



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

March 16-31, 2025



An Online Publication of PICS

<https://su.edu.pk/gleanings-from-national-press>

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March 16, 2025

Dawn News

China, Pakistan both focused on KKH, ML-1 completion: Chinese consul general

KARACHI: The Chinese consul general Yang Yundong has said both China and Pakistan are focused on the completion of the Karakoram Highway (KKH) and the Main Line-1 (ML-1) project, Dawn.com reported.

The Chinese envoy expressed this commitment at a time when the government and the ministry of railways are expecting a long-awaited visit of the high-powered technical team from China within weeks.

Just a day ago, federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi told the media in Lahore that the government might fund the ML-1 project from own resources in case international funding was unavailable.

In September last year, China agreed to assist Pakistan in completing four major projects namely ML-1, M-6 and M-9 projects along with the second phase of Karakoram Highway (KKH) and the construction of Kaghan-Naran, Jhal Khand, Babusar Top and Tunnel till KKH.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1898190/china-focusing-on-karakoram-highway-ml-1-projects-says-consul-general>

Pakistan Observer

Next China 2025

Yasir Habib Khan

TWO sessions 2025, linchpin of China's governance system, that concluded recently has zeroed in on "Next China" that gives more voice to people, breaks new grounds of modernization, bolster hi-tech economy with exponential opening up to the world, beef up whole-process democracy and continue to work as stabilizing global force.

Next China features a buzz word "people's first" because deputies to the NPC and members of the CPPCC National Committee reviewed one year performance and put forward proposals or motions on economic development, social policies, legislative changes and national strategies.

These proposals are not abstract ideas but are rooted in the realities of Chinese society, reflecting the voices and concerns of people from all walks of life.

As a country ruled by the Communist Party of China with the support of multiple non-Communist political parties, the NPC and the CPPCC play a pivotal role in the country's whole-process people's democracy, which emphasizes democratic principles and practices throughout all stages of governance, decision-making, and public participation.

Unlike traditional models of democracy that focus primarily on periodic elections as the main mechanism for citizen participation, China's whole-process people's democracy seeks to embed democratic values in every aspect of governance, from policy formulation to implementation and evaluation.

The drafting of the Government Work Report is a process of public consultation, incorporating nearly 4,000 opinions from various sectors and over 2 million suggestions from netizens, resulting in concrete measures to benefit the people.

Two sessions emphasized the development of new quality productive forces (NQPFs) and billed them a crucial driver of economic growth and Chinese modernization.

Pursuing the final year of 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), the sessions took stock of situation how the world's second-largest economy will be accelerating its shift toward high-quality development and advances Chinese modernization.

According to Next China agenda, China plans to establish a mechanism to increase funding for industries of the future and foster industries such as biomanufacturing, quantum technology, embodied AI, and 6G technology.

Under the AI Plus initiative, China will work to effectively combine digital technologies with China's manufacturing and market strengths.

Basic data systems will be improved at a faster pace, data resources will be extensively developed and utilized, and cross-border data flows will be promoted and kept under regulation.

Higher-standard opening up and stabilizing foreign trade and investment are among the top priorities set by the two sessions to catapult China to the next stage.

China will bolster policies to stabilize foreign trade and support enterprises in securing orders and exploring new markets.

Under the vision of the two sessions, the Next China approach will enable China to cultivate new growth drivers, such as green trade and digital trade, support localities where conditions permit in developing new types of offshore trade, and boost border trade.

Meanwhile, China will continue to expand its globally oriented network of high-standard free trade areas.

It will work toward the signing of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 Upgrade Protocol and speed up the process of seeking to join the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Energized by the agenda of 'Next China,' China will resolutely safeguard the WTO-centred multilateral trading system, broaden converging interests with other countries, and promote shared development.

In connection with China's 14th Five-Year Plan, which will draw closer in 2025, the two sessions pledge to make coordinated efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce pollution, pursue green development, boost economic growth, and accelerate the green transition in all areas of economic and social development.

In terms of steadily advancing the second batch of trials for peaking carbon emissions, plan is afoot to establish a group of zero-carbon industrial parks and factories.

“Next China” pro-gram will set the tone of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2031) in order to shoulder political responsibility for ensuring full and rigorous Party self-governance, fully implement the central Party leadership’s eight-point decision on improving work conduct, and remain committed to improving Party conduct, building integrity, and combating corruption in the government. Next China framework will fully, faithfully, and resolutely implement the policy of One Country, Two Systems. It will implement the Party’s overall policy for the new era on resolving the Taiwan question.

