



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

March 01-15, 2025



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March 01, 2025

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan to send first astronaut to space station soon: PM Shehbaz

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that Pakistan, in collaboration with China, will send its first space manned mission to China's space station.

Addressing a ceremony after witnessing the exchange of a cooperation agreement between Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission and China Manned Space Agency, the prime minister said that this was yet another wonderful gesture from the the Chinese government to deepen bilateral cooperation in this field.

He emphasized that under the dynamic leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping, not only was the space programme progressing speedily, but mega projects in other sectors were also built in Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which had really transformed the country's landscape.

Under the agreement, two Pakistani astronauts will undergo training at the Astronaut Center of China.

One selected astronaut will be trained as a scientific payload specialist, preparing for specialized research aboard the China Space Station.

As per CSS planning, the astronaut selection process will be completed by 2026 so that the astronauts can fly in an upcoming mission.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal termed the agreement a historic milestone, underscoring its role in accelerating technological innovation, capacity building, and research.

He stated that the collaboration with China extends beyond astronaut training, laying the groundwork for Pakistan's long-term human spaceflight and exploration growth.

The Director General of the China Manned Space Agency, Dr Lin Xinqiang, expressed his enthusiasm for this partnership, reaffirming China's dedication to strengthening international cooperation in space exploration.

Chairman SUPPARCO Mohammad Yousaf Khan regarded the agreement as a landmark in Pakistan's space journey, emphasizing perseverance, adaptability, and technological progress.

He invited youth, professionals, and academia to actively participate in Pakistan's astronaut program and encouraged them to contribute to the nation's space exploration efforts through research, innovation, and skill development.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-to-send-first-astronaut-to-space-station-soon-pm-shehbaz/>

March 03, 2025

Pakistan Observer

Sino-Pak Ties, global strategy take center stage at China's 'Two Sessions'

ISLAMABAD – China's "two sessions, are finally here and world has once again turned its eyes to Beijing. as key meetings highlight China's unwavering commitment to strengthening its strategic ties with partners like Pakistan.

The annual meetings of top Chinese legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), and the top political advisory body, National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) will shed light on key initiatives aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, infrastructure, and regional security amid growing Sino-Pakistani partnership.

Muhammad Zamir Assadi, a Research Fellow at the China International Press and Communication Centre, see these sessions as catalyst to boost bilateral ties by fostering new economic opportunities for Islamabad.

Assadi stressed that China's vision of shared prosperity will directly benefit Pakistan, especially through the development of projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The second phase of CPEC is especially crucial, as it will focus on sectors such as industrial cooperation, agriculture, energy, and infrastructure.

It will attract Chinese investments, create jobs, transfer technology, and improve industrial productivity in Pakistan, Assadi said, and highlighted that China views Pakistan as a key partner in its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and is committed to deepening economic ties.

He said areas like green energy, and high-tech industries are expected to attract significant Chinese investment, bringing advanced technologies that will help Pakistan address its development challenges and speed up industrial growth. Two Sessions will impact Pakistan's economy by improving trade routes, connectivity, and access to international markets as outcomes of the Two Sessions will pave the way for expanded economic cooperation, increased Chinese investments, and the full realization of CPEC's potential.

Islamabad and Beijing have long shared close economic and political relationship, underscored by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a massive infrastructure project aimed at boosting trade and connectivity between the two countries. At the Two Sessions, officials are anticipated to discuss further enhancing this partnership, particularly in sectors like energy, trade, and technology.

<https://pakobserver.net/sino-pak-ties-global-strategy-take-center-stage-at-chinas-two-sessions/>

PM Shehbaz, Chinese envoy discuss strengthening Sino-Pak Security, Counter-Terrorism efforts

ISLAMABAD – Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House on Friday, as both sides shed light on enhancing strategic cooperation in key sectors.

During the high-level meeting, the premier conveyed his best wishes to Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang, extending congratulations on Two Sessions of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

The premier expressed his satisfaction with positive Sino-Pak bilateral strategic relations, the significance of the recent visit by former President Asif Ali Zardari to China. Prime Minister commended Beijing for its unwavering and continuous support on core issues, stressing Pakistan's commitment to standing by China on all matters of national interest.

Two sides also mulled enhancing cooperation in key sectors, including security and counter-terrorism, where significant progress has already been made. A major topic of discussion was the upcoming 10th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's historic 2015 visit to Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pushed for commemorating the event in the best possible manner and reiterated his heartfelt invitation to President Xi Jinping for an official visit to Pakistan. PM stressed the importance of ensuring the timely completion and effective implementation of projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Ambassador Zaidong thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for warm wishes to the Chinese leadership and updated him on the latest developments in Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation. He praised the government's efforts in improving the macroeconomic situation in Pakistan and assured continued Chinese support for the country's national development efforts.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-shehbaz-chinese-envoy-discuss-strengthening-sino-pak-security-counter-terrorism-efforts/>

Jang News

اعلان کا کاری سرمایہ ڈالر ارب 1 میں پاکستان کا کمپنی کی کانگ ہانگ

ہانگ کانگ کی معروف کمپنی سی کے ہپیسن نے پاکستان میں ایک ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کا (آئی این پی) کراچی منصوبہ تیار کر لیا ہے، جس سے بندرگاہی آپریشنز اور لاجسٹک کنیکٹیوٹی میں نمایاں بہتری متوقع ہے۔ کمپنی کی ذیلی شاخ ہپیسن پورٹس کراچی کے گہرے پانی کے کنٹینر ٹرمینل کی خودکاری پر توجہ مرکوز کریگی، جس سے جدید ٹیکنالوجی ارب ڈالر کی 4 سالوں میں 25 کے ذریعے بندرگاہی نظام کو مزید موثر بنایا جائیگا۔ اس سرمایہ کاری کے نتیجے میں اگلے آمدنی متوقع ہے، جبکہ پاکستان میں سڑکوں اور پارکنگ کی سہولتوں کو بھی جدید بنایا جائے گا۔ ہپیسن پورٹس اب تک ارب روپے فراہم کر چکا ہے اور نئی سرمایہ کاری سے ملک میں معاشی ترقی کے 225 سالوں میں حکومت پاکستان کو 25 مزید مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/857566>

March 08, 2025

Pakistan Observer

China's macro-economic achievements 2024-25 & future prospects

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

THE Chinese Premier Li Qiang presented the annual government work report at the opening ceremony of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC) fully expressing the tone of seeking progress while maintaining stability, enhancing the confidence and determination for high-quality development. The stock and money markets around the globe responded positively as investors and businessmen assessed China growth rate of 5% and inflation targets 2% amid US tariffs and escalating global trade tensions weighing down sentiment. Evidently, China's gross domestic product (GDP) is on track to grow at a rate of at least 5%, sustaining its position as a key driver of global growth by contributing over 30% to global expansion which is good news not just for China but also for the world at large. It seems that the Chinese policy makers have rightly set several development goals for 2025 emphasizing on achieving a GDP growth of around 5%, a consumer price index increase of around 2% and a reduction of about 3% in energy consumption per unit of GDP, reflecting the resilience and promising prospects of development. Obviously on a global scale, an around 5% growth rate would place China among the world's fastest-growing major economies, with the economic increment equating to the annual output of a medium-sized country. Moreover, China adopting a more proactive fiscal policy and applying an appropriately accommodative monetary policy will gear the economy in the right direction during 2025 and beyond. Thus, China's deficit-to-GDP ratio for this year is set at around 4%, an increase of one percentage point over last year. Hopefully it will successfully navigate challenges and boost high-quality economic development. It also indicates that fiscal spending will play a significantly stronger role in supporting economic growth and that the efficiency in using fiscal spending should be higher this year. China will firmly implement the strategy of expanding domestic demand, strengthen the domestic economy, drive its expansion and broaden international cooperation through further opening up. To fulfil the target, China will issue a total of 1.3 trillion yuan (about US\$182 billion) of ultra-long special treasury bonds in 2025, up 300 billion yuan from last year and earmark 735 billion yuan in the central government budget for investment in 2025. In the social development sector, the Chinese policy makers' ensuring of a solid foundation for economic advancement includes areas such as housing, ecology, employment, education, healthcare and social security is wise decision gearing a balanced socio-economic pattern in the country. Moreover, conducting specialized law enforcement actions regulating business practices, purifying the market environment, intensifying efforts in the renovation of urban villages and dilapidated houses and stimulating new demand in the existing economy is a well-planned economic strategy for the immense social development of the rural areas which has great significance. China's commitments to expanding higher-standard opening up, stabilizing foreign trade and investment and fostering a first-rate business environment is a long term economic strategy

attracting more and more inflows of the FDIs and promotion of private economy and companies in the country.

Since last year, China has fully applied the negative list for cross-border trade in services, launched opening-up trials for valued-added telecom services, biotechnology and wholly foreign-owned hospitals and has given all the least developed countries with which it has diplomatic relations zero-tariff treatment for 100% tariff lines. It is a good omen that the Chinese work report 2024-25 delivered by the premier vividly reflected its strategic priorities mainly innovation, modernization, qualitative industrialization, scientific intensification for breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields, R&D advancements in frontier and disruptive technologies and to accelerate forward-looking planning for major science and technology projects which would be a value addition in its persuasion of the high quality development and cornerstone of its further opening-up in the days to come. China is increasingly relying on strategic emerging sectors like bio-manufacturing, quantum technology and 6G, with a focus on promoting service-oriented manufacturing. This will further consolidate its economy, industry and GDP growth in 2025 and beyond. The integration of artificial intelligence across industries is set to unlock the full potential of the digital economy. Through the two sessions, China is prioritizing tech innovation by improving the market ecosystem and supporting AI applications, along with the development of intelligent terminals such as NEVs, AI-enabled devices and humanoids. Additionally, emerging industries like commercial aerospace and the low-altitude economy will drive the digital transformation of manufacturing, enhancing China's momentum in smart economy development. This strategy will bolster economic stability, sustainability, export diversification, industrial modernization and digitalization, positioning China as a global leader in innovation and technology, with long-term implications for its economic and industrial growth. In summary, it seems that China is now transitioning toward a high-quality development model where technological advancement, consumption-led growth and financial stability take precedence. The issuance of ultra-long special treasury bonds and increased local government spending highlight an evolving fiscal strategy that prioritizes economic resilience. The Chinese policy makers have set GDP 5%, CPI 2%, urban employment 12 million and value added high tech industries manufacturing 8.9% showing the real strength of its economy. Comparatively, during 2024, China's GDP reached 134.9 trillion Yuan (about US\$18.77 trillion), with a 5% growth rate. High-tech manufacturing witnessed an 8.9% increase and new energy vehicle production exceeded 13 million units. It also contributed about 30% to global economic growth while maintaining over US\$3.2 trillion in foreign exchange reserves.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-macro-economic-achievements-2024-25-future-prospects/>

Pakistan Observer

China's macro-economic achievements 2024-25 & future prospects

Saud Faisal Malik

THE Two Sessions have formally convened in China as Premier Li Qiang delivered the anticipated 2025 Government Report presenting a policy roadmap for the year ahead.

