

CHINA

Feast for the eyes as well

A participant adds the finishing touches to a dough sculpture titled *Ever-Victorious General* during an international Chinese cuisine cooking contest in Chengdu, Sichuan province, on Thursday. More than 400 culinary professionals from 13 countries and regions took part in the event, showcasing creative and exquisitely crafted dishes.

ZHANG LANG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE



Blue book details climate impact

China warms 0.31 C per decade from 1961 to 2025, outpaces global average

By ZHAO YIMENG
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China is warming at a faster rate than the global average, while extreme heat, heavy rainfall and other severe weather events are becoming more frequent and intense as climate change accelerates worldwide, according to a new climate assessment released on Thursday.

The Blue Book on Climate Change in China 2026, published by the China Meteorological Administration, outlined how global warming continues unabated, with oceans heating more rapidly, glaciers melting at an accelerated pace and sea levels reaching record highs.

“The trend of global climate warming continues to evolve,” said Yuan Jiashuang, deputy director of the National Climate Center, at a news conference.

According to the blue book, the global average surface temperature in 2025 was about 1.4 C above pre-industrial levels, making it the third-warmest year since modern records began in 1850. The period

between 2015 and 2025 was the warmest 11-year span on record.

From 1961 to 2025, China’s annual average temperature increased by 0.31 C per decade, exceeding the global average warming rate over the same period, the report said.

Northern China warmed more rapidly than southern regions, while western China experienced faster warming than the east.

“Eastern and Central China recorded their highest annual average temperatures since 1961, while Xujiahui Observatory in Shanghai registered its warmest year since local observations began in 1873,” Yuan said.

The report found that although China’s annual precipitation has generally increased, the number of rainy days has declined.

Average annual rainfall rose by 6.3 millimeters per decade between 1961 and 2025, while the number of precipitation days fell by nearly one day every decade.

Rainfall patterns varied widely across the country, with wetter conditions on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and in parts of northern China,

but declining precipitation in southwestern regions.

The report said extreme cold events have declined markedly since the 1960s, while extreme heat events have increased sharply since the beginning of the 21st century.

“Heavy rainfall events have also become more frequent. The number of nationwide heavy rain days increased by 4.5 percent per decade,” Yuan said.

China experienced unusually active rainfall in 2025. North China recorded its second-wettest year since 1961, while both the duration of the rainy season and total rainfall reached record levels.

Meanwhile, the global mean sea levels rose at an average rate of 3.5 mm per year between 1993 and 2025, reaching their highest level in the satellite era. Along China’s coast, sea levels rose even faster, averaging 4 mm annually, according to the report.

Glaciers continued to shrink worldwide, while six representative glaciers in western China all showed accelerating retreat, it added.

China has been stepping up efforts to strengthen climate resilience in response to increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather.

The China Meteorological

Administration, this week, released the National Meteorological Disaster Prevention Plan (2026-30), which aims to modernize the country’s disaster prevention system by the end of the decade.

Wang Yawei, spokesman for the administration, said the plan seeks to establish a prevention-oriented disaster response model better suited to an era of more frequent and intense extreme weather.

The plan calls for building a next-generation Earth system numerical weather prediction model, upgrading short-term forecasting capabilities and developing an integrated national map for meteorological disaster risk warnings covering high-risk industries and regions.

It also highlights improved warning products for urban flooding, geological disasters and drought.

“With the rapid expansion of large cities, meteorological hazards such as urban flooding and strong winds are becoming more severe,” Wang said.

“We will comprehensively assess urban climate carrying capacity and carry out real-time monitoring, risk warnings and emergency response for critical infrastructure to enhance the climate resilience of cities,” he said.

Youth key to advancing peaceful cross-Strait ties

By LI SHANGYI
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Youth on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are expected to play a leading role in advancing the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations, with expanded exchanges fostering mutual understanding and driving innovation, attendees of a youth summit in Beijing said on Thursday.

Yin Li, secretary of the Communist Party of China Beijing Municipal Committee, said the cross-Strait youth summit provides a platform for young people from both sides of the Taiwan Strait to engage in exchanges, deepen mutual understanding and strengthen ties. He called on them to contribute jointly to integrated cross-Strait development.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 2026 cross-Strait youth summit, which attracted thousands of participants from both sides of the Strait, Yin said young people are forging new paths for cooperation and expanding exchanges into broader fields.

The summit has grown steadily in scale since its establishment eight years ago, attracting tens of thousands of young people from Taiwan and yielding fruitful results in cross-Strait exchanges, he said.

Song Tao, head of both the Taiwan Work Office of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, called on young people across the Taiwan Strait to work together to safeguard the common homeland of the Chinese nation. He added that the mainland has continued to improve policy measures aimed at creating better conditions for young people from Taiwan to pursue development opportunities on the mainland.

The event features a wide range of activities, including street dance exchanges, dragon boat competitions and technology forums in Beijing.

Chang Jung-kung, vice-chairman of the Chinese Kuomintang, told attendees at the opening ceremony that young people across the Taiwan Strait, who share common cultural roots, represent a critical hope for cross-Strait peace.

“Youth on both sides of the Taiwan Strait today are the best educated in the history of the Chinese nation, possess the broadest understanding of the world, and demonstrate the greatest vitality and creativity,” Chang said, adding that the younger generation bears an even greater responsibility to jointly promote peace across the Taiwan Strait.

He said the KMT is willing to work with people from all sectors to promote the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations based on adherence to the 1992 Consensus and opposition to “Taiwan independence.”

Lien Sheng-wu, executive president of the Taiwan cross-Strait peaceful development foundation, described young people as “the most dynamic, the most creative, and the most promising force in cross-Strait relations.”

Highlighting the deepening of youth exchanges across the Strait, Lien said firsthand experiences can help young people overcome misconceptions and realize that many perceived distances and barriers are not as great as they seem.

In April, the mainland introduced a package of 10 policy measures, including one establishing a two-way youth exchange mechanism between Taiwan and the mainland. In line with the initiative, numerous youth delegations from Taiwan have visited the mainland and participated in exchange activities.

A Dong, first secretary of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China, said the outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) includes a dedicated section on supporting youth development, providing broad opportunities for young people across the Taiwan Strait to develop their talents and pursue their careers.

He said a growing number of young people from Taiwan have chosen to work, invest and start businesses on the mainland.

“The countercurrent stirred up by a small group of people cannot stop the mutual, two-way engagement of young people across the Taiwan Strait coming together across the sea,” he said.

Poaching, trafficking crackdowns boost bird counts

By HOU LIQIANG
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China’s wintering waterbird population peaked at about 6.3 million this year, up nearly 159 percent from 2016, officials said on Thursday, attributing the surge to six consecutive years of multi-agency crackdowns on illegal bird hunting and trafficking activities, culminating in a three-year campaign involving 17 government departments.

The figure is the highest since nationwide monitoring began, Wang Weisheng, director of the flora and fauna department at the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, said at a news conference.

Wang highlighted a series of coordinated enforcement measures

introduced since the three-year campaign was launched in 2025.

Public security authorities have carried out cross-regional operations in the Inner Mongolia and Ningxia Hui autonomous regions and across the provinces of Shaanxi, Anhui, Hubei and Guangdong, dismantling poaching and trafficking networks spanning the wildlife crime supply chain and opening 577 criminal investigations, he said.

Market regulators have also strengthened online monitoring and on-site inspections, handling 3,435 suspected illegal wildlife trading alerts since the start of 2025. They have also urged e-commerce platforms to tighten compliance measures and penalize vendors involved in wildlife crimes, Wang said.

Meanwhile, prosecutors have expanded cooperation with forestry and grassland authorities through public interest litigation, filing 1,106 criminal indictments and initiating 1,653 public-interest lawsuits, he added.

According to Wang, the coordinated campaign has produced tangible results, with populations of many endangered bird species rebounding alongside the sharp increase in the country’s wintering waterbird population.

The population of Baer’s pochard, for instance, has more than doubled to 2,555 birds since 2012, based on the result of a nationwide winter survey completed last year, he said.

The population of the blue-

crowned laughingthrush has also increased, rising from 550 in 2024 to about 660, he added.

Han Yanjun, an official with the Ministry of Public Security, said public security authorities nationwide handled 3,562 bird-related criminal cases in 2025, an increase of 84.8 percent year-on-year.

“The ministry doubled down on major cases, fully leveraging the enforcement momentum generated through direct supervisory oversight to achieve broader results nationwide,” Han said.

Through the direct supervision of 15 major cases, the ministry uncovered 253 related offenses, apprehended 571 suspects and dismantled 114 criminal organizations, he added.

‘Donut’ stunt



Sebastian Buemi, champion driver of Envision Racing, performs a challenging “donut” stunt with a GEN3 Evo car, a Formula E model, in Shanghai on Thursday. The demonstration showcased the power and allure of Formula E electric race cars. The 2026 Shanghai E-Prix is set to take place from Saturday to Sunday.

LI MINGSHEN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Shanghai science and tech awards drive research

By WANG XIN in Shanghai
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The 2025 Shanghai Municipal Science and Technology Awards were unveiled on Tuesday, honoring 206 individuals and projects for breakthroughs and contributions to the city and nation’s scientific and technological development.

Chu Junhao, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chen Saijuan, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, received this year’s Science and Technology Meritorious Worker Award for their commitment to meeting the nation’s strategic needs, achieving major breakthroughs in basic research, advancing the translation of key technologies into applications, and producing pioneering, systematic research results.

Chu has devoted decades to research in infrared physics and semiconductors, making significant

contributions to the development of China’s semiconductor discipline and high-tech industries. He established a theoretical framework for narrow-bandgap semiconductor physics and developed devices used in the Fengyun meteorological satellites, the country’s lunar and Mars exploration missions, and national defense equipment.

Chen has dedicated her career to research on the pathogenesis, precision diagnosis and the treatment of leukemia. She achieved China’s first breakthrough in cloning a human disease gene, discovered several new leukemia-related fusion genes, and led research on pioneering CAR-T cell therapies for lymphoma and multiple myeloma — all significant contributions to precision cancer diagnosis and treatment efforts.

Working at the Ruijin Hospital affiliated to Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Chen is best known internationally for

developing the “Shanghai Protocol” for acute promyelocytic leukemia, or APL, which transformed the disease from one of the deadliest forms of leukemia into one of the world’s most curable cancers.

Upon receiving the award, Chen dedicated the honor to her research teams and collaborating institutions across several generations, as well as to the countless patients who placed their trust in the researchers and courageously participated in first-in-class drug studies and first-in-human clinical trials.

“Such a lofty honor carries great responsibility. It will motivate me to further integrate the innovation chain spanning basic research, technological development and the commercialization of research outcomes,” Chen said.

She added that she would make cultivating outstanding young scholars a top priority, support the development of hematology across

regions, contribute to overcoming more hematological malignancies and help build Shanghai into an international sci-tech innovation hub, with the ultimate goal of improving human health.

Ten researchers also received the Youth Outstanding Science and Technology Contribution Award, including Li Wei, a professor of physical chemistry at Fudan University, and Chen Junping, a professor and department director at the CAS’ Shanghai Astronomical Observatory.

Li, who focuses on basic research into mesoporous materials, praised Shanghai’s support for scientific research and said the recognition further motivated him to make greater contributions.

“Shanghai has always regarded young talent as the driving force behind the development of an international sci-tech innovation center. Under the city’s support system, young researchers receive substan-

tial, long-term and sustained funding, a flexible research environment, and fertile ground for international exchanges,” Li told China Daily.

Chen Junping, whose research focuses on geodesy and satellite navigation, shared similar views. He said Shanghai’s research environment aligns closely with international standards, helping researchers produce scientific achievements with global impact.

“My work involves not only basic research but also industrial applications. Shanghai offers abundant application scenarios with high-level demands, which in turn drive our research and make the results more visible and widely applicable. That is where I believe Shanghai has a distinct advantage,” he said.

In addition, 54 projects received the Natural Science Award, 27 won the Technology Invention Award, 102 were honored with the Science and Technology Progress Award, and eight received the Science and Technology Popularization Award. Among the award-winning pro-

jects were the C919 large passenger aircraft, research on adult stem cells in organ development and disease, high-efficiency docking and assembly technologies for large components and their applications in shipbuilding and aerospace, and a public education system for the rehabilitation of motor dysfunction.

Over the past three years, the Natural Science Award and Technology Invention Award categories have accounted for an increasing share of top-level honors, representing 58 percent of all special and first prizes in 2025. High-value basic research achievements have emerged at a faster pace, while about 20 percent of the Science and Technology Progress Award focused on industrial upgrading in key sectors, including integrated circuits, biopharmaceuticals and artificial intelligence.

Three foreign experts — Ewart Mark Haacke of the United States, Phoon Kok Kwang of Singapore and South Korea’s Yoon Ju-young — also received the International Science and Technological Cooperation Award.