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## THE BALANCING ACT

Work, life and a healthy future



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## The Algorithm of Good Health

April 7 was World Health Day and this year's theme, as designated by the World Health Organization, was "Together for health. Stand with science." Whether it's rapid response against infectious diseases, AI-powered diagnosis and treatment, digitizing traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) or using smart tech in senior care, innovation is transforming healthcare. And it's helping everyone live healthier lives.

Public health security is the bedrock of the Healthy China Initiative, the national push to keep citizens healthier through innovation. New technologies like intelligent disease warning systems, rapid pathogen sequencing and precision tools are making emergency responses faster and smarter.

Take schistosomiasis, a chronic parasitic disease. Rapid testing, drone-enabled snail control and remote sensing have helped China nearly wipe it out. As of late 2025, no acute infections had been reported for many years.

Digital technologies such as AI are being deeply integrated into clinical diagnosis and treatment processes, transforming healthcare service models. The National Health Commission, along with several other departments, has proposed that by 2030, intelligent assisted applications will largely cover all primary-level diagnosis and treatment.

AI is already demonstrating huge potential in practice. At a community hospital

in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, for instance, a routine CT scan can now double as a cardiac check with the technology's help. And at Fuwai Hospital in Beijing, AI enables the rapid and precise analysis of cardiovascular images, improving diagnostic and treatment efficiency.

Technology is also invigorating TCM. Backed by the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine and related departments, new technologies are being integrated into the entire TCM development chain. For example, the large model deployed at Guang'anmen Hospital of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences can accurately recommend the right department to patients through intelligent guidance, and listen to doctor-patient conversations and generate medical records, in turn allowing doctors to spend more time on humanistic care.

An aging population, rising chronic diseases and uneven access to quality care are major challenges for China's healthcare sector. The answer to them is: technological innovation.

The country has called for more self-reliance in medical science via breakthroughs in core tech, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and vaccines.

The future of health in China is innovative, inclusive and deeply human. In the end, healthcare isn't about competition; it's about care. **BR**



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# WATER YOU WAITING FOR?

People celebrate the Water-Splashing Festival at a square in Jinghong, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, on April 15. The festival, celebrated by ethnic groups including the Dai in southwest China, imbues water with auspicious meaning. During the festivities, participants splash water on one another, extending wishes for happiness and good fortune. The Dai people, numbering 1.33 million in 2021, predominantly reside in Yunnan.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Third Orchid Awards

China International Communications Group officially opens submissions for the Third Orchid Awards on April 15, unveiling selection guidelines. Established in 2022, the prestigious international cultural exchange awards honor individuals and institutions that foster global dialogue. Ten recipients will be selected.

## National Standards

China on April 14 launched a new online feature offering free full-text access to national standards translated into foreign languages, in a move to boost transparency and lower trade barriers, according to the State Administration for Market Regulation.

The feature allows users to browse, read and download almost 3,000 national standards that have been translated into foreign languages including English, Russian and French.

Wei Hong, an official with the administration, said this is the first time such translated standards have been made available online for free. "Users can access the newly released foreign-language versions of national standards

anytime, ensuring timeliness, convenience and authority," Wei said.

As of late March, China had issued 2,613 such standards in foreign languages, covering more than 20 key sectors including equipment manufacturing and overseas contracted engineering.

## Smart Connections

Three Chinese Government departments on April 14 called for the regulated and orderly road testing and demonstration application of intelligent connected vehicles.

The related divisions of three ministries, namely the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry

of Transport, held a meeting on that day to deploy a nationwide self-inspection and rectification campaign, stressing stronger safety supervision throughout the road testing process.

Local authorities were urged to conduct comprehensive self-assessments in light of recent safety events, strengthen safety oversight across the entire process and enhance emergency response capabilities to ensure safe and orderly testing as well as demonstration activities.

## Green Fuel Program

A green fuel demonstration program with an annual production capacity of 500,000 tons broke ground in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, on April 10.

