OPINION: FOREIGN INVESTMENT PLAN P.34 | FEATURES: THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM P.36

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THE PARTY OF THE PEOPLE

The 105th anniversary of the Communist Party of China

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The CPC Turns 105

At a gathering marking the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Beijing on July 1, President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, hailed the Party's 105-year journey as the "most magnificent epic" of the Chinese nation and urged the Party to press ahead.

Indeed, the CPC's history is a history of the Chinese nation's struggle to explore the path to modernization. Over the past 105 years, under the leadership of the CPC, the Chinese people have overthrown imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism; established a new China where the people as a whole, instead of a few at the very top, be they landlords, warlords or the super rich, are the masters of the country; and achieved a tremendous transformation, from standing up and growing well-off to becoming strong.

In 2026, China begins its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30), a comprehensive blueprint crucial for advancing national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization, a goal expected to be reached by the mid-21st century. China has broken free from the single Western model of modernization, and embarked on a new path of Chinese modernization featuring a huge population, common prosperity for everyone, material and cultural-ethical advancement, harmony between humanity and nature, and peaceful development. The CPC's leadership is the main driving force behind this modernization and rejuvenation.

In the face of China's rapid development, the Western world has been searching for the answers to questions such as why the CPC has been successful. Its 105-year journey provides an answer: The CPC remains true to its original aspiration of putting the people first, possesses powerful theoretical tools and has effective mechanisms for self-reform. The ultimate goal of the CPC is to serve the people. It has always worked to ensure ordinary members of society live and work in peace and contentment and responds to their aspirations with tangible achievements.

Going forward, the Party is poised to continuously exercise rigorous self-governance and improve its leadership as China's governing party so that it can become more capable of spearheading the nation's long-term development and contributing to the common good of humanity. **BR**

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

The national flag of the People's Republic of China and the flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are raised in a ceremony to celebrate the 29th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland at Golden Bauhinia Square in the HKSAR on July 1.

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Poetic Gathering

Over 100 poetry lovers attend a special poetry-sharing party in front of the Qu Yuan Temple in Zigui County, Hubei Province, on June 29. The event was held to commemorate renowned ancient poet Qu Yuan, who was born in Zigui more than 2,300 years ago.

Top Ports

China was home to eight of the world's top 10 ports by cargo throughput in 2025, Li Xinghu, Vice Minister of Transport, announced at a press conference on June 30.

Last year, China's port cargo throughput reached 18.3 billion tons, the country's container throughput stood at 354 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), and the scale of Chinese-owned shipping fleet reached 490 million deadweight tons, all ranking first globally, said Li.

On average, Chinese ports handled over 50 million tons of cargo and about 970,000 TEUs each day in 2025, with about 98,200 ship arrivals and departures recorded daily, including 1,236 by ships engaged in international voyages, according to Li.

China's waterway freight turnover reached nearly 15 trillion ton-km in 2025, accounting for more than half of the country's total transport system.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), China added 469 berths capable of handling vessels of 10,000 tons or above, bringing the total number of such berths to 3,061. The country also added 2,500 km of high-grade waterways, bringing the total to 18,500 km.

As of 2025, China had put 60 automated terminals into operation nationwide, including 30 automated container terminals, Li said.

Ceramics Congress

The 2026 Congress of the International Academy of Ceramics was held in the eastern Chinese city of Jingdezhen, Jiangxi Province, from June 28 to July 2, attracting international ceramic artists and experts to explore the theme of Inheritance and Innovation.

The event featured keynote speeches, academic seminars, international exhibitions and other activities. During the event, participants discussed how to preserve tradition while opening new paths for creation, sustainability and technology.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Oriol Calvo Vergés, President of the Geneva-based International Academy of Ceramics, highlighted the significance of the theme. "In recent decades, China has shown that ceramics can be much more than a heritage to be preserved. Ceramics can also be a powerful force for urban regeneration, education, tourism, innovation, industry, artistic creation and international dialogue," he said.

The host city Jingdezhen has a porcelain-making history spanning more than 1,700 years. Vergés added that Jingdezhen is an exceptional place where heritage is visible everywhere, including in the kilns and workshops, and that innovation thrives everywhere, for instance, in exhibitions and new creative districts.

APEC Tourism Meeting

The 13th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Tourism Ministerial Meeting convened on June 27 at the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform Complex in Macao Special Administrative Region.

The meeting, with the theme Digital Innovation, Collaborative Empowerment: Leveraging Tourism for an Asia-Pacific Community, featured discussions on sector development and pathways for tourism cooperation across the Asia-Pacific region.

As the host of the APEC meetings in 2026, China will hold the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, in November. Approximately 300 APEC-related meetings and events will take place in multiple Chinese cities throughout the year.

New High-Speed Rail

A Fuxing bullet train pulled out of the newly opened Xi'an East Railway Station on June 30, marking the launch of the Xi'an-Shiyan high-speed railway, a major new transport corridor linking central and west China.

The railway has a designed speed of up to 350 km per hour and a total length of 257 km. It connects Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, with Shiyan in neighboring Hubei Province in the country's central region.

The line connects to the existing Wuhan-Shiyan high-speed railway, cutting the travel time between Xi'an and Wuhan, capital of Hubei, to 2 hours 41 minutes, down from the previous 4.5 hours. The trip between Xi'an and Shiyan has been slashed from over 6

hours on conventional trains to barely an hour.

Mao Lei, chief designer of the project, said that due to the complexities of the terrain, the proportion of bridges and tunnels along the line exceeds 90 percent.

CRE Anniversary

The operational network of the China-Europe Railway Express (CRE) now reaches 236 cities in 26 European countries and over 100 cities across 11 Asian countries, transporting an increasingly diverse range of goods between the two continents, Xinhua News Agency reported on June 29.

As the CRE marks the 10th anniversary of its unified brand, cities along the route are gaining new momentum through more resilient supply chains, expanded business opportunities and closer economic cooperation.

The past decade has witnessed the CRE rapidly evolve from an emerging transport option into an established pillar of China-Europe logistics.

The annual number of train trips rose from 1,702 in 2016 to 20,022 in 2025, with an average annual growth rate of 31.5 percent.

For many European companies, the railway's value lies in its ability to complement traditional shipping routes, providing greater flexibility in managing supply chains.

Asteroid Monitoring

China is working on a space-ground integrated monitoring and early-warning network as a core component of a planetary defense system that is under feasibility study, according to a scientist familiar with the plan.

Li Mingtao, chief scientist at the asteroid monitoring and early-warning research center under the China National Space Administration, made the revelation on June 30, the International Asteroid Day designated by the United Nations to raise global awareness about asteroid impact hazards and promote planetary defense education.

Li noted that the network will combine ground-based telescopes with a space-based monitoring constellation to achieve round-the-clock surveillance with no blind spots.

By now, more than 40,000 near-Earth asteroids have been discovered and cataloged worldwide. "No asteroid has so far been identified that will definitely collide with Earth in the foreseeable future, but concerns over impact risks are not unfounded. Many near-Earth asteroids remain undetected," Li was quoted as saying in a report by *Science and Technology Daily* on July 1.

XINHUA

Set Sail for Summer

A cruise ship docks at the Qingdao Cruise Home Port in Qingdao City, Shandong Province, on July 1. On that day, the port launched its first summer voyage.

Summer Travel Rush

China's national railway network is expected to handle 1.01 billion passenger trips during the 62-day summer travel rush, which will run from July 1 to August 31, the country's railway operator said on June 30.

The figure is higher than the 943 million passenger trips recorded in the same period last year.

Some 16.29 million passenger trips are expected to be made daily on average during the period, according to the China State Railway Group Co. Ltd.

The summer travel rush is usually a busy season for the railway network as college students return home and families travel.

To accommodate the surge in travel demand, railway authorities will schedule additional train services, with a daily average of around 12,000 passenger trains operating nationwide.

XINHUA

The Bond With Kuliang

Young people from the U.S. visit a park in Kuliang, a mountainous area of Fuzhou in Fujian Province, where generations of Americans and Chinese lived side-by-side in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The visit, on June 29, was part of the Bond With Kuliang: 2026 China-U.S. Youth Baseball Exhibition Games and Sports Festival, which kicked off that day.

Service Trade

China's total value of service imports and exports reached nearly 3.1 trillion yuan ($455.2 billion) from January to May this year, data from the Ministry of Commerce showed on July 1.

Service exports rose 15.9 percent to 1.23 trillion yuan ($180.6 billion), while imports edged up 0.4 percent to 1.87 trillion yuan ($274.6 billion). The service trade deficit narrowed by 160.72 billion yuan ($23.6 billion) from one year earlier to 638.56 billion yuan ($93.7 billion).

During the period, knowledge-intensive service trade increased 5.4 percent year on year to 1.37 trillion yuan ($201.1 billion), accounting for 44.2 percent of all service trade.

Exports of knowledge-intensive services jumped 12.2 percent to 667.75 billion yuan ($98 billion), with charges for the use of intellectual property and personal cultural and entertainment services surging 64.9 percent and 50.1 percent, respectively.

Travel service exports grew at the fastest rate among the top five service export sectors, rising 31.3 percent to 188.5 billion yuan ($27.6 billion). Imports of transport services totaled 402.52 billion yuan ($59.1 billion), up 26.7 percent, the fastest growth rate among the top five service import categories.

SOE Profit

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) and state-controlled enterprises reported combined profits of nearly 1.73 trillion yuan ($254 billion) in the first five months of 2026, representing year-on-year growth of 3.5 percent, according to the latest government data, released on June 30.

During this period, these enterprises' total operating revenue came in at roughly 32.82 trillion yuan ($4.81 trillion), down 0.7 percent year on year, according to data released by the Ministry of Finance.

Their debt-to-asset ratio stood at 65.5 percent at the end of May, the data revealed.

This year's government work report, released in March, states that the country will formulate and implement plans for further deepening SOE and state-capital reform to refine the layout of the state-owned sector and adjust its structure.

Electricity Trading

China's total electricity trading volume surpassed 3 trillion kilowatt-hours (kwh) in the first five months of 2026, up 24.8 percent year on year, the National Energy Administration (NEA) announced on June 29.

During the period, electricity trading volume within provincial borders rose 28.5 percent from a year earlier, while inter-provincial and inter-regional power transactions increased 12.2 percent, according to the NEA.

Green electricity trading volume reached 136.4 billion kwh in the January-May period, up 3.9 percent year on year.

In May alone, electricity trading nationwide totaled 626.8 billion kwh, up 23.6 percent year on year.

Cultural Industry Revenue

The cultural and related industries achieved record-high operating revenue of nearly 20.83 trillion yuan ($3.06 trillion) in 2025, up 8.8 percent year on year, according to a report released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on June 29.

Specifically, all nine cultural sectors saw their business revenues rise last year, with four of them registering double-digit growth, the NBS said.

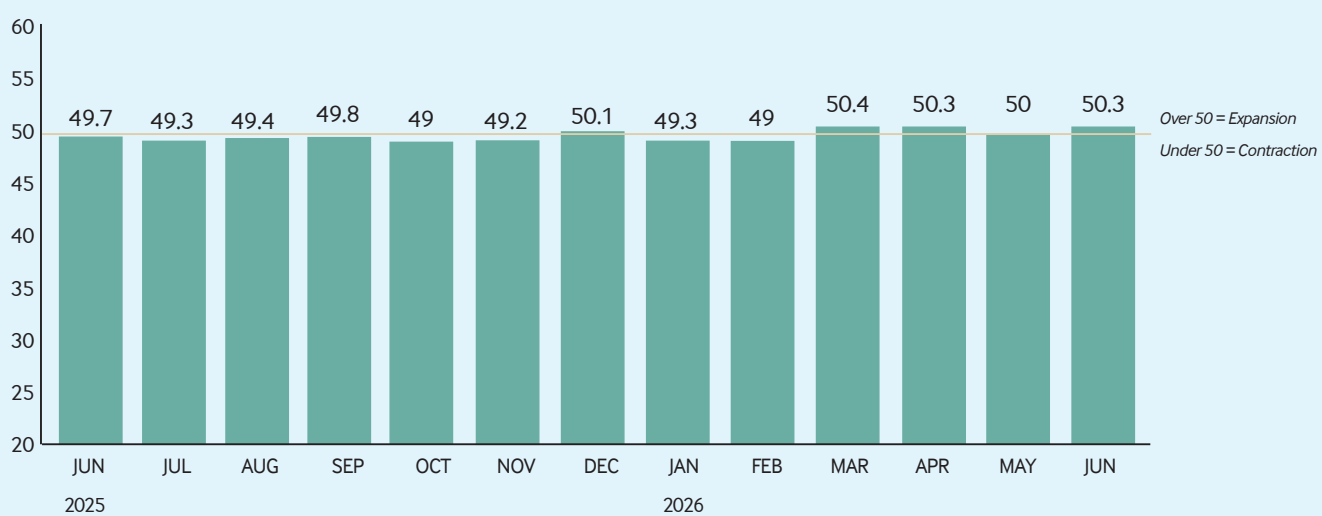
Creative design services, content creation and production, news information services, and cultural entertainment and leisure services surged 13.2 percent, 12.4 percent, 12.3 percent and 10.7 percent, respectively.

The sector's profitability improved steadily, with total profits reaching 1.9 trillion yuan ($279 billion) in 2025, up 7.3 percent from the previous year.

Emerging business models continued to play a leading role. The 16 sub-sectors with distinctive

NUMBERS

China's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



new cultural business models generated 7.67 trillion yuan ($1.12 trillion) in revenue, up 15.1 percent, outpacing overall industry growth by 6.3 percentage points.

In addition, research and development (R&D) investment by cultural enterprises grew rapidly. In 2025, major cultural enterprises spent 182 billion yuan ($26.72 billion) on R&D, up 12.1 percent year-on-year, the data showed.

External Debt

China's outstanding external debt, denominated in both local and foreign currencies, came in at $2.4121 trillion at the end of March of this year, according to official data released by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on June 26.

The figure was up $83.3 billion, or 4 percent, from the end of 2025. This moderate increase in external debt was mainly driven by active cross-border trade, which led to growth in non-resident deposits and trade loans, Li Bin, deputy head and spokesperson of the administration, said.

Li noted that the currency and maturity structures of China's external debt remained broadly stable.

By the end of March, local currency debt accounted for 55 percent, unchanged from the end of 2025.

In terms of maturity structure, medium- and long-term debt accounted for 41 percent, down 2 percentage points from the end of 2025, according to Li.

2030 Energy Targets

China aims to have largely completed the establishment of a clean, low-carbon, secure and efficient new energy system by 2030, according to a plan recently issued by the National Development and Reform Commission and the National Energy Administration.

The plan, which covers the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30), sets out targets for strengthening energy security, advancing the green transition, boosting technological self-reliance and improving market mechanisms, among others.

By 2030, China's total energy production capacity will reach 5.8 billion tons of standard coal equivalent. At the same time, comprehensive improvements will be made to the power system's capacity for complementary support, security and resilience, according to the plan.

The plan also stipulates that coal and oil consumption should peak, non-fossil energy should account for 25 percent of total energy consumption, and wind and solar power should make up more than 50 percent of the country's total installed power generation capacity, becoming the mainstay of installed capacity.

Non-fossil energy is also expected to contribute 50 percent of total power generation by 2030, becoming the main source of electricity, according to the plan.

China will accelerate the construction of a new energy infrastructure system that is strong and resilient, green and low-carbon, integrated, intelligent and efficient, to support the establishment of a new energy system by 2030.

The plan aims to make key technologies and equipment in the energy industrial chain largely self-reliant and controllable, while positioning China at the forefront of global energy technology innovation.

