

**E-Newsletter  
Pak – China  
Study Centre**



**中国友谊万岁**

Long live China – Pak Friendship

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**Sustainable Development Policy Institute  
SDPI**

## About SDPI

SDPI was founded in August 1992 on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS), also called Pakistan's Agenda 21. The NCS placed Pakistan's socio-economic development within the context of a national environmental plan. This highly acclaimed document, approved by the Federal Cabinet in March 1992, outlined the need for an independent non-profit organization to serve as a source of expertise for policy analysis and development, policy intervention, and policy and program advisory services. SDPI is registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860.

## Mission

To catalyse the transition towards sustainable development, defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations.

## Vision

To be a center of excellence on sustainable development policy research, capacity development and advocacy in Pakistan.

## About Newsletter

*To keep abreast of emerging issues at the national/international and local level, the SDPI brings out a Bi-Monthly E-Newsletter for*

***“China Study Centre - SDPI”***

*It carries reference information's to the news items/comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International daily newspapers.*

### **Newspapers Covered:**

• Dawn	• The News	• The Express Tribune
• The Nation	• Business Recorder	• Daily Times
• Pakistan Observer	• Pakistan Today	• Urdu Point
• China Daily		

## **Editor Note:**

*Launched in August 2018, China Study Centre is a broader initiative of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) to bridge the research-policy gap on the issues of global relevance such as trade, technologies, climate change, tourism, business, finance and Pakistan-China relations. The Centre strives to foster research, knowledge and expertise on China, profoundly relevant to our engagement with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).*

*With a large network of universities, government bodies, business and civil society organizations, the Centre aims to promote collaborations, capacity building and technology transfer based on lessons learnt and experiences of China, attributed to their scientific knowledge and policy instruments. This requires a deep insight into Chinese history, culture, and socio-economic contexts. Such an approach is essential to catalyze the active engagement with China to address the economic and development challenges towards achieving sustainable development.*

## **Subjects Covered**

- Pak-China Foreign Relations
- CPEC
- Regional integration under China's Belt & Road (B&R)
- Business, innovation & entrepreneurship
- Trade and Tourism
- Energy and Environment
- Social development
- Capacity building, learning and development
- Economic growth & governance
- Research and development
- History, language and culture
- Open Knowledge repository
- SDPI s events, visits, publications

## Economic Growth & Governance

### China signals wait-and-see stance on big jet orders

Source: [Reuters](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-09

China and France will study the need for cargo planes and long-haul jets “in due course,” a joint statement said on Friday, following a state visit by French President Emmanuel Macron. The comments suggest a more muted stance on the prospect for significant orders of large Airbus jets compared with the planemaker’s best-selling A320neo medium-haul model, for which it is doubling..... [more >>](#)

### China’s farm produce imports, exports up in first quarter

Source: [xinhua](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-08

China’s foreign trade of agricultural products registered stable growth in the first two months of this year, official data shows. During the period, the country’s total imports and exports of farm produce stood at 54.16 billion U.S. dollars, rising 9 percent year on year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. In breakdown, China’s agricultural imports cli..... [more >>](#)

### China’s business income rebound points to improving economy: official

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-09

Chinese businesses have posted a strong rebound in sales revenue since the beginning of this year in the latest signal of an improving economy. Wang Jun, head of the State Taxation Administration, told a press conference Thursday that the combined sales revenue of businesses nationwide gained 4.7 percent year on year in the first three months of 2023 and logged an increase of 6.2 percentage point..... [more >>](#)

### China’s forex reserves rise to \$3 trillion

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-09

China’s foreign exchange reserves came in at \$3.1839 trillion at the end of March, up 1.62 percent or \$50.7 billion from a month earlier, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said. Affected by monetary policy and expectations for major economies, the dollar index fell and the prices of global financial assets climbed last month, the regulator said, attributing the increase in foreig..... [more >>](#)

### China’s e-commerce logistics sector logs steady growth in March

Source: [xinhua](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-09

China’s e-commerce logistics activities continued to see sound performance in March, with stable expansion on both demand and supply, industry data showed. The index tracking e-commerce logistics activities went up 1.1 points from February to 108.3 points in March, close to its highest point in 2022, according to a survey jointly conducted by the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing..... [more >>](#)

### China’s bulk commodity market sees improving demand in March

Source: [xinhua](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-10

China’s bulk commodity market saw improving fundamentals in March with a marked increase in sales as demand rebounded, industrial data showed. The China Bulk Merchandise Index, a gauge of domestic bulk commodity market growth, rose to its highest level since August 2020, according to the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing. The index stood at 103.4 percent for March, up 0.6 percenta..... [more >>](#)

**China's civil aviation sector maintains steady growth: report**

Source: [xinhua](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-10

China's civil aviation sector recorded steady growth in March, an industry report showed. Last month, daily domestic flights amounted to about 11,657 on average, surging 133.52 percent year on year, according to a report released by VariFlight, a China-based civil aviation data service provider. The figure also represented a 3-percent increase compared with the same period in 2019. The number..... [more >>](#)