Located in Kangping County of Shenyang, the program is invested and constructed by China Power Engineering Consulting Group, a subsidiary of China Energy Engineering Corp. Its first phase, a 100,000-ton green methanol project, is expected to be completed in just two years.

The program's second phase will have an annual output of 300,000 tons of sustainable aviation fuel, while the third phase will achieve an annual production capacity of 100,000 tons of green ammonia. Once all three phases are fully operational, the program will consume about 3 million tons of biomass each year.

The project adopts an integrated technical route that combines hydrogen production by renewable energy and biomass gasification. A supporting wind power project will provide stable and green electricity throughout the entire production process, ensuring a closed-loop and low-carbon production chain.

Kangping County boasts advantages in wind power and crop straw resources. The average wind speed reaches 7.5 meters per second, with annual available hours exceeding 3,200. The annual collectible straw volume in the county and surrounding areas is roughly 5 million tons.

## Water Infrastructure

China made solid progress in water infrastructure construction in the first quarter (Q1) of 2026, with more newly launched major projects, steady investment growth and a record high in social capital input, the Ministry of Water Resources announced at a press conference on April 10.

From January to March, 15

major water conservancy projects broke ground—seven more than in the same period last year, with a total investment of 147.5 billion yuan (\$21 billion).

During this period, the country completed 207 billion yuan (\$30 billion) in water conservancy investment, a year-on-year increase of 4.1 percent. A total of 24,231 water projects were under construction, creating 670,000 jobs.

In 2026, the ministry plans to advance the modernization of irrigation areas by accelerating key projects, including the renovation of Dujiangyan in Sichuan Province. At the same time, it will coordinate the development of backbone irrigation projects and high-standard farmland, aiming to improve the irrigation and drainage system from water sources to farmland.

## AI Plus Education

China plans to launch an AI Plus Education initiative, aiming to integrate AI into classrooms from an early stage as the country accelerates efforts

to develop the technology and adapt its economy to an increasingly digital future.

By 2030, China aims to establish a comprehensive AI education system that spans all levels of schooling and extends to the broader public, the Ministry of Education said on April 10.

The plan outlines steps to speed up the roll-out of AI education in primary and secondary schools, including the introduction of dedicated courses. It also encourages schools to extend AI-related learning into after-school programs and hands-on activities, expanding student exposure beyond the classroom.

At universities, the proposal goes further, calling for AI to become part of the basic curriculum for all students. Colleges are urged to design interdisciplinary courses that pair AI with other fields, and add majors to meet the demands of emerging technologies and new business models, according to the plan.

The plan envisions using AI



## Sand Stories

A sand sculpture at the Nansha scenic area in Zhoushan City, Zhejiang Province, on April 14. Covering a total area of 10,000 square meters, the 2026 Zhoushan sand sculpture exhibition will display more than 50 horse-themed sand sculptures. It is expected to officially open to the public in early May.

to support teaching, such as expanding the use of digital tools to ease teachers' workloads and improve efficiency. It calls for applying the technology to assist teachers in homework management, advancing intelligent grading and tutoring.

It also proposes using AI to analyze classroom interactions, offering teachers insights to refine their instruction. The plan further suggests incorporating AI into teacher qualification exams and certification processes.



## A Win for Wildlife

Great bustards in a grassland in Lindian County, Heilongjiang Province, on April 13. The species is under first-class state protection in China and listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.

## Hi-Tech Zones

China now has 179 national hi-tech industrial development zones, following the State Council's February approval of the upgrading of the Xiong'an hi-tech zone in Hebei Province to a national hi-tech industrial development zone, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said on April 10.

In 2025, national hi-tech industrial development zones generated a combined output of 20.4 trillion yuan (\$3 trillion), accounting for 14.5 percent of the country's GDP, Yao Jun, a ministry official, said at a press conference.

Enterprises in these zones spent about 1.2 trillion yuan (\$176 billion) on in-house research and development (R&D) in 2025, up roughly 30 percent from late 2020, with R&D intensity reaching 6.1 percent, Yao said.

More than 26 million people are employed in these

zones, about 40 percent of whom hold bachelor's degrees or above, the ministry said.

