

Lisbon: The Portuguese government this week introduced a new initiative to support migrants enrolled in the National Institute of Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP). In a recent statement, the European Commission said that, known as Programa Integrar, this program is designed for unemployed individuals, those seeking their first job, (Page-8)

Islamabad: The British High Commission this week brought together Teach For Pakistan, the Lahore Qalandars, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Female players and the Barmy Army for a street cricket match in Islamabad College for Boys, G6/3, with (Page-11)

Four lessons from 30 years of US-China climate cooperation



strong domestic climate actions. These can, in turn, rebuild trust and reinvigorate bilateral and multilateral climate efforts.

Lesson 2: Bilateral agreements and institutional frameworks sustain climate engagement
US-China climate cooperation is deeply rooted in a history of bilateral agreements and institutional frameworks that have provided structure and continuity.

The establishment of the US-China Forum on Environment and Development in 1997 laid the groundwork for continuous engagement and focused efforts on shared environmental goals. In 2008, the 10-Year Energy and Environment Cooperation Framework further solidified this commitment, facilitating ongoing cooperation and addressing critical issues like energy efficiency and renewable energy development.

Institutional frameworks have been key to sustaining US-China climate cooperation. The 2013 creation of the US-China Climate Change Working Group provided a formal structure for continued dialogue on climate issues. And subnational initiatives, like the NDRC-California Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed the same year, activated the role of cooperation at this level. The ongoing collaboration between California and China showcases how subnational efforts can bypass high-level political gridlock and bolster national commitments.

But geopolitical fluctuations have tested the existing US-China climate cooperation infrastructure. In 2022, climate talks were suspended following speaker Nancy Pelosi's controversial visit to Taiwan (they started up again the following year). Yet the Sunnyslands Statement the following year exemplified the enduring importance of bilateral agreements in maintaining momentum and setting new directions for climate action.

Chinese climate envoy Liu Zhenmin's US visit in May, followed by the top US climate diplomat John Podesta's visit to China in early September 2024 to convene the US-China Working Group on Enhancing Climate Action in the 2020s, further demonstrated how institutional frameworks can help maintain frequent interactions despite broader political tensions.

Podesta and Liu's ongoing relationship is viewed as a key factor in maintaining continuity amid leadership transitions and geopolitical shifts. While geopolitical challenges can disrupt engagement, structured frameworks provide a pathway to resume and sustain cooperation.

Lesson 3: Key people drive bilateral and multilateral climate action
Behind every major breakthrough or agreement are the personal connections that bridge national interests. US-China climate cooperation has always been bolstered by the relationships and actions of key individuals. John Kerry and Xie Zhenhua's partnership is a striking example. The two former climate

envoys have developed a close relationship over the past decade and remained in frequent contact even during the most challenging geopolitical moments.

Their ability to maintain communication when broader US-China relations deteriorated demonstrates the power of personal diplomacy. They worked to broker the Sunnyslands Statement and, at COP28, implemented some of that statement's language into the outcome of the first global stocktake of progress under the Paris Agreement.

Presidents Xi and Obama prioritized climate change in their respective bilateral agendas and oversaw the release of joint statements in 2014 – which saw China preview its 2030 carbon-peaking target – 2015 and 2016. Despite other areas of disagreement, climate was one both acknowledged as urgent and important. They were motivated to work together to deliver the Paris Agreement.

At a subnational level, California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger pioneered state-level climate action and integrated this work into the California-China relationship. Schwarzenegger, who held the role from 2003-2011, recognized the importance of international cooperation on climate issues. He actively sought to build partnerships between California and Chinese regions. During his governorship, he engaged with Chinese officials and regional leaders to promote the exchange of ideas and best practices on climate policy and sustainability.

California-China climate cooperation remains a consistent success, in part due to people like California's current governor, Gavin Newsom. In his meeting with President Xi last year, Newsom was able to secure a declaration from California and China to further enhance subnational cooperation.

Lesson 4: Climate exists in the broader context of the US-China



relationship
In recent years, it has become more difficult to isolate climate from other issues of contention in the bilateral relationship. Perceived national security risks, trade and economic competition, technology disputes, and geopolitical instability threaten to limit the US-China climate agenda.

The climate crisis will not wait for these tensions to subside. But there is precedent for both countries to put the broader dynamics aside in favor of climate action.

Take, for instance, the COP15 climate summit in 2009. There, in Copenhagen, China and the US managed to coordinate their climate pledges on the same day, ultimately saving the summit from collapse. The 2023 Sunnyslands Statement also included innovative approaches to cooperation on methane and non-CO2 greenhouse gas – areas where the US and China both saw technical gains – even when relations were at a historical low point.

What's next for US-China climate cooperation?
It's difficult to say, especially given the uncertainty surrounding the US presidential election on 5 November. Still, there's hope for progress on shared climate goals. The COP29 climate summit from 11-22 November will be pivotal, as the first major multilateral engagement after the election. It has the potential to either set the stage for renewed US-China collaboration or to deepen divides if both countries fail to align their ambitions.

Persistent challenges remain. Geopolitical tensions, supply-chain vulnerabilities, economic rivalries and national security concerns could derail bilateral climate efforts and hinder global climate progress.
Yet, amid these obstacles lies an opportunity. As both nations grapple with the intensifying impacts of extreme weather, the shared urgency of adaptation and resilience may open a new pathway for sustained climate cooperation.
This common ground – rooted in a shared vulnerability – could spark innovative solutions that transcend political tensions and drive meaningful global climate action. Ultimately, it comes down to the willingness of both countries and on that, only time will tell.

Betty Wang, Taylah Bland, Dialogue Earth

reforms, while the US could strengthen its global climate leadership. These high-level commitments pushed China to enhance its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the goals of the Paris Agreement and accept transparency measures under the agreement.

In the US, Obama's clean power plan, though eventually sidelined, demonstrated a serious commitment to reducing emissions and paved the way for further international climate cooperation. As each country strengthened its domestic agenda, the other was inspired and enabled to elevate its own climate commitments. The leadership shown by both nations through these bilateral agreements not only set ambitious targets but also created momentum that contributed to the successful adoption of the Paris Agreement. This dynamic showcased how domestic progress can drive international cooperation and vice versa, leading to enhanced climate action on both fronts.

