

OPINION: FOOTSTEPS STILL FOLLOWED P.18 | FEATURES: OTTAWA-BEIJING RESET P.30

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Cover Photo: Landmark buildings in Lujiazui Financial City in Shanghai, home to numerous foreign-invested companies (VCG)

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Created in China

Once motivated by the opportunity to save costs, investors now see the chance to add value, pushing a transition from “manufacturing in China” to “creating in China.”

According to a report on the 2026 foreign direct investment confidence index released by global management consulting firm Kearney, China has retained the top position for the third consecutive year among emerging markets. The International Monetary Fund and investment banks Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs have increased the level of optimism in their forecasts for China’s economic growth in 2026, believing China will remain a crucial engine of global economic growth.

Paid-in capital in China’s hi-tech industries during the January-April period this year increased 20.3 percent year on year, accounting for 40.4 percent of the total. Paid-in capital in research and development (R&D) and design services saw an even higher year-on-year increase of 108.4 percent. Cases such as Volkswagen establishing its first integrated R&D base outside Germany in Hefei, Anhui Province, and U.S. pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Company planning to invest \$3 billion in China over the next decade indicate many foreign investors’ readiness to leverage the nation’s rich reservoir of skilled professionals and comprehensive industrial ecosystem to drive innovation in frontier technologies.

As China has removed all market access restrictions for foreign investors in the manufacturing sector, sectors such as electronics and communication, high-end chemical engineering and medical devices continue to attract heavy investment. At the same time, China is expanding service sector market access, with pilot programs for opening up in areas such as value-added telecommunications, biotechnology, wholly foreign-owned hospitals and finance continuously advancing. Faced with a complex geopolitical environment and the ongoing reshaping of global liquidity, international capital is finding a safe harbor in China to hedge against external uncertainties.

The new Catalogue of Encouraged Industries for Foreign Investment, effective February 1, aims to attract greater foreign investment in advanced manufacturing, modern services, hi-tech industries, energy conservation and environmental protection. The government is also addressing problems encountered by foreign-invested enterprises through regular roundtables, honoring national treatment and guaranteeing the free repatriation of profits. To invest in China means to invest in the future, and to invest in China means to invest in long-term certainty. For international capital, this logic has not changed, but rather will be continuously strengthened throughout the process of China’s further opening up. **BR**



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LIBERATION CELEBRATION

An event marking the 75th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Xizang, is held in Lhasa, Xizang Autonomous Region, on May 22. The region officially celebrated this anniversary on May 23.

Seventy-five years ago, a historic agreement was signed between the Central Government and the Xizang local government, leading to the region's peaceful liberation.



Next Level

The departures hall of Terminal 2 of Hong Kong International Airport in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on May 27. The departures hall was officially put into operation that same day following an upgrade.

Xi Jinping: The Governance of China

The fifth volume of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China* has been published in French, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Japanese and traditional Chinese, according to an official statement issued on May 25.

Published by the Foreign Languages Press, the new volume contains a compilation of 91 spoken and written works of President Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, from May 27, 2022 to December 20, 2024, along with 41 photographs taken during this period. It is divided into 18 sections by topic.

It documents the practices of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at its core in promoting high-quality development, further advancing reform and opening up, and making solid progress

toward building a modern socialist country in all respects, amid a severe and complex international environment and the arduous tasks of reform, development and maintaining stability at home, the statement said.

It fully reflects the wisdom and solutions contributed by the CPC to advancing the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, the statement said.

The simplified Chinese and English editions of the book were published in July 2025.

Public Services

China's State Council, the highest state administrative organ, has issued guidelines on providing basic public services based on where people actually live, rather than the location of their household registration, as part of efforts to support the country's people-centered new type of urbanization, Xinhua News Agency reported on

May 22.

The guidelines aim at ensuring that residents without local household registration enjoy the same access to basic public services as those with local household registration, known as *hukou*, according to a State Council notice.

The move will help meet people's growing needs for a better life and is key to improving the quality of urbanization and boosting domestic consumption, the notice said.

The guidelines outline measures to strengthen educational support for migrant children, and encourage more cities to expand public rental housing coverage to residents without local household registration but with stable employment.