It will stay committed to the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus and resolutely oppose separatist activities aimed at “Taiwan independence” and external interference, so as to promote the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations. It will stay committed to an independent foreign policy of peace and to the path of peaceful development. China is ready to work with other members of the international community to promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, pursue the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, and actively participate in reform and development of the global governance system.

<https://pakobserver.net/next-china-2025/>

Yundong urges stronger Pakistan-China ties

Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong briefed media professionals in Karachi about the key takeaways from China’s concluded Two Sessions, highlighting economic resilience, technological advancements, and strengthened global cooperation. Held during Ramazan, the event reaffirmed China’s commitment to deepening ties with Pakistan. The Two Sessions, China’s annual political and economic meetings, play a vital role in shaping the country’s governance. Key discussions focused on economic stability, technological self-reliance, and people-centric development. Five percent GDP growth in 2024, with a \$13,000 per capita income, contributing 30% to global economic expansion. High-tech manufacturing grew by 8.9%, with China investing 3.6 trillion RMB in R&D. AI breakthroughs, including China’s AI model “DeepSeek”, and global success in creative industries like Nezha 2. As Pakistan and China celebrate key diplomatic milestones, CPEC remains central to their partnership. Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong called for its modernization and expansion, reinforcing China’s commitment to trade, infrastructure, and cultural exchanges with Pakistan. “The successful conclusion of the Two Sessions signifies China’s unwavering commitment to high-quality development and international cooperation,” said Yang Yundong, urging stronger Pakistan-China ties. With Pakistan marking the 10th anniversary of President Xi’s visit and the upcoming 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties, both nations continue to forge a path of shared prosperity and regional stability.

<https://pakobserver.net/yundong-urges-stronger-pakistan-china-ties>

March 23, 2025

Business Recorder

Strategic cooperation to enhance mutual benefits: Chinese envoy

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong on Sunday said that strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan will further boost the mutual benefits.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the “Esthetic Bridge” exhibition at Silkroad Culture Center, the ambassador said, “We are ready to work with Pakistan to implement this important initiative, appreciating the beauty of each other and sharing it together, to promote the exchange and mutual learning of Chinese and Islamic civilizations.”

He said President Xi Jinping attaches great importance and actively advocated for exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations, proposing the global civilization initiative to make the world’s garden of civilizations flourish with color and vitality, reflecting a profound sense of care and responsibility for the whole world.

He said, “Today is Pakistan’s National Day, and we extend our warmest congratulations to our Pakistani brothers and sisters.”

He said, “We stand firmly together, continuing and passing down the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan.”

Jiang Zaidong said on this day, the resolution to establish an independent Muslim country was adopted, marking the beginning of the Pakistani people’s great journey towards development and prosperity.

He said, “Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan in 1951, we have always stood together and supported each other through thick and thin.”

He added from then, Pakistan was the first Islamic country to recognize the People’s Republic of China. In 1966, China helped Pakistan build the Karakoram Highway, hailed as the “Eighth Wonder of the World”.

Jiang Zaidong said that during the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, China witnessed the touching story of Pakistan’s all-out assistance with tents. In 2010 and 2022, Pakistan received full support from all sectors of Chinese society in fighting floods.

The traditional friendship between China and Pakistan has been continuously consolidated and elevated as we move forward together.

“This ironclad friendship has taken root, flourished, and will surely be passed down through generations and remain steady and enduring.”

Zaidong said currently, the Pakistani government is advancing its reform agenda in full force, stabilizing and improving the economy, achieving growth in both exports and investments, reaching new highs in foreign reserves and remittances, with an expected GDP growth of more than 3%.

He said over the past 11 years, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has made significant contributions to strengthening Pakistan's development foundation and improving the well-being of Pakistani people.

Ambassador said, "We will not forget that Pakistan was not only the first Islamic country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China but also stood up and supported China at critical moments such as the restoration of China's lawful seat in the United Nations." Similarly, when Pakistan is in need, China has always been a strong backing for Pakistan.

He said, "We stand firmly together, hand in hand, to create a brighter tomorrow." In 2015, President Xi Jinping's historic state visit to Pakistan elevated our bilateral relationship to all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, opening a new chapter in China-Pakistan relations.

Zaidong said since the establishment of the current Pakistani government a year ago, we have maintained close high-level exchanges.

