

OPINION: FLOOD OF MISINFORMATION P.26 | FEATURES: CITIES ADAPT TO HOTTER SUMMERS P.38

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Cover Photo: Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives in Bishkek for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2026 and a state visit to Kyrgyzstan on August 30 (XINHUA)

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Cooperation Across Continents

From August 30 to September 3, President Xi Jinping attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2026 in Bishkek and paid state visits to Kyrgyzstan and Egypt. The trip was conducted against the backdrop of major milestones in China's relations with its partners.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the SCO. Over the past 25 years, the SCO has grown from an organization of six founding members to a big family spanning 27 countries across three continents—Asia, Europe and Africa. It has expanded its focus from regional security to more than 50 areas of cooperation and become the most extensive, populous and promising comprehensive regional cooperation organization in the world. The Bishkek Summit brought together member states, observer states and dialogue partners to discuss major issues such as security governance, economic and trade connectivity and people-to-people exchange.

Kyrgyzstan is a founding member of the SCO and a close neighbor of China. Both sides have made solid progress in carrying out major joint projects. Landmark connectivity projects such as the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Railway are steadily advancing, opening up new land-sea connectivity channels in the region, activating the development potential of landlocked countries and facilitating more

convenient and efficient trade and logistics across Eurasia.

Xi's state visit to Egypt was his first since 2016 and was made as the two countries celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. As a major country with significant influence in the Arab world and on the African continent, Egypt has always stood shoulder to shoulder with China, and the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Egypt has become a model of China-Africa and Sino-Arab cooperation. The two countries have upheld guidance from their top leaders, consolidated strategic mutual trust, and maintained close coordination on international and regional hotspot issues.

Under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, key projects such as the China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone are continuously advancing, and cooperation in industrial and supply chains has been further intensified. Other achievements have been made in infrastructure, new energy, food security and aerospace technology, bringing tangible benefits to both countries.

Peace and development remain the underlying themes of our times. The consensus and achievements reached during Xi's trip once again demonstrate that unity and cooperation are the correct path for addressing global challenges. **BR**



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SPACEWALK REPAIRS

Shenzhou-23 astronaut Zhu Yangzhu performs extravehicular repairs on China's orbiting space station on August 28. Zhu and colleague Zhang Zhiyuan installed debris shields and repaired the station's solar panels.



A Meeting of the Minds

Visitors watch a robot display at the 2026 China International Big Data Industry Expo in Guiyang, Guizhou Province, on August 28. The expo, running until August 30, showcased cutting-edge technologies including computing power infrastructure and data supply.

Summer Travel Rush

China's railways handled approximately 954 million passenger trips during the summer travel surge from July 1 to August 31 this year, while freight transport remained stable and safe, China State Railway Group Co. Ltd. (China Railway), the country's railway operator, said on September 1.

During the period, the national railway network transported 680 million tons of cargo, according to China Railway.

The company increased transport capacity by implementing a summer train operation schedule alongside the usual third-quarter timetable and making full use of newly launched lines, according to one of its executives.

The railway network operated an average of 11,623 passenger

trains daily during the 2026 summer period.

To cater to summer travel demand for family trips, study tours, red tourism and wellness tourism, China Railway ran 699 tourist trains, including 415 dedicated tour trains.

It also operated 351 customized trains to serve various events, exhibitions and performances, such as those tailored for music fans and sports fans, boosting cultural and tourism consumption along these routes.

AI-Powered Special Education

China will explore the use of AI to advance special education, and promote the integration of AI technology into all aspects of teaching and learning, according to an action plan jointly issued by seven government departments,

Xinhua News Agency reported on August 31.

The plan for special education development and improvement, released by the Ministry of Education and six other departments, outlines measures to promote high-quality, integrated development of special education and further improve the special education system during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30).

The plan proposes new models of human-machine collaboration, including intelligent learning companions and AI-assisted teachers, and explores AI applications aimed at providing classroom assistance for students with disabilities, as well as home-based teaching for those with severe disabilities.

Healthcare Access

China's healthcare system recorded 10.65 billion patient visits

in 2025, up 510 million from the previous year, reflecting improved access to medical services across the country.