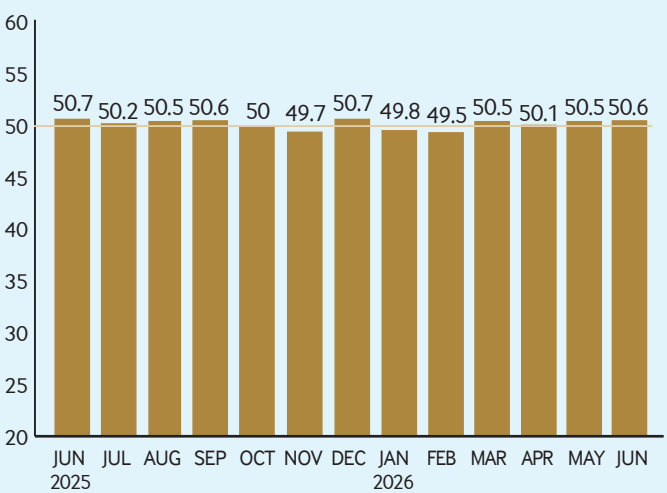
It also calls for faster improvement of market and pricing mechanisms suited to the new energy system, with a unified national electricity market system to have been largely established by 2030.

The plan also emphasizes the need to optimize fossil energy production bases, better align energy development with energy-consuming industries, and to continue the expansion of diversified energy import channels.

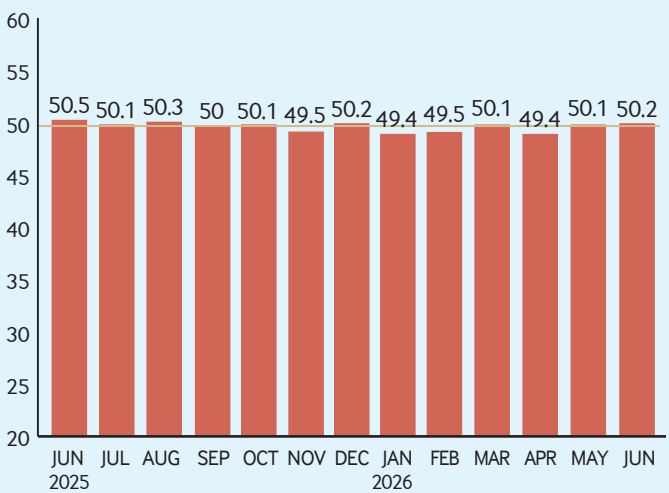
China has set the dual carbon goals of peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060.

The country has built the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system, providing stronger support for its green and low-carbon transition.

China's Comprehensive PMI



China's Non-Manufacturing PMI



(Source: *National Bureau of Statistics*)

XINHUA

UNITED STATES

German players on the field after the team's elimination from the 2026 FIFA World Cup, following a 1-1 draw with Paraguay in Boston on June 29

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Top leader Kim Jong Un visits the site of a weapons test at an undisclosed location on June 26

XINHUA

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VENEZUELA

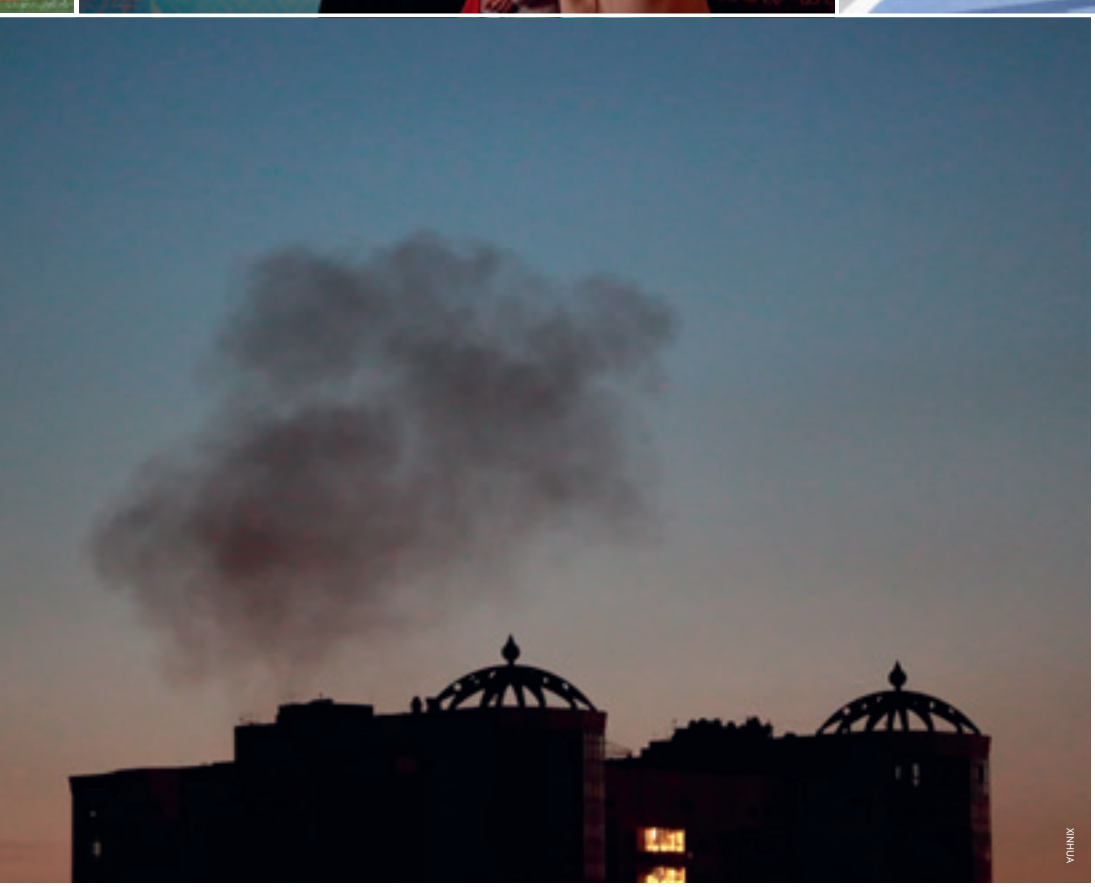
A woman sits on the rubble of a collapsed building in Caraballeda, La Guaira State, on June 28. As of that day, the death toll from two powerful earthquakes that struck the country has risen to 1,450