The Two Sessions, refers to the consecutive meetings of two key political bodies in China, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the National People's Congress (NPC), China's legislature.

On Wednesday, March 5, 2025, the NPC held the opening meeting of the annual Two Sessions, where Premier Li presented the 2025 Government Work Report, 2025 GWR on behalf of the State Council.

The report outlines a comprehensive set of economic and development objectives for the year ahead, including China's GDP growth target and strategies for achieving its economic goals.

Global Political and Economic Turbulence and China's Consistent Growth

In a highly turbulent global environment, China's growth of economy remains a crucial centre of attention.

The 2025 GWR has signalled a growth of 5% in the following year.

China has a legacy of meeting its annual growth targets.

Despite facing a challenging external environment, the repetition of the 'around 5 percent' figure showcases a position of confidence and a stronger policy support for domestic demand.

The fiscal targets reinforce this outlook, with special local government bond issuance rising by 12.8% from RMB 3.9 trillion to RMB 4.4 trillion, and the ultra-long-term bond issuance target increasing by 30% from RMB 1 trillion to RMB 1.3 trillion.

Additionally, the fiscal deficit target has been raised from 3% to 4% of GDP.

These adjustments signal a more proactive fiscal policy approach this year while maintaining a focus on long-term debt sustainability.

Along with the focus on the domestic economy, China's focus on opening up also remains consistent.

The GWR specifically mentions in a separate section about high level opening up to the outside world.

There is a signal that suggests policy support for exporters will increase this year, with measures such as expanding cross-border e-commerce and logistics, along with accelerating the construction of overseas warehouses.

Furthermore, China is dedicated to supporting foreign investment by guaranteeing national treatment for foreign enterprises, particularly in resource access, qualifications, and government procurement.

The continued development of Free Trade Zones and the Hainan Free Trade Port plays a crucial role in this strategy.

These zones aim to improve China's business environment and provide foreign investors with valuable opportunities to expand their market presence.

The GWR also emphasizes the expansion of international partnerships through agreements like the upgraded China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, participation in the Digital Economy Partnership, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

These initiatives seek to enhance multilateral trade systems and expand China's global trade network, further solidifying its role in the global economy.

The report addresses the hurdles the world economy is facing, like the rise in protectionism that leads to disruption in global supply chains and economic cycles.

As international markets experience volatility and investor confidence wavers due to geopolitical tensions, China maintains cautious optimism in the GWR.

The Chinese government maintains confidence in the country's institutional strengths, market expanse, robust industrial system, and skilled workforce.

These factors, it asserts, will support the long-term stability and growth of the economy despite evolving global dynamics.

Technology remains a central focus

As China strengthens its economic foundations through fiscal and trade policies, technological innovation has surfaced as a key pillar in sustaining long-term growth and global competitiveness.

Recently, Chinese AI firm DeepSeek has recently gained significant prominence, emerging as a strong contender against other tech giants in the market like OpenAI.

Its advancements underscore China's expanding influence in the global technology sector.

The GWR pledged to enhance technological self-reliance and fast-track major scientific projects.

China will reform research institutions, boost industry-academia cooperation, and empower firms to drive innovation.

Additionally, the report also promises policy support to accelerate the commercialization of technological advancements.

'Scientific and technological innovation, coupled with industrial advancement, serve as crucial drivers of productivity,' Xi stated on the sidelines of the annual parliamentary sessions.

This signifies China's strategic push towards technological advancement aiming to solidify its position as a leader in innovation driven growth.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-two-sessions-2025-charting-economic-and-innovation-strategy/>

Jang News

توسیع میں واپسی مدت کی ڈالر ارب 2 چین،

اسلام آباد (نیوز ایجنسیاں) چین نے پاکستان کے ذمے واجب الادا 2 ارب ڈالر کی ادائیگی میں مزید ایک سال کی توسیع کر دی۔ وفاقی وزارت خزانہ کی جانب سے جاری اعلامیے میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان کے معاشی استحکام اور بحالی کیلئے پاکستان کے دیرینہ دوست چین کا معاشی تعاون جاری ہے۔ وزارت خزانہ کا اعلامیے میں کہنا تھا کہ چین نے پاکستان کے ذمے واجب الادا 2 ارب ڈالر کی رقم کی مدت میں ایک سال کی مزید توسیع کر دی، چین کے 2 ارب ڈالر کے قرض کی واپسی کی مدت 24 مارچ کو پوری ہو رہی تھی۔ وزارت خزانہ کا کہنا تھا کہ چین کی جانب سے 2 ارب ڈالر قرض کی واپسی کی مدت میں ایک سال کی توسیع سے پاکستان کو زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر کو مضبوط رکھنے میں مدد ملے گی۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/860831>

March 10, 2025

Jang News

چینی قرضے کی واپسی موخر

دیرینہ اور قابل فخر دوست چین ہمیشہ ہی سے ہر اچھے برے وقت میں پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا چلا آ رہا ہے، جو ہمیں سب سے زیادہ قرضے دینے والا ملک بھی ہے۔ وفاقی وزارت خزانہ کے اعلامیے کے مطابق چین نے پاکستان پر واجب الادا 2 ارب ڈالر کی ادائیگی میں مزید ایک سال کیلئے موخر کر دی ہے، جس کی واپسی کی مدت 24 مارچ 2025ء کو پوری ہو رہی تھی۔ اس سے ملک کے زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر مضبوط رکھنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ گزشتہ دس برس کے دوران چین اور اس کے کمرشل بینکوں سے حاصل کیے گئے قرضوں میں نمایاں اضافہ دیکھا گیا ہے جبکہ آئی ایم ایف، دیگر ادارے، دوست ممالک اور عالمی مالیاتی تنظیمیں اس کے علاوہ ہیں۔ اسٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان کے تازہ ترین ریکارڈ کے مطابق حکومت پاکستان پر قابل واپسی قرضوں کا حجم 72 ہزار ارب روپے سے متجاوز ہو چکا ہے، جس میں گزشتہ برس کے دوران ہونے والا 8 ہزار ارب روپے کا اضافہ شامل ہے۔ اقتصادی ماہرین کا یہ کہنا بجا ہے کہ پاکستان کے معاشی بحران کی ایک بڑی وجہ اس پر واجب الادا غیر ملکی قرضے اور ان کی بمعہ سود واپسی ہے۔ اس تناظر میں ایک محتاط اندازے کے مطابق ان کی اقساط بمعہ سود ادا کرنے کیلئے سالانہ 25 ارب ڈالر درکار ہیں۔ موجودہ حکومت معاشی اصلاحات کی بدولت ملک کو دیوالیہ ہونے سے بچانے میں کامیاب ہو گئی ہے، تاہم پاکستان پر قرضے بدستور بڑھ رہے ہیں۔ پبلک اکاؤنٹس کمیٹی نے گزشتہ ہفتے غیر ملکی قرضوں کی ادائیگی اور سود کی واپسی کے نظام پر عدم اطمینان کا اظہار کیا تھا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف اپنی معاشی ٹیم کے ہمراہ ملک میں معاشی استحکام لانے اور اسے ترقی سے ہمکنار کرنے میں دن رات کوشاں ہیں۔ وہ ملک کو قرضوں سے نجات دلانے کا عزم رکھتے ہیں۔ بہتر ہوگا کہ ان کی واپسی اور ہمیشہ کیلئے ان سے نجات پانے کا ٹھوس فریم ورک تیار کر لیا جائے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/861132>

March 11, 2025

Jang News

واخان کوریڈور، پاکستان کا تاریخی دروازہ

ایس اے زاہد

شاید بہت کم لوگوں کو معلوم ہوگا کہ واخان کوریڈور کہاں ہے اور اس کی اہمیت کیا ہے۔ واخان افغانستان کے صوبہ برخشاں دور دراز علاقہ میں واقع ایک پٹی ہے جو چین کے صوبہ سنکیانگ تک پھیلی ہوئی ہے۔ یہ دراصل ایک راہداری ہے جو پاکستان کو تاجکستان سے جدا کرتی ہے۔ یہ راہداری پاکستان میں چترال تک لمبی ہے۔ یہاں کی بکھری ہوئی نہایت مختصر آبادی واخی زبان بولنے والے خانہ بدوشوں پر مشتمل ہے۔ پاکستان سے شروع ہونے والی یہ پٹی افغانستان، خراسان، بلورستان، تاجکستان تک طویل ہے بہت دور دراز علاقہ ہونے کی وجہ سے یہاں افغانستان کی عملداری نہ ہونے کے برابر ہے۔ واخان کا علاقہ 19 ویں صدی کے آخر میں برطانیہ اور روس کے درمیان گریٹ گیٹ کے دوران ایک بفرزون کی حیثیت اختیار کر گیا تھا۔ یہ گریٹ گیٹ نوآبادیاتی طاقتوں کے درمیان وسطی ایشیا کے کنٹرول حاصل کرنے کیلئے مقابلے کا نام تھا۔ 1895ء میں برطانیہ اور روس کے درمیان ہونیوالے معاہدے کے تحت خراسان، افغانستان کی شمالی سرحد اور افغانستان کو

چین کے ساتھ سرحد نامزد کیا گیا۔ لیکن حقیقت یہ ہے کہ اونچے اونچے برف پوش پہاڑوں اور جنگلات پر مشتمل اس دور افتادہ رابداری کو زمانہ قدیم سے تجارت کے لئے استعمال کیا جاتا رہا ہے۔ پاکستان کے شمالی علاقے بنزہ سے ہوتی ہوئی اور چترال سے گزر کر یہ رابداری چین اور تاجکستان کو پاکستان سے ملانے کا قدیم راستہ ہے۔