By the end of 2025, China had more than 1.1 million healthcare institutions and a medical workforce of 16.12 million, both exceeding the previous year's figures, according to a report released by the National Health Commission on August 28.

As China's healthcare system, already the world's largest, continues to expand, access to primary healthcare is improving. The government is promoting a tiered healthcare system, and the number and share of visits to primary healthcare facilities continued to rise in 2025. More than 90 percent of residents can now reach a nearby healthcare facility within 15 minutes.

Healthcare costs fell in real terms in 2025, the report shows. The average cost of a hospital stay declined by 1 percent to 9,768.9 yuan (\$1,454), while the average cost of an outpatient visit dropped by 0.9 percent to 357.7 yuan (\$53).

These improvements have contributed to better health outcomes nationwide. In 2025, average life expectancy in China rose to 79.25 years. The maternal mortality rate fell to 13.4 deaths per 100,000 live births, and the infant mortality rate dropped to 3.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Ship Retirement

The *Harbin*, the first second-generation domestically built guided-missile destroyer of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy, was decommissioned on August 28 in Qingdao, Shandong Province, after more than 30 years of service.

Commissioned in 1994, the vessel was the lead ship of the Type 052 guided-missile destroyer class. Over the decades, it participated in more than 100 major training

exercises and operational missions and sailed over 400,000 nautical miles (740,800 km).

In 1997, the destroyer joined a Chinese naval task group on a landmark voyage to four countries in the Americas, marking the first trans-Pacific voyage and first visit to the continental Americas by Chinese naval vessels.

During its service, the *Harbin* visited 22 ports in 20 countries and took part in 17 joint exercises with foreign navies.

After decommissioning, it will be berthed in Changsha City, Hunan Province, as a public site for national defense education.

Railway Anniversary

The Beijing-Kowloon Railway, a crucial north-south rail artery linking Beijing with Shenzhen in Guangdong Province and Kowloon in Hong Kong, celebrated 30 years of full operation on September 1. Over the years, it has facilitated 1.77 billion passenger trips and transported 1.05 billion tons of freight, according to China Railway.

Spanning 2,397 km, the railway extends from Beijing West Railway Station through eight provincial-level regions to Shenzhen, where it connects with services to Hong Kong. When it opened on

September 1, 1996, it was China's largest railway project at the time.

It has played a pivotal role in facilitating the movement of people and goods between north China, central regions, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, an economic hub encompassing nine cities in Guangdong and the two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macao.

With additional sections of the Beijing-Hong Kong high-speed rail corridor entering service in recent years, conventional and high-speed lines now collaborate to provide enhanced capacity along this vital north-south route.

Copper and Gold Deposits

China has made a major breakthrough in copper and gold exploration in the Chating region of Xuancheng, Anhui Province, with the discovery expected to establish a large-scale resource base in east China, the Ministry of Natural Resources said on September 1.

Located in the hinterland of the Yangtze River Delta, the Chating deposit is a copper-gold deposit newly discovered in China in recent years with the potential to reach a super-large scale.



Hanfu Expansion

A livestreamer promotes traditional *hanfu* in Caoxian County, Shandong Province, on August 27. The county is leveraging its large and complete clothing industrial chain to expand into doll clothing, ethnic minority apparel and humanoid robot costumes.

The main ore body in the mining area measures around 1.2 km in length and 1.1 km in width, with the maximum apparent thickness of the ore body in a single borehole reaching 1,371 meters, according to the ministry.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the potential copper resources exceed the scale of several large copper mines, each with over 500,000 tons, while the potential gold resources surpass those of

more than a dozen large gold mines, each with over 20 tons. The deep ore bodies have not yet been fully explored, leaving significant room for upward revision of resource reserves.

Additionally, associated beneficial components such as silver and sulfur can be recovered and utilized and, once developed, the site is expected to become a super-large copper-gold production base in east China, the ministry said.



River School Buses

Students and parents board a ferry in Boai Town, Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, on August 30. To improve difficult commutes created by mountainous terrain and river crossings, local authorities launched these free ferry services in 2021.

Photovoltaic Power Capacity

China's installed photovoltaic (PV) power capacity has surpassed coal-fired power capacity for the first time, making PV the country's largest power source by installed capacity, the National Energy Administration said on September 1.