Household registration restrictions on participation in employee social insurance will be fully lifted, and access to basic medical coverage and employment services will

see improvements.

The guidelines also called for gradually extending basic public services, including child welfare, elderly care, social assistance and disability support, to residents without local household registration, while easing household registration restrictions.

Urban Waste Recycling

China aims to raise its urban household waste recycling utilization rate to above 76 percent by the end of 2030, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development said on May 25.

The announcement came as the country launched its fourth national urban household waste sorting publicity week, running from May 25 to 31. The ministry convened a national conference on urban waste sorting in Beijing on May 25.

The official said that over the past decade, the ministry had driven sustained progress in waste sorting through pilot programs and model demonstrations.

Waste sorting now covers virtually all residential communities in 297 prefecture-level cities and above. Those cities have collectively enacted 199 local regulations or rules on waste sorting and issued more than 100 technical standards.

The latest data from the ministry showed that as of late 2025, China had 1,137 waste incineration facilities nationwide with a combined daily processing capacity of 1.18 million tons.

Food Safety Standards

China has released 1,750 national food safety standards covering more than 340 food categories, a health official said on May 25.

Gong Guoqiang, deputy head of the department of food safety standards, risk surveillance and assessment at the National Health Commission, said the standards include more than 20,000 indicators covering the entire process from food production to transportation and storage.

“The standard system accommodates the dietary characteristics of Chinese people while staying consistent with common international practices,” he said at a news conference.

Last year, 126 new standards were released, focusing on the quality of raw materials, manufacturing processes and risk control of final products.

Wildlife-Related Criminal Cases

Chinese police have filed and investigated 37,000 criminal cases involving the destruction of wildlife resources since the beginning of 2025, according to the Ministry of Public Security, Xinhua reported on May 22.

The ministry said it had placed 59 cases under special supervision, and released five typical cases involving crimes such as harming

rare and endangered wildlife, as well as illegal logging, hunting and fishing.

Chinese police across the country have closely monitored key areas and locations, including major wildlife habitats and flower-and-bird markets, to carry out targeted and intensive crackdowns. They have also actively participated in international law enforcement operations and cracked down on related transnational crimes in accordance with the law.

An official with the ministry said public security agencies will strictly implement the requirement of protecting the ecological environment via the most stringent measures, and continue to take tough steps against crimes damaging wildlife resources.

Workers’ Rights

China on May 25 released its first set of rules specifically protecting the rights and interests of workers beyond the statutory retirement age, filling a gap in the country’s labor legal framework as the population ages.

The full text of the Interim Provisions on the Protection of the



Sip Shape!

Tan Zaiheng, a young entrepreneur, prepares tea for customers at a tea culture experience space in Huanlou Village, Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province, on May 27. Huanlou Village has developed a variety of cultural and tourism scenarios including tea culture experience spaces, outdoor camps, local specialty catering outlets and parent-child interaction programs in recent years.

Basic Rights and Interests of Over-Age Workers was jointly issued by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and four other government agencies. The rules will take effect on July 1.

The provisions apply to employers that hire workers who have exceeded the statutory retirement age, as well as individuals who have retired early under related policies and are subsequently

rehired.

Under the rules, employers are required to pay over-age workers their remuneration in full and on time, with wages set no lower than the local minimum wage standard.

The regulations also require employers to comply with statutory working hour limits and generally prohibit excessive overtime arrangements.



Intangible Cultural Heritage

Inheritor Zhang Shixiu (left) and a villager dry wax dyeing artworks in Paimo Village, Danzhai County of Guizhou Province, on May 20. Miao wax dyeing, a craft inherited through generations among the Miao ethnic group in Guizhou, is famous for its elegant color, graceful patterns and rich cultural expressions.

Power Use

China Southern Power Grid's electricity load surged to an all-time high at 8:21 p.m. on May 25, shattering the previous record by 1.83 million kilowatts (kw) and breaking a six-year pattern in which annual peaks typically arrived in June or July.