واخان رابداری کی لمبائی 350 کلو میٹر اور چوڑائی 26 سے 64 کلو میٹر تک ہے بعض جگہ پر مزید تنگ ہو کر اس کی چوڑائی 17 کلو میٹر تک بھی ہوجاتی ہے۔ یہ انتہائی دشوار گزار اور برف سے اٹا ہوا راستہ ہے۔ بدقسمتی سے افغانستان میں طالبان کی موجودہ حکومت نے اپنی سرزمین کو دہشت گردی کے لئے رہائشی کالونی بنادیا ہے جہاں انکو امریکی اسلحہ، گولہ بارود اور بکتر بند گاڑیوں سمیت زندگی کی ہر سہولت مہیا کردی گئی ہے۔ فتنہ الخوارج کے یہ اسلام دشمن اور انسانیت کے قاتل افغانستان سے آکر پاکستان میں دہشت گردی کی وارداتیں کرتے ہیں اور بے گناہ شہریوں اور اپنے ملک کی حفاظت پر مامور پاکستانی سیکورٹی اہلکاروں کو شہید کرتے ہیں اور خود جہنم کا ٹکٹ لے کر واصل جہنم ہوجاتے ہیں۔ ان خارجیوں کو تربیت اور مالی معاونت بھارتی خفیہ ایجنسی ”را“ جو پوری دنیا میں دہشت گردی پھیلاتی ہے اگر اس کو دہشت گرد ادارہ کہا جائے تو مناسب ہوگا فراہم کرتی ہے۔ بدقسمتی یہ ہے کہ زمانہ قدیم سے اس اہم تجارتی رابداری کو دہشت گردوں کے لئے کھلی گزرگاہ بنا دیا گیا ہے۔ دہشت گرد اس راستے کے ذریعے پاکستان، چین اور وسطی ایشیا میں داخل ہوسکتے ہیں۔ واخان کوریڈور اب تک غیر محفوظ راستہ ہے۔ اگر اس راستے پر مناسب سیکورٹی اقدامات نہ کئے گئے تو یہ دہشت گردوں کے لئے ایک ٹرانزٹ حب بن سکتا ہے جو پورے خطے کے استحکام کو خطرے میں ڈال دے گا۔

تاریخی طور پر واخان کوریڈور کا پاکستان سے گہرا تعلق رہا ہے۔ برطانوی دور کی سرحدی نامزدگی سے قبل یہ علاقہ موجودہ پاکستان کے خطوں کے ساتھ مضبوط اقتصادی اور ثقافتی روابط رکھتا تھا۔ یہ نوآبادیاتی ورثہ آج بھی خطے کے باہمی روابط میں رکاوٹ بنا ہوا ہے۔ جس کی وجہ سے پاکستان اور وسائل سے مالا مال وسطی ایشیائی ریاستیں اپنی مکمل اقتصادی صلاحیت سے فائدہ نہیں اٹھا پارہیں۔ طالبان بھارت کو افغان ہوائی اڈوں اور تجارتی راستوں تک کھلی رسائی دیتے ہیں لیکن پاکستان کی جائز علاقائی رابطہ کاری کی کوششوں کی مزاحمت کرتے ہیں جو کہ افغانستان کے اپنے اقتصادی مفادات کیخلاف واضح جانبداری کو ظاہر کرتا ہے۔

پاکستان کو قانونی راستے تلاش کرنے چاہئیں تاکہ وہ واخان کوریڈور کو خریدنے یا لیز پر لینے کا آپشن اختیار کرے جس سے وسطی ایشیا کے ساتھ براہ راست تجارتی راستہ حاصل ہوسکے۔ یہ اقدام علاقائی روابط میں انقلاب لاسکتا ہے اور غیرمستحکم افغان تجارتی راستوں پر انحصار کم کرسکتا ہے۔ اگر افغانستان معاندانہ رویہ برقرار رہتا ہے اور پاکستان کی علاقائی تجارتی کوششوں کو جان بوجھ کر روکا جاتا ہے تو پاکستان کو حکمت عملی کے تحت واخان پر مکمل کنٹرول حاصل کرنے کا آپشن کھلا رکھنا چاہئے۔ چونکہ واخان رابداری کی چوڑائی 16 سے 60 کلو میٹر کے درمیان ہے اس لئے وسطی ایشیا تک ایک براہ راست سرنگ (ٹنل) بنانا ایک قابل عمل آپشن ہوسکتا ہے۔ اگر افغانستان تعاون کا مظاہرہ نہیں کرتا تو پاکستان کو اپنے تجارتی راستے خود محفوظ بنانے ہونگے۔ اگر کابل کو یہ معاملہ سمجھ آگیا کہ اس میں پاکستان اور وسطی ایشیا کے ساتھ ساتھ افغانستان کا بھی فائدہ ہے تو یہ بہت بہتر بات ہوگی۔ افغان عبوری حکومت کو بھارت کی وقتی محبت اور اسی وجہ سے پاکستان کے ساتھ بلاوجہ دشمنی کے بجائے اپنے ملک کے بہتر مستقبل اور خوشحالی کو اہمیت دینی چاہئے جس کے لئے افغان سرزمین کو فتنہ الخوارج سے پاک اور بھارتی مداخلت کو رد کرنا ہوگا پاکستان اور افغانستان دو برادر ملک اور قریب ترین پڑوسی ہیں اس لئے پاکستان کے ساتھ بہتر، برادرانہ اور پرخلوص دوستی خود افغانستان کے بہترین مفاد میں ہے۔ موجودہ دور میں امریکی نئی پالیسیاں پوری دنیا میں تبدیلیوں کا باعث بن رہی ہیں۔ حکومتیں اپنے ملک اور قوم کے مفادات کو مقدم رکھتی ہیں نہ کہ خود اقتدار کے مزے لوٹتی رہیں اور عوام دربر رہیں۔ افغان عوام تو گزشتہ 40 سال سے یہی کچھ بھگت رہے ہیں اس لئے طالبان حکومت باہمی تعاون اور پائیدار دوستی کو ترجیح دے تاکہ افغان عوام کو بھی سکھ کا سانس نصیب ہو۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/861625>

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Pakistan Observer

The Renewed Focus on CPEC: Strengthening Pakistan-China Cooperation for a Prosperous Future

M S Swati

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has long been hailed as a game-changer in the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan.

Recently, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the timely implementation and completion of CPEC projects, underlining the importance of a strong, enduring partnership between Pakistan and China.

This renewed focus on CPEC signals an exciting new phase for both countries, especially in terms of economic growth, technological advancement and regional stability.

The foundation of CPEC lies in the unshakable friendship between Pakistan and China, which has weathered numerous challenges over the years.

The two countries share a "strategic cooperative partnership" that has stood the test of time.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his recent meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, emphasized the need for both countries to continue working together to ensure the timely implementation of CPEC's various initiatives and projects.

This mutual commitment highlights the importance of CPEC not only as a vital economic initiative but also as a symbol of the deep-rooted, all-weather friendship between the two nations.

The Strategic Significance of CPEC

CPEC is not just an infrastructure project; it is a comprehensive initiative designed to reshape the economic landscape of Pakistan and the broader region.

By connecting the Gwadar Port in Pakistan to China's Xinjiang province, CPEC offers immense opportunities for trade, investment, and economic cooperation.

This project promises to establish a robust transportation network, which will facilitate the smooth movement of goods and services between China, Pakistan, and beyond.

Through CPEC, Pakistan stands to benefit from the development of vital infrastructure, including roads, railways, and energy projects.

These initiatives are critical to the country's economic development, particularly in addressing its long-standing energy crisis.

CPEC's energy projects are expected to generate much-needed electricity, reducing power shortages that have hindered Pakistan's industrial growth.

Furthermore, the improved transportation networks will foster better connectivity within Pakistan and with neighboring countries, boosting trade and encouraging foreign investment.

Strengthening Bilateral Relations

Pakistan and China have always maintained a close and cordial relationship, and CPEC has further solidified this bond.

Both countries are committed to enhancing their political, economic, and security cooperation.

This was reaffirmed during the recent visit of former President Asif Ali Zardari to China, where discussions centered on deepening political trust, enhancing security cooperation, and accelerating joint efforts to ensure mutual prosperity.

These discussions underscored the growing importance of CPEC as a cornerstone of bilateral ties between the two countries.

Moreover, CPEC's influence extends beyond the economic sphere.

It serves as a catalyst for cultural exchanges and people-to-people connections between Pakistan and China.

The two countries have always shared a history of mutual respect and understanding, and CPEC serves to deepen these ties.

As the corridor evolves, it will continue to foster closer relations between the people of both countries, creating opportunities for cultural diplomacy, educational exchanges, and increased tourism.

Economic Impact of CPEC

CPEC has significantly contributed to Pakistan's socio-economic progress, driving infrastructure development and job creation.

Thousands of jobs have been generated through projects like roads, power plants, and critical infrastructure.

Chinese investment has provided a much-needed economic boost, particularly in the energy sector, helping alleviate the country's long-standing energy crisis.

Projects such as the Gwadar Coal Power Plant and Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line will significantly improve electricity supply, fostering a more conducive environment for industrial growth.

Looking ahead, CPEC's true potential lies in its next phase which focuses on technological cooperation.

This shift is essential for Pakistan's growth in sectors like industry, agriculture, and information technology.

By leveraging China's technological expertise, Pakistan can advance in digital infrastructure, e-commerce, and tech innovation, setting the stage for sustainable, inclusive growth.

This phase will be pivotal in enabling Pakistan to leapfrog in key areas, supporting long-term economic development and prosperity.

CPEC's Role in Regional Stability

One of the key benefits of CPEC is its potential to enhance regional stability.

The development of infrastructure and the creation of trade links will not only benefit Pakistan and China but will also have a positive impact on the broader region, including Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

By facilitating the movement of goods and services, CPEC will help integrate Pakistan into global supply chains, opening up new markets and opportunities for trade.

In addition to economic benefits, CPEC is also a tool for fostering peace and security in the region.

The increased cooperation between Pakistan and China sends a powerful message about the importance of regional collaboration and stability.