Ambassador added Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited China in last June while Premier Li Qiang visited Pakistan in last October and President Asif Ali Zardari visited China this February, all these visits fully demonstrated the closeness of our ironclad friendship and the high level of all-weather strategic cooperation. He said under the care and promotion of the leaders of both countries, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has entered a new phase of building an "upgraded version", providing new opportunities for high-quality development of practical cooperation between the two countries. Chinese ambassador said that this exhibition lives up to its name, not only showcasing the unique charm of Chinese and Pakistani art but also building a bridge for in-depth dialogue between artists from both countries.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40354374/strategic-cooperation-to-enhance-mutual-benefits-chinese-envoy>

March 24, 2025

Daily Times

Pakistan, China committed to jointly creating 'miracles of development'

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong Sunday said that China and Pakistan stand firmly together, committed to creating miracles of development. "We stand firmly together, committed to creating miracles of development. For 85 years, the brotherly people of Pakistan have proactively pursued the great dream of building a strong and prosperous nation," The ambassador said while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the "Esthetic Bridges" exhibition. "From the 1960s to the present, while the Pakistani population has grown from 46 million to more than 240 million, Pakistan's GDP has increased from less than \$19 billion to nearly \$400 billion. Currently, the Pakistani government is advancing its reform agenda in full force, stabilizing and improving the economy, achieving growth in both exports and investments, reaching new highs in foreign reserves and remittances, with an expected GDP growth of more than 3%," he said. "Over the past 11 years, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has made significant contributions to strengthening Pakistan's development foundation and improving the well-being of Pakistani people. As Chinese

modernization advances comprehensively and the concept of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind gains widespread support, we are ready to continue providing new opportunities for the development of our ironclad friend Pakistan through the new achievements of Chinese modernization,” he further said. “We stand firmly together, continuing and passing down the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan. On this day 85 years ago, the resolution to establish an independent Muslim country was adopted, marking the beginning of the Pakistani people’s great journey towards development and prosperity. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan in 1951, we have always stood together and supported each other through thick and thin,” he said. “We stand firmly together, jointly facing the changing times. As early as the 1930s, the great Pakistani poet Muhammad Iqbal wrote the lines, “the Chinese people are waking up from their sleep and the spring of Mount Himalaya is bursting”, enthusiastically supporting and echoing the Chinese people’s struggle for national independence and against foreign aggression. We will not forget that Pakistan was not only the first Islamic country to establish diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China but also stood up and supported China at critical moments such as the restoration of China’s lawful seat in the United Nations. Similarly, when Pakistan is in need, China has always been a strong backing for Pakistan,” he added. “We firmly support Pakistan in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, in pursuing a development path suited to its national conditions, in resolutely combating terrorism, and in playing a greater role in international and regional affairs. Faced with the current turbulent international and regional situation, we will, as always, enhance solidarity and collaboration with Pakistan to safeguard the fundamental interests of both countries and international fairness and justice, and jointly promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally-beneficial and inclusive economic globalization,” he added. “We stand firmly together, hand in hand, to create a brighter tomorrow. In 2015, President Xi Jinping’s historic state visit to Pakistan elevated our bilateral relationship to All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, opening a new chapter in China-Pakistan relations. Since the establishment of the current Pakistani government a year ago, we have maintained close high-level exchanges. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited China in last June; Premier Li Qiang visited Pakistan in last October; President Zardari visited China this February, all these visits fully demonstrated the closeness of our ironclad friendship and the high level of all-weather strategic cooperation. Under the care and promotion of the leaders of both countries, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has entered a new phase of building an “upgraded version”, providing new opportunities for high-quality development of practical cooperation between the two countries,” he added. The ambassador said the exhibition lives up to its name, not only showcasing the unique charm of Chinese and Pakistani art but also building a bridge for in-depth dialogue between artists from both countries. “We are ready to work with Pakistan to implement this important initiative, appreciating the beauty of each other and sharing it together, to promote the exchange and mutual learning of Chinese and Islamic civilizations and let them shine in each other’s light,” he concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1279169/pakistan-china-committed-to-jointly-creating-miracles-of-development/>

Pakistan, China strengthen science and tech ties

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) has further strengthened its scientific, technological, and health collaborations with China, reinforcing international cooperation in these fields. During a ceremony at the COMSTECH Secretariat in Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTECH, emphasized the growing partnership between COMSTECH and China in advancing science and technology. He lauded Prof. Dr. Xinmin Liu, a distinguished Chinese scientist, for his 25 years of contributions to Sino-Pakistan scientific collaboration. Dr. Liu has played a key role in training Pakistani researchers and establishing the Pakistan Centre for Traditional Medicine. In recognition of his contributions, he has been awarded Tamgha-e-Quaid-e-Azam, one of Pakistan's highest civilian honors for foreign nationals.

