

# CPC ramps up supervision



The Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee is held in Beijing, capital of China, from Oct. 24 to 27.

The Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) took place in Beijing on October 24-27. The meeting discussed issues related to running the Party with discipline in a bid to root out corruption. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivered a speech.

The meeting called on all Party members to “closely unite around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core.” It stressed the importance of adherence to the collective leadership system.

Two documents were deliberated and adopted, namely the Norms of Political Life Within the Party Under the New Situation and the Provisional Intra-Party Supervision Regulation, according to a communiqué released right after the session. The session also passed a resolution on convening the 19th CPC National Congress in the latter half of 2017.

It endorsed prior decisions to expel four former senior officials from the Party and promised to resolutely address election malpractice by putting an end to the buying and selling of official posts or vote rigging.

Members of the CPC Central Committee are elected once every five years by the CPC National Congress. The central committee holds a plenary session at least once a year in Beijing to make decisions on important policies, with each plenum themed on different topics.

## Self improvement

Since 2012, the 18th CPC Central Committee, led by General Secretary Xi, has taken a series of measures to enforce a high level of discipline within the Party, including launching educational campaigns and carrying out organizational and institutional reform.

When Xi met the media after becoming Party leader in November 2012, he stressed that the CPC should supervise its own conduct, earnestly improve its working habits, and maintain close ties with the people. “To forge the iron, the hammer must be strong,” he said, suggesting the Party must first conduct itself honestly before addressing other problems.

In December 2012, the CPC introduced an eight-point rule to tackle this goal. Officials are urged to go to the grassroots to learn about the real situations, reduce their pomp during visits and meetings, simplify documents, limit overseas visits and reduce news coverage of them, and exercise thrift.

In June 2013, the Party launched a year-long “mass line” education campaign. This aims to improve ties between Party members and the public, by focusing on tackling four undesirable working habits, namely formalism, bureaucracy, hedonism and extravagance.

On March 9, 2014, during China’s annual legislative meeting, Xi, as state president, stressed that leaders at various levels should be strict in morality, power and self-discipline and act with honesty in decisions, business and behavior. These points were later summarized as the “Three Stricts, Three Honests” education campaign.

In February 2016, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee issued another educational campaign plan, calling on Party members to study the Constitution of the CPC and important speeches by Xi and to be a qualified Party member.

## Intra-Party supervision

Intra-Party supervision is an important measure for Party governance. It mainly targets various levels of leading organs and officials, especially leaders, said Ren Jin, a professor within the Law Department of the Chinese Academy of Governance.

He explained that leading organs and officials are checked

to make sure they comply with the Party Constitution and other CPC regulations as well as the national Constitution and other laws, following the democratic centralism principle. The supervision can be carried out through a number of measures including collective leadership and division of labor, disclosure of important matters, performance reports, petition responses, inspections, public opinion reviews, inquiry and cross-examination, and dismissals.

The CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) and lower-level commissions are dedicated organs for intra-Party supervision. The current provisional Intra-Party Supervision Regulation has been implemented since 2003. However, the situation has since changed, thus laws should be upgraded to reflect this, said Xie Chuntao, a professor at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee.

At the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee meeting on September 27, members heard progress reports on revising the regulation. After incorporating public feedback into the draft, the revised regulation on intra-Party supervision was approved at the sixth plenary session.

Since China launched its anti-corruption campaign to “hunt tigers and swat flies” in late 2012, the combination of public supervision and intra-Party supervision has snared high-ranking officials and many lower-ranking ones as well as some state-owned enterprise executives.

In 2013, the CCDI, the Party’s top discipline watchdog, launched an official website, Ccdi.gov.cn, which allows people to directly bring corruption and other disciplinary violations to Party attention.

From 2013 to September 2015, disciplinary watchdogs across the country investigated 1.02 million corruption cases and 1.01 million people have been punished accordingly.

Some corrupt officials and others guilty of economic crimes, who had fled overseas, have been tracked down and brought back to China through operation Fox Hunt, which was launched in 2014.

According to the Ministry of Public Security, by October 20, 634 fugitives had been captured from 67 countries and regions this year. Fifty-nine of them are suspected to have embezzled over 100 million yuan (US\$14.76 million) each.

## Intra-Party democracy

Intra-Party democracy is vital to the CPC and is fundamental to a positive, healthy internal political environment, according to the communiqué released after the sixth plenary session.

The Party’s various responsibilities concerning decision-making, implementation and supervision must be done in accordance with the democratic principles and procedures stipulated in the Party Constitution and regulations, according to the communiqué.

“No Party organization or individual should suppress or undermine intra-Party democracy,” it said.

Party authorities at all levels must conduct thorough investigations and research, and solicit opinions from various sides before making any major decisions or arrangements, said the communiqué.

The rights of Party members to know, participate in and supervise and their rights in election must be ensured, it said.

