

# NPC



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《中国人大》对外版

National People's Congress of China

## 中华人民共和国第十四届全国人民代表大会第四次会议



**CHINA'S 15TH  
FIVE-YEAR PLAN:  
TO GUARANTEE STEADY,  
LONG-TERM ADVANCEMENT OF  
CHINESE MODERNIZATION**

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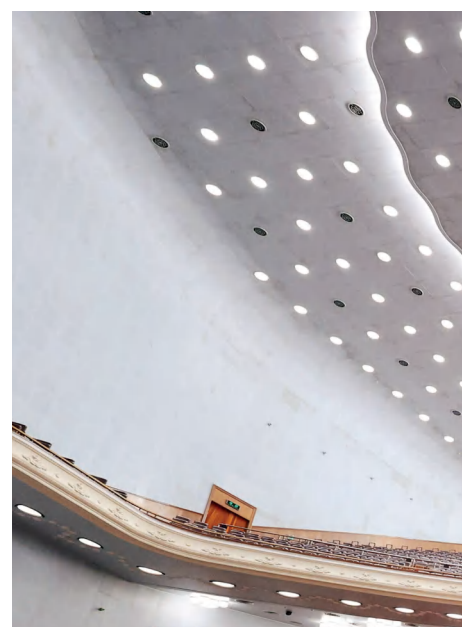
# 记者会

## the Fourth Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress



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1. Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng, Minister of Civil Affairs Lu Zhiyuan, Minister of Human Resources and Social Security Wang Xiaoping, Minister of Culture and Tourism Sun Yeli, and Minister of the National Health Commission Lei Haichao attend a press conference on people's livelihoods for the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, capital of China, March 7, 2026. *Cao Yiming*
2. Lyu Yan (right) and Wang Guodong, both are deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC), attend the third "Deputies' Passage" group interview of the fourth session of the 14th NPC at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 12, 2026. *Jiang Qiming*
3. Journalists raise their hands to ask questions during an open group meeting of the Guangdong delegation to the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, capital of China, March 6, 2026. *Tian Yuhao*
4. The Guangdong delegation to the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress holds an open group meeting in Beijing, capital of China, March 6, 2026. *Xing Guangli*
5. The closing meeting of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 12, 2026. *Huang Jingwen*





# 十四届全国人民代表大会第四次会议 江苏省代表团全体会议



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Chief Editor: Wang Yang  
General Editorial  
Office Address: 23 Xijiaominxiang, Xicheng District, Beijing 100805, P.R. China  
Tel: (86-10)5560-4181 (86-10)6309-8540  
E-mail: zgrdnpc@npc.gov.cn

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COVER: The opening meeting of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 5, 2026. *Xinhua*

# Xi urges major provincial economic powerhouses to gain experience in solving new problems





Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, takes part in a deliberation with his fellow deputies from the delegation of Jiangsu Province at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, capital of China, March 5, 2026. *Yin Bogu*

**G**eneral Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Xi Jinping, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, on March 5 stressed that it will require addressing a more complex environment and resolving more deep-rooted contradictions to achieve the goals and tasks for economic and social development set out in the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030).

Xi made the remarks while taking part in a deliberation with fellow deputies from Jiangsu Province during the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress, China's top legislature, in Beijing. He said that major provincial economic powerhouses such as Jiangsu, which stand at the forefront of reform and opening-up, should make greater efforts to analyze emerging circumstances and solve new problems, so as to accumulate referable experience.

The deputies of Jiangsu delegation conducted their deliberations earnestly, creating a vibrant and lively atmosphere. Six deputies, namely Shi Zhijun, Zhang Xiaohong, Shi Lei, Yang Hengjun, Gao Derong, and Zhang Yufei, made remarks on various topics. Their presentations respectively focused on advancing new industrialization, promoting the integration of technological and industrial innovation, strengthening efforts to make breakthroughs

**“Major provincial economic powerhouses such as Jiangsu, should make greater efforts to analyze emerging circumstances and solve new problems, so as to accumulate referable experience.”**

in core technologies in key fields, building a beautiful and harmonious countryside, addressing challenges in the seed sector, and promoting sportsmanship.

After hearing the deputies' speeches, Xi delivered his remarks. He expressed approval of the Government Work Report and, in light of Jiangsu's actual conditions, set forth clear requirements for advancing economic and social development during the 15th Five-Year Plan period.

Xi pointed out that developing new quality productive forces is crucial for promoting high-quality development and enhancing economic competitiveness. Jiangsu Province, with a solid foundation in this regard, should strive to take the lead. Efforts should be made to advance the inte-

grated development of education, science and technology, and talent, so as to achieve new breakthroughs in strengthening original innovation and the push for breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields, and in seizing the commanding heights of science and technology; explore new approaches to promoting the deep integration of the innovation, industrial, capital, and talent chains, and to driving the efficient transformation and application of scientific and technological achievements; create new prospects in optimizing and upgrading traditional industries, fostering emerging industries, and making a forward-looking layout for industries of the future; and make new advances in further deepening reforms and removing institutional barriers that constrain the development of new quality productive forces.

Xi emphasized that a provincial economic powerhouse can support national economic stability only if it has a solid economic foundation and strong resilience to external shocks. He called on Jiangsu to intensify efforts to boost economic resilience. He urged Jiangsu to build up its internal strengths, enhance its own capabilities, fully integrate itself into the unified national market, and help smoothen up domestic circulation. He also called for efforts to expand high-standard opening up, explore global markets and better connect with the international economic cycles, adding that preparations for worst-case scenarios should be ready to prevent and respond to any kind of risks.

Xi noted that Chinese modernization is the modernization of common prosperity for all. He called on Jiangsu to accurately grasp the people's new aspirations for a better life and the new characteristics concerning the work on people's well-being under the new circumstances, take proactive actions to address issues such as how to ensure high-quality and sufficient employment, how to increase the income of urban and rural residents, and how to further raise the standards of basic public services and social security, and to explore effective pathways to advance common prosperity for all.

Xi stressed that the ever-improving effectiveness of the Party's self-governance is the ultimate guarantee for economic and social development. Efforts should be made to conscientiously organize Party-wide study and education sessions on establishing and practicing a correct understanding of governance performance, guiding Party members and officials to implement the overall requirements of "building the Party for the public good, delivering benefits to the people, making sound and scientific decisions, and working diligently with concrete actions," and to achieve results that can stand the test of practice, the people, and history. It is imperative to adopt an integrated approach to strengthening Party spirit, improving Party conduct, and enforcing Party discipline, while advancing efforts to improve conduct, enforce discipline, and combat corruption in a coordinated manner. Through tangible outcomes in exercising full and rigorous self-governance, the Party shall earn the people's trust and support and muster sufficient power to advance the development of its undertakings.

Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, attended the event. (Xinhua) ■



General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Xi Jinping, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, on the afternoon of March 6 visited national political advisors from the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, the Jiusan Society, the sector of medicine and health, and the sector of welfare and social security, who are attending the

# Xi calls for following a healthcare development path with Chinese characteristics



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits national political advisors from the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, the Jiusan Society, the sector of medicine and health, and the sector of welfare and social security, who are attending the fourth session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, in Beijing, capital of China, March 6, 2026. Xi attended their joint group meeting, and heard their comments and suggestions. Xi was accompanied by Wang Huning, chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, and Cai Qi, director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, who are both members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Yan Yan

**“Building a Healthy China is a systematic project.”**

fourth session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Xi took part in their joint group meeting and listened to their opinions and suggestions.

Xi emphasized that, as a strategic decision made by the CPC Central Committee, the successful building of Healthy China by 2035 will see a crucial stage during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), so there must be

coordinated planning and accelerated efforts to achieve decisive progress.

Ahead of International Women's Day on March 8, Xi, on behalf of the CPC Central Committee, extended festive greetings and best wishes to female lawmakers, political advisors, and staff members participating in the annual sessions of China's top legislature and top political advisory body, as well as to women of all ethnic groups and from all sectors across the Chinese mainland, female compatriots in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macao Special Administrative Region, and the Taiwan region, as well as to overseas Chinese women.

Wang Huning, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, and Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, attended the visit and discussion.

At the joint group meeting, six political advisors, namely Wang Lu, Ma Xiuzhen, Lu Ke, Jiang Jiandong, Basang Dolma, and Liu Qifang, delivered remarks on respective topics, including implementing a health-first development strategy, upgrading primary-level medical services, strengthening breakthroughs in materials technology, advancing innovative drug research and development, improving the prevention and treatment of altitude sickness, and promoting the development of public welfare and charitable undertakings.

After hearing their remarks, Xi delivered an important speech. He said that he was glad to discuss with them and listen to their views and suggestions. On behalf of the CPC Central Committee, he extended sincere greetings to the political advisors present, as well as to members from the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, the Jiusan Society, the CPPCC sectors of medicine and health, and of welfare and social security, and to all other CPPCC members.

Xi pointed out that over the past year, the CPPCC has earnestly performed its duties, offered advice and suggestions on matters such as drafting the 15th Five-Year Plan, and made new contributions to the development of the cause of the Party and the country. Both organizations at all levels and the broad membership of the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party and the Jiusan Society have actively participated in the deliberation and administration of state affairs and carried out social services, achieving new progress in their work. People from the medical and health community and the welfare and social security sector have actively engaged in the dynamic practice of building a Healthy China and improving people's wellbeing, demonstrating new accomplishments.

Xi emphasized that China is a socialist country, and a developing country with a huge population and still large gaps between urban and rural areas and among different regions. To build a Healthy China, it is imperative to proceed from China's national conditions, remain firmly committed to the path of healthcare development with Chinese characteristics, and resolutely implement the guidelines for medical and health work in the new era. As

**"It is imperative to focus on major priorities and center closely on the tasks that benefit a wide range of people and have a significant impact on the overall situation."**

the situation evolves, some specific policies and measures for medical and health work need to be refined and improved, but on fundamental issues, it is a must to remain clear-headed and maintain strategic resolve.

Building a Healthy China is a systematic project, Xi remarked. In the face of the people's growing and diverse healthcare needs, it is imperative to focus on major priorities and center closely on the tasks that benefit a wide range of people and have a significant impact on the overall situation. Human power and other resources should be concentrated, and effective measures be taken to improve the public health system, build up a quality and efficient medical service system, and promote healthy and positive lifestyles, so as to continuously achieve new progress.

Xi stressed that a working pattern with joint efforts from the Party and the government under the unified leadership of Party committees must be improved. Greater efforts should be made to improve the framework of policies and institutions for the promotion of health, to provide a strong guarantee for advancing the Healthy China Initiative. Efforts must be made to further deepen reform and improve the mechanism for coordinated development and governance of medical services, health insurance, and pharmaceuticals. The transformation and application of scientific and technological innovation should be promoted, and the digital and intelligent development of national health initiatives should be advanced.

Xi also called for efforts to strengthen Party building in the medical and health sectors, inspire medical workers' motivation, initiative and creativity, cultivate more talents, promote fine medical ethics and professional conduct among medical workers, and develop an atmosphere of integrity within the sector.

Advancing the Healthy China Initiative requires joint efforts from the whole society, Xi noted. He called on the CPPCC to give play to its role as a specialized consultative body, conduct in-depth research and studies focusing on relevant theoretical and practical issues, and put forward suggestions and solutions that are practical and feasible. He also urged members of the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party and the Jiusan Society, and personnel in the CPPCC sectors of medicine and health, and of welfare and social security, to leverage their professional strengths and contribute their wisdom and endeavor.

Shi Taifeng, He Wei, Wu Weihua, Shao Hong, Wang Dongfeng, and Yang Zhen, among others, were present at the joint group meeting. (Xinhua) ■



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, attends a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police Force at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, capital of China, March 7, 2026. Xi delivered an important speech at the meeting. *Xinhua*

## Xi stresses enhancing political loyalty in military to advance defense modernization

Chinese President Xi Jinping on March 7 stressed fully leveraging the unique strengths of enhancing political loyalty in the military, and called for concerted efforts to advance the modernization of national defense and the armed forces in a steady and sustained manner.

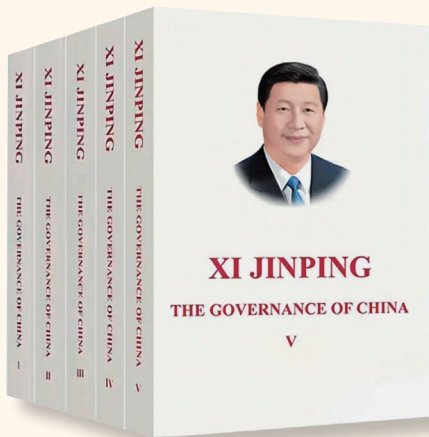
Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while attending a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police Force at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress, China's national legislature.

Six lawmakers spoke at the meeting. After hearing their remarks, Xi delivered an important speech.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the Party Central Committee has led the armed forces to improve political rectification and advance political loyalty in the military with unprecedented resolve and intensity, achieving significant results, Xi said.

There must be no place in the military for those who are disloyal to the Party, nor any place for corrupt elements, Xi warned, adding that the fight against corruption must be unwaveringly advanced.

At the very start of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), efforts must be made to establish rigorous rules for strict oversight, and closely monitor key areas such as fund flows, the exercise of power, and quality control, Xi said. (Xinhua) ■



# Uphold and strengthen the people's congress system\*

September 14, 2024

Since its 18th National Congress in 2012, the Party has oriented itself towards the new development stage. It has fully embraced new changes in the principal challenge facing our society, actively responded to the people's new demands and expectations for democracy and the rule of law, and strengthened its overall leadership over the work of people's congresses. It has vigorously developed whole-process people's democracy, facilitated the modernization of China's governance system and capacity, improved the systems that ensure the people are the masters of the country, and amended the Constitution to keep pace with the times. It convened the first Central Conference on the Work of People's Congresses in its history, and helped deliver historic progress by improving the structures and processes of the people's congress system.