Lesson 1: Bilateral engagement and strong domestic policies form a virtuous circle
Establishing and strengthening domestic climate policies has been pivotal in enhancing bilateral cooperation. In the run-up to the 2015 Paris Agreement, for example, China made significant strides in addressing its air pollution crisis.

This led to initial steps to reduce coal use, the implementation of its first air pollution control plan, and the creation of the national carbon market. These efforts were bolstered by extensive engagement between presidents Obama and Xi, culminating in the joint statements on climate change of 2014 and 2015.

The 2014 joint statement was the result of careful, behind-the-scenes diplomacy, primarily driven by John Kerry and Xie Zhenhua. They knew the importance of portraying the statement as a win for both nations: China could showcase its domestic air-pollution

reforms, while the US could strengthen its global climate leadership. These high-level commitments pushed China to enhance its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the goals of the Paris Agreement and accept transparency measures under the agreement. In the US, Obama's clean power plan, though eventually sidelined, demonstrated a serious commitment to reducing emissions and paved the way for further international climate cooperation. As each country strengthened its domestic agenda, the other was inspired and enabled to elevate its own climate commitments. The leadership shown by both nations through these bilateral agreements not only set ambitious targets but also created momentum that contributed to the successful adoption of the Paris Agreement. This dynamic showcased how domestic progress can drive international cooperation and vice versa, leading to enhanced climate action on both fronts.

But it can work both ways. Like trust, reciprocal skepticism limits the scope and effectiveness of bilateral cooperation. For instance, China's misgivings toward the US's commitment to its climate goals were evident during John Kerry's visits in 2021 and 2023. Chinese negotiators pointed to the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement in 2021, under the Trump administration, as a cautionary tale. Meanwhile, the US has expressed concerns over China's continued reliance on coal, despite recent progress. As the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters, the US and China have a responsibility to continue demonstrating leadership through

Denmark To Implement World's First Crypto Unrealized Gains Tax

Covert Report

Denmark is set to pioneer an unprecedented tax reform by introducing a tax on unrealized capital gains for cryptocurrencies, starting January 1, 2026.

This bold move aims to integrate cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin into the existing financial taxation framework, treating them similarly to other investment assets. The Tax Law Council has recommended this tax to apply to future acquisitions and cryptos acquired as far back as Bitcoin's inception in January 2009.

According to the press statement, Denmark will impose a 42% tax on unrealized capital gains for all crypto assets. This crypto tax will apply to assets like Bitcoin, which are not backed by any physical assets or fiat currencies. Consequently, the law if passed will bring these digital assets under the same taxation rules as traditional investments.

The government intends to align the crypto taxation with the existing rules for other investment types, such as stocks and bonds.

Moreover, the new tax policy will affect crypto purchased as far back as the genesis block of Bitcoin in 2009. Hence, anyone holding cryptocurrencies will be subject to this 42% tax rate on



unrealized gains, regardless of whether they sell their holdings. Tax Minister Rasmus Stoklund expressed support for the developments stating, "Throughout recent years, there have been examples of Danes who have invested in crypto-assets being heavily taxed. That is why I am pleased that the Tax Council has today submitted some elaborate and up-to-date recommendations. The council's recommendations can be a way to ensure more reasonable taxation of crypto investors' gains and losses."

Regulatory Challenges and Investor Impact
The introduction of this crypto tax will address the complexities of taxing digital assets. The decentralized nature of cryptocurrencies has made taxation difficult for both authorities and crypto holders. To solve this, Denmark plans to introduce additional regulatory measures.

The Danish government announced that starting in 2027, they will exchange data on Danish crypto investors internationally. They also plan to introduce a bill in early 2025 requiring crypto service providers to report customer transactions. This will help Denmark regulate approximately 300,000 Danes who own crypto-assets and curb potential tax evasion.

In addition, the government will allow investors offset losses from one crypto against gains in another, as well as gains on financial contracts. This approach will correct the current taxation system's asymmetry, which heavily taxes investors on gains.

These developments coincide with Italy's efforts to tighten its control over digital assets. Recently, Italy announced plans to increase its capital gains tax on cryptocurrencies, raising it from 26% to 42%. This change is part of Italy's broader effort to boost government revenue by taxing profits from cryptocurrency investments.

Bilawal Bhutto credits Isa for 26th Amendment

PPP chief warns against attempts to create controversies

Liaquat Ali

Kamachi: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said this week that the 26th Constitutional Amendment would not have been possible if Quazi Fazlul was not the chief justice, and warned that certain lobbies were creating controversies by linking the issue of "black snake" with the military courts.

In an interview with BBC, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder brought back the trend of political vendetta, and if this cycle of revenge had to be broken, the first step would have to be taken by the person who was in jail.

Bilawal claimed that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had desired to incorporate changes in Article 8 of the Constitution to include military check posts, outposts and military installations so that those who target these places, even civilians, could be tried in military courts.

The most politicized and controversial aspect of the 26th Constitutional Amendment was the use of the term "military court", Bilawal said. He added that those involved in drafting the amendment, along with media analysts and various lobbying groups, were actively making the process contentious.

He cited a statement of Jamaat Ulama-e-Islam chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, that "we have defanged the black snake", saying that in the name of black snake, an attempt was made to make this whole process controversial.

Bilawal explained that on May 9, some people attacked the Corps Commander's House in Lahore and other military installations elsewhere and the government decided, right or wrong, that the attackers would be prosecuted under the Army Act and Article Eight of the Constitution.

He added that, in the meantime, the court issued a ruling that overturned a law in place since 1950. The court focused on the words "armed forces personnel" in Article 8, interpreting it to mean that only individuals who attack "personnel of the armed forces" would be tried under the Army Act.



He said the critics of the amendment are the same people who also criticized the 18th Amendment. He added that they were same who had "told us that the state will be like mother" and "forced us" to the 19th Amendment, he added.

He rejected the allegations from his opponent that the PPP made this amendment at the behest of the establishment so that PTI founder Imran Khan could not get relief. He said he had implemented the Charter of Democracy, not at the behest of the establishment but at the behest of his mother.

About the allegations of political and personal vendetta against the PTI founder, Bilawal emphasized that the PPP had ended the cycle of political revenge but Imran Khan Niazi brought it again, adding that today he was enduring what he did.