Additionally, all Party members should equally enjoy their rights stipulated in the Party Constitution while performing obligations equally, it said.

“No Party organization or member shall infringe upon the democratic rights of CPC members,” the document said.

The communiqué called on authorities to make it more convenient for Party members to express their opinions and create a “political atmosphere of democratic discussion within the Party”.

Party members have the right to responsibly expose or report any Party organizations or members breaking the laws or flouting the Party’s disciplines, it said.

## Also in this issue

**Xi’s Asia tour enhances ties, boosts cooperation**

> [PAGE 2](#)

**80 years on, the Long March remembered**

> [PAGE 3](#)

**Economy stabilizes with 6.7% growth in Q3**

> [PAGE 3](#)

**Flying high: Shenzhou-11 astronaut Chen Dong**

> [PAGE 4](#)

**Getting to know China through keywords**

> [PAGE 4](#)

**Major events in October**

> [PAGE 4](#)



## Key points of the communiqué

after the Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee



**Time**  
October 24-27



**Place**  
Jingxi Hotel, Beijing



**Attendance**

**197** members of the CPC Central Committee  
**151** alternate members of the CPC Central Committee



**Guests**

Members of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection  
Experts, scholars and representatives from the grassroots level

## Approved documents



## Highlights of the communiqué

01

### Core leader

The meeting officially declared “the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core.”

02

### Authority of CPC Central Committee should be firmly upheld

Ensuring the authority of the CPC Central Committee and the proper execution of orders of the Party are concerned with the destiny of the Party and the state.

They are also concerned with the fundamental interests of the people of all ethnic groups in China, and they are important purposes of strengthening and regulating intra-Party political life.

A leading core is vital to a country and a political party. The entire Party should consciously maintain a high degree of consistency with the CPC Central Committee in thoughts, politics and actions.

03

### Strict requirements on senior officials

Party organizations at all levels and all Party members, especially senior cadres, should conform to the CPC Central Committee and CPC theory, path, principle and policy, as well as decisions made by the CPC Central Committee.

04

### Unrestricted power, unsupervised Party member not allowed in CPC

Supervision is the fundamental guarantee for exercising power properly, as well as a crucial measure for strengthening and regulating political life within the Party.

Party organizations and leading officials must not hide violations of Party discipline and laws, or problems reported by Party members, and must deal with such issues in a timely manner.

Leading officials involved in issues reported should not participate in, intervene or meddle with investigations.

05

### No prohibited zone in intra-Party supervision

Intra-Party supervision should be carried out in accordance with regulations and by observing the principles of democratic centralism, top-down organizational supervision, democratic supervision from the bottom to the top, and peer review or critique.

The mission of intra-Party supervision is to ensure the Party Constitution, its regulations and code of conduct are enforced effectively; to maintain Party unity and solidarity; and, primarily, to resolve Party leadership enervation and slackness in Party building and governance as well as discipline slackening.

06

### Intra-Party democracy is vital to CPC

The Party’s various responsibilities concerning decision-making, implementation and supervision must be done in accordance with the democratic principles and procedures stipulated in the Party Constitution and regulations.

“No Party organization or individual should suppress or undermine intra-Party democracy.”

“No Party organization or member shall infringe upon the democratic rights of CPC members.”

07

### 19th CPC National Congress

It will be held in Beijing during the second half of 2017.

08

### Two new CPC Central Committee members



**Zhao Xiangeng**  
Vice Director of the Chinese Academy of Engineering



**Xian Hui**  
Chairwoman of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

09

### Expulsion of 4 former officials

- Wang Min, former Party chief of Liaoning Province and senior national legislator
- Lyu Xiwen, former Beijing deputy Party chief
- Fan Changmi, deputy political commissar of the Lanzhou Military Area Command
- Niu Zhizhong, vice commander of Chinese People’s Armed Police Force



# Xi's Asia tour enhances ties, boosts cooperation



Chinese President Xi Jinping accompanied by Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni, attends a red-carpet ceremony and inspects the guards of honor before their talks in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, Oct. 13.

Chinese President Xi Jinping paid state visits to neighboring Cambodia and Bangladesh and attended the 8th BRICS summit in the Indian state of Goa from October 13 to 17.

### Renewing friendship

China has more neighboring countries than any other state in the world. A sound and stable neighborhood benefits everyone involved.

On October 13, Xi arrived in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, his first trip to the Southeast Asian country as China's president.

Tens of thousands of local people gathered in the streets and square in front of the royal palace, holding the two countries' national flags, alongside flowers and portraits of leaders, to welcome the Chinese delegation. Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni hosted a grand welcoming ceremony in the palace ahead of discussions. Besides the king, Xi also met with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Cambodian Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk.

The two sides decided to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and signed a total of 31 cooperation documents covering fields such as economy, technology, infrastructure, human trafficking, taxation and maritime cooperation.