We have adapted the basic tenets of Marxism to China's realities and the best of its traditional culture, developed a profound understanding of the laws governing the development of socialist democracy, conducted a systematic review of the Party's experience in strengthening socialist democracy, and consistently broken new ground in developing the theory and practice of the system of people's congresses. We have developed the key concept of whole-process people's democracy and emphasized that the people's congress system is an important institutional vehicle for realizing whole-process people's democracy in China. We must uphold CPC leadership, provide institutional safeguards to guarantee that the people remain the masters of the country, ensure that every dimension of governance is law-based, and commit to democratic centralism. We must keep to the path of socialist political progress with Chinese characteristics, modernize our system and capacity for governance, maximize the contribution of the deputies to people's congresses, and strengthen the four-fold role<sup>7</sup> of people's congresses at all levels. These new visions, new ideas, and new requirements underpin the Party's guidelines on upholding and improving the people's congress system, and establish the fundamental principles for high-quality development of people's congresses in the new era.

The 20th CPC National Congress made overall plans for advancing whole-process people's democracy and ensuring that the people remain the masters of the country. The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee specified the de-

tails for improving the institutional framework for whole-process people's democracy. We must uphold, improve and run the system of people's congresses to good effect in accordance with these requirements, to provide a solid institutional foundation for achieving the goals of the Party and the people on our new journey in the new era.

First, we must maximize the important role of people's congresses in ensuring the comprehensive and effective implementation of the Constitution and the law. All organizations and individuals in our country must respect the authority of the Constitution and the law, confine their activities to the boundaries prescribed by the Constitution and the law, and exercise powers, enjoy rights, perform duties, and fulfill obligations in accordance with the Constitution and the law. No organization or individual shall be permitted to enjoy special privileges that place them above the Constitution and the law. It is an important duty of people's congresses at all levels and their standing committees to ensure that the Constitution and the law are strictly applied. On the new journey in the new era, all people's congresses and their standing committees should fully perform their duties and functions, maintain consistency in laws and regulations, and uphold the dignity and authority of the law. They should ensure the effective enforcement of the Constitution and the law, and guarantee that all government departments perform their duties and functions within the scope stipulated by the Constitution and the law.

Second, we must capitalize on the leading role of people's congresses in legislative work. To carry out lawmaking in a well-conceived and democratic way and in accordance with the law, we must uphold and improve the legislative framework under which Party committees play the leading role, people's congresses are in charge of specific work, governments offer support, and all parties concerned are involved. On the journey ahead, to improve China's socialist legal system, the National People's Congress (NPC) and its Standing Committee, together with local people's congresses with legislative powers and their standing committees, should fully perform their legislative duties, devise sound plans for legislation, and improve the mechanism for leading the drafting of important laws and regulations. They should take coordinated steps to enact, revise, abolish, interpret and codify laws, strengthen legislation in key, emerging

and foreign-related fields, and raise the quality of legislation. We should accelerate the delivery of a legal system that ensures equal rights, equal opportunities, and fair rules for all, and guarantee the effective exercise of all citizens' rights. We should advance reform under the rule of law and secure unity between reform and the rule of law, ensuring that all major reforms have a solid legal basis and that relevant reform achievements are converted into laws in a timely manner.

Third, we must maximize the important role of people's congresses in the supervision framework of the Party and the state. People's congresses at all levels and their standing committees should assume their responsibilities for oversight assigned by the Constitution and the law. They should improve their scrutiny of the work of the people's governments, supervision commissions, people's courts, and people's procuratorates at the same level, and strengthen their oversight of the application of the Constitution and the law. They should strengthen the review of budgets and final accounts and increase supervision over the management of state-owned assets and government debts. They should help promote the implementation of the Central Committee's decisions and plans, ensure the exercise of power by all government departments in accordance with the law, and guarantee the protection and realization of people's legitimate rights and interests. Administrative, supervisory, adjudicatory and procuratorial offices at all levels should readily place themselves under the oversight of people's congresses while performing their own supervisory duties, ensuring that power is exercised with institutional constraints.

Fourth, we must capitalize on the leading role of people's congresses in strengthening the connection with the people. All government departments and their staff members must foster a strong sense of service to the people, put the people above all else, listen to the people's opinions and suggestions, and maintain close ties with the people. Shouldering the honorable duties entrusted by the people, deputies to people's congresses should take a firm political stance, faithfully represent the will and interests of the people, participate in the exercise of state power in accordance with the law, and serve as a bridge through which the Party and the government maintain contacts with the people. Government departments should provide support and safeguards for deputies to people's congresses to fulfill their duties in accordance with the law. Relevant systems and mechanisms should be improved for communication with deputies and to ensure that deputies reach out to the public on a greater variety of issues and in more diverse ways.

Party committees at all levels should strengthen their overall leadership over the work of people's congresses, hear work reports from Party leadership groups of people's congress standing committees on a regular basis, and study and resolve major issues in the work of people's congresses. They should support people's congresses and their standing committees in performing their duties and exercising their powers in accordance with the law, and strengthen the leadership teams of people's congress standing committees and the staff members of people's congresses. Party committees at all levels and relevant departments should coordinate and cooperate with their counterparts in the people's congresses to create a strong synergy in the work of people's congresses.

The Party leadership groups of the NPC Standing Commit-

tee and the standing committees of local people's congresses at all levels must always uphold the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, implement the systems ensuring CPC leadership, keep to the correct political orientation, and fulfill their primary responsibilities for exercising full and rigorous internal Party governance. Following the requirements on the four-fold role of people's congresses, they should strengthen the political foundations, ideological work, organizations, conduct, and discipline of people's congresses. To improve their work on the new journey in the new era, people's congresses should improve the composition of their standing committees and special committees, and build work teams that are politically committed, serve the people, respect the rule of law, promote democracy, and work with diligence and a strong sense of responsibility.

People's democracy is a glorious banner that the CPC has always held high. We must stay firmly on the path of socialist political progress with Chinese characteristics and uphold and improve our country's fundamental, basic and important political systems. We must improve the institutions that ensure the people are the masters of the country and diversify the forms of democracy at different levels. We must expand the people's orderly political participation, give full expression to their will, protect their rights and interests, and spark their creativity.

Democracy is a shared value of humanity. The Chinese people have achieved great strides in developing people's democracy under the leadership of the CPC, enriching the theory and practice of democracy around the world and contributing China's ideas and solutions. We should draw on the achievements of political civilization of humanity, but never copy the models of Western political systems. We stand ready to continue to work with all the countries and peoples that subscribe to peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, to explore the path to extensive, genuine and effective democracy, and to make new contributions to the political progress of humanity.

In his opening speech at the First Session of the First National People's Congress 70 years ago, Mao Zedong called on the people to strive to build a great socialist country. Today, China has embarked on a new journey towards building a modern socialist country in all respects, and the process of national rejuvenation has become irreversible. The whole Party and the entire nation must unite more closely around the Party Central Committee, stay true to our original aspiration and founding mission, actively develop whole-process people's democracy, and make further socialist political progress. We should better leverage the distinctive strengths of the people's congress system and work together to build a great modern socialist country and achieve national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization. ■

\*Part of the speech at a meeting to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the National People's Congress.

1 This refers to the four-fold role of people's congresses at all levels and their standing committees: They should function as political institutions that conscientiously uphold Party leadership, as institutions of state power that ensure the people's position as masters of the country, as working institutions that fully perform the duties and functions conferred by the Constitution and the law, and as representative institutions that always maintain close ties with the people.

# 15th Five-Year Plan to guarantee steady, long-term advancement of Chinese modernization



An aerial drone photo taken on Feb. 10, 2026 shows a dual-fuel car carrier loaded with vehicles for export setting sail at Yantai Port in Yantai, east China's Shandong Province. Xinhua

China is embarking on a new journey to advance Chinese modernization as its latest grand blueprint unfolds. The outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for national economic and social development was approved at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress, China's national legislature, on March 12.

"A well-conceived 15th Five-Year Plan and its effective implementation will ensure we have even stronger foundations for basically achieving socialist modernization by 2035," Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, once said.

Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, stressed that socialist modernization can only be realized through a historical process of gradual and ongoing development. It requires the unremitting hard work of one generation after another.

### Building new growth momentum

The world is undergoing accelerated changes unseen in a century, with the challenges of securing peace, development, security and governance intensifying, while geopolitical risks are increasing, and global economic growth momentum remains weak.

Notably, China's economic transformation and upgrading are deepening, with reform efforts tackling deep-seated problems. In addition, new quality productive forces are being fostered at an accelerated pace.

"Efforts should be redoubled to gain experience in analyzing new situations and solving new problems," Xi said during China's Two Sessions 2026.

Developing new quality productive forces is an essential requirement for building a modern industrial system and fueling a powerful engine for advancing high-quality development.

As a new driver of future development, new quality productive forces should be cultivated in line with local conditions. It is necessary to leverage local resource endowments, industrial foundations and research capabilities to selectively foster emerging industries, new business models and new growth drivers.

Guided by scientific and technological innovation and anchored in the real economy, efforts should be made to speed up the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries and foster the growth of emerging industries and future-oriented industries, so as to accelerate the development of a modern industrial system.

Meanwhile, improving the national innovation system and stimulating the vitality of various innovation entities remain key priorities. With a focus on the frontiers of global science and technology, sustained efforts should be made to strengthen basic research and enhance original innovation capacity, while intensifying breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields and frontier technologies.

Amid a rapidly changing international environment and various uncertainties, focusing on managing the country's own affairs well and enhancing its development quality is crucial in ensuring a good start to the 15th Five-Year Plan.

For China, it is imperative to advance high-quality development, build a unified national market and expand

high-standard opening up to explore global markets.

China still faces challenges of uneven and inadequate development, including declining labor demand in traditional industries due to technological and industrial transformations, and growing pressure on public services and social security because of an aging population. Addressing these issues is essential for sustaining growth and ensuring that development benefits all.

### Global vision of China's modernization path

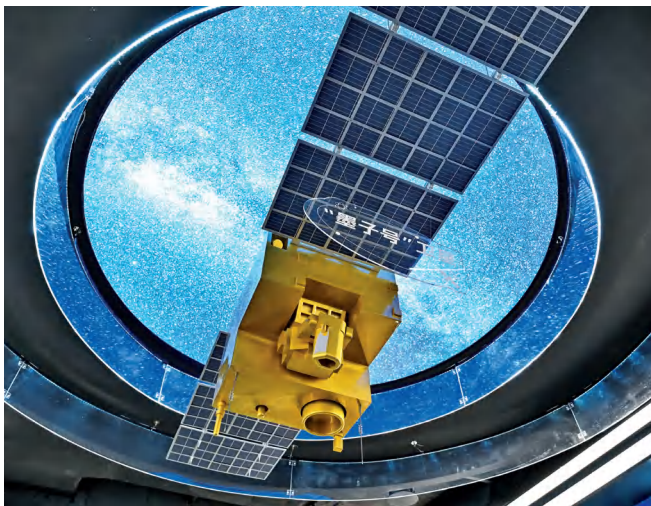
"Chinese modernization delivers benefit to the Chinese people and also advances common development of the world. It is a sure path for us to build a stronger nation and realize the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. It is also a path we must take to seek progress for humanity and harmony for the entire world," Xi said in a keynote address at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting in 2023.

These remarks situated Chinese modernization within the historical context of China's relations with the world, highlighting its inclusive character and pursuit of win-win outcomes.

Chinese modernization is fundamentally characterized by proactive global engagement. Since the reform and opening up, China's developmental trajectory, guided by successive five-year plans, has been inseparable from international cooperation.

Openness has always been the defining feature of Chinese modernization. From "the world factory" to "the world market," and from a land for global investment to a global innovation hub, each leap in China's development drives cooperation with the world into broader areas and deeper levels.

As industrial transformation accelerates, China's massive market will continue to offer significant demand for countries worldwide. In pursuit of smart, green and integrated growth, China aims to share its manufacturing ex-



This photo taken on July 1, 2025 shows a model of the quantum science satellite Mozi at the science and technology experience center of China Telecom Quantum Group in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province. *Xinhua*



Lu Puzheng (right), a member of the 4th batch of Chinese agricultural experts in Zimbabwe, provides instruction on maize planting techniques to local residents in Zindi Village, Shamva District of Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe, Jan. 26, 2026. *Xinhua*

perience and technical innovations to drive global sustainable development.

Beyond that, the global significance of the Chinese model of modernization lies in its success in shattering the myth that modernization is synonymous with Westernization, thereby creating a new form of human advancement.

“China will do well only when the world does well, and vice versa,” Xi once said.

Leveraging the China-proposed Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilizations Initiative and Global Governance Initiative, the world’s second-largest economy is committed to the building of an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

Faced with global changes not seen in a century, China will continue to stand on the right side of history and remain a steadfast, reliable and constructive force in a turbulent world.

### CPC leadership as core

Chinese modernization is characterized by unique features: the modernization of a huge population, the modernization of common prosperity for all, the modernization of material and cultural-ethical advancement, the modern-

ization of harmony between humanity and nature, and the modernization of peaceful development.

In advancing Chinese modernization, the key lies in upholding the overall leadership of the CPC, which has been the strong leadership core in developing socialism with Chinese characteristics.

