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The Nation

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REMARKABLE 70 YEARS

Great changes have taken place in Yunnan since 1949

Exhibitions highlighting Yunnan's past 70 years

On September 23, the "Great Journey, Remarkable Achievements" exhibition was opened to the public in Beijing. It marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Some of the highlights were Yunnan elements on the exhibition's display panels about various historical periods.

Two days later, Yunnan province staged an exhibition to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC in Kunming, entitled "Glorious 70 Years". The exhibition consisted of four integrated zones and four special zones, and provided an overview of the province's achievements since 1949.

Yunnan's history, since the founding of the PRC, began in February 1950 when 100,000 Kunming citizens warmly welcomed the People's Liberation Army into the city, at the Tuodong sports ground. On February 24, 1950, Yunnan announced the liberation of the whole province and embarked on a new journey.

Yunnan's industry, agriculture and transport developed rapidly in the ear-



Yunnan people sing songs to show their love for the motherland. Photo by YDPG

ly years of the founding of the PRC.

In 1978, China started to carry out its reform, opening up and bringing opportunities and momentum for Yunnan's economic and social development. The slogan "Time is money, quality is life", became a common business philosophy for enterprises at the time.

In the 1980s, Yunnan's light industry developed rapidly. Many

Yunnan-made product—Camellia TV sets and cars, Spring Flower bicycles, Orchid refrigerators and White Rose washing machines—were particularly popular among the public.

The continuous economic improvement promoted the development of various social institutions in Yunnan. Data show that the number of medical institutions in the province increased from 5,836 in 1980 to 23,387 in 2012,

offering a wider choice of medical care for the people.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Yunnan has actively served and integrated into the national development strategy. It has quickened the pace of developing into a demonstration zone for national unity and progress, a pioneer in the construction of an ecological civilisation and a pivot of China's opening up to South and Southeast Asia.

Thanks to targeted poverty alleviation efforts, the number of people living below the poverty line in Yunnan's ethnic minority areas has decreased from 4.26 million in 2012 to 865,000 at the end of 2018.

By March 2019, Yunnan has completed four national forest cities, 166 nature reserves and 18 national wetland parks.

From the first China-South Asia Expo in 2013, to the establishment of the China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone in August 2019, Yunnan keeps widening its door to the outside world.

XI'S REMARKS

“On our journey forward, we will stay on the path of peaceful development, and pursue a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up. We will continue to work with people from all countries to push for jointly building a

community with a shared future for humanity.

—Remarks from speech by President Xi Jinping in Celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China

STORY

Reform and opening up have changed the lives of Chinese people

The first imported equipment, the first foreign aid, the first study abroad, the first joint venture, the first special economic zone, the first KFC, the first foreign-invested supermarket, the first Olympic Games, the first World Expo, the first Import Expo... For decades, the changes that openness has brought in China have permeated every aspect of life.

Japanese peach juice, Thai cat food, New Zealand pure natural honey, American Alaska cod fillet, Italian natural herbal toothpaste... At the Hualian Boutique Supermarket on Dawang Road in Beijing, a variety of imported goods occupy significant space. On the shelves of almost every category, there is a considerable proportion of imported goods for consumers to choose from.

"When I was a child, we had two imported Japanese TV sets at home. One was a JVS TV and the other was a Panasonic. I still remember that the remote control was embedded in the TV set," said Mr Wang, who works in Beijing. From the earliest televisions and refrigerators, to the MP3 player and later to cosmetics and household appliances, imported goods are now common for Chinese people.

According to Liu Qing, a professor of the School of International Economics and Trade at the University of International Business and Economics, with the deepening of reform and opening up, goods supply in China has changed greatly, both in quantity and quality. Consumers have more choice, and new products are constantly emerging to meet people's new needs.

