

OPINION: TRIAL BY EVIDENCE P.26 | FEATURES: REIMAGINING THE RULES P.30

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Cover Photo: A highway winds its way from Lhasa to Shannan in Xizang Autonomous Region in July 2025 (XINHUA)

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EDITOR'S DESK



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From Poverty to Prosperity

On May 23, 1951, an agreement on measures for the peaceful liberation of Xizang was signed in Beijing by the Central Government and the Xizang local government. This formally marked the breaking free of Xizang from the fetters of invading imperialism as well as the repressive rule of the Kuomintang regime, shortly after the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Under the system of feudal serfdom in old Xizang, the aristocracy, local government officials and the upper-ranking lamas of major monasteries, comprising less than 5 percent of the population, monopolized nearly all of the land, livestock and other means of production. The other 95 percent, as serfs and enslaved laborers, had no personal freedom or basic human rights, being contemptuously described as "talking tools."

In 1959, Xizang carried out democratic reforms, abolishing the feudal serfdom that had lasted for over 1,000 years. Some 1 million serfs burned their bonds of servitude and, for the first time, gained land, livestock and dignity. In 1965, Xizang Autonomous Region was established, and the system of regional ethnic autonomy was implemented. Under this system, people of all ethnic groups in Xizang en-

joy the political rights of managing both national and regional affairs.

Since its peaceful liberation 75 years ago, the economy of Xizang has achieved leapfrog growth. In the early days, the region had virtually no modern industry. In 2025, its GDP totaled 303.19 billion yuan (\$44 billion). By the end of 2019, all of Xizang's people had bid farewell to absolute poverty, a year ahead of China as a whole. Today, the region has formed a modern industrial system featuring specialty agriculture and animal husbandry, clean energy, green mining, culture and tourism as well as the digital economy.

It has built a comprehensive air, road and rail network and power, telecom and broadband facilities covering all of the region's villages, facilitating access to e-commerce and livestreaming sales. People's overall wellbeing has improved, with life expectancy increasing from 35.5 years to 72.5 years. It has established a modern education system covering all stages from preschool to higher education. A healthcare service system and a social security system are also in place.

The people of Xizang are now on the path to building a new, modern Xizang that is united, prosperous, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful. **BR**



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THE SINOLOGIST GATHERING

A dance performance during the third World Conference of Sinologists in Dunhuang, Gansu Province, on June 3.

Dunhuang is a key hub on the ancient Silk Road. Held from June 2 to 4, the conference saw over 300 scholars and cultural figures from around 70 countries across the world explore how Chinese civilization can contribute to addressing shared global challenges amid growing uncertainty.



Farewell Feast

Graduates pose for a group photo during a farewell dumpling graduation feast at Northeast Agricultural University in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, on May 29. Bidding farewell to its graduating students with a dumpling feast has been a school tradition for more than a decade.

Human Development

A report jointly released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Tsinghua University on May 29 found that most Chinese provinces have reached a high level of human potential and development, while the number of prefecture-level cities attaining high or very high levels of human potential and development has increased significantly.

The report, titled *Monitoring China's Human Development: Assessing Economic and Social Progress, as well as Environmental Costs, across Chinese Regions and Cities*, was produced by the China Institute for Development Planning at Tsinghua University, the Institute for Circular Economy at Tsinghua University and the UNDP.

It found that economic growth and improvements in education have been the main drivers of

China's human potential and development progress over the past decade.

According to the research team, the report makes three main contributions. It extends Human Development Index measurement to the prefecture level, offering a more detailed picture of China's human development landscape. It also calculates the Planetary Pressure-Adjusted Human Development Index at the provincial level in China for the first time, taking into account carbon emissions and material footprint. In addition, it provides a systematic, multi-scale assessment of human development at the national, provincial and prefecture levels over the past decade.

Restoring "Mother Rivers"

China's Ministry of Water Resources

said on May 30 that it will launch the second round of a nationwide campaign to restore "mother rivers," aiming to continuously improve the ecological environment of major rivers and lakes across the country.

The second round of the restoration campaign will cover another 111 rivers and lakes, following the inclusion of 88 in the first round, the ministry said.

By 2030, all seasonal rivers among the 111 targeted rivers and lakes will run continuously under normal inflow conditions, while the lakes' ecological water levels will be effectively maintained, the ministry said. It added that the ecological functions of key rivers and lakes are expected to improve noticeably, with important aquatic habitats restored.