**China's SMEs report improved performance in Q1**

Source: [xinhua](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-10

China's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) registered a further increase in their activities in the first quarter (Q1) of this year as the country's economy continues its robust recovery, industrial data showed Sunday. The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Index, based on a survey of 3,000 SMEs from eight major industries, came in at 89.3 in Q1, up from 88 in the fourth q..... [more >>](#)

**China's consumer products expo to boost global growth:export**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-11

The third China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE) is a boon to global growth and international trade given the multiple challenges facing the world economy, an Egyptian expert has said. "The expo is testimony to China's openness to the world and its desire to increase trade and investment exchanges with the countries of the world," Abu Bakr al-Deeb, advisor to the Cair..... [more >>](#)

**China exports rise for first time in 6 months**

Source: [xinhua](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-14

China's exports rose in March for the first time in six months, customs data showed Thursday, as the world's second-largest economy continued its recovery following the end of onerous coronavirus curbs late last year. The 14.8 percent surge in overseas shipments marked the first since September, according to the General Administration of Customs, and will provide a boost to hopes for ..... [more >>](#)

**China's foreign trade returns to growth**

Source: [xinhua](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-14

China's total goods imports and exports expanded 4.8 percent year on year in the first quarter of 2023, reversing a decline of 0.8 percent in the first two months of the year, official data showed Thursday. Foreign trade has been improving over the past three months. After dropping 7 percent year on year in January due to the Spring Festival holiday, it recovered to an expansion of 8 percent..... [more >>](#)

**China concerned over escalation of Palestine-Israel conflict**

Source: [ABC](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-07

China on Thursday expressed deep concerns over Israeli police clashes with Palestinians at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and called on all parties, Israel in particular, to show calm and restraint and immediately stop all words and deeds that might heighten tensions, in order to prevent further escalation of the situation. China is deeply concerned over the recent escalation of the Palestine-Israel..... [more >>](#)

**China briefs Arab envoys on Israel-Palestine conflict**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-08

China's Special Envoy Zhai Jun on the Middle East Issue had a group meeting with diplomatic envoys of Arab countries on Friday and elaborated on China's position on the escalation of conflicts between Israel and Palestine and Israel and Lebanon, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. Zhai Jun particularly urged relevant sides to act in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, a..... [more >>](#)

### **Words lauds China's mediation between Saudi Arabia, Iran**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-10

International community lauded China's role mediating between Saudi Arabia & Iran, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. China facilitated the recent high-level talks between top envoys of Iran and Saudi Arabia is sending a clear message to the world about China's constructive contribution to promoting stability in the Middle East as well as growing an alliance that could ..... [more >>](#)

## Energy, Environment & Climate Change

### **China-Pakistan collaborate to enhance smart disaster management**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-11

The "China-Pakistan Joint Laboratory on Smart Disaster Management/Prevention of Major Infrastructures" in Tianjin will serve as a platform to boost cooperation between China and Pakistan, according to Khan Muhammad Wazir, Science Counsellor (Technical Affairs), Embassy of Pakistan in China. The Joint Laboratory aims to train researchers and scientists from Pakistan at Master and Doctor..... [more >>](#)

### **Chinese ornamental plants beautify Pakistan**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-02

China has contributed more than half of ornamental plants in today's gardens around the world, according to a study conducted by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). Like the rest of the world, Pakistanis have also benefited from Chinese research and experience beautifying their homes and gardens with ornamental plants, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. Ap..... [more >>](#)

### **Pakistan, China ought to join hands to face climate change**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-04

Despite contributing less than 1 percent of global emissions, Pakistan was among the 10 countries most affected by the climatic impacts in the past two decades, noted Dr Ahmad Ali Gul, an expert of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) Climate Change Working Group. "Our agriculture-based economy is sensitive to climate-related shocks, and disasters can exa..... [more >>](#)

### **Ahsan Iqbal lauds Energy China for enhancing Pakistan's energy infrastructure**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-05

Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary Tuesday appreciated Energy China longstanding partnership with Pakistan and carrying out many important projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for enhancing Pakistan's energy infrastructure. During a meeting with the Chairman of Energy China International Group, Lyu Ze Xiang who called on him her..... [more >>](#)

### **China speeds up digital, green transformation in coal industry**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-11

Riding on a driverless, rubber-tired vehicle to the coalface at a depth of 150 meters has become part of the daily routine for miners in Shangwan Coal Mine in the city of Ordos, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Thanks to the digitization of the coal industry, miners no longer need to enter the deep mineshafts via walking or riding an outdated small train. "The 19-seat n..... [more >>](#)

### **Xi stresses comprehensive reforms, Chinese modernization**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-15

Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed the importance of remaining steadfast in comprehensively deepening reform and expanding high-standard opening-up, besides taking the lead in advancing Chinese modernization.