The country's installed PV power capacity reached 1.286 billion kilowatts (kw) at the end of July, edging past the coal-fired power capacity of 1.285 billion kw, according to the administration.

By the end of July, PV power accounted for more than 30 percent of China's total installed power generation capacity. Measured by newly added capacity, the share rose to more than 40 percent in the first seven months, demonstrating the rapid expansion of the PV sector.

China has built a complete PV industry chain covering research and development, design and integrated manufacturing.

Technological advances, including repeated breakthroughs in PV conversion efficiency, have helped drive continuous upgrades and rapid cost reductions.

China's rapid development of PV power and other forms of new energy is also making a positive contribution globally.

With the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system, China supplies more than 80 percent of the PV modules and 70 percent of the wind power equipment around the world, facilitating green transition in many countries.

Auto Industry

China issued guidelines on September 1 to regulate Chinese automakers' overseas competitive practices and strengthen corporate compliance, aiming to promote the sound and orderly global expansion of the country's auto industry.

The 20-article guidelines were released by the Ministry of Commerce and two other govern-

ment departments.

To regulate overseas competitive practices, the guidelines encourage automakers to adopt cost-based pricing strategies guided by international market supply and demand, and urge them not to disrupt market competition in pursuit of unfair advantages.

When setting suggested retail prices for vehicles in overseas markets, companies should follow local laws and regulations and the market principles and business practices of host countries and regions; establish clear price tiers for different vehicle configurations; and avoid frequent or substantial price fluctuations that could harm consumer interests, according to the guidelines.

The guidelines also call on automakers to respect local dealers' and agents' pricing autonomy and conduct promotional activities in line with local laws and customs.

Customs data showed that China exported 8.32 million vehicles to more than 200 countries

and regions in 2025. Chinese companies have so far invested in automotive manufacturing in over 80 countries and regions.

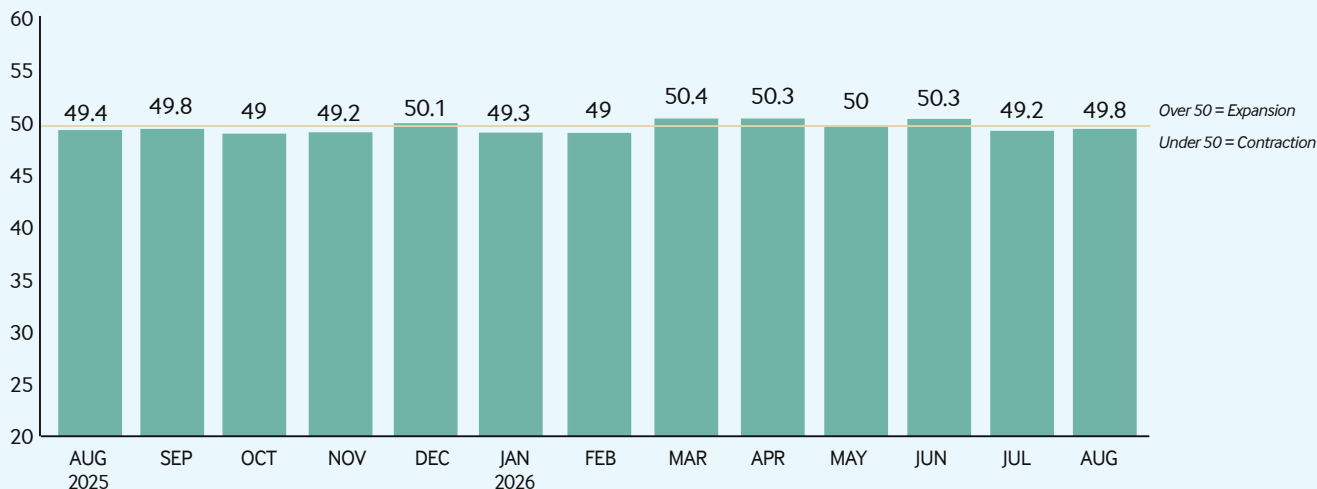
Commercial Housing Sales

China will steadily advance reforms to its commercial housing sales system and accelerate efforts to foster a new development model for the real estate sector, according to a recent circular jointly issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the National Financial Regulatory Administration.