These zones have established strategic cooperative ties with parks in more than 30 countries and regions, and set up five cooperation zones for Chinese and foreign small and medium-sized enterprises, while steadily advancing international cooperation on industrial and supply chains in fields such as AI, new energy and new materials, and biomedicine.

## Auto Output and Sales

China's automobile output totaled 2.92 million units in March, with sales coming in at 2.9 million units, surging 74.4 percent and 60.6 percent month on month, respectively, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers on April 10.

New-energy vehicle (NEV)

output and sales stood at 1.23 million units and 1.25 million units, respectively.

In the first quarter of the year, automobile output reached 7.04 million units and sales totaled 7.05 million units, the association said.

During the same period, NEV output and sales came in at 2.97 million units and 2.96 million units, respectively.

## New Listing Standard

The national securities regulator on April 10 unveiled a sweeping reform package for the ChiNext board, China's Nasdaq-style board of growth enterprises, as part of broader efforts to boost financial support for innovation.

The reform package seeks to further leverage the ChiNext board's role in serving growth-oriented innovative enterprises. Among the primary moves, the China Securities Regulatory

Commission (CSRC) will support the initial public offerings of high-quality innovative firms that have not yet turned a profit, a commission statement read.

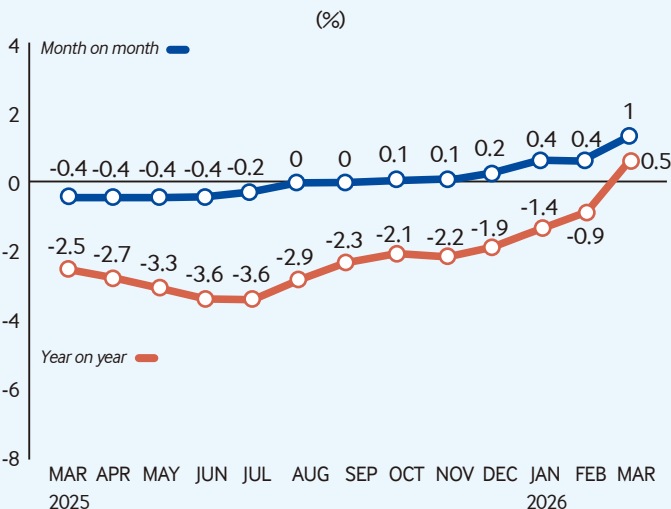
A fourth listing standard will be added for the ChiNext board to provide better financial services for high-quality innovative and entrepreneurial companies in emerging and future industries.

The new standard introduces two sets of financial metrics combining market capitalization, revenue, revenue growth and R&D investment, tailored respectively to enterprises in emerging industries and those in future industries (emerging sectors driven by cutting-edge technologies that are currently in their early stages of development or initial industrialization).

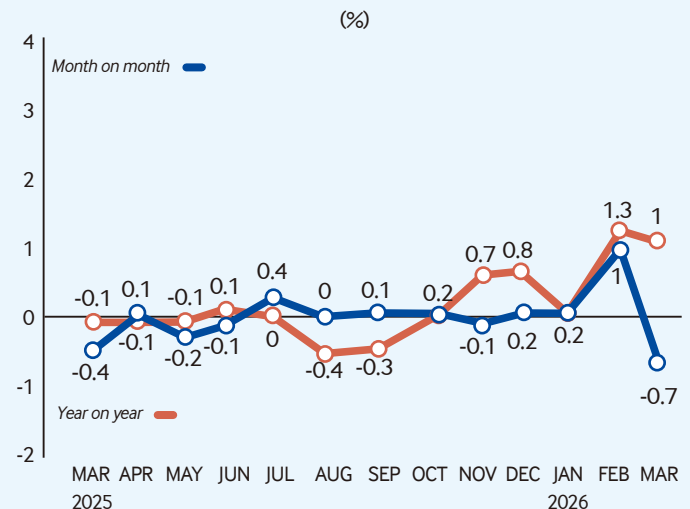
According to a CSRC spokesperson, the addition of the fourth listing standard is a timely response to the fast-

## NUMBERS

China's Producer Price Index (PPI) Growth



China's Consumer Price Index (CPI) Growth



changing global innovation landscape.

