FEATURES: PRO-GROWTH POLICIES P.34 | FEATURES: SOUND ON, WORLD OFF P.38

BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.68 NO.20 MAY 15, 2025 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM

MAY THE JOURNEYS BEGIN

How the holiday sparked a spending spree

RMB9.00
USD1.70
AUD3.00
GBP1.20
CAD2.60
CHF2.60
JPY188

ISSN 1000-9140

9 771000 914253 20

邮发代号2-922 · 国内统一连续号：CN11-1576/G2

Follow
CICG Americas
And get in on the conversation

BeijingReview

BeijingReview

@BeijingReview

China Hoy

China Hoje

CONTENTS

EDITOR'S DESK
02 A Holiday Hot Spot

THIS WEEK

COVER STORY
12 May-king Moves
Consumers splurge during Labor Day break

16 Escaping Without Leaving
The new trend of micro-vacations

18 Fests, Fans and Funds
Live music performances go viral

OPINION
22 Fifty Years of Growing Partnership
Healthy China-EU partnership helps shape a better world

23 U.S. Fentanyl Crisis: Place the Blame Where It Belongs
A reflection on Washington's failure to address domestic social issues

24 Pluralistic Unity: Resonance of Culture, Ethnicity and History
Moving from division to reunification, reinforced by strong cohesion

26 A Hundred Days of Chaos
A new paragon of presidential performance

28 Sharing Development Dividends
How China nurtures its relationships with African countries

29 Why Is the RMB Stable?
Prioritizing the stability of the Chinese currency

FEATURES
32 Building Bonds
Solidarity in the face of uncertainty

34 Adding Momentum
The new measures to insulate domestic markets

36 In the Driver's Seat
Auto show embraces innovation and powers the future

38 The Booming Earconomy
A rapidly developing driver of consumption

40 A Sip of Love
A brew of cross-cultural differences in the ancient city of Kashi

42 Safeguarding the 'Snow Mountain Genie'
A deep affection for the Yunnan snub-nosed monkey

CULTURE
46 The Home of Beautiful Ancient Bridges
Structures that span divides and dynasties

EXPAT'S EYE
48 From Lahore to Beijing: Reframing Our Cinematic Future
Culture as a connector between China and Pakistan

Cover Photos: Wei Yao

©2025 Beijing Review, all rights reserved.

BEIJING REVIEW
A News Weekly Magazine
Published Since 1958

President: Li Yafang
Associate Editor in Chief: Liu Yunyun
Vice Presidents: He Peng, Gao Dingbo, Yu Shujun
Program Supervisor: Zeng Wenhui

Executive Editor: Yan Wei
Production Director: Yao Bin
Editors: Wang Hairong, Zhang Shasha, Lu Yan
Researcher: Lan Xinzhen
Editorial Consultants: Elsbeth van Paridon, G.P. Wilson
Reporters: Ji Jing, Kang Caiqi, Li Qing, Li Wenhan, Li Xiaoyang, Liang Xiao, Ma Miaomiao, Pan Xiaoqiao, Peng Jiawei, Tao Xing, Tao Zihui, Wang Jun, Wang Ruohan, Yuan Yuan, Zhang Yage
Photographer: Wei Yao
Art: Li Shigong
Design Director: Wang Yajuan
Chief Designer: Cui Xiaodong
Designer: Wang Boyan

Editorial Administrator: Zeng Wenhui
Planning Director: Xu Bei
Deputy Planning Director: Li Nan
World News Director: Ding Ying
World News Deputy Director: Li Fangfang
Director of Digital Media: Yu Shujun
Director of Strategic Research: Zan Jifang
Deputy Director of Strategic Research: Lu Ling

Administration: Zhang Yajie
International Cooperation: Sun Xuan
Legal Counsel: Yue Cheng

North America Bureau (New York City)
Chief: Yu Shujun
Executive Assistant: Zhao Wei
Tel/Fax: 1-201-792-0334
E-mail: yushujun@cicgamericas.com
Latin America Bureau (Mexico City)
Chief: Miao Ye
Tel: 52-55-55127271
Fax: 52-55-55332027
E-mail: chinahoymx@gmail.com
Peru Office (Lima)
Chief: Meng Kexin
Tel: 0051-959212702
E-mail: revistachinaperu@gmail.com

