

OPINION: CHINA'S INNOVATION P.25 | FEATURES: TIBETAN TAPESTRIES GO GLOBAL P.28

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Cover Photo: The Great Hall of the People in Beijing in October 2022 (XINHUA)

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## Confident But Not Complacent

Every year, the National People's Congress (NPC), the highest state organ of power, and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, the top political advisory body, hold full sessions to deliberate matters relevant to the country's development. These two sessions will be convened in early March this year.

Each country is unique in its political system. Unlike in the U.S., where the government features three branches, the NPC is China's supreme state authority in that, in addition to being vested by the Constitution wide-ranging powers including enacting laws and electing leaders, it also stands above the executive, judicial and other branches of government. At its annual full session, deputies review and approve the state budget as well as the government work report delivered by the premier and work reports of the Supreme People's Court, the nation's highest court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate, which mainly deals with public prosecution and the supervision of criminal investigation. The NPC consists of some 3,000 elected deputies.

The system of multiparty cooperation and political consultation under the

leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is also uniquely Chinese. The CPPCC is a specialist consultative institution that provides advice on state governance by pooling wisdom from a wide spectrum of Chinese society. The CPPCC National Committee has over 2,000 members.

Challenges such as meeting the needs of a huge and diverse population and balancing development between east and west and between urban and rural areas make it impossible for China to copy the political models of the West. The CPC, the country's ruling party, has played a key role in devising and implementing a system tailored to China's realities.

Under this model, China has delivered results that speak for themselves. That's partly why China has advocated confidence in its political system. But it does not mean China believes its approach is flawless, nor does it provide a reason for complacency. The Chinese authorities have pledged to fuse growing confidence with continuous reform to better safeguard the people's right to democracy. It is also China's belief that all countries need to pursue a path to good governance based on their own national context, ruling out any possibilities to imitate the Chinese model upon others. **BR**



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# THE BEAR HAS LANDED

Giant panda Eimei arrives at Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, on February 22.

Eimei, together with his twin daughters Ouhin and Touhin, born in Japan in 2014, had touched down in the city earlier that day.

They will have to remain in quarantine for one month at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.

Eimei, or Yong Ming in Chinese, was born at the Beijing Zoo in 1992 and traveled to Japan under a cooperative panda breeding program in 1994. With his age the human equivalent of 90, Eimei was the oldest giant panda living in Japan and is father to no fewer than 16 cubs.



## Fine-Tuning

A worker checks the quality of an *erhu*, a Chinese two-stringed bowed musical instrument, at a workshop in Suning County, Hebei Province, on February 18. The county's 70 workshops produce some 800,000 traditional Chinese instruments every year.

## Internet of Things

China's Internet of Things (IoT) sector is expected to log strong expansion in the coming years, and the country's number of IoT connections will reach close to 10.25 billion by 2026, according to a report from global market research firm International Data Corporation (IDC), Xinhua News Agency reported on February 18.

The consumption sector will take the lion's share of these connections, with the smart home and wearable devices fields continuing to be the major growth drivers, the report read.

The number of consumption-related IoT connections is expected to approximate 5.98

billion by 2026, and connections related to the manufacturing and public facilities sectors will be about 300 million and 2.2 billion, respectively, the report stated.

IDC also forecasts a double-digit expansion of IoT connections in the healthcare and education industries in the coming years.

China has pledged to develop its digital infrastructure, represented by 5G, IoT, cloud computing and the industrial Internet, to a globally advanced level by 2025.

The country is making strong moves to accelerate the integration of IoT and other new generation information technologies.

## Recovering Cultural Relics

Chinese police retrieved more than 37,000 illegally held cultural-relic items in 2022, the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) said on February 22.

The recovered items included more than 3,800 valuable cultural relics. Movable cultural relics in China are divided into valuable and ordinary cultural relics, according to the Law on the Protection of Cultural Relics.

Over 1,700 criminal cases related to cultural relics were solved throughout the year, with more than 310 related criminal gangs busted, the ministry said.