Each river or lake covered in the campaign will have a tailor-made restoration plan, which

details measures for restoring water bodies that have been encroached upon, optimizing water transfers, strengthening water replenishment for ecological purposes and improving water connectivity, the ministry said.

"Mother rivers" refer to waterways that are closely tied to generations of people living along their basins at the national, provincial, municipal and county levels.

Precision Care Plan

China has launched a nationwide campaign to establish records for migrant and left-behind children, aiming to enhance the precision of welfare services, authorities said on May 30.

Local authorities have been asked to refine existing data pools, break down inter-departmental data silos and conduct thorough verifications at the grassroots level.

This data overhaul is set to be completed by the end of September, according to a notice issued by authorities led by the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Special attention is required for the most vulnerable children, i.e., migrant children facing hardships in daily life, schooling or medical care, and left-behind children without proper guardianship.

To keep these records alive and effective, villages and communities are asked to conduct monthly home visits, with data updated quarterly by township or district authorities and reviewed by county-level departments.

Precision care for migrant children focuses on their equitable access to public services to ensure they aren't left behind in education, healthcare and urban integration, according to the notice.

Quiet Residential Communities

China has built 3,272 quiet residential communities that serve more

than 2.4 million households as part of a nationwide effort to cut noise pollution, according to a government report, Xinhua News Agency reported on May 29.

The annual report on prevention and control of noise pollution in China, issued by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) together with 10 other government bodies, said urban noise was largely under control in 2025, with 93.3 percent of monitored zones meeting national standards during the day and 87.8 percent at night.

A quiet residential community is defined as a neighborhood that has brought noise pollution under control, meets national sound-environment quality standards and achieves high resident satisfaction, providing occupants with a calm atmosphere for daily life, study and work.

In 2024, the MEE circulated draft guidelines on building such communities, with the goal of making this designation the norm for all residential communities by 2035.

To qualify, a community must meet five basic criteria under the draft guidelines. These include an absence of persistent, repeated noise complaints from multiple households about the same source; compliance with noise limits set for its designated sound-

environment functional zone; and the establishment of a formal mechanism to mediate noise disputes.

MEE spokesperson Pei Xiaofei noted on May 29 that noise complaints reached about 6.83 million in 2025, up 938,000 from a year earlier, an increase Pei attributed to the public's growing expectations for quieter surroundings.

Disabled Population

China will in June launch its third national sample survey on people with disabilities, which is set to run through December 2028, according to a statement released by the General Office of the State Council, the highest state administrative organ, on May 28.

The third survey comes 20 years after the second one, which was conducted in 2006, and nearly four decades after the first one was carried out back in 1987.

The survey will cover a sample of approximately 2.8 million individuals nationwide, collecting data on the nature and evaluation of impairments, causes of disabilities, possession of disability certificates, living conditions and the receipt of and demand for assistance and support services, the statement noted.

The China Disabled Persons' Federation estimated that the



Running on Panda Power

Visitors view a Leapmotor D99 MPV featuring the image of Menglan, a giant panda at the Beijing Zoo, during the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Auto Show 2026 in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, on May 29. The show, running from that day to June 7, featured over 100 brands and over 1,300 models.

country had about 85 million people with disabilities at the end of 2010. Among them, roughly 24.7 million had limb impairments, 20.5 million had hearing difficulties and 12.6 million had visual impairments.

Rural Modernization Plan

China has unveiled a new five-year plan for accelerating agricultural and rural modernization, setting targets through 2030 and outlining major projects to strengthen

food security, boost rural incomes and advance urban-rural integration.

The plan, issued by the State Council on June 2, outlines development goals, policy measures and key tasks for the agricultural sector and rural areas.

It emphasizes that agricultural and rural modernization will play a central role in advancing Chinese modernization and calls for prioritizing agricultural and rural development while promoting greater urban-rural integration.



China Travel

A Russian tourist interacts with a robot at a Unitree Robotics store in Beijing on April 30. Beijing received 2.667 million inbound tourists in the first five months of this year, up 35.3 percent year on year.

Outbound Investment

Premier Li Qiang has signed a State Council (China's highest state administrative organ) decree issuing a new regulation on outbound investment, which will take effect from July 1.

The regulation aims to promote the country's high-standard opening up and the high-quality development of its outbound investment, protect the legitimate rights and interests of investors and their outbound investment, and safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests.