Both sides vowed to jointly safeguard and carry forward their traditional friendship forged and cultivated by Chinese and Cambodian leaders of previous generations, including Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai and Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk.

Xi's trip to Cambodia reciprocates one made to Beijing by King Norodom Sihamoni this June, during which they agreed to further their comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

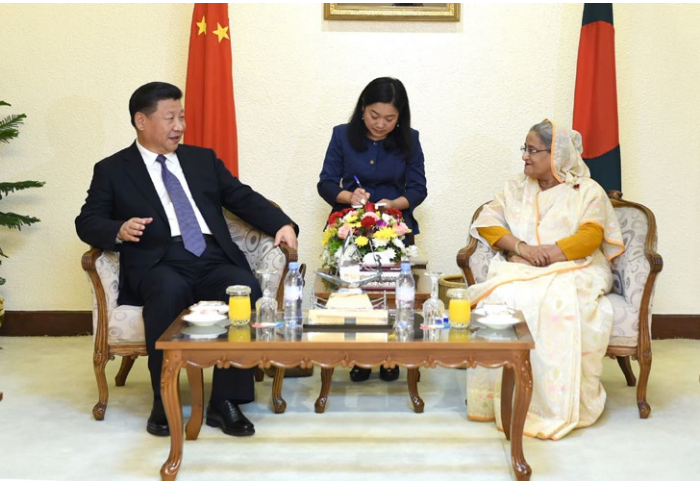
On October 14, Xi started his two-day "historic visit" — as it was called by local newspapers — to Bangladesh, the first by a Chinese head of state to the country in three decades.

The president was given the highest tribute possible for a foreign leader by the Bangladeshi side. The host country dispatched fighter jets to escort Xi's plane when it entered Bangladesh's airspace. Landing at the Dhaka airport, Xi was received by his Bangladeshi counterpart Abdul Hamid and given a 21-gun salute. Posters with pictures of Xi, Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina adorned all major streets across the capital.

During the visit, the two countries agreed to upgrade their ties to a strategic partnership of cooperation, lifting the bilateral relationship to a new high.

The two sides signed a string of cooperation documents covering such areas as joint building of the Belt and Road, production capacity cooperation, information and telecom, energy and power, diplomatic affairs and maritime affairs. They also pledged to start feasibility studies on the establishment of a China-Bangladesh Free Trade Area.

In addition, they agreed to strengthen cultural and people-to-people exchanges and announced the year 2017 as the Year of Friendship and Exchange between China and Bangladesh.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) holds talks with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Oct. 14.

### Aligning strategies

Advancing the building of the Belt and Road and the Initiative's docking with other nations' development strategies is one of the most prominent aspects of Xi's Asia tour.

A transport hub in Southeast Asia, Cambodia holds a key position on the ancient maritime Silk Road that used to connect the East with the West.

During Xi's visit to the country, both sides decided to accelerate the alignment of China's "Belt and Road" Initiative and the 13th Five-Year

Plan (2016-2020) with Cambodia's Rectangular Strategy and Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025.

China and Cambodia are constructing the Sihanoukville special economic zone in southwestern Cambodia, an example of collaboration under the "Belt and Road" Initiative. They are also about to expand concrete cooperation in sectors like trade, infrastructure and energy resources.

During his visit to Bangladesh, Xi pledged that China stands ready to push forward bilateral cooperation by aligning the development strategies of the two countries.

A series of infrastructure projects within the framework of the "Belt and Road" Initiative are under construction, including the Padma Bridge near the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka, the underwater tunnel of Karnaphuli River in the country's southeast, the upgrade of power distribution system and the extension of the N8 highway to connect with the Padma Bridge. The two sides also plan to enhance communication and coordination in pushing forward the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

Attending a dialogue between BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), Xi also called for the alignment of the "Belt and Road" Initiative and the BIMSTEC programs, so as to advance infrastructure construction and connectivity and strive for common development.

Proposed by Xi in 2013, the "Belt and Road" Initiative is aimed at building a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes.



## BRICS GOA 2016

Brazilian President Michel Temer, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Jacob Zuma (from left to right) pose for a group photo at the eighth BRICS summit in the western Indian state of Goa, Oct. 16.

### Polishing BRICS

As the BRICS cooperation mechanism marks its 10th anniversary this year, a gloomy allegation that "BRICS of gold is experiencing a fading shine" has loomed in some Western media.

However, the address delivered by Xi at the 8th BRICS summit held in Goa definitely disproved this allegation and boosted the confidence of the BRICS countries.

According to the International Monetary Fund, the five BRICS countries contributed to more than half of the global growth in the last decade, Xi said in his speech, noting that the mechanism has actively pushed forward global economic governance reforms.