The company supplies electricity to Guangdong, Yunnan, Guizhou and Hainan provinces and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Li Zhiyong, a manager of the company's power distribution center, attributed the early surge to unseasonably early high temperatures across China's southern areas, factories running at full capacity and rising household consumption.

Advanced manufacturing and new-energy sectors now operate around the clock, while data centers and nighttime electric vehicle charging have reshaped demand patterns, according to Li.

The grid has taken a slew of measures to ensure stable supply, such as tapping more of the poten-

tial of renewable power generation and clearing cross-provincial transmission corridors for electricity-sharing.

E-Commerce Expansion

During the January-April period of the year, China's online retail sales of goods and services rose 6.6 percent year on year, with online retail sales of goods contributing 72.2 percent to the growth of total retail sales of consumer goods, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) on May 26.

Online sales of agricultural products increased 12.2 percent during the first four months, while the e-commerce transaction value of metal products and chemical products rose 34.8 percent and 12.2 percent, respectively, the data showed.

E-commerce has also boosted the rapid growth of service sectors, with online sales in tourism and food and beverage jumping 33.2

percent and 20 percent, respectively.

Boosted by the Silk Road e-commerce initiative, some partner countries posted surging exports to China, the ministry said, noting that Thai durians, Emirati beverages and Italian casual pants recorded online sales surges of 344.8 percent, 78.6 percent and 22.8 percent, respectively, in the first four months of this year.

Outbound Direct Investment

China's outbound direct investment (ODI) across all industries reached 429.42 billion yuan (\$63 billion) during the first four months of 2026, an increase of 3.9 percent year on year, official data showed on May 26.

Out of the ODI across all industries in yuan terms during the period, China's domestic investors made non-financial direct investment in 5,231 overseas companies across 142 countries and regions, with the investment

value totaling 315.74 billion yuan (\$46.6 billion), down 13.9 percent year on year, according to data released by MOFCOM and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

Consumer Market

China's consumer market maintained stable performance in the first four months of 2026, as a raft of pro-consumption policies continued to take effect, according to MOFCOM data.

In April, demand for green and smart products remained robust. Data from the ministry showed that sales of smart glasses on major monitored platforms surged 5.9-fold year on year in April, while sales of handheld cameras rose 26.9 percent from a year earlier. The country's new-energy vehicle market penetration rate reached 61.4 percent in April, exceeding 60 percent for the first time.

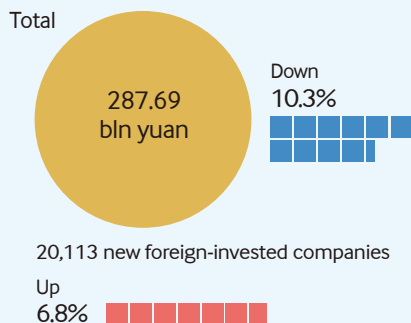
Growth in rural consumption outpaced that of urban areas in the first four months of the year. Retail sales of consumer goods in rural

NUMBERS

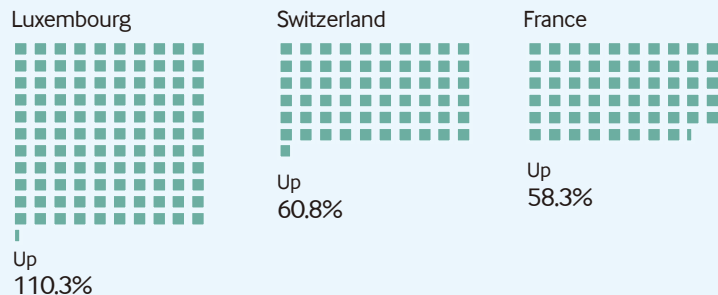
Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in January-March

(All growth rates are y.o.y., \$1=6.83 yuan as of May 28)

FDI in the Chinese mainland in actual use



FDI in the Chinese mainland from



areas increased 2.8 percent year on year during this period, 1 percentage point faster than the growth recorded in urban areas.

Inbound consumption continued to heat up, as China expanded visa-free policies and further optimized its departure tax refund policies. In the January-April period, departure tax-refund sales in Guangzhou and Shenzhen, both cities in the southern province of Guangdong, had surged 186 percent and 145 percent year on year, respectively. Previously released official data showed that China's retail sales of consumer goods, a key gauge of the country's consumption strength, expanded 1.9 percent year on year in the January-April period.