Consisting of 34 articles, the regulation highlights efforts to proactively align with international high-standard economic and trade rules, advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and promote international cooperation in industrial and supply chains. The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative aims to boost connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes.

The country supports inves-

tors in carrying out overseas investment activities in accordance with market principles and actively participating in international cooperation and competition, the regulation states.

It urges improving comprehensive services, involving related authorities, professional institutions, industry associations as well as trade and investment promotion organizations.

The rules also stress strengthening risk prevention and control, improving the soundness and security of outbound investment, as well as reinforcing investors' primary responsibility and preventing any disruption to the outbound investment market order.

Underscoring active work to negotiate and conclude international economic and trade agreements, the regulation encourages the resolution of investment disputes via various mechanisms.

Efforts should also be stepped up to effectively safeguard the safety and legitimate rights and

interests of investors and their outbound investment, as well as the country's overseas interests, according to the regulation.

Unitree's Listing

Chinese humanoid robot maker Unitree Robotics passed the review of its initial public offering (IPO) application on the country's STAR Market on June 1, according to the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

Based in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, Unitree Robotics specializes in the development of high-performance humanoid and quadruped robots, robot components and embodied AI models. It was among the first in the world to commercialize high-performance quadruped robots and apply them to industrial scenarios.

The company's prospectus stated it plans to raise 4.2 billion yuan (\$616 million) through the IPO. The proceeds will be used for projects involving the research and development of intelligent robot models and robotic bod-

ies, the development of new intelligent robot products, and the construction of an intelligent robot manufacturing base.

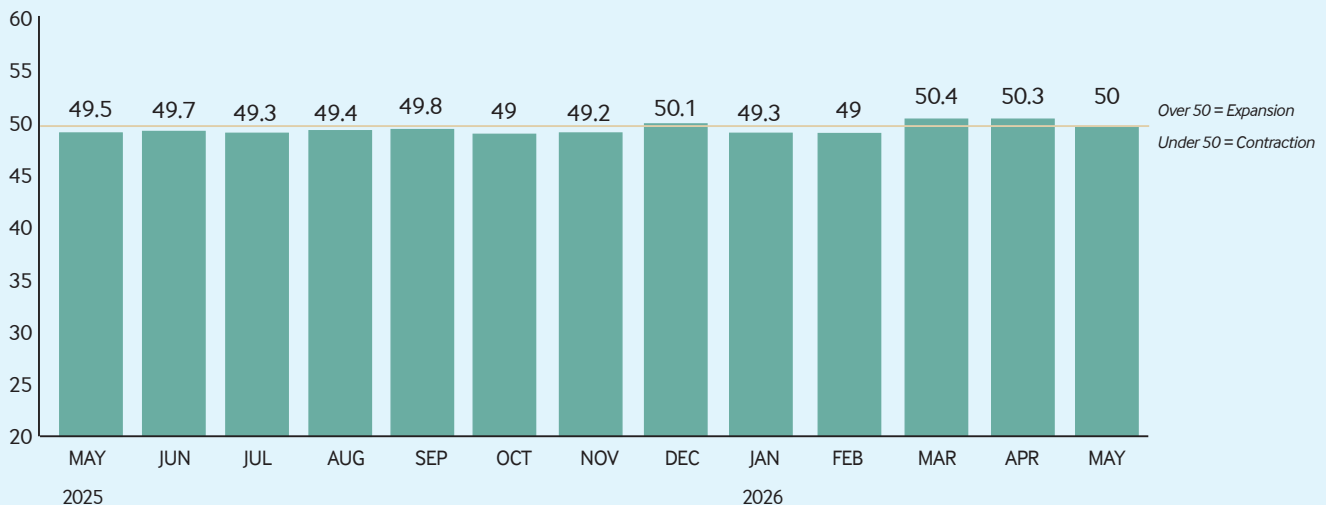
The firm's operating revenue rose from 159 million yuan (\$24 million) in 2023 to 393 million yuan (\$58 million) in 2024, and reached nearly 1.7 billion yuan (\$251 million) in 2025, the prospectus said.

Unitree Robotics expects its revenue to range between 1.052 billion yuan (\$156 million) and 1.128 billion yuan (\$167 million) in the first half of 2026. Net profit attributable to shareholders of the parent company, excluding non-recurring gains and losses, is projected to stand between 236 million yuan (\$35 million) and 283 million yuan (\$42 million).

In June 2025, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) rolled out a package of measures to further reform the STAR Market, including a pilot pre-review mechanism for IPO applications from high-quality technology companies. Unitree Robotics is the second

NUMBERS

China's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



company to file an IPO application under this mechanism.