General Editorial Office
Tel: 86-10-68996252
Fax: 86-10-68326628
Editorial Desk
Tel: 86-10-68996250
Partnerships
Tel: 86-10-68995807
E-mail: yecong@cicgamericas.com
Distribution
Tel: 86-10-68310644
E-mail: circulation@cicgamericas.com

Published every Thursday by
CICG Center for Americas, 24 Baiwanzhuang Lu,
Beijing 100037, China
Overseas Distributor: China International Book Trading Corporation (Guoji Shudian), P. O. BOX 399,
Beijing 100044, China
Tel: 86-10-68413849, 1-416-497-8096 (Canada)
Fax: 86-10-68412166
E-mail: fp@mail.cibtc.com.cn
Website: http://www.cibtc.com
General Distributor for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan:
Peace Book Co. Ltd.
17/Fl, Paramount Bldg, 12 Ka Yip St, Chai Wan, HK
Tel: 852-28046687 **Fax:** 852-28046409

Beijing Review (ISSN 1000-9140 USPS 2812) is published weekly in the United States for US$64.00 per year by Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080
News Postage Paid at South San Francisco, CA 94080
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Beijing Review*, Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080

A Holiday Hot Spot

The "holiday economy" is an important feature of China's increasingly consumption-driven economic paradigm. During the May Day holiday this year, which ran from May 1 to 5, its consumer market was full of vitality, with tourism, culture, commerce, accommodation and transportation all blooming and contributing to the country's economic growth.

The five-day holiday recorded 314 million domestic trips, a year-on-year increase of 6.4 percent. Travelers spent more than 180 billion yuan ($25 billion), up 8 percent, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Sales from major retail and food and beverage businesses across the country registered a year-on-year increase of 6.3 percent during the holiday, the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) said. Many hotels reported full occupancy, with hotel accommodation consumption growing 14.9 percent over a year ago.

Tourism consumption is also witnessing more business format innovation, often enabled by technology development. The number of cultural immersive experience projects soared. Examples here are: the *hanfu* (the traditional attire of the Han Chinese) experience in Luoyang, Henan Province, and a ceramic study tour in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi Province. New consumption scenarios such as esports-ready hotels and camping plus music festivals attracted flocks of young consumers.

The inbound travel market is also making a remarkable recovery. During the May Day holiday, inbound travel orders climbed 130 percent year on year, according to online travel platform Trip.com.

Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Beijing are preferred inbound travel destinations, and the expanded visa-free entry and tax refunds upon purchase have boosted China's appeal as a travel destination.

Online and brick-and-mortar retail was a holiday hot spot this year. According to MOFCOM, during the holiday, sales of home appliances, automobiles and communication devices at major retail businesses rose 15.5 percent, 13.7 percent and 10.5 percent, respectively, year on year. Major e-commerce platforms' sales of smart products went up 20 percent.

The number of large-scale commercial performances entertaining over 5,000 audiences exceeded 100, with total audience numbers surpassing 2 million. China's box office topped 740 million yuan ($102 million) during the holiday.

The vitality of China's consumer market during the recent holiday demonstrates the huge potential and diversified development trends of domestic consumption, which is poised to become one of the country's major economic drivers. **BR**

WRITE TO US

Send an e-mail: editorsoffice@cicgamericas.com

Please provide your name and address along with your submissions. Submissions may be edited.