The MPS and the National Cultural Heritage Administration

have carried out yearly crackdown campaigns against cultural relic-related crimes for six consecutive years, and will extend the activity until 2025.

They will take stronger measures against criminal acts such as the illegal excavation of ancient culture and ancient tomb sites, and robbing stone carvings or components from cave temples and architectural structures.

## Archaeological Finds

Six historic sites dating back to as far as the Paleolithic period were listed as China's new archaeological discoveries of 2022 at a related forum on February 22.

Among these sites unearthed across six provincial-level regions, two are believed to be from the Neolithic period and one from the Bronze Age.

The remaining two discoveries were the royal tomb area and surrounding relics in the Yin Ruins dating back to the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 B.C.) and a porcelain kiln site from the Western Xia Dynasty (1038-1227), according to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the organizer of the forum.

A Paleolithic period site incorporating the remains of ancient humans, animals and stoneware excavated in Hubei Province topped the list. At this site, a fossilized skull considered the most intact *Homo erectus* specimen of its age found in inland Eurasia, was unearthed in December 2022.

## Online Monk Directory

An inquiry system listing Buddhist and Taoist monks and nuns went online on February 22, providing the public with information about

accredited clerical personnel registered in accordance with the law.

The system is accessible on the websites of the Buddhist Association of China, the Taoist Association of China, the National Religious Affairs Administration and Tibet.cn.

Each entry contains seven items of information, including the person's identity card name, gender, photo and religious title.

The Buddhist Association of China and the Taoist Association of China said they will continuously update data to ensure the information is accurate and reliable.

They added the system aims to promote openness in religious affairs, standardize the identification and management of clerics, and deter potential impostors.

## New Herb Species

Chinese researchers identified 163 new herb species during the fourth national census of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) resources, related authorities said.

The announcement came at a two-day academic exchange event hosted by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the National Administration of Traditional

Chinese Medicine (NATCM), which concluded in Beijing on February 20.

Huang Luqi, deputy head of the NATCM, said the NATCM has been conducting the fourth national census of TCM resources since 2011, and that it has yielded fruitful results.

The researchers discovered a number of new species and sources of medicine, and launched special case studies of TCM resources, laying a material foundation for the innovative development of modern TCM, according to the official.

The census also helped build a dynamic monitoring system for TCM resources, and promoted the construction of seed-breeding bases and germplasm resource banks for TCM, he added.

## Driverless Bus Service

A driverless bus line has started providing services to the public on the roads of Hefei, capital city of Anhui Province, Xinhua reported on February 20.

The buses have been operating on a trial basis since mid-February, according to CICT Connected and Intelligent Technologies Co. Ltd., the company in charge of the service. The bus line has two automated-



## Prickly Profits

A farmer works at a cactus planting base in Danzhou, Hainan Province, on February 20. The base has integrated agriculture, technology and tourism to boost the area's employment and economy.

driving buses operating in Baohe District, covering a total route length of 15 km, CICT said.

The two driverless buses provide pickup services for passengers along the route. During the trial stage, people can book a free seat on the bus through a mobile app.

The automated-driving buses started their road tests in August 2022. By continuously learning and adapting, the buses have brought their driving skills up to the level of human drivers

with two or three years of driving experience, the company said.

With a speed maintained at about 30 km per hour, the buses have a passenger capacity of more than a dozen people. Two large screens in the carriage show holographic images of road conditions in real time.

Hefei has thus far created several intelligent transportation and intelligent logistics pilot projects, including an autonomous driving technology innovation park.



## Barley and Boxes

A boy in traditional costume receives a *chema* box, a two-tier rectangular wooden box containing roasted barley and fried wheat grains, in celebration of the Tibetan New Year in Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region, on February 21, the first day of the Year of the Water Rabbit on the Tibetan calendar.

## Registration-Based IPO

China has officially rolled out its across-the-board registration-based initial public offering (IPO) system with relevant rules becoming effective on February 17, according to the country's securities regulator.