The STAR Market was inaugurated in June 2019 at the Shanghai Stock Exchange. It is designed to bolster companies in the hi-tech and strategic emerging sectors.

SAIC Motor

SAIC Motor on May 28 became the first Chinese carmaker to surpass 100 million units in cumulative vehicle sales and production, a milestone for the country's auto industry as it expands its global footprint and accelerates a push into electric vehicles.

The achievement underscores the rapid rise of China's auto sector, which has evolved from a small domestic industry to make the country the world's largest vehicle market and a major exporter. With more choices of competitive electric vehicles, many domestic automakers have been gaining more market share from established global brands.

"The 100-million-unit mark is

not a finish line, but a springboard for China's auto industry to scale new heights," said Cui Dongshu, Secretary General of the China Passenger Car Association.

Evolving from a small local factory into a Fortune Global 500 enterprise, SAIC Motor epitomizes the rising competitiveness of China's auto industry and even the manufacturing sector globally, Cui said.

"China has officially stepped into the first tier of the global automotive industry," Cui said.

Previously, only automakers from leading vehicle-producing countries like the United States, Japan, Germany and the Republic of Korea had reached the 100-million-vehicle milestone.

Foreign Capital Inflows

China's securities regulator said on May 28 that foreign capital has been flowing steadily into the country's stock market this year via several channels, with foreign investors now holding over 4

trillion yuan (\$586 billion) in tradable A-shares.

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

Liu Haoling, deputy head of the CSRC, made the remarks when speaking at the opening ceremony of the 2026 global investors conference of the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

Foreign investors have become important participants in China's capital market, he noted.

Liu said reform measures aimed at improving investment and financing functions in China's capital market have progressed steadily and delivered tangible results, while overall market valuations remain within a reasonable range.

Foreign investors are showing increasing willingness to allocate funds to high-quality Chinese assets, he added.

As of April, the CSRC had processed 418 registration applications from domestic enterprises seeking to make IPOs in overseas markets, supporting companies

in leveraging both domestic and overseas markets and resources, according to Liu.

Passenger Trips

China reported 23.21 billion cross-regional passenger trips in first four months of the year, an increase of 2.1 percent year on year, the Ministry of Transport said on May 27.

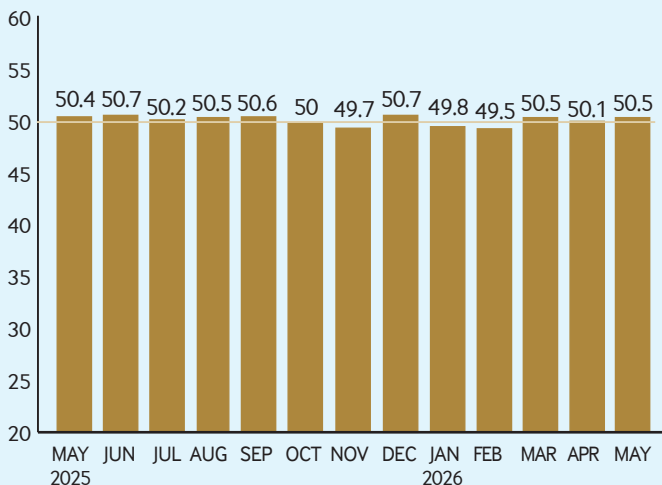
Road passenger traffic rose 1.7 percent year on year, while waterway passenger trips increased 7.4 percent.

During the period, China handled 18.17 billion tons of commercial cargo, a year-on-year increase of 3.6 percent.

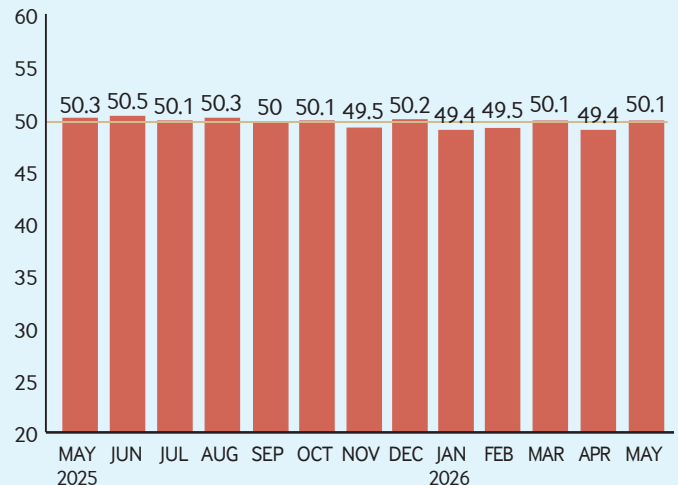
Total port cargo throughput reached 5.9 billion tons in the first four months of 2026, up 3.1 percent year on year. Container throughput climbed 7.2 percent to 120 million twenty-foot equivalent units.

China completed more than 894.4 billion yuan (\$132 billion) in fixed assets investment in the transport sector in the first four months of the year.

China's Comprehensive PMI



China's Non-Manufacturing PMI



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)



RUSSIA

The exhibition hall of the 29th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg on June 3



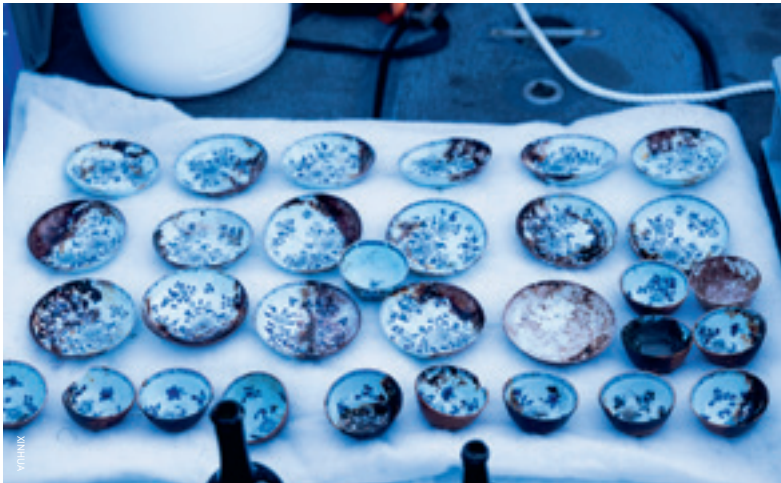
NORWAY

Pieces of Chinese porcelain recovered from a shipwreck in the Skagerrak Strait on May 9. The 18th-century shipwreck contains the best-preserved cargo of Chinese porcelain ever found in Northern Europe



INDIA

The site of a hotel fire in New Delhi on June 3. The fire claimed the lives of 21 people





UNITED STATES

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. on June 1. A U.S. district judge ruled on May 29 that the addition of President Donald Trump's name to the center was unlawful and ordered it to be removed within two weeks



JAPAN

A rally in front of the National Diet Building in Tokyo on May 29, protesting against what many participants described as a series of dangerous policy moves pursued by the government of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi



INDONESIA

Rio, the first giant panda cub born in the country, walks around at Taman Safari Indonesia in Bogor, south of Jakarta, on May 30

THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ BRIDGE BUILDER TURNS TO MARINE FRONTIER

On May 29, **Su Quanke**, Chief Engineer of the now completed Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge project, was named one of the 10 Most Beautiful Science and Technology Workers of 2026.

The honor is presented annually by the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the China Association for Science and Technology to recognize the most dedicated and inspiring figures in China's scientific and technological community.



Su graduated with a master's degree in bridge and tunnel engineering in 1987. He worked in this field for almost two decades before joining the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge preparatory office as chief engineer in 2004. The bridge opened in 2018. Six years later, he joined the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou) to lead construction of the Marine Hydrodynamic Research Facility.

The Way of the Tau

Economic Daily

May 29

Chinese tech giant Huawei has recently introduced a new evolutionary path for semiconductors—the Tau (τ) Scaling Law. This new law seeks to answer a pressing question for the semiconductor industry: As Moore's Law nears its practical limits, what will continue to drive improvements in chip performance?

For more than 60 years, Moore's Law, an observation that the number of transistors on an integrated circuit doubles about every two years, has served as the industry's guiding principle. Its core logic has been to

keep shrinking transistors, packing more of them into a given area, thereby increasing computing power and reducing costs. Yet as manufacturing processes move below 3 nanometers, performance gains have become less pronounced, while costs are rising sharply.

Instead of trying to make transistors smaller, the τ Scaling Law aims to continuously reduce signal delays and shorten data transmission times. Think of a sandwich. Conventional scaling spreads ingredients across a surface; time scaling stacks them, letting signals move vertically through shorter routes.