CHINA.....RMB9.00 U.S.A.....USD1.70
AUSTRALIA.....AUD3.00 UK.....GBP1.20
CANADA.....CAD2.60 SWITZERLAND.....CHF2.60
JAPAN.....JPY188 EUROPE.....EUR1.90
TÜRKIYE.....YTL5.00 HK.....HKD9.30 NEPAL.....RS40

主管单位：中国外文出版发行事业局
主办单位：中国外文局美洲传播中心（北京周报社）
出版单位：中国外文局美洲传播中心（北京周报社）
地址：北京市西城区百万庄大街24号 邮编：100037
编委会：李雅芳 贺鹏 王宁 刘云云 高丁博 于淑均 曾文卉
主任：李雅芳
主编：闫威
总编室电话：(010) 68996252 发行部电话：(010) 68310644
印刷：北京华联印刷有限公司
北京周报 英文版2025年 第20期 ISSN 1000-9140
国内统一连续出版物号：CN11-1576/G2 邮发代号：2-922
广告许可证0171号 北京市期刊登记证第733号
国内零售价：人民币9.00元

XINHUA

COMMEMORATING VICTORY

Chinese President Xi Jinping inspects the guard of honor during a grand welcome ceremony at Vnukovo Airport in Moscow, Russia, on May 7. Xi arrived in the Russian capital that day to pay a state visit to Russia, which concluded on May 10, and attend the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

This year is the 80th anniversary of the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War and the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

China and Russia, both major countries of the world and permanent members of the UN Security Council, will join hands to safeguard the victorious outcome of World War II, firmly safeguard the UN-centered international system and the international order underpinned by international law, resolutely oppose hegemonism and power politics, practice true multilateralism, and promote the building of a more just and equitable global governance system, Xi said.

XINHUA

Twinning!

Twins attend the 19th Mojiang International Twins Festival in Mojiang Hani Autonomous County, Yunnan Province, on May 1. Over 1,000 multiples from around the world took part in a parade that day.

Bicycle Output

China's bicycle production saw solid growth last year, increasing by 0.4 percent year on year to reach 99.54 million units, said Zheng Xiaoling, spokesperson for the China Bicycle Association.

Bicycle export volumes surged by 20.7 percent year on year to 47.81 million units in 2024, while the bike export value rose by 3.7 percent to $2.66 billion, Zheng said on the sidelines of the 2025 China International Bicycle Fair in Shanghai.

Notably, the export volume of electric bicycles grew by 12 percent year on year to 4.67 million units, with export value reaching approximately $2.1 billion in 2024, a 6-percent increase, Zheng revealed.

Driven by the growing popularity of cycling, China's consumption of mid- to high-end sports bicycles saw a significant increase in the first half of 2024, Zheng added.

Thanks to the consumer goods trade-in program, over 1.34 million electric bicycles were sold from September to December 2024, generating sales revenue of 3.64 billion yuan ($504 million), according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

New Park

A park built on the Yuanmou ape-man archaeological site in Yunnan Province opened to the public on May 1.

Located in Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture, the park aims to become an integrated cultural space where visitors can experience millions of years of human history.

The Yuanmou ape-man site, located on a hillside about 200 meters from Danawu Village in Yuanmou County, was where two fossils of ancient human teeth were discovered in 1965. These fossils date back some 1.7 million years.

The park has a planned total area of over 370 hectares and is being developed in three phases. "We will strive to build the park into a comprehensive base that integrates paleogeological research and education, the scientific exploration of human origins, and the in-depth study of prehistoric cultural development," said Zhang Wenwang, head of the prefecture.

Gao Xing, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, said the Yuanmou ape-man and culture were significant discoveries of ancient human remains in China. They are the first chapters in China's elementary and middle school history textbooks, and an important testament to the survival and evolution of the early *Homo erectus* in East Asia.

Fishing Moratorium

At noon on May 1, South China Sea waters north of the 12th parallel north entered a three-and-a-half-month annual fishing moratorium, according to China Coast Guard.

The South China Sea branch of China Coast Guard, in conjunction with marine fishery law enforcement departments and public security authorities in Guangdong and Hainan provinces and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, has launched a special law enforcement operation for the 2025 South China Sea fishing moratorium to ensure its effective implementation.

Before the moratorium began, task forces boarded fishing boats and patrolled docks to make known relevant laws and regulations to local fishermen, ensuring that all boats were returned to port, all crew members came ashore and all fishing nets were stored. Law enforcement vessels have also been dispatched to patrol the jurisdictional waters to establish a strict presence from the start of the moratorium.

