

OPINION: PRESIDENT XI VISITS THE U.S. P.30 | FEATURES: GLOBAL MAYORS DIALOGUE P.36

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THE LONG MARCH

Inside the journey that shaped China's trajectory



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CONTENTS

EDITOR'S DESK

**02 The Long March at 90:
Why It Still Matters**

THIS WEEK

COVER STORY

**12 Retracing the Long March
At 90**

A journey to discover the spirit
that has shaped the nation

18 The Long March Revisited
Zunyi was the hinge on which
the trek turned

20 Echoes of the Long March
The Red Army in Sichuan,
a story of mountain and
marshland crossings

22 Following the Red Star

Where one finds out what “hard”
actually means

25 The Red Thread

How a pivotal chapter in history got a
rebrand and a hashtag today

28 A Living Moral Compass

A 12,500-km journey that changed a
country's course

OPINION

30 Seek First to Understand

China and the U.S. must foster broader
multi-sector engagement

32 Fact and Fiction About the Law On Ethnic Affairs

What it says and what it actually does

34 Consensus & Cooperation: The New York Trade Talks

Turning agreements into tangible
results

FEATURES

36 The Rivers That Bind Us

Mayors, maps and currents that don't care
about borders

38 Waterway to the World

New canal project links southwest China more
closely with global markets

40 Where Drones Take Off

The city that carved the first Chinese characters
now writes flight paths in the sky

42 Cold Currents, Hot Pursuit

The cutting-edge mobile aquaculture vessel set
to remake the salmon industry

CULTURE

46 Two Entrances, One Epic

Inside a landscape millions of years in the
making

FORUM

**48 The Subsidy and the Show: A Tale of
Two Expectations**

Cover Design: Wang Yajuan

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The Long March at 90: Why It Still Matters

This October, China commemorates the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Long March by the Red Army under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Commemorative events have been held across the country. Many international content creators have also come to China, retracing the Long March and presenting the historic journey to their followers based on their own firsthand experience.

The Long March was the Red Army's strategic redeployment from October 1934 to October 1936, which ended in Gansu Province after Red Army soldiers had outmaneuvered their Kuomintang pursuers and crossed some of China's harshest terrain. The Long March proved a turning point, saving the Chinese revolution and opening a new chapter in its history.

The Long March reshaped the course of China's development, and through the Red Army's indomitable spirit, demonstrated the human will to survive in adversity and forge ahead. Today, it can also serve as a window for the world to better understand China and the country's development path.

Over the course of a grueling expedition, the Red Army completed a strategic relocation that pushed the limits of human

endurance. The Long March not only demonstrated to the international community the power of Chinese revolutionaries, but has also become a model of resilience, self-discipline and progress for the generations that have followed.

Why has China been able to foster new opportunities amid crises and open up new prospects amid changing circumstances? Why has the country consistently upheld independence and self-reliance while forging ahead with determination? Examining the history and enduring legacy of the Long March offers insights into these questions.

What the Long March has left behind is not only a military miracle, but also a rich heritage. The spirit of struggle in the face of dire adversity, the steadfast commitment to justice and ideals, the strength found in unity and mutual assistance and the dedication to public wellbeing represent values shared by humanity across national borders, races and eras.

In an era of compounding turbulence and major transformation, the Long March spirit stands as a beacon: Its perseverance, courage to rise to challenges and united drive for progress offer timeless guidance for humanity. **BR**



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A WARM WELCOME!

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives at Joint Base Andrews on September 23 for a state visit to the United States at the invitation of U.S. President Donald Trump. Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, were warmly greeted by Trump and his wife, Melania Trump, at the airport in a rare planeside welcome.

China and the U.S. should be partners, not rivals, Xi said in a written speech, noting that the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and making America great again can go hand in hand, and that the two countries can help each other succeed and advance the wellbeing of the whole world.



Team China

Members of the Chinese delegation during the opening ceremony of the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Japan on September 19. China's 1,274-member delegation features 815 athletes competing in 38 sports, with an average age of 24 and around two thirds making their Asian Games debut. Their performance in the Games, running until October 4, serves as a key indicator of China's readiness for the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, the United States.