CPEC projects, particularly those in areas like security and transportation, are contributing to a safer and more secure environment, both within Pakistan and across the region.

The Road Ahead for CPEC

While the progress made thus far under CPEC is commendable, the road ahead requires continued commitment from both Pakistan and China. As the two countries move into the next phase of the corridor's development, the focus will shift toward technological cooperation, which will play a crucial role in shaping the future of Pakistan's economy.

This phase is particularly important because it will help Pakistan realize its goal of accelerated growth in industries such as manufacturing, agriculture, and IT.

It is also important to address any irritants or challenges that may hinder the progress of CPEC. Ensuring that any obstacles are removed quickly and efficiently will be essential to maintaining the momentum of the project. Both Pakistan and China have demonstrated a shared commitment to CPEC's success, and with the continued support of both governments, CPEC has the potential to transform Pakistan into a regional economic powerhouse.

Conclusion

CPEC is more than just a collection of infrastructure projects; it is a symbol of the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China.

The renewed focus on CPEC, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, demonstrates the determination of both countries to work together for mutual prosperity.

As CPEC evolves and enters its next phase, technological cooperation will be key to unlocking new opportunities for growth in various sectors.

With continued commitment and collaboration, CPEC will not only boost Pakistan's economy but also contribute to regional stability, setting the stage for a brighter, more prosperous future.

<https://pakobserver.net/the-renewed-focus-on-cpec-strengthening-pakistan-china-cooperation-for-a-prosperous-future/>

BRI and China's Local Government Work Report: A Collaborative Approach

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Chinese Two Sessions have presented the Government Working Report (GWR) highlighting economic performance of 2024 and future strategies of 2025 vividly reflecting its economic resilience, exports diversification, green transformation, qualitative industrialization, openness and modernization through quality development, digitalization, artificial intelligence and robotic industries.

Moreover, it also clearly demonstrated the vital role of the BRI further enhancing its export volumes, trans-regional connectivity, investments and green technologies global outreach.

Interestingly, at the just concluded local two sessions in various provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, development of the BRI dubbed as vital and remained an important work focus in local government work reports for the year 2025 showing its immense recognition, acceptability, scope, utility, and importance for their economies, industries, societies and manufacturing capacities through bigger connectivity.

Various regions have proposed deeper cooperation in transportation, logistics, trade, energy, renewables, food and cultural exchanges with BRI-participating countries, aiming for high-level economic growth and opening-up.

Provincial governments have developed a comprehensive roadmap for BRI's 2025 development, building on recent cooperative experiences.

Many regions have prioritized enhancing connectivity through improved policy coordination, infrastructure, trade, financial integration and cultural exchanges, setting a strong foundation for further collaboration in new fields.

In the fields of infrastructure, Southwest China's Chongqing Municipality specifically mentioned in its government work report planning to accelerate the development of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, while ensuring the consistent operation of "China-Laos-Thailand" train services and promoting the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity.

Moreover, the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor is a key logistics network connecting China's western regions to global markets.

According to Chinese official reports, it has expanded its reach to 555 ports in 127 countries and regions till today thus it has become the strategic connecting hub in the western regions.

On the other hand, Southwest China's Guizhou Province aims to enhance BRI development by expanding its international reach, particularly focusing on Southeast, South, and Central Asia.

The province plans to establish a key international freight hub in southwestern China, improving train operations along the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, China-Europe (Central Asia) Railway Express, and China-Laos Railway.

Guizhou also intends to restore or add 15 international and regional passenger routes, further boosting rail and sea connectivity in 2025 and beyond.

Moreover, South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region has certain plans to enhance the quality and operational efficiency of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, with particular emphasis on the construction of the Pinglu Canal, a flagship project under the corridor.

Obviously, the Pinglu Canal links the Xijiang River's main stream to Guangxi's Beibu Gulf international hub ports.

Hopefully, after its completion, it will provide the shortest, most cost-effective and convenient sea-going waterway in southwestern China.

The project is scheduled to start operation by 2026, marking 2025 as a pivotal year for construction, with a planned investment of 17 billion Yuan (US\$2.3 billion).

Furthermore, the project will accommodate the direct shipment of goods from Guangxi and Southwest China's Yunnan and Guizhou to sea ports through river systems, becoming a convenient and cost-effective passage to ASEAN members.

Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region plans to upgrade the Kashgar Economic Development Zone and Horgos Port while building a comprehensive international aviation hub to strengthen economic and trade ties with Central Asia.

Meanwhile, in easternmost Jilin, the border city of Hunchun, which connects China with Russia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has seen a significant increase in freight volume through China-Europe freight trains and the China-Russia railway in recent years.

According to GWR of East China's Fujian Province it will focus on promoting the construction of the core area of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, improving maritime shipping capacity and strengthening economic and trade exchanges with ASEAN members.

East China's Zhejiang Province intentionally prioritizes high-quality services in its BRI development.

It will develop a high-standard commodity resource allocation hub, and will attract service institutions such as maritime law agencies and classification societies.

It is a healthy indicator that Shanghai also intends to expedite the development of the Silk Road E-commerce Cooperation Pilot Zone while enhancing the comprehensive overseas service system.

It plans to introduce a global science and technology partnership initiative and establish additional Belt and Road joint laboratories. In summary the provincial GWRs vividly reflect utmost policy confidence, structural reforms consistence, economic & financial contingency, future counter measures and last but not least, strategic vision of the leadership gearing the macro-economy/local economies, industries, manufacturing production hubs, exports, towards high development through further deepening of structural reforms, opening-up, stability and sustainability during 2025 and beyond in which the role of the BRI is essential

and permanent. Since the BRI was proposed by China in 2013, it has been a cornerstone of government work reports in various regions.

The Central Economic Work Conference held in December 2024 which decided priorities for the economic work in 2025, also urged solid progress in high-quality BRI cooperation and improvement in the overseas comprehensive service system.

In 2025, China's commitment to high-quality Belt and Road cooperation will not waver, and the principle of seeking the greatest common denominator for cooperation with other countries will remain unchanged.

The significant contribution of BRI to the world lies in China offering a widely applicable development model and reference for numerous developing countries.

It is crystal clear that the BRI fosters economic growth across member countries, bridging the gap with developed nations, particularly in technology, where the principle of shared development has been crucial. China shares development opportunities globally, explores new paths for common progress and achieves mutual benefits and win-win outcomes.

Its integrated policies, plans and projects, along with its commitment to multilateralism and an open world economy, have set an example for the international community, providing strong support for global cooperation. Moving forward, Chinese policymakers should prioritize quality development, qualitative industrial cooperation, digitalization, modernization, hybrid agriculture, green cooperation and local community empowerment under the BRI flagship during 2025 and beyond.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-chinas-local-government-work-report-a-collaborative-approach/>

The Express Tribune

Gwadar still has no water and power

ISLAMABAD: Ten years after launching the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and holding 78 progress review meetings, it again emerged on Tuesday that the jewel of the multibillion-dollar initiative, Gwadar, could not shine because it neither has sufficient clean water nor indigenous electricity.

The 78th CPEC progress review meeting was not different from dozens of such meetings held in the past where aggressiveness was shown over the lack of progress and new deadlines were set to fulfil obligations under President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal chaired the review meeting on CPEC. He expressed dissatisfaction over delay in ensuring national grid connectivity for Gwadar and directed the Quetta Electric Supply Company (Qesco) and the Power Division to submit an updated progress report within five working days, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Planning after the meeting.

In the last review meeting held about two months ago in January, Ahsan Iqbal had sought a compliance report within one week to connect Gwadar and its free zone with the national electricity grid.

The city, having strategic importance in the CPEC framework, is energised by importing electricity from Iran.

Pakistan has surplus electricity and pays over Rs2.1 trillion in idle capacity charges to power producers by collecting Rs18 per unit from consumers. But it does not have the right set of policies for electricity supply through laying transmission lines.

In the last meeting, Iqbal had also instructed Qesco and the Power Division to coordinate with the Gwadar Port Authority and Pakistan Navy for immediate provision of electricity and the energisation of Gwadar Port and South Free Zone. The minister directed in January that the outstanding issues should be addressed and resolved subsequently. He also sought an updated progress report within five working days on the status of power supply to Gwadar from the national grid, according to the ministry.

The Power Division apprised the meeting that the Cabinet Committee on Energy, in its recent huddle, had approved a new policy for the provision of bulk electricity to the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at a single point through an operation and maintenance contract between the respective developer of SEZs and power distribution companies (DISCOs).

The planning minister emphasised that the new policy should incorporate all zones including the SEZs, Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Gwadar Free Zones. But his instructions were ignored.

The planning ministry stated on Tuesday that Ahsan Iqbal voiced deep concern over the non-operationalisation of a desalination plant in Gwadar and emphasised the urgent need for supply of clean drinking water.

He directed that immediate action should be taken within the week to resolve the issue, said the ministry.

China had provided equipment and demonstration stations from May to December last year for the provision of electricity and clean drinking water. The meeting was told that 10,000 solar panels were delivered in May 2024, followed by another 5,000 in September, under a grant-in-aid programme.

Furthermore, drinking water supply equipment, including 150 water filtration plants and 10 tube well solarisation units, arrived in August 2024. However, their distribution and installation were yet to be carried out, the meeting was told.

Expressing serious concern, Ahsan Iqbal directed the Ministry of Food to formulate a comprehensive plan within three days for efficient distribution of the equipment provided by China. He told the ministry to convene a meeting with all provinces and submit a formal plan within two days on how those machines would be used. Pakistan had earlier proposed the utilisation of Gwadar Port as a transshipment facility but it was not able to provide basic facilities. CPEC progressed smoothly till the seventh Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting and after that six more meetings have been held since 2017 but no breakthrough could be made. The planning ministry stated on Tuesday that the meeting reviewed preparations for the upcoming 14th JCC meeting, with China confirming its support for holding the session in July 2025. All working group meetings have been scheduled for March

and April to ensure comprehensive preparations. Ahsan Iqbal directed that meeting of all working groups, particularly the working groups on safety & security and science & technology, should be scheduled at least one month prior to the JCC meeting. Furthermore, he stressed that the Pakistani mission in Beijing should actively follow up with the Chinese side to ensure that the meetings were arranged in accordance with the agreed calendar.