Wetland Parks

China has established 903 national wetland parks over the past 20 years, according to an international seminar in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on April 30.

These parks have helped protect 2.4 million hectares of wetlands, providing ample habitat for key national wildlife species, information from the wetland protection seminar showed.

Speaking at the seminar, Yan Zhen, vice head of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), stressed that the country has long prioritized wetland conservation and made continuous efforts to this end.

So far, China's total wetland area stands at 56.35 million hectares. The country now boasts 82 wetlands of international importance, ranking among the highest globally, NFGA data showed.

Tourism Safety

China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism has issued an emergency notice demanding strengthened safety measures in the cultural and

tourism sector across the country following a fatal boat capsize accident in Guizhou Province, Xinhua News Agency reported on May 6.

The accident, which occurred on May 4, left 10 people dead and 70 others injured.

The notice instructs local authorities to tighten the safety management of large-scale performances and conduct thorough inspections of critical facilities, including cableways, amusement rides, specialized vehicles and tourist boats.

Travel agencies must adhere strictly to regulations for chartered tourist transport services, the notice stipulates.

Cultural Heritage Protection

A new regulation to preserve the *Manas* epic, a UNESCO-listed oral tradition of the Kirgiz ethnic group in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, came into effect on May 1.

The *Manas* epic is one of the three great heroic epics of Chinese ethnic minorities, along with *King Gesar* of the Tibetan ethnic group and *Jangar* of the Mongolian ethnic group.

It recounts the saga of Manas, a legendary hero in Kirgiz folklore, and seven generations of his descendants in their relentless struggle against evil forces, embodying indomitable character and a spirit of unity, perseverance and progress.

The regulation, with 26 articles, stipulates the systematic protection of this Kirgiz intangible cultural heritage, including protection and inheritance measures, research, translation and publication, as well as literary and artistic creation.

Manas was included on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009. For generations, it was passed down through a distinctive rhythmic singing style before efforts were made to document it in written form.

AI-Powered Research Platform

The Institute of Automation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has unveiled an AI-driven research platform, ScienceOne. This is a significant step toward transforming traditional research methods through AI automation, Xinhua reported on May 6.

Developed to overcome the limitations of generic AI models in scientific research, ScienceOne integrates advanced capabilities in data comprehension, computational optimization, and reasoning evaluation.

The platform's debut features two flagship tools: S1-Literature, an AI literature assistant capable of synthesizing thousands of papers into structured reviews and providing in-depth analysis tools like concept mapping and citation tracing; S1-ToolChain, a workflow orchestrator that autonomously coordinates over 300 specialized scientific tools.

Developed in collaboration with CAS institutes, including the Computer Network Information Center and the National Science Library, ScienceOne leverages scientific literature databases and multidisciplinary expertise to support fields such as mathematics, physics and materials science.

XINHUA

Smart Recycling

A staff member places gold jewelry into a gold recycling device at a smart gold store in a Shanghai shopping mall on May 5. The newly opened store features functions for self-service gold recycling and gold purchasing. The system can automatically detect the weight and purity of the gold placed in the device, calculate the value of the recycled item based on real-time gold prices, and process payments swiftly. This is a new exploration in the field of gold recycling.

XINHUA

Race to the Top

A visitor experiences a bicycle racing game during the 2025 China International Bicycle Fair in Shanghai on May 5. The four-day event kicked off that day, drawing nearly 1,600 enterprises from home and abroad to participate.

Promoting Private Sector

China's first fundamental law dedicated to promoting the private sector was adopted on April 30.

After over a year of legislative process, the Private Sector Promotion law, passed at a session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the country's top legislature, will take effect on May 20.

Comprising 78 articles in nine chapters, the law covers such areas as fair competition, investment and financing promotion, scientific and technological innovation, regulatory guidance, service support, rights and interests protection and legal liabilities.

The law will further optimize the development environment for the private economy, ensure fair market competition for all types of economic entities and foster the sound development of both the private sector and its practitioners.

Private enterprises have long been a key driving force behind China's economic ascendance, contributing more than 60 percent of GDP and 80 percent of urban employment. By the end of March, China had more than 57 million registered private enterprises, making up over 92 percent of all businesses in the country.

