

Debut appearance



A Russian Sukhoi Su-57 stealth fighter jet arrives on Monday at Zhuhai Jinwan Airport in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, to participate in the upcoming 15th China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition that will be held in the city from Nov 12 to 17. The arrival marked the jet's first appearance at a Chinese air show. LI JIANSHU/ FOR CHINA DAILY

Guidelines issued for engineering doctorate

China has released its first set of guidelines outlining criteria and requirements for those applying for doctorates in engineering, according to the Ministry of Education.

The pilot document containing the guidelines encompasses provisions on the scope and quality of dissertations for candidates pursuing a professional engineering doctorate in order to enhance talent cultivation. It also introduces criteria and protocols for awarding the degree based on practical achievements.

The guidelines follow the passage of a law on academic degrees by China's national legislature in April. The law, set to take effect next year, allows graduate students to earn their degrees either through a thesis or by submitting required practice-oriented outputs.

The new guidelines require dissertations to focus on engineering applications and applied research, highlighting the applicants' proficiency in fundamental theory, specialized knowledge and independent professional practice.

They stressed that doctorate applications based on practical achievements should include tangible deliverables and a written summary report.

China regards education, science and technology, and talent development as the fundamental and strategic foundations for modernization. The country has strived to promote the integrated reform of institutions and mechanisms related to these areas in order to boost innovation.

According to an official with the Office of the State Council Academic Degrees Committee, the guidelines emphasize not only the ability of engineering doctoral students to independently engage in professional practice, but also the importance of innovation and diversity.

Experts said the newly unveiled guidelines underscore the training focus and standards of professional degrees, emphasizing practice-based innovation capabilities.

The regulation will apply to eight categories of professional degrees, including electronic information, mechanical engineering, materials and chemicals, and energy and power engineering.

XINHUA

Guangdong steps up fight against dengue

Public participation against spread of the illness sought as threat persists

By ZHENG CAIXIONG
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Guangdong province in South China has stepped up preventive measures to control the spread of dengue fever, with more than 10,300 confirmed cases having been reported by the end of October.

With the spread ongoing, the illness is still posing a serious threat to residents despite last week's drop in the number of patients, according to a statement released by the Guangdong Center for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday.

The subtropical province detected 1,785 patients from Oct 21 to 27, compared to more than 2,000 confirmed cases reported in the weeks before, said the statement, adding that most of the dengue fever patients were detected in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong, and its neighboring city Foshan.

The statement called on all residents in the country's most populous region to participate in the fight against the spread of dengue fever.

To combat the virus, local departments, property management companies, parks and environmental management units were urged to strengthen sanitation

management to mitigate mosquito breeding and insect habitation.

"The infectious disease department has a total of 40 beds, all of which have fully been occupied in recent weeks, and the situation has been going on for some time," said Wang Jianhua, director of the infectious disease department at Foshan Fosun Chancheng Hospital.

"The hospital's other departments, including the respiratory and oncology departments, have also allocated some beds to help treat dengue fever patients to meet the demand," said Wang, adding that it was quite difficult to rely solely on the infectious disease department to treat the spate of dengue fever patients coming in.

Chen Qifang, a nurse with the hospital's infectious disease department, said most dengue patients are discharged after a week of treatment.

In previous years, patients used to experience symptoms such as fever, joint pain and rash. But this year, many have also experienced gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, along with mild to severe headaches, according to Chen.

"Some patients said getting infected with dengue fever this year is even more uncomfortable than getting infected with COVID-19," she said.

Many local doctors have urged patients to use nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen and aspirin with caution, as they increase the risk of bleeding. There is no specific medicine for dengue fever, so medical workers focus on giving patients drugs to mitigate the pain, the doctors said.

Peng Jie, an infectious disease doctor from Guangzhou-based Nanfang Hospital, said for those who do not have underlying diseases such as gastric ulcers or digestive ulcers, or whose platelet counts are not less than 80, the use of drugs such as ibuprofen can help reduce fever and relieve pain.

"But when the dengue fever patients have other underlying ulcerative diseases or low platelet counts, the use of ibuprofen can increase the risk of bleeding. Overall, the medication can be used under certain conditions," Peng said.

In Guangzhou, dengue fever cases have been reported in all 11 districts of the city, which has a population of about 20 million.

Speaking at a recent academic conference on infectious diseases, Tang Xiaoping, Party secretary of Guangzhou Medical University, said dengue fever has become one of the most prominent infectious diseases worldwide.

The infectious disease expert said according to the World Health Organization, approximately 2.5 billion people worldwide are at risk of dengue virus infection, with about 3.2 million cases reported annually across the globe.

Ministry foils gallium smuggling bid

By LIANG SHUANG
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The Ministry of State Security said it has foiled an attempt to smuggle gallium, and called for greater public awareness of the need to protect the nation's key mineral resources.

Gallium is a rare metal that plays a unique role in the manufacturing of computer chips, optic fibers and new-energy batteries, and also has military applications. China put the rare metal on its list of controlled substances for export in August last year in light of changing global situations.

On Monday, the ministry revealed on its official WeChat account that it had recently stopped a bottle of gallium from being smuggled out of the country, located the suspects and penalized them in

accordance with the law.

The ministry said that upon receiving a tip, it stopped a passenger surnamed Du who was about to leave China, and inspectors found a bottle containing gallium in Du's carry-on baggage.

Authorities later found that Du was not aware that the bottle contained banned substances, and that a Chinese metal materials company employee surnamed Tang had asked Du to bring the bottle to a third person surnamed Fan outside China.

