

News on China | No. 20



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Geopolitics

Wang Yi Opens Five-Day Visit to Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar with First China-Cambodia Defence-Diplomatic Dialogue

Co-chaired on 22 April by the foreign and defence ministers of both sides, the newly operational joint strategic dialogue – initially agreed during President Xi Jinping’s April 2025 state visit to Cambodia – held its debut session before Wang Yi continued to Thailand and Myanmar, where regional governments seek stable Chinese partnership and expanded agricultural and investment ties amid Trump administration tariff pressures on mainland Southeast Asia.

Read More:

- **Brasil de Fato, 23 April 2026**
- **Free Malaysia Today, 21 April 2026**

Tiangong to Receive First Foreign Astronaut as Two Pakistani Pilots Begin Training for Shenzhou-24 Late-2026 Mission

A February 2025 bilateral agreement between the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) and Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has moved to its operational phase with the naming of Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud – two former military pilots – as candidates, one of whom will fly as payload specialist on a Shenzhou-24 flight in late 2026, becoming the first non-Chinese astronaut aboard the station.

Read More:

- **china-in-space.com, 22 April 2026**
- **Xinhua, 22 April 2026**



National Politics

Three Ministries Launch Urban-Rural Employment Integration Plan Targeting Two-Way Labour Mobility by 2030

Published on 15 April 2026 by the human resources, development-planning and agriculture ministries, the document targets the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026–2030) with measures expanding housing provident fund coverage and public-school access for migrant workers' children, relaxing age limits at vocational technical schools, and channelling county- and township-level jobs through cultural tourism, the debut economy, the ice-and-snow economy and inbound tourism.

Read More:

- **The State Council of China, 15 April 2026**
- **People's Daily Online, 16 April 2026**

Y-20B's Maiden Overseas Mission Brings Home Remains of 12 Korean War Martyrs in 13th Consecutive Annual Handover

Following the two Xi Jinping–Lee Jae Myung summits of November 2025 and January 2026, Seoul on 22 April repatriated 12 sets of Chinese People's Volunteers remains and 146 personal effects to Shenyang in the first vice-ministerial-level public ceremony since 2023, bringing the cumulative total returned under the 2013 bilateral agreement to 1,023 sets.

Read More:

- **The Korea Herald, 22 April 2026**
- **Xinhua, 22 April 2026**



Economy

Installed Power Capacity Approaches 4 Billion Kilowatts in Q1 2026, Reaching 30% of Global Total and Three Times the US

Reaching the latest milestone took roughly two years – down from about eight for the initial billion and under five for the second – with Q1 buildout supported by RMB 167.5 billion (USD 24.5 billion) in fixed-asset investment by State Grid and China Southern Power Grid, spending on new-energy grid connections up more than 50% year-on-year, while clean-energy generation accounted for 33.2% of large-scale industrial power output.

Read More:

- **CGTN, 20 April 2026**
- **Yicai Global, 8 April 2026**

Industrial Value Added Grows 6.1% in Q1 as Robot and Integrated-Circuit Output Surges on China's Upgrading Push

All 31 provincial-level regions recorded positive industrial growth in January-March, with more than 80% of industries expanding, as the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on 21 April pointed to 33.2% growth in robotics, 24.3% in chip making and 4.958 million 5G base stations nationwide to underline the 'new quality productive forces' agenda at the opening of the 15th Five-Year Plan.

Read More:

- **Macau Daily Times, 22 April 2026**
- **CGTN, 21 April 2026**



Agriculture and Environment

South-South Agricultural Partnership in Uganda Closes 14-Year Run with 100,000 Smallholders Trained and Four New Crops Released

A high-level review workshop convened in Kampala on 16 April 2026 marked the formal conclusion of Phase III (2022–2026) of a tripartite programme launched in 2012 that deployed more than 60 Chinese agricultural experts and introduced over 200 crop varieties – with Uganda becoming the first developing country to co-finance such an initiative through a Unilateral Trust Fund arrangement.

Read More:

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 21 April 2026**
- **The Independent Uganda, 21 April 2026**

China Certifies 5,500-Plus Green Mines as Revised Mineral Resources Law Sets 2028 Coverage Targets

The Ministry of Natural Resources of the People’s Republic of China announced on the eve of World Earth Day that more than 1,000 national-level and 4,500 provincial-level operations now meet green-mining standards, with the revised law in force since July 2025 requiring 90% of large and 80% of medium-sized mines to comply by 2028 and all new mines to operate to the standard from inception.

Read More:

- CPG Click Oil & Gas, 22 April 2026
- China Daily, 22 April 2026



Science and Technology

CATL Unveils Third-Generation Shenxing LFP Battery Charging from 10% to 98% in 6 Minutes 27 Seconds

Announced at the company’s debut Super Tech Day in Beijing on 21 April 2026, the new cell headlines a broader refresh that also includes the third-generation Qilin, the ultra-long-range Qilin Condensed, and a second-generation Freevoy super-hybrid pack, paired with a plan to build 4,000 integrated charge-and-swap stations across roughly 190 Chinese cities by the end of 2026.

Read More:

- Bloomberg, 21 April 2026
- CnEVPPost, 21 April 2026



People’s Life and Culture

Esophageal Cancer Incidence Drops 4.5% a Year as National Registries Cover 98.6% of Counties and Districts

Under the 2023–2030 national action plan for cancer prevention and control, the five-year survival rate has risen from 40.5 percent in 2015 to 43.7 percent in 2022, on track for the plan’s 46.6 percent 2030 target, while county-level cervical and breast cancer screening for rural women has reached 98 percent and cancer registries now cover 98.6 percent of counties and districts.

Read More:

- Xinhua, 19 April 2026
- The State Council of China, 16 November 2023

Sanyuesan Festival Honours Tang-Dynasty Song Fairy Liu Sanjie in Multi-Ethnic Celebrations Across Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan and Jiangsu

Held on 19 April 2026 – the third day of the third lunar month – Zhuang, Miao, Dong, Bouyei and Li communities across four provinces observed the festival with antiphonal mountain-song fairs (gexu 歌圩), bamboo-pole dances, embroidered-ball tosses and shared platters of five-colour glutinous rice dyed black, red, yellow, purple and white with maple leaves, turmeric and red-blue grass. The song fairs commemorate Liu Sanjie (刘三姐), a Tang-era Zhuang peasant singer whose verses mocking landlords made her a folk hero until their retainers cut the vines she held while gathering firewood, causing her fall and apotheosis as the Song Fairy – a story retold in the 1962 film *Third Sister Liu* (《刘三姐》), the PRC's first musical.

Read More:

- **The World of Chinese, 12 January 2018**
- **Xinhua, 20 April 2026**