Of milestone significance in the reform of China's capital market, the move has basically put in place the institutional arrangements for the system, the China Securities Regulatory Commission said in a statement.

The rules involve simplifying listing requirements, optimizing registration procedures, improving the regulations on underwriting and major asset restructuring of listed firms, strengthening oversight and stepping up investor protection.

The registration-based IPO reform—initiated in 2018 and successively adopted by the sci-tech innovation board (STAR

market) at the Shanghai Stock Exchange, the NASDAQ-style ChiNext board of growth enterprises at the Shenzhen Stock Exchange and the Beijing Stock Exchange—has opened up new prospects for the development of China's capital market, according to the commission.

## Interbank Bonds

Bonds held by overseas institutions accounted for about 2.6 percent of the total custody of China's interbank market as of late January, standing at 3.28 trillion yuan (\$477.2 billion), official data showed. The Chinese market was the second largest in the world as of 2022.

This figure was lower than the 3.39 trillion yuan (\$493.2 billion) registered in late December last year, according to data released by the Shanghai Head Office of the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank.

Overseas institutions held 2.23 trillion yuan (\$324.5 billion) in treasury bonds and 720

billion yuan (\$104.8 billion) in policy financial bonds by late January.

That same month, four new overseas institutional investors entered China's interbank bond market, bringing the total number to 1,075.

## Big Data Exchange

Transaction volume of the Guiyang-based Global Big Data Exchange (GBDE) had reached 581 million yuan (\$84.5 million) as of February 21.

Since it started operations in 2015 in the capital city of Guizhou Province in southwest China, the GBDE, the first of its kind in China, has had 480 trading entities.

The GBDE plans to achieve an annual turnover of 10 billion yuan (\$1.4 billion) in 2025, according to Li Gang, an official with the bureau that oversees the development of the province's big data sector.

As the country's first national big data comprehensive pilot

zone, Guizhou has been promoting the big data industry as a mainstay of its high-quality social and economic development.

In 2023, Guizhou's GDP is expected to grow by around 6 percent to reach 2.2 trillion yuan (\$320.1 billion), with the digital economy accounting for roughly 40 percent.

## Privately Offered Funds

The scale of China's privately offered funds stood at 20.23 trillion yuan (\$2.9 trillion) at the end of January, according to data from an industry association.

The volume edged up 205.08 billion yuan (\$29.8 billion), or 1.02 percent, from the previous month, according to the Asset Management Association of China (AMAC).

The number of registered privately offered funds stood at 146,345 as of late January, a month-on-month increase of 1,297.

## NUMBERS

(\$1=6.9 yuan as of February 23)

### Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in January

(All growth rates are y.o.y.)

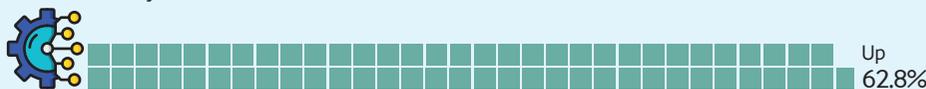
#### Paid-in FDI into the Chinese mainland

Total



#### FDI into:

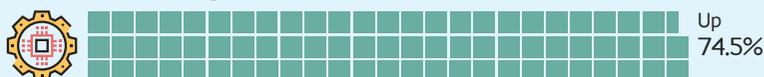
Hi-tech industry



Hi-tech service sector



Hi-tech manufacturing sector



Meanwhile, some 22,156 institutions managed these funds, 1,511 fewer than the previous month, AMAC data showed.

## PV Expansion

The photovoltaic (PV) sector posted robust growth in 2022 with the industry's total output value exceeding 1.4 trillion yuan (\$203.1 billion), official data showed.

The output of the major links of the industrial chain, including polysilicon, wafers, cells and modules, all registered a year-on-year growth of more than 55 percent, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

Last year, the country saw a steady expansion of large-scale PV base construction and the application of distributed PV, with the country's newly added installed PV capacity reaching 87 gigawatts.