“In recent years, a growing number of innovative and entrepreneurial companies have emerged in China’s emerging and future industries. These enterprises generally share the characteristics of high initial investment, low starting revenue and rapid value appreciation, creating an urgent need for more efficient and better-tailored financial support from the capital market,” the spokesperson said.

The reform aims to better adapt to the development patterns and features of these enterprises, and to enhance the inclusiveness of the ChiNext board toward diverse forms of innovation, the spokesperson added.

## Consumer Goods Trade-in Programs

China has allocated 62.5 billion yuan (\$9.16 billion) in new ultra-

long special treasury bonds to fund consumer goods trade-in programs in 2026, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country’s top economic planner.

This is the second batch of funds raised through such bonds for the programs this year, and has been earmarked for different regions recently, according to an NDRC statement.

In late December 2025, the first batch of funds raised through ultra-long treasury bonds carrying the same value was allocated for the year 2026 to support the trade-in programs aimed at boosting consumption.

The government plans to allocate 250 billion yuan (\$36.7 billion) in ultra-long special treasury bonds to support trade-in programs in 2026.

Government data showed that sales of consumer goods under China’s policy-backed trade-in programs exceeded 2.6 trillion yuan (\$381 billion) in

2025, benefiting over 360 million people.

## New Pilot FTZ

China has expanded its pilot free trade zones (FTZ) to 23 with the establishment of the China (Inner Mongolia) Pilot Free Trade Zone, according to a plan made public by the State Council on April 9.

The plan grants the new pilot FTZ in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region greater reform autonomy and encourages pioneering, integrated and differentiated exploration across more areas and at a deeper level.

It specifies 19 reform and innovation measures, including developing border trade in an innovative way, strengthening international logistics services, improving the efficiency of technology transfer and application, and expanding external exchanges across multiple fields.

The plan aims to build the

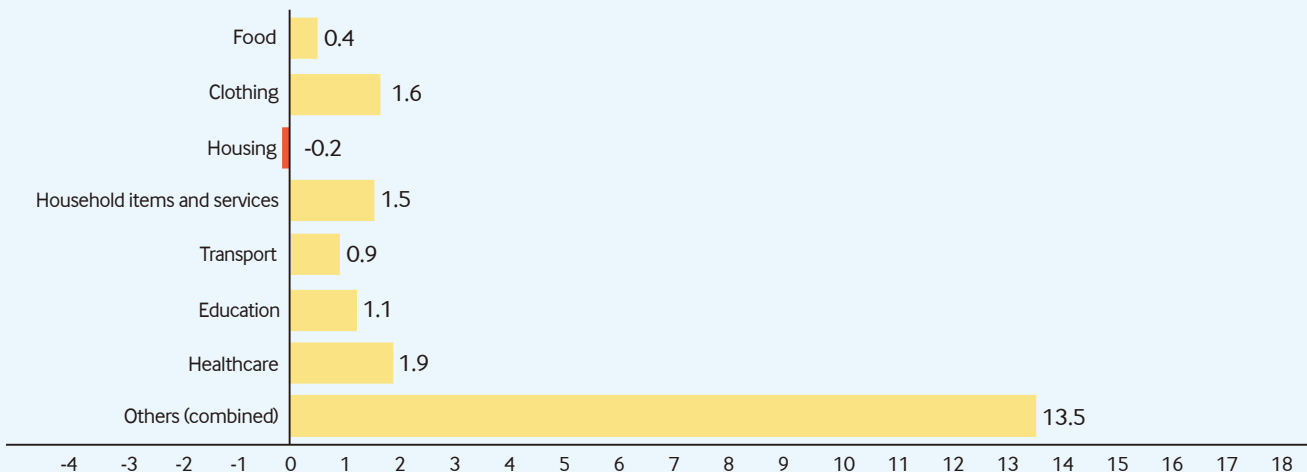
pilot FTZ into a hub for information exchange, transportation and logistics, allocation of resources and production factors, sci-tech innovation and industrial cooperation in key areas, connecting domestic and international markets while radiating to neighboring regions.