Prof. Choudhary highlighted that COMSTECH plays a vital role in implementing OIC resolutions on science, technology, health, agriculture, higher education, and climate change. He also noted Pakistan's role in introducing China as a special representative to the OIC, strengthening global research partnerships. The China-Pakistan Strategic Collaboration in Science and Technology now spans multiple sectors, including space research, traditional medicine, and high-tech innovation. A key initiative under this partnership is the Seeds in Space Programme, which studies the impact of space conditions on medicinal plants. Additionally, under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), 100 research fellowships have been offered to Pakistani scientists in fields like precision agriculture, virology, and infectious diseases. In the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and herbal medicine, China is conducting clinical trials in Pakistan to register herbal medicines for local use. Chinese pharmaceutical companies are also exploring opportunities to establish operations in Pakistan. Furthermore, 10 Pakistani doctors will receive annual training in TCM practices at leading Chinese universities. The Government of Sindh, under the leadership of Provincial Health Minister Dr. Azra Pechuho, has launched major TCM programs to benefit local patients. Collaboration in artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and digital transformation is progressing, particularly with Huawei as a strategic partner. Research in biotechnology and nutritional medicine is also advancing, focusing on developing supplements from medicinal plants for chronic disease management. Looking ahead, COMSTECH and China aim to deepen their partnership in space medicine research, higher education, and economic growth through innovation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1279118/pakistan-china-strengthen-science-and-tech-ties/>

March 26, 2025

Dawn News

Pakistan, China in talks about security for Chinese nationals

Pakistan and China's discussions about security measures to protect Chinese nationals working in the South Asian country are a work in progress, Islamabad's ambassador to Beijing said on Wednesday. The two countries have had close ties underpinned by long-standing wariness of their common neighbour, India, and a desire to hedge against US influence across the region. Chinese investment and financial support for Pakistan since 2013 have been a boon for its struggling economy. China has thousands of nationals working on projects grouped under CPEC.

The \$65-billion investment is part of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative, designed to Beijing's global reach by road, rail and sea. Militants who target Chinese nationals seek to undermine Pakistan-China relations, spread terrorism, destabilise Pakistan's security and economy and achieve financial gains. It is Pakistan's "national responsibility" and the country is "doing everything possible", Ambassador Khalil Hashmi told reporters at the sidelines of the Boao Forum in China's Hainan province. "I think our two countries work very closely in terms of information sharing, in terms of developing the standard operating procedures" to ensure Chinese nationals working in Pakistan are safe, he said. "We keep our Chinese friends informed of the steps that we are taking, so it's a work in progress." Hashmi said those talks are ongoing, with a high degree of trust between both countries. "It's a complex security environment," he said. "We have the capability to resolve, to counter and combat and defeat these terrorist forces." Beijing has been pushing Pakistan to allow its own security staff to provide protection to thousands of Chinese citizens working there, frustrated by the string of attacks on its citizens.

The push came after a bombing at the Karachi airport last October killed two Chinese engineers who were returning there to work at a power plant.

Last month, Pakistan and China agreed to strengthen their bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism activities, reiterating that any attempt to undermine or disrupt their ties was bound to fail, the Foreign Office (FO) had said. They had also agreed to upgrade cooperation in various other sectors such as defence, agriculture and information technology. The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed as President Asif Ali Zardari met Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Peoples Congress Zhao Leji during his visit to China. A joint statement issued by the FO on the discussions and agreements reached during the visit said: "The Pakistani side reiterated its strongest condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Pakistan involving Chinese personnel." The country reaffirmed that ensuring the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan is the foremost responsibility of the its government as China's all-weather strategic cooperative partner and the host country.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1900434/pakistan-china-in-talks-about-security-for-chinese-nationals>

March 27, 2025

Daily Times

Pakistan's sesame seed exports to China soar by 179.88% in 2025

Pakistan's sesame seed exports to China have surged by 179.88% in the first two months of 2025. According to Ghulam Qadir, Pakistan's Trade and Investment Counsellor in Beijing, exports reached 22,740 metric tonnes worth \$28.27 million. This is a significant increase from 5,998 metric tonnes valued at \$10.10 million during the same period in 2024.

This rise reflects the growing demand for high-quality agricultural products and improved trade relations between the two nations. Pakistan has established itself as one of the top sesame exporters to China, benefiting from the country's expanding food industry. This trend is supported by better farming techniques and favorable climatic conditions in Pakistan.

Qadir attributed the increase to more efficient trade processes and stronger product quality. Pakistan's improved farming techniques and streamlined trade facilitation measures have contributed to this growth. As a result, Pakistan is now well-positioned to be a key sesame supplier to China.