During his inspection tour of Guangdong from Monday to Thursday, President Xi witnessed the protection of mangrove forests at Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve, the biggest si..... [more >>](#)

## Pak-China Relations / Foreign Affairs

### China rolls over \$2bn loan to Pakistan: Dar

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-01

Finance minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday that China had rolled over a \$2 billion loan that matured last week, providing relief during the nation's acute balance of payment crisis. Locking in a rollover had been critical for Pakistan, where reserves have dipped to just four weeks' worth of imports and talks over an IMF bailout tranche of \$1.1 billion have hit a stalemate. "I am..... [more >>](#)

### Friendship with China enjoys broad political support in Pakistan: Ahsan Iqbal

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2023-04-06

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that friendship and strategic partnership with China enjoyed broad political support in Pakistan and acknowledged the International Department of Communist Party of China (IDCPC's) role in promoting better understanding and deepening relations between the two countries..... [more >>](#)

### China-Pakistan border post in Xinjiang resumes passenger clearance

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-06

The Khunjerab Pass, a major land port on the China-Pakistan border in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, have resumed passenger customs clearance, local authorities confirmed. The pass connecting Gilgit-Baltistan with the China's region officially resumed the entry and exit of passengers this week after a closure of three years in wake of Covid-19 restrictions. The po..... [more >>](#)

### Pakistan seeks RMB10 billion hike in currency swap agreement with China

Source: [Mehtab Haider](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2023-04-08

ISLAMABAD: Amid dwindling foreign exchange reserves, Pakistan has made a fresh request to China for enhancing the limit of the currency swap agreement from RMB 30 billion to RMB 40 billion in order to promote bilateral trade and investment. The government also made a request to China to provide financing for 1,200 MW Chashma-5 power plant. Both countries agreed on the project in 2017, but no prog..... [more >>](#)

### Pakistan, China vow to boost bilateral cooperation

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2023-04-13

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment towards enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields for the mutual benefit of the two countries. The need for collective efforts to promote peace, prosperity, and development in the region was emphasised by both sides during a meeting between Chairman Senate Mohammad Sadiq Sanjrani and a three-member delegation of the Ch..... [more >>](#)

## Pak-China Trade

### Pakistan one of leading countries to use RMB for international trade

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-03

Pakistan is one of the leading countries to use RMB for international trade settlement, according to China Economic Net (CEN). Last November, People's Bank of China (PBOC) signed a memorandum of cooperation (MOC) on establishing RMB clearing arrangements in Pakistan, with Karachi Branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) acting as the RMB clearing bank. It bodes well for P..... [more >>](#)

### **Khunjerab Pass reopening to boost bilateral trade: PM**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2023-04-03

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his pleasure over the reopening of Khunjerab Pass and said that it would help increase bilateral trade between Pakistan and China. The prime minister termed the occasion a welcome one for boosting trade with 'Iron brother China', PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. He said the reopening of the Pas..... [more >>](#)

### **China-Pak Agricultural Cooperation center opened in Weifang, China**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-02

China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation Center has been formally opened in Weifang National Comprehensive Pilot Agriculture Zone. Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counselor of the Pakistan Embassy in China, and Li Ting, Deputy Secretary-General of the Weifang Municipal Government jointly unveiled the centre, opening a new chapter in China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation, China Economic Net (CEN) reporte..... [more >>](#)

### **Pakistan's sportswear become most popular at Shanghai Fabrics Exhibition**

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2023-04-03

BEIJING-Fashionable sportswear made in Pakistan has become one of the most attractive sights at Intertextile Spring/Summer Shanghai Apparel and Fabrics Exhibition. According to Gwadar Pro, a large number of visitors are dazzled by a wide variety of fabrics and garments from all over the world. Daisy Di, sales and marketing director of a Chinese fabric and garment manufacturing company in Pakist..... [more >>](#)

### **Pakistan's sportswear become most popular at Shanghai exhibition**

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### **Chinese warehouse at Dasu Dam site gutted**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2023-04-05

PESHAWAR: A pre-dawn blaze ruined a warehouse complex of a Chinese company for the Dasu hydropower project in the Kohistan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province."It was a huge fire," a Rescue 1122 official at the site told AFP on Tuesday. "Initially, the flames were very high and we had to call out fire brigades from two other districts. It was quite a big storehouse, and apar..... [more >>](#)

### **China's reopening brightens developing Asia's 2023 growth outlook: ADB**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2023-04-05

MANILA: Developing Asia will grow faster than previously thought this year, underpinned by a stronger-than-projected rebound in China, but risks from global banking turmoil could weigh on the outlook, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Tuesday. Developing Asia, which groups together 46 economies in the Asia-Pacific, is forecast to grow 4.8 percent in 2023, the ADB said in its Asian Developm..... [more >>](#)

### **The Khunjerab linkage**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2023-04-07

The formal reopening of Khunjerab pass after a hiatus of almost three years, due to pandemic concerns, is a good omen. Land-route trade between China and Pakistan has been a distinguishable feature of their all-weather

relationship for decades, since the marvel of the Karakoram Highway, also known as N-35, was completed in 1978. It not only re-invented the ancient Silk Route but connected the north..... [more >>](#)

### **Pak-China marine coop must to eradicate bycatch and raise income**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-06