In addition to food and drinks, openness also enriched the shop-

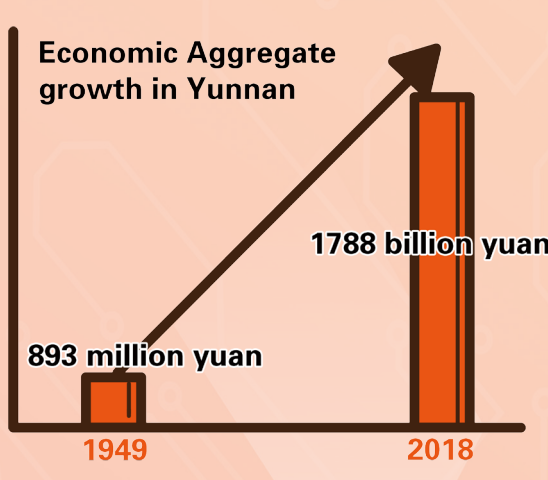
ping ways of Chinese people. Back in 1996, Wal-Mart opened its first shopping square and Sam's club store in China at Shenzhen. At that time, food stamps gradually left the circulation field. When the memories of lining up to buy from Gongxiaoshe are still fresh, shopping malls opened by foreign investors quietly came to the side of Chinese consumers. "When the mall opened, it attracted all the people around there," Ms Li, a Shenzhen citizen, recalled. "We used to wait in line and we looked through the glass and told the clerk what we wanted. Nowadays, everything in the supermarket is on shelves and we can look at and choose whatever we want."

"The rapid development of urbanisation in China and the rapid rise of middle-income groups, together with the policies of the Chinese government to expand the domestic demand, will bring more opportunities for the retail industry. We are full of confidence in the development of China," said Shi Jiaqi, senior vice president of Wal-Mart's China corporate affairs department.

China's contribution to world economic growth grew from an annual average of just 1.1 per cent to becoming the first engine of world economic growth. From a screw to a treasure for major industrial products at the forefront of the world; from very little trade with all countries to being the largest in total import and export of goods; from no highways to a total length of 143,000 kilometres expressways ranking first in the world.

By People's Daily overseas edition

NUMBERS



Seven decades on, the province has achieved great economic and social development and gained significant strength.

Per capita GDP: Yunnan's per capita GDP grew from 56 yuan in 1949 to 37,136 yuan in 2018.

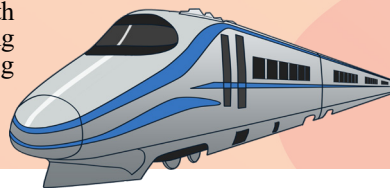
Industrial development: Yunnan's three-industry structure shifted from 70:11:19 in 1949 to 14:39:47 in 2018.

Urbanisation: In 1949, Yunnan had an urbanisation rate of less than five per cent. By 2018,

the province had achieved an urbanisation rate of nearly 48 per cent.

Infrastructure construction: In 2018, Yunnan had a total highway length of 248,800 kilometres, an increase of 89 times compared to 1949. This total length of highways included expressways totalling 5,184 kilometres, an increase of more than 114 times since 1949. The province's combined railway length was 3,848 kilometres (including high-speed railways totalling

1,026 kilometres), an increase of 4.9 times compared to 1949. By 2018, the province had built 15 civil aviation airports and a 500 kilovolt power network, and had extended the 220 kilovolt power grid to cover 16 prefectures and cities. By 2018, Yunnan's fixed and mobile broadband internet user access had grown to 10.19 million and 400.39 million, respectively.



YUNNAN TODAY

Investment and trade in Kunming is more convenient

"We can enjoy preferential policies such as on tax, rent subsidy and personal income tax for senior executives in the pilot free trade zone. It also provides perfect bond warehousing and logistics services, which greatly reduces management cost of the company," said Mark Respinger, board director of Sukefeina (Yunnan) Trade Company Ltd, which is getting registered recently in Kunming.

"I think it is more convenient to do business of raw coffee beans here than from coastal ports. You can export from Kunming to Europe by railway and reach developed cities in China". Respinger said that they pay more attention to the location advantage of Kunming connecting with South and Southeast Asia and believe that their company will have a broader market prospect in the future.

Deepening investment liberalisation and facilitation is one of the goals and a

key pilot task of the Kunming area of the China (Yunnan) pilot free-trade zone. Kunming fully learns from the successful experience of other domestic pilot free-trade zones and tries boldly.

Since the establishment of the China (Yunnan) pilot free trade zone, Kunming Economic Development Zone has promoted "gold ten policies", which is the first in the province, to provide different levels of discounts in land, industry, rent, talent and other aspects. If a newly established foreign-investment enterprise uses more than US\$1 million (Bt30 million) foreign capital, it shall be rewarded at a rate of two per cent of the actual amount of foreign capital used in the current year, up to a maximum of 20 million yuan. The support and openness are the best in the history of the Economic Development Zone. Because all its policies correspond to real money. By Zhang Yanqun



A worker is busy with loading products in Suning logistic basement in the Kunming area of China (Yunnan) pilot free-trade zone. Photo by Li Qiuming

EXPO

The 2nd China Import Expo to be held in Shanghai

The 2nd China International Import Expo will take place at the Shanghai National Convention and Exhibition Center from November 5 to 10.

