

INTER NATIONAL

CPEC unrelated to Kashmir issue: China

China reinforced its call for India's participation in the Belt and Road connectivity initiative, telling that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), on which India has its reservations, was not linked to the Kashmir issue. At a press conference, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that India would be represented at Beijing's high profile Belt and Road Forum on May 14. "Although the Indian leader will not be here, India will have a representative. We welcome the Indian representative as well as members of the business and finance community to take part in the summit," Mr. Wang said. India has objected to the CPEC as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. But Mr. Wang said that China's stance on CPEC projects "had no relationship with the [Kashmir] dispute".

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China, EU to promote free and fair trade

China and the European Union are holding their first high-level talks since President Donald Trump took office, with both eager to push a message of free trade and open engagement with the world. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini will co-chair the Seventh EU-China Strategic Dialogue on Wednesday with State Councilor Yang Jiechi, China's highest-ranking diplomat. They will discuss cooperation on issues such as climate change, as well as regional and security issues. The dialogue comes ahead of an EU-China summit scheduled for Brussels in June.

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