This reflects a broader shift in Chinese manufacturing. Amid technological blockades and industry bottlenecks, China is breaking out of conventional thinking and charting a completely new course.



Doting Docents

Oriental Outlook

May 14

Museums do not speak for themselves. Their objects may carry centuries of history, but it often takes a guide to make them intelligible to the visitors. In an age when AI and digital guides are transforming the museum experience, human guides remain hard to replace as they bring warmth and emotions to the stories behind the exhibits.

The profession has a long history in

“Foreign customers may not fully understand Chinese history and the cultural meanings behind these designs, but they can appreciate the artistic quality and Oriental aesthetics of these patterns.”

Li Zeyi, a designer in Wudi County, Shandong Province, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency about the incorporation of traditional Chinese elements in modern product design

“3D printing allows for a wider variety of ceramic forms and more intricate textures. Curves and hollowed-out designs that traditional craftsmanship cannot achieve are now largely possible through this technology.”

Hong Ziyu, head of a ceramics company in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi Province, China's famed “porcelain city,” about the rising demand for customized decorations fueled by technological innovation

China. In 1905, Zhang Jian, a modern industrialist, proposed employing “reception staff” for a planned imperial museum in Beijing, an early precursor of China’s museum guide system. As of now, the country has 7,046 museums. Collections are expanding, exhibitions are becoming more creative and museum-going has become a popular pastime. Demand for guides has risen accordingly.

To meet this surge in demand, China has built a sprawling network of full-time guides, part-time guides including museum staff and scholars, and volunteers. A commercial tier is also taking shape, as guides from travel agencies and study tour operators step in where free public services cannot keep pace.

The job itself is also changing. In the past, museum guiding was mostly a matter of standardized delivery: memorizing a script and following a set route. Today, guides are concerned not only with whether they have explained things clearly, but also with how visitors have felt.

Career prospects for guides are also broadening. They can become specialists in particular fields, design museum education programs or public events, or move into management. At the national level, China is promoting vocational certification in the cultural heritage sector, which should help build clearer career pathways for museum guides.

PayPal Connects to WeChat

Hunan Daily

May 29

In a significant move to make payments easier for international visitors, TenPay Global, the cross-border payment arm of Tencent, the company that operates super app WeChat, has partnered with PayPal World to let PayPal users make purchases directly at tens of millions of merchants in China that accept WeChat Pay. The service will first roll out to U.S. users, with other markets to follow. It is the first direct integration of a major international digital wallet into China’s QR-code payment system.

For overseas PayPal users, making

purchases in China no longer requires downloading WeChat or AliPay, another Chinese super app, and linking an international credit card, or exchanging yuan in advance. Instead, users can simply open their PayPal app and scan a Chinese merchant’s WeChat Pay QR code to complete a transaction. The system also supports presenting a PayPal-generated code for merchants to scan, thereby covering all major in-store payment scenarios in the country.

Previously, connecting domestic payment systems with overseas wallets often came with high technical costs and inconsistent standards. The new cross-border QR-code gateway offers a solution to improve connectivity and interoperability between global wallets and China’s payment networks.

THE CAVE DOCTOR OF DUNHUANG

Yu Zongren, Director of the Conservation Institute at the Dunhuang Academy, was also named one of this year’s Most Beautiful Science and Technology Workers on May 29. Dunhuang in Gansu Province is home to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Mogao Caves, almost 500 cave grottoes containing 1,000 years of Buddhist art.

Yu graduated from Northwest Normal University with a degree in chemistry in 2000 and joined the Dunhuang Academy immediately after. He has worked inside the Mogao Caves for more than two decades. Yu has developed specialized materials and equipment to treat microbial growth on murals and built a database of cave relics using X-ray fluorescence and hyperspectral surveys.

“Cultural relics are not cold objects,” he once said. “They are living memories of civilization.”



“With the world’s largest fleet, and as the world’s biggest shipbuilder and producer of shipping containers, China plays a key role in today’s shipping landscape.”

Waqas Samad, CEO of Lloyd’s List Intelligence, a leading maritime intelligence provider, at the Fourth Tianjin International Shipping Industry Expo in Tianjin in early June

“This year, we will work with relevant authorities to launch an AI technology skills enhancement campaign, strengthen AI general education, and continuously improve workers’ digital literacy and AI application abilities.”

Zhai Tao, an official with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, at a recent press conference



COVER STORY

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN MIRACLE

How an impossible afforestation project took root in Xizang By Li Nan