Thanks to strong overseas market demands for new energy, the country's PV exports totaled

\$51.2 billion last year, the data revealed.

The country's renewable energy industry continued to lead globally, with China-made PV modules, wind turbines, gear boxes and other key components accounting for 70 percent of the global market last year, according to the National Energy Administration.

## Petrochemical Revenue

The petrochemical industry saw an increase in revenues and a decline in profits in 2022, according to the China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Federation (CPCIF).

The industry registered a total revenue of 16.56 trillion yuan (\$2.4 trillion) last year, climbing 14.4 percent year on year, while its total profit eased 2.8 percent to 1.13 trillion yuan (\$164 billion).

In 2022, import and export volume of petrochemical products rose 21.7 percent year on

year to \$1.05 trillion.

According to the CPCIF, China's crude oil output gained 2.9 percent year on year to 205 million tons in 2022, the fourth consecutive year of growth.

Natural gas output during the period was 217.79 billion cubic meters, an increase of 6.4 percent over the 2021 volume.

## Civil Aviation Recovery

China's civil aviation transport logged a steady rebound in January, as the country optimized its anti-virus response late last year and demand picked up during the 40-day transportation peak around the Chinese New Year—which fell on January 22 this year. The annual travel rush ended on February 15.

The sector's total transport turnover stood at 7.39 billion ton-km, up 13.9 percent year on year, Wu Shijie, an official with the Civil Aviation Administration of China, told a press conference

on February 16.

January saw over 39.77 million air passenger trips, surging 34.8 percent year on year and recovering to 74.5 percent of the level in the same pre-pandemic period of 2019.

In January, total transport turnover and cargo and mail volume of the civil aviation sector recovered to 69.5 percent and 72.9 percent of the 2019 level, respectively, Wu said.

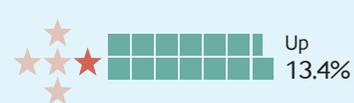
This year's travel rush recorded 55.23 million air passenger trips. The number of daily passenger trips hit 1.38 million on average, soaring 39 percent year on year and rebounding to 76 percent of the pre-pandemic level, Shang Kejia, another official with the administration, said.

The number of flights rose by 15 percent from the same period last year, recovering to over 80 percent of the pre-pandemic level, while the average passenger load factor stood at 74 percent, up 10 percentage points, Shang added.

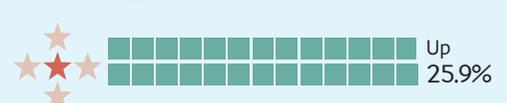


### Growth of FDI by region

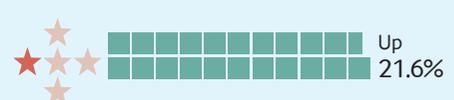
East China



Central China



West China



(Source: Ministry of Commerce)

# THIS WEEK **WORLD**



## PAKISTAN

Security personnel leave a police station following a terrorist attack on the site in Karachi on February 17. Three attackers were killed and 10 people were injured



## NEW ZEALAND

Military personnel perform rescue operations on the cyclone-affected North Island on February 17. Cyclone *Gabrielle* had claimed the lives of 11 people as of February 19



## BRAZIL

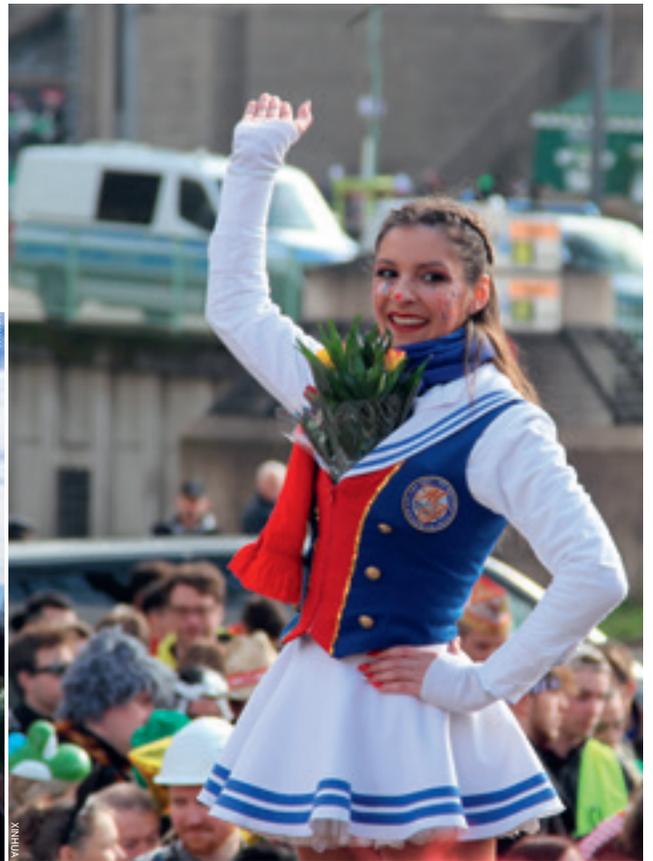
A man carrying a bag makes his way through a landslide-hit site after torrential rain in São Paulo state on February 22 brought extensive flooding and landslides. The death toll had reached 48 as of February 23, with dozens still missing





## UNITED STATES

A protester holds up a sign reading "The Pentagon Budget Monster" during an anti-war rally in Washington, D.C. on February 19



## GERMANY

A woman in costume poses for a picture during the Rose Monday carnival parade in Cologne on February 20



## LAOS

A man washes an elephant in the Nam Houng River, which flows through Xayaboury City, on February 19, during the Elephant Festival, which ran from February 18 to 20. The annual event aims at raising public awareness of protecting the animal and boosting tourism



# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## ↓ ENVOY AWARDED FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE EFFORTS

**Xie Zhenhua**, China's special envoy for climate change, received the Nobel Sustainability Trust (NST) Foundation's Sustainability Award on February 21 in Stockholm, Sweden, for his outstanding contribution to global sustainable development.

Born in Tianjin in 1949, Xie began working in the field of environmental protection in the 1980s. He was appointed head of the then State Environmental Protection Administration in 1998. He resigned after a chemical plant explosion incident in northeast China in 2005.

In 2015, he stepped down from a position at the National Development and Reform Commission to focus on being a Chinese representative on climate change and has spoken widely on China's environmental protection endeavors and on promoting global climate cooperation.



## A Model for Hi-Tech Development

**Oriental Outlook**  
February 9

Shandong, a coastal province bordered by the Bohai Sea to the north and the Yellow Sea to the southeast, is an important industrial hub in northern China. As the only province with representatives of all of China's 41 industrial sectors, Shandong has long been one of the country's most economically developed provinces. However, the province, leaning too heavily on traditional manufacturing, is now falling behind Guangdong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, and other coastal provinces.

## The Rise of Telehealth

**People's Daily**  
February 20

Recent years have seen a continuous rise in demand for online medical consultations, a form of healthcare service that enables patients to contact a health professional online for diagnosis, prescription, and treatment. The surge in online consultations not only frees patients from the hurdles of attending doctor's appointments in person, but also helps ease hospitals' current shortages of staff and medical resources.

Digital healthcare services are not merely a simple add-on that complements traditional hospital services. They are, in fact, services themselves and higher professional standards

need to be applied to them to safeguard reliability, privacy, and cybersecurity.

A series of rules co-released in recent years by the National Health Commission and the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine have established a regulatory framework for online diagnosis.

Ready or not, the future of telemedicine has arrived, and is on its way to forming a comprehensive medical service network that integrates health education, consultation, and patient follow-up.

In the future, more effort needs to be invested into building a system of online patient records and making online consultations eligible for reimbursement under medical insurance schemes.

**"We urge NATO to quit groundless speculation and smears against China on the Ukraine issue, grow out of its zero-sum Cold War mentality of bloc confrontation, stop instigating antagonism and fanning the flames of conflict, and actually do something conducive to European and global peace and stability."**

**Wang Wenbin**, spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, at a regular press conference on February 22

**"For foreign companies that abide by Chinese laws, the business environment will only get better."**

**Zhang Wei**, deputy head of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation under the Ministry of Commerce, in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency

It was against this backdrop that the State Council in 2018 approved a project called the Shandong Comprehensive Test Area for New and Old Kinetic Energy Conversion. The project, essentially the creation of an intra-provincial zone that includes three major cities—Jinan, the capital of the province, Qingdao, and Yantai, as well as designated areas in 14 other cities, aims to facilitate the coordinated development of hi-tech industries within the province.

Over the past five years, Shandong has steadily produced an abundance of technological breakthroughs across multiple disciplines. In 2021, the world's first magnetic levitation train to run at a speed of 600 km per hour made its debut in Qingdao. In 2022, the world's first deep-sea floating farm harnessing both wind and solar power began operation in Yantai. In the same year, Qingdao saw the completion of Guoxin-1, the world's first 100,000-ton floating fish farm.

The tapping of the unreleased potentials of hi-tech industries could be the key to a major industrial upgrade. In 2022, Shandong's GDP reached 8.74 trillion yuan (\$1.3 trillion), up 5.4 percent year on year, with hi-tech industries accounting for 48.3 percent of the region's gross output.

## Reading Rooms on Rails

**Rednet.cn**  
**February 20**

The train No. 5609/5610, a green train running between urban Chongqing and Xiushan County in the southeast of Chongqing Municipality, has recently gone viral online, as it transformed one of its carriages into a public study room.

Green trains are still used for shorter-distance rail travel in some regions, offering passengers a gentle ride and often a dose of nostalgia. A long, homeward-bound journey on a green train is a much cherished memory for many Chinese people. Yet all the noise and bustle in crowded

passenger carriages make these slow trains one of the least desirable environments.

The recently opened study room provides students preparing for exams and people working remotely with not only a venue equipped with desks and chairs, but also the calming atmosphere and ambiance of a library.

On train No. Z150, which runs from Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province, a dining car has been transformed into a book bar, where passengers can borrow books and participate in literary events. Housing these study rooms, the iconic green train is no longer a dated means of transportation, but a modern space with welcoming features.

## ↓ PANDA PAPA DIES

China's pioneer in ecological and biological research of giant pandas, **Hu Jinchu**, also known affectionately as the "panda papa," died of an illness at 94 in Nanchong, Sichuan Province, on February 16.

Hu was born in Kaijiang County in Sichuan. The province is one of the main habitats for giant pandas and is home to the world's largest panda reserve.

Hailed as the first man to study giant pandas in China, the zoologist worked on the study and protection of wildlife for six decades. He led the first giant panda survey in China in the 1970s. The field research and findings of Hu and his research team promoted the establishment of several national nature reserves.

In 1978, Hu led the establishment of the first field ecological observation station for giant pandas at the Wolong National Nature Reserve in Sichuan.



"I look forward to seeing more Chinese tourists in Serbia and Central and Eastern European countries, and would like to welcome friends from all over the world to visit China."

Serbian President **Aleksandar Vucic**, at the opening of the 44th Belgrade International Tourism Fair on February 22

"Zimbabwe's successful containment of the COVID-19 pandemic is greatly owed to the sacrifice and positive role played by the medical team from China."

**Martin Chedondo**, Zimbabwean Ambassador to China, in a recent interview with *China Daily*



Villagers discuss local affairs at a park in Longxi Village in Zhejiang Province on July 21, 2022

COVER STORY

# IN SESSION, INTO SERVICE

What to expect when China's national legislature convenes in March By Lu Yan