The FTZ will fully leverage its role as an important bridgehead for China’s opening up to the north, and strive to become a high-level FTZ featuring convenient investment and trade, a sound innovation ecosystem, clustering of competitive industries and international exchange.

The pilot FTZ covers 119.74 square km and comprises three subzones in Hohhot, capital of the autonomous region, Manzhouli, a northern border city, and Erenhot, a land port on the China-Mongolia border, each tasked with differentiated functions and the development of industries tailored to local conditions.

China’s CPI Growth by Type

March (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

# THIS WEEK **WORLD**



## LEBANON

The funeral of the 13 security personnel killed in an Israeli air strike on April 10, in the city of Sidon on April 11



## AZERBAIJAN

Shi Xin (first right), Chinese representative to the Women Council of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, attends the council's first meeting in Baku on April 14



## ITALY

A woman tries reading in virtual reality at the 63rd Bologna International Children's Book Fair, one of the world's largest and most influential children's book fairs, in Bologna on April 14



## IMF

Rodrigo Valdés (second left), director of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) fiscal affairs department, speaks at a press briefing on the Fiscal Monitor, a survey by the IMF staff published twice a year, which warned that global fiscal policy is coming under mounting pressure amid elevated debt levels and growing risks, in Washington, D.C., the United States, on April 15



## UNITED STATES

NASA's *Orion* spacecraft, carrying four Artemis II crew members, splashes down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California on April 10, after completing a 10-day lunar flyby mission



## BRAZIL

Brazilian women perform a traditional Chinese dance during a celebration held in honor of International Chinese Language Day in Rio de Janeiro on April 15

# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## ↓ CHINESE ILLUSTRATOR WINS HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD

**Cai Gao** has become the first Chinese illustrator to win the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the highest international honor for children's literature. The announcement was made on April 13 at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in Italy.

Born in Changsha, Hunan Province, in 1946, Cai has worked in publishing and children's book creation since the 1970s. She began her career as a rural primary school teacher before becoming an editor.

Jury President Shereen Kreidieh commented that Cai's works demonstrate exceptional quality, artistry and emotional engagement.

"The honor is too heavy for me alone," Cai said after winning the award. "It is not just for me, but for an entire generation. It is also for my colleagues in the publishing industry who love picture books. Together, we have witnessed the beginning and development of Chinese picture books."



## Cloning Colleagues

**Economic Daily**

**April 13**

The recent controversy over companies creating digital replicas of their former employees has exposed a growing legal and ethical faultline in the use of AI. The practice, enabled by an open-source GitHub project called Colleague.skill, involves feeding employees' chats, work e-mails and documents into AI models to create digital avatars capable of completing their tasks.

The central problem with such practices is that they infringe both personal data rights and employees' personality rights. Employees' chat logs are not corporate

scrap to be repurposed at will; they are legally protected personal information. For a company to create AI replicas out of such material without consent is not only likely to violate China's Personal Information Protection Law, but also to run against basic principles of workplace ethics. Left unchecked, the practice will deepen workplace anxiety as employees come to fear that they are easily replaceable.

The technology is not inherently illegitimate. But its use should be kept within legal boundaries. Above all, employees must be fully informed on how their digital doubles may be used, for how long and for what purpose. Firms, for their part, should treat workers' digitized knowhow as a form of intellectual property rather than a free corporate resource.



## Family Factories

**Lifeweek**

**April 13**

Across China, many family-run factories now stand at a crossroads, grappling with the largest wave of generational handovers in the country's history. This shift has thrust the *chang-erdai*, which literally means "second-generation factory owners," into the spotlight. They are the children of manufacturing entrepreneurs who built family firms in the decades following the launch of reform and opening up in

"I will continue promoting this technology around the world. I hope it can support greening efforts, especially in arid regions."