Installed Power Capacity

Nationwide total installed power-generating capacity had reached 3.99 billion kw as of late April, rising 14.2 percent year on year, official data showed on May 25.

From January to April, the installed capacity of solar power continued to grow, up 26.2 percent year on year to 1.25 billion kw, according to the National Energy Administration (NEA).

The installed capacity of wind power also posted strong growth during the period, increasing 22 percent to 660 million kw.

In the first four months of the year, China's total power use exceeded 3.33 trillion kilowatt-hours, up 5.4 percent year on year.

Civil Aviation Passenger Trips

The entire civil aviation sector handled 61.2 million passenger trips in April, up 0.4 percent year on year, data from the Civil Aviation Administration of China showed on May 21.

Domestic routes handled 54.41 million passenger trips that month, down 0.2 percent from a year earlier, while international routes handled 6.79 million passenger trips, up 5.8 percent year on year,

according to the data.

In terms of cargo and mail transport, the total volume reached 854,000 tons in April, up 6.9 percent year on year.

Cargo and mail volume on domestic routes reached 456,000 tons, up 2.1 percent from a year earlier, while that on international routes stood at 398,000 tons, up 12.9 percent year on year.

EV Charging Infrastructure

The total number of charging facilities nationwide had reached 21.96 million as of late April, up 47.4 percent year on year, according to the NEA on May 21.

Of the total, public charging facilities amounted to 4.91 million, representing a year-on-year increase of 29.6 percent. The combined charging capacity of these facilities reached 237 million kw.

China has continued efforts to expand its electric vehicle (EV) support network. In October 2025, the country unveiled a three-year

action plan to improve EV charging infrastructure, aiming to build a nationwide network of 28 million charging facilities, with public charging capacity expected to exceed 300 million kw by the end of 2027.

Postal Growth

From January to April, the postal sector handled 70.16 billion parcels, up 4.1 percent year on year. Express deliveries accounted for 64.57 billion parcels, growing 5.1 percent, data released by the State Post Bureau showed on May 20.


During the same period, total business revenue of the postal sector reached 601.85 billion yuan (\$88.5 billion), up 5.8 percent year on year. Express delivery services accounted for 497.93 billion yuan (\$73.4 billion) of the total, or a 6.6-percent increase.

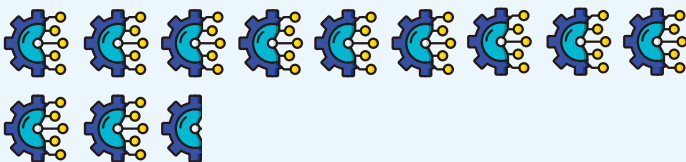
By segment, intra-city express deliveries totaled 4.51 billion parcels, down 9.1 percent year on year, while inter-regional deliveries reached 58.68 billion parcels, up 6.4 percent.

FDI in

hi-tech sector


116.33 billion yuan

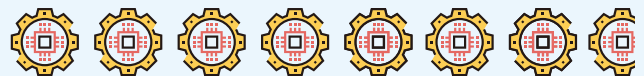
 = 10 billion yuan



manufacturing sector

78.88 billion yuan

 = 10 billion yuan



(Source: Ministry of Commerce)



CUBA

People wave national flags as they participate in a rally at the Anti-Imperialist Platform in Havana on May 22



GEORGIA

An Independence Day celebration in the Freedom Square in Tbilisi on May 26



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

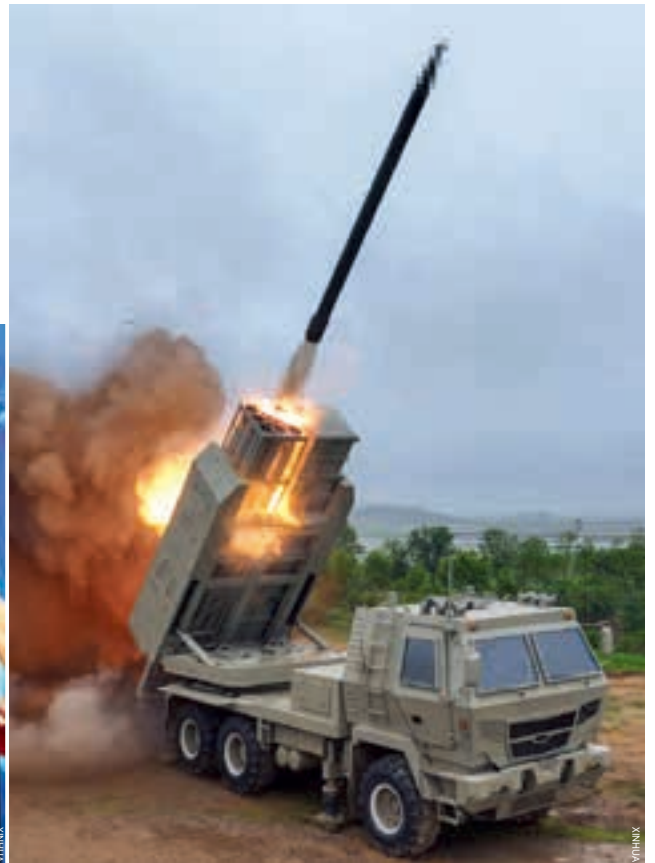
Medical workers in protective suits in Mongbwalu, Ituri Province, on May 24. The Ebola outbreak in the country remains at an early stage, but infection and death rates continue to rise





TAJIKISTAN

Models present traditional Tajik costumes at a traditional costume show in Dushanbe on May 25



DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The country tests a newly developed lightweight multipurpose missile launching system and multiple tactical cruise missile weapon system, developed by the Academy of Defense Sciences, at an unspecified location on May 26



REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The site of an overpass collapse in Seoul on May 26. Three people were killed and three others were injured

THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ GYMNAST-TURNED-PARKOUR CHAMPION DEFENDS WORLD CUP TITLE

Shang Chunsong defended her women's freestyle title at the Parkour World Cup in Montpellier, France, on May 17. Her qualifying routine featured a 720-degree spin, a move no other female athlete has completed in an international competition.

Montpellier has become a lucky venue for the 30-year-old. In May 2024, she won China's first Parkour World Cup gold there. Since then, she has also claimed gold at the 2024 Parkour World Championships in Kitakyushu, Japan, and the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, completing a career Grand Slam in the sport.



Shang began her athletic career in gymnastics, winning a bronze medal with the Chinese women's team at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics before retiring the following year. Transitioning to parkour was not easy. "It's like switching from writing with my right hand to my left," she said.

Floods and Fury

People's Daily
May 27

Recent torrential rains in Shimen County, Hunan Province, have affected more than 100,000 residents. During rescue efforts, a video of village leader Xiang Jinyuan tearfully describing the devastation, including the loss of electricity and communications, moved many viewers. Yet alongside widespread sympathy came a wave of online abuse. Some netizens fixated on her gold-colored earrings, accusing her of flaunting wealth during a disaster. Xiang later clarified that the earrings

were costume jewelry, not gold.

The controversy points to a wider problem: When online speculation replaces empathy, legitimate scrutiny can quickly descend into cyber violence. Such cynicism not only demoralizes those working on the frontlines, but also diverts attention from urgent disaster relief. Many media outlets and netizens have since come to Xiang's defense, calling for a more rational and supportive online environment.

The episode carries a broader lesson. In times of crisis, society should stand in solidarity with those battling floods and guard against the hidden disaster of baseless online attacks.



Suzhou's APEC Moment

China Newsweek
May 18

The 32nd APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting was held in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, from May 22 to 23. The meeting focused on major economic and trade issues facing the Asia-Pacific region and the wider global economy, laying important groundwork for the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting scheduled to take place in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, this November.

Suzhou's role as host drew attention to

"This bag of rice is a symbol of cooperation between Guinea and China."