By integrating the basic tenets of Marxism with China’s specific realities and its fine traditional culture, the Party has, through years of dedicated efforts, deepened its understanding of the laws that underlie governance by a communist party, the development of socialism, and the evolution of human society.

The Party has led China in building one of the world’s most complete industrial systems, in eliminating absolute poverty, in growing into an economy of 140 trillion yuan (about \$20.32 trillion), and in becoming a major trading partner for more than 150 countries and regions.

Advancing Chinese modernization requires solid work and sustained efforts over time, and sound planning must go hand in hand with effective implementation. Party members and officials are urged to establish and practice a correct view on governance performance, remain committed to serving the public and improving people’s well-being, make well-grounded decisions, and focus on practical work. (*Xinhua*) ■

# Major projects in China's 15th Five-Year Plan open up new job opportunities

Major projects outlined in China's 15th Five-Year Plan are creating jobs that require stronger technical skills, more specialized expertise or broader cross-sector capabilities, challenging the long-held view that construction work is largely manual labor.

A closer look at the blueprint shows that these initiatives are far more than a list of investment and construction plans. Projects aimed at fostering new quality productive forces and those designed to improve people's livelihoods came in first and second by number, underscoring the country's development strategy that emphasizes investment in both physical assets and human capital.

Taken together, the projects offer a glimpse into how China's employment landscape is likely to evolve during the plan period. From skilled blue-collar roles in advanced infrastructure and manufacturing to high-end, cross-sector positions in emerging industries, the projects are expected to generate a broader, more diverse range of job opportunities.

## ● Skill upgrades in blue-collar work

Infrastructure projects still make up an important part of the new five-year plan. But the shift from extensive expansion to smart, green and digital development is fundamentally transforming traditional blue-collar jobs and raising the skill requirements.

This shift is evident across a wide range of infrastructure projects outlined in the plan, including a comprehensive national transportation network, a new-type energy system, modern water conservancy networks, and new infrastructure.

Zhang Linshan, a researcher at the Academy of Macroeconomic Research under the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said that in large-scale new energy bases in desert and Gobi regions, more than 70 percent of jobs are skilled blue-collar positions.

Such jobs require expertise in areas such as system commissioning and high-voltage operations, with certified operation and maintenance personnel earning 15,000 to 20,000 yuan (about \$2,176 to \$2,902) per month, he said.

The market has already sent clear signals. Data from Guangdong's human resources and social security authorities show that in the Pearl River Delta, some highly skilled blue-collar workers earn more than 10,000 yuan a month, while top technicians in positions such as testing can make as much as 20,000 yuan.

Wang Xiaoping, minister of human resources and social security, said China will deepen large-scale vocational skills training this year, with subsidized programs expected to benefit more than 10 million people.

Targeted training will focus on sectors such as the low-altitude economy, new energy vehicles, AI, and elderly care services, in a bid to better align skills development with industrial and employment needs, Wang said.

Experts said major national projects are no longer primarily a reservoir for absorbing low-skilled labor but are increasingly an important arena for blue-collar workers to upgrade their skills and raise their incomes.

## ● High-end talent in greater demand

About a quarter of the major projects in the blueprint are designed to develop new quality productive forces, covering sectors such as integrated circuits, embodied AI, biomanufacturing, and new-type batteries.

Experts said these projects require substantial investment and lengthy development cycles, with their core value lying not in short-term returns but in supporting national strategies and building long-term competitiveness. This forward-looking nature helps nurture and attract high-end talent.

Zheng Shanjie, head of the NDRC, said the scale of China's AI-related industries is expected to exceed 10 trillion yuan by the end of the 15th Five-Year Plan period.

A significant shortage of high-end AI talent has already emerged, intensifying competition among employers. In Shanghai, a human resources manager at an AI company is negotiating with a candidate for an algorithm engineer position who has already received five job offers and is still in talks with other firms.

A recent report by the Chinese career platform Maimai showed that newly posted AI-related jobs surged about 12-fold year-on-year in the January-February period of 2026. Recruitment data also showed that top-paying positions, including AI scientists, product architects, and algorithm researchers, offer average monthly salaries exceeding 70,000 yuan.

Huang Xiaofei, co-founder of Shanghai Volant Aerotech Co., Ltd., an electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft manufacturer, said professionals who can handle complex systems engineering while bridging technical expertise with business strategy remain in short supply.

Industry insiders said that over the next five years, the impact of major projects will move beyond output value, with greater emphasis placed on cultivating high-end talent. Such professionals, with a solid grounding in basic science, strong engineering capabilities, and a keen understanding of market needs, will help bridge laboratories, enterprises and markets.

## ● Cross-sector jobs on the rise

A key feature of the major projects is the deep integration of emerging technologies with traditional industries, giving rise to a wide range of cross-sector job opportunities in areas such as intelligent manufacturing, smart agriculture and healthcare.

In agriculture, one of the oldest industries, technologies such as AI, remote sensing, and big data are reshaping production across vast stretches of farmland.

From the field to the table, smart agriculture is creating new roles across the entire value chain. Unmanned harvesters rely on navigation specialists, crop-spraying drones are operated by trained pilots, and sensors monitoring crop growth require maintenance by Internet of Things engineers.

After harvest, cold-chain logistics analysts calculate optimal routes from farm to market, while quality-tracing engineers assign "digital passports" to rice and other products. On the sales side, rural e-commerce operators and agricultural brand planners help local specialties command better prices.

This trend is also evident in urban industries. Humanoid robots have appeared on major stages and exhibitions as greeters and hosts, driving rapid growth in related sectors such as robot sales, leasing, deployment and maintenance.

"Robot leasing is not just about renting out machines, but about putting them into real-world use," said Li Yiyan, CEO of a robot leasing platform in Shanghai. "This has created new roles such as on-site deployment engineers and operations coordinators managing equipment from different brands."

Wang Hao, an expert with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said that as manufacturing and services continue to integrate, demand is rising not only for research and production posts, but also for positions in operations, services and supporting functions, which increasingly require professionals with solid technical expertise as well as strong operational and service capabilities.

Experts said those able to work across fields and turn skills into real-world solutions are expected to become the fastest-growing segment of the workforce, a trend that will be a key focus of higher education and vocational training reform. (Xinhua) ■



The closing meeting of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 12, 2026. *Xinhua*

## Why five-year plans work for China

Among all the achievements of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress, there is one that is particularly significant: the 15th Five-Year Plan, blueprint that will guide the world's second-largest economy from 2026 to 2030.

Five-year plans have long been central to how China steers its development. But the upcoming plan is being closely watched not just for its economic ambitions, but for how a country of 1.4 billion people moves toward modernization amid technological disruption, demographic shifts, and an increasingly fractured global order.

The new plan is anchored in recommendations adopted by the Communist Party of China Central Committee in October 2025. It is designed to align with the long-term vision of achieving major progress by 2035 in economic strength, technological capacity, national defense and global influence, while lifting living standards to the level of mid-tier developed economies.

Public input was integral to the drafting process. A prime example was last year's month-long online consultation, which drew more than 3.11 million submissions. Authorities stated that these contributions were reviewed and considered in the plan's formulation. This inclusive approach served as a practical illustration of China's whole-process people's democracy.

China's first five-year plan, launched in the early 1950s, came at a time when the country was still overwhelmingly rural and far from being industrialized. As China now is rolling out its 15th plan, the central goal remains unchanged: to build a modern socialist country.

Along the way, China has built one of the world's most complete industrial systems, eliminated absolute poverty, grown into an economy of 140 trillion yuan (about \$20.2 trillion), and become a major trading partner for more than 150 countries and regions.

Though originating in the planned economy era, the five-year plans have evolved into an effective instrument that leverages the

roles of both market and government for sound macroeconomic management.

These plans establish medium- to long-term objectives, define major priorities, and outline policy directions that steer national development. In practice, the market plays a decisive role, while the government is responsible for coordination and guidance.

In the book *China's Megatrends*, American scholar John Naisbitt vividly described China's planning approach as "framing the forest and letting the trees grow," highlighting how the plans set broad national priorities while giving individual sectors and enterprises the freedom to develop in their own ways.

These dynamics have produced a set of distinct strengths in China's system of medium- and long-term planning. Perhaps the most visible is its ability to marshal resources toward major national priorities.

This is especially important for a country like China, with a vast territory and significant regional disparities, where local authorities and ministries might pursue competing objectives. The five-year plans provide a common roadmap for policy, investment, and planning decisions across sectors and regions.

China's campaign to end extreme poverty offers a concrete example of how national coordination works. The 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) set a clear, time-bound target: all rural residents living below the then poverty line would be lifted out of poverty.

To that end, the plan laid out a detailed implementation framework. Initiatives included establishing an ongoing monitoring system to identify and assist poor households, mobilizing the state-owned sector to deliver aid, and channeling heavy investment into roads, housing and utilities in far-flung areas. More than 3 million officials were dispatched to villages to translate national targets into on-the-ground action.

Analysts said that such large-scale, tightly coordinated action would have been difficult without a centralized political leadership

capable of setting priorities, mobilizing resources, and ensuring implementation across multiple layers of government.

The planning system also places a premium on foresight. In many countries, long-horizon issues, such as aging populations, energy transition, and industrial upgrading, are often crowded out by election-driven politics and short-term economic pressures.

China's five-year and even longer-term plans are designed to counter that short-term drift. In the view of Chinese leaders, it is essential to begin with a well-defined plan and clear goals.

The focus on foresight draws on a long-standing Chinese tradition of valuing long-term planning. As the British scholar Martin Jacques has observed, the five-year plan resonates with a political culture that prioritizes thinking ahead over short-term gain.

China's push into artificial intelligence (AI) exemplifies this emphasis on foresight in practice. AI development was incorporated into national planning as early as the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) a decade ago, a commitment that was followed by the release of a dedicated next-generation AI strategy in 2017.

By 2021, the technology had been elevated again, listed in the 14th Five-Year Plan as one of the country's priority frontiers in science and technology. Proposals now for the new plan go further still, calling for an "AI Plus" approach that would weave the technology more deeply into the wider economy.

By 2025, China's AI sector saw rapid growth. Companies were racing to develop large-scale AI models, the number of AI firms surpassed 6,000, and the core industry was projected to exceed 1.2 trillion yuan.

It is not just AI. The rapid growth of electric vehicles, solar power, lithium batteries, and 5G infrastructure also reflects the impact of long-term planning, particularly in areas that demand heavy upfront investment and patience, yet are crucial to sustaining technological and economic competitiveness.

Observers said that China's approach seeks to anticipate and shape emerging trends before they fully take hold, while also managing potential risks.

Amid short-termism and global uncertainty, China's five-year plans offer a rare form of strategic continuity. More than blueprints for development, they serve as a distinctive tool of governance.

Since the first plan in the 1950s, China has pursued the steady goal of becoming a modern country. Policies have evolved with circumstances, but the overall strategy has remained remarkably consistent.

Through a seamless policy-making relay, China has created a framework that allows major projects and reforms to advance steadily over time.

For businesses and investors, this predictability matters. Long-term decisions depend less on temporary incentives than on the policy environment that can be anticipated. Five-year plans reduce the risk of sudden shifts and provide a measure of stability for the broader economy.

China's five-year plans are formulated through a carefully structured, multi-stage process. Recommendations begin at the Party's plenary sessions, followed by a draft plan prepared by the State Council, and finally reviewed and approved by the NPC before being released.

Once national priorities are set, local and specialized plans break them down into concrete steps to ensure they are carried out effectively.

Analysts said the planning system offers insight into how China's institutions sustain policy continuity and carry out complex initiatives effectively, even amid a rapidly changing global environment.

"China's five-year plans are a fully integrated system for turning goals into reality," said Dong Yu, executive vice dean of the Institute of China Development Planning at Tsinghua University. (Xinhua) ■

## Guangdong remains at forefront of opening-up

Guangdong will further deepen reform and opening-up, expand domestic and international engagement, and seize opportunities from the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to accelerate the building of a dynamic, internationally competitive, first-class bay area and world-class urban cluster, deputies to the National People's Congress said.

During the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) period, Guangdong will advance comprehensive socioeconomic development and forge a new model for Chinese modernization, NPC deputies from the province said during a group deliberation on the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress.

In recent years, Guangdong has pursued a dual-strength strategy to promote industrial and technological advancement while accelerating the development of new productive forces to drive economic growth to new heights, said Huang Kunming, Party secretary of Guangdong province and a deputy to the 14th NPC.

R&D intensity in Guangdong has reached 3.6 percent across all sectors, fostering multiple trillion-yuan industrial clusters, while the core artificial intelligence industry has grown to 300 billion yuan (\$43.5 billion) in recent years, Huang said.

Looking ahead to the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), the province will promote deeper integration between technological and industrial innovation and foster coordinated development between manufacturing and services, striving to cultivate more trillion- and multi-trillion-yuan industrial clusters in emerging fields such as 6G, the low-altitude economy, embodied intelligence and quantum technology, he said.

Building on the successful joint hosting of the 15th National Games and the National Paralympic and Special Olympic Games with Hong Kong and Macao last year, Guangdong will further strengthen cooperation among the three regions to accelerate development of a dynamic, internationally competitive world-class bay area and global urban cluster, Huang said.

"Through years of close collaboration between Guangdong and Macao, both tangible and intangible conditions have steadily matured," he said. "With abundant advantages, ample opportunities and vast potential, Guangdong will vigorously advance development of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin."

Guangdong is home to the country's largest population, highest economic output, greatest number of market entities and the widest range of application scenarios, said Guangdong governor Meng Fanli, also a deputy to the 14th NPC.