Inventor **Zhao Shuhai** in an interview with Xinhua News Agency about SHUBAO, a device being planted along with fruit trees in the Sahara Desert that collects water in times of plenty and slowly releases it in times of drought

"As tourism consumption in China continues to upgrade, visitors are no longer satisfied with passive sightseeing. They want deeper engagement and emotional connections with scenic spots."

**Xiao Jianyong**, deputy head of Henan Cultural Tourism Research Institute, commenting on the popularity of immersive theme parks among young Chinese

the late 1970s.

Data show that more than 80 percent of China's private firms are family businesses, and the private sector as a whole is often credited with generating over half of all tax revenue, around two thirds of GDP, 70 percent of innovation and 80 percent of urban employment. Succession, then, is not merely a business matter. It is a social one.

Many *changerdai* are only children, and were educated overseas. Returning to family-run factories, which are often based in remote towns, can bring a kind of reverse culture shock: an unfamiliar environment, a narrow social world and a lingering uncertainty about where they fit in the real world. For a generation shaped by a stronger sense of individual identity, taking over the family firm is less an unquestioned obligation than a process of self-discovery.

That helps explain their appetite for innovation. Many have turned to livestreaming, overseas expansion and the cultivation of personal brands on social media. In these varied experiments in succession, one can trace not only how individual firms adapt to a changing business environment, but also the broader shift in China's industries and consumer markets.

## The Lure of Fishing

**Gmw.cn**  
**April 13**

Fishing is no longer a niche pastime in China. It is becoming a sizeable consumer market. That was clear at the recently concluded 2026 Shanghai International Lure Fishing Show, where anglers from across the country browsed everything from standard tackle to offshore fishing boats.

According to the China Angling Association, China has around 140 million active anglers, 46 percent of whom are aged between 25 and 44—evidence that a sport once associated mainly with

retirees is now drawing a much younger crowd. Back in the day, fishing was often a means of survival. Today, for many young Chinese, the sport is more of a pastoral escape—one that offers a pause from the frenzied noise and rat race of urban life.

The appeal lies partly in the sport's variety. It can mean the quiet patience of traditional fishing or the more active style of lure fishing. The sport is now part of a much wider business. As it is increasingly combined with camping, dining, tourism and livestreaming, it is supporting a broader industrial chain spanning manufacturing, hospitality, media and services.

### ↓ CHEMIST WINS TWO MAJOR AWARDS IN ONE DAY

**Tan Weihong**, a leading figure in molecular medicine and a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, received two prestigious awards on the same day, April 12, highlighting his groundbreaking contributions.

Tan was honored with the Life Chemistry Achievement Award by the Chinese Chemical Society, as well as the Most Published Author award from the American Chemical Society (ACS). The ACS award recognizes scholars who have demonstrated exceptional productivity, quality and influence in papers published in ACS journals.



Born in Yiyang, Hunan Province, Tan was among the first group of students to take the newly resumed national college entrance examination in 1977. He is widely credited with pioneering a technique that is opening new avenues for targeted cancer therapy. He has published more than 1,000 academic papers and his work has been cited over 95,000 times.

“The aviation industry is the ‘crown’ of modern industry and bears the important responsibility of science popularization.”

**Xi Weiqun**, chief accountant of AVIC Culture Co. Ltd., about a science popularization exhibition centered on the Nantianmen Project, China's homegrown sci-fi aerospace intellectual property, which envisions a scenario where confronted with an alien threat, humanity opts to stand its ground on Earth rather than pursue interstellar colonization

“Art speaks a universal language that needs no translation.”

**Mong Mong Sho**, a Bangladeshi artist lecturing at Yunnan Arts University, after visiting Longquan, Zhejiang Province, a city with more than 1,000 years of celadon-making history

CORRECTION: *Beijing Review* regrets an error on P.10 in Issue No.15. The Hugo Award-winning author of *The Three-Body Problem* should be Liu Cixin.



A gym in a residential community in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, in April 2023

COVER STORY

# NO BURNOUT, NEW BALANCE

Stronger legal protections, smarter time management and a cultural shift from  
“always on” to “fully alive” By Lu Yan