The expo will have three sections: the national comprehensive exhibition, enterprise business exhibition, and Hongqiao international economic forum.

For the national comprehensive exhibition, 15 countries including France, Italy and Uzbekistan have been confirmed as guests of honour. The enterprise business exhibition will have an exhibition area exceeding the

planned target of 300,000 square metres, as the number of participating countries, enterprises, the Belt and Road countries and the world's top 500 and industry-leading enterprises have exceeded that of the first expo.

The Hongqiao international economic forum will continue to adhere to the position of high-level to discuss topics of business environment, artificial intelligence, WTO reform, e-commerce and so on.

Sixty-four countries have already confirmed their participation.

(By Li Hongkai)

CULTURE

Tile cats: a special artwork

Tile cats — normally crouching on rooftops of those white folk houses typical in west Yunnan's Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture — are characterized particularly by their round and staring eyes as well as huge and open mouths.

The Bai people, who dominate the local ethnic population of Dali, for long have believed that the tile cats are auspicious which can bring households safety and wealth. Recently, these gargoyle-like statuettes have been made into souvenirs by Su Longxiang, a native-born clay sculptor, and it has been gaining popularity among tourists ever since.

Born in the Fengyi township of the Dali prefecture, Su took over the job of making clay sculptures from his grandfather at the young age of 10. Now, he is recognised by the province as an inheritor of intangible cultural heritage.

The tile cat is definitely not a simple artefact to make. To begin with, wet clay has to be blended with some amount of sand to increase its viscosity. This could effectively prevent clay from being cracked in the oven later, and thus is considered an ideal method to make tile cats.



Tile cats made by Su Longxiang. Photo by Duan Jianxin

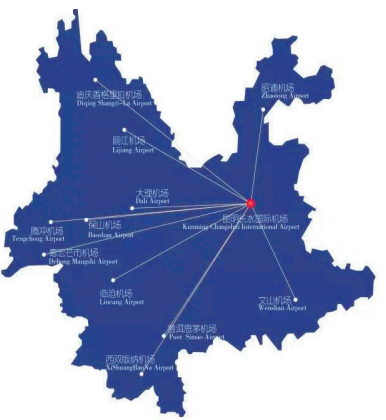
Then, Su would take a big lump of clay and press it with palms and fingers until it gets completely flat—as the base for a statuette. Once this is done, the sculptor is able to work carefully on the limbs, eyes, mouth and other details of the cat. A quality and elegant tile cat is marked by the materials used, as well as its shape and style created by artist.

Now, Su's works—all themed elements of tile cats—range from pen containers to tea sets, from incense burners to dolls. "Tile cats could not only be guardians for the Dai people," said Su.

(By Duan Jianxin)

CONNECTIVITY

Yunnan builds up efficient aviation network



Yunnan's aviation network map.

Yunnan province has built 15 airports and ranks third nationwide for its airport network. Initially, the airports in Kunming, Lijiang and Xishuangbanna were the backbone of the province for air travel.

Dating back to earlier years, the Kunming Wujiaaba Airport came into being in 1922, the second airport in China.

In 2012, the Kunming airport was moved out of the city to a new venue and named Kunming Chang Shui International Airport, breaking the "infrastructural bottleneck" that had long restricted the development of Yunnan's air service.

Airport density in Yunnan reached 0.38/10,000 square kilometres, well above the national average of 0.24/10,000 square kilometres. Each of the seven airports in Kunming, Lijiang, Xishuangbanna, Mangshi, Dali and Tengchong, has an annual passenger throughput of over one million.

In total, the province has opened 524 air routes, including 441 domestic ones, 78 international ones and 5 regional routes. Now Yunnan is connected by air routes with national capitals of South and Southeast Asian. Among all Chinese airports, Kunming Airport has the most air

routes to South and Southeast Asia.

In October 2018, Yunnan Airport Group launched the Kunming-Dubai cargo route, extending the province's air service from South and Southeast Asia to the Middle East. It makes Yunnan products directly reach these six destinations in South Asia by air.

The 15 Yunnan airports saw 501,800 take-offs and landings in 2018, with a passenger throughput of 627.9 million and a cargo throughput of 463,300 tonnes. Compared with data in 2013, the figures represent increases of 40.78 per cent, 56.96 per cent and 47.22 per cent respectively.

By Hu Xiaorong