

# CHINA

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| HANGZHOU

**Editor's Note:** China has undergone profound changes in recent years on its path to becoming a moderately prosperous society. This series tells the stories of some of the changes that have improved people's lives.

## Big data improves travel in Hangzhou

By MA ZHENHUAN in Hangzhou  
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Hangzhou resident Zhang Qian, a frequent business traveler between Zhejiang's provincial capital and Wuxi in neighboring Jiangsu province, is happy she can now take a taxi from Hangzhou East Railway Station less than 15 minutes after her arrival instead of enduring the hour's wait she faced before.

"The waiting period has been greatly shortened," the 26-year-old said. "With the waiting area for passengers taking taxis enlarged and more passageways provided, the previous long lines have completely disappeared."

Zhang said that newly installed air-conditioners and a ventilation system had also made waiting for a taxi more comfortable.

The improvements are due to the efforts of the station's management authority, which launched a campaign in June to "put passengers first". It has refined management by using big data and grid management in its daily operations.

First built in 1992 and enlarged in 2013, the railway station, in Hangzhou's Jiangnan district, is one of Asia's largest train hubs. Covering over 400,000 square meters, it handled 71.9 million passenger trips last year.

## 71.9 million trips

were handled by the Hangzhou East Railway Station last year, with the help of smart technologies.

"We launched a 'digital control cabin' to fully apply and utilize big data resources in improving the railway station's management and efficiency, integrating real-time digital scenarios such as parking, transportation, garbage handling and passenger control into the same platform," said Fang Xiaohong, Party secretary of the station.

"Take the parking lots for example. Now vehicles can check out within just five seconds thanks to the adoption of contactless parking services and technologies from Alipay."

On Friday, during e-commerce giant Alibaba's Apsara Conference in the town of Yunqi in Hangzhou's Xihu district, Ali Cloud released the core technology system for version 3.0 of its City Brain, aiming to provide more reliable and updated solutions to urban management authorities dealing with emergencies such as typhoons and thunderstorms.

Through the holographic digital technologies it has developed, the system is able to encrypt and integrate two-dimensional and three-dimensional moving and static elements, thus building a virtual "digital metropolis".

Based on the new technologies, urban management authorities will be able to emulate and forecast incidents and their likely aftermath, which will support real-time responses.

The technologies are already helping to monitor and control traffic on the 36-kilometer-long Hangzhou Bay Bridge, which links Hangzhou and Ningbo and handles 48,000 vehicles a day, said Zeng Zhenyu, Ali Cloud's general manager for digital and smart industries and research.

If there is a traffic accident on the bridge, the City Brain will notice it immediately and provide the best solution to traffic congestion in the quickest and most efficient manner, Zeng said.

The City Brain was first released at the Apsara Conference, a digital innovation showcase in Hangzhou, in October 2016. At last year's conference, Ali Cloud announced that it would extend the scope of the system from traffic to more areas of urban management.

## Honoring a hero



Air force personnel pay tribute to General Wang Hai, a heroic pilot who fought in the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea (1950-53), at Babaoshan People's Cemetery in Beijing on Saturday. Wang, who died last month at the age of 94, was a former commander of the People's Liberation Army Air Force. He was honored as a combat hero after shooting down four enemy aircraft and damaging another five in about 80 battles as a member of the Chinese People's Volunteers. SHEN JINKE / FOR CHINA DAILY

# War memorial hall reopens in Liaoning

Facility had been closed since 2014 for huge refurbishment, expansion effort

By WU YONG in Dandong, Liaoning  
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China's only memorial hall featuring the complete history of the Chinese People's Volunteers in the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea (1950-53), often referred to as the Korean War in the West, reopened on Saturday in Liaoning province.

Located in the border city Dandong — about 280 kilometers from Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — the renovated and expanded memorial hall, which offers free entry to the public, consists of an exhibition hall, a memorial tower, a national defense education park and a panorama hall.

"The great spirit of Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea is a manifestation of the precious spiritual wealth of the Chinese people. We should do well what we are doing now — cherish the memory of the martyrs with practical actions and actual results, and comfort the predecessors," Zhang Guoqing, Party chief of Liaoning province, said during the reopening ceremony.