It calls on local authorities to regulate presale conditions for commercial housing and strengthen supervision of presale funds to ensure the safety of such funds, effectively guard against housing delivery risks, and protect the legal rights and interests of homebuyers.

For commercial housing projects offered for presale, the

China's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



main structure of each building should be complete, according to the circular.

For commercial housing projects that had obtained construction project planning permits before the circular took effect and are already offered for presale, existing policies and regulations will continue to apply to presale conditions and the supervision of presale funds.

The circular also calls on local authorities to advance the sale of completed new homes in an effective and orderly manner, so as to realize the goal of “what you see is what you get” and reduce disputes over housing delivery.

Data Economy

China's data industry continued to expand rapidly in 2025, supporting the development of the fast-growing AI sector, according to official data.

The scale of China's data industry reached 6.78 trillion yuan (\$1 trillion) in 2025, up 15.7 percent year on year, figures released at

the opening of the 2026 China International Big Data Industry Expo on August 28 showed.

Data-related software products, including AI application software, and data resource products, including token services, had a combined output value of 4.99 trillion yuan (\$742 billion), accounting for 73.6 percent of the industry's total.

As of August, more than 126,000 high-quality datasets had been built nationwide, with a total volume exceeding 1,815 petabytes, an increase of more than 89 percent from March.

The rapid growth of China's data industry is backed by years of policy efforts. In 2019, China became the world's first country to formally recognize data as a factor of production, followed by the establishment of the National Data Bureau in 2023.

5G Mobile Subscriptions

China continued to expand its

5G network this year, with 5G mobile phone subscriptions reaching 1.3 billion by the end of July, or 70.5 percent of the country's total mobile phone subscriptions, official data showed on August 28.

The country's three major telecom operators and China Broadnet, a state-owned operator that integrates local radio and TV carriers across the mainland, had a combined 1.85 billion mobile phone subscriptions by the end of July, according to data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

The construction of new-type infrastructure advanced steadily in the first seven months of the year. The number of 5G base stations reached 5.15 million by the end of July, a net increase of 316,000 from the end of last year.

Mobile Internet traffic grew rapidly in the first seven months, reaching 258.7 billion gigabytes, up 17.6 percent year on year.

Mobile Internet of Things

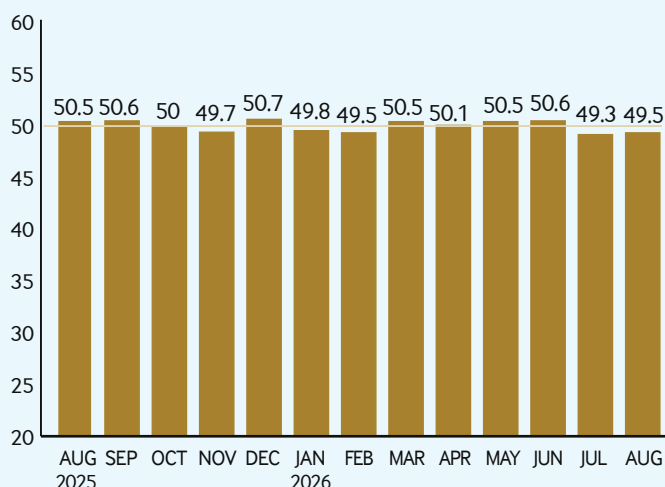
(IoT) terminal users of the three major telecom operators totaled 2.99 billion by the end of July, up 105 million from the end of last year.

Fixed broadband users continued to shift toward gigabit services. The three major telecom operators had 702 million fixed broadband subscribers by the end of July. Of the total, 260 million were gigabit broadband users, accounting for 37.1 percent, up 2.6 percentage points from the end of last year.

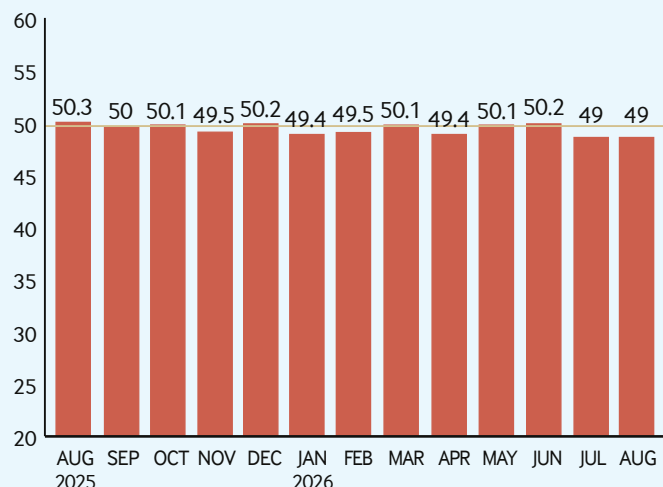
China has established the world's largest information infrastructure. Gigabit optical network access is available in every county, while 5G networks cover all towns and more than 95 percent of administrative villages.

The country is pushing ahead with its Digital China initiative, aiming to raise the added value of the core industries of the digital economy to 12.5 percent of GDP by 2030, according to the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30).

Comprehensive PMI



Non-Manufacturing PMI



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)



MALAYSIA

A parade celebrating the 69th anniversary of the country's independence in Putrajaya on August 31



NORWAY

Mourners gather outside the Royal Palace as the royal standard flies at half-mast in Oslo on August 28. King Harald V died at the age of 89 early that day



ZAMBIA

President Hakainde Hichilema reviews soldiers during his inauguration ceremony at the National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka on September 1. Hichilema was sworn in on that day for a second five-year term



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Visitors at the booth of EcoFlow, a provider of home energy and portable power stations headquartered in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, during Middle East Energy 2026 exhibition at Dubai World Trade Center in Dubai on September 1



UNITED KINGDOM

Performers dance in the Notting Hill Carnival in London on August 31. Originating in the 1960s, the event is a way for Afro-Caribbean communities to celebrate their cultures and traditions



ITALY

Attendees walk the red carpet at the opening ceremony of the 83rd Venice International Film Festival in Venice on September 2

THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ YOUNG DIRECTOR AIMS FOR 'SOMETHING REAL'

Director **Wen Muye**'s *Once Upon a Time in the Middle East* is set for a phased global roll-out in September after its blockbuster domestic run. An award-winning filmmaker, Wen, 31, is celebrated for realistic, human-centered storytelling.

This anti-war drama-comedy is Wen's third feature film following *Dying to Survive* (2018) and *Nice View* (2022). It tells the story of chef Xu Fu, who runs a popular Chinese restaurant in the Middle East, only to see ordinary lives upended by conflicts. "With every film I make, I hope to give the audience something real and grounded to hold on to, and emotions they can feel deeply," he said in an interview.

Overseas screenings begin on September 11 in Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia, with North America, Europe and the Middle East lined up for later releases.



Bookable Buses

Gmw.cn
August 31

A new "responsive bus" service in Wuhan, Hubei Province, has attracted widespread attention for its flexible approach to public transportation. Unlike traditional buses that operate on fixed routes and stops, the service allows passengers to hail a bus from the roadside or book a ride via smartphone, and travel to any destination within the service area. Fares are as low as 3 yuan (\$0.42) per person for shared rides and 20 yuan (\$2.8) for private hire.

The model aims to address a key weakness of conventional buses: Passengers often

need additional time and effort to reach their final destinations after getting off. By adapting operations to individual travel demands, this new service can encourage people to choose public transit over private cars while making buses more efficient.

Wuhan's initiative is part of a broader trend among cities across China to explore new ways of improving bus services. The "responsive bus" model is particularly suited to densely populated areas and short-distance trips. At the same time, questions over how to address the digital divide faced by the elderly and people with disabilities when booking such rides will require further deliberation and refinement.



Wild in the City

Lifeweek
September 7

This summer, a handful of Chinese cities reported a rise in snake encounters. Across the country, meanwhile, certain wild animals are becoming unlikely urban mascots: sika deer in Dalian, Liaoning Province, raccoon dogs in Shanghai, wild boars in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, red-billed gulls in Kunming, Yunnan Province, and macaques in Guiyang, Guizhou Province.

The species that thrive in cities tend

"Culture knows no boundaries.
Only by exchanging knowledge and
inspiring one another can we reach
enormous heights."

Monica Strotmann, Managing Director of Stardust Holding BV, as the Dutch entertainment and production company brought dancers from the Shanghai Ballet to perform *Swan Lake in The Hague*, the Netherlands, on August 28

"We do have a multilateral system
that is not terribly functional these
days. We need to change it. We
need to reform it."