Pak-China marine coop is must to eradicate bycatch and raise income, said Muhammad Moazzam Khan, WWF-Pakistan's technical adviser for marine fisheries, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. Both China and Pakistan enjoy long coastlines and diverse marine life species. "Therefore, the long-term sustainable cooperation strategy under the CPEC framework is of great ..... [more >>](#)

### **Resumption of operation via Khunrab Pass to bolster Pak-China trade**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-07

Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis Thursday said the resumption of long-awaited operations via Khunrab Pass would further bolster trade with China, besides strengthening people-to-people contacts. Talking to a delegation of industrialists and traders led by Faran Shahid, he said it was also another good omen that the two sides were now working to keep the border crossing open..... [more >>](#)

### **Pakistan supports trade with China in RMB: minister**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-07

Pakistan had been a long-time supporter of China's efforts to expand the use of the Renminbi (RMB) as a global currency, said Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal. Talking to China Economic Net (CEN) during his visit to Beijing, he said that recently, China had been ramping up support for RMB clearing and settlement in its foreign trade, especially with..... [more >>](#)

### **GIKI, Chinese varsity sign MoU to develop partnership**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-08

Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology and Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), a leading Chinese research varsity signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Friday to develop partnerships in various mutually agreed fields of science and technology. The MoU was inked by Prof Dr Fazal Ahmad Khalid, Rector GIK Institute and Dr Li Ziwei, Vice Dean (Deputy Director)..... [more >>](#)

### **Khunjerab reopening to further bolster cross-border trade**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-10

The reopening of Khunjerab Pass, a major land port on the Pakistan-China border in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, would further bolster bilateral trade between the two brotherly countries, besides strengthening people-to-people contacts, a senior official said. The pass connecting officially resumed the entry and exit of passengers this week after a closure of three years..... [more >>](#)

### **Men's garments export to China up by 36%**

Source: [China Economic Net](#), [The Express Tribune](#), [Islamabad](#), 2023-04-13

ISLAMABAD: China has become an important trading partner for Pakistan, with Chinese companies increasingly sourcing garments from Pakistan due to their competitive prices. According to Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, the high quality of Pakistani men's garments and their robust manufacturing capabilities have contributed to a 36% increase in Pakistan..... [more >>](#)

### China, Pakistan to work together for art preservation

Source: [inp](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-15

China, Pakistan will be working together for Art preservation through latest technology, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. For centuries, artisans in Pakistan have been creating beautiful works of art in the form of stonecraft. However, with the passage of time and changing tastes, to preserve this valuable cultural heritage, Pakistan should further learn from China's successful ..... [more >>](#)

### SBP to receive \$300m from Chinese bank

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-15

Finance and Revenue Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday said the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will receive third and last disbursement of \$300 million from China's Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC). Taking to Twitter, he said ICBC would release last tranche of \$300m from \$1.3 billion loan facility (which was earlier repaid by Pakistan). The minister said the latest transaction would sh..... [more >>](#)

### Pakistan eyes higher textile exports to China

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2023-04-06

BEIJING: Pakistan's textile industry is looking to expand its exports to China by developing trade in fabrics and ready-made garments, according to Usman Saeed, Head of the China operations of a Pakistani textile company. Saeed said Pakistan had been exporting cotton and yarn to China for 40 to 50 years, but now sees an opportunity to tap into the large and diverse Chinese market. Speaking..... [more >>](#)

### Pakistani textile merchants explore Chinese market

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2023-04-06

BEIJING-Pakistan has been exporting cotton and yarn to China for 40 to 50 years and now Pakistani textile merchants are trying to develop exports of fabrics and ready-made garments, said Usman Saeed, head of the China operations of a Pakistani textile company. Talking to media at the Intertextile Expo held in Shanghai, Usman said the international textile exhibition provided a platform to showcase..... [more >>](#)

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## Regional Integration under B&R +CPEC

### Reopened Pass

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2023-04-04

After almost three years of closure, the Khunjerab pass is now open for routine trade between China and Pakistan. The Pass is the highest paved international crossing in the world and its connection from Gilgit Baltistan and the Chinese Xinjiang region is essential for bilateral exchange between the countries. It is the only land route that acts as a gateway to South Asia and Europe from Chin..... [more >>](#)

### Economic Corridors in Pakistan (Part I)

Source: [Abdul Rauf and Saud Bin Ahsen](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-01

The economic corridors have been in use since the earliest human civilization. The historic roots of such corridors, initially trade routes, go back to around 4000 BC. However, the development of special-purpose corridors is a recent

phenomenon, which was introduced in the 1950s and 1960s. Over the years, the concept of economic corridors became prevalent because of the inherent capability to sup..... [more >>](#)

### **Co-op with China under CPEC transformed Pakistan's economic landscape: Meher Kashif**

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2023-04-03

ISLAMABAD-The Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman and Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis Sunday said cooperation with China under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has transformed Pakistan's economic landscape. Speaking at a seminar titled "Prospects of Belt and Road Initiatives" held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic ..... [more >>](#)