During the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) period, Guangdong will prioritize high-quality development of its service sector to drive industrial and economic growth while supporting the advancement of manufacturing, Meng said, adding that the province will accelerate large-scale growth of the service industry.

Guangdong will also advance its international development, leveraging opportunities from the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting to be hosted in Shenzhen in November to further open its service sector and promote the growth, upgrading and strengthening of service trade, Meng said.

Shenzhen will upgrade its international infrastructure and capabilities, broaden global partnerships, and strengthen cooperation in artificial intelligence, new energy and green transformation, offering the "Shenzhen Solution" to promote shared prosperity across the Asia-Pacific, said Qin Weizhong, mayor of Shenzhen and a 14th NPC deputy. (China Daily) ■

# Targeting quality growth in 2026 and beyond amid weakening global economy

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The picture shows a large screen on the streets of Beijing live broadcasting the opening meeting of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress, which takes place at the Great Hall of the People on March 5, 2026. Yi Haifei

In this year's government work report, China set an economic growth target of 4.5 to 5 percent for 2026, aiming for a good start to the new five-year plan that charts the course for high-quality development and offers much-needed certainty to a troubled world economy.

The GDP growth target is well aligned with China's long-range objectives through the year 2035 and broadly in line with the long-term growth potential of China's economy, said a government work report submitted to the country's top legislature for deliberation.

China's economic growth target for 2026 is proactive and pragmatic, reflecting a broad assessment of domestic conditions and shifts in the external environment, said Shen Danyang, head of the group responsible for drafting this year's government work report.

The projected pace would also be among the highest for major economies globally, Shen said.

"The signal this target sends to the international community is clear that China is no longer pursuing growth speed alone," said Zhang Ying, associate dean of the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University. "This year's target reflects China's firm commitment to high-quality development."

The country has made it clear that it will strive for better results in practice regarding this year's growth target, and favorable conditions for achieving this target are in place, according to the report.

## Future assurance

The government work report outlined this year's major tasks, including building a robust domestic market, fostering new growth drivers at a faster pace, and moving faster to achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology.

To achieve these goals, China will continue to implement a more proactive fiscal policy and apply an appropriately accommodative monetary policy. The orientations highlight policy continuity and offer further assurance to a global economy unnerved by trade and geopolitical tensions.

China's global economic heft means its policy moves are pivotal to the world economy. Over the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), China saw its economy grow at an average annual pace of 5.4 percent, well above the global average, and contributed around 30 percent of global growth.

The country has remained the world's second-largest importer for 16 consecutive years; has cemented its position as the world's largest trader of goods; and has become a major trading partner of more than 160 countries and regions.

The weight of the role is only set to grow. According to a World Bank forecast, global growth is projected to ease to 2.6 percent in 2026. If the forecast holds, the 2020s are on track to be the weakest decade for global growth since the 1960s.

"What we achieved in 2025 was indeed hard won," according to the government work report. "Rarely in many years have we encountered such a grave and complex landscape, where external shocks and challenges were intertwined with domestic difficulties and tough policy choices."

## Long-term predictability

The 15th Five-Year Plan sets a clear anchor: doubling China's 2020 per capita GDP by 2035 to reach the level of a moderately developed country. Getting there will require navigating a middle phase that China has deliberately left loosely defined, with growth targets set annually—a flexibility that reflects confidence in the trajectory and awareness of the uncertainties ahead.

The 15th Five-Year Plan marks a pivotal stretch in China's modernization drive, and its ambitions reach well beyond domestic growth metrics. By directing capital into frontier technologies, deepening trade and investment linkages, and advancing green development, the blueprint is poised to affect the global economy across multiple dimensions, from the tempo of the energy transition to the landscape of advanced manufacturing worldwide.

Simon Smith, director and general manager of Taikoo Engine Services (Xiamen) Co., Ltd., an engineering branch of the multinational company Swire Group, said long-term policy clarity changes the calculus for multinationals operating in China.

"The five-year plan transforms investment decisions from probabilistic bets to calculated strategic positioning," Smith said. "Without the plan, the company may hesitate on a specific capability expansion or investment, uncertain whether regulatory support, skilled labor availability, or customer demand will materialize."

That strategic positioning comes with a concrete roadmap. According to China's technology agenda, the country will nurture emerging industries and industries of the future. During the 2026-2030 period, China will foster new

drivers of economic growth such as quantum technology, biomanufacturing, hydrogen and nuclear fusion power, brain-computer interfaces, embodied artificial intelligence, and 6G mobile communications.

Hu Jinbo, a national political advisor and head of the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, said the next five years represent a critical window for China's economic transition from high-speed growth to high-quality development, and sci-tech innovation will serve as the core engine of this transformation.

## Broader opportunities

As China continues to achieve sci-tech innovation breakthroughs, developing countries can draw on China's experience to accelerate their own industrialization, while developed countries will also gain broader opportunities for collaboration in advanced manufacturing and frontier technologies, Hu said.

For the rest of the world, what may matter most in the longer run is not the pace of growth, but its composition. China has set an explicit goal of raising household consumption as a share of GDP over the next five years.

For a global economy straining under the weight of trade tensions, geopolitical fragmentation and weak growth, China's dual pledges – to sustain its own steady expansion and to open its vast market further to the world – offer a rare note of predictability.

A more balanced Chinese economy underpinned by stronger domestic demand would generate far-reaching spillover effects globally, according to Robin Xing, chief China economist at Morgan Stanley.

"Chinese and foreign companies alike would benefit from the depth and scale of the China market, which would help cushion today's geopolitical challenges," Xing was quoted as saying.

According to the government work report, China will deepen reform of the institutional framework for promoting foreign investment this year. It will open wider to the outside world, with efforts to expand market access and open up more areas, particularly in the service sector.

Zhang Ying highlighted three aspects of China's opportunities for global investors: a massive unified market with rising purchasing power of residents, highly efficient and cost-effective supply chains, and an increasingly open, pro-investment regulatory environment.

"Against a backdrop of global volatility and macroeconomic headwinds, these fundamentals offer significant appeal to international investors and corporations," Zhang said. (Xinhua) ■



Zheng Shanjie, Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, Lan Fo'an, Finance Minister, Wang Wentao, Minister of Commerce, Pan Gongsheng, Governor of the People's Bank of China and Wu Qing, Chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission attend a press conference on economy for the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, capital of China, March 6, 2026. Cao Yiming

# Highlights of 2026 Government Work Report

The Chinese economy has proved remarkably resilient over the past year, according to a government work report approved at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress.

## Here are some highlights from the report. Main targets for 2026:

- China sets 2026 economic growth target at 4.5 percent to 5 percent
- China aims to create over 12 million new urban jobs in 2026
- China sets CPI growth target of around 2 percent for 2026
- China sets deficit-to-GDP ratio at around 4 percent for 2026
- Personal income growth in step with economic growth
- A basic equilibrium in the balance of payments
- Grain output of around 700 million metric tons
- A reduction of around 3.8 percent in carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP

## China to boost elderly care and silver economy amid aging population

China plans to expand the supply of elderly care services, develop human resources among seniors, and vigorously cultivate the silver economy this year as part of efforts to tackle an aging society.

## China to accelerate push for science and technology self-reliance in 2026

China will accelerate efforts to achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology in 2026.

## China working on measures to boost consumer spending

China will scale up efforts to boost consumer spending this year by pairing measures to stimulate household spending power with pro-consumption policies.

## China to further reform foreign investment framework

China will expand two-way investment cooperation by deepening reform of the institutional framework for promoting foreign investment and ensuring national treatment for foreign-funded enterprise.

## China to open wider to outside world

China will open wider to the outside world. Efforts will be made to expand market access and open up more areas, particularly in the service sector.

## China to accelerate green transition, cut carbon emissions

China will accelerate the green transition across the board and cut carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by a total of 17 percent in the 2026-2030 period.

## Chinese mainland reaffirms commitment to one-China principle and cross-strait peace in government work report

The Chinese mainland will remain committed to the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus, resolutely fighting against separatist forces aimed at "Taiwan independence" and opposing external interference.

## China to resolutely oppose hegemonism and power politics

China will resolutely oppose hegemonism and power politics, and uphold international fairness and justice. China will stay committed to an independent foreign policy of peace and to peaceful development, and will expand its global network of partnerships. (China Daily) ■





The closing meeting of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 12, 2026. *Xinhua*

## NPC supports reform, development through quality legislation

**T**he Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), served and supported reform and development through high-quality legislation in the past year, according to the work report of the NPC Standing Committee approved at the fourth session of the 14th NPC for deliberation.

In 2025, the NPC Standing Committee strengthened the implementation of the Constitution and enhanced compliance oversight, ensuring the unity of the rule of law, the report said.

**The NPC Standing Committee strengthened the implementation of the Constitution and enhanced compliance oversight, ensuring the unity of the rule of law.**

Over the past year, the top legislature deliberated 40 draft laws, legal interpretations, and decisions and adopted 24 of them, including six new laws, 14 revised laws, one legal interpretation, and three decisions on legal matters and other significant issues. It also made decisions on the ratification of nine treaties and important agreements.

In strengthening economic legislation, the NPC Standing Committee enacted the Private Sector Promotion Law last year, explicitly establishing the principles of impartial treatment, fair competition, equal protection, and common development, according to the report.

The NPC Standing Committee revised the Unfair Competition Law, which is instrumental in the development of a credit-based economy under the rule of law, and revised the Maritime Law, the Arbitration Law, and the Foreign Trade Law to further align with established international rules, thereby better serving high-standard opening up.

In advancing laws for social governance and public well-being, the top legislature enacted the Law on Public Health Emergency Response and revised the Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, according to the report.

In fortifying legislation on national and public security, the NPC Standing Committee enacted the Atomic Energy Law to support research, development, and peaceful utilization of atomic energy, and revised the Cybersecurity Law to enhance data security and personal information protection, the report said.

The top legislature exercised its oversight responsibilities. It heard and deliberated on State Council reports on developing new quality productive forces and promoting the application of scientific and technological advances, so as to drive the deep integration of technological and industrial innovation, according to the report.

It also enhanced oversight of fiscal and economic affairs and took concrete steps to carry out law enforcement inspections, the report said.

The report also unveiled the work plan of the top legislature for 2026. The NPC Standing Committee will promote the comprehensive implementation of the Constitution and improve the socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics.

It will advance the formulation of a state-owned assets law, as part of efforts to develop a high-standard socialist market economy, according to the report.

To accelerate the development of a financially strong nation, the NPC Standing Committee will advance the formulation of laws on finance and financial stability, the report said.

To advance national anti-corruption legislation, the top legislature will make a law on combating cross-border corruption, the report said, adding that it will also advance the formulation of a law on Antarctic activities and environmental protection.

The NPC Standing Committee will strengthen research on legislation in artificial intelligence and other sectors.

The top legislature also vowed to enhance the targeting and effectiveness of oversight, support deputies in the lawful performance of their duties, and pursue vigorous international engagement, among others. (Xinhua) ■

## Posters: Key legislative tasks for 2026

The work report of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, delivered at the fourth session of the 14th NPC, outlines the key legislative priorities for the year 2026.

Here's a look at the major tasks on the agenda.

### With a focus on developing a high-standard socialist market economy

#### Formulating

Law on State-Owned Assets

#### Revising

Enterprise Bankruptcy Law  
Tax Collection and Administration Law  
Law on State-Owned Assets in Enterprises  
Certified Public Accountants Law  
Public Bidding Law  
Government Procurement Law  
Pricing Law  
Trademark Law  
Urban Real Estate Administration Law

### To accelerate the development of a financially strong nation

#### Formulating

Finance Law  
Financial Stability Law

#### Revising

People's Bank of China Law  
Banking Regulation Law

### Aimed at facilitating efforts to build China into a nation with strong agriculture

#### Formulating

Law on Protection and Quality Improvement of Cultivated Land

#### Revising

Agriculture Law

### In seeking to further support public wellbeing

#### Formulating

Medical Security Law  
Childcare Services Law  
Social Assistance Law  
Law on Protection of Overseas Chinese Nationals' Rights and Interests  
Law on National Fire and Rescue Personnel  
Law on Industrial Workforce Development

#### Revising

Teachers Law  
Road Traffic Safety Law

### As part of our commitment to impartial justice

#### Formulating

Law on Procuratorial Public Interest Litigation

#### Revising

Criminal Procedure Law  
Prison Law  
Special Maritime Procedure Law

### To advance national anti-corruption legislation

#### Formulating

Law on Anti-Cross-Border Corruption

### In support of environmental protection

#### Formulating

Law on Antarctic Activities and Environmental Protection

#### Revising

Water Law  
Renewable Energy Law

# China's tough crackdown on crimes ensures public security, quality development

**L**awmakers approved the work reports of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate on March 12, which were submitted by Chief Justice Zhang Jun and Procurator-general Ying Yong respectively to the national legislature's annual session for review.

According to the reports, punishment has been imposed on diehard "Taiwan independence" separatists in accordance with China's Anti-Secession Law for the crimes of secession and inciting secession in a bid to safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

Over the past year, Chinese courts intensified routine efforts to combat organized crime, focusing on rural gangs tied to clan and family networks and their enablers, the SPC report said.

Courts in the country concluded trials in about 46,000 serious violent criminal cases in 2025, down 7.3 percent from a year earlier.

Prosecutors nationwide brought charges against around 54,000 suspects involved in murder, robbery, kidnapping and other serious violent crimes last year. Nearly 10,000 suspects of organized crime were also indicted.





Li Yongli (first from right), a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) and president of the Chongqing High People's Court, uses a fully-functional model vehicle to introduce the judicial service capabilities of the 5G "mobile smart courtroom" during a recess at a panel meeting of the Chongqing delegation to the fourth session of the 14th NPC in Beijing, March 10, 2026. Zhai Yujiu

Both the top court and the top procuratorate pledged to step up the crackdown on serious violent crimes and improve the regularized mechanisms to combat organized crimes in 2026.

In 2025, China hit hard on cross-border telecom fraud, prosecuting 285 people over suspected crimes of fraud, intentional homicide, and intentional injury targeting Chinese citizens under the shelter of criminal gangs operating in northern Myanmar, said the SPP report.

"Safety is the foundation for development and what people hope for," said Huang Hailong, president of the High People's Court of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south China.

Huang, also a national lawmaker, said that judicial authorities are focusing on new features and trends of serious violent crimes to effectively prevent risks, and ensure security and stability.

## Safeguard development

According to the work reports, the judiciary played its role in strengthening the legal guarantees to support and sustain the country's development.

For example, the SPC report said the courts have been committed to safeguarding the order of the capital market and promoting its high-quality development over the past year.

Courts across the country concluded about 25,000 cases concerning securities, futures, and funds in 2025, an in-

crease of 53.6 percent from a year earlier, it said.

China has also strengthened judicial protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs) as part of its broader push for sci-tech self-reliance and strength.

Courts imposed penalties on about 19,000 individuals for IPR infringement crimes in 2025, marking a year-on-year increase of 6.2 percent, according to the SPC report.

Peng Shou, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a national legislator, said that judicial authorities have continued to strengthen IPR protection for China to make breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields and develop new quality productive forces.

In an effort to address corruption in key sectors, procuratorates prosecuted 9,174 individuals last year for duty-related crimes in the financial sector, state-owned enterprises and the energy sector.

In addition, China has effectively implemented the Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law and taken strong countermeasures against illegal sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction, according to the SPC.

Around 159,000 foreign-related cases had been concluded from 2021 to 2025, up 66 percent from the previous five years, the top court said.

Chi Rida, a Shanghai-based lawyer and a national political advisor, called for further efforts to boost coordination and precision in tackling economic and financial crimes, apply new technologies, and uproot the conditions that breed disorder in the economic and financial sectors. (Xinhua) ■

# Environmental code: “Significant event” in advancement of ecological civilization



An aerial drone photo taken on July 3, 2025 shows the vibrant greenery of Caohai National Nature Reserve in the Yi, Hui and Miao Autonomous County of Weining, Bijie City, southwest China's Guizhou Province, presenting a beautiful ecological picture. *Tao Liang*

China's national legislature adopted on March 12 the Ecological and Environmental Code at the closing meeting of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress, opening a new chapter for systematic environmental governance.

The compilation of the code was initiated in November 2023. The draft legislation underwent three rounds of deliberation by the NPC Standing Committee last year prior to its submission to the session.

Wang Canfa, a professor of environmental law at China University of Political Science and Law, hailed the adoption as “a significant event” in the country's advancement of ecological civilization.

“Compiling disparate environmental statutes into a

comprehensive ecological and environmental code provides considerable advantages over the existing fragmented legislative framework,” Wang said.

Through systematic integration, the code can overcome the fragmentation, resolve conflicting rules, and eliminate redundant legislation inherent in separate laws, thereby establishing unified concepts, principles and core institutions, he said.

“It operationalizes the concept of holistic ecosystem protection and systematic governance, thereby fulfilling the imperatives of ecological conservation,” Wang added.

The professor said the code's dedication of an independent book to green and low-carbon development is a global precedent.



Currently, almost 20 ecological or environmental codes have been promulgated worldwide, with none of them including “green and low-carbon development” as a stand-alone section.

He pointed out that the code’s green and low-carbon development section will play a significant role in promoting China’s climate protection.

While the goals of achieving peak carbon dioxide emissions and carbon neutrality have been incorporated into the overall layout of the country’s ecological civilization development, Wang said that no specific law has yet been enacted for tackling climate change.

He stressed that establishing the independent book can elevate the goals and climate response measures from poli-



This photo taken on March 12, 2026 shows a wild yak near the Zangser Kangri Glacier at the Changtang National Nature Reserve, southwest China’s Xizang Autonomous Region. *Sonam Jamca*

cy objectives to binding legal institutions, ensuring a stable and law-governed green transition.

“Green and low-carbon development is the fundamental solution to ecological and environmental problems,” he stressed.

By creating the independent section, the code overcomes the shortcomings of past environmental legislation, moving beyond a narrow focus on pollution control to address problems at their source, he said.

Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu noted the remarkable achievements that the country has made in pollution control. China saw the average proportion of days with heavy pollution drop by 25 percent to only 1 percent from 2021 to 2025. The proportion, however, still stood at 3 percent for some regions, including the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, Huang said after the closing of the session.

He stressed the importance of a systematic and source-driven approach to further bring down the proportion.

The ministry will seize the favorable opportunities presented by the country’s target of reaching peak carbon emissions before 2030 and the enactment of the code to advance the green and low-carbon transformation of the country’s industrial, energy and transportation structures, as well as the development of new quality productive forces, in order to reduce pollutant emissions at the source.

Regarding marine pollution prevention and control, one of the sections of the code, Minister of Natural Resources Guan Zhi’ou said the ministry has consistently adhered to strict control over new land reclamation projects, maintaining a natural coastline retention rate of over 35 percent.

“Notably, a number of beautiful blue bays, scenic beaches and charming islands are becoming popular destinations for people seeking happiness and leisure,” Guan said. (Xinhua) ■



## National law to promote ethnic unity and development

Deputies to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) walk towards the Great Hall of the People for the opening meeting of the fourth session of the 14th NPC in Beijing, capital of China, March 5, 2026. *Xinhua*

China's top legislature on March 12 adopted a law to promote ethnic unity and progress, reinforcing the legal foundation for national cohesion and common prosperity among 56 ethnic groups as the country enters the final decade in its drive to basically achieve modernization by 2035.

The Ethnic Unity and Progress Promotion Law, a fundamental law on ethnic affairs in China, was adopted at the closing meeting of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC). It will take effect on July 1, 2026.

The new law embeds the vision of "fostering a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation" into the country's legal framework and advances the law-based governance of ethnic affairs, said Li Hongzhong, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, in his explanatory remarks on the draft.

The law dedicates chapters to fostering a shared sense of belonging for the Chinese nation, promoting interaction, exchange and integration, and advancing common prosperity and development among all ethnic groups.

Specific provisions direct central and local governments to strengthen infrastructure, foster industrial growth, ensure better access to public services, and intensify efforts to protect the environment, among other measures.

According to Li, the new legislation sets out China's major policies for supporting high-quality development in ethnic minority regions, providing institutional and legal backing to help these regions integrate into the national development agenda and meet the aspirations of all ethnic

groups for a better life.

"Development in ethnic minority regions should not just rely on temporary assistance but also on sustained policy support guaranteed by the new law," said Chen Zhen, an NPC deputy from the Dong ethnic group in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Many ethnic minority communities reside in mountainous areas, far-off regions or other historically underdeveloped parts of China. Benefiting from the nationwide poverty alleviation drive and ongoing rural revitalization efforts, ethnic minority regions have recorded rapid economic and social development.

During China's eight-year campaign to eliminate absolute poverty, which declared victory in 2021, all 420 poverty-stricken counties in ethnic autonomous areas and all 28 ethnic groups with relatively small populations shook off poverty.

The combined GDP of the five autonomous regions, which are home to large ethnic minority populations – Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, Xizang, Ningxia, and Xinjiang – grew at an average annual rate of 5.6 percent from 2020 to 2024, outpacing the national average.

Public services in ethnic minority regions have leapfrogged. Xizang, for example, led the entire country in starting to provide 15 years of publicly-funded education from kindergarten to senior high in 2012. The 15-year free schooling has also been available in four southern prefectures in Xinjiang.

The new law provides that the state shall promote the

standard spoken and written Chinese language. The right to study and use ethnic minority languages shall also be respected and safeguarded, according to the law.

Lawmakers and experts said the remarkable economic and social achievements in ethnic minority regions have been buttressed by continuous efforts to safeguard ethnic unity, which is one underlying logic behind the new law.

“Unity is the precondition for progress, while progress reinforces unity,” Chen said.

The new law stipulates that upholding national unity and ethnic solidarity is the responsibility of all Chinese citizens, and prohibits discrimination and suppression against

any ethnic group.

It also combats violent terrorism, ethnic separatism and religious extremism, stating that organizers, planners, perpetrators, instigators and funders of these activities may face criminal liability.

“Development in ethnic minority areas requires a stable and harmonious environment, and such an environment must be safeguarded by the rule of law,” said Yin Jianmin, an NPC deputy from the Manchu ethnic group and chairperson of an agricultural technology company from Gansu Province in northwest China. (Xinhua) ■

## Xizang aims to better preserve ethnic culture

Efforts to preserve the language and culture of ethnic groups with relatively small populations in the Xizang autonomous region have been stepped up in recent years to ensure these can be passed down to the younger generation, said deputies to China’s top legislature.

Tashi Gyaltzen, who is the only deputy to the 14th National People’s Congress from the Lhoba ethnic group in the Doyu Lhoba ethnic autonomous township, said the group has a spoken language but no script, so members have to pass down their cultural heritage orally.

“The local government funds the hiring of teachers to offer Lhoba language courses in schools. Also, villages in the township regularly host Lhoba language night classes, during which the elders eagerly teach and the young people actively participate,” he said.

There are about 4,300 Lhoba people in China, making the ethnic group one of the smallest among the country’s 56 ethnic groups in terms of population.

Tashi Gyaltzen, who has been focusing on the preservation of the Lhoba language and culture as an NPC deputy, formally submitted a proposal in 2019 during the annual session of the 13th NPC for strengthening the protection of the Lhoba heritage. Over the past two years, the county-level government has invested more than 8 million yuan (\$1.2 million) to revive and protect the Lhoba people’s language, history, traditional crafts, songs, dances, clothing styles and distinctive dwellings, said the NPC deputy.

Following expansion and renovation, the Lhoba Ethnic History Museum in the township has become a window for showcasing the rich culture and heritage of the ethnic group, he said.

The museum covers a range of subjects — from the origin of the ethnic group’s name and migration history to its agricultural traditions and handicraft heritage, including weaving and dyeing items of clothing, which he said allows visitors to experience the Lhoba way of life.

“However, we do not want the Lhoba culture to remain confined to museums. Our goal is to promote our ethnic clothing, music, customs and traditions, integrating these into our young people’s daily lives,” Tashi Gyaltzen said.

The law on promoting ethnic unity and progress underscores the promotion and protection of ethnic languages.

It says that the State respects and guarantees the learning and use of ethnic languages and scripts, promotes their “standardization, normalization and informationization”, and supports the protection, compilation, research and utilization of ancient books of

minority groups.

Norbu Yangzom, an NPC deputy from Metog county in Xizang’s Nyingchi, said that with the promotion of the culture of the local Monba ethnic group, the county has become a popular tourist destination.

Metog currently has a permanent population of about 15,300 people.

Metog has approximately 8,500 people belonging to the Monba ethnic group. In recent years, through the integrated development of the local culture and tourism industries, the county has transformed the distinctive traditions of the Monba people, such as their clothing and folk dances, into cultural products that can be experienced firsthand, said Norbu Yangzom, who is the only deputy to the 14th NPC from the ethnic group.

“Our village has revitalized Monba textile techniques by establishing clothing factories and ethnic costume shops, reviving the glory of traditional Monba attire,” she said.

According to Norbu Yangzom, Monba ethnic cuisine is particularly unique. In recent years, people in the county have either reinvented or improved upon traditional Monba delicacies to serve up 11 distinctive dishes, and established standards for these local specialties.

“Bringing local delicacies to the table not only attracts a large number of visitors to Metog, but also promotes the better inheritance and development of the Monba culinary culture,” she said.

Nestled below the snowcapped peaks of the Himalayas and with the raging Yarlung Zangbo River running through it, Metog was the last county in China to be linked to the outside world with a paved road in 2013.

“I still remember the first time I attended the annual session of the 14th NPC in Beijing three years ago. When people asked me where I was from and I said Metog county, many said they had never heard of it. But things are different now,” Norbu Yangzom said.

With the continuous development of infrastructure and the successful execution of rural vitalization projects, the once-isolated county is now steadily climbing the popularity charts among tourists. In 2025, Metog received more than 700,000 visitors, generating nearly 470 million yuan in tourism revenue.

“When tourists ask me why Metog has suddenly become so popular, I say it is not a mere coincidence, but the result of years of hard work to implement rural vitalization policies. When the time is right, you achieve what you deserve,” Norbu Yangzom said. (China Daily) ■

# China adopts law on national development planning

China's top legislature on March 12 adopted the National Development Planning Law, which governs how the country formulates and carries out its five-year development plans, formalizing a system that has long guided the world's second-largest economy.

The law draws on China's long-standing experience in national development planning, codifies proven practices into a legal framework, and aims to reinforce the strategic guiding role of national development plans. This marks China's first specialized legislation on national development planning, heralding a new stage of "planning governed by the rule of law" in China's macroeconomic governance and modernization drive.

Since 1953, China has developed and implemented 14 five-year plans, helping drive economic and social development, improve living standards and strengthen the country's overall national strength.

Divided into six chapters, the law sets out provisions on the formulation, review and approval, and implementation of national development plans, as well as oversight of their implementation.

The law formalizes the process under which the Communist Party of China Central Committee formulates recommendations, the State Council drafts plans, and the NPC reviews and approves them before they are released.

According to the law, national development plans should outline China's strategic intentions and the government's priorities, and guide social entities in their activities.

It specifies that national development plans should include an analysis of the development environment; guidelines; key goals and indicators; major strategic tasks, policy measures and projects; and measures to ensure the plans' implementation.

The law emphasizes the importance of public consultation in the planning process. As part of this effort, authorities launched a monthlong online consultation on the 15th Five-Year Plan last year, drawing more than 3.11 million responses – an illustration of China's whole-process people's democracy in action.

This law embodies the idea that development is for the people, relies on the people, and that its benefits are shared by the people, said Nie Xin, a professor at Tsinghua University's School of Law.

The law also sets out requirements for implementing national development plans. It codifies a system for monitoring and evaluating plan implementation, including mid-term and final evaluations.

"The law provides strong institutional guarantees for the scientific formulation and effective implementation of na-

tional development plans within the framework of the rule of law," said Zhong Ying, a research fellow at the Institute of Contemporary China Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

## Planning governance enters a new stage of the rule of law

The new law is a milestone in China's macroeconomic governance and socialist modernization. The law systematically stipulates the entire process of national development planning, including its formulation, review, approval, implementation, and supervision. This signifies that the important approach of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in governing and administering state affairs, that is, guiding economic and social development with medium- and long-term planning, now has dedicated legal norms and guarantees. From the first Five-Year Plan (1953-1957) to the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), the successful implementation of these blueprints has connected the progress of China. This legislation will promote the comprehensive realization of scientific, democratic, and law-based national development planning work, ensuring that "following the blueprint through to the end" has a more solid legal foundation.

## Codifying mature governance experience into law

The core purpose of the law is to elevate long-standing, effective, and mature practices to the level of state law. The law explicitly stipulates that national development planning work upholds the leadership of the CPC and is organized and formulated by the State Council based on the recommendations, decisions, and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee. This legally establishes the fundamental principle of the Party's overall leadership over planning work, ensuring that national development planning always advances in the correct political direction.

## Transforming institutional strengths into governance efficacy

The new law enables the fuller and more efficient transformation of China's institutional strengths, that is, "the ability to pool resources on major endeavors" and the coordination of the whole nation as in a game of chess, into governance efficacy, leveraging the authority, binding force, and stability of the law. The law establishes a planning system with the national development plan as the overarching



This photo shows the headquarters of China Satellite Network Group Co., Ltd. in Xiong'an New Area, taken in March 2026. Since April 1, 2017, after nine years of high-standard planning and construction, this “city of the future” is rising rapidly and developing steadily. *Xinhua*

guide, clarifies the relationships among plans at all levels and of all types, avoids overlap and duplication, and ensures that national strategic intentions are smoothly transmitted to all sectors and regions through a clear and coordinated system. This means that the main objectives, major projects, and reform measures defined in the development plan will be incorporated into the responsibility and assessment mechanisms of governments at all levels, thereby rallying a powerful synergy for plan implementation, fundamentally addressing the issue of disconnect between planning and implementation, and enabling macro-level strategies to be truly translated into micro-level actions and development outcomes.

### **Safeguarding the Chinese path to modernization**

Formulating the law can safeguard the new journey of Chinese modernization at this critical juncture of linking past and future in national development. Currently, China faces rising complexity, severity, and uncertainty in the external environment, alongside arduous and heavy domestic tasks in

reform, development, and stability. Precisely at such a time, it is all the more necessary to maintain strategic resolve and rely on a mature, stable, and law-based long-term planning and implementation mechanism to address risks and challenges and take the initiative in development. By providing a strong guarantee for the rule of law, the law ensures that the state can, in accordance with laws and regulations, scientifically assess the situation, build social consensus, mobilize resources, coordinate policies and actions, and ensure that major strategic deployments are not derailed by difficulties or interrupted by interference. It makes China's development direction, key tasks, and pathways for the next five years and even longer clearer, more stable, and predictable, and will certainly help turn the grand blueprint of Chinese modernization into reality step by step.

The new law on national development planning marks a crucial step for China in advancing the modernization of the national governance system and capacity on the track of the rule of law. It will transform the planning strengths codified in legal form into powerful governance efficacy that ensures steady and sustainable high-quality development. (Xinhua, CGTN) ■

# Voices of deputies

## Jin Ruirui: Modernizes ancient Yi embroidery

Jin Ruirui, president of the county-level Yi embroidery association of Mouding County, Yunnan Province, has been dedicated to preserving the millennia-old



Jin Ruirui embroiders with locals at her studio in Mouding County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, Feb. 9, 2026. *Xinhua*

craft while leading local embroiderers toward cultural prosperity and rural revitalization.

With a history of more than 1,300 years, Yi embroidery features exquisite patterns and diverse stitching techniques, serving as an important carrier of ethnic Yi culture.

Over the years, Jin has helped more than 2,000 women find jobs. Through their efforts, the ancient craft has stepped out of the mountains and appeared on fashion week runways in cities such as Milan, New York and Paris. By blending with modern fashion design, it has repeatedly expanded into new markets and reached new audience.

In 2023, Jin was elected a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC). During her tenure, she has put forward proposals on issues such as the protection of Yi embroidery and related industrial development, employment, education, and healthcare.

At this year's Two Sessions, Jin focuses on the industrial growth of Yi embroidery, youth mental health and the prevention of juvenile crime.

## Zheng Wangchun: Leads a cliffside village toward rural revitalization

Perched on a cliff at the entrance to the Dadu River Grand Canyon, Gulu Village in Sichuan Province long



Zheng Wangchun (first from right) talks with migrant workers returning home inside a cable car in Gulu Village of Hanyuan County, southwest China's Sichuan Province, Jan. 28, 2026. *Xinhua*

remained isolated by poor transportation. The opening of a cableway in 2018 marked a turning point, cutting the journey from three to four hours to just three to five minutes.

Zheng Wangchun is the head of the village committee and secretary of the Party committee of Gulu Village, and a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC). Over the past years, Zheng has led villagers in developing a new path of integrated agricultural, cultural and tourism development, breathing new life into this Yi ethnic village. Villagers have opened homestays and created multiple scenic photo spots to enhance the visitor experience. At the same time, the village has expanded local specialty industries such as walnuts, Sichuan pepper, and goat farming.

Zheng has submitted suggestions including expanding internet access in rural areas and strengthening wildlife protection while minimizing its impact on farmers' livelihoods. "The smiles of villagers are the best reward for grassroots work," Zheng said.



## Dong Hongtao: Focuses on skilled workforce development

Dong Hongtao is a bullet train technician of China Railway Xi'an Group Co., Ltd. and a deputy to the



Dong Hongtao (right) and colleagues examine and maintain a bullet train at a maintenance depot of China Railway Xi'an Group Co., Ltd. in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, Jan. 14, 2026. *Xinhua*

National People's Congress (NPC). Since engaging in electric multiple unit (EMU) maintenance work in 2007, Dong has led his team to maintain over 120,000 EMU sets and handled more than 3,000 faults. He was granted three national invention patents and 31 utility model patents. Dong has also been dedicated to the passing-on of technical skills, cultivating skilled talents for the industry through the national-level master technician studio led by him.

As a senior technician who started as an ordinary worker, Dong understands the challenges faced by front-line workers in their developments. He has observed that they often have abundant practical experiences but lack theoretical knowledge. In response, he actively participates in initiatives to improve their skills and identifies young talents to foster their creativity.

For this year's legislative session, Dong continues to focus on the development of the skilled workforce, concentrating on advancing the implementation of the new professional title system, which features eight technical titles – three more than the previous five-tier system.

## Zhang Fan: Calls for development of "AI plus manufacturing"



Zhang Fan (right) communicates with an engineer at a research base of China Electrical Equipment Group in Shanghai, east China, Jan. 27, 2026. *Xinhua*

Zhang Fan is vice general manager of China Electrical Equipment Group and a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC). Zhang believes that "artificial intelligence (AI) plus manufacturing" would be achieved through strengthening top-level design and industry guidelines. Last year, Zhang presented a suggestion on deepening integration of manufacturing and AI to promote high-quality innovative development. His suggestion was given great importance.

In January 2026, eight departments of China including the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology jointly issued a plan which outlines an ambitious push to deeply integrate AI with the manufacturing sector, foster new quality productive forces and comprehensively empower new industrialization.

Zhang continues to focus on data-sharing bottlenecks in AI-driven manufacturing and on the best practices of leading enterprises. (Xinhua) ■

# The green line: How people's voices reach China's policy table through the Two Sessions



A group meeting of deputies from the delegation of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is held at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, capital of China, March 6, 2026. *Cheng Tingting*

In early March, as Beijing eased into early spring, Omarjan Kurban stepped once again into the Great Hall of the People for the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature. This time, he felt a heightened sense of responsibility.

Omarjan is an NPC deputy and a senior management professional at the Energy Research Institute of Xinjiang Energy Group. At last year's NPC session, also held in March, he submitted a suggestion calling for national support to prioritize pilot programs for point-to-point green electricity supply in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The suggestion reflected the aspirations of enterprises and industrial parks Omarjan had consulted across the region.

Today, his suggestion has been incorporated into national-level policy arrangements, giving him a deeper understanding of what it means to fulfill his duties as an NPC deputy.

## From paper to practice

The story began in the months leading up to the 2025 NPC session. During that period, Omarjan was constantly



**Deputies' suggestions must be replied to within three months, or no later than six months, from the date of assignment. Feasible suggestions will be incorporated into laws, regulations, or policy documents.**

on the road, traveling across Xinjiang to visit industrial parks and energy companies. In his field research, he encountered a shared concern.

"Xinjiang has abundant wind and solar resources. We have no shortage of green power," Omarjan told Beijing Review. Installed capacity of new energy power generation has reached 167 million kilowatts (kw), accounting for 64 percent of the region's total installed capacity. "But enterprises encounter difficulty obtaining reliable and cost-effective green power."

What many enterprises hope for most, he said, is dedicated "green power lines," linking power generators directly with users, cutting intermediate links, lowering costs and ensuring stable supply.

Based on his research, Omarjan proposed prioritizing pilot programs in Xinjiang for "point-to-point" green electricity supply, allowing renewable energy power generators to connect directly with load centers nearby.

After submission, NPC deputies' suggestions are reviewed, classified and forwarded to competent departments for handling. Throughout the process, assigned departments maintain communication with deputies through calls, meetings and joint research. According to legal provisions, deputies' suggestions must be replied to within three months, or no later than six months, from the date of assignment. Feasible suggestions will be incorporated into laws, regulations, or policy documents.

In 2025, departments of the State Council, the highest state administrative organ, handled 8,754 suggestions from NPC deputies and 4,868 proposals from members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, China's top political advisory body, accounting for more than 95 percent of the total submitted. All were processed on time. More than 4,900 suggestions were adopted, leading to over 2,200 new policy measures, according to a State Council Information Office briefing held on February 27. Omarjan's suggestion was among them.

"Not long after the 2025 session concluded, I received a written reply from the National Energy Administration (NEA)," Omarjan said. "It clearly expressed support for Xinjiang to carry out green power direct connection projects in line with national and local policies, and to encourage local enterprises to consume renewable energy."

In May 2025, the National Development and Reform Commission and the NEA jointly issued a circular on the development of green power direct connection systems, providing a policy framework for implementation.

This is one example of how, within a matter of months, a suggestion raised by an NPC deputy can promote a national policy. Grassroots concerns were heard and solutions were incorporated into top-level design.

Today in Xinjiang, a number of green power direct connection projects are being implemented concurrently. In the Tarim Oilfield area, photovoltaic stations have established dedicated power lines linking petrochemical deep-processing projects. In key development zones such as Zhundong-Xinjiang Economic and Technological Development Zone, similar projects help companies lower energy costs, achieve measurable carbon reductions and meet international green standards for export products.

Electricity generated in the Gobi Desert now flows direct-



Omarjan Qurban (right), Deputy to the 14th National People's Congress, at his workplace. Photo provided by Omarjan Qurban

ly into production lines and workshops around the region, strengthening both enterprise competitiveness and local development.

“The implementation of this suggestion is not the effort of one person,” Omarjan said. “It is the result of coordination between the government and enterprises.”

He said the process affirms a simple truth: When rooted in local realities and aligned with national strategy, good suggestions can become sound policy, and sound policy can deliver real results.

## Serving grassroots communities

From May 2020 to February 2023, Xinjiang Energy Group assigned Omarjan to a village in the region to assist initiatives promoting ethnic unity, rural development and public services. His contributions earned recognition from both the company and local residents.

It was at the first session of the 14th NPC, in March 2023, that Omarjan began directly participating in the administration of state affairs as a national lawmaker.

“Being elected as an NPC deputy is a form of trust given by the people,” Omarjan said. To honor that trust, he added that he is committed to bridging enterprises and villages, actively conveying public opinion and contributing to Xinjiang’s stability and development and the country’s modernization. In carrying out these efforts, he has conducted field research in rural areas, industrial workshops, residential communities, schools and hospitals.

In a remote village once marked by poor roads and fading industry, the secretary of the Communist Party of China local branch, who had worked there for more than 20 years, led Omarjan across its hills, fields and workshops. “Our land yields abundantly, yet without processing facilities and reliable markets we cannot turn that abundance into prosperity,” he said.

Over time, roads were paved, a cooperative was set up, orchards and processing lines took shape and e-commerce livestreaming was introduced. On a later visit, Omarjan saw some young people returning, workshops running and basic elderly and childcare services in place.

“Grassroots initiatives bring gradual progress, but we can’t stand still,” the secretary said. That experience inspired Omarjan’s suggestions on supporting rural industries, encouraging entrepreneurship and improving equal access to public services.

## Green energy for the nation

Omarjan said he will continue to focus on how to convert Xinjiang’s resource advantages into strong drivers for the country’s high-quality development.

During recent field visits, Omarjan found that while Xinjiang has become a major cross-region electricity transmission base, three deep-seated challenges remain: existing channels are fully occupied by early-stage renewable energy projects, leaving no room for new projects; technical restrictions remain as the tightly coupled model in which coal-fired power underpins renewable generation limits the possibility of transmitting green electricity at scale; and during peak periods of wind and solar generation, generated electricity cannot be fully delivered to the grid or end users, leading to curtailment and a decline in overall utilization efficiency.

He suggested that at the national level, the electricity transmission channels supported by three major clean energy bases in Xinjiang—Ruoqiang West in the Taklimakan Desert, Shanshan in the Kumtag Desert and Ruoqiang East in the Taklimakan Desert—should be incorporated into the country’s 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for power development, so that Xinjiang can better serve the national balance of electricity supply and demand and strengthen overall energy security.

Environmental legislation is another focus for Omarjan. He said the draft environmental code, which will be reviewed at this year’s NPC session, is a milestone in China’s environmental rule of law. By applying the strictest standards and the most rigorous legal framework to coordinate carbon reduction, pollution control, ecological restoration and economic growth, it places ecological progress firmly on a law-based track and provides unified, binding institutional safeguards for high-quality development and high-level environmental protection.

Omarjan said the code supports coal-to-oil and coal-to-gas projects, Xinjiang’s outbound electricity transmission and renewable energy development. He believes advances in these fields will bring opportunities for Xinjiang’s green transition.

Omarjan envisions three roles for Xinjiang during the 15th Five-Year Plan period: as a national strategic hub for renewable energy, expanding outbound green power transmission; as a role model for clean transformation, building a new system combining renewable energy, dispatchable coal-fired power and energy storage; and as an ecological security barrier for northwest China, using energy development to promote desert control and greening, achieving both growth and protection. (Beijing Review) ■



Zhang Jin, chairperson and chief engineer of Zhongheng Design Group, introduces a commemorative stamp album marking the 30th anniversary of the company, during an open panel meeting of the Jiangsu delegation to the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing on March 7. CNS photo

## Two Sessions 2026: 226 motions tabled

One of the key ways Chinese national lawmakers translate public concerns into policy is through motions, legally binding legislative proposals and suggestions, which often reflect broader expert opinion and policy recommendations. Two hundred and twenty-six motions had been submitted during the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress, many focusing on the launch of the 15th Five-Year Plan this year. These proposals closely align with the NPC Standing Committee's legislative agenda. Lawmakers have also put forward 8,406 suggestions, addressing issues such as the unified national market, technological self-reliance, rural revitalization, green development, public health and workplace safety.

Guo Zhenhua, a senior official with the secretariat of the fourth session of the 14th NPC, noted, "Motions concerning legislation for the implementation of the 15th Five-Year Plan account for more than two-thirds of the total. The 15th Five-Year Plan has outlined plans for fostering and expanding emerging industries and future industries. During the session, deputies paid close attention to legislation in emerging fields, proposing the formulation of an artificial intelligence law, a digital economy promotion law, a low-altitude economy promotion law, and laws on data protection, as well as revising the Law on Promoting the Transformation of Scientific and Technological Achievements and the Patent Law."

"Deputies' motions also focus on ensuring and improving people's well-being. There are 66 bills in this regard, with high attention given to legislative items such as revising the Social Insurance Law and enacting a law on the protection of the rights and interests of workers in new forms of employment," he said. (CGTN) ■

## 8,406 suggestions from Chinese lawmakers assigned for handling

A total of 8,406 suggestions submitted by Chinese lawmakers to this year's annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC) have been assigned to 206 relevant institutions for study and handling, the NPC Standing Committee said on March 26.

Over half of the suggestions focus on the goals and tasks of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), particularly on key areas for promoting high-quality development and the main issues concerning public well-being, the NPC Standing Committee said.

Such areas include science and technology, education, health, sports, development planning, the economy, and social and public affairs, it said.

High-frequency terms in the suggestions include empowering the development of the digital economy, establishing a high-quality education system, and promoting the green and low-carbon transformation of the industrial structure.

Over the past year, the 9,160 suggestions submitted by lawmakers to the previous NPC session in 2025 were all handled and responded to by 211 relevant institutions, the NPC Standing Committee said.

This resulted in the resolution of a number of pressing public difficulties and concerns and facilitated the improvement of a series of policy measures for development and public well-being, it added.

At a meeting held to assign the 2026 suggestions, an official with the deputy work commission of the NPC Standing Committee urged state organs to maintain communication with lawmakers, invite them to participate in research and discussions, listen to their opinions and suggestions, and enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the handling work. (Xinhua) ■

# NPC deputies highlight green as defining feature of a Beautiful China



Hu Xiaochun, a deputy to the National People's Congress, checks on the growth of the Guest-Greeting Pine.  
Photo provided by Hu Xiaochun

China's environmental quality has continued to improve, delivering notable progress toward its Beautiful China goals.

Over the past year, the average PM2.5 concentration in cities at and above the prefectural level fell by 4.4 percent, while the proportion of surface water monitoring sections rated excellent rose to 91.4 percent. Last year, the country's installed capacity for new energy storage surpassed 130 million kilowatts, the share of non-fossil fuels in total energy consumption reached 21.7 percent, and energy consumption per unit of GDP dropped by 5.1 percent.

This year's government work report pledged to accelerate the green transition across the board. Guided by the goals of peaking carbon emissions and achieving carbon neutrality, China will make coordinated efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce pollution, pursue green development, and boost economic growth, while strengthening the drivers of a low-carbon economy.

During this year's Two Sessions, the annual meetings of China's top legislature and top political advisory body, deputies to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) put forward proposals and suggestions to help advance the building of a Beautiful China.

Among them is Hu Xiaochun, an NPC deputy and

the 19th guardian of the Guest-Greeting Pine, a famous landmark on Huangshan Mountain in east China's Anhui Province. With years on the front lines of ecological protection, Hu brings firsthand insight into the demands of the job.

The story of the pine's guardianship — from a single guard, to a professional team, to today's collaborative model involving the guardians, judicial authorities, scenic area management, and the wider public — is a vivid example of how China's ecological governance has steadily improved.

"Ecological protection is a systemic undertaking and a long-term commitment," Hu said. Building an effective multi-party governance system, he argued, requires strengthening frontline professional capacity, providing a

solid legal guarantee, and improving coordination mechanisms.

At last year's Two sessions, Liu Jinxiu, an NPC deputy and chairwoman of an agricultural technology development company in central China's Hubei Province, submitted a suggestion on comprehensive straw utilization under the "Two Mountains" theory, which holds that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets comparable to the gold and silver of legend.

Shortly after the Two sessions, officials from the relevant departments visited Hubei's Luotian county, where she lives, to conduct on-site research. The county has been designated as one of 400 national model counties for comprehensive straw utilization.

"We convert straw, chestnut shells, and medicinal herb residues from the Dabie Mountains into fodder for sheep, and use the sheep manure as organic fertilizer," Liu said. "This has cut carbon emissions previously caused by burning straw, improved soil organic matter, enhanced the local ecosystem, reduced our company's breeding costs, and increased the added value of agricultural products. The lucid waters and lush mountains on our doorstep have long been since become invaluable assets for local people," she added. (People's Daily Online) ■

# Pioneering path to rural prosperity

**R**en Shuyuan, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) from Qinjian village in Baiquan county, Qiqihar city, northeast China's Heilongjiang province, was invited to sit in on the 19th session of the 14th NPC Standing Committee held in December 2025. At a deputies' meeting during the session, she gave a face-to-face report to senior officials on her performance of duties over the past few years.

"The NPC Standing Committee chairman showed great care for grassroots deputies, listening attentively to our voices and encouraging us to faithfully perform our statutory duties and exercise our democratic rights," she said after the meeting. "I felt like being valued and cared for by a family member."

Born and raised in the countryside, Ren has a deep attachment to the black soil of her homeland. This rural woman in her 30s, who is often seen with her hair tied in a ponytail, is not only the head of a local vegetable planting cooperative but also a leading figure in promoting rural prosperity in local communities.

Her entrepreneurial journey began with a simple yet heartfelt motivation: "I'm a farmer's daughter, and I just want to do something practical for the farmers, so their pockets can grow fuller."

Winters in Qiqihar are long and bitterly cold, and drying vegetables has long been a household tradition in Qinjian village. Fresh string beans, eggplants and potatoes are dried for winter storage, which both preserves them and gives them a distinctive flavor. Ren saw potential in these dried vegetables, hoping to sell them online and address long-standing difficulties faced by villagers in selling produce and increasing incomes, while forging a new path to prosperity.

The road was anything but smooth. Ren's efforts initially met with skepticism from many of her fellow villagers. To win their trust, she helped them sell and source goods free of charge, riding her electric bike across muddy fields to pick up goods door-to-door. She even covered the logistics losses out of her own pocket.

In the early days, local products could neither enter supermarkets nor be sold online without trademarks or required certifications. Ren often took buses to sell them at the market in the county, carrying baskets full of dried vegetables and eggs.

She recalled a particular incident. After learning that an elderly villager was unable to sell her string beans, Ren hurried to purchase them, even though she was more than three months pregnant at the time. On her way back, a sudden downpour turned the dirt road slick with mud, and she fell from her electric bike.

Looking back, she admitted that she was frightened af-



**Ren Shuyuan (center), a deputy to the National People's Congress, introduces local specialties via livestream with fellow villagers. Photo provided by Ren Shuyuan**

terward, but she also realized that those beans were more than just produce, they carried local farmers' hopes for a better life.

Behind her perseverance lies a story of struggles and resilience—misunderstandings, setbacks and the loneliness forging a new path. Yet, it is also a testament to the tenacity of the rural woman who is determined to make her community prosper.

In 2018, Ren established the Shuyuan Vegetable Planting Specialized Cooperative, adopting a "cooperative plus farmer plus base" model. Starting with just five member households, the cooperative has since grown to include 160 households. It has enabled households lifted out of poverty to increase their average annual income by 3,000 yuan, while also providing the village women with employment opportunities within their local communities.

In late autumn, the experimental plots and courtyards of Qinjian village are filled with bountiful harvest of beans, radishes and mustard greens. Once left to rot in the fields, these crops are now processed and branded, becoming sought-after products nationwide.

Through Ren's efforts, local specialties have been transformed into a thriving industry, turning the fertile black soil into a tangible source of income. The once skeptical voices have turned into praises, with the cooperative's success serving as a powerful response to her belief that "true wealth lies in the collective prosperity of everyone."

After being elected as an NPC deputy, Ren always car-

ried a well-worn notebook filled with the concerns and aspirations of her fellow villagers. She listened to farmers, discussed the need for agricultural subsidies and stable grain prices and documented the urgent need for road improvements. These grassroots voices were meticulously recorded and refined and then transformed into practical suggestions submitted to the annual NPC sessions.

Her suggestions, including offering targeted subsidies to high-performance agricultural machinery operators, strengthening price regulation of key crops in major grain-producing areas, accelerating the development of rural transportation infrastructure, building graded rural road networks and better connecting logistics stations, have drawn the attention of relevant authorities, leading to tangible solutions.

Ren said that in the new year, she will continue to stay rooted in the community, remain close to her fellow villagers and make the people's voices better heard, making sure that work at the grassroots level is carried out with even greater dedication and effectiveness.

Ren's story is a vivid, living illustration of whole-process people's democracy at the grassroots level.

It is not an abstract concept but a reality reflected in the worn pages of her notebook, the hardened village roads and the smiles of her fellow villagers. Nor is it an empty slogan. It is a commitment embodied by NPC deputies like Ren, who measure the land with their footsteps, shoulder responsibilities in ordinary posts, and ensure that the voices of the people are heard, their needs addressed and their rights and interests protected. It is the most genuine and direct manifestation of people being the masters of their country. ■



Ren Shuyuan (second from right), a deputy to the National People's Congress, distributes high-quality vegetable seedlings to villagers to help them develop the courtyard-based economy. Photo provided by Ren Shuyuan

## Understanding China's whole-process people's democracy

The Two Sessions, the annual meetings of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), and the top political advisory body, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), provide an important opportunity to observe Chinese modernization and a key window into understanding whole-process people's democracy in China.

As an original and defining concept, whole-process people's democracy is deeply embedded in the daily lives of the Chinese people.

Deliberating the draft outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) is a major focus of this year's Two Sessions. The process of formulating the plan itself is a vivid practice of whole-process people's democracy.

From May 20 to June 20, 2025, an online public consultation was conducted for the formulation of the 15th Five-Year Plan. The initiative drew over 3.11 million valid submissions, yielding more than 1,500 constructive suggestions across 27 topics.

The drafting group attached great importance to these inputs, carefully studied and incorporated them, with many reflected in relevant policy measures of the plan in appropriate forms.

By the end of 2025, the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee had established 60 grassroots legislative outreach offices, which in turn drove the establishment of more than 7,800 such



VCG

offices at the provincial and municipal levels. In 2025, more than 1,400 CPPCC members submitted over 12,000 reports on public sentiment. These diverse channels for reflecting public opinion serve as important bridges linking the people with the authorities.

Such democracy widely participated by the people has made “micro-governance” more dynamic and efficient.

