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FOCUS

China makes rapid and steady progress in developing COVID-19 vaccines

The country will make its COVID-19 vaccine a global public good when it is ready for application after successful research and clinical trials

An inactivated COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by the Institute of Medical Biology under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences has entered phase-2 clinical trials in China, the Science and Technology Daily reported June 20.

The phase-2 trials, which further evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of the vaccine in humans, are conducted in the southwestern province of Yunnan.

The institute started the phase-1 clinical trials in May. Nearly 200 volunteers aged between 18 and 59 received the vaccine in West China Second University Hospital in Sichuan Province. The study was randomized, double-blind and placebo-controlled.

A COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing plant of the institute in Kunming, capital city Yunnan Province, will be put into use in the second half of 2020, according to the report.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, China has adopted five technological approaches to develop COVID-19 vaccines, including inactivated



An employee handles trial vaccine samples at a COVID-19 vaccine production base of Sinopharm in Beijing. (Xinhua)

vaccines, recombinant protein vaccines, adenovirus vector vaccines, nucleic acid vaccines and vaccines using attenuated influenza viruses as vectors.

So far, five COVID-19 vaccine candidates have been approved for clinical trials in China, accounting for 40 percent of the total

vaccines in clinical trials worldwide, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

A few days ago on June 16, China National Biotech Group Co Ltd (CNBG), Sinopharm's vaccine and bioscience unit, announced on June 16 the phase-1 and phase-2 clinical trials of

its inactivated vaccine had demonstrated good performance in safety and effectiveness on vaccinated volunteers. No subjects showed serious adverse reactions, the company said.

The CNBG said a total of 1,120 volunteers were vaccinated during the phase-1 and phase-2

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The best way to defeat COVID-19 is to develop a vaccine against the virus that causes it. It is estimated that there are around 150 vaccine candidate projects across the world.

Chinese scientists have been racing to develop COVID-19 vaccines via five different approaches. So far 5 Chinese vaccine candidates for Covid-19 are undergoing clinical trials among over 2500 volunteers. Only those who finish their testing of safety and effectiveness will be allowed for mass production.

clinical trials, all of whom produced high-titer antibodies. In the 18-to-59-year-old age group, those who got two doses of vaccine based on the 0-and-28-day procedure demonstrated 100 percent antibody positive conversion rate, while those who got two doses based on the 0-and-14-day procedure and 0-and-21-day procedure showed a 97.6 percent antibody positive conversion rate.

Industry experts said the results were the world's first clinical data on safety and effectiveness collected after two doses of vaccination, offering

scientific and measurable support for epidemic prevention and control and emergency use.

According to CNBG, there are a total of three phases of clinical trials, and the company is actively promoting international cooperation on the final stage. It has received cooperation overtures from companies and institutions overseas. Once the inactivated vaccine completes the three trials, it is expected to hit the market by the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

(Edited from Xinhua and China Daily)

INVESTMENT

China reports rising inflow in foreign direct investment

Foreign direct investment (FDI) into the Chinese mainland, in actual use, expanded by 7.5 percent year on year to 68.63 billion yuan in May, said Gao Feng, spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce, at a press conference on June 14.

In U.S. dollar terms, the FDI inflow stood at 9.87 billion dollars, up by 4.2 percent year on year.

From January to May, the country's FDI totaled 355.18 billion yuan, down 3.8 percent year on year, narrowing by 7 percentage points compared to the first quarter of the year.

During the period, the inflow

to high-tech industries rose by 2 percent, with the information and e-commerce services sector up 42.3 percent and 67.9 percent, respectively.

Investment from members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations increased 10.1 percent year on year, while that from countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative rose 6 percent.

The country has rolled out a string of policies to better invigorate and protect foreign investors, which advanced the growth of the FDI, the ministry said earlier.

(Xinhua)

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Grape growing helps township reduce poverty

In recent years, industrial development has become the primary method for poverty-relief in the Wandian township of Changning county, southwest Yunnan's Baoshan city.