The minister told Pakistan's diplomatic mission in Beijing and the Economic Affairs Division to engage with the Chinese authorities to finalise a date for the visit of technical and financial experts to Pakistan.

A representative of the Ministry of Railways said that the Joint Technical and Financial Working Group meeting was held on January 16, 2025, during which both sides discussed the technical and financial aspects of the Karachi-Hyderabad section of Main Line-1 (ML-I) project.

Moreover, the Chinese side conveyed that they were in the process of finalising the composition of the Technical and Financial Working Group, which would visit Pakistan soon to resolve all pending issues related to the Karachi-Hyderabad section.

Iqbal directed the mission in Beijing and the Economic Affairs Division to follow up with the Chinese side to ensure the early visit of the working group on the second phase of CPEC, which focuses on green corridor developments.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2533776/gwadar-still-has-no-water-and-power>

The Nation

Pakistan, China agree to hold 14th meeting of JCC of CPEC in July

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China have agreed to hold 14th meeting of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in July 2025.

The revelation was made by Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal while chairing a high-level progress review meeting on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) here on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi, the chief secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and senior representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Communications, Economic Affairs, Petroleum, Commerce, Food and Agriculture, Science and Technology, and Maritime Affairs, along with the Board of Investment and other relevant federal and provincial institutions. The meeting also reviewed preparations for the upcoming 14th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting, with China confirming its support for holding the session in July 2025. Additionally, all working group meetings have been scheduled for March and April to ensure comprehensive preparations ahead of the JCC. Notably, the 13th meeting of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was held virtually in May 2024.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal expressed dissatisfaction over the delay in ensuring national grid connectivity to Gwadar and directed the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) and

the Power Division to submit an updated progress report within five working days on the status of power supply to the city. He also voiced deep concerns over the non-operationalisation of desalination plant in Gwadar and emphasized the urgent need to ensure the supply of clean drinking water. He directed that immediate action be taken within the week to resolve this issue. It was highlighted that, under the socio-economic development initiative, agriculture equipment and demonstration stations had been received in September and December 2024, respectively. Additionally, 10,000 solar panels were delivered in May 2024, followed by another 5,000 in September 2024, under a grant-in-aid program. Furthermore, drinking water supply equipment, including 150 water filtration plants and 10 tube well solarization units, arrived in August 2024. However, the distribution and installation of this equipment have yet to be carried out. Expressing serious concerns over the delay, Ahsan Iqbal directed the Ministry of Food to formulate a comprehensive plan within three days for the efficient distribution of the equipment provided by China. He further directed the Ministry to convene a meeting with all provinces at the earliest and submit a formal plan within two days on how these machines will be put to use. Discussing the progress of the ML-1 railway project, the minister directed Pakistan's diplomatic mission in Beijing and the Economic Affairs Division to engage with Chinese authorities to finalize a date for the visit of technical and financial experts to Pakistan. He stressed the need for early coordination to facilitate the visit of the Chinese working group. Regarding the framework agreement on New and Emerging Technologies (NET) between Pakistan and China, Ahsan Iqbal assigned the Ministry of Information Technology the lead role in advancing discussions and implementation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Mar-2025/pakistan-china-agree-to-hold-14th-meeting-of-jcc-of-cpec-in-july>

China makes remarkable strides safeguarding intangible cultural heritage: Report

BEIJING - China in recent years made remarkable strides in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, according to Report carried by China Economic Net on Tuesday. To date, 43 Chinese cultural traditions have been recognised by UNESCO, including the Nanjing Yunjin brocade weaving technique, the Twenty-Four Solar Terms, and Tai Chi, showcasing the ingenuity of the Chinese people to the world. When Spring Festival was officially inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Bamo Qubumo, a researcher at the Institute of Ethnic Literature under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and a deputy to China's National People's Congress, could hardly contain her excitement. This milestone not only underscores the global significance of Chinese traditional culture but also injects new vitality into the preservation and transmission of intangible cultural heritage (ICH). ICH is not just a vessel of cultural transmission, it is also a powerful driver of economic development. From the phenomenal success of the video game Black Myth: Wukong to the animated blockbuster Ne Zha, the fusion of ICH with modern cultural and creative industries has not only captivated global audiences but also opened new pathways for its industrialization. Coming from the Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yuexi County, China, Bamo Qubumo is particularly passionate about how ICH can empower

women in impoverished rural areas. She believes that as a “living” culture, ICH can provide sustainable livelihoods for women in these regions. Through initiatives such as heritage craft workshops and embroidery training programs, rural women can both preserve traditional skills and achieve financial independence.

This model not only contributes to rural revitalization but also offers a “Chinese approach” to global ICH preservation. One compelling example is Yi embroidery, a centuries-old craft in Nanhua County, Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province. With the rise of modern textile manufacturing, fewer women possess the traditional needlework skills, putting this heritage at risk. Witnessing this decline, Ding Lanying, a Nanhua native, launched an entrepreneurial initiative in 2006 with 13 fellow embroiderers. They traveled across villages to learn and document embroidery techniques, mastering 72 stitching methods and laying the foundation for Nanhua Yi embroidery’s revival. “Today, it’s not just local women engaging in Yi embroidery—men who appreciate the craft are joining in as well,” Bamo Qubumo noted. Since 2020, Nanhua County has hosted 235 Yi embroidery training sessions, training 14,304 artisans and recognizing 45 embroiderers as official ICH inheritors. The industry’s total output value surged from 83.16 million yuan (2022) to 1.18 billion yuan, with the average monthly income of embroiderers rising from 2,000 yuan to over 4,000 yuan. As an integral part of humanity’s collective memory, ICH transcends national borders. Bamo Qubumo emphasized that ICH preservation is not just China’s responsibility, but a global mission. She highlighted China’s successful heritage protection practices, such as the “Meishan Experience” in Sichuan and the “Shilin Model” in Yunnan, which have gained international recognition and UNESCO’s endorsement. However, despite these achievements, the protection of ICH still faces numerous challenges. During her field research, Bamo Qubumo observed a worrying trend: the over-commercialization of ICH in some regions, with certain entities even exploiting the ICH label for unethical financial gain. She emphasized, “The essence of ICH preservation lies in prioritizing its inheritance. We must guard against its distortion and misuse.” In response, she submitted a proposal at this year’s China’s Two Sessions, advocating for a more robust protection mechanism for ICH in the digital era, reinforcing the principle of “protection first, inheritance as a priority.” “The core of ICH preservation lies in its human-centered, process-based protection,” she explained. “ICH is not merely an ‘artifact’—it is a way of life. Without ‘living’ traditions, there is no ICH.” She urged nations worldwide to strengthen cooperation in safeguarding this shared cultural heritage. The rapid development of AI and other emerging technologies presents both opportunities and challenges for ICH preservation. Bamo Qubumo proposed accelerating the revision of China’s Intangible Cultural Heritage Law, enhancing legal frameworks to ensure systematic, holistic, and coordinated protection. She also stressed the importance of integrating ICH education into both formal schooling and public awareness programs, encouraging broader participation in heritage preservation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Mar-2025/china-makes-remarkable-strides-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-report>

The News

Federal cabinet approves MoU on cybersecurity with China

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom, approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in the field of cybersecurity between the National Cyber Emergency Response Team of Pakistan and the National Computer Emergency Response Technical Team/Coordination Center of China.

The aim of this MoU is to promote cooperation in the field of cybersecurity in terms of research, consultation and training. Furthermore, under this MoU, coordination will be ensured in preventing cyberattacks, policy development, cyber security drills, exchange of intelligence on cybersecurity, improvement of capacity and promotion of awareness on cybersecurity. The cabinet, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom, approved an agreement between the United Nations International Telecommunication Union and the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom, government of Pakistan, regarding the establishment of an ITU Accelerator Center. Under this agreement, Pakistan's National Incubation Center, Islamabad, will function as an IT Accelerator Center and its capacity will be enhanced.

The cabinet, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, okays the appointment of Syed Jarrar Haider Kazmi as the Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan National Shipping Corporation. The cabinet, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, also approved the extension of the secondment period of Commodore (Aps) Rizwan Ali Munawar as Commandant, Pakistan Marine Academy, Karachi, for one year.

The cabinet approved the appointment of Engineer Syed Musarrat Hussain as the Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Real Estate Investment and Management Company Private Limited on the recommendation of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Overseas Pakistanis. It ratified the decisions taken in the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee held on February 20, 2025.

Addressing the federal cabinet meeting, the prime minister maintained that without establishing complete peace the dream of development and prosperity would be elusive. He warned that terrorism is re-emerging in the country, emphasising that the fight against militancy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces will continue.

While observing an increase in terrorism, particularly in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, he acknowledged that the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) alongside the armed forces were rendering great sacrifices daily that needed to be remembered.

He said the valiant personnel of police, armed forces and Rangers were rendering ultimate sacrifices and the nation would have to remember it.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1291066-federal-cabinet-approves-mou-on-cybersecurity-with-china>

Train attack: China 'ready to strengthen security cooperation with Pakistan'

Condemning the terrorist attack on Jaffar Express in Balochistan, China said on Wednesday that it "stands ready to strengthen counter terrorism and security cooperation with Pakistan and jointly keep the region peaceful, secure and stable".

"We noted the reports and strongly condemn this terrorist attack," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said during her regular briefing in response to a question regarding a terrorist attack on a train carrying over 450 passengers in Balochistan province.

She said that China firmly opposes terrorism in any form, saying: "We will continue to firmly support Pakistan in combating terrorism, maintaining solidarity and social stability and protecting the safety of civilians."

US condemns attack

The United States also condemned the terrorist attack on the train and the hostage-taking of passengers, claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army — a US-Specially Designated Global Terrorist group. "We extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the victims, their families, and all those affected by this horrific act," the US Embassy Islamabad said in a post on X. "The Pakistani people deserve to live free from violence and fear. The United States will remain a steadfast partner of Pakistan in its efforts to ensure the safety and security of all its citizens. We stand in solidarity with Pakistan during this difficult time," it concluded.

During the ongoing operation to rescue hostages, Pakistan's security forces have so far freed over 150 passengers including women and children.

An unknown number of terrorists blew up a railway track, opened fire, and hijacked the Jaffar Express train near Balochistan's Bolan — which was on a 30-hour-long journey carrying over 400 passengers — on Tuesday as it travelled from Quetta to Peshawar.