He said that if this cycle of political revenge had to end then Imran would have to end it but they were not in the mood to do so. "I say that democracy is the best revenge. I do not believe in any political prisoners. I ask them to break this cycle. But the first step will have to be taken by the man, sitting in jail."

When asked specifically whether he faced any pressure or phone calls from the military establishment or the PML-N to end the talks with Fazl, he responded by saying that he could not say anything on this. He added that he did not want a "forced vote" to fulfil the promise made in the Charter of Democracy.

When asked if he still considered a success when his party backed away from its biggest demand in this amendment, the establishment of the constitutional court, and settled instead for the constitutional benches, he quoted William Shakespeare: "A rose, by any other name, would smell as sweet".

He insisted that the constitutional benches, to be formed under the 26th Amendment, would have the same powers that he wanted to introduce in the form of a constitutional court. He added that portraying the constitutional benches as a big compromise was a misunderstanding.

The constitutional benches would be constituted to interpret the Constitution and matters related to the Constitution. The number of these benches and their tenure would be decided by the Supreme Judicial Commission (SJC) and all provinces would have equal representation in them.

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Canton Fair displays Chinese high-tech products, attracting crowds of global buyers



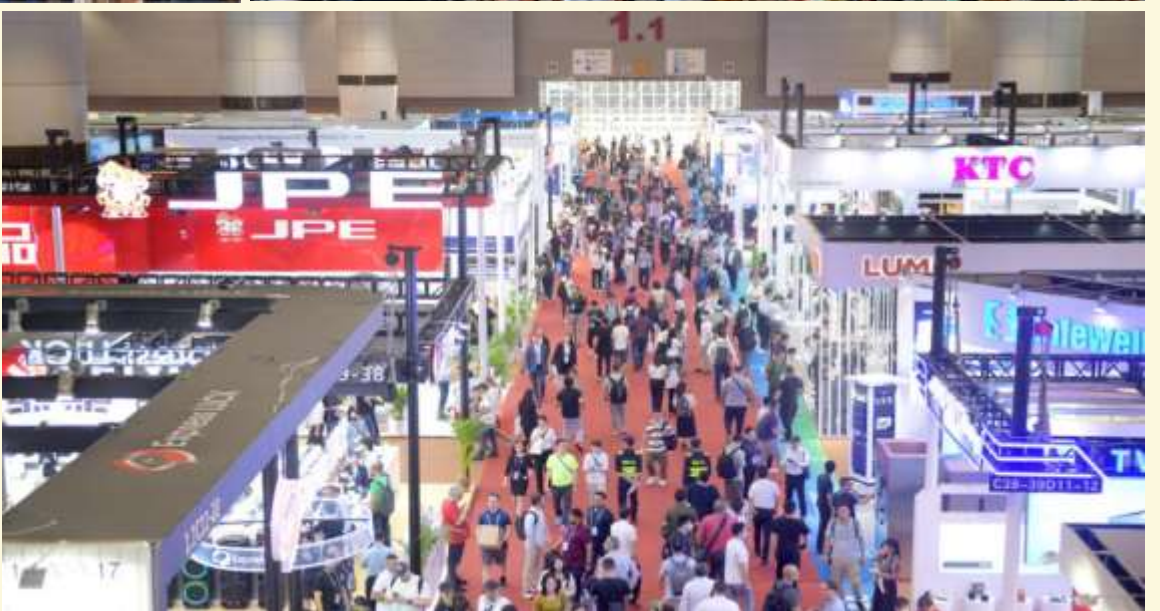
Chi Jingyi will sell them under their own brand - to technologically leading enterprises in many sectors with their own intellectual properties and innovation ability. Many have established their own brands, and have gained rising international recognition. Chinese companies have increasingly focused on innovation and brand development in recent years, thereby enhancing their core competitiveness in the global market, the Global Times learned from Chinese exhibitors at the Canton Fair.

"In our 20 years of export and manufacturing experience, we primarily operated as an OEM for major brands in Europe and North America in the first 10 years. We launched our own brand in 2016," Sun Yuping, overseas sales director at Ansjer Electronics Co, told the Global Times at the Canton Fair, where it debuted an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered smart camera during the phase one (October 15-19) of the 136th Canton Fair.

Whenever you spot a big crowd of global buyers gathering at a booth in the Canton Fair complex, it's clear that high-tech, high-value-added products, such as industrial automation equipment, humanoid robots, intelligent bionic hands and hydrogen bicycles, are showcased by Chinese exhibitors.

This is a common scene at the 136th session of the China Import and Export Fair, commonly known as the Canton Fair, indicating that Chinese manufacturing is shifting to the middle and high-end of the industrial value chain, while Chinese enterprises' independent innovation capability and the core competitiveness of their products continue to grow.

Chinese exporters, especially private enterprises, have shifted from low-end manufacturing, or acting as original equipment manufacturer (OEM) - a factory that acts as a contractor to produce goods for companies that



China is the currently the center of global manufacturing, laying a strong foundation for mastering new technologies, said Sun.

Ansjer Electronics now has a research and development (R&D) team of 100 people, focusing on hardware, software, and design. In addition, it also has a team of 30 product managers who analyze user feedback globally, said Sun.

"We will introduce some new technologies at the spring session of the Canton Fair (usually in April and May), about six months after the current session. Enterprises

need to keep innovating to remain industry leaders and stay competitive in the global competition," Sun noted.

Shanxi Jia Shi Da Robot Technology Co (JSD Robot) debuted a new AI-powered window cleaning robot for household use, named Satuo, on October 15, the first day of the 136th Canton Fair.

"We received many orders for Satuo, which is an innovation to the market, mainly from European and Southeast Asian buyers," Niu Liqun, chairman of JSD Robot, told the Global Times.

Niu stressed that enterprises must carry out scientific and technological innovation to survive in global manufacturing competition. Innovation is the driving force for the high-quality development of enterprises.

"JSD Robot invests more than 15 percent of its annual net profit in R&D," said Niu.

In the past few years, with the rapid development of global science and technology and the advent of the digital and AI era, more high-tech and high-value-added Chinese products have entered the global market, especially by private enterprises, Chinese exhibitors told the Global Times.