"I've been working in the Changning agricultural company for a while and I'm satisfied with my wage and working hours," said Li Guixiang, a local villager.

Living in the remote mountainous area, Li and her husband were less informed of the changes. Thanks to the poverty-relieve policies, local governments helped them resettle in areas with better facilities.

In 2019, the per capita income in Wandian was 15,169 yuan and all the low-income families will be raised out poverty in 2020. Sizeable

plantations are now visible in the township, forming an effective model of development.

The grape-planting project was funded in 2019 by outside investment. The project provided job opportunities to local villagers, helping low-income family members work near their homes.

Li Guixiang was among the first ones hired by the grape planter. A hard-worker and fast-learner, Li mastered the core skills in grape planting. The company manager spoke highly of Li and she will be further trained.

With the CPC members taking the lead, over 205 local families had their lands rented to the Changning company, gained an annual rent of 575,000 yuan. (Wang Shixue)

VOICE

HK moves step closer to closing legal loopholes

That there is a legislative gap in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that needs closing is evident from the outcry that has greeted the State-level move to establish and improve the legal framework and enforcement mechanisms in the SAR to better safeguard national security.

Despite it being illustrative of the "one country, two systems" principle and a reinforcer of that framework, it is those forces inside and outside Hong Kong which are hostile to Beijing that persist in smearing the legislation as a threat to local residents' freedoms.

These forces, which have been colluding with each other to make trouble in the SAR, claim that the legislation that China's top legislature conducted the first review is "unconstitutional" and will extend the reach of China's "invasive state security apparatus" into what was "formerly a bastion of liberty".

They do so on the basis that the draft law is being introduced by the national legislature rather than the SAR's, despite this being in accordance with the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong's Basic Law. And they do so despite the ringing endorsement the move has received from a wide swath of Hong Kong society, including multinational corporations.

The draft law makes explicit stipulations on what constitutes four categories of criminal acts and their corresponding criminal responsibilities. They include acts of secession, subversion of state power, terrorist activities, and collusion with foreign or external forces to endanger national security, all of which are threats to any state.

Yet, laying bare their intentions, none of the opponents of the legislation has uttered a word against such acts in relation to what

has been happening in Hong Kong. The justification for their sanctimony is their habit of meddling in the internal affairs of other countries on the pretext of upholding human rights.

The fact that Hong Kong remains a weak link in national security and an easy target for hostile foreign or external forces to disrupt public order and jeopardize social and economic interests makes it clearly imperative for the central government to take the decisive move to plug the legal loopholes.

Only through establishing and improving at the national level the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for Hong Kong to safeguard national security can the small number of illegal and criminal acts of endangering national security be effectively prevented, stopped and punished in the city and thus create a stable and peaceful social environment for addressing its underlying problems in the economy and people's livelihood.

Only by doing so, can China's national security and the long-term prosperity and stability of the HKSAR be better safeguarded. (China Daily)

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HI-TECH



China successfully sent the last satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System into space on June 23 from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center, marking the completion of its self-developed global navigation system. (Xinhua)

CONNECTIVITY

Yunnan speeds up infrastructure construction



The Jinsha River Bridge on the Lijiang-Shangri-la railway under construction. (Xinhua)

A 640-ton steel piece was fixed over the Jinsha River Bridge sling on the Lijiang-Shangri-La railway under construction on June 15, kicking off the steel-girding making.

Located in northwest Yunnan province, the 139km Lijiang-Shangri-La railway is part of the Yunnan-Tibet Railway.

With a main span of 660 meters, the Jinsha River Bridge has a total length of 882.5 meters.

The railway is only one of the efforts of Yunnan province to speed up its infrastructure construction. In early June, Yunnan Development and Reform Commission posted a work plan on major

infrastructural projects, which involves railways, airport, logistics and more. The projects are either under construction or to be launched.

Among the projects under construction, the Chongqing-Kunming high-speed railway is designed at a speed of 350 km/h, and it is a double-track electrified railway for high-speed motor train units. The 699.3-km railway will be open to traffic by the end of 2025.

