabahar to counter Chinese influence in the Arabian Sea.



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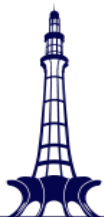


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## Global Reservations & Opposition

- **United States:**
  - Sees CPEC as strengthening China's **"String of Pearls"** strategy.
  - Concern over Chinese military foothold in Gwadar.
- **India:**
  - Objects as CPEC passes through Gilgit-Baltistan (claimed territory).
  - Sees Gwadar as a threat to its western seaboard security.
- **Japan & Australia:**
  - Wary of BRI's debt diplomacy; part of **"Quad"** response to China's Indo-Pacific rise.
  - Avoid direct support for CPEC-linked projects.
- **Some EU States:**
  - Raise concerns over transparency, environmental & debt risks.



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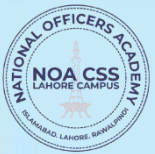


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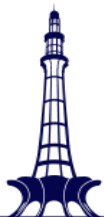
**Oil Shipping Lanes**  
**String of Pearls**



# Significance for Pakistan: Energy Security & Economic Growth

- **Key Benefits:**

- Mitigates chronic energy shortages. Pakistan's energy shortfalls in 2013 reached 4,000–6,000 MW, peaking around 7,000 MW in 2017, stalling economic growth by 2% annually.
- CPEC energy projects helped reduce these deficits significantly.
- Massive energy additions. Approximately 11,110 MW of new generation capacity has been realized (though 17,000 MW was initially targeted) .
- Balanced energy mix. The corridor added over 5,000 MW to the national grid by 2021 via coal, hydro, wind, and solar projects.
- GDP uplift. Planning Commission projects CPEC will raise GDP growth by 2–2.5 percentage points by 2030



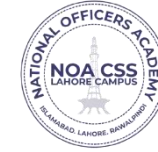
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## Infrastructure and Trade Connectivity



- **Key Benefits:**

- Accelerated infrastructure growth. Over 1,500 km of new highways—including sections of the Karakoram and Multan–Sukkur motorways—have been constructed.
- Rail modernization. The ML-1 upgrade (Karachi–Peshawar line) is cutting transit times significantly, with rail's share of freight projected to rise from 4% to 20% by 2025.
- Gwadar strategic node. Development includes port expansion, East Bay Expressway, and a greenfield airport to handle wide-body aircraft & 400,000 passengers/year.
- Global trade gateway. Gwadar connects Pakistan to Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia, positioning it as a vital trade hub.



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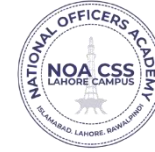


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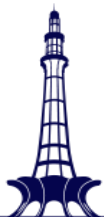
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# Industrialization & Employment



## • Key Benefits:

- SEZ-driven industrial growth. Zones like Rashakai SEZ (operational since July 2023) are forecasted to generate 70,000+ direct and 250,000 indirect jobs.
- Pakistani targets foresee 2.3 million new jobs by 2030, supported by infrastructure, energy, and SEZ expansion.
- FDI injection. CPEC is Pakistan's largest FDI source: \$27.3B in initial four years (2013-2017), rising to \$62B–65B by 2022.
- Industrial diversification. SEZs will boost manufacturing in sectors like textiles, auto-assembly, food processing, and minerals.



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## Hurdles & Controversies

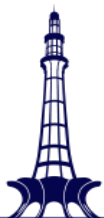


**Governance:** Inconsistent policy enforcement, federal–provincial frictions.

**Delays:** Rashakai SEZ NOCs >1 year delay, Azad Pattan Hydro litigation, NEPRA compliance issues.

**Debt Concerns:** High-interest commercial loans for some energy projects.

**Security Risks:** Attacks in Balochistan (e.g., Majeed Brigade targeting Chinese workers).



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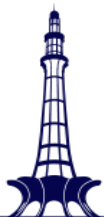


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## Securing & Strengthening CPEC.



- Address External Threats
  - Strengthen naval & air surveillance around Gwadar to deter regional rivals (India/US concerns).
  - Diplomatic engagement with neighbors (Iran, Afghanistan) to reduce regional hostility.
  - Counter hostile narratives (“Debt Trap Diplomacy”) through transparency in agreements.
- Counter Internal Security Risks
  - Expand & professionalize the CPEC Special Security Division (SSD) to protect projects & Chinese personnel.
  - Enhance intelligence coordination to counter BLA/TTP attacks in Balochistan & KP.
  - Invest in local community development to reduce alienation in Gwadar & Balochistan.



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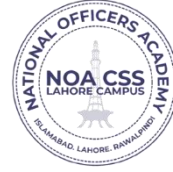
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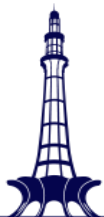
- **Overcome Governance & Delay Issues**

- Federal–Provincial Coordination: Streamline approvals via a joint CPEC authority.
- Transparency: Publish project timelines, costs, and compliance status to boost confidence.
- Policy Continuity: Insulate CPEC from political instability (change of govt/military transitions).
- Reform NEPRA & SEZ Approvals: Fast-track energy tariffs, land allotments, and tax facilitation.

- **Strategic Vision**

- Shift from just energy & roads to industrialization, IT, and export-led growth.
- Link CPEC with Central Asia, Turkey, Gulf states to maximize transit trade revenue.

- **☞ This way, Pakistan turns CPEC into a national project above politics, secures it against threats, and unlocks its full game-changer potential.**



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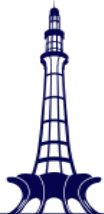
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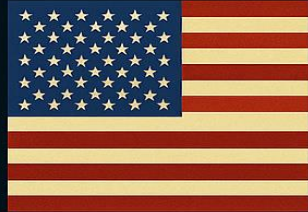
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## REGIONAL & GLOBAL POWER SHIFTS



### US-CHINA RIVALRY

Strategic partner for China



### PAKISTAN

Strategic partner for China



### MIDDLE EAST & CENTRAL ASIA

CPEC links Pakistan to Gulf oil routes & CAR markets



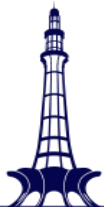
### MILITARY COOPERATION

China supplying defense tech  
US won't provide



### RISK: OVER-DEPENDENCE ON CHINA

e.g, refusal to renegotiate \$1 46B power arrears



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## Future of Pakistan– China Relations



### Positive Scenarios:

- Expansion into high-tech cooperation.
- Deeper regional integration.



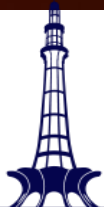
### Risks:



- Economic over-dependence.
- Political instability in Pakistan slowing projects.

### Pakistan's Strategy

- Diversify economic partners.
- Strengthen internal governance for CPEC success.
- Balance relations with West to avoid strategic isolation.



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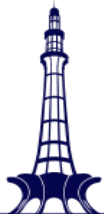


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“The China–Pakistan relationship has withstood the vicissitudes of time and changing global dynamics; it remains Pakistan’s most reliable strategic partnership.”

— Javid Husain, *Pakistan and a World in Disorder*



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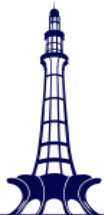
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