Listed Firms Performance

Most companies listed on China's A-share market delivered robust performance last year, underscoring the vitality and resilience of the world's second largest economy.

A-shares are the stocks of incorporated companies based on the Chinese mainland and listed on mainland stock exchanges.

As of April 29, 5,304 firms listed on Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges had released their financial reports for 2024, with 66.42 percent achieving profits, according to financial information provider Wind Info. Notably, 19.21 percent posted a year-on-year net profit increase of over 20 percent.

According to data from the main board of the Shanghai Stock Exchange, nearly half of China's top 50 listed firms by market capitalization in 2024 came from emerging industries, a marked increase in both number and proportion.

The auto and electronics sectors stood out among emerging industries with stellar net profit growth. The auto industry posted an 11.16-percent year-on-year expansion in net profit while the electronics sector surged 35.18 percent from a year ago, underlining the strong momentum in tech-related manufacturing.

Technological innovation emerged as a notable feature of corporate performance last year.

Data showed that in 2024, A-share firms accounted for more than half of corporate research and development (R&D) spending nationwide and held nearly one third of all the country's patents. The R&D intensity, measured by R&D expenditure as a share of operating revenue, gained 0.1 percentage point from a year ago to 2.6 percent.

Canton Fair

The 137th China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, concluded on May 5 in Guangdong Province, with the participation of over 288,000 overseas buyers.

This was a 17.3-percent increase from the previous session as well as a new high. There were 171,750 first-time attendees. Purchasers from countries participating in Belt and Road cooperation totaled 187,450, up 17.4 percent year on year and representing 64.9 percent of all overseas buyers.

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative aims to boost connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes.

The event also attracted over 527,000 online buyers from 229 countries and regions around the world.

A total of 4.55 million exhibits were showcased, including

NUMBERS

China's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

(A PMI above 50 indicates an expansion in the manufacturing or services sector; while a PMI below 50 means contraction)

1.02 million new products, 880,000 green and low-carbon products, and 320,000 smart products.

The inaugural service robotics zone emerged as a highlight of the event, with 46 Chinese manufacturers presenting over 500 advanced robots covering 60 industrial applications.

Established in 1957, the Canton Fair is held twice a year in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong. It is the longest-running of several comprehensive international trade events in China and has been hailed as the barometer of China's foreign trade.

Nuclear Power Capacity

China's operational nuclear power installed capacity and those under construction have exceeded 120 million kilowatts (kw), according to the National Energy Administration (NEA).

China's nuclear power development has always adhered to the principle of "safety first," and the country has become one of the few in the world to possess a complete nuclear power industrial system, said Zhang Xing, an official with the NEA, adding that the technological level and comprehensive capabilities of China's nuclear power sector have now entered the world's advanced ranks.

In 2024, China's nuclear power generation reached 450.9 billion kw-hours, a 3.7-percent year-on-year increase and accounting for 4.5 percent of the country's total electricity production. It resulted in an equivalent reduction of approximately 140 million tons of standard coal equivalent consumption and about 370 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, NEA data showed.

Development Index

China's digital transformation is gaining strong momentum, with its Digital China development index climbing to 150.51 in 2024, up 10.65 percent from the previous year, according to the National Data Administration's national institute for data development.

The index, which rose 10.1 percent in 2023, is a benchmark for the assessment of China's digital progress.

The institute developed the index system, which covers 10 primary and 47 secondary indicators.

In 2024, five of the primary indicators saw double-digit growth, with particularly strong momentum in the development of digital infrastructure and digital technology, with those indicators rising a respective 17.55 percent and 13.56 percent year on year.

Among notable individual indicators, the added value of core digital industries accounted for about 10 percent of China's GDP, and the country's total data generation came in at 41.06 zettabytes, marking a robust 25-percent year-on-year increase.

According to official data, China's digital industry generated a total business revenue of 35 trillion yuan ($4.8 trillion) in 2024, up 5.5 percent year on year, with total profits increasing 3.5 percent to 2.7 trillion yuan ($374 billion).