### **Economic Corridors in Pakistan (Part II)**

Source: [Abdul Rauf and Saud Bin Ahsen](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-02

The Quadrilateral Traffic & Transit Agreement (QTTA) was signed by Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on March 9, 1995, in Islamabad. There are allied protocols to the Quadrilateral Agreement i.e., Protocol on Custom Procedures for traffic in transit and Visa Regime signed in July 1996; Protocol on establishing a system of International Road Transit; Permit for traffic in transit among..... [more >>](#)

### **Economic Corridors in Pakistan (Part III)**

Source: [Abdul Rauf and Saud Bin Ahsen](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-03

Factors like transportation, port infrastructure and customs as a facilitator of trade are also worth exploring. Presently, for regional connectivity along with transport corridors & port infrastructure, the role of government agencies especially Customs is very important. Pakistan is importing and exporting goods to and from Afghanistan, Iran and China through land routes whereas trade with ..... [more >>](#)

### **Govt to move ahead on CPEC with dual speed**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-03

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his pleasure over the reopening of Khunjerab Pass and said that it would help increase bilateral trade between Pakistan and China. The prime minister termed the occasion a welcome one for boosting trade with 'Iron brother China', PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. He said the reopening of the pass removed a hurdle th..... [more >>](#)

### **Khunjerab Pass reopens for Pak-China trade**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-03

The Khunjerab Pass, a major trade route between Pakistan and China, was opened after a closure of almost three years in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. The pass that connects Gilgit-Baltistan with China's Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region was closed in the year 2020 after spread of Covid-19 outbreak. According to official sources, the Chinese authorities have shared a letter with Pakistani ..... [more >>](#)

### **Ahsan briefs Chinese think-tank on Sino-Pak relations, CPEC**

Source: [App](#), [The News, International](#), 2023-04-04

BEIJING: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal held an exclusive session with the heads and representatives of leading Chinese think tanks and emphasized the importance of the Pakistan-China relationship and reaffirmed Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China, which is time-tested and timeless. The Minister reiterated that as the flagship ..... [more >>](#)

### **\$14m Gwadar sanitation project in offing**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-04

Gwadar Municipal Corporation under CPEC, Gwadar Smart Environment Sanitation System and Landfill Project costing \$14 million is in pipeline. However, it is not yet clear when the project will be set in motion. An official of the Gwadar Municipal Corporation told Gwadar Pro that “The project aims to establish a smart sanitation and solid waste management system to ensure sustainable developme..... [more >>](#)

### **Ahsan hails contribution of Chinese enterprises to CPEC success**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-04

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal reached in Beijing, after attending the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference-2023, to hold important meetings with Chinese authorities. During a meeting with President of ‘Power China’ Chan Guanfu, the minister appreciated the contribution of Chinese enterprises in the success of the China-Pakistan..... [more >>](#)

### **Resuming Trade**

Source: [Editorial Board](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-04

Pakistan and China are set to restore trade through the Khunjerab Pass, which was closed in 2019 to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. This is a big news for cash-strapped Pakistan, which has seen its forex reserves plummet to record low even after a persistent ban on imports. The extended closure of the pass, a vital transportation link for Pakistan, has already resulted in massive financial ..... [more >>](#)

### **Chinese envoy credits CPEC for social, economic development**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2023-04-06

LAHORE: Chinese Consul General in Lahore Zhao Shiren has hailed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a transformative infrastructure project that paved the way for socio-economic development in the country. He was speaking at the concluding ceremony of an essay competition held in connection with the completion of 10 years of CPEC on Wednesday. Th..... [more >>](#)

### **CPEC 10 years essay contest to help strengthen corridor’s narrative, says Zhao Shiren**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation](#), [Islamabad](#), 2023-04-06

LAHORE-Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shiren has said that in order to keep the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) narrative right and well, holding of essay competitions and similar such programmes plays a decisive role in nurturing positive mind-making. He vowed to continue such activity in future with conviviality. He expressed these views on the conclusion of 30-day nation-wide essa..... [more >>](#)

### **China asked to expedite work on ML-I, KCR, energy projects**

Source: [Muhammad Saleh Zaafir](#), [The News](#), [International](#), 2023-04-06

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Nong Rong while paying tribute to the services of Pakistan’s Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal for the cause of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has declared him as “Mr. CPEC.” Ahsan Iqbal who is visiting China sought on Wednesday strong support from China’s National D..... [more >>](#)

### **CPEC projects transforming Pakistan’s economic landscape: Ahsan Iqbal**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-05

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary has said that Pakistan, through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) energy projects, has been able to overcome its energy shortage, and the people will never forget China’s assistance in this regard. He also expressed appreciation for China’s positive and key role in helping to normalize relations bet..... [more >>](#)

**Kohala power project hits snag over Chinese lenders condition**Source: [Khalid Mustafa](#), [The News, International](#), 2023-04-07

ISLAMABAD: The \$2.4 billion Kohala hydropower project with the capacity to generate electricity of 1,124 MW has hit another snag as the Chinese lenders have asked the government to first clear the Rs350 billion backlog of outstanding payments of CPEC IPPs, only after which they will provide the required financing. "This new condition of financing has virtually stalled the project," a ..... [more >>](#)