The surge in exports highlights the importance of agricultural trade and the mutual benefits of enhanced cooperation between the two countries. Both nations stand to gain from continued collaboration in the food sector.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1280535/pakistans-sesame-seed-exports-to-china-soar-by-179-88-in-2025/>

Pakistan, China in talks about security for Chinese nationals

Pakistan and China's discussions about security measures to protect Chinese nationals working in the South Asian country are a work in progress, Islamabad's ambassador to Beijing said on Wednesday. It is Pakistan's "national responsibility" and the country is "doing everything possible", Ambassador Khalil Hashmi told reporters at the sidelines of the Boao Forum in China's Hainan province. "I think our two countries work very closely in terms of information sharing, in terms of developing the standard operating procedures" to ensure Chinese nationals working in Pakistan are safe, he said. "We keep our Chinese friends informed of the steps that we are taking, so it's a work in progress." Beijing has been pushing Pakistan to allow its own security staff to provide protection to thousands of Chinese citizens working there, frustrated by the string of attacks on its citizens.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1280352/pakistan-china-in-talks-about-security-for-chinese-nationals/>

March 28, 2025

Daily Times

China-Pakistan trade surges as Khunjerab Pass opens year-round

Following customs clearance, a convoy of 25 domestically manufactured tractor trucks, valued at a total of USD 1.5 million, departed from Khunjerab Pass in Xinjiang, China. These “Made in China” machines will travel along the Karakoram Highway to reach Sost Port in Pakistan, serving as a gateway for distribution along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and to global markets, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. Since the beginning of this year, 1,271 vehicles have crossed the border, transporting 12,432 tons of goods valued at over USD 95.26 million, according to local customs data. Located in Tashkurgan Tajik Autonomous County in Kashgar, Khunjerab Pass is the only land border crossing between China and Pakistan. Previously, due to high-altitude conditions and severe winter weather, it operated for only eight months each year. However, as of December 1, 2024, the pass has transitioned to year-round operations, making it the first high-altitude land port under BRI to function continuously throughout the year. “The winter opening of the Karakoram Highway has created new business opportunities for China-Pakistan trade,” said a Pakistani truck driver with the surname Khan. He observed that the ongoing operation of the highway has significantly lowered the costs associated with refrigerated transportation. “Goods can now be transported from Karachi to Kashgar in just eight days. When considering factors such as cargo value, transit time, and cost, land transport presents a more competitive option than sea or air freight.” Khan frequently drives refrigerated trucks northward from Karachi along the Karakoram Highway, delivering frozen seafood to Kashgar. As of this year, Khunjerab Pass has recorded a total of 3,962 cross-border travelers and processed 3,036.46 tons of agricultural and ancillary products.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1280769/china-pakistan-trade-surges-as-khunjerab-pass-opens-year-round/>

Chinese Newspapers

March 16, 2025

People Daily

CPEC can make Pakistan gateway for int'l trade, investment: president

ISLAMABAD, March 11 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari said on Monday that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar Port have the potential to transform Pakistan into a center of international trade and provide vital connectivity to multiple regions.

"CPEC remains central to our vision of connectivity," the president said, urging the government to prioritize these two projects to position Pakistan as a gateway linking Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East.

Addressing the joint session of Parliament, Zardari said he held fruitful discussions with the Chinese leadership during his recent visit to China and sought increased Chinese investment in CPEC to boost regional and economic integration.

"Through our recent engagements with the Chinese leadership, both nations have reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening economic cooperation," the president added, promising that the benefits of CPEC would reach every corner of Pakistan through various development projects.

He emphasized that Pakistan's time-tested relationship with China remains a cornerstone of the country's diplomacy. "We will continue to further strengthen our economic and strategic ties with Beijing, cement our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and support the one-China policy," he stated.

Zardari highlighted the importance of domestic and regional connectivity for a prosperous Pakistan, underlining the need for a strong and efficient transport infrastructure, extensive road networks, and modernized railways.

Praising the government's positive policies to promote trade and economic growth, the president stressed the need to diversify exports by focusing on value-added goods and services, renewable energy, electric vehicles, and exploring new markets, among others.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0311/c90000-20287949.html>

March 17, 2025

People Daily

China shapes global stability as 'enabler'

Yu Yunquan

In an era defined by geopolitical uncertainty, China's unwavering policies are increasingly seen as an anchor of stability. As China wrapped up its annual "two sessions," international observers noted that its steady approach is providing a counterweight to global turbulence.