To face the challenges posed by a "complicated, severe external environment," Xi urged BRICS countries to cement confidence and put forward a five-point proposal — building an open world, mapping out a shared development vision, coping with the most pressing global challenges, safeguarding fairness and justice in the international community and deepening partnerships within the bloc.

To jointly tackle global challenges such as climate change, infectious diseases and terrorism, the Chinese leader called for the five countries to strengthen coordination and communication in major international and regional issues.

To seek common development, Xi suggested the bloc member countries enhance cooperation, especially through the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) that were established in 2014.



# 80 years on, the Long March remembered



Combination photo taken in 2016 shows Red Army veterans Fang Huai, Hao Yi, Li Guang, Ren Qun, Wang Chengdeng (from L to R, upper) and Yang Yisheng, Wang Fengwen, Wang Dingguo, Wu Qingchang and Zhao Renkuan (from L to R, lower).

Eighty years ago, the Red Army under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) arrived at their destination in northern Shaanxi Province after walking thousands of miles through the most inhospitable conditions of sinking mud, mountains and freezing weather conditions while being raided and chased by a stronger army. Suffering heavy casualties, the Red Army completed one of the most remarkable exploits in human history—the Long March.

The Long March was a struggle, a struggle of life and death. Chairman Mao Zedong once said, “The Long March is the first of its kind in the annals of history.” It is also safe to say that there would be no New China without the Long March.

China has achieved remarkable achievements since the struggle was won; however, the march has never ended for the Chinese people.

At a gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Long March, President Xi Jinping called for carrying forth the spirit of the Chinese Red Army in the Long March eight decades ago and moving forwards in “a new long march.”

“No matter which stage our undertaking has developed to and how great the achievements we’ve made, we should carry forth the Long March spirit and advance in ‘a new long march.’” he added.

“A nation that forgets its origins will find itself in a blind alley,” Xi said.

Xi called on people to abandon complacency, the idea of seeking comfort and the reluctance to work hard or forge ahead.

Each generation has its own “long march,” and they should proceed in their own way, Xi said.

Today, the Long March has become the source of inspiration for Chinese people and will definitely encourage generations to come. President Xi described it as “full of the spirit of idealism and dedication,” and a “human epic composed of will and courage” and “an epic of humankind’s unrelenting efforts to pursue truth and brightness.”

As people across the country celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Long March victory, they are not only remembering those who died for the Party and the country, but also reflecting on the spirit of the Long March.

President Xi said, “The great spirit of the Long March is the precious spiritual wealth that cost the Party and the people a hefty price of painful struggle. Across each generation, we must keep in mind, learn, and promote the great spirit of the Long March, preserving its strong spiritual strength that continues to motivate the Party, the state, the people, the military, and the nation to stride toward a brighter future.”

By upholding the spirit of the Long March, the Chinese people are confident about their own development and prepared to fight for the realization of the “two centenary goals” and the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

The legacy of the Long March must be cherished and the march will go on.



A former Red Army soldier tells stories of the Long March to children at the Zunyi Meeting Memorial Museum in southwest China’s Guizhou Province. At the meeting, Mao Zedong regained his authority over the Party and the military. The meeting was seen as a critical turning point in the history of the CPC and the Red Army.

## Voices from scholars

The quotes are listed in alphabetical order of the given names of each scholar.



**Kerry Brown, Director of China Studies Center and Professor of Chinese Politics, University of Sydney**

*The Long March maintains its status as one of the most momentous and heroic events in modern Chinese history. Marking its 80th anniversary also provides an opportunity to reflect on the hardship, and the sacrifices, that Chinese people went through in order to proceed along their pathway to modernity which has led to today.*



**Tim Collard, former British Consul-General in Hamburg**

*The Long March is one of those historical events which leave the observer open-mouthed with astonishment. The endurance of the Chinese people under the heaviest pressure and adversity is famous throughout the world. China is a very different country now, but the memory of the Long March will help to support the Chinese in their current Long March towards a stable, just, and prosperous China.*



**Sumantra Maitra, foreign affairs journalist, and research scholar on foreign policy and neo-realism based in London**

*Regardless of one’s political ideology which he or she might believe in, there are things to learn from everything. It is safe to say that the Long March teaches us to be tactical and flexible. It teaches us that a retreat can be strategic. And it also teaches us, that humans are capable of great toil to achieve the impossible, if they have determination.*



**John Ross, Senior Fellow of Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China**

*Not only China but the entire world owes an immeasurable debt to the Long March’s heroes. Only their sacrifice and heroism made possible the creation of the new China - one of the greatest turning points in the history not only of China but of the world.*



**Tom Zwart, Professor of Cross-cultural Law, Utrecht University**

*The Long March has been a defining moment in human history. Although, unfortunately, many lost their lives, the sacrifices made by the Marchers not only secured the survival of Marxism in China, but also the resumption of China’s greatness starