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FOCUS

What China will do in 2019?

Editor's note:China's top political advisory body started its annual session in Beijing, raising the curtain of a key season in the country's political calendar. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivered the Government Work Report to the second session of the 13th National People's Congress in Beijing on Tuesday morning. Here are the highlights:

GDP growth target

China set its GDP growth target for this year at between 6 percent and 6.5 percent as the country pursues higher-quality development amid mounting uncertainties in the international economic landscape.

China also set its target for consumer inflation growth at 3 percent for this year, while it will try to keep growth of the broad measure of money supply, or M2, largely at the same level as last year.

Fiscal deficit ratio

China will raise its fiscal deficit target to 2.76 trillion yuan, or 2.8 percent of GDP, this year from 2.6 percent in 2018. Total government expenditure is budgeted at over 23 trillion yuan, up by 6.5 percent from last year.

The measure is being taken to stabilize economic growth by enlarging government spending. As a major measure to tackle economic risks, the proactive fiscal policy in 2019 will become stronger and more efficient.

Corporate burdens

China aims to reduce the tax burdens and social insurance contributions of enterprises by nearly 2 trillion yuan (\$298.3 billion) in 2019, as part of its broader push to promote manufacturing and fuel the growth of small and micro businesses.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivered the Government Work Report to the second session of the 13th National People's Congress in Beijing on the morning of Mar.5 in Beijing.
Photo by Xinhua

The government will deepen the value-added tax reform, reducing the current rate of 16 percent in manufacturing and other industries to 13 percent, and lower the rate in the transportation, construction, and other industries from 10 to 9 percent.

Broadband, mobile internet rates

China will further cut the rates for broadband and mobile internet services, as the nation steps up push to nurture innovation and speed up the growth of emerging industries.

This year, average broadband service rates for small and medium enterprises will be lowered by another 15 percent, and average rates for mobile internet services will be further cut by more than 20 percent.

High-tech sector

China will continue to upgrade its traditional industries, support the emerging high-tech sector, and increase support for

basic and applied research.

The country will strengthen its innovation capabilities, boost the integrated development of advanced manufacturing and modernized services, and create industrial internet platforms to facilitate the transformation and upgrading in manufacturing.

Green measures

China will pursue both high-quality development and environmental protection by reforming and refining relevant systems. Green development is a critical element of modernizing an economy and a fundamental solution to pollution.

China plans to reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions by 3 percent in 2019, while making continuous effort to decrease the density of PM 2.5, a major particle pollutant, in key locations, including the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta region and the Fenhe-Weihe River

Plain area.

Elderly care sector

China will take significant steps to develop the elderly care sector, especially community services, in 2019 as the number of people aged 60 and above has reached 250 million.

The country will provide support to institutions offering services in communities, like day care, rehabilitation, assisted meals and assisted mobility, by using measures such as tax reductions, fee cuts and exemptions, funding support, and reduced charges for water, electricity, gas and heating.

Rural students

China will beef up efforts to cut the dropout rates of rural students and improve their college enrollment numbers to stop poverty from passing down to the next generation.

A quota system will also be used to boost attendance of rural students at top universities.

Vocational education

The country will take strong moves to develop modern vocational education to help ease current employment pressure and address the shortage of highly-skilled personnel.

A vocational skills training initiative will be implemented with 100 billion yuan (\$14.9 billion) from the surplus in unemployment insurance funds allocated to provide training for the 15 million targeted attendees, helping jobseekers to upgrade skills or switch jobs or industries.

Opening-up

China will open more sectors and improve the process of opening-up. The country will continue to promote opening-up based on flows of goods and factors of production, and give greater emphasis to opening-up based on rules and related institutions.

China will continue to push forward China-US trade negotiations. The country is committed to mutually beneficial cooperation and aiming to settle trade disputes through discussions in an equal manner.

Employment

China will create more than 11 million new urban jobs this year and keep the urban unemployment rate within 4.5 percent. Multiple channels will be used to achieve stable and expanding employment in 2019.

Having taken prompt steps to ease the impact of changes in the external environment on employment, the central government of China will work to ensure employment for key groups such as college graduates, demobilized soldiers and migrant workers.

(Chinadaily)

BELT AND ROAD

Achievements in China-Myanmar Economic Corridor construction

Signed a memorandum of Understanding, initiated preparation of China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Cooperation Plan, and promoted a number of projects such as the Yangon Industrial New City.....Since last year, the National Development and Reform Commission of China and the Ministry of Planning and Finance of Myanmar have worked closely with the relevant units of the two countries to solidly promote the construction of China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and achieved positive results.

Su Wei, deputy secretary-general of the National Development and Reform Commission, said at a forum held in Kunming on February 22 that China and Myanmar had jointly promoted major cooperation projects such as Yangon Industrial New City, Kyaukpadaung Special Economic Zone and China-Myanmar Railway under a framework of China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and achieved important phase progress.

On the 21st, the two sides convened the second meeting of the Corridor

Joint Committee to discuss and promote practical cooperation results during the Belt and Road International Cooperation Summit in April this year. More consensus were reached.

Su Wei said that China is willing to make full use of its advantages in capital, technology, production capacity and market to help Myanmar's economic development. By providing sustainability impetus, China would like to strengthen economic management experience and personnel training exchanges with Myanmar to jointly promote the construction of China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

U Tun Tun Naing, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Finance of Myanmar, said that in October last year, China and Myanmar signed a memorandum of feasibility study on the Mujie-Mandalay railway project and related work has been carried out successively.

The framework of the Kyaukpadaung-water port project signed in November marking a new stage of cooperation between the two

parties. The project will play an important role in improving regional connectivity, local economic growth and enhancing China-Myanmar friendly relations.

Bordering Myanmar, Yunnan is an important player in the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

Currently, Yunnan Province is actively cooperating with relevant parties to formulate master plans and special plans for the Corridor, and continuously strengthen infrastructure construction such as transportation. The China-Myanmar Railway Kunming-Dali section is open for operation, and the construction of Dali-Ruili section is accelerating. Kunming opened air routes to Yangon, Naypyidaw and Mandalay.

The routes between Mangshi and Mandalay was opened last month. The China-Myanmar oil and gas pipeline is being operated well. Power interconnection is realized at the border area with the Myanmar side, and the telecom network operation was successfully docked.

By Yao Bing

IN PICS

Road running through flowers



In spring, east Yunnan's Luoping County enters its most beautiful season in a year as more than 16,000 acres of rapeseed flowers are blooming. Under the blue sky, the golden flowers stretch several kilometers, forming an expansive flower sea.

Adding charms to the stunning scenery, the Jiangdi-Zhaokua Express Highway winds through the flower sea. It must be a beautiful journey to drive on such an amazing road.

The express highway runs from Jiangdi, Luoping to Zhaokua of Luliang County and is 108.037 kilometers long. It is a four-lane road, with a designed maximum driving speed of 80 kilometers per hour.

Jiangdi-Zhaokua Express Highway is a part of the national road network. It connects other highways to Guizhou Province in the east, and links with the Shilin-Kunming highway in the west.

(Text and Photos from Wechat public account: Top Yunnan)

ECONOMY

Green economy growing fast in Yunnan

After the first car from the Beiqi NEV factory in Kunming rolled off the production line in late 2018, the JMC NEV plant finished installing its general assembly line in March 2019, the first plateau automobile laboratory in China enters the commissioning and operational stages, Yunnan's annual NEV production capacity has reached 100,000 vehicles. Such events signal the province's green economy industry is ushering in an era of explosive growth.

Last year, the Yunnan government proposed to focus more keenly on green energy, green food and the building of a healthy lifestyle destination to transform its development model. It is quickly shifting from industrial development to green development.

The province is speeding up the transformation of its steel and cement industries, among others. In 2018, Yunnan eliminated its backward iron making capacity by 1.07 million tonnes, its

steel making capacity by 3.5 million tonnes, and its coal production capacity by 14.66 million tons. A total of 14 state-level green factories were also built, while a number of hydropowered silicon and aluminium projects began construction.

Yunnan is changing its development pattern. By 2020, according to Li Qin, chief engineer at the Yunnan Provincial Energy Bureau, the energy sector will become the province's first pillar industry.

(Translated from Xinhua)

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REMARKABLE 70 YEARS

China's grain output remains above 0.6 trillion kg for 7 consecutive years



Editor's note: The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over the past seven decades, China has developed from a poor, weak country to the second largest economy in the world. This issue, we continue the column called "Remarkable 70 years" to help you understand the earth-shaking changes that have taken place in New China.

China is a large agricultural country with a long agricultural history and a splendid farming culture. As China takes solid steps to advance its supply-side structural reforms in the agriculture industry, the country is further upgrading its level of overall modernization. Related reforms in rural areas have again improved the living standards of rural people. Statistics show that China has consistently maintained a grain output of more than 0.6 trillion kilograms for seven years. With such a solid production base, the people have gained a significantly stronger sense of fulfilment, happiness and security.

(Translated from People's Daily)

Chinese foreign ministry: 5G not exclusive to one country

Fifth generation (5G) technology is not exclusive to one or few countries, but a result of exchange and cooperation among various countries, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said on February 19.

His comments form China's official response to allegations on the security of Chinese tech companies' products and equipment, including Huawei.

According to a BBC report, the United States is campaigning its allies to exclude Chinese telecoms giant Huawei from

delivering 5G.

The technology is one that the international tech community is striving toward, Geng said at a daily press conference.

The global industry chain, supply chain and value chain of 5G are highly integrated and cannot be separated, or it will impact multilateral cooperation, damage the open and inclusive market, and undermine international rules of fairness, justice and non-discrimination, he said.

China will strengthen communication and cooperation with all parties in science and the

technology field, including 5G, Geng said.

In an age of globalization, no country should be separated from others to pursue independent development, and no technology can be developed or applied without cooperation, he said.

China will continue upholding the principles of joint consultation and cooperation for shared benefits, and work with all parties to grasp the opportunities brought by technological revolution for mutual benefit, he said.

(China.org.cn)

COMMUNICATION

High-level efforts promote rapid development

The India-China Yoga College, the first school in China dedicated to the popular activity, provides undergraduate and postgraduate courses. It is the first such institute to be jointly established by China and India, and is aimed at strengthening mutual relations via yoga.

The governments of the two countries took the establishment of the college very seriously, signing a memorandum of understanding on May 15,

2015. The event was also mentioned as item 21 in a joint statement made by the two governments in the same year.

The governments' joint efforts allowed the college to develop quickly. The Chinese government provided the budget for the first stage and also allocated extra funding to provide high-quality facilities.

The college explored methods of cooperation with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga in India, and won support from the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Indian government and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

In March 2016, Yunnan Minzu University signed a memorandum of understanding with India's Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana university for cooperation on yoga teaching and research.

Both sides have high expectations of the college, which is expected to act as a platform for cooperation on mutual Sino-Indian education and aid a range of

initiatives.

In September 2017, the college enrolled its first batch of 40 undergraduates to study under the social sports guidance and management program. Last year, the number had risen to 60.

It plans to establish 50 branches and 100 teaching centers around China in the near future.

In December, the first branch was founded at Yunnan University's Tourism and Culture College.

Employing the services of professional instructors from China and India, the college is fitted with professional-level equipment for yoga teaching and training.

In terms of nonacademic tuition that is aimed at the diversified needs of society, the college offers training courses for both beginners and advanced participants.

It also offers free yoga classes for members of the public, and encourages people from all walks of life to participate in the discipline. **By Yang Zekun**