In the first quarter of 2024, the export of high-tech products by private enterprises increased by 14 percent year-on-year, accounting for 52.7 percent of China's high-tech exports, an increase of 4.4 percentage points, according to statistics from the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

In recent years, private enterprises have gradually shifted their focus from "production" to "branding." In the first three quarters of this year, domestic brands accounted for 83.4 percent of the exports of solar cells, 71.7 percent of the exports of lithium batteries and 57.6 percent in textile machinery, Wang Lingjun, deputy director of the GAC, said on October 14.

"High-quality development is the right route for the growth of our country's economy and trade," Zhu Qiucheng, CEO of Ningbo New Oriental Electric Industrial Development, an exporter of

pet furniture and home furnishing products, told the Global Times at the Canton Fair.

"China's economy remains one of the fastest-growing among major economies in the post-pandemic era. The ripple effect of exhibitions like the Canton Fair will help drive the growth of other economies worldwide," said Zhu.

Phase one of the 136th Canton Fair gathered over 130,000 overseas buyers, up 4.6 percent from the previous session, who came from 211 countries and regions, official statistics showed.

This trade fair is a highlight of China's advanced manufacturing, as more high-quality, intelligent and green products attracting buyers' eyeballs.

Exhibitors in phase one displayed a large number of new products, new technologies, new materials, and new processes, including 390,000 digital products, a 300-percent increase from the April-May 2024 session.

Among the 11,165 exhibitors in Guangzhou, about 3,600 enterprises are related to digital technology and intelligent manufacturing, and 57.8 percent adopted big data, AI, industrial internet and other new technologies put on display which will help transform and enhance the industrial chain, the Global Times learned from the organizer.

Meanwhile, 55.9 percent of the enterprises hold patents for appearance, utility, and invention in the green and low-carbon field, showcasing more than 1.04 million green and low-carbon products.

Exhibitors also shared with the Global Times that new technology innovations are empowering Chinese manufacturers to offer their global customers not just products, but also intelligent solutions. The shift has helped them climb the industrial value chain and establish a stronger presence in the middle to high-end segments of the global market.



2,000-year-old temple from 'Indiana Jones civilization' found submerged off Italy



Pozzuoli, submerging and preserving around 1.2 miles (2 km) of Roman-era warehouses and other buildings associated with the ancient port district. Artifacts recovered from the sea as far back as the 18th century suggested that there was a buried temple, but no one knew exactly where. Related: 2,000-year-old tomb holding 12 skeletons found at Petra where 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade' was filmed. In 2023, researchers mapping the region's seafloor discovered two submerged rooms with Roman-style walls. These walls, which measured about

"It seems that we have a building dedicated to the Nabataean gods, but with Roman architecture and Latin inscription," Stefanile said. The Nabataean Kingdom reached from northern Arabia to the eastern Mediterranean. In the fourth to second centuries B.C., the Nabataeans controlled a growing trade network of luxury goods such as incense, gold, ivory and perfumes, accumulating huge wealth by the late first century A.D. The enormous tomb often called The Treasury at the Nabataean capital of Petra was built around that time. "It makes perfect sense that the Nabataeans would be in Puteoli as a community of traders," Steven Tuck, a Roman historian at Miami University in Ohio who was not involved in the study, told Live Science in an email. Puteoli was the second-largest city and the main harbor of Roman Italy at the time, Tuck said, and the "Nabataeans would have been drawn there and brought their religious practices with them." Laurent Tholbecq, an archaeologist at Université libre de Bruxelles, told Live Science in an email that "it is not surprising to find a temple to Dushara/Dusares, their main divinity," at Puteoli. "It is widely understood that the Nabataeans benefited from the Roman advance in the Near East until the creation of the Arabian province under Trajan," a Roman emperor who ruled from A.D. 98 to 117, said Tholbecq, who was not involved in the study. After Nabataea was annexed into the Roman Empire in A.D. 106, the culture's control over the inland caravan trade in Arabia collapsed. The destruction of the temple at Puteoli may reflect that turbulent time. Stefanile and his team discovered that the temple was purposefully buried in the second century A.D. with a mix of concrete and broken pottery. "Possibly after Trajan's conquest of Arabia in 106 A.D., the Nabataeans had no more possibility of free trading in Puteoli, and they possibly abandoned the harbor," Stefanile said.

Kristina Killgrove Naples: An ancient temple made by Arabian immigrants from the Nabataean culture has finally been found off the Italian coast near Naples. When you purchase through links on our site, we may earn an affiliate commission. Here's how it works. Archaeologists have discovered ancient altars and inscribed marble slabs submerged along the Italian coast near Naples. The finds are likely the remains of a 2,000-year-old temple built by immigrants

from Nabataea, an ancient kingdom on the Arabian Peninsula whose rock-carved "Treasury" featured in "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade." However, the elaborate temple was later buried with a mix of concrete and broken pottery, possibly due to foreign traders leaving the area, according to a study published Sept. 12 in the journal *Antiquity*. "For me this was one of the most unexpected discoveries," study first author Michele Stefanile, a maritime archaeologist at the Southern Graduate School (Scuola Superiore Meridionale), an education institute in Naples, told Live Science in an email. The temple sits off the coast of Pozzuoli, a town in the volcanic Campi Flegrei, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) east of Naples. In Roman times, the city was known as Puteoli and was a large harbor where ships from all over the Roman world docked to bring in trade goods like grain. Volcanic activity over the centuries has significantly changed the coastline at

32 feet by 16 feet (10 by 5 meters), made up two large rooms. Two altars of white marble were leaning against the wall of one room. Both altars included several rectangular recesses, which probably once housed sacred stones. Each of the rooms also contained a marble slab with the Latin inscription "Dusari sacrum," meaning "consecrated to Dushara," the main god in the ancient Nabataean religion. By submitting your information you agree to the Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy and are aged 16 or over.



BRICS can transform from an intl club into a global lab



Andrey Kortunov

Why does anyone join a club? Membership in a prestigious club offers undeniable benefits: It is a place where you can make useful acquaintances, exchange views on matters of common interest and have fun interacting with fellow club members.

This is probably one of the main reasons why many nations of the Global South want to join BRICS. An important feature of BRICS is that the entrance ticket is free, and there are no membership fees. You don't have to meet numerous accession criteria or high institutional standards; you are not expected to make heavy commitments that might compromise your sovereignty or question your national interests.

The big question of today is whether BRICS member states have higher ambitions for the project that they launched in 2006. Are they happy with the already well-established club format or do they aspire to turn the group into something more institutionalized and potentially more influential? Of course, one could argue that the sheer growth of BRICS membership already adds to the group's diversity, legitimacy and, ultimately, its

international influence. However, the quantitative growth does not come without a cost. It might lead to multiplying disagreements within a larger group of members, immensely complicating the decision-making process.

Judging from the preliminary results of Russia's 2024 chairmanship within BRICS, it would be reasonable to conclude that the ambitions of the group are indeed higher than just continuing to recruit new members to their club. One possible intention is to turn the fancy international club into a global laboratory.

The main difference between the two is that a club is about communication, while a lab is about specific outputs. Within the BRICS lab, they could work on new approaches to, concepts and guidelines for and models of multilateral cooperation that may, later on, be further elaborated and customized by other international bodies. They may even be applied at the global level as a part of the desirable "new normal."

The last couple of months have been densely packed with ministerial and other high-level governmental meetings on issues ranging from fighting international

terrorism to managing the global green transition, from reforming the world's financial system to ensuring global food security. These governmental consultations have been complemented by a broad variety of activities engaging BRICS parliaments, universities and think tanks, civil society institutions and public movements of all kinds.

The fundamental challenge for BRICS summits is to gradually shift the focus from rather general political statements to specific proposals and solutions that reflect the fundamental interests of developing nations, which

have long been underrepresented in global and regional governance. So far, the role of global labs designing rules of the game for the international system has been almost monopolized by a small group of West-led institutions and forums. This monopoly has unavoidably led to serious discrepancies within the system, raising concerns about fairness and justice, not to mention the system's efficiency.

This is not to say that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or IMF, G7, or the European Union should stop being a source of new norms, patterns and specific elements of the future world order. However, the West and the West-dominated multilateral institutions should not remain the only source of new norms for the entire world. BRICS, together with SCO, BRI, ASEAN and other non-

Western groupings and initiatives, should take the stage and become part of the cast rather than remaining in the gallery, merely observing the transformation of the international system unfolding before their eyes.

Transforming BRICS from a global club into a global lab will require significant political commitment, persistence and stamina. A single summit, as important as it is, will not suffice. However, the meeting in Kazan can become an important step toward this clearly achievable, though quite ambitious, goal.

The writer is academic director of the Russian International Affairs Council

China's automotive rise: key to understanding globalization



also about how it's improving the lives of its citizens and contributing to global progress.

China has compressed hundreds of years of Western industrialization into just 70 years. This rapid development inevitably impacts the global economy, geopolitical landscape, as well as the economic and social structures of developed Western nations. As a result, these countries have to make systematic adjustments.

Attempts to restrict Chinese manufacturing from entering global markets stem from a reluctance to accept China's, or more precisely, the Chinese people's path to prosperity. If China's rise expands the global economic pie, why shouldn't the Chinese people claim a more significant share?

The Western-dominated globalization of the past 500 years is undergoing a significant shift.

Unprepared for this change, the West struggles to accept the alteration in its long-standing practice of extracting maximum benefits from the global economy.

US author Thomas Friedman's concept that "the world is flat" makes sense from this perspective. However, achieving such "flatness" is far from simple.

This issue transcends economic theory; it's about livelihoods. As workers in developing countries like China secure more stable jobs, can Western workers maintain their current standard of living? If the West truly believes in market economics and its universal applicability, it should allow market forces to decide. However, reality often diverges from this ideal.

Traditional industrial nations face the challenge of reforming their own systems during de-industrialization. They must recognize that ceding market share is inevitable and transform this pressure into a drive for enhanced competitiveness, rather than shifting the burden to

developing countries lower in the supply chain. Fundamentally, this involves improving labor productivity and, more importantly, achieving convergence in labor costs.

The current governance systems in the US and Europe

provide more development opportunities for China and other emerging economies, rather than erect barriers or fragment industrial and supply chains, will ultimately determine its own future and the future of its people.

The writer is a senior editor with People's Daily, and currently a senior fellow with the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China

Ding Gang

In 2003, I purchased my first car, a Japanese 2.0L model, for 230,000 yuan (approximately \$28,000 at the time). Today, that same amount can buy a high-performance, technologically advanced Chinese electric vehicle (EV).

This stark contrast illustrates the rapid evolution and global competitiveness of China's automotive industry. China's vast road network now showcases a diverse array of global automotive brands, from German and American to Japanese and Korean. The remarkable growth of China's EV sector is underscored by its global leadership in new-energy car sales, with more than 9 million units sold in 2023, maintaining its position for the ninth consecutive year.

The unprecedented rise of China's automotive manufacturing and market openness reveals a unique development model. Understanding this model is crucial for

grasping the true meaning of today's globalization. The unstoppable development of China's automotive industry is a clear and inevitable part of globalization, a trend that has predominantly been driven by Western industrial powerhouses until now.

China's robust manufacturing foundation and comprehensive industrial chain support its automotive industry. With the world's most complete manufacturing system and a skilled workforce, Chinese automotive companies maintain a leading edge in cost control and technological innovation. This transformation has propelled China from a poor country to a middle-income nation, allowing its citizens to enjoy the benefits of modernization.

While accelerating globalization, China is also reshaping the process of "human modernization." By "human modernization," I mean the improvement in living standards, access to technology and overall quality of life. China's rise is not just about economic growth; it is

also about how it's improving the lives of its citizens and contributing to global progress.

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If current US and European strategic intentions persist, we may face a fragmented future where Americans drive American cars, Europeans drive European cars and Chinese drive Chinese cars. No country can thrive in a globalized world with fractured industrial and supply chains.

The West's willingness to adjust its existing systems and redistribute benefits to

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High Commissioner Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri participates in Pakistan Engineers Association Australia's annual dinner



Covert Report

Canberra: Pakistani High Commissioner to Australia Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri this week participated in the Pakistan Engineers Association Australia's annual dinner.

"Great to be part of Pakistan Engineers Association Australia's Annual Dinner.

Pakistani engineers are playing an important role in the Australian economy," he posted on X.

The event was well attended by all sorts of Engineering professionals, Industry leaders, and organisations as well as by His Excellency Zahid Hafeez, High Commissioner of Pakistan, Consul General Qamar Zaman, and many community and business leaders, media and other representatives.



Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad promotes Pakistan

Covert Report

Paris: Pakistani Ambassador to France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad this week urged Pakistanis to explore the flavors of Pakistan at the now concluded Sial Paris 2024.