China has steadily carved out a role as a diplomatic mediator, favoring dialogue over discord. It has consistently advocated for peace and dialogue, taking measured and impartial stances on conflicts such as the Ukraine crisis and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. By maintaining an objective posture, China is a thoughtful and stabilizing presence in global diplomacy. During China's "two sessions," Pakistan Observer noted in an article that many developing nations look to China for leadership in combating protectionism and promoting a new, fairer world economic order. China's resolve to maintain economic stability is clear. In 2024, the nation's economy grew by 5 percent year on year, continuing to contribute around 30 percent of global economic growth, while remaining a major trading partner for more than 150 countries and regions. Looking ahead, China has set an economic growth target of around 5 percent for 2025, reinforcing its commitment to sustained international economic cooperation. As Chinese modernization progresses steadily, its development model increasingly serves as a reference point for many developing nations - a trend that underscores the Global South's pursuit of modernization. Beyond economics, China also works to promote mutual learning

among civilizations. By emphasizing mutual understanding and cooperation, China advocates for dialogue to resolve disputes and encourages unity to counter division. This approach reflects China's belief that tackling global challenges requires both practical strategies and the nurturing of international goodwill. The Global Civilizations Initiative, drawing on China's time-honored cultural heritage, represents its efforts to promote mutual learning and cultural exchanges across the world. According to the 2024 China National Image Global Survey conducted by the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies across 30 major countries, China's international favorability has reached its highest level in a decade, reflecting the growing recognition of its stabilizing role on the world stage. The year 2025 will be crucial for both China and the world - a pivotal moment linking past achievements to future progress. Eighty years ago, China was a key force in the global fight against Fascism, enduring immense sacrifice and preserving a legacy in the struggle for peace and justice. Today, China's steady approach continues to shape global stability. As an "enabler," it seeks to promote world peace, drive global development, and defend the international order. Through initiatives like the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilizations Initiative, it aims to foster international cooperation and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0317/c90000-20290210.html>

Non-profit Chinese language course for foreign talents opens in Shanghai

Huang Lanlan

In a classroom, a large screen displays a conversation in Chinese: in it, two people are adding each other on WeChat. Encouraged by the teacher, Pakistani Muhammad Ajmal, a postdoctoral researcher in mathematics at Shanghai University, stands up, unlocks his phone, and says in Putonghua to another participant seated behind him, "Hello, nice to meet you. May I add you on WeChat?" This happened on Sunday, during a government-supported non-profit Chinese language class held in Shanghai's Hongkou district. Targeting foreign talents working in Shanghai, this course is scheduled to continue with classes every Sunday until April 20. Including Ajmal, over a dozen foreign professionals from universities, research institutions, and foreign-invested enterprises in Shanghai attended the first class on Sunday. There they learned to introduce themselves in a more authentic manner, and to get to know one another in Putonghua. Ajmal has been in China since 2016 and already has a foundation in Putonghua. When he heard about this course, he signed up right away. "I know a lot of Chinese words, but I'm working on adding more natural, authentic vocabulary to improve my fluency," he told the Global Times after class. He explained that, previously, he only knew the number "one" as "yi" in Putonghua, but thanks to this course, he learned the number's informal pronunciation "yao" which is more commonly used in daily life. Unlike some other language courses, this course focuses more on teaching participants practical and everyday language, as well as elements of Chinese culture and customs, according to the class teacher Zhang Yicheng, a Chinese language instructor at the Shanghai International Studies University. "For example, about numbers, in this class I taught them the pronunciation, and in the next class, I will explain which numbers are generally favored or disliked by Chinese people," Zhang told the Global Times. For foreign participants, this class can serve as a small

but vivid window to better understand China and Shanghai, and to connect more effectively with local people. Vietnamese participant HaiSam Mai, who has been working at an international school in Shanghai, believes she can still learn something new from this class, even though she has lived in Shanghai for 13 years. "Today, for the first time, I learned a more polite way to add someone on WeChat, and the phrases were quite new to me. The topics we discussed in class were all very interesting," Mai told the Global Times. The one-month course consists of six classes in total, four of which focus on different topics including food, shopping, transportation, travel, hobbies, and sports. The remaining two are workshops, one dedicated to making herbal sachets and another to making Chinese-style jewelry, allowing participants to experience China's intangible cultural heritage firsthand, said Zhang. This Chinese language course is one of the latest initiatives by the Shanghai local government aimed at welcoming foreign talent and helping international professionals living in Shanghai better adapt to daily life, integrate into local culture, and stimulate interest in learning Chinese and understanding Chinese culture, the Global Times learned from the Hongkou District Talent Work Bureau, organizer of the course.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0317/c90000-20290110.html>

March 21, 2025

China Daily

China and Pakistan reaffirm commitment to strengthen cooperation

ZHAO JIA

China and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment to bolstering cooperation and friendship at a national day reception hosted by Pakistani embassy in Beijing on Thursday.

The event was attended by senior Chinese officials, diplomats, members of the Pakistani community, representatives from Chinese state-owned and private enterprises, academics and leading media personnel, among others.

Calling the two countries good neighbors, good friends, good partners and good brothers, vice-foreign minister Sun Weidong highlighted the ironclad friendship between China and Pakistan. He further underscored China's commitment to the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership with Pakistan. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi, reflected on their historical connections dating back to the times of the ancient silk route, emphasizing that China-Pakistan relations are underpinned by mutual trust, respect and shared aspirations for regional peace and stability. He commended the role of the Pakistani community in strengthening China-Pakistan ties and called for deeper cooperation in business, science and technology, education, culture and people-to-people exchanges. A special cultural performance by Chinese and Pakistani children was also showcased at the reception, highlighting the cultural affinity and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/21/WS67dd0060a310c240449dc1eb.html>

March 25, 2025

China Daily

Pakistan National Day in Shanghai highlights strong China relations

Zheng Zheng

The Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Shanghai hosted a reception on March 23 to commemorate Pakistan National Day, drawing attendance from Pakistani expatriates and representatives from Chinese enterprises.

"This day holds immense significance for us as it marks the adoption of the Lahore Resolution on March 23, 1940, a historic moment that laid the foundation for the creation of Pakistan," Consul General Shehzad Ahmad Khan said in his address to the gathering.

The Consul General particularly emphasized the extraordinary relationship between China and Pakistan, often described as "higher than the mountains, deeper than the oceans, and sweeter than honey". He highlighted the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, as a prime example of bilateral cooperation that has transformed Pakistan's infrastructure and energy landscape.

Speaking about Shanghai's role in strengthening bilateral ties, Khan identified numerous opportunities for collaboration in trade, technology and cultural exchanges. "In Shanghai, a global hub of innovation and commerce, we see immense potential for further strengthening of Pakistan-China ties," he noted.

The diplomat also praised the growing Pakistani community in Shanghai for their contributions to the city's cultural and economic development.

The celebration highlighted the increased people-to-people exchanges between the two nations and the rise in Chinese visitors exploring Pakistan's landscapes, history and culture.

"As the Consul General of Pakistan to Shanghai, I am committed to implementing the consensus reached between our leaderships to fortify strategic trust between our two countries, strengthen our ties across multiple domains, and build an even stronger China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era," Khan said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/25/WS67e25df3a3101d4e4dc2ac0f.html>

Pakistan celebrates National Day in Shanghai

The Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Shanghai hosted a reception on March 23 to commemorate Pakistan National Day, drawing attendance from Pakistani expatriates and representatives from Chinese enterprises. "In Shanghai, a global hub of innovation and commerce, we see immense potential for further strengthening of Pakistan-China ties," says Consul General Shehzad Ahmad Khan.

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Pakistan eyes 'panda bonds' to integrate its capital markets with China's

Zhao Jia in Beijing and Pan Yiqiao in Boao, Hainan

Pakistan's Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday expressed the hope that Pakistan could issue yuan-denominated "panda bonds" this year to further integrate its capital markets with China's, a move underscoring China's pivotal role in the country's digital transformation.

Describing Pakistan and China as ironclad friends and strategic partners, Aurangzeb expressed gratitude for China's steadfast support.

During his recent visit to China, he toured several Chinese banks and studied their digital transformation, emphasizing that Pakistan could learn from China's experience to enhance financial inclusion through digital solutions.

Beyond financial technology, he highlighted broader bilateral cooperation in agriculture, drone technology, and other key sectors.

Aurangzeb also mentioned the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. The first phase, he noted, saw extensive infrastructure development, including electricity, roads, and other support facilities. Now, as the project moves into its second phase, the focus has shifted toward commercializing infrastructure and driving investment growth.

"Going forward, the whole technical support and the knowledge economy are going to be very critical components of our relationship," he said.

As global trade faces increasing headwinds from unilateralism and protectionism, Aurangzeb praised China's unwavering commitment to openness and multilateralism, highlighting its role not just in bolstering its own economy but in driving global growth.

"(China) showing commitment to multilateralism and globalization is very encouraging for the rest of the world," he said, expressing confidence that Beijing will continue to lead global economic growth.

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March 27, 2025

China Daily

CPEC's success hinges on peace in Balochistan

Ejaz Hussain

The recent hijacking of a train and holding of civilians and military personnel hostages by the Balochistan Liberation Army in Pakistan's Balochistan province, and its confrontation with security forces highlight Islamabad's ongoing struggle with terrorism.

While the Pakistani military neutralized the immediate threat, such incidents raise serious concerns about the country's internal security and their implications for large-scale infrastructure projects, particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Recurrent terrorist attacks deter foreign investment, demoralize the workforce and undermine the viability of development initiatives, especially in the Pakistani provinces bordering Afghanistan.

Foreign direct investment is susceptible to political instability. The insurgency in Balochistan has created an environment of uncertainty, discouraging international investors from committing resources to development projects in the province.

The ability of militant groups to launch deadly attacks exposes the gaps in Pakistan's counterterrorism strategy, and poses a risk to the long-term sustainability of economic ventures. Since the CPEC depends heavily on foreign capital and expertise, the security threats hinder development work, limiting the socioeconomic benefits Pakistan seeks to derive from the economic corridor which is part of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

Beyond investment concerns, persistent security threats demoralize both local and foreign workers involved in CPEC and related projects. Engineers, other workers, and security personnel, essential to the timely execution of infrastructure and energy initiatives, operate under constant fear of insurgents' attacks. This insecurity leads to disruptions in work, delays in project completion, and increases operational costs due to heightened security requirements.

To counter terrorism, particularly in Balochistan, Pakistan needs a comprehensive counterterrorism strategy. While kinetic measures are crucial for eliminating immediate threats, their sustainable resolution requires a broader political consensus. One of the key shortcomings of Pakistan's counterterrorism strategy is the absence of a unified stance on counterinsurgency operations in Balochistan. By wholeheartedly supporting the counterterrorism initiatives, the major political stakeholders would enhance their legitimacy and effectiveness, fostering a more stable environment for economic development.

Policymakers ought to keep in mind that the insurgency in Balochistan is fundamentally a political issue that must be addressed through political means. In Baloch people's eyes, decades of social marginalization, economic deprivation and inadequate political representation have fueled resentment, creating the scope for militant groups to build resistance by spreading baseless narratives. To counter this, the Pakistani government should engage with local political and social groups in a manner that ensures their meaningful participation in governance and the development process. A viable counterterrorism strategy could include the following elements.

Empowering local leaders and ensuring their representation in the decision-making process can help bridge the trust deficit between the Pakistani government and the Baloch people.

Prioritizing socioeconomic development through targeted economic initiatives, increased employment opportunities and better access to education and healthcare can mitigate the sense of exclusion among the local people. The CPEC has the potential to realize these objectives.

Initiating dialogue with local leaders, especially the existing and emerging middle class, can foster reconciliation and thus diminish support for militant groups.

Hard security measures, in most cases, provide short-term stability; they cannot lead to a permanent resolution to the Balochistan issue. Hence, a politically driven approach that

prioritizes micro-level empowerment, political and administrative inclusion, and socioeconomic development is essential for fostering peace in this region.

Durable peace, rather than temporary suppression of insurgency, is a prerequisite for the CPEC's success and the realization of Pakistan's economic and strategic objectives. To secure the CPEC infrastructure and keep its workforce motivated, the Pakistani authorities have to work closely with their Chinese counterparts to devise a coordinated plan of action.

The author, a guest researcher at the Fudan Development Institute, Fudan University, is an associate professor at the Lahore School of Economics in Pakistan. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

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March 28, 2025

China Daily

Pakistan to issue 'panda bonds' this year

PAN YIQIAO in Boao, Hainan and ZHAO JIA in Beijing

Pakistan plans to issue yuan-denominated "panda bonds" this year, further integrating its capital markets with China's — a testament to the deepening cooperation between the two neighbors and China's key role in Pakistan's digital transformation, a senior Pakistani official said.

Speaking on Wednesday on the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2025 in Hainan province, Pakistan Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb highlighted the growing bilateral collaboration across multiple sectors.

China's advances in technological innovation and connectivity and its steadfast commitment to opening-up serve as a counterbalance to unilateralism and protectionism, and "Pakistan and China are ironclad friends and strategic partners. We remain grateful to China for helping us in our journey of growth", Aurangzeb said.

He cited the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship Belt and Road Initiative project. As the project moves into its second phase, the emphasis has shifted toward monetizing infrastructure and attracting investment.

"Going forward, technical support and the knowledge economy will be very critical components of our relationship," he said.

Aurangzeb also shared insights from his visits to Chinese banks, saying that the South Asian nation could leverage China's experience to enhance financial inclusion through digital solutions.

He also pointed to the vast potential of business-to-business collaboration, citing a joint venture formed last year allowing China's leading new energy vehicle manufacturer, BYD, to enter the Pakistani market for the first time.

Addressing rising global economic fragmentation and geopolitical tensions, Aurangzeb stressed the importance of staying committed to globalization.

"Technology is a great equalizer," he remarked, highlighting Deep-Seek, a Chinese AI startup that has made waves globally.

He praised the regional corridors developed under the BRI framework, emphasizing that cross-border infrastructure and logistics will be "a real enabler" in maintaining strong trade flows among participating nations.

Citing China as the second-largest economy, Aurangzeb said he believes that China will become an even larger economy in the world.

China's commitment to multilateralism and globalization, he added, is encouraging for the global economy, and Beijing is poised to continue leading global economic growth.

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