**CPEC central to Pakistan's economic growth, regional connectivity: minister**Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-07

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had not only been central to Pakistan's economic growth, but it had also contributed to regional connectivity and development. During a meeting with Li Chunlin, Vice Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in Beijing, the mini..... [more >>](#)

**10 years of BRI transformed Pakistan's economic landscape: envoy**Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-08

"We are very hopeful that this year is going to bring the momentum back to pre-Covid level as more delegations from Pakistan are coming to China for face-to-face meetings following China's relaxation on Covid-related restrictions", Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview. "This year is very special as it marks the 10th anni..... [more >>](#)

**CPEC momentum expected to thrive more this year: envoy**Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-08

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin UI Haque hoped that this year is going to bring the momentum back to pre-Covid level as more delegations from Pakistan are coming to China for face-to-face meetings following China's relaxation on Covid-related restrictions. "This year is very special as it marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative. Pakistan is one of the pioneers of..... [more >>](#)

**Khunjerab Pass reopening brings great prosperity**Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-15

Khunjerab Pass reopening will bring great prosperity, said Ajmal Khan, Vice President Gilgit-Baltistan Chamber Of Commerce, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN). "Khunjerab Pass is a great blessing for the people of Gilgit-Baltistan because this is where trade takes place. There is no industry here. People here are either employed or their employment depends on trade across the bord..... [more >>](#)

**Khunjerab Pass reopening to boost bilateral trade: PM**Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#), 2023-04-03

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his pleasure over the reopening of Khunjerab Pass and said that it would help increase bilateral trade between Pakistan and China. The prime minister termed the occasion a welcome one for boosting trade with 'Iron brother China', PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. He said the reopening of the Pas..... [more >>](#)

Research, Development &amp; Capacity Building

**China listed top country with number of high-altitude airports**Source: [Internews](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-14

China currently has 43 airports that are no less than 1,524 meters above sea level, the most in the world, according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). Among them, 23 airports stand at altitudes of 2,438 meters or

higher, while 20 airports are between 1,524 meters and 2,438 meters above sea level. Since 2012, the country's technology for building airports in high-altitude ..... [more >>](#)

### **Scientific expedition on Yangtze River headwaters launched in NW China**

Source: [xinhua](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2023-04-15

A scientific expedition to estimate the carbon stocks in the alpine wetlands of the Yangtze River's source region was launched on Thursday in Xining, capital of northwest China's Qinghai Province. The scientific expedition aims to explore the ecological protection of wetlands and the ecological compensation mechanism of carbon neutrality by studying the distribution pattern of environme..... [more >>](#)

### **NUST teams up with Jiaotong University of China**

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#) , 2023-04-08

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST-Islamabad) and Shandong Jiaotong University, China have reached an understanding whereby a state-of-the-art "Intelligent Transportation International Joint Laboratory" will be established at NUST. Initiated by China Study Centre at NUST, the partnership is aimed at promoting research and development in the field..... [more >>](#)

## Technology, Trade & Innovation

### **China's AI market to top 26 bln USD in 2026: report**

Source: [xinhua](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2023-04-10

China's artificial intelligence (AI) market value is expected to reach 26.44 billion U.S. dollars in 2026, an industry report showed. The spending of the country's AI market is forecast to hit 14.75 billion dollars in 2023, accounting for about 10 percent of the world total, said a report from global market research firm International Data Corporation (IDC). The report projected the ..... [more >>](#)

## SDPI's Engagement

### Event News

#### **Gender Partnership Crucial To Break Glass-ceiling In Health Sector: Experts**

Source: [APP](#), [Urdu Point](#), 2023-04-07

ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 7th Apr, 2023) :Medical experts on Friday stressed the importance of gender partnership to break stereotypes and norms related to women in the health sector instead of fostering rivalry between men and women. The experts made these remarks during a seminar titled "Women Leadership in Health" organized by Sustainable Development Policy Ins..... [more >>](#)

#### **Call for more leadership roles for women**

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune](#), [Islamabad](#), 2023-04-10

ISLAMABAD: Participants of a moot in the federal capital said women must break the invisible shackles and render services in various fields, especially in health, as the sector needed their participation the most. They were speaking at a seminar titled "Women Leadership in Health", organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute on World Health Day. Former Surgeon General ..... [more >>](#)

#### **Pakistan's first woman surgeon general calls for increased role for women in health care decision-making**

Source: [Zubair Qureshi](#), [Gulf News](#), 2023-04-10

Islamabad: Women health professionals must free themselves of fear to break the stereotype barriers and assert themselves for a greater role in decision making. This was stated by Pakistan's first woman Lieutenant General (R) Dr Nigar Johar Khan who recently stepped down as the first woman Surgeon General of Pakistan. She expressed these views while addressing a seminar entitled &ld..... [more >>](#)