"Get ready to explore the flavors of Pakistan at #SIALParis! From 19-23 October, visit the Pakistan Pavilion in Hall 3 & 4 to discover premium quality food products, traditional delicacies, and innovative food solutions

from our finest exporters," he had posted on X.

In fact, Sial Paris 2024 was home to a meaningful "boost in innovation", says Emeline Fordos, director of client innovation at ProtéinesXTC, which partners with Sial on its Innovation showcase – a dedicated area that aims to spotlight 500 pioneering examples of NPD.

The uptick in activity follows a "decrease of around 13% in 2021", says Fordos. Here, at least, innovation is alive and kicking, despite the challenges of global volatility and the cost of living crisis. In Sial's wider Innovation space, Turkey's The Boba Co exhibited a shelf-stable bubble tea cup, and Lithuanian supplier Omg Bubble Tea

showed its Sour Bubble Gum drink, containing lychee-flavoured boba in its lid. Romania's entry for the Eco-trophelia competition was FungiYo: a trio of vegan, spreadable pastes made from pleurotus mushroom stems and aquafaba that double up as "ready-to-eat meals".

The two savoury pastes are billed as a starter and a main, while the final sweet paste is designed to be a dessert. Crucially, the range is designed to "not taste like mushroom stems at all". Meanwhile, Netherlands-based mushroom processor Scelta exhibited its mushroom-based fat substitute, Fungible, at Sial Innovation. Containing 50% mushroom, the product can be used in plant-based meat alternatives instead of ingredients like sunflower oil to reduce saturated fat content. French supplier Kelly Loves, meanwhile, showed its range of fusion frozen gyoza. It put a twist on the traditional Japanese snack with Korean-inspired fillings such as Bulgogi Beef, Chicken & Kimchi, and Japchae.



Kazakhstan strengthens its position in rule of law index

Covert Report

Astana: Kazakhstan this week improved its position in the 2024 World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index, increasing its score from 0.53 to 0.54 points and ranking 65th.

This indicates consistent efforts to strengthen the rule of law and improve the effectiveness of the legal system.

The 2024 WJP Rule of Law Index, published on Oct. 23, evaluates 142 countries and jurisdictions around the world.

This growth resulted from Kazakhstan's comprehensive work to combat corruption, protect human rights and improve the judicial system. The index assesses such key indicators as

constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice and criminal justice.

Kazakhstan showed promising results in order and security (43), absence of corruption (59) and regulatory enforcement (58).



PPP architect of constitution: Umar Rehman Malik



constitution.
"PPP reaffirms its role as the architect of our nation's constitution. Congratulations to the entire nation on the 26th Constitutional Amendment Day. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's steadfast leadership in realizing Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's vision and fulfilling another promise of PPP is historic," he said.
The PPP leader said these judicial amendments will close gaps and address delays in justice, strengthening democracy and ensuring a more accountable judiciary.
Earlier, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said his party believes in the supremacy of the Constitution and offered sacrifices for the sake of democracy in Pakistan.
He said he belongs to a political party which gave Pakistan its Constitution. Speaking of his mother, Chairman PPP said Benazir Bhutto always raised voice for democracy and both PPP and PML-N signed Charter Of Democracy to uphold democracy in Pakistan.

Abdullah Jan leader Umar Rehman Malik this week Islamabad: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said that the PPP was the architect of the



Greece's minimum wage to have grown 46% by 2027



Newsire
Athens: A first round of dialogue with all national social partners is under way, with the main topic of discussion being how much and how the minimum wage will increase after 2027, Labor Minister Niki Kerameus said on Saturday in an interview with Mega TV. Kerameus noted that the prime minister has already unveiled the four-year roadmap, underlining that the mini-

mum wage will reach 950 euros in 2027, that is an increase of 46% from €650, which was the minimum wage when New Democracy took over the governance of the country. Regarding the upcoming increases in pensions, which will be implemented from January 2025, the minister underlined the systematic efforts of the government, after the very difficult years of the economic crisis, to increase the overall

disposable income of citizens and in this case pensioners. As the minister said, there has been an cumulative increase that exceeds 13% over the last three years. In fact, she pointed out that from January 1, 2025, there will be an increase of 2.2-2.5% horizontally for pensioners, clarifying that the exact amount will depend on the financial data to be announced in November, "which currently appear to be encouraging."

Bulgaria is 21st safest country out of 38 countries in Europe



lence or fear of violence. The three domains are: militarization, safety and security, and ongoing

domestic and international conflict. These domains are then put together to form the peace index.



Newsire
Sofia: Bulgaria is the 21st safest country out of 38 countries in Europe, ranking between Poland and Spain. This country gets 1.643 points measured by the Global Peace Index (GPI) in the

ranking of the NGO World Population Review. The Global Peace Index measures a country's level of Negative Peace using three domains of peacefulness. It comprises 23 indicators of the absence of vio-



For the 10th year, first place goes to Iceland, with 1.124 GPI, out of the countries members of the EU the top position goes to Denmark with 1.310, followed by Ireland, Austria, Portugal and Slovenia. Bottom of the ranking in Europe are Russia 3.142, Ukraine 3.043 and Belarus 2.248. Out of the EU countries, France has the lowest GPI ranking - 1.939.

Portugal launches new program to support migrants in finding jobs



enhancing social and professional skills, the program aims to improve employment opportunities for participants through various active employment measures. Fundamental need to welcome and integrate the immigrant population, considering the ageing of the population and the lack of workers in many professional areas and strategic sectors of the economy. As part of the process, IEFP will conduct an initial assessment of each participant's profile, needs, and expectations through an individual in-person interview. This assessment will help create tailored employment and training plans and identify any necessary Portuguese language learning.



Newsire Lisbon: The Portuguese government this week introduced a new initiative to support migrants enrolled in the National Institute of Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP).

In a recent statement, the European Commission said that, known as Programa Integrar, this program is designed for unemployed individuals, those seeking their first job, and migrants looking to change their profession or access vocational training. Schengen.News reports. Programa Integrar offers a range of services, including training, skills recognition support, and assistance with job searching. By addressing cultural barriers and en-



from January to August 2024 than during the same period last year. Additionally, authorities have announced that migrant workers who arrived in the country irregularly will no longer be allowed to remain while applying for work permits. Deputy Minister Rui Armino Freitas, who is responsible for immigration policy, stated that these changes align with EU regulations. An Alternative Investment Management Association (AIMA) report has also indicated that the number of non-European immigrants to Portugal nearly doubled over the past five years.