A further investigation showed that Tang, despite being aware that gallium is a controlled substance, had purchased it in China and entrusted Du with the risky task as Fan promised to pay them handsomely for the metal.

State security authorities later cooperated with law enforcement

officers and punished Tang and Tang's company in accordance with the law, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, due to the fact the amount of the substance involved in the case was low and no real harm was done, Du was only reprimanded and educated about the rules on exporting controlled substances.

The ministry reaffirmed its resolve to protect the security of the nation's key strategic mineral resources and combat related foreign espionage activities. It asked the public to report suspected activities to local State security departments.

According to a study by researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Geochemistry, as of 2022, China produced 90 percent of the world's gallium and has a reserve that makes up two-thirds of the world's total.

Strong China, Russia ties may boost tourism

By CHENG SI
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Tourism experts and industry insiders have voiced optimism about growth in tourism between China and Russia because of the two countries' strong economic ties, relaxed visa rules and geographical proximity.

In August last year, both nations resumed their visa-free travel policies for group tours.

China's policy allows Russians holding ordinary passports to stay anywhere on the Chinese mainland for up to 15 days in groups of between five and 50 people. Russia has the same policy for Chinese tour groups visiting the country.

Both policies, which were originally adopted in 2000, were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The number of Russians visiting China has surged this year, and my colleagues and I were very busy from May," said Song Xueyan, 43, a Russian-language tour guide who works in Hunchun, Jilin province, a city on the Chinese-Russian border.

Cross-border tourism between China and Russia usually declines from late September, but Song said he anticipated that will not be the case this year, with business expected to remain robust into winter.

"The eased visa rules is one of the major reasons," he said. "The increased availability of tourism activities at lower prices is also attractive to Russians."

The company he works for, which employs 12 tour guides, has provided services to about 6,000 Russian tourists from May to October, he said.

Heihe, the cross-border port in Heilongjiang province adjacent to Russia, saw more than 360,000 entries and exits from January to late July, three times more than during the same period last year. Meanwhile, Heilongjiang welcomed 317,000 Russian tourists, who made up more than 90 percent of the province's foreign visitors, People's Daily reported.

More Chinese tourists have also been visiting Russia since China loosened travel restrictions and resumed outbound group tours to Russia in

February last year. Russia resumed the mutual exemption of visas for Chinese passport holders six months later and made e-visa services available to 55 countries, including China, at about the same time.

As of July this year, 559 travel agencies in Russia have been authorized to receive visa-free Chinese tour groups, 50 percent more than a year earlier, according to a People's Daily report that cited figures from the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.

The tourism bureau of Primorsky Krai in Russia said the area received 129,500 visits from Chinese travelers last year, and about 49,000 visits in the first three months of this year, roughly matching pre-pandemic figures.

Wei Changren, founder of btiil.com, a tourism-related financial news website, said he was optimistic about tourism growth between China and Russia.

"It's easy to get to Russia thanks to the relaxed visa rules and short travel times," he said. "Traditionally popular tourism draws for Chinese such as Moscow, St. Petersburg and Vladivostok are attracting ever greater numbers of people."

Many Chinese who travel to Jilin and Heilongjiang like to visit Russia at the same time, Wei said. One big attraction is Russian culture, including the architecture, which contrasts with that of China's, he said.

"China and Russia have a long-standing friendship that includes economics and people-to-people exchanges, and deepening ties will continue to drive tourism collaboration."

In March, Chi Zijian, a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee, proposed a China-Russia cultural and tourism belt in Heilongjiang.

The province can gain financial support from the central government to improve infrastructure such as roads and railways, she said, and a China-Russia cultural and tourism belt connecting the province's 18 border counties and districts and 19 ports would offer quicker and easier access for Russians to China.

A touch of nostalgia



A tourist walks by a wall decorated with paintings of characters from the 1987 TV series *A Dream of Red Mansions* on a street in Changsha, Hunan province, on Monday. YANG HUAFENG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Visitors throng to see giant pandas in renovated abode

By DU JUAN
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Beijing Zoo's giant panda house reopened Saturday following a five-day renovation, with visitors thronging to get a glimpse of their favorite animals in their upgraded habitats.

The authorities kept the panda house closed from Oct 28 to Nov 1 for improvements aimed at enhancing the animals' physical and mental well-being through behavioral enrichment.

Since 2020, the zoo has introduced annual upgrades to better simulate natural settings for the pandas.

This year, the highlight is the "luxury" habitat of Meng Lan, a fan-favorite, which is now equipped with features including a trampoline, space capsule, slide and water play area.

Long lines formed as visitors flocked to see Meng Lan exploring the new amenities.

"I came on the first day to see if the pandas like their new surroundings," one young visitor said.

Meng Lan, visibly at ease, was spotted climbing the slide and play-

ing with a hanging dice toy.

"Meng Lan is clearly enjoying the upgrade," one fan posted on social media platform Xiaohongshu.

In the adjacent areas, indoor pandas Meng Bao and Meng Yu entertained guests with their antics on new resting platforms, prompting waves of laughter from onlookers.

The renovations were customized to fit each panda's needs, including custom-sized climbing structures, interactive toys and woven beds for added comfort.

One livestreaming visitor reported on Fu Xing, a more reserved panda, saying: "The renovation enhances the space for all the pandas, giving each a setting suited to their personality. Even Fu Xing has a cozy spot to sunbathe now."

The zoo also adapted areas for older pandas Ya Ya and Gu Gu, incorporating smaller slides and gentle activity-promoting features.

Zoo officials said enrichment will be an ongoing effort, with future adjustments based on the pandas' responses to the new environment.

Liu Boqian contributed to this story.