OPINION: BRAZIL'S ELECTIONS P.28 | FEATURES: A COSTLY DEEPSEEK BAN P.34

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SELF-GOVERNANCE BUILDS STRENGTH

CPC Plenum tightens Party standards and measures

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Cover Photo: The Fifth Plenary Session of the 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee in session in Beijing in late October (XINHUA)

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Self-Governance as Strategy

Since its founding in 1921, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has held fast to strict self-governance. That discipline is precisely why a party of more than 100 million members can mobilize swiftly, even under major risks and challenges, leading the people to stable and rapid social and economic development.

This year is the Party's 105th anniversary as well as the start of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30). Against that backdrop, the Fifth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, held in Beijing on October 26-29, centered its discussions on strict self-governance. Convened as political parties in many countries are mired in chaotic struggles, the plenum offered parties worldwide an important window into why the CPC has developed in a healthy manner. The five-yearly CPC National Congress and the Central Committee it elects are the highest leading bodies of China's governing party; plenary sessions, held at least annually, gather all Central Committee members to address major political, economic and social affairs.

International understanding of contemporary China once focused mostly on economic growth, social stability, technological progress, urban landscapes, high-speed rail and mobile payment—achievements that often left observers astonished by the pace of China's development.

Yet beneath all these lies something more fundamental: a strong, disciplined ruling party that sets the direction. Strict self-governance helps the CPC keep its members aligned with the Central Committee in political orientation and action, turning political unity into effective governance. That capacity for self-discipline not only underpins China's remarkable development but also offers a model worth studying for countries and parties seeking to grow quickly while keeping their integrity.

The Fifth Plenary Session signaled that the CPC intends to push self-governance further, with greater resolve and more robust actions. This serves both internal needs, including sustaining the Party's vitality, and external ones: navigating uncertainty and meeting external challenges.

Many countries today face an external environment similar to China's: geopolitical rivalry, unilateralism and a complex, persistent array of risks. With a renewed commitment to strict self-governance, the Fifth Plenary Session offers Chinese experiences and ideas to the wider world of political practice. **BR**



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A DROP IN THE OCEAN

A fish release event in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, on October 28. That day, 168,000 juvenile fish were released with the aim of helping protect marine biodiversity and restore marine ecosystems.


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Quake Relief Efforts

Firefighters set up tents in a quake-hit village in Maru Township of Baqen County, Nagqu City, Xizang Autonomous Region, on October 23. A 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Baqen County on October 22, killing 16 people and injuring 76 others, according to local authorities on October 23.

Innovation Capacity

China's innovation capacity continued to strengthen last year, with the innovation environment improving and new growth drivers expanding, providing solid support for high-quality development, according to official data released on October 23.

The country's innovation index stood at 185.5 in 2025, up 6.4 percent from a year earlier, according to an annual report released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The sub-indices measuring the innovation environment, input, output and impact all kept rising last year.

The report noted that multiple indicators performed well, including the share of science and technology appropriations in government budget spending, business research and development (R&D) spending as a share of operating revenue, R&D spending as a share of GDP, the number of high-value invention patents per 10,000 R&D personnel, overall labor productivity, and hi-tech products' share of goods exports.

China's scientific achievements have been translating rapidly into industrial applications. AI, new energy and new materials are among the sectors maintaining strong growth momentum.

Snow Leopard Protection

China's snow leopard population has doubled from around 2,500 in 2013 to approximately 5,000, reflecting progress in protecting the species and its habitat.

The latest figures were released by the National Forestry and Grassland Administration on October 23 on the occasion of the International Day of the Snow Leopard.

Snow leopards typically inhabit rugged terrain at elevations of 3,000 to 5,000 meters and serve as an important indicator of the health of high-altitude mountain ecosystems. The species is classified as "vulnerable" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species and receives the highest level of wildlife protection in China.

China has the world's largest snow leopard population and protects more than 60 percent of the species' global habitat, according to the administration. Its habitat covers about 2.08 million square kilometers across eight provincial-level regions.

China has taken a systematic approach to snow leopard conservation since 2013. Its protection network includes two national parks and 78 other important protected areas in key snow leopard habitats.

Promoting Employment

China has rolled out guidelines on adapting to advances in AI to promote employment-friendly development, aiming to harness the technology to create jobs, improve employment quality and stimulate entrepreneurship while mitigating job displacement caused by AI applications.