Additionally, the program will recognise and evaluate participants' existing school and employment qualifications, ensuring they are directed to the appropriate equivalence or recognition processes whenever possible. Following the introduction of the Action Plan for Migration four months ago, Portugal has notably decreased the number of work visas issued to foreigners. Official figures indicate a 24 per cent reduction in work visas granted during June, July, and August of this year compared to the same months in 2023. Specifically, Portugal issued 1,266 work visas to foreign workers in June, July, and August 2024, down from 1,666 in the same period of the previous year. Despite this decline in recent months, data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs re-

veals that Portugal issued more work visas



Japan's 2 new astronauts show excitement, with Moon possibly in sight

Covert Report

Tokyo: Japan's two newly approved astronauts expressed excitement on Wednesday about their upcoming space journey, amid expectations that they could be selected as the first Japanese astronauts to land on the Moon under the U.S.-led lunar exploration program. "Space exploration has become an era of upheaval, targeting the Moon and Mars. I want to become an astronaut that can convey the fascination of space," Ayu Yoneda, 29, told a press conference in Tokyo two days after she was officially certified as an astronaut by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, along

transitional period. I want to become an astronaut who can adapt to the changing environment." Yoneda, who served as a surgeon at the Japanese Red Cross Medical Center, became the youngest astronaut to be approved by the agency, while Suwa, a former disaster prevention specialist at the World Bank, became the eldest astronaut at the time of certification. With the two seen as potential candidates to take part in NASA's lunar exploration program known as Artemis, Yoneda said, "I don't know who will be picked, but I am thinking



to the Moon in 2026, more than half a century since the last Apollo mission by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It also includes sending the first woman and the first person of color to the Moon. The United States has agreed to allocate two astronaut flight opportunities to the

lunar surface for Japan on future Artemis missions. JAXA now has seven astronauts who could be picked for the slots. "I am excited to aim for the Moon," Suwa said. Suwa and Yoneda are scheduled to move to the United States for further training at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Texas

and await decisions on assignments to travel to space. The two became the first astronauts approved by JAXA since 2011. They have undergone basic training, including piloting a plane, health management in outer space and electrical engineering, after being selected as astronaut candidates by JAXA in 2023.



with Makoto Suwa, 47. Suwa, who also attended the press conference, said, "Space exploration is in a

what is necessary as a team." As part of the Artemis program, the United States aims to return humans

Monica, Allah Dino discuss human rights, democratic institutions

Celina Ali

Islamabad: The United States Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Monica Jacobsen, held a meeting with Federal Secretary for the Ministry of Human Rights, Allah Dino Khawaja this week, to discuss matters related to human rights and bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and the United States. During the meeting, Monica underscored the significance of human rights, support for a vibrant civil society, and the role of strong democratic institutions in fostering a robust and comprehensive US-Pakistan relationship. Both officials explored avenues to further strengthen cooperation on these shared values, particularly in areas promoting human rights and reinforcing democratic practices.



Belgian wants Pakistani businesses to enhance their EU market access

Abdullah Jan Lahore: Ambassador of Belgium Idesbald Vander Gracht said this week that Belgium served as a gateway to Europe which was a valuable opportunity for Pakistani businesses to expand their presence in the EU market. He held a meeting with Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Mian Abuzar Shad. LCCI Executive Committee Members were also present at the meeting. The ambassador praised the strong trade relations between Pakistan and Belgium, but emphasized the vast potential for

further expanding mutual trade and economic ties. He reiterated that Belgium has consistently supported Pakistan in securing the GSP Plus status, which benefits Pakistan's exports to the EU. He said that there are strong economic relations between Pakistan and Belgium. He said that both the countries need to enhance bilateral trade relationship. He said that there is a lot of potential for Pakistan in agriculture textile and precious stone sectors for joint ventures with Belgium. He also called to enhance student exchange programs between the two countries. He said that B2B (Business to Business)



meeting and single country exhibitions can help explore the undiscovered opportunities. He said that both countries should identify more areas for cooperation and should also introduce more tradable items to enhance mutual trade volume. He said

that there should be more interaction between the business communities of the two countries to enhance trade and economic cooperation. LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad said that we are well aware of the economic

from State Bank, Pakistan's exports to Belgium decreased from 701 million dollars in 2022-23 to 556.9 million dollars in 2023-24 while our imports also decreased from 392.6 million dollars to 315.4 million dollars in the same period.



importance of Belgium as a center of European Politics and Policymaking. Belgium is one of the six founding countries of the European Union and home to many international organizations including NATO. He said that Pakistan and Belgium have very cordial international relations based on respect for each other since last 75 years which are going to be 76 next month. We are still grateful to Belgium for supporting Pakistan during recent floods by providing the affectees with tents to maintain shelter. The LCCI President said that Belgium serves as an entry point for Pakistani goods into the European Union (EU) due to its central location in Europe and its role as a major EU trading hub. The Port of Antwerp, located in Belgium, is one of the largest ports in Europe and known as the Diamond Capital of the World. The location of port makes it a critical trade partner for Pakistan, by enabling it, to access various European markets more easily. He said that both countries have been steady trading partners as well but the last financial year saw a decline in bilateral trade volume. As per trade data sought

Mian Abuzar Shad added "This essentially means that our trade volume decreased from 1.09 Billion dollars in 2022-23 to 872.4 million dollars in 2023-24. You will agree with me that we need to make joint efforts to take the level of bilateral trade to at least multi-billion dollars." He said that the major items of Pakistan's exports to Belgium are Textile products, Rice, Leather, etc. Pakistan imports from Belgium include pharmaceutical, articles of plastics, machinery, Iron & Steel etc. The LCCI President further stated that both countries have potential for deeper cooperation in sectors beyond their current trade patterns. These could include the energy, agriculture, information technology, and renewable energy sectors. Belgium's expertise in green energy and advanced technology sectors could complement Pakistan's growing industrial base and energy needs. Mian Abuzar shad said that GSP Plus status has been extended till 2027 and the Government of Pakistan is attempting to meet all the requirements of EU Programme protocols for getting an extension till 2034. For that purpose, Pakistan's Mission in Brussels is pursuing the matter with the EU Secretariat. We seek the support of Belgium – an important member of EU.

British High Commission celebrates Cricket



Deputy British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Andrew Dalglish



Celina Ali Islamabad: The British High Commission this week brought together Teach For Pakistan, the Lahore Qalandars, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Female players and the Barmy Army for a street cricket match in Islamabad College for Boys, G6/3, with support from the Ministry of Federal

by the England Cricket Board (ECB) for this match. Team Teach for Pakistan won the toss and decided to ball first. Team UK in Pakistan set the target of 104 runs in 10 overs and Team Teach for Pakistan while chasing the target scored 110 runs in 9 overs. The UK is committed to supporting educational initiatives and cultural exchanges through

Saeed, Humna Bilal, Syed Faridoun Mehmood and Salman Fayaaz play with students who are clearly the future of Pakistan's cricket! I can't wait to see the kids in today's match one day play against England in a future test match series.' Khadija Bakhtiar, CEO of Teach For Pakistan, said: "A happy and safe learning space where students look forward to participating in intellectually and physically invigorating activities is the bedrock of Teach For Pakistan's approach to whole child development. Today's match is yet another stride in that direction via our partnership with FCDO and the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training." Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Secretary Ministry of Federal Education And Professional Training, said "I am thrilled to see everyone blooming in the spirit of cricket today. It is an absolute honour to host players of the English Cricket Team, Syed Faridoun Mehmood and Salman Fayaaz from the Lahore Qalandars, Tania Saeed and Humna Bilal from the Pakistan women's team, and team of the British High Commission. Thank you for gracing us with your presence and inspiring our young players. My heart is overjoyed to see such enthusiastic participation by everyone and it makes us more excited to see what's coming ahead".



Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT). This marks the arrival of the England cricket team to Islamabad as they prepare for their third and final match in the nail-biting UK-Pakistan series. After a thrilling competition, Team Teach for Pakistan won the match by 5 wickets and with 6 balls remaining. 13 years old Saim Hussain was awarded the Player of the Match winning a bat, signed by the England Cricket Team, provided

sports. With UK funding, Teach For Pakistan have trained over 500 talented university graduates and young professionals through a two-year fellowship. Fellows are trained to improve learning outcomes of their students, and work in struggling schools in low-income communities. Over 34,000 students have benefited, including nearly 23,000 girls. On this occasion, British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE said that "It was electric to see seasoned professionals like Tania



"A good objective of leadership is to help those who are doing poorly to do well and to help those who are doing well to do even better." -**Jim Rohn**

"I start with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers."
- **Ralph Nader**

RENK Group establishes subsidiary in Italy to strengthen European defence strategy



local presence in Italy, RENK will be better positioned to collaborate with the nation's technological and industrial base, a key pillar of European defence, ensuring it meets the evolving needs of Italian partners.

ral Pier-Federico Bisconti. "With their expertise, we are confident that RENK ITALIA will succeed in enhancing our mission in Italy and further solidify our global leadership in propulsion solutions," added Susanne Wiegand.

La Spezia's location offers RENK a strategic advantage, enabling the company to provide focused support for European defence projects. Susanne Wiegand, CEO of RENK Group AG, highlights the importance of this new subsidiary, stating that it will strengthen the competitiveness and operational readiness of the European defence industry. RENK ITALIA Srl will be led by a highly experienced management team, including CEO Sergio Rizzi and Chairman of the Board Admi-



Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Marilina Armellini

NewsWire

Rome: RENK Group AG, a leading provider of military and civilian propulsion solutions, announced the founding of its new subsidiary, RENK ITALIA Srl. Based in La Spezia, a strategically significant region for defence and

industrial projects, this move will enhance the company's ability to serve Italian customers and expand its influence across the Mediterranean. The establishment of RENK ITALIA aligns with RENK's global growth strategy, reinforcing its role as a provider of mission-critical propulsion solutions in the security and renewable energy sectors. With a

Environmental nonsense': Here's why France wants to ban bottled water

Covert Report

Paris: France has various schemes in place to lessen plastic usage, but the proposed bill would go further still. A French politician has called for a ban on small plastic water bottles, calling them "completely absurd" and "environmental nonsense". Pierre Cazeneuve, who belongs to President Emmanuel Macron's Renaissance party, submitted a proposed law this week which could see the end of water bottles smaller than 50cl. Expanding his "absurd" comment, Cazeneuve said that the diminutive bottles - which encompass the 33, 25 and 17cl sizes - "contain 20-25 grams of plastic for just three or four sips of water". He has not included larger bottles in his potential ban - yet. Will the proposed water bottle ban be signed into French law? The proposed bill will have to pass through several legislative hoops to become law. In order to achieve that, it would need to be debated in parliament and win the support of the majority of MPs there. Currently, it's not very likely to happen as the current makeup of the government is not just deeply divided, but there's also no party majority in the House. However, if it did pass, many French citizens would likely be in favour of it. A recent poll, conducted by OpinionWay for the charities Zero Waste France and No Plastic in My Sea, discovered that some two thirds of people in the country would be in favour of such a ban. In France, at least 13 billion plastic bottles are

produced every year. To make it worse, a significant proportion of them are not recycled, with a large number of them ending up in the oceans, which causes vast environmental damage. Nevertheless, France does actually have extensive legislation covering single-use plastics already in place. The so-called 'anti waste law' has gradually prohibited the use of single-use plastics including cutlery, drinking straws, and take-away boxes, and also put limits on plastic packaging for retailers. Plastic water bottles, though, are not covered by the law. There are, however, plenty of schemes in place to encourage people to stop buying new plastic bottles and plump for refillable bottles instead. Across France, many towns and cities have accessible drinking water fountains where bottles can be refilled. In Paris, if you spot a sign in the window of a bar or café with the 'L'eau de Paris' logo, you can refill your bottle inside with tap water for no charge. Earlier this year, an investigation by newspaper Le Monde and broadcaster Radio France found that almost one in three mineral water brands in the country undergoes purification treatment supposed to be used only on tap water. That revelation came after Nestlé admitted that it treated water for its major brands, including Perrier and Vittel, with ultraviolet light and active carbon filters. That goes against a French law, based on a European Union directive, which bans the disinfection of mineral water, which is supposed to be of naturally high quality before it gets bottled.