The latest index data were released at the eighth Digital China Summit, which took place in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, on April 29-30.

Services Trade

China's trade in services totaled 1.97 trillion yuan ($273 billion) in the first quarter of the year, up 8.7 percent year on year, according to the Ministry of Commerce on April 29.

Services exports reached 835.15 billion yuan ($116 billion), up 12.2 percent from a year earlier, and services imports rose 6.2 percent to 1.14 trillion yuan ($158 billion), resulting in a deficit of 303.88 billion yuan ($42 billion).

Trade in travel-related services continued robust growth momentum, jumping 21.8 percent year on year to reach 584.9 billion yuan ($81 billion), the data showed.

Meanwhile, trade in knowledge-intensive services rose 2.6 percent year on year to 752.49 billion yuan ($104 billion).

(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

XINHUA

ARGENTINA

Performers stage a Chinese sword dance during the China in Luján festival in Luján on May 4. The festival featured traditional Chinese music, dance, food and martial arts

KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakh military vehicles and weapons at an armed forces parade in honor of the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the World Anti-Fascist War in Astana on May 7

XINHUA

XINHUA

UNITED STATES

A rally in New York City on May 1 protests against President Donald Trump's initiatives on the economy, immigration, education and workers' rights

VIET NAM

A mass march commemorates the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the South and national reunification in Ho Chi Minh City on April 30

XINHUA

XINHUA

SAUDI ARABIA

A car from Chinese vehicle manufacturer Jetour at the EVS Saudi Arabia 2025 exhibition in Riyadh on May 4. The event ran for three days

XINHUA

PAKISTAN

A destroyed building after an Indian missile attack in Muridke, a town near Lahore, on May 7. Twenty-six people were killed and 46 others injured when India attacked civilian settlements in six areas of the country

FIRST ASIAN TO WIN WORLD SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

Zhao Xintong became the first Asian competitor to win the World Snooker Championship, after beating British veteran Mark Williams 18-12 on May 5.

Competing against three-time world champion Williams, 28-year-old Zhao is the second Chinese snooker player to reach the final of the World Snooker Championship, following Ding Junhui, who lost to British player Mark Selby in the 2016 trophy match.

Zhao returned to competition in September 2024, after serving a 20-month ban for breaching betting regulations, and earned his spot at the World Championship by winning four qualifiers as an amateur.

Zhao will start the next season as the world No.11. He is one of 10 Chinese players in the world's top 32.

The 2025 World Snooker Championship saw a record-breaking 10 Chinese players reach the main draw, with six of them making it to the final 16, the highest number in the tournament's history.

Tourism for All

Workers' Daily

May 7

During the May Day holiday from May 1 to 5, Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province rolled out a range of disability-friendly facilities at its major attraction spots. From wheelchair-accessible sightseeing cruises to AI-powered sign language avatars and audio descriptions for vision-impaired visitors, the city has taken solid actions to ensure that people with disabilities can fully enjoy and participate in its rich cultural heritage.

People with disabilities often face two compounding challenges when traveling: physical barriers that limit mobility, and a well-meaning but isolating focus on special treatment that emphasizes differences. The new features introduced by Hangzhou reflect a growing recognition that accessibility is a fundamental right, and that true dignity lies not in being treated differently, but in being recognized and included as equals.

Yet, challenges remain. Will smart guidance systems risk becoming underused showpieces? How can service standards be aligned across a wide range of tourist spots? These questions call for thoughtful regulation as well as the inclusion of accessibility in government laws. Ultimately, accessibility is not just for the few: From parents with strollers to travelers with luggage and older adults, it serves everyone.

New Matter Matters

Oriental Outlook

April 17

Stretching across the vast blue waters like a colossal Chinese dragon, the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link—a major cross-sea passage in Guangdong Province—stands as a testament to modern engineering. To meet the demanding conditions of its harsh marine environment, Chinese researchers have developed an advanced protective coating. Reinforced with ultra-thin materials, this

"China does not want a trade war but is not intimidated by it. We are defending not only our own legitimate rights and interests, but also the order of international trade."