The guidelines, issued by the General Office of the State Council, the highest state administrative organ, set out 18 tasks in six areas, including boosting AI's job-creation potential, making AI adoption more employment-friendly, improving workers' digital skills, enhancing employment services, strengthening labor and social security protections, and monitoring and addressing employment risks.

The guidelines call for expanding employment opportunities in emerging fields, helping micro, small and medium-sized enterprises stabilize and expand employment, fostering new forms of employment and entrepreneurship in the AI sector, and developing new AI-related occupations.

The guidelines urge efforts to tap AI's job-creation potential in traditional sectors, mitigate job displacement caused by AI applications and establish a mechanism to assess employment risks associated with AI adoption.

The guidelines emphasize improving the framework for protecting workers' rights in human-machine collaboration, strengthening social security for people in flexible employment and those in new forms of employment, and refining income distribution mechanisms to adapt to advances in AI.

Corruption Cases

China's disciplinary inspection and supervision authorities filed 800,000 cases and punished 680,000 people in the first nine months of 2026, the country's top anti-corruption watchdogs said on October 27.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of China and

the National Commission of Supervision said those investigated included 73 officials at the provincial or ministerial level or above, 4,203 at the department or bureau level, 34,000 at the county or division level and 114,000 at the township or section level.

Investigations were also launched into 79,000 current or former village-level Party chiefs and village committee directors, according to the latest figures.

During the period, authorities received nearly 3.51 million petitions and reports, including 847,000 involving allegations of misconduct, and handled nearly 2.15 million leads concerning suspected violations.

Of the 680,000 people punished, 505,000 received Party disciplinary sanctions and 222,000 received administrative sanctions.

Those punished included 105 officials at the provincial or ministerial level or above, 3,680 at the department or bureau level, 28,000 at the county or division level and 92,000 at the township or section level.

Lighting Fair

The 35th China (Guzhen) International Lighting Fair concluded on October 25 in Guzhen Township of Zhongshan, Guangdong Province, with a record number of international buyers.

The four-day event received nearly 60,000 visiting professionals, according to the organizers. Among them were 5,020 international visitors from 141 countries and regions, an increase of 3.44 percent compared to the 2025 autumn session.

The South Asian market showed strong growth, with notable increases in buyers from countries including Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The event also saw a rise in the number of buyers from the United States and Brazil, according to the organizers.

The fair is held twice a year, in spring and autumn. This edition brought together more than 1,000 Chinese lighting companies, showcasing new trends in the lighting industry and highlighting the expansion into niche markets and system services, the organizers said.

The trends included advancements in AI smart control, lighting solutions for all ages and health, standalone lighting fixtures, and integrated light, electricity and storage solutions.

Cultural Tourism

The China Ceramics and Glass Museum in Zibo, Shandong Province, has become a textbook example of how cultural tourism is driving consumer spending in this central Shandong city, as record-breaking visitor numbers and soaring sales of cultural products reflect broader spending habits.

The museum has seen its popularity surge amid a nationwide museum craze. During the three-day Mid-Autumn Festival holiday in late September and the week-long National Day holiday on October 1-7, it received a record 330,000 visits. Visitors from outside Zibo account for more than 90 percent of the total, reflecting the city's growing appeal beyond Shandong.

A common sight has become the queue for photos with a glass artwork set that represents the flowers of each month. It is one of the many attractions that have turned the museum into a cultural hotspot. The museum has developed over 400 series of cultural and creative products, with sales hitting new highs.



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Bamboo Boom

A customer visits a bamboo bar counter at a bamboo company in Shangyou County, Jiangxi Province, on October 26. Shangyou, a major bamboo-producing region, has recently expanded its industrial chain into high-value-added sectors including bamboo construction, bamboo fiber and bamboo charcoal.



XINHUA

Community Counts

An indoor children's play area at the Beizhan community public service center in Longhua District of Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, on October 25. Shenzhen has been consistently enhancing the network and services of its community public service centers, now boasting over 4,400 such facilities.

Industrial Profits

Profits of China's major industrial firms, each with an annual main business revenue of at least 20 million yuan ($2.99 million), rose 15.5 percent year on year to 6.03 trillion yuan ($897.7 billion) in the first nine months of 2026, maintaining double-digit growth since the beginning of the year, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on October 27.