Vuk Jeremić, former President of the UN General Assembly and former Foreign Minister of Serbia, in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency on global governance

to be adaptable and unafraid of people. The spotted dove, for instance, can nest almost anywhere, from air-conditioning units outside apartment windows to flowerpots on balconies, and survive on both seeds and food offered by residents.

Some urban animal populations, however, are thriving specifically as a result of human activities. Guiyang's Qianling Mountain Park offers a striking example. Its macaque population began with just eight monkeys, later joined by escapees and rescued animals. Years of human feeding have transformed them into a large population that has since spread through the city's green spaces, with sightings at 369 locations.

Short-video creators livestreaming the monkeys have built audiences around them, while businesses near the park have benefited from the extra foot traffic. This long economic chain helps explain why, despite widespread recognition that overfeeding can fuel conflicts between monkeys and humans, bans on feeding are difficult to enforce.

The answer is not simply to remove wildlife, but to foster greater public awareness and build laws around altered urban ecosystems. As wildlife adapts to cities, cities must adapt in return. The responsibility, ultimately, remains human.

Quirky Careers

Workers' Daily
September 1

Steamed bun makers and professional scratchers are unlikely to feature on most people's list of promising careers. Yet two young entrepreneurs are making businesses out of both. In Wuhan, a university graduate runs a shop selling more than 50 varieties of Chinese-style steamed buns in cartoon-inspired shapes. In Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, another young entrepreneur has opened two stores offering specialized scratching services designed to promote relaxation and relieve stress.

For years, jobs like this have often been regarded as less respectable and secure,

which makes them a fallback rather than a first choice for young jobseekers. The rise of these niche businesses reflects a more diversified consumer market, in which consumers are placing greater value on personalized experiences and products that offer something out of the ordinary. Young people, meanwhile, are increasingly willing to spot opportunities in overlooked markets.

But novelty alone does not make a business sustainable. Inconsistent service standards, uneven quality control and unclear boundaries can leave such businesses vulnerable once the initial buzz wears off. The challenge is therefore to turn what may initially seem like a fad into a stable profession.

↓ OCTOGENARIAN WINS TRANSLATION AWARD

Li Dengke, 85, has become the oldest recipient of the Translation Award of the Lu Xun Literature Prize. Presented every four years, this year in Shanghai on August 28, the prize, named after literary giant Lu Xun (1881-1936), is China's top-tier award for writers.

Li, better known by his pen name Pu Long, retired from the School of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Lanzhou University, as a professor of English in 2013.

Two years later, he began translating *The Life of Samuel Johnson*, a landmark biography of an iconic 18th-century British literary figure by British author James Boswell. It took him a decade to complete the first full Chinese translation of the work, which was published in three volumes totaling 1,800 pages. It is one of the more than 50 books Li has translated since 1981.



“The future is about human-machine symbiosis, where humans direct and machines assist. The essence lies in collaboration.”

Qin Yongbin, Vice President of Guizhou Minzu University, on the sidelines of the 2026 China International Big Data Industry Expo in Guiyang in late August

“Earth-moon communication is like threading a needle from 1,000 miles away.”

Yang Lei, a researcher at the Technology and Engineering Center for Space Utilization of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as the center said in late August that its researchers had completed a laser communications test between Earth and the moon, successfully verifying two-way high-speed laser link capabilities in orbit



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends a group photo session during a welcome banquet hosted by Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov ahead of the “SCO Plus” meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on September 1

COVER STORY

SHARED ASPIRATIONS

Head-of-state diplomacy charts a new course for the SCO and unites the Global South By Ma Miaomiao

From August 30 to September 3, Chinese President Xi Jinping embarked on a landmark trip to Central Asia and Africa. He attended the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2026 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and paid state visits to Kyrgyzstan and Egypt. This five-day tour linked multilateral cooperation with bilateral friendship.

The itinerary coincided with a cluster of milestones: The SCO celebrates its 25th anniversary;

China and Egypt mark the 70th year of diplomatic ties; and China embarks on the first year of its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30). Dense yet substantive, the agenda featured strategic blueprints forged during