And as part of the China-Laos Railway, the Yuxi-Mohan rail section passes through Yuxi, Puer, Xishuangbanna and others. It will be finished to traffic by the end of 2021. By the end of 2023, the Dali-Ruili railway will be open to traffic, fast trains will reach Ruili, a city near the China-Myanmar border

And by the end of 2020,

the expressway mileage in the province will exceed 9,000 kilometers. Besides, the province is implementing an expansion project in Kunming International Airport, and a new terminal will be finished by 2025.

Since 2017, the major Yunnan lakes of Dianchi, Erhai, Fuxian and others have seen all-round ecological restoration. By 2025, 414 km of new sewage pipes will be built up for the lakes, together with sewage treatment plants.

The other two projects, which are under construction are the Kunming national logistics project and the power transmission project. By 2025, Kunming will be an international logistics hub that connects China to South Asia and Southeast Asia. (Yunnan Daily)

TOURISM

"ICH+tourism" creates new models for Yunnan tourism development

The second Saturday of June each year is the "Cultural and Natural Heritage Day" in China. This year, the day falls on June 13. And Yunnan province's events on the heritage day are themed around cultural inheritance and healthy life.

Various activities were held to present the achievements of Yunnan in passing on its heritages by integrating intangible cultural heritage (ICH) with tourism, sports and technology.

In recent years, fusing heritages into tourism has presented their cultural value, while injecting more vitality into the tourism industry and creating new development models.

"From making Dai paper products to improving tourists' experiences, we are making consistent explorations," Li Junyuan, manager of a local art museum in Manzhao Village, Menghai County, south Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture.

Born in the 1980s, Li moved his family to Manzhao Village in 2017 for his love of Dai paper. To explore new ways to inherit the Dai paper, he tries to offer more cultural experiences to visitors.

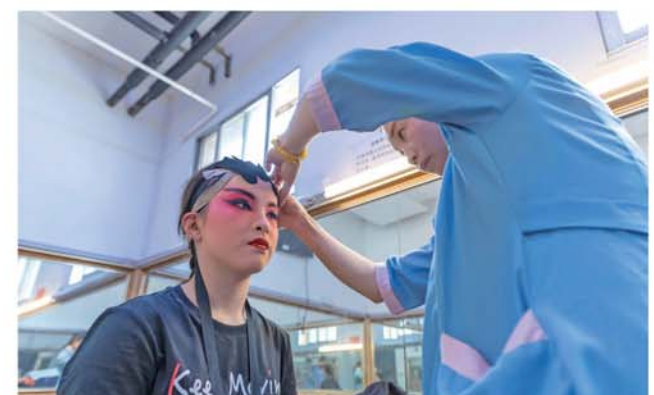
Dai paper-making is the oldest papermaking that is still living in China. In 2006, the papermaking was listed on the list of national

intangible heritages. "I'll hold a Manzhao art festival, so that paper lovers and painters all over the world can come here for art creation," Li said.

"The Yongzi plant welcomes 1 million visitors every year, and various activities are held for tourists' needs in games, catering, lodging and entertainment," said Tao Xiaochang, chairman of the Yongzi company.

The Yongzi go-piece is born in southwest Yunnan's Baoshan, with a 1,200-year history. "Centering around the Yongzi heritage, the activities have made the go-piece better known, stepping up the integration of culture, sports and tourism," Tao said.

The ICH shopping festival was one of the series activities of this year's "Cultural and Natural Heritage Day" in Yunnan. Having made many trials in livestreaming and E-commerce to sell products, Mrs. Jiang, founder of Yunxiu Yingxiang Company has a special understanding about the shopping festival. She said her company will invite internet celebrities to make endorsement for Yunnan embroidered products, in a bid to making more products known to the outside world. (Yunnan Daily)



With a history of over 200 years, Dian Opera, a kind of opera which combines traditional Chinese opera and distinctive Yunnan characteristics, was listed as a national intangible cultural heritage in 2008. Here, a 16-year-old student is making up for the Dian Opera performance. (Xinhua)