AUSTRALIA

Cinemagoers pose for a group photo after watching the Chinese film *Dear You* at a cinema in Melbourne on June 25. The film premiered in Sydney on June 23

MYANMAR

Seized drugs are burnt in Yangon on June 26. Authorities marked the 39th International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking that day, destroying large quantities of seized narcotics and precursor chemicals



UKRAINE

Smoke rises over a building of Kyiv in the early hours of July 2 following a Russian strike. Russian forces launched missile and drone attacks on the capital, leaving at least five people injured

LONG MARCH BATTLE HITS THE BIG SCREEN

Director **Xu Zhanxiong** released his latest feature film, a war epic titled *Crossing*, on June 26.

The film recreates a legendary three-month battle in 1935 during the Long March, depicting how 30,000 Red Army troops, under brilliant military command, outmaneuvered 400,000 enemy soldiers through four crossings of the Chishui River in Guizhou Province, achieving a stunning strategic breakthrough.

A filmmaker born in the 1980s, Xu blends grand battle scenes with sincere emotional storytelling, aiming to bring this iconic military miracle to young audiences.

Xu's directorial romance *Wild Grass* (2020) won him a Golden Crane Award at the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival. As a screenwriter, he co-wrote hit works including action-adventure comedy *Kung Fu Yoga* (2017).

Graduating Gastronomes

Workers' Daily

July 1

As graduation season approaches, a surprising group of vocational students has become highly sought after: those trained in colleges that specialize in barbecue, crayfish and other local delicacies. Many of these students have received multiple job offers before they even graduate.

For years, culinary skills were passed down mainly through apprenticeships, a slow process that has made it difficult for food traditions to adapt quickly to modern palettes.

To bridge that gap, some regions have launched colleges dedicated to training the next generation of specialists in local cuisines. In Qianjiang, Hubei Province, home to a thriving crayfish industry, a crayfish vocational college was established to train talent across the entire industrial chain, from aquaculture to cultural tourism and brand promotion.

As the food and beverage sector expands beyond dine-in service onto digital platforms, these colleges are adding courses in livestreaming, digital account operation and online store management.

The high employment rate of their graduates highlights the value of vocational education tailored to local industries. For young people, it offers stable jobs and clear career pathways. For local economies, these programs help transform traditional flavors into branded and competitive industries.