At a “People’s Livelihood Teahouse” in Wenhe subdistrict, Guangling district, Yangzhou, east China’s Jiangsu province, deputies to people’s congresses at various levels, members of CPPCC local committees, and local residents gather to discuss issues affecting people’s livelihoods. There, residents’ concerns are addressed, and some suggestions are promptly relayed to relevant authorities.

In recent years, similar platforms have been established one after another, making primary-level governance smoother and more effective.

From farmlands and factory floors to hospitals, schools, and communities, NPC deputies and CPPCC members diligently perform their duties, soliciting opinions from the public, and turning suggestions into concrete actions that deliver tangible benefits.

In 2025, all 269 motions and 9,160 suggestions submitted by NPC deputies were reviewed and handled, with responses provided to the deputies. Of the more than 5,900 proposals submitted by CPPCC members, over 5,000 were filed, and some suggestions were incorporated into relevant policy documents.

A defining feature of “whole-process” is that it runs through the entire chain, spans all dimensions, and covers all areas.

Take food safety, a matter of widespread public concern, as an example. From May to September 2025, the NPC Standing Committee’s law enforcement inspection team carried out inspections on the implementation of the Food Safety Law.

The team placed great emphasis on hearing public voices, incorporating public opinion, and pooling public wisdom.

Two deputies who led relevant motions and 10 other deputies were invited to participate throughout the pro-

cess, contributing professional expertise and offering suggestions from different perspectives on strengthening food safety.

The team also organized a questionnaire survey on the implementation of the law, collecting 488,200 valid responses and 119,800 public suggestions.

By integrating legislative and oversight functions, it further urged localities and departments to fulfill their responsibilities, improved relevant laws, regulations, and standards systems, strengthened law enforcement capacity, and consolidated a social governance framework for food safety, collectively safeguarding public health.

Whole-process people’s democracy is not occasional, partial, fragmented, or piecemeal. Rather, it runs through the entire chain of democratic election, consultation, decision-making, management, and oversight; spans all aspects of political and social life; and covers all fields, including economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological development.

This fundamentally addresses the problem of systems where people are active only at the ballot box and go dormant afterward.

Continuously meeting the people’s growing needs for a better life is an inherent requirement of developing democracy. Democracy is meant to solve the problems for the people. This is one of the defining features that distinguishes China’s whole-process people’s democracy from the election-centered model of democracy in some Western countries, and it is also a key strength of this form of democracy.

China’s development demonstrates that only a democracy suited to a country’s specific conditions can be reliable and effective. The defining features of “whole-process” people’s democracy enrich the forms of human political civilization and offer a Chinese approach to exploring better social systems.

Looking ahead, China will continue to follow a path of democratic development suited to its national conditions, advocate and support other countries in independently choosing their own paths of democratic development, and work together to advance the progress of democracy for all humanity. (People’s Daily) ■





The fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress opens at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 5, 2026. *Xing Guangli*

## Two Sessions serve as important window for understanding China's governance

**T**he Two Sessions – China's annual sessions of the NPC and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) – are an important window for observing the trends in China's politics and economy. The Two Sessions also provide an important window into how China's system operates. Through them, the world can see how a major country with over 1.4 billion people aggregates diverse social demands into national policies and transforms broad public opinions into political consensus and effective governance actions.

In today's world, grasping the true meaning of democ-

ocracy is no easy task. "Democracy is not an ornament to be used for decoration; it is to be used to solve the problems that the people want to solve." To judge whether a country is democratic, one should assess whether the people have broad and sustained channels for participation, and whether effective governance is achieved behind the procedures. Jean Pegouret, president and founder of the Saphir Eurasia Promotion agency, said that the Two Sessions represent an example of democratic governance for the rest of the world.

A distinctive feature of China's whole-process people's democracy is that it consistently sets solving practical problems as the goal of institutional operations, ensuring deci-

sion-makers always hear the people's voices, fully incorporate them into concrete policies, and continuously generate feedback and improvements within the institutional framework. In this sense, the reason why China's whole-process people's democracy is characterized as "the most extensive, most genuine, and most effective" is precisely because it unifies process-oriented and results-oriented democracy, procedural and substantive democracy, direct and indirect democracy, as well as people's democracy and the state's will – forming a comprehensive, all-encompassing, and fully covered institutional system that opens up new horizons for the development of human political civilization.

From a global perspective, China's "two sessions mechanism" represents a unique political institutional arrangement. The system of the NPC is a great institutional creation of the Communist Party of China, emerging organically from China's historical traditions, social structure, and development needs. It is China's fundamental political system.

The system of the CPPCC serves as a key institutional form of socialist consultative democracy with Chinese characteristics.

This mechanism embodies both electoral democracy and consultative democracy. It reflects both democratic centralism and broad social participation. Deputies to people's congresses at all levels come from different ethnic groups, sectors, social strata, and political parties, giving the system broad representativeness and making it an important channel for expressing the overall interests and social demands of the people. The CPPCC, through sector-based consultations, maintains extensive connections with people from all walks of life, enabling views from different groups and fields to be fully expressed.

China is a vast country with complex conditions. Finding the "greatest common ground" in the interests and needs of the broadest masses is by no means an easy task. In China's political system, the leadership of the CPC, the people's status as masters of the country, and law-based governance on all fronts are organically unified, and the Two Sessions serve as a concrete embodiment of this unity. On the one hand, the Two Sessions provide an important channel for the people to express their views and participate in national governance. On the other hand, they integrate the Party's leadership with people's democracy, enabling the Party's proposals to be transformed into national laws and public policies through legal procedures. In this process, the national Two Sessions are able to properly consolidate opinions from all sides, pool social wisdom, and form a shared will to advance national development.

In today's turbulent and changing world, the practice of China's whole-process people's democracy carries important civilizational significance. It demonstrates that democracy does not have a single model; different countries can explore political

## By understanding the Two Sessions, countries around the world will gain a deeper understanding of the essence of China's governance.

systems suited to their own history, culture, and stage of development. The development of socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics has not only advanced the modernization of China's national governance system but also provided new experiences for enriching and developing human political civilization, making important contributions.

China's Two Sessions are also showing to the world: they show how people participate in the entire process of national governance through institutionalized channels. Today, "China's governance" is recognized worldwide, carrying far more weight than any amount of preaching.

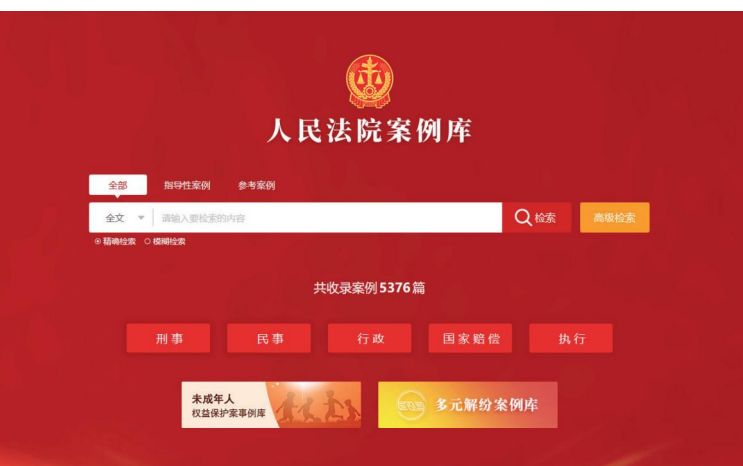
Irfan Ashraf, a journalist with Pakistan's SAMAA TV, who covered the Two Sessions on site, expressed particular interest in China's people-centered development concept and the ways in which other countries can adapt these experiences for the well-being of their own populations.

This year marks the inaugural year of its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) period. Successfully convening the national Two Sessions holds important and far-reaching significance for effectively carrying out the work this year and even over the next five years, for planning and fulfilling the main phased goals and tasks of socio-economic development, and for laying a solid foundation and accumulating strength to basically achieve socialist modernization. By understanding the Two Sessions, countries around the world will gain a deeper understanding of the essence of China's governance. (Global Times) ■



Journalists work at the opening meeting of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 5, 2026. Wang Xi

# Feedback helps top court upgrade case database



From the start of its construction in July 2023 to its official launch and opening to the public in February 2024, the Case Library of the People's Courts has collected more than 5,300 cases.

Following suggestions from national lawmakers, China's top court upgraded its judicial case database last year to include a broader range of cases, particularly those involving technological innovation and business development, in order to better serve the public and respond to their needs through the justice system.

Li Hui, a deputy to the National People's Congress from the business sector, was among those who made the suggestion. As a researcher, she has a keen understanding of the relationship between the rule of law and innovation, and remains highly aware of the legal risks associated with the rapid advancement of cutting-edge technologies as well as the judicial needs of market entities.

"An efficient, transparent and predictable rule-of-law environment is crucial for unleashing the potential of innovation," Li said, praising the judicial case database opened by the Supreme People's Court in February 2024. The platform helps standardize adjudication nationwide and strengthen legal education.

During her tenure, Li found that the database still had shortcomings in serving emerging fields such as technological innovation. "Some hot-button issues remained unaddressed, and the inclusion of new types of cases was delayed," she said, adding that many new cases also took a long time from filing to judgment.

"If these judgments are not promptly included in the database, their exemplary effect is diminished," she said. "For instance, disputes over data compliance, algorithm ethics and digital intellectual property are increasing among tech companies. The scarcity of relevant notable cases leaves enterprises without clear expectations when innovating."

She therefore called for optimizing the database during the third plenary session of the 14th National People's Congress in

2025, aiming to better serve the needs of tech enterprises and other market entities.

Based on her front-line observations, visits to tech companies and universities, and discussions with researchers and legal teams, she also called for the establishment of a "fast-track channel" for high-profile and emerging cases. She suggested broadening the scope of case inclusion, with a focus on areas related to national strategies such as technological innovation, the digital economy and green low-carbon development.

In addition, she advocated incorporating feedback from lower courts, tech companies, industry associations and research institutions. She also stressed the importance of highlighting landmark cases that address industry challenges and provide clearer guidance for innovators.

"We need not just 'any cases', but 'good cases, new cases and practical cases'," she said.

Last year, Yan Jianguo, an NPC deputy and Beijing-based lawyer, put forward a similar suggestion, urging the judicial case database to include more landmark rulings from emerging sectors.

He compared the platform to a legal library for scholars and a reliable ally for lawyers navigating complex disputes, and advocated greater inclusion of cases in highly specialized fields — particularly intellectual property, environmental resources and finance. Doing so, he said, would better meet the needs of modern legal practice and provide clearer, more practical guidance for judges handling increasingly complex cases.

Yan also suggested further enhancing the database's intelligent capabilities, specifically by upgrading its search system to improve both precision and smart functions, such as AI-powered filtering, semantic understanding and personalized recommendations.

The Supreme People's Court paid close attention to the suggestions from the deputies and promptly took measures to expand case coverage and strengthen collaboration, significantly improving the timeliness and guidance of judicial services.

During the optimization process, the top court held multiple in-depth discussions with Li and Yan to better understand their opinions. It also conducted field research and collected a wide range of opinions from enterprises, academic institutions and judicial practitioners, aiming to make the database upgrade more comprehensive.

"Now the database is not only 'available', but also 'new', 'accurate' and 'dynamic'," Li said.

Data from the top court shows that as of Feb 2, the database included 5,332 cases, expanding beyond traditional civil, criminal and administrative matters to cover pressing legal issues such as environmental resources, intellectual property and minor protection.

The database has also been applied in more than 3,000 governance centers across the country, providing reference judicial solutions for local mediation work, according to the top court. (China Daily) ■

# What to know about China's Two Sessions

Early March in China typically marks the start of the annual Two Sessions political season.

## So what are the Two Sessions?

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The Two Sessions are the annual meetings of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), and the top political advisory body, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Both bodies serve five-year terms and hold a plenary session each year. The current 14th NPC has nearly 3,000 deputies, while the 14th CPPCC National Committee has over 2,000 members.

The NPC is the highest organ of state power. That means in addition to its duty as the top legislature, it wields the power to elect national leaders, and approve government budgets and national development plans, among other responsibilities.

The CPPCC serves as an important institution of CPC-led multiparty cooperation and political consultation. It is a specialist consultative body in China's whole-process people's democracy. Its members advise on major national policies and key issues spanning economic, political, cultural, social and ecological development.

The annual sessions of these two bodies usually run in parallel and take place around the same time, which is why they are collectively known as the Two Sessions. This year, the sessions of the NPC and the CPPCC National Committee opened on March 5 and 4, respectively.

## What are the major issues at the Two Sessions?

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The first is the annual growth target. The figure, unveiled in the government work report at the start of the NPC session, is among the most anticipated topics every year.

Alongside the GDP target, the government work report is expected to outline other key economic indicators, including the deficit-to-GDP ratio and inflation target. It will also set development priorities for the year.

A plan for national economic and social development of the year, as well as the government budgets, will also be reviewed. These provide a clear picture of China's policy priorities, development goals, and fiscal strategies.

During its annual session, the NPC also enacts or amends laws, particularly those of significant importance. These include the Constitution, the Civil Code, the Supervision Law, and the Foreign Investment Law.

The annual legislative plan will also be announced as lawmakers review the work report of the NPC Standing Committee. Additionally, the heads of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate will separately deliver their work reports, detailing the performance of the judicial and prosecutorial bodies.

Senior government officials also meet the press on the sidelines of the Two Sessions, with a highly anticipated event being the foreign minister's press conference. This event typically outlines China's positions and policies on foreign affairs. (Xinhua) ■

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