Established in 1958 and moved to its current site in 1993, the memorial hall closed in late 2014 for massive refurbishment and expansion.

Gong Shaoshan, deputy curator of the memorial hall, said the number of items on display has increased from over 700 to more than 1,600, and the floor area has expanded from the original 5,400 square meters to 23,845 square meters.

"This is the place where I fought. I will never forget it," Guo Guolian, an 87-year-old CPV veteran, said while pointing at an old military map in the exhibition hall.

"Despite the outdated weapons, we scored an ultimate victory because we were not afraid of shedding blood and dying while bearing in mind the fighting spirit of defending our motherland."

A chart listing the number of heavy weapons on both sides of the conflict has drawn many visitors. Compared with its foes, the CPV was in an inferior position.

According to the chart, at the beginning of the war, a division of the US-led army with some 17,000 to 25,000 soldiers was equipped with 149 tanks, 35 armored vehicles and 72 howitzers, while an infantry army of the CPV with 50,000 soldiers had no tanks, armored vehicles or howitzers.

The Korean War broke out in June 1950, only eight months after the founding of the People's Republic of China, and fighting soon reached the Yalu River that sepa-

rates China from the DPRK, wreaking havoc in Dandong, formerly called Andong. Combat aircraft invaded Chinese airspace and bombed an airport and railway station, killing civilians.

On Oct 19, 1950, as requested by the DPRK, CPV forces crossed the Yalu to aid the DPRK in battle until an armistice was reached in 1953. A total of 2.9 million CPV soldiers entered the battlefield, and 197,653 of them sacrificed their lives in the war.

"Our soldiers fought for the security of their homeland and peace, which won the heartfelt support of the whole country. This will always be remembered," said Zhu Yong, former president of the CPV's general hospital.

The hospital — now the No. 966 Hospital of the People's Liberation Army Joint Logistic Support Force — is less than 4 km from the memorial hall. Between 1950 and 1954, the hospital received over 340,000 wounded soldiers and carried out 63,000 operations.

To mark the 70th anniversary of their participation in the war, China will bestow memorial medals upon CPV veterans this year. The medals are to be presented in the name of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the State Council and the Central Military Commission.

Jiang Zhongguo and Lin Yujie contributed to this story.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION | CONGJIANG COUNTY

## Promoting Miao culture helps 'last gunner tribe' beat poverty in Guizhou

By ZHU WENQIAN and YANG JUN in Congjiang, Guizhou

Rural tourism has helped Biasha village, known as the "last gunner tribe" in China, to emerge from poverty.

Located in Congjiang county in mountainous Guizhou province, Biasha's nearly 2,800 villagers have largely held on to their unique traditions.

They have used guns to hunt and protect themselves for centuries. Villagers in Biasha, which means "a place with dense trees and grass", worship trees. A village consisting entirely of members of the Miao ethnic group, it is only 7.5 kilometers from downtown Congjiang.

In the past, villagers rarely communicated with the outside world, restricted by traditional mores and geographical conditions. Now, they have become more open to society while still maintaining some of their customs, such as using sickles to give haircuts. Thus, Biasha serves as a living museum showcasing traditional Miao culture, and its uniqueness has provided opportunities for it to develop tourism.

In 2014, a high-speed train service connected Congjiang with other population centers and, in 2018, Biasha attracted more attention when it was rated a national 4A tourist attraction. The village has since set up a visitor service center, a parking lot and various tourist reception facilities, while preserving its authenticity.

The growth of the tourism sector has created more than 570 jobs — employing about 23 percent of Biasha's population.

With tourist numbers increasing, villagers have gone from being farmers to becoming tour guides, performers, waiters and salespeople, according to Guizhou Mysterious Congjiang Cultural Tourism, the travel company that manages the business there.

Other villagers have started sell-



ing handicrafts and opening bed-and-breakfast homestays, with the 24 souvenir shops and hostels now operating in the village giving a significant boost to locals' incomes.

Gun Shuige, 33, is one of four tour guides in the village. He speaks Mandarin and started working as a tour guide eight years ago after taking professional training courses in town.

In 2015, the village started offering regular performances for visitors three times a day, including traditional dances, wedding customs and the shaving of hair with sickles. Besides being a tour guide, Gun also narrates the performances.

"I can earn a base monthly salary of 3,000 yuan (\$443), and make extra money if any travel agencies and tour groups want further explanations," Gun said.

Meanwhile, the travel company gives 11.25 percent of annual ticket revenues to villagers for allowing it to market their traditional culture. From 2016 to 2019, the payments totaled 2.46 million yuan, it said.

The company is also responsible for organizing performances by villagers and has paid a total of 6.31 million yuan in salaries in the four years since its establishment. Other people who work as cleaners, security staff and ticket sellers have earned 2.3 million yuan during the same period, the company said.

Che Weixue contributed to this story.

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Tourists participate during a Miao ethnic cultural performance in Biasha village, Congjiang, Guizhou province, this month.  
YAO XU / CHINA DAILY

# Shanghai launches 3-year plan to enhance care of city's toddlers

By HE QI and LIN SHUJUAN in Shanghai

A three-year plan to enhance care of toddlers in Shanghai has been welcomed by parents and applauded by experts as an example for the rest of the country to follow.

The action plan, released by the Shanghai municipal government on Wednesday, aims to offer a systematic approach to improving public care of those aged 3 and below, Shanghai Vice-Mayor Chen Qun told a news briefing. It is the first plan of its kind to be introduced by a provincial-level government.

Shanghai will establish at least 150 care centers for children too young for kindergarten in the coming three years, according to the plan, and by 2022 more than half the city's kindergartens will be able to offer day care services for children under age 3.

The plan also encourages district governments to provide venues, reduce rents and offer other subsidies to support the establishment

of such centers by communities, enterprises and institutions.

"Children under 3 years old are the most vulnerable group in society. Good child care is related to the healthy growth of children, the vital interests of families and the improvement of the quality of urban life," Chen said.

Following the introduction of the universal second-child policy in 2016, Shanghai has been witnessing demographic changes similar to those in the rest of the country, Chen said, with around half of the city's new births being second children.

The challenge of raising two children in big cities — which comes from the pressure of finding suitable housing and the cost of raising children, along with any mental health problems they might have — has made public support for child raising imperative. The plan, which also stresses the need for parental guidance to ensure the healthy growth of children, is aimed at meeting that growing demand, Chen said.

"Each street and town will build a

"Children have fewer partners to play with than in the past, which has become a source of distress for many young parents."

Wang Hui, assistant researcher at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Sociology

parenting guidance station, providing at least one door-to-door guidance service for each family in the community with a newborn, and at least six offline guidance services for the families of infants and young children in need each year," he said.

At the same time, each district will build at least one development base for infants and young children to promote and popularize basic knowledge about the

development of infants and young children and parenting skills, Chen added. The bases will also provide high-quality medical and healthcare services.

Experts say the plan is a model for dealing with two challenges faced by China: a quickly graying society and a falling birthrate. Official data shows the share of the population aged 65 years and above increased from 3.7 percent in 1970 to 11.5 percent last year. By 2040, projections suggest it will climb to 24 percent. In contrast, after a brief increase in 2016, new births have dropped each year, with the 14.6 million last year the lowest number since 1961.

Surveys suggest time and financial concerns are the main reasons couples are unwilling to have children, especially second ones.

"Welfare policies for prekindergarten children can relieve some of the pressure on families who intend to have children," said Zhang Jing, executive director of the Research Center for Family Development and Social Psychological Services at Beijing Univer-

sity of Technology's Gengdan Institute.

Wang Hui, an assistant researcher at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Sociology, agreed, adding that such policies can also promote the healthy physical and mental development of children.

"Due to the independence and separation of living space in cities, children have fewer partners to play with than in the past, which has become a source of distress for many young parents," Wang said. "Therefore, these policies also embody a humanistic approach to city building."

Shanghai resident Jiang Shan, who has a kindergarten-age son and a 1-year-old daughter, said the plan is a godsend. She expects to send her daughter to a day care center at a reasonable cost with the increasing availability of such facilities across the city.

"Taking care of two children is just too stressful," Jiang said.

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