

News on China | No. 43



About 10 min read.



Geopolitics

Seventh CICA Summit in Baku Sets Its Own Agenda, Not Bloc Logic, as Wang Yi Attends

The forum's 28 members, from Israel and Iran to India and Pakistan, account for nearly 90 percent of Asia's territory and population. It decides only by consensus and, unlike a military alliance, offers no collective-defence guarantees. Those members, not an outside bloc, set the region's security priorities. China's foreign minister attended the 15 October gathering as President Xi Jinping's special representative, then toured Croatia and Bulgaria, both EU members, and EU candidate Montenegro.

Read More:

- AnewZ, 15 October 2026
- Operativ MM, 15 October 2026

Indonesia's Prabowo Launches 11 Chinese-Backed Downstream Projects to Keep Value at Home

The Weda Bay industrial park in North Maluku shipped its first electric-vehicle batteries on 8 October. The president called it 'a notable milestone' and proof that the country's downstreaming policy was on the right track. He said the projects were worth an estimated US \$10.2 billion and park investment had passed US \$20 billion, with US \$7 billion more planned. The park has created over 100,000 jobs, he said, with Chinese enterprises the investors on Indonesia's own terms.

Read More:

- Reuters, 8 October 2026
- Xinhua, 8 October 2026



National Politics

Beijing's 12345 Hotline Handles 200 Million Requests as 66 Legislators Compare Notes

Organisers released a study of public complaint services in 20 international and 100 Chinese cities, plus 43 urban governance cases. Since 2019 the 12345 hotline's resolution and satisfaction rates have risen above 97 percent, a process officials call 'whole-process people's democracy' – residents' complaints heard and answered. Legislators and other delegates from 52 countries met in Tianjin to discuss development strategy and urban services. Both gatherings were framed as experience sharing rather than a template to copy.

Read More:

- CGTN, 12 October 2026
- China Daily, 13 October 2026

Military Museum Debuts 300 Long March Relics as 40% of Holiday Trips Reach Revolutionary Sites

A division commander's handwritten account of the Xiangjiang River battle is on public view for the first time in Beijing. The Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution is also showing wartime radio records and thin coats and blankets soldiers wore over the snow mountains. About 40 percent of the 826 million National Day holiday trips included a visit to a revolutionary site. The anniversary was measured less in ceremony than in what people chose to see.

Read More:

- Xinhua, 4 October 2026

- People's Daily Online, 10 October 2026



Economy

Export Tax Rebate Taper Completed with NEV Rate at 9 Percent from April 2027

September vehicle exports of 1.053 million included 571,000 new energy vehicles, over half for a fourth month. The Ministry of Finance and the State Taxation Administration cut the NEV rate from 13 percent on 12 October, completing the 'new three' taper. Solar products lost the rebate on 1 April 2026 and lithium batteries lose theirs on 1 January 2027. Rebating indirect tax is not a subsidy, but the cut raises exporters' costs and may pull shipments forward before April 2027.

Read More:

- State Taxation Administration, 12 October 2026
- Xinhua, 12 October 2026

China-Laos Railway Trade Tops US \$14.9 Billion as Southbound Exports Jump 58.4 Percent

From January to August 2026, 5.26 billion yuan of durians, mangosteens and longans came north, up 12.3 percent. Mechanical and electrical exports including smartphones and electric-vehicle parts went south, reaching 7.42 billion yuan, up 58.4 percent. Since December 2021 the 1,035-kilometre line has run more than 25,000 freight trains carrying over 20.77 million tonnes in two-way trade. Cumulative trade passed 100.4 billion yuan (about US \$14.9 billion), with import and export volumes up more than 24 percent a year.

Read More:

- Xinhua, 8 October 2026
- KPL – Lao News Agency, 12 March 2026



Agriculture and Environment

Inner Mongolia Alpacas Eat Half a Sheep's Feed, Turning Lighter Grazing into Herder Income

A breeding base in Sonid Left Banner began in 2013 with 78 animals imported from Australia. It now keeps over 1,500 breeding females, and the company says alpaca fleece is four times warmer than ordinary wool. The company's buy-back floor is at least 10,000 yuan (about US \$1,490) per calf – a commercial contract, not a subsidy. Local reports say each female alpaca a herder owns adds over 10,000 yuan (about US \$1,490) a year.

Read More:

- China Daily, 7 October 2026
- Northnews, 29 September 2026

China Shifts Water Cleanup from Major Rivers to Ditches and Ponds at People's Doorsteps

In 2025, 91.4 percent of national surface-water sections reached Grade I to III, up 8 percentage points from the 14th Five-Year Plan's start. The Yangtze has held Grade II for six consecutive years and the Yellow River for four. A six-body action plan released in mid-July turns to urban tributaries, ponds and village ditches, and county and township black and odorous water. By 2030 such water should show no unusual colour, no unpleasant odour and no visible floating debris.

Read More:

- China Daily, 13 October 2026
- China Water Risk, 22 June 2026



Science and Technology

Railway Sci-Tech Plan Sets 30 Innovation Bases and 100 Core Technology Breakthroughs

The National Railway Administration has issued a 2026–2030 research agenda for the 15th Five-Year Plan period, covering seven areas. It sets about 30 new industry innovation bases, breakthroughs in no fewer than 100 key core technologies and no fewer than 500 major achievements. No fewer than 20 demonstration projects are planned, including the 400 km/h high-speed train operating system. For 600 km/h maglev, it proposes steady and orderly research and testing for domestic production, not construction.

Read More:

- Xinhua, 13 October 2026
- China Daily, 13 October 2026

Doctors on the Ground Assess Shenzhou-23 Crew Health Using Tongue, Face and Pulse Data

An onboard instrument digitises the four classical examinations of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM): inspection (looking), auscultation and olfaction (listening and smelling), inquiry (asking) and palpation (pulse-taking). It captures tongue and facial images and pulse readings. That information reaches doctors on the ground for comparison and health assessment. The device has been aboard the space station since the Shenzhou-12 mission in 2021.

Read More:

- Global Times, 7 October 2026

- CCTV, 7 October 2026



People's Life and Culture

46 Countries Recognise First China-Led Vocational Education Standard Set for Tianjin Release

A Chinese-trained electrician's certificate often carries little weight abroad. In response, the Ministry of Education said on 12 October that a framework for vocational and technical education standards will be released at the Tianjin conference on 15–17 October. It is the first China-led international standard of its kind, endorsed by 46 countries. China has built 38 Luban Workshops in 32 countries, giving academic education to more than 30,000 students and non-degree training to over 160,000 participants.

Read More:

- Xinhua, 13 October 2026
- State Council Information Office, 13 October 2026

Cairo Campus Marks 70 Years of China-Egypt Ties as Students Perform in Each Other's Languages

Badr University in Cairo and Sinopec hosted a Chinese culture festival on 12 October, run by the university's Chinese language department. Egyptian students shared calligraphy, paper-cutting and tea with Chinese students from Beijing Language and Culture University. Egyptian and Chinese students performed poetry recitations, songs, dances and short plays, showcasing their language skills. The Chinese Embassy said it would expand Chinese-language teaching and student exchanges, which Badr University called necessary for lasting friendship.

Read More:

- Xinhua, 13 October 2026
- People's Daily Online, 13 October 2026