Guinean Prime Minister **Amadou Oury Bah**, in a message handwritten on a bag of rice he recently gifted to Deng Ze, wife of the late agronomist Yuan Longping, in honor of Yuan's contributions to hybrid rice cultivation in the West African country

"Rewilding efforts in various locations have expanded the birds' range and living space."

Yan Lu, deputy head of the Hanzhong Crested Ibis National Nature Reserve Administration in Shanxi Province, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency. Forty-five years after the rediscovery of the world's last seven wild crested ibises in Hanzhong, the species' global population now exceeds 12,000

the city's growing weight in regional trade and advanced manufacturing. A major hub for intelligent manufacturing and exports, Suzhou has been one of China's fastest-growing cities in recent years. In the first quarter of this year, the city's total imports and exports approached 800 billion yuan (\$118 billion), up 26.5 percent year on year.

The city is also increasingly becoming a "global brain" for multinational companies. By 2025, Suzhou had become home to 278 regional headquarters and functional institutions of multinational firms. While the Asia-Pacific headquarters of multinational companies were once more commonly located in Hong Kong or Singapore, high operating costs in those places have prompted some companies to look elsewhere. Suzhou has emerged as an attractive alternative, offering full-cycle policy support, strong industrial clusters, local innovation resources and a complete supply chain.

Looking ahead, the city aims to strengthen its position in biomedicine, nanotechnology and AI. The city is also promoting the integration of digital trade and advanced manufacturing, while fostering low-carbon industries and cross-border green power trading. In doing so, Suzhou is seeking to embed itself more deeply in the Asia-Pacific industrial, supply and innovation chains.

Welcome, Wendy's

China News Service
May 27

American fast-food giant Wendy's has announced plans to enter the Chinese market, aiming to open 1,000 restaurants across the country within 10 years. Known for its square-shaped beef patties and "fresh, never frozen" meat, Wendy's is entering a highly competitive market dominated by global brands like McDonald's and KFC, both of which arrived in China decades ago.

Experts note that China's burger market is shifting from its expansionary phase into a more intense battle for market share. Chinese consum-

ers are well acquainted with Western fast food, while local players such as Tasiting and Wallace have grown rapidly by offering localized flavors at affordable prices.

Finding a foothold in China, therefore, will not be easy. Localization will be critical to Wendy's success, from adapting menus and marketing strategies to building supply chains that suit Chinese tastes and consumption habits. Despite fierce competition, China remains an attractive destination for global restaurant brands because of its vast market size and growing consumer spending power. Future opportunities may lie in trends such as healthy meals, digital ordering and speed delivery services.

↓ CLIMBER COMPLETES RARE QOMOLANGMA-LHOTSE DOUBLE

Luan Yukun, a young climber, accomplished the daunting challenge of summiting Qomolangma, the world's highest peak, and neighboring Lhotse, the world's fourth-highest peak, within a 48-hour period between May 20 and 22.

With a malfunctioning oxygen mask and injuries from falling rocks, the 33-year-old said that for parts of the expedition, "every step was agony."

Luan hails from Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province. He joined the army after graduating from high school, served two years and began climbing mountains. His obsession with major peaks began in 2014, when he visited Qomolangma's north base camp on his birthday. In the years that followed, he conquered a series of notable mountains including Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. In 2024, Luan became the youngest Chinese climber to ascend Qomolangma from both the north and south sides.



"China is turning anti-poverty work from a passive response into proactive prevention. The key is to ensure that households in difficulty are discovered promptly, supported precisely and protected sustainably."

Liu Yajun, a professor at Xiangtan University in Hunan Province, commenting on the government's efforts to avert relapse into poverty six years after China eradicated absolute poverty

"I majored in art and lack experience in programming, but the one-person company founder at the opposite desk is a senior programming expert. When encountering tricky technical problems, we can just look up and communicate face to face."

Wang Haoquan, a young founder of a cultural technology company, about a science park in Tianjin Municipality that supports youth entrepreneurs



Visitors try out AI-powered products at the Siemens booth during the Eighth China International Import Expo in Shanghai on November 7, 2025

COVER STORY

DOUBLING DOWN ON CHINA

Multinationals still bet on opportunities in the Chinese market By Li Xiaoyang