#### **Women Should Work Alongside Men To Break Stereotypes In Health Sector: Nigar**

Source: [APP](#), [Urdu Point](#), 2023-04-10

ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 10th Apr, 2023 ) :Former Surgeon General of Pakistan Army Lieutenant General (Retd ) Dr Nigar Johar Khan has said that women must free themselves of fears to break all barriers, but rather work alongside men as the health sector needed gender partnership. She was speaking at a seminar titled "Women Leadership in Health" organised by Sustainabl..... [more >>](#)

#### **IT Ministry Set to Launch Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Framework**

Source: [ProPK Staff](#), [ProPakistani.com](#), 2023-04-12

The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) is all set to launch Infrastructure Sharing Framework after the cabinet's approval. This was stated by Member Telecom Omar Malik while speaking at a webinar titled "Adopting 5G to Positively Impact Environment: A Roadmap for Pakistan" organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Wednesday. .... [more >>](#)

### Major issues hindering 5G launch identified

Source: [Tahir Amin](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#), 2023-04-13

ISLAMABAD: Economic instability and consumer affordability are the major challenges hindering launch of 5G in the country, says Omar Malik, Member Telecom, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications. He stated this while speaking at a webinar on "Adopting 5G to Positively Impact Environment: A Roadmap for Pakistan" organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institu..... [more >>](#)

### Experts urge govt for inclusive and sustainable policy interventions for 5G

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Islamabad Post](#), 2023-04-12

ISLAMABAD, Apr 12 (APP): Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications is all set to launch Infrastructure Sharing Framework after the cabinet's approval, informed Omar Malik, Member Telecom, MOITT. He was speaking at a webinar on "Adopting 5G to Positively Impact Environment: A Roadmap for Pakistan" organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute here today. .... [more >>](#)

### IT ministry all set to launch Infrastructure Sharing Framework

Source: [Tuba Zafar](#), [PNI Pakistan News International](#), 2023-04-13

ISLAMABAD, Apr 12 (APP): Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications is all set to launch Infrastructure Sharing Framework after the cabinet's approval, Member Telecom Omar Malik said on Wednesday. Addressing a webinar on "Adopting 5G to Positively Impact Environment: A Roadmap for Pakistan", he said initiatives like spectrum and infrastructure sharing would play..... [more >>](#)

### Major issues hindering 5G launch identified

Source: [Muhammad Kamal](#), [TechX](#), 2023-04-13

Following cabinet approval, the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications (MoITT) plans to establish the Infrastructure Sharing Framework. This was mentioned by Member Telecom Omar Malik during a webinar titled "Adopting 5G to Positively Impact the Environment: A Roadmap for Pakistan" held on Wednesday by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Teleco..... [more >>](#)

### IT Ministry All Set To Launch Infrastructure Sharing Framework

Source: [APP](#), [Urdu Point](#), 2023-04-12

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 12th Apr, 2023 ):Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications is all set to launch Infrastructure Sharing Framework after the cabinet's approval, Member Telecom Omar Malik said on Wednesday. Addressing a webinar on "Adopting 5G to Positively Impact Environment: A Roadmap for Pakistan", he said initiatives like spec..... [more >>](#)

### Pakistan set to launch infrastructure-sharing framework: official

Source: [Xinhua](#), [China.org.cn](#), 2023-04-13

ISLAMABAD, April 13 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication is all set to launch an infrastructure-sharing framework following the cabinet's approval, said Omar Malik, a telecom official at the ministry. Initiatives like spectrum and infrastructure-sharing would play a crucial role in improving connectivity, reducing network disruptions, and lowering env..... [more >>](#)

### Key issues hindering 5G launch identified – Technology Pipa News

Source: [APP](#), [PiPa News](#), 2023-04-13

Islamabad: Umar Malik, Member, Telecom, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom, says that economic instability and consumer affordability are the major challenges hindering the launch of 5G in the country. He said this at a webinar on “Adopting 5G to Positively Impact Environment: A Roadmap for Pakistan” organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute here on Wednesd..... [more >>](#)

### Consumer Affordability Hindering Launch of 5G Technology in Pakistan

Source: [Abdul Moiz Malik](#), [Technology Times](#), 2023-04-13

The country's inability to launch 5G technology, according to Omar Malik, Member Telecom, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications, is primarily due to economic instability and consumer affordability. This was said by him on Wednesday during a webinar titled “Adopting 5G to Positively Impact Environment: A Roadmap for Pakistan” that was held locally by theSust..... [more >>](#)

## SDPI Articles

### Awaiting a miracle

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri](#), [The News, International](#), 2023-04-02

Super floods, political uncertainty and economic meltdown – each reinforcing the gravity of the other: Pakistan has withstood a lot during the last year. The current controversy on elections to the provincial assemblies in the Punjab and the KP is further aggravating the political uncertainty and the challenges facing Pakistan. It can be argued..... [more >>](#)

### The pursuit of economic prosperity

Source: [Dr Vaqar Ahmed](#), [The News, International](#), 2023-04-02

Developing economies have faced numerous obstacles that have hindered their economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic. There is now a greater sense of urgency to accelerate actions towards achieving sustainable development goals, such as inclusive growth, social justice and environmental conservation. Pakistan is no exception. External challe..... [more >>](#)

### The inflation crisis

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri](#), [The News, International](#), 2023-04-09

In their recent reports, the World Bank (WB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) have confirmed the alarming state of inflation in Pakistan. As millions in the country continue to grapple with inflation's daily impact, it has been revealed that the inflation rate has reached a multidecade high. There are various methods to measure inflation, including core..... [more >>](#)

### **Solution to Energy Crisis**

Source: [Dr Khalid Waleed](#), [Daily Times](#), 2023-04-09

Sector coupling refers to the integration of different sectors, such as the electricity, heating, and transportation sectors, to achieve greater efficiency, grid stability/flexibility, and sustainability in energy systems. Traditionally, these sectors have operated independently, with separate infrastructure, technologies, and regulations. However, as the world transitions to a low-carbon economy ..... [more >>](#)

### **Use of plastic bags, adverse effects, and effective control**

Source: [Rana Irfan Rafi](#), [China Observer](#), 2023-04-10

We all use plastic bags regularly. When we go shopping, we buy groceries in plastic bags. Even when we buy fresh food, it is often packed in plastic bags. When we visit the fruit and vegetable market or the pharmacy to buy medicine, we are likely to encounter plastic bags. Due to their lightweight, durable, convenient nature, low production cost, and ease of transportation, plastic bags have become..... [more >>](#)

### **Reimagining the petrol subsidy**

Source: [Muhammad Umar Ayaz](#), [The News, International](#), 2023-04-10

The government has taken an initiative to provide a subsidy of Rs100 per liter on petrol to provide some relief to the low-income class in the prevailing economic situation. It plans to charge affluent consumers more to fund the subsidy. Under this scheme, a two-tier pricing system will be opted. There is a monthly cap of 21 litres per month for two- or three-wheeler vehicles, and a cap of 30 lit..... [more >>](#)

### **Trade policy and tax reform policy**

Source: [Rana Irfan Rafi](#), [Pakistan Observer](#), 2023-04-13

TAXATION is the backbone of any country's development and improvement of infrastructure and revenue. The country with the best tax reform policy will progress day and night; its people will get more relief, and they will always be happy. Paying taxes is our national duty as per the rules of taxation in any country. If there is a proper reform policy and a proper systematic way of taxing trad..... [more >>](#)

## SDPI News

### **SDPI Releases Startling Findings of Inflation Perception Survey**

Source: [ProPK Staff](#), [ProPakistani.com](#), 2023-04-15

Political instability tops among the drivers, such as increased repayment of external debt, falling exports, rising imports, and a decrease in remittance, which are causing a fall in foreign exchange reserves, says the inflation perception survey conducted by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Releasing the results of the Survey, the Executive Director of SDPI, Dr. Abid Qaiyum..... [more >>](#)

### **Inflation perception survey; Rising price hike linked to political instability**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2023-04-15

ISLAMABAD: An overwhelming majority of 71 per cent of the country has reckoned political instability as the major cause behind the current high inflation in the country while 45 per cent of the respondents linked it with increased

repayment to foreign debts and 44 per cent respondents referred to declining exports, revealed the inflation perception survey conducted by the Sustainable Development P..... [more >>](#)

## SDPI's Related News

### Energy reality

Source: Editorial, [The News, International](#), 2023-04-04

The problems of a majority of urban households which have to live without the supply of gas for cooking purposes will seem insignificant when they find how people in rural areas are putting their health in danger to meet their energy needs. A recent study by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) highlights a largely ignored fact about Pakistan's energy crisis. It says that only..... [more >>](#)

### Decarbonizing imperative for Pakistan, experts agree

Source: Mahnoor Ansar, [Daily Islamabad Post](#), 2023-04-11

ISLAMABAD: While decarbonization is the need of the hour for Pakistan, it required some serious multi-level steps involving a blend of policy and advocacy, agreed a panel of experts at a roundtable discussion titled, "Decarbonization of the Energy Sector: Options for Pakistan" organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The discussion was organized by the Strengthening Climat..... [more >>](#)

### Need To Formulate Long Term Plans For Power Generation: Mr. Jafri

Source: Abdul Ahad, [Technology Times](#), 2023-04-13

At a roundtable discussion on "Decarbonization of the energy sector: options for Pakistan" sponsored by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS)' Strengthening Climate Resilience Program, Syed Aqeel Hussain Jafri, Director Policy and International Cooperation, Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB), provided the keynote address. According to Mr. Jafri, the transition to cl..... [more >>](#)

### DECARBONIZING IMPERATIVE FOR PAKISTAN, EXPERTS AGREE

Source: DNA News, [DNA News](#), 2023-04-11

Mahnoor Ansar ISLAMABAD: While decarbonization is the need of the hour for Pakistan, it required some serious multi-level steps involving a blend of policy and advocacy, agreed a panel of experts at a roundtable discussion titled, "Decarbonization of the Energy Sector: Options for Pakistan" organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The discussion was organized by the Strengt..... [more >>](#)

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