Xie Feng, Chinese Ambassador to the U.S., at an embassy open house event on May 3, adding trade is not a zero-sum game, and building barriers only blocks the flow of shared growth

"We welcome Japan to continue to care about international cooperation in giant panda conservation, support China's efforts and jointly protect this flagship species."

Guo Jiakun, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, at a regular media conference on April 29, calling for continued bilateral efforts with Japan on advancing giant panda cooperation

innovative solution is designed to extend the lifespan of steel structures well beyond a century by shielding them from corrosion.

The link exemplifies how advanced materials are powering China's industrial transformation. Over the past decade, the country has made strides in new materials science. From carbon fiber and high-temperature superconductors to quantum materials and electronic skin, breakthroughs in new materials are driving not only the upgrade of traditional manufacturing sectors but also the rise of new industries.

What is also worth noting is the profound role AI has played in facilitating new discoveries in the sector. OpenLAM, a Chinese open-sourced large language model, has created a new infrastructure for microscale scientific research. Meanwhile, DeepChem, an open-source model developed by its namesake company, has greatly shortened the research and development cycle for OLED materials.

From quantum materials and superconducting cables to 3D-printed metal frameworks and AI-designed molecular structures, a new industrial revolution driven by advanced materials is sweeping across the country. With unprecedented scale and force, it is transforming industries and everyday life alike, all the while offering a unique Chinese solution to global sustainability goals.

Two-Wheel Takeoff

Chengdu.cn
May 7

In some Chinese cities, a new transport trend is gaining momentum: motorcycle taxis. Several ride-hailing platforms have recently offered motorcycle rides as a cheaper and more flexible alternative to regular taxis. Fares for this newly launched service often start as low as five or six yuan ($0.69 or $0.82), making it a budget-friendly travel option for cost-conscious urbanites. In busy urban traffic, motorcycles can also greatly cut commute times.

The rapid rise of motorcycle taxis on ride-hailing apps, however, has also brought many concerns. Foremost is safety: With minimal physical protection, both riders and passengers face substantial risks in the event of an accident. Regulatory uncertainty also adds to the challenge. In many smaller cities, informal motor taxi services run by unlicensed, loosely organized companies have largely escaped oversight. As these companies move their services onto online platforms, the need for more robust regulation of the sector becomes increasingly urgent.

To ensure the safe and sustainable growth of this emerging market, authorities must move quickly to establish clear industry standards, mandate rigorous training, and ensure adequate insurance coverage for all drivers.

ARCHITECT AWARDED PRITZKER PRIZE

Liu Jiakun received the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize, one of the world's premier prizes in the field, on May 5, becoming the 54th laureate and only the second Chinese citizen to receive the honor.

Liu was recognized for work that "celebrates the everyday lives of ordinary people and highlights collective identity and spiritual aspiration," said Alejandro Aravena, Chair of the Pritzker Prize Jury and the 2016 laureate.

One of Liu's signature projects is the West Village Base, a multi-leveled landscape of leisure, culture and commerce in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province. Aravena said the project is a defining example of how the architect's work "redefines the paradigm of public space and community life."

Liu was born in Chengdu in 1956, and much of his practice remains rooted in the city.

"The Chinese economy has continued to be very resilient, even in times of uncertainty. So we have very strong confidence from a historical perspective in the Chinese economy."

Nathan Flowerday, Chairman of Zespri, a cooperative of kiwi fruit growers in New Zealand that has spent over two decades cultivating the China market, in a recent interview with *China Daily* newspaper, pursuing deeper penetration and sustained long-term growth in China

"Unlike some Western traditions that often stress competition and conflict, the Chinese tradition advocates for a relational view of the world, where cooperation and mutual respect form the basis of interaction."

Serik Korzhumbayev, Editor in Chief of *Delovoy Kazakhstan* newspaper and a Kazakh media veteran, commenting in his article published on the Xinhua News Agency website on May 6

COVER STORY

MAY-KING MOVES

May Day holiday sees China's tourism market blossom

By Tao Xing