In September alone, industrial profits increased 14.4 percent year on year.

The electronics industry emerged as a key growth driver, with profits doubling from a year earlier and contributing 9.6 percentage points to the overall increase in industrial profits.

Meanwhile, profits in hi-tech manufacturing surged 52 percent year on year, outpacing the overall industrial average by 36.5 percentage points, as demand in areas such as AI computing power and data center infrastructure continued to expand.

In the first three quarters, hi-tech manufacturing accounted for 25.5 percent of the total profits generated by major industrial firms, up 6.2 percentage points from a year earlier.

Earlier data showed China's industrial sector continued to gain momentum during the January-September period, with the value-added industrial output increasing 5.3 percent year on year.

Domestic Tourism

China's domestic tourism market posted solid growth in terms of both trips and travel spending from January to September this year, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) said on October 26.

More than 5.3 billion domestic trips were made during the first nine months, up 6.2 percent year on year, data from a survey of domestic travelers conducted by the ministry revealed.

Urban residents accounted for over 4 billion trips, an increase of 6.6 percent from a year earlier, while rural residents made 1.27 billion trips, a 5.1-percent rise.

Domestic tourism spending expanded 2.2 percent year on year to 4.95 trillion yuan ($737 billion) during the first nine months of 2026. Of the total, urban residents spent 4.14 trillion yuan ($621 billion), up 2.2 percent, while rural residents spent 810 billion yuan ($121 billion), up 2.1 percent.

Digital Development Plan

China aims to largely complete its national blockchain network by 2030 and speed up the rollout of an intelligent Internet, according to a plan outlining the country's digital development over the next five years.

The document, issued by the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission on October 23, also proposes the commercial launch of 6G mobile services at an appropriate time.

It sets a broader goal of making solid progress in informatization by 2030, with digital technologies playing a greater role in advancing Chinese modernization.

China's Internet penetration rate, which measures the percentage of a population with Internet access, is expected to rise to 85 percent by 2030, up from 80.1 percent in 2025, while the number of 5G base stations per 10,000 people is projected to increase from 34 to 50, according to the document.

The plan calls for stronger basic research in computational mathematics, communication networks and data science, and expects breakthroughs in core technologies in key sectors, such as the deeper integration of AI with operating systems and software development toolchains.

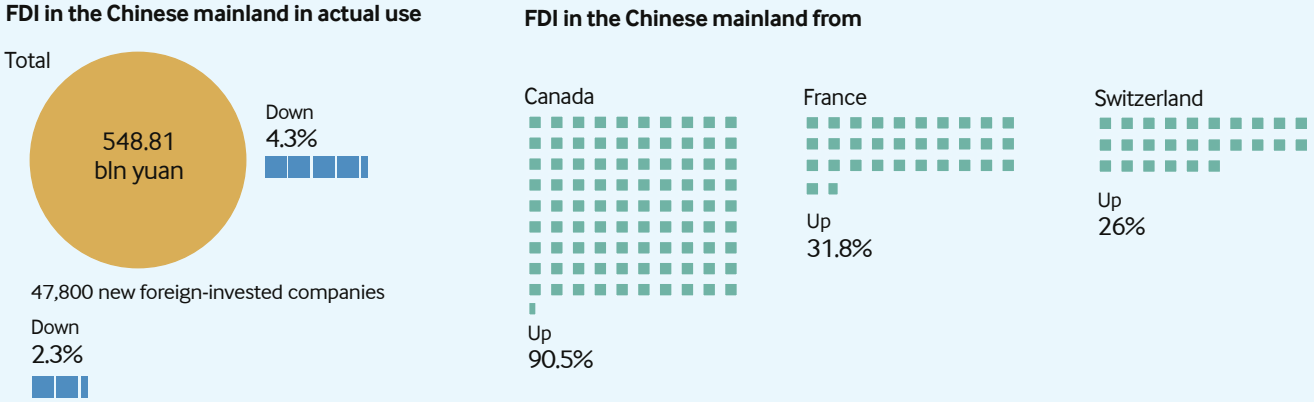
As AI continues to advance rapidly, the plan calls for expanding AI education across all levels of schooling, promoting AI literacy across society and accelerating the development of a vocational education system for digital talent.