The New Space Race

China Newsweek

June 22

The next great infrastructure race is not on land or under the sea, but a few hundred kilometers above the Earth. U.S. spaceflight, telecommunications and AI company SpaceX has shown what scale can do. By May, its Starlink network had put more than 12,000 satellites into or-

"The continuous improvement of international coverage, matching efficiency between supply and demand as well as enthusiastic negotiations among participants are the most direct recognition of the promising prospects of Eurasian cooperation."

Xu Yeping, deputy head of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region's international expo affairs bureau, as the Ninth China-Eurasia Expo concluded in Urumqi on June 29, setting a record for its scale

"China's purchases encourage us to expand our orchards, because we know our produce will sell easily at a competitive price."

Sen Sokhoeun, a longan farmer in Pailin Province, Cambodia, in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency, noting with China's vast demand, Cambodian longan farmers are seeing steady incomes

bit, giving it a commanding share of the world's low-Earth-orbit satellites and more than 10 million active users in over 130 countries and regions.

Low-Earth-orbit constellations can provide encrypted data links and near-real-time sensing. Orbital slots, meanwhile, are scarce and largely allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The country or company that builds the dominant constellation may therefore help shape not only the future of connectivity, but also the rules of space governance and the flow of cross-border data.

China is moving fast. It has filed for more than 200,000 satellite positions with the International Telecommunication Union, a sign of the scale of its ambitions. But filings are not satellites. China has only hundreds of low-Earth-orbit satellites in service and it has yet to demonstrate the successful recovery of a large reusable liquid-fuel rocket. Satellite manufacturing is also far costlier. One reason is that China's commercial satellite industry still relies heavily on workshop-style production. That has improved reliability and success rates, but it has not enabled quick scaling.

Yet the prize is worth chasing. Energy grids, shipping, disaster response and low-altitude aviation could all benefit from ubiquitous, resilient satellite connectivity. Mastering low orbit may help determine who owns the data layer of the future.

Supercomputing Superpowers

China.org.cn

July 1

China's LineShine supercomputer, also known as Lingsheng, has taken first place on the latest ranking of the world's fastest supercomputers. The result is China's first return to the top spot in nine years, with LineShine surpassing America's El Capitan.

That matters because a supercomputer is a system of systems. Chips, memory, software, cooling and power supply must all work together. A weakness in one part can blunt the whole machine. LineShine therefore signals progress not only in hardware, but in the ability to coordinate a complex industrial chain.

Its timing is notable. Years of American technology controls have raised costs and narrowed access to advanced components. But they have also forced China to build stronger homegrown supercomputing capabilities. LineShine's ascent is thus not a sudden miracle, but the product of years of hard work by Chinese scientists and manufacturers.

It also hints at a broader shift. High-end computing has long been concentrated in a handful of rich countries. China's return to the top of the rankings suggests that supercomputing need not follow a single technological path and that more countries may yet find room to shape the computing future.

SCIENTIST WINS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

On June 14, **Jiang Tianzi**, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the China Society of Image and Graphics, was awarded the Glass Brain lifetime achievement award from the Organization for Human Brain Mapping. The award recognizes work in neuroimaging that advances understanding of the human brain's organization and function.

This is the first time since the award's inception in 2014 that it has been given to a scientist from outside Europe and the Americas.

For over two decades, Jiang, also a member of Academia Europaea, has pioneered the field of brainnetomics. He created the innovative Human Brainnetome Atlas by mapping brain connectivity, laying a critical foundation for brain-computer interface research. His team has also developed cutting-edge wearable brain stimulation systems for neurological treatment.

"Successful AI transformation is not primarily a technology change. It is a people and organization change."

Dora Liu, CEO of Deloitte China, stressing that organizations redesigning work around people and AI are more likely to improve productivity than those simply deploying new technologies, as a new World Economic Forum report on AI development was released on June 23

"In the experience economy, consumers increasingly value the process itself and the emotional satisfaction it provides, rather than the final product."

Zhang Peili, a professor at the School of Economics of Renmin University of China, commenting on the popularity of pixel bead art, which she believes is part of a broader wave of experience-driven consumption, in a recent interview with Xinhua

COVER STORY

FOR THE PEOPLE, FOR THE WORLD

Rooted in a people-centered mission, the CPC's 105-year-long existence delivers unique insights for domestic and global development By Lu Yan