According to security sources, the security forces have rescued a large number of hostages, including women and children. The rescued civilians were being used as human shields by the terrorists. During the clearance operation, the security forces practised utmost caution because of the innocent lives involved. The number of passengers, who embraced martyrdom, is being determined, sources said, adding that all terrorists present at the site of the incident were killed. Sources earlier said that the suicide bombers were holding women and children at three different locations, using them as human shields.

Meanwhile, 37 injured individuals have been evacuated for medical treatment, security sources confirmed. The situation remains tense as efforts to neutralise the threat are ongoing.

After day-long efforts, the security forces successfully freed at least 190 hostages and eliminated 30 terrorists, pledging to continue the operation until the last militant is defeated.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1291187-train-attack-china-ready-to-strengthen-security-cooperation-with-pakistan>

March 13, 2025

Pakistan Observer

Seminar on ‘China in Spring: China’s opportunities, shared by the World’

Zubair Qureshi

Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Mr Jiang Zaidong while emphasizing mutual respect and expanding collaboration highlighted on Wednesday the enduring China-Pakistan friendship. “Both China and Pakistan are key partners in modernization, economic growth, and international stability,” he said. The Chinese Ambassador expressed these views in his address as Guest of Honour at a seminar “China in Spring: China’s Opportunities, shared by the World.” The seminar was organized by the China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with China Media Group (CMG). The event highlighted China’s recently concluded Two Sessions, which set the course for the country’s governance, economic growth, and global engagement. The Chinese ambassador underscored his country’s economic resilience, investing \$3.6 trillion in tech-driven innovation, and advancing green projects. The Chinese ambassador reaffirmed Pakistan’s role in China’s strategic initiatives, particularly through CPEC and space cooperation. Stressing China’s leadership in poverty alleviation, job creation, and skill development, Ambassador Jiang highlighted China’s diplomatic vision for fostering global peace and security. He highlighted the key takeaways from the Two Sessions as well as China’s diplomatic successes in recent years and its future outlook in terms of upholding fairness and justice and supporting peace and stability. Ambassador Masood Khan, in his keynote address, highlighted the enduring strength of Pakistan-China relations, emphasizing their strategic, economic, and defence cooperation. He underscored CPEC’s evolution beyond infrastructure to include people-to-people exchanges and social development. He acknowledged China’s unprecedented progress and global rise and its role in fostering global economic cooperation through the Belt and Road Initiative. Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi highlighted China’s commitment to people-centered development, sustainability, and peaceful growth, strengthening regional and global cooperation. She emphasized the world’s growing recognition of China’s positive influence, contrasting it with rising defence concerns in some Western nations. She also underscored the importance of exploring new approaches to global challenges, as advocated by international leaders, in light of China’s continued economic and technological advancements. Dr. Manzoor Khan Afridi spoke about China’s ‘Two Sessions’ as a key platform for policy consultation, emphasizing China’s focus on economic resilience, technological advancement, and global partnerships despite challenges. Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, CPSC, highlighted the significance of China’s Two Sessions in shaping the country’s economic and governance policies, emphasizing their global impact.

<https://pakobserver.net/seminar-on-china-in-spring-chinas-opportunities-shared-by-the-world/>

China vows firm support to Pakistan in combating terrorism

Saud Faisal Malik

China on Wednesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on Jaffar Express in Balochistan and vowed to continue its firm support to Pakistan in combating terrorism, maintaining solidarity, social stability and protecting the safety of civilians.

“We noted the reports and strongly condemn this terrorist attack,” Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said during her regular briefing in response to a question regarding a terrorist attack on a train carrying over 450 passengers in Balochistan province.

She said that China firmly opposes terrorism in any form and added: “We will continue to firmly support Pakistan in combating terrorism, maintaining solidarity and social stability and protecting the safety of civilians.”

China stands ready to strengthen counter terrorism and security cooperation with Pakistan and jointly keep the region peaceful, secure and stable, she added.

Agencies add: The United States has also condemned the terrorist attack on the train and the hostage-taking of passengers, claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army.

“We extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the victims, their families, and all those affected by this horrific act,” the US Embassy Islamabad said in a post on X.

The Pakistani people deserve to live free from violence and fear.

The United States will remain a steadfast partner of Pakistan in its efforts to ensure the safety and security of all its citizens.

We stand in solidarity with Pakistan during this difficult time,” it concluded.

In his regular news briefing in New York, the UN Secretary-General’s Spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric said the UN is closely monitoring the evolving situation.

“We’ve just seen the reports; We, of course, condemn any hostage taking, and we call on those who’ve taken people hostage to release them at once,” Stephane Dujarric, said in response to a question at the regular noon briefing in New York.

“But,” he added, “We’re going to keep following the situation as it evolves.”

The European Union’s Ambassador Riina Kionka also condemned the attack in a post on social media platform X, stating, “We strongly condemn the terrorist attack in Balochistan.”

She extended sympathies to the Pakistani people and the affected families, expressing deep concern for the hostages and calling for their immediate release, as the situation remains uncertain.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Ismail Baghaei has strongly condemned the hostage-taking incident involving a passenger train in Balochistan, expressing deep concern over the endangerment of innocent civilians.

In an official statement, Baghaei reaffirmed Iran’s principled stance against all forms of terrorism and violent extremism.

He extended solidarity with the government and people of Pakistan during this difficult time.

Furthermore, he reiterated Iran's readiness to provide any necessary assistance to help end the terrorist act and ensure the safety of those affected.

Meanwhile, Iranian embassy in Islamabad has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the passenger train in Balochistan, where innocent civilians including women, children, and the elderly were taken hostage.

The embassy denounced the assault as a 'cowardly crime against humanity' emphasizing that targeting civilians and disrupting vital transportation infrastructure constitutes a grave violation of human rights and international norms.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-vows-firm-support-to-pakistan-in-combating-terrorism/>

The Nation

ISSI, CMG organise seminar on China's opportunities, shared by the world

ISLAMABAD - China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with China Media Group (CMG) organised a seminar titled "China in Spring: China's Opportunities, Shared by the World." The event highlighted China's recently concluded Two Sessions, which set the course for the country's governance, economic growth, and global engagement.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood welcomed dignitaries to the ISSI-CMG seminar, acknowledging the presence of Ambassador Jiang Zaidong. He highlighted the significance of China's 'Two Sessions,' particularly in shaping economic policies, advancing high-tech industries, and setting a 5% GDP growth target for 2025. He noted Foreign Minister Wang Yi's reaffirmation of China's commitment to global stability, emphasizing China's proactive global role through initiatives like the BRI, GDI, GSI, and GCI. Stressing the strength of Pakistan-China strategic ties, he underscored CPEC's transformative role and new initiatives to enhance trade, job creation, and regional connectivity. While recognizing security challenges and evolving regional dynamics, he reaffirmed the resilience and unwavering commitment of both nations to overcoming challenges. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood underscored the role of media and think-tanks in fostering informed discourse, dispelling misconceptions, and strengthening mutual understanding in an evolving geopolitical landscape. Ambassador Masood Khan, in his keynote address, highlighted the enduring strength of Pakistan-China relations, emphasizing their strategic, economic, and defence cooperation. He underscored CPEC's evolution beyond infrastructure to include people-to-people exchanges and social development. He acknowledged China's unprecedented progress and global rise and its role in fostering global economic cooperation through the Belt and Road Initiative. Addressing regional security, he stressed Pakistan's ongoing fight against terrorism and called for greater understanding and collaboration with China. He emphasized the need to shape narratives positively and strengthen bilateral ties through strategic engagement. The guest of honour, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Jiang Zaidong, highlighted the enduring China-Pakistan friendship, emphasizing mutual respect and

expanding collaboration. He underscored China's economic resilience, investing \$3.6 trillion in tech-driven innovation, and advancing green projects. He reaffirmed Pakistan's role in China's strategic initiatives, particularly through CPEC and space cooperation. Stressing China's leadership in poverty alleviation, job creation, and skill development, he also highlighted China's diplomatic vision for fostering global peace and security. He called for China and Pakistan to work together as key partners in modernization, economic growth, and international stability. He highlighted the key takeaways from the Two Sessions as well as China's diplomatic successes in recent years and its future outlook in terms of upholding fairness and justice and supporting peace and stability. Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi highlighted China's commitment to people-centered development, sustainability, and peaceful growth, strengthening regional and global cooperation. She emphasized the world's growing recognition of China's positive influence, contrasting it with rising defence concerns in some Western nations. She also underscored the importance of exploring new approaches to global challenges, as advocated by international leaders, in light of China's continued economic and technological advancements.

Dr. Manzoor Khan Afridi highlighted China's 'Two Sessions' as a key platform for policy consultation, emphasizing China's focus on economic resilience, technological advancement, and global partnerships despite challenges. He praised China's historical progress, commitment to shared global responsibility, opposition to unilateralism, and commitment to promote a stable, hierarchical, peaceful global order. Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan emphasized the importance of regional connectivity, trade, and infrastructure development within the Belt and Road Initiative, highlighting its role in economic growth and international cooperation.

Earlier in this remarks Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, CPSC, highlighted the significance of China's Two Sessions in shaping the country's economic and governance policies, emphasizing their global impact. He underscored the opportunities these developments present for Pakistan, particularly in enhancing economic collaboration through CPEC.

The event was attended by diplomats, scholars, policy practitioners, and media professionals, reflecting broad interest and engagement in the discussions.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/13-Mar-2025/issi-cmg-organise-seminar-on-china-s-opportunities-shared-by-the-world>

Chinese Newspapers

March 01, 2025

China Daily

Tiangong to welcome Pakistani astronaut

First foreign visitor expected to enter China's space station under agreement

Zhao Lei

China's Tiangong space station is expected to welcome its first foreign visitor — a Pakistani astronaut who will likely become the first from the nation to fly in outer space, according to a heavyweight cooperation agreement.

The agreement, signed by the China Manned Space Agency and Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission at a ceremony in Islamabad on Friday, covers the bilateral efforts to select and train Pakistani astronauts and then send some of them to China's Tiangong space station, which has been in orbit for nearly four years.

Its signing, witnessed by Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, marks the first time for China to help a foreign nation select and train astronauts, and also the first time for Tiangong to expect a non-Chinese visitor, the agency said in a news release.

It said the two sides will spend about one year to complete the selection process and then send the Pakistani candidates to China to receive comprehensive and systematic training. It did not mention whether the selection has begun or when it will start.

After the Pakistani trainees are ready, one of them will be chosen as the first foreign crew member to fly with Chinese astronauts toward Tiangong space station and spend a short-term stay inside the colossal spacecraft, currently orbiting Earth at about 400 kilometers above the ground, the agency noted.

Until now, the highest altitude any Pakistani citizen has ever achieved is about 87.4 km, which was reached by female polar adventurer and artist Namira Salim during a 55-minute suborbital journey arranged by British-American aerospace company Virgin Galactic on Oct 6, 2023.

It is commonly recognized that the Karman line, at an altitude of 100 km above sea level, is the start of outer space and the threshold for orbital flight.

The signing of the cooperation agreement has created fresh opportunities and set a model for more developing countries to engage in international manned space collaboration. It is expected to inspire nations worldwide to join hands in exploring the mysteries of the universe and collectively forging a new chapter in advancing shared interests for the benefit of all humanity, according to the release.

Since the launch of Tiangong's first component in April 2021, Chinese space officials have floated the idea of selecting and sending foreigners to the space station.

Key project leaders such as Yang Liwei, the first Chinese astronaut in space and now a deputy chief planner of the country's manned spaceflights — and Lin Xiqiang, deputy head of the China Manned Space Agency — have said several times that China is open to international cooperation on its space station.

Chen Shanguang, another senior official in the country's manned space program, said in February 2023 that "multiple countries have told China that they hope to send their astronauts to Tiangong".

Pang Zhihao, an expert on space exploration technology and a renowned writer on spaceflight, said that the Pakistani trainees will need to undergo a series of stringent training and tests before qualifying themselves for actual spaceflight. "Of course, the first and foremost lesson they need to take is the Chinese language. The language to be spoken inside a Chinese station is naturally Chinese. Second, though they must have had good physical and psychological qualities, they still need to train very hard to make their body and mind perfectly prepared for a space mission. This is especially important if some of the Pakistani trainees were not selected from among pilots. They must learn how to eat, drink, sleep and deal with personal hygiene in microgravity, which poses a huge challenge to anyone flying into space," Pang said. After arriving at the space station, the selected Pakistani astronaut will likely carry out at least one scientific experiment designed by Pakistani researchers, according to the expert. Another Chinese spaceflight expert who wished to remain anonymous said that the new agreement is a very good example for space cooperation between developing countries and for South-South cooperation. "It will effectively boost Pakistan's social development and help it become an emerging force in the international space arena," he said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/01/WS67c24853a310c240449d7f02.html>

March 02, 2025

Shanghai Daily

APP deputy director: China's 'two sessions' offer opportunity to learn how to 'catch the fish'

China's annual "two sessions" draw global attention. We spoke to Mudassar Iqbal, deputy director of the Associated Press of Pakistan, to hear his thoughts on the "two sessions" and China's development.

Iqbal said, China is playing a very crucial role for the other nations. "We need to learn how to catch the fish, not to eat the fish."

<https://chatgpt.com/c/67f4a612-ad64-8013-8bb6-382d0f9be4d1>

March 05, 2025

China Daily

China helps world in a shared future

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

The annual two sessions is taking place at a critical juncture in history. Continuing conflicts, a resurgence of anti-globalization and multilateralism forces, and disrespect for rules of the United Nations have turned the world into a home of multiple problems.

According to the latest UN World Food Programme report, 3.1 billion people cannot afford healthy food and 2 billion cannot access safe drinking water. Prolonging of the Gaza and Ukrainian crises cannot be ruled out.

In this context, this year's two sessions, or the annual gatherings of the 14th National People's Congress, China's top legislature, and the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the country's top political advisory body, are of immense importance.

As participants review challenges and step toward the centennial goal of national rejuvenation, the global community, especially the Global South, is watching to see how China can help it overcome headwinds and sustain the dreams for peace and development.

China has taken many steps in countering anti-globalization, supporting multilateralism, creating new development opportunities, tackling climate change, pushing for restoration of peace in the Middle East and Europe, and promoting global prosperity.

President Xi Jinping's concept of a community with a shared future for mankind is increasingly relevant, as "mankind ... is increasingly becoming a community with a shared future in which everyone's interest is closely interlinked".

The community with a shared future is a well-placed, comprehensive vision to build a fair, rule-based, corruption-free, secure, and prosperous society.

This can be achieved through rule of law, a balanced economy, and people-centric governance.

As Chinese philosophy states, policies, plans and visions without actions are merely thoughts; nothing else. China has supported the concept with at least five pillars. The Belt and Road Initiative is spreading all over the world while adhering to the traditional wisdom of shared growth. The Global Development Initiative was introduced in accordance with the vision of shared prosperity. The Global Security Initiative aims for common, comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable security. The Global Civilization Initiative highlights harmony in diversity. Furthermore, President Xi has stressed the construction of ecological civilization derived from the philosophy of harmony between the planet and humans and among humans.

China also helped launch two significant platforms: the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the China International Import Expo. The AIIB assists poor and developing countries,

demonstrating China's commitment to achieving prosperity for all. The CIIE promotes trade and generates opportunities for the developing world.

China has accelerated its efforts to sustain multilateralism. The speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the UN Security Council on Feb 18 is an example.

Wang's speech expounded China's commitment to addressing challenges, working together with the rest of the world and creating a fair, prosperous and peaceful world for everyone. He denounced the trend of prioritizing self-interest and unfairness, and called for respect for sovereignty and human life and a peaceful settlement in Gaza.

He emphasized that the vision of a community with a shared future provides the framework for reforming the system and striving for a peaceful and prosperous world.

It is hard to achieve national rejuvenation without sharing prosperity and dividends of peace globally. President Xi's vision distinguishes itself by furthering the idea of cosmopolitanism.

China believes development is key to solving all problems, yet we cannot achieve sustainable peace and prosperity without fairness, respect for diversity, sovereignty, human rights, and the development of everyone. China has been advancing these common values.

It is expected that the two sessions will prove China continues to be a firm supporter of the Global South in achieving sustainable development against all odds while being an active player with the rest of the world to navigate challenges and strive for political and diplomatic ending of conflicts.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/05/WS67c78c0aa310c240449d89c0.html>

March 07, 2025

China Daily

A meeting that signals pragmatic approach

Imran Khalid

China's annual two sessions, the centerpiece of its political calendar, is once again offering a unique insight into how the world's second-largest economy is charting its course with efficient and democratic decision-making. Consisting of the 14th National People's Congress, China's top legislature, and the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the country's top political advisory body, the largest gathering of policymakers, business leaders, and social representatives serve as both a legislative forum and a policy barometer. What makes this year's two sessions particularly significant is the country's efforts to stabilize the world's key driver of growth against the backdrop of a shifting global economic order. With trade dynamics evolving and external uncertainties looming, the importance of clear and decisive policymaking cannot be overstated. The positive signals emerging from the two sessions point to China's commitment to sustainable growth, innovation-driven quality development, the continued expansion of domestic demand, and persistence in multilateral cooperation. One of the key themes that dominates discussions is China's gross domestic product growth target. China has set the target at

around 5 percent for this year, reinforcing confidence in the country's economic trajectory. The emphasis this year can rest on stability and resilience. Despite global headwinds, policymakers remain committed to ensuring a robust economic recovery through fiscal and monetary measures. According to the Government Work Report released on Wednesday, China will adopt a "more proactive" fiscal policy — with an increased deficit ratio target and expanded local government bond issuance — and a "moderately loose" monetary policy. This approach underscores the government's recognition of the need to support infrastructure projects, technology investment and social welfare programs. A "moderately loose" monetary policy will provide further stimulus to the economy, with interest rate cuts and adjustments to reserve requirements. A key aspect of China's economic policy this year is the push to stimulate domestic demand. With rising trade protectionism and shifting global supply chains, China is focusing on strengthening its internal market. This means greater emphasis on consumer spending, industrial upgrades and technological innovation. Policies aimed at supporting household consumption and private-sector confidence will likely take center stage.

Another critical element of the two sessions is the focus on technological advancement and innovation. China has long recognized that its economic future depends on its ability to lead in key technological fields, from artificial intelligence and semiconductors to green energy. The meetings are expected to reinforce the country's commitment to research and development, talent cultivation, and high-tech manufacturing. A renewed emphasis on industrial modernization will ensure that China remains competitive in the face of external challenges and shifting global supply chains, while achieving environmental sustainability and climate goals of peak carbon emissions before 2030. Beyond economic policy, the two sessions highlight China's evolving approach to governance and representation. The NPC, with nearly 3,000 deputies, reflects a broad cross-section of Chinese society, including ethnic minorities, farmers, workers, and technical professionals, among others. The CPPCC National Committee, a consultative body, brings together political advisers from diverse fields to offer professional policy recommendations. This broad participation ensures that truly democratic and national decision-making considers a wide range of perspectives and societal needs. In an era of heightened global turbulence, Beijing's approach to trade, regional stability and multilateral cooperation will be of critical importance. The two sessions provide an opportunity for China to signal its willingness to engage in constructive diplomacy while safeguarding its national interests. As global tensions persist, maintaining open channels of communication and fostering economic partnerships will be key to sustaining stability in the international arena.

Perhaps one of the most striking aspects of the two sessions is the efficiency and discipline with which deliberations are conducted. Unlike the often gridlocked political systems seen elsewhere, China's model of governance ensures that decisions are made swiftly and effectively through extensive democratic consultation and consensus building. The emphasis on long-term planning and policy continuity provides a level of stability that many other nations struggle to achieve. While the Chinese system is distinct from Western models, its ability to execute strategic plans and adapt to global changes remains a point of interest for policymakers worldwide.

Among the key takeaways is the country's unwavering commitment to regional stability, global peace, and progress for a community of shared future. The positive expectations surrounding the two sessions reflect not just confidence in China's leadership and its political and economic systems, but also an acknowledgment that its continued stability and development are vital to the broader global economy. With a clear road map for the future, China is poised to contribute more to manage the complexities of an evolving world order.

One thing is certain: The two sessions remain a defining moment in China's annual political and economic calendar, providing not only closeups of China's modern governance but also a reminder that different political systems can yield effective results. At a time when much of the world is grappling with volatility, the steady and pragmatic approach of China's leadership offers a striking counterpoint for new thinking.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/07/WS67ca442fa310c240449d9357.html>

Chinese diplomacy 'deep seeking' collaborations

Zhang Yunbi

While China-based AI engine newcomer DeepSeek captured attention and garnered support from app users and stock market traders, "deep" and "seek" coincidentally resonate with the country's longstanding commitments and endeavors across various domains, including foreign policy.

Exactly, China has been going quite deep, seeking peace and development with like-minded countries including the vast number of Global South nations, and even those who have publicly tried to coerce China.

Some seasoned Chinese diplomats also serve as the country's political advisers, that is, members of the National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

The word "deep" also stands out among some of their recent public comments.

Take one of the diplomats — Chinese Ambassador to the United States Xie Feng — as an example.

When addressing Duke University students and faculty at the Duke-UNC China Leadership Summit on Feb 28, Xie mentioned "deep/deeply" three times in his video speech.

"Bridges one after another have connected China and the United States across the Pacific, leaving us deeply interwoven," he said, outlining how the two countries have been linked tightly in the economy over the past decades.

He is right. Around 73,000 American companies are investing in China, and bilateral trade last year exceeded \$680 billion.

As Xie had left the US and is now in Beijing attending the annual two sessions, he explained to the audience in the video that he could not join them in person and was glad to see "so many young friends continue to care for China-US relations".

Calling to join hands in the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, Xie said, "What we need is not a technological blockade, but 'deep seeking' for human progress." What a remarkable echo to the viral name "DeepSeek".

The major visions pursued by China in recent decades, such as the 12-year-old Belt and Road Initiative, also serve as a convincing reminder of how and why the country has been going deep and seeking mutual benefits with partners.

Liao Liqiang, the Chinese ambassador to Egypt and a member of the 14th National Committee of the CPPCC, noted in a recent article that China and Egypt have made a leap forward in their ties over the past "Golden Decade" and have seen "a deep synergy between the BRI and Egypt's Vision 2030".

Pakistan, a partner with China in rolling out the BRI and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, is considering sending a Pakistani astronaut to the Chinese space station. This has made headlines before the opening of this year's two sessions.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif witnessed the signing of a cooperation agreement on potential spaceflight on Feb 28 in Islamabad.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian was also asked about this news for comment at the daily news conference on Monday.

Lin said, "We focus on sharing with all humanity the results of China's development and offer opportunities for cooperation in China's space station."

After the news conference, Muhammad Asghar, a correspondent for the Associated Press of Pakistan in China, told me,

"China is doing a big thing to take along other countries, neighboring countries, giving them a chance."

Regarding the rapidly changing global and regional landscapes, going deep and harnessing long-term, win-win results sounds unrealistic for some people.

Many scholars and readers asked me how China would approach the overarching goal it set for its major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics-building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Now the answer could not be even more evident. China will achieve this goal of "seeking deep" alongside various nations.

As an ancient Chinese idiom goes, "Still water runs deep."

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/07/WS67ca48bda310c240449d9399.html>

Pakistan congratulates China on two sessions

Xu Wei

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has extended warm congratulations to President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and the Chinese people on a successful convening of the two sessions in Beijing, saying that China is making remarkable progress in achieving its national development goals.

"We are particularly impressed by China's modernization under President Xi's visionary leadership," Sharif wrote on his X account.

"As 'iron brothers' and all weather strategic cooperative partners, Pakistan and China will continue to work together closely to further strengthen our cooperation to realize the shared objectives of peace and development."

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/07/WS67caf4a6a310c240449d97a3.html>

March 10, 2025

China Daily

Advancements in technology commended

Breakthroughs will be key driver of China's economic growth, experts say

XU WEIWEI

The ongoing two sessions and this year's Government Work Report highlighted China's breakthroughs in core and frontier technologies, which will be a key driver of the nation's continuing quality economic growth, experts said.

Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, executive director of the Islamabad-based Center for South Asia and International Studies, called the report delivered by Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the opening meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing last week, a "good omen".

The report "vividly reflected its strategic priorities, mainly innovation, modernization, qualitative industrialization, and scientific intensification for breakthroughs in core tech in key fields", Khan said.

He singled out research and development advancements in frontier and disruptive technologies alongside the acceleration of forward-looking planning for major science and technology projects.

These would add value in terms of high-quality development and can be a cornerstone of China's further opening-up in the future, he said.

Khan said China's strong emphasis on the strategic emerging sectors — biomanufacturing, quantum technology, and 6G — and service-oriented manufacturing can consolidate its manufacturing capacity, export volumes, and GDP growth this year and beyond.

Moreover, the integration and promotion of artificial intelligence across emerging industries will further unleash the potential of the digital economy, he said.

Noting the two sessions pledged to bolster tech innovation by improving the market ecosystem and increasing support for AI applications, Khan said the policy was innovative, futuristic, and in the right direction.

The Government Work Report reinforces its strategic vision of becoming a global innovation powerhouse, said Moiz Farooq, executive editor of Pakistan Economic Net and Daily Ittehad Media Group.

A key takeaway from the report is China's growing emphasis on high-tech innovation, said Farooq, noting the country's success in landmark projects, such as the Chang'e-6 lunar mission and expanded domestic chip manufacturing capabilities.

He said such success signifies not only scientific progress but also the determination to overcome technological barriers imposed by Western restrictions.

Farooq said by prioritizing self-reliance, China is solidifying its position as a major player in the global technology race.

Moreover, China's R&D strategy is deeply integrated with its green development and digital transformation goals, he added. "Critically, while Western narratives often attempt to frame China's technological rise as a threat, the reality is that China's advancements serve as a force for global progress," Farooq noted. Plato Yip Kwong-to, founding partner and CEO of Real See International Intelligent Technology, said it is encouraging that the report emphasized achieving technological self-reliance and global leadership in frontier technologies.

Notable progress

"We have also witnessed notable progress in areas such as integrated circuits, artificial intelligence, robotics, quantum technology, and deep-sea and space exploration," the private equity investor from Hong Kong said. The government's AI Plus initiative and its emphasis on integrating digital technologies with China's manufacturing and market strengths could be another niche for value-driven economic development, he said. "In addition, I am particularly encouraged by the fact that China is now leading the global energy transition by providing innovative solutions in solar and wind power, energy storage, electric vehicles, low-emission fuel alternatives, and hydrogen production technologies," Yip said. Yip said the integration of education, scientific research, and talent cultivation into its innovation agenda will also help sustain this momentum. Lawrence Loh, director of the Centre for Governance and Sustainability at the National University of Singapore's Business School, said that together with breakthroughs in market reforms and coordinated talent development, the strong focus on frontier technologies will position China well for a bright future of new possibilities. Innovations will provide job opportunities and enhance people's lives which will in turn promote societal harmony and cohesion, he said. "Amid the global geopolitical tensions, China's critical commitment to technology for good will benefit Asia and the world," Loh added. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/10/WS67ce42a4a310c240449d9cc1.html>

March 12, 2025

China Daily

Feature: Pakistani researchers advance agricultural innovation through cooperation with Chinese peers

HAIKOU, China/ISLAMABAD -- In the rain-soaked fields of Yazhou Bay Science and Technology City in South China's Hainan province, Pakistani postdoctoral researcher Qamar U Zaman waded through the mud in rain boots, carefully inspecting rice plants and occasionally plucking rice ears for closer examination.

A researcher at the Yazhouwan National Laboratory, Qamar arrived in China in 2017 to pursue his doctorate. He has since gained extensive experience at various agricultural research institutions, specializing in rice breeding with a particular focus on combating rice blast disease (RBD).

Keen to apply his expertise in Pakistan, Qamar is determined to develop effective strategies to help rice growers tackle the disease upon his return. "Rice blast disease poses a significant threat to yield and production in Pakistan," he told Xinhua. "Pakistan is still lagging in adopting modern techniques to combat RBD effectively."

To bridge this gap, Qamar aims to enhance rice blast tolerance through advanced molecular approaches, reducing dependence on chemical treatments and improving overall productivity for sustainable rice farming.

Rice plays a crucial role in Pakistan's economy and food security, and China's leadership in hybrid rice research made it a natural choice for Qamar's studies. "I chose to conduct my research in China because of its strong commitment to science and technology," he said. "Moreover, the Yazhouwan National Lab has provided essential resources and valuable collaboration opportunities, enabling me to pursue my research goals."

As agricultural cooperation between China and Pakistan deepens, more Pakistani researchers are coming to China to study and work. Among them is Faisal Mehdi, who does research on sugarcane breeding at the Sugarcane Research Center of the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences in Sanya.

"I work with my colleagues on joint research projects, combining our expertise in molecular breeding, plant pathology and bioinformatics," Faisal said.

His colleague Ahmad Ali also praises China's leadership in agricultural innovation, research and technology. "China offers excellent laboratory facilities and outstanding teaching staff. It is truly a land of opportunity, especially for agricultural scientists," he said.

At the Sugarcane Research Center, five Pakistani postdoctoral researchers contribute to various research groups. "The center has established partnerships with multiple universities and research institutions in Pakistan," said Que Youxiong, the center's director. "In the future, we plan to enhance cooperation in germplasm resource exchange and joint research and development."

The benefits of this collaboration extend beyond laboratories. In Pakistan's Punjab province, fields of oilseed rape are in full bloom at a farm operated by Wuhan Qingfa-Hesheng Seed Co Ltd. Zhou Xusheng, the company's international business manager, leads local employees in observing and recording field data while providing technical guidance.

After two decades of development in Pakistan, the company has established a test station and invested heavily in variety research and technological innovation. These efforts have led to the breeding of new rice varieties capable of withstanding high summer temperatures and addressing the challenge of low seed-setting rates.

Looking ahead, Zhou said the company aims to expand the rape planting area to 400,000 hectares, targeting an annual production of 1 million tons of high-quality edible oil — about one-third of Pakistan's total demand.

Faisal sees vast potential in agricultural cooperation between the two countries. "Joint training programs and technology transfers could strengthen the capabilities of Pakistani researchers and farmers," he said.

"By leveraging each country's strengths, China and Pakistan can enhance agricultural productivity, sustainability and food security for both nations," he added.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/12/WS67d14a7ba310c240449da6d4.html>