It also aims to further open up the telecommunications and

NUMBERS

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in January-September

(All growth rates are y.o.y.; $1=6.66 yuan as of October 29)



Internet sectors in an orderly manner.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology projects that the country's information and communications industry revenue will reach 4.1 trillion yuan ($615 billion) by 2030.

The document also stresses the need to strengthen data security and protect personal information.

Outbound Investment

China on October 22 unveiled revised administrative measures for outbound investment, aiming to provide stronger institutional safeguards for its development and security.

The measures, released by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top economic planner, will take effect on December 1, replacing the existing rules enacted in 2017.

The revised measures further affirm the principal role of various investors in outbound investment, including domestic enterprises, individual residents and other organizations.

They also improve reporting systems for major adverse events and large overseas reinvestment projects, aiming to better protect the rights and interests of outbound investors and help them manage overseas risks.

The revision is part of the country's broader efforts to promote the high-quality development of outbound investment. In June, China issued a new regulation on outbound investment, which calls for proactively aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, advancing high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and promoting international cooperation in industrial supply chains. The China-proposed BRI aims to boost connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes.

As of late 2025, the country's outbound investment stock had reached nearly $3.4 trillion, keeping China among the world's top three investors for nine consecutive years, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The ministry also reported that China's outbound direct investment maintained steady and orderly growth, totaling $128.62 billion in the first three quarters of 2026.

Upgrade Industrial Foundation

China on October 22 released a five-year plan to accelerate upgrading of its industrial foundation capabilities, in a further step toward building an innovation-driven manufacturing powerhouse.

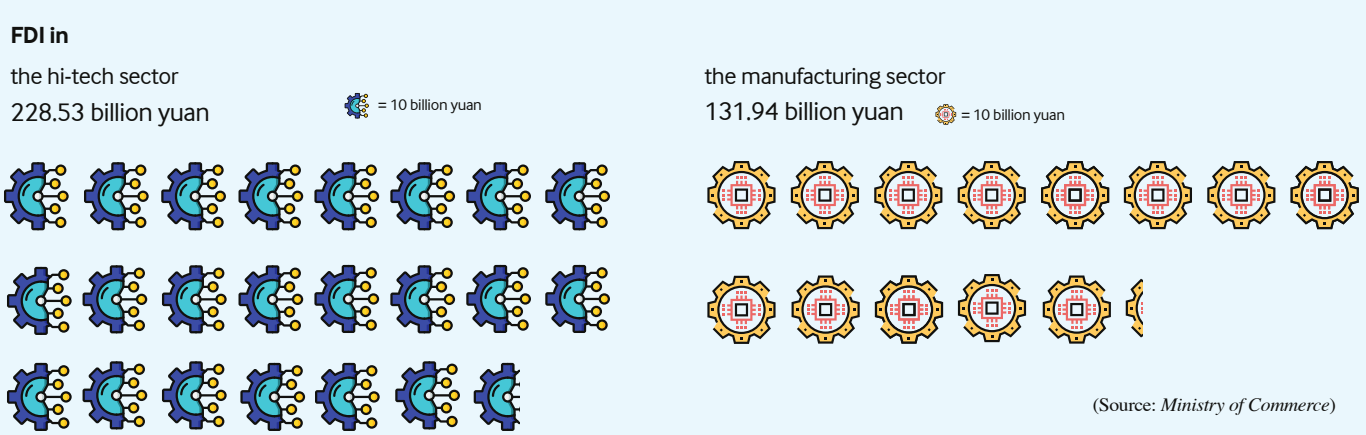
The document, jointly issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and other government departments, calls for integrated efforts in technological breakthroughs and their application, addressing weaknesses in China's industrial foundation systematically and achieving a comprehensive upgrade toward stronger innovations, greater self-reliance and higher quality.

Industrial foundation, the bedrock of manufacturing competitiveness, covers a range of areas including core components, basic materials and foundational software, as well as related talents, market conditions and the policy environment.

According to the plan, the weaknesses in China's industrial foundation will be substantially alleviated by 2030, while China's overall industrial foundation capabilities will reach internationally advanced levels, thereby providing strong support for building a modern industrial system anchored in advanced manufacturing.

A new cohort of single-champion manufacturers and "little giant" specialized enterprises in the industrial foundation sector should also be cultivated by then, the plan reads.

"Little giant" firms are small and medium-sized enterprises that specialize in a niche market, boast cutting-edge technologies and show great potential.