Online Protection For Minors

The Cyberspace Administration of China has drafted a set of guidelines to ensure healthy and safe Internet use by minors, laying out a series of regulations for relevant service providers.

The draft was made public on September 18 and is open to public comments until October 17.

The draft encourages the research, development and manufacturing of smart terminal products specifically designed for minors and tailored to the laws and characteristics of their physical and mental development, as well as Internet technologies and services conducive to the healthy growth of minors.

Minors shall not be exposed to online social networking services with strangers, virtual intimate relationship services and online services that induce addiction in minors or are detrimental to their

physical and mental health, the draft reads.

Online services for minors under the age of 16, such as online social networking services and AI services that may affect minors' cognition, can only be provided through a minor mode, according to the draft.

It also clarifies the functions of the minor mode, which include identifying online information detrimental to minors' physical and mental health, protecting minors' personal information rights and interests, preventing minors from becoming addicted to the Internet, and facilitating guardians in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Strengthening Universities

Home to one of the world's largest higher education systems, China is promoting greater differentiation among universities to better serve socioeconomic development.

In a newly unveiled guideline on the reform of higher education institutions, authorities called for universities to pursue distinct development paths, whether research-, application- or skills-oriented, and foster new forms of integrated education to explore innovative approaches to nurturing top talent.

According to experts, the move aims to strengthen research-oriented universities' leading role in driving major breakthroughs in science and technology while enabling application-oriented universities to focus on practice-oriented talent, industry-education integration, technological innovation and research commercialization.

Skills-oriented universities, meanwhile, should serve as a mainstay for cultivating master craftsmen and highly skilled professionals, with a focus on employment-oriented training and support for the development of a modern industrial system.

RV Tourism

China is encouraging regions to develop a number of distinctive recreational vehicle (RV) tourism routes as part of a broader push to unlock RV consumption and cultivate RV camping as a new growth area, according to a guideline released on September 18.

The guideline, issued by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and nine other Central Government departments, has been approved by the State Council, the highest state administrative organ.

The measures span the entire RV industry chain, from manufacturing and registration to parking, campgrounds, rentals, insurance and tourism promotion.

On the supply side, China will encourage RV makers to improve suitability, comfort and user experience, and to develop new-energy, smart and green RVs. It will accelerate the development of standards for vehicle safety and key components, while supporting modifications such as energy storage and living facilities.

To improve access and parking, local authorities will be supported in refining urban road rules and ensuring normal RV passage.

Height-restriction devices at major intersections and public parking lots should take RV needs into consideration. Cities are encouraged to build centralized RV parking areas, while scenic-area parking lots, expressway service areas and public parking lots are guided to provide RV spaces and basic services such as water, charging and sewage disposal.

International Science Organization

A new international science organization made its debut on September 20 at the opening ceremony of the 2026 World

Conference on Science Literacy in Beijing.

The World Organization for Science Literacy, which was registered in Beijing in June, aims to provide a global platform for science outreach and guide intelligent societies toward beneficial development. It has 32 founding members from 21 countries across Asia, Europe, South America, Africa and Oceania.

Wu Xiangping, president of the organization, pointed out the uneven levels of science literacy worldwide, highlighting persistent gaps across regions, genders and communities.

He said the organization will pool global wisdom to narrow science literacy gaps, contribute to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

Space Kitchen

China's orbiting space station *Tiangong* has improved its kitchen with advanced appliances and more food choices to keep its residents well-fed during long stays in orbit.

The Astronaut Center of China, working with several private companies, has upgraded the "space kitchen" with a suite of intelligent appliances for drinking water, food

reheating and baking, enabling astronauts in orbit to eat hot meals within 20 minutes instead of having to wait longer or eat cold food.

At an aerospace medical engineering conference in Tianjin on September 19, Liu Weibo, an expert with the center, gave examples such as a space water dispenser that ensures reclaimed water is safe to drink, and a space microwave heating device that allows rapid reheating at low power with no microwave leakage.

Liu also noted that the hot-air baking oven, the world's first designed for space use, achieves efficient, low-energy removal of cooking fumes and has allowed astronauts in orbit to enjoy baked chicken wings, steak and cake.

Orthodontic Treatment

Chinese specialists have successfully corrected a giant panda's crooked jaw using an orthodontic technique adapted from human treatment, in the first such procedure performed on this species.

The treatment, jointly carried out by the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding and West China Hospital of Stomatology, restored the panda's ability to bite and chew normally. Related research was published in July in *The Angle Orthodontist*, a leading



Cultural Flow

Artists perform during the 2026 Yangtze River Culture and Arts Season in Wuhan, Hubei Province, on September 19. The event, on September 19-October 30, is a multidisciplinary event encompassing the fine arts, photography, film, stage arts and cultural heritage. It mainly showcases premier artistic resources from the Yangtze River basin.

international orthodontic journal.

Beixia, a male giant panda born in 2022, suffered a jaw injury shortly after birth. By around 3 months old, his lower jaw had begun to deviate to the left, causing milk to leak from his mouth and raising concerns that he could eventually struggle to chew bamboo, which posed a serious threat to his survival.

With Beixia's jaw still developing, veterinarians and orthodontists decided to use the panda's natural

growth potential to correct the asymmetry. They digitally scanned his mouth and designed a customized fixed appliance, with three orthodontic elastic bands to apply gentle traction and guide the jaw toward more symmetrical growth.

The treatment lasted about six months. Follow-up examinations showed that Beixia's jaw deviation had largely been corrected, and normal sucking, chewing and swallowing functions had been restored.



Manufacturing the Future

A robot performance at the 2026 World Manufacturing Convention (WMC) in Hefei, Anhui Province, on September 20. Themed Intelligent Manufacturing for a Better Future, the WMC ran on September 20-23, bringing together over 2,000 guests from more than 50 countries and regions worldwide.

Tax Data

In the January-August period, sales revenue of China's hi-tech industries increased by 15.7 percent year on year, with the hi-tech manufacturing sector up 18.9 percent, according to data released by the State Taxation Administration on September 21.

Notably, sales revenue of AI-related integrated circuit manufacturing and intelligent vehicle equipment manufacturing surged 67.7 percent and 38.8 percent year on year, respectively, the data showed.

Tax data also pointed to a deepening integration of the digital and real economies. In the first eight months of 2026, sales revenue of digital product manufacturing and digital product services went up 16.6 percent and 11.1 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile, China's industrial sales revenue rose 7.3 percent year on year during the period, with that of equipment manufacturing sector up 10.1 percent.

The tax data show the Chinese economy maintaining

a momentum, with new growth drivers and improved structure, an official with the State Taxation Administration said.

Grain Output Value

The annual industrial output value of China's grain industry is expected to exceed 4.5 trillion yuan (\$666 billion) during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30), an official said on September 21.

The grain sector will better meet people's demand for higher-quality, more nutritious and healthier food, Liu Huanxin, head of the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration, said at a press conference.

China's grain industry has maintained steady growth in recent years, with the total industrial output value of grain enterprises rising from 3 trillion yuan (\$448 billion) by the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-20) to over 4 trillion yuan (\$597 billion) by the end of the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25).

Liu said that despite current fluctuations in the international

grain market, China's grain market has remained generally stable and the country's food security is well guaranteed.

Liu pointed to a recent forecast by the World Meteorological Organization, which showed that *El Nino* will continue to strengthen and could impact global food production. Meanwhile, geopolitical conflicts are disrupting transport routes, driving up fertilizer prices and production costs, and adding to uncertainties around global food security.

He said China's food security is underpinned by stable production, ample reserves and strong processing capacity.

China's annual grain output has stayed above 650 million tons since 2015, exceeding 700 million tons for the first time in 2024 and reaching 715 million tons in 2025. Per-capita grain availability has surpassed 500 kg, higher than the global average.

The country's grain stock-to-use ratio remains well above

the international grain security threshold of 17 to 18 percent, Liu said. If abnormal market fluctuations occur, reserves can be used to regulate supply and demand and help stabilize the grain market.

China also has strong grain processing capacity. It has about 24,000 grain processing enterprises engaged in grain and edible oil processing, food and condiment production, feed processing and deep processing, among other businesses. Processing capacity for flour, rice and edible oil is sufficient to meet domestic demand, according to Liu.

Power Use

China's electricity consumption, a key barometer of economic activity, totaled 1.03 trillion kilowatt-hour (kwh) in August, rising 1.7 percent year on year, according to data released by the National Energy Administration (NEA) on September 20.

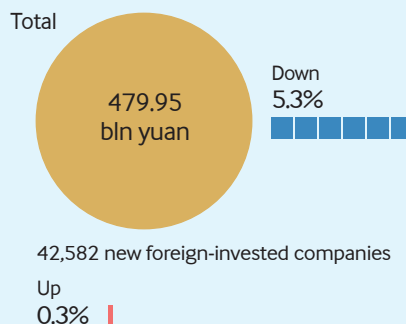
Electricity load hit a record high of 1.56 billion kw, 49.69 mil-

NUMBERS

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in January-August

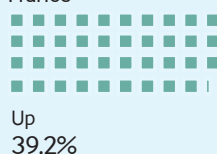
(All growth rates are y.o.y.; \$1=6.71 yuan as of September 23)

FDI in the Chinese mainland in actual use

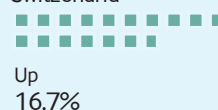


FDI in the Chinese mainland from

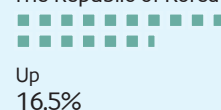
France



Switzerland



The Republic of Korea



lion kw higher than the previous year's peak, the data showed.

A breakdown of the August data revealed that power consumed by the primary industry rose 2.7 percent year on year to 16.9 billion kwh, while power consumed by the secondary industry increased 2.4 percent to 612.4 billion kwh. Power use by the tertiary industry reached 215.5 billion kwh, up 5.1 percent year on year.

Notably, electricity consumption by the hi-tech and equipment manufacturing sector reached 122.2 billion kwh in August, an increase of 7.2 percent. Computer and communications equipment, automobile manufacturing, general equipment manufacturing, special equipment manufacturing and electrical machinery manufacturing saw power use rise 7.5 percent, 7.6 percent, 7.6 percent, 8.2 percent and 12.3 percent, respectively.

The charging and battery swapping service sector and Internet data services reported

rapid growth in electricity consumption in August, rising 51.2 percent and 37.9 percent, to 17.2 billion and 10.2 billion kwh, respectively.

In the first eight months of the year, China's total power use reached 7.17 trillion kwh, up 4.3 percent year on year, the NEA said.

Property Market

China's property market has seen major changes in supply and demand and entered a new phase increasingly centered on existing housing stock, Zhang Xuetao, an official with the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, said at a press conference on September 18.

The share of second-hand home transactions in total housing transactions rose from 27 percent in 2020 to 46 percent in 2025, and 52 percent in the first eight months of this year, Zhang said.

A share exceeding 50 percent marks the property market's transition into the new phase, according to Zhang.

To adapt to these changes, China is accelerating efforts to foster a new development model for the real estate sector, Zhang said. The country will press ahead with reforms to three key systems governing property development, financing and sales to promote the sector's sound development.

Biomedical Innovation

China on September 18 released a five-year plan for its pharmaceutical industry, outlining targets such as keeping biomedical research, development and application at the global forefront by 2030. This move signals the country's resolve to turn drug innovation into a strategic strength.

The plan, jointly issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and nine other authorities, calls for a major leap in the core competitiveness and international influence of China's pharmaceu-

tical industry from 2026 to 2030.

Specifically, first-in-class drugs developed in China should account for no less than 25 percent of the global total, with the number of innovative drugs approved for market ranking among the world leaders. The innovative drug sector is expected to grow at an average annual rate of at least 20 percent, according to the plan.

China also expects the biomedical sector to take shape as a national pillar industry at an accelerated pace.

The combined revenue of pharmaceutical enterprises above a designated scale threshold, with an annual main business revenue of 20 million yuan (\$3 million), should reach at least 3.5 trillion yuan (\$523 billion) by 2030, the plan says.

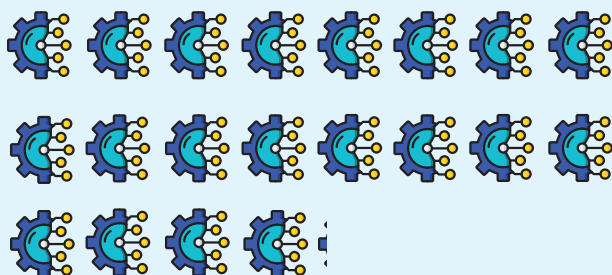
The number of companies with an annual revenue exceeding 10 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion) should grow to 50. At least five Chinese drugs should achieve global annual sales exceeding \$1 billion, according to the plan.

FDI in

hi-tech sector

200.26 billion yuan

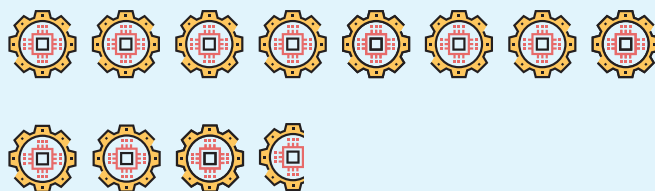
 = 10 billion yuan



manufacturing sector

119.55 billion yuan

 = 10 billion yuan



(Source: Ministry of Commerce)

THIS WEEK **WORLD**



SPAIN

Giant panda Jin Xi, celebrating his 6th birthday, walks toward his cake at the Madrid Zoo on September 19



UNITED STATES

U.S. President Donald Trump, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen (left to right) sign an agreement to expand U.S. military presence on the strategic Arctic island in New York City on September 22



RUSSIA

The Central Election Commission holds a press conference in Moscow on September 21. Preliminary results show the ruling United Russia Party won 57.83 percent of the votes in the election for the Ninth State Duma, the lower house of parliament





CHILE

An annual military parade celebrates the Day of the Glories of the Army at the O'Higgins Park in Santiago on September 19



MEXICO

Emergency services personnel take part in the Second National Earthquake Drill 2026 in Mexico City on September 19



GERMANY

A waiter carries steins of beer at the Oktoberfest in Munich on September 19. This year's festival runs from September 19 to October 4



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ PHYSICIST WINS 'NOBEL PRIZE PREDICTOR' HONOR

Xue Qikun, President of the Southern University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, was included on the 2026 Clarivate Citation Laureates list released on September 17.

Xue, 63, is famous for the experimental observation of the quantum anomalous Hall Effect. This landmark discovery broke new ground in condensed matter physics and paves the way for the development of next-generation low-power electronic devices. His achievement is a major leap in China's basic research.

The Citation Laureates award is presented by Clarivate, a global information analytics company. Widely regarded as the "Nobel Prize predictor," it selects scientists whose papers have gained extraordinary global citation influence. This year, 22 scientists from around the world received the honor.



Care Closer to Home

Workers' Daily
September 23

China is pushing rare-disease care beyond the country's largest cities. Under a new Central Government directive, every provincial-level region, as well as cities with more than 3 million people, must establish at least one rare-disease clinic in a major hospital by the end of 2026.

For patients with rare diseases, the ordeal often extends well beyond the disease itself. Many such conditions affect several organ systems, making them difficult to diagnose. Patients may spend years shuttling between hospitals before finding the right specialist. Those outside big cities often have to travel

across provinces, adding hefty transport and accommodation bills to the already heavy burden of illness.

Yet opening a rare-disease clinic involves more than putting a sign above the door. Effective care requires multidisciplinary teams spanning neurology, hematology, endocrinology and genetics, together with counseling, rehabilitation and long-term follow-up. Access to medicines poses another challenge. Some treatments remain prohibitively expensive, requiring close coordination between clinics, pharmacies and medical-insurance schemes so that prescriptions and reimbursement can be handled locally.

The policy's success will depend less on how many clinics open than on whether they make the path to diagnosis and treatment shorter, cheaper and more humane.



Mounting Risks

China Newsweek
September 21

A missing climber on Muztagh Ata, the second highest mountain on the northern edge of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, has drawn renewed attention to the challenges of managing China's rapidly growing high-altitude mountaineering sector.

On August 31, four climbers attempted to summit the 7,500-meter peak. Three

"There's no question that U.S.-China relations are the single biggest factor in the world, in terms of giving the world confidence in the future."

Robert Lawrence Kuhn, U.S. public intellectual and investment banker, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to the U.S.

"The China-ASEAN Expo is a shining brand of China-ASEAN cooperation."

Guo Jiakun, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, at a regular press briefing on September 22. The 23rd China-ASEAN Expo, an annual international trade event, concluded in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the day before

turned back as the weather deteriorated. The fourth continued alone and later lost contact. Local authorities in Akto County, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, confirmed that a search-and-rescue operation had been launched. The expedition had not been approved. Mountaineering on Muztagh Ata had already been suspended after four people went missing there in early July.

China has many mountains, including thousands of peaks above 6,000 meters. Yet only a limited number are currently open for officially registered expeditions. As interest in mountaineering grows, authorities face the task of balancing public demand with safety concerns and environmental protection efforts. Unauthorized climbs carry additional risks. To keep costs down, some groups heavily compress their itineraries. They may also take less established routes, where difficult terrain and the absence of professional assessment can make hazards harder to identify.

Industry participants have therefore called for a more developed system of regulated access, including stricter guide qualifications, clearer registration procedures, capacity controls and improved camp infrastructure. The broader challenge is to expand safe and orderly access to high-altitude climbing while preserving fragile mountain ecosystems and reducing safety risks for climbers and rescuers alike.

The Dangers of Digging

Southern Daily

September 22

“Why hasn’t Qin Shihuang’s tomb been excavated?” recently became a trending topic on Chinese social media. The fascination with the tomb, home to the famous Terracotta Army, is easy to understand. As the founder of the Qin Dynasty (221-206 B.C.) and China’s first emperor, Qin Shihuang remains one of the best-known figures in Chinese history. Opening his mausoleum might, in theory, resolve mysteries that have endured for more than 2,000 years.

But archaeology is also a science of preservation. Cultural relics are irreplaceable, and once a sealed environment is disturbed, fragile objects and crucial historical evidence

may be lost forever.

The distinction between active excavation and rescue excavation is therefore important. China has long restricted the active excavation of large imperial tombs when preservation cannot be guaranteed. Tombs such as that of Cao Cao, one of the greatest generals at the end of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) were excavated only after construction, looting or other threats put them at risk.

That does not mean research has stopped. Since 2002, remote-sensing, geophysical technologies and other advanced tools have been used to study Qin Shihuang’s mausoleum without actually opening it, revealing previously unknown features including an underground palace and drainage systems. For now, keeping some distance may be the wiser course.



SHOOTING STAR REWRITES RECORD BOOKS

Shooting athlete **Sheng Lihao**, together with his teammate, 19-year-old Wang Zifei, won the gold medal in the 10-meter air rifle mixed team final at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Japan on September 22. They scored 507.1 points at the final, breaking the world record.

This made Sheng the first athlete to win three gold medals at the games. The 21-year-old shooter claimed the men’s 10-meter air rifle individual and team golds the day before.



Born in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, in December 2004, Sheng was selected for the national shooting team in 2019. At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, he became the youngest medalist in Olympic shooting history after winning silver in the men’s 10-meter air rifle event. He also won China’s first gold at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

“Partnership creates opportunity...
Let’s learn from each other, work
together, empower each other and
succeed together.”

Peter Wilson, British Ambassador to China, at the 2026 World Manufacturing Convention, which opened in Hefei, Anhui Province, on September 20

“We need to break down stereotypes and
ensure that graduates from different
types of universities receive the
respect and rewards they deserve
in their careers.”

Zhang Zhengwen, former president of the University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, as Chinese authorities in mid-September unveiled a guideline calling for universities to pursue distinct development paths



COVER STORY

RETRACING THE LONG MARCH AT 90

How the spirit of the Long March continues to shape China and resonate far beyond it
By Li Nan