(Source: *Ministry of Commerce*)

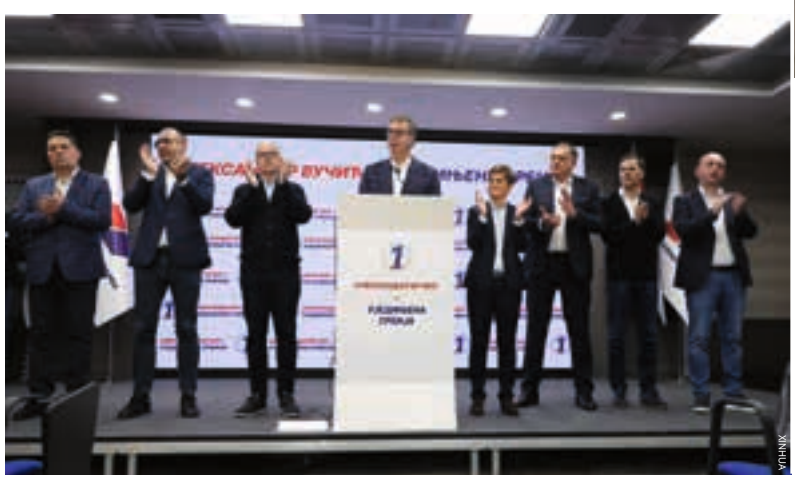

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AUSTRALIA

Pictured in Canberra, two Chinese cultural relics, the head of a military official statue (left) and the head of a civil official statue, both dating back to the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), returned from Australia to China on October 28

SERBIA

Former President Aleksandar Vučić (center) speaks at his campaign headquarters in Belgrade on October 25. He conceded defeat in the snap parliamentary election held that day


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SPAIN

The site of a high-speed train collision in Toledo Province on October 28. The accident had claimed 64 lives as of October 29

ISRAEL

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) casts his ballot at a polling station in Jerusalem on October 27. Voting in the country's parliamentary election began on that day, with Netanyahu's political future in focus







UNITED KINGDOM

Soccer players Harry Kane and Alexia Putellas with their 2026 Ballon d'Or awards at The London Palladium on October 26. The Ballon d'Or is the sport's top individual prize for the world's best players

UNITED NATIONS

An exhibition in honor of the 80th anniversary of the start of the Tokyo Trial opens at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on October 26

BYTEDANCE FOUNDER TOPS RICH LIST

Zhang Yiming, 43, founder of TikTok parent company ByteDance, has reclaimed the title of China's richest person with a 670-billion-yuan ($94-billion) fortune, according to the 28th edition of the Hurun China Rich List, released on October 27. He has set a new record for personal wealth in China.

Zhang was born in Longyan, Fujian Province, in 1983. He founded ByteDance in 2012. He first became China's richest person in 2024. In 2021, he stepped down as ByteDance's CEO. His wealth comes mainly from his shares in ByteDance.



The Hurun Rich List has been published annually since 1999 by the Shanghai-based Hurun Research Institute. AI became the biggest single wealth engine on this year's list and Zhang returned to the top of the list as ByteDance's Doubao emerged as one of China's most-used AI assistants.

White Coats, Red Flags

Yangcheng Evening News

October 27

The latest season of China's workplace reality TV show *An Exciting Offer*, which turns its lens on the medical profession, has sparked public outrage over its candidates' apparent disregard for professional standards.

For a start, the show's impeccably groomed young interns, with their carefully styled hair and flawless makeup, bear little resemblance to the harried medical staff working long shifts in hospitals. More troubling are blunt remarks by contestants that writing medical records is a routine task that can be mastered in a day and that one does not need to do clinical work to become a medical doctor.

While reality TV shows often manufacture drama to attract viewers, commentators argue that those focusing on the medical field have a greater responsibility. Doctors depend on public trust, and portraying clinical decisions as entertainment risks undermining the seriousness of their work.

The pursuit of ratings must never come at the expense of professional integrity. Only by putting professionalism ahead of spectacle can such shows foster greater understanding and trust between doctors and patients.



Dialects Reborn

Lifeweek

October 28

Social media platforms are bringing an ever-growing number of Chinese dialects into the national spotlight. On the big screen, *Dear You*, a film in Teochew, a dialect native to the Chaoshan region of Guangdong Province, has won over moviegoers. Cantonese rap is gaining popularity, while stand-up comedies performed in regional dialects have attracted devoted followings.

In an increasingly globalized world, where cities are growing ever more alike,

"They are desired by both sides and benefit both sides, and should not be held back or disrupted."

Guo Jiakun, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, at a regular media briefing on October 26, commenting on educational exchange and cooperation between China and the U.S.

"The ability to build cooperation despite differences is one of the most important elements of modern multilateral governance."

Rahmon Ulmasov, a professor of international relations at the Russian-Tajik (Slavonic) University in Tajikistan, in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency

dialects preserve distinct local identities and offer a means of expressing individuality. The Cantonese comedy, for instance, draws audiences not only through humor but also through nostalgia for the golden age of Cantonese pop culture.

Today, dialects are also spreading in fragmented forms, with individual words and playful memes taking on lives of their own online. Some dialect expressions capture emotions that are difficult to convey in standard Chinese. Take *malou*, the Cantonese word for monkey, which went viral as young netizens began likening themselves to monkeys. Almost overnight, the word became a symbol of a generation exhausted by the pressures of modern life.

Dialect rap is taking this fragmented form of cultural expression even further. Two of this year's breakout rappers, Yamy and Lanlao, have one thing in common: They rap in regional dialects. Many fans struggle to understand their lyrics, but remain captivated by their rhythm and atmosphere. The appeal lies in that blur. As dialects, standard Chinese and even English are all mixed together, individual words become difficult to distinguish, and meaning gives way to mood. This sense of disorientation reflects the experience of navigating a rapidly changing age.

Professional Child Walkers

Rednet.cn

October 22

In Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, busy parents are outsourcing the task of taking their children outside. These "child walkers," many of whom hold teaching certificates or have backgrounds in sports, offer customized activities ranging from nature hikes and outdoor games to fitness training. For dual-income families juggling demanding schedules, the appeal is clear: Children get fresh air and exercise, while their parents get a much-needed break.

Additionally, the emerging industry is opening up new opportunities for flexible employment. But its rapid growth has also raised questions about safety and accountability. With no clear professional standards, parents may struggle to assess a child walker's qualifications. If a child is injured, responsibility among service providers, booking platforms and parents remains unclear. Furthermore, many providers work independently, without reliable social insurance or protections against workplace hazards.

As China continues to strengthen legal protections for flexible workers, commentators argue that these safeguards should extend to child walkers. They are calling for mandatory background checks, first aid training and standardized contracts clearly stating liability. Workers should also be covered by work injury insurance and social insurance.

A RISING TALENT IN CHINESE TENNIS

Sun Xinran, 16, won the girls' singles title at the International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Tennis Tour Junior Finals in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, on October 25, further cementing her status as one of China's most promising young tennis players.

Currently No.1 in the ITF junior girls' singles rankings, Sun reached the finals of all three junior Grand Slam tournaments she entered this year—the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open—and claimed her first junior Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open.



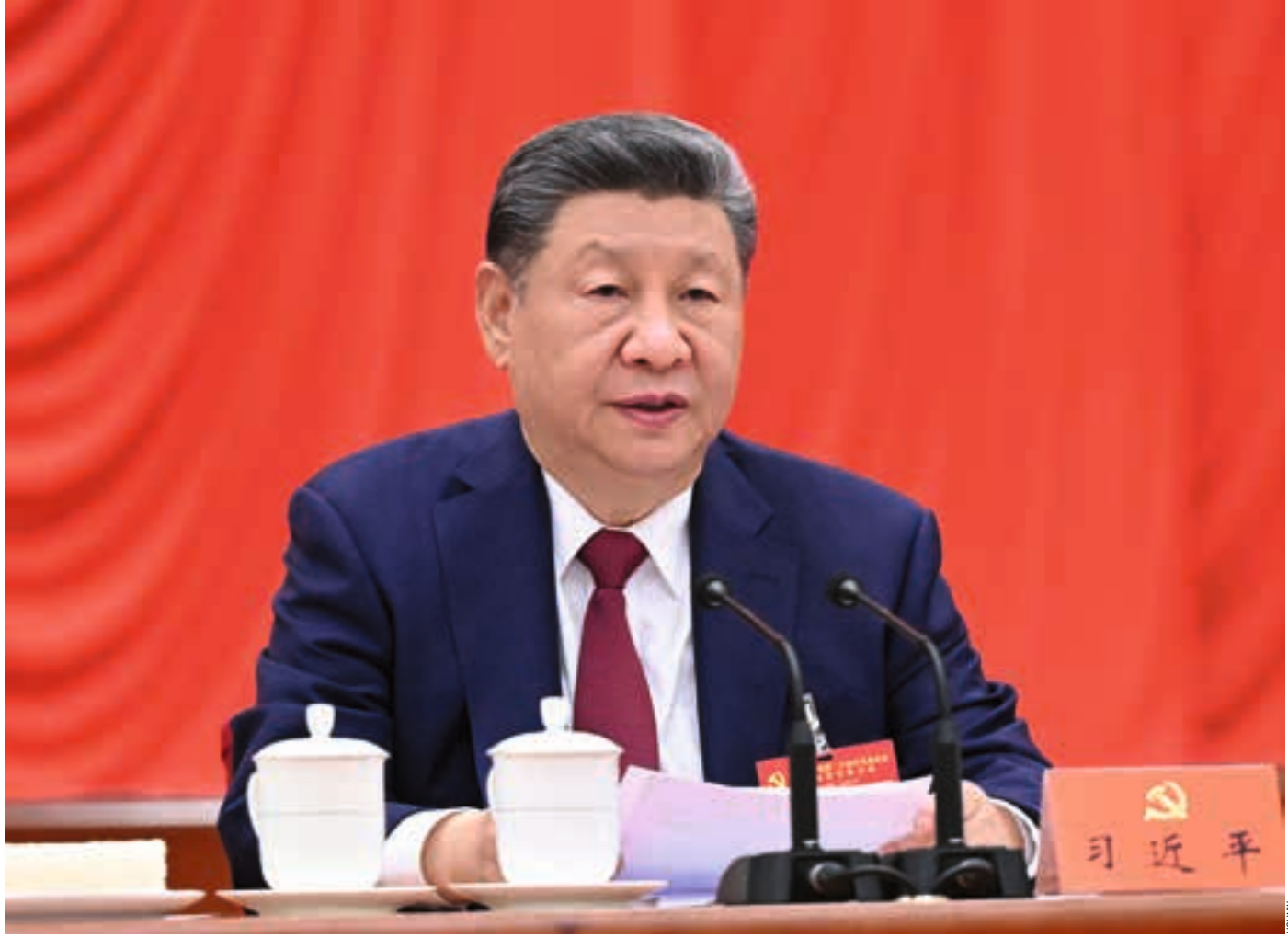
Sun was born in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, and started tennis training at the age of 6. In 2023, she began training at the Shenzhen Hongshan Middle School. Traveling across the world for competitions on ITF's tightly scheduled junior tour, Sun has managed to stay on top of her school work via online tutoring.

"The convention would help reduce uncertainty, enhance resilience, facilitate trade finance, support trade digitalization and improve the efficiency of international supply chains."

Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, commenting on the UN Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents, as China and 25 other countries became its first signatories on October 26

"Our ambition is to make this edition a remarkable showcase that reflects the true potential of our trade with China."

Kaladji Fadiga, Director of the Côte d'Ivoire Export Agency, in an interview with Xinhua ahead of the Ninth China International Import Expo, which takes place in Shanghai on November 5-10



XINHUA

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, delivers an important address at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, which took place in Beijing from October 26 to 29

COVER STORY

PERSEVERING WITH FULL AND RIGOROUS PARTY SELF-GOVERNANCE

The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held its fifth plenary session from October 26 to 29 in Beijing, adopting a resolution on persevering with full and rigorous Party self-governance.

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee presided over the meeting. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivered an important address, said a communiqué issued after the session.

At the session, participants heard and discussed a report on the work of the Political Bureau presented by Xi.

They also considered and adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Certain Major Issues Concerning Persevering With Full and Rigorous Party Self-Governance. Xi delivered explanatory remarks on the draft of the resolution.

The CPC Central Committee fully affirmed the work of the Political Bureau since the committee's fourth plenary session, the communiqué said.

Looking back on the Party's journey since its founding, the CPC Central Committee pointed out that the key to the success of the CPC in winning one victory after another lies in its pursuit of the high ideal of communism, its dedication to achieving lasting greatness for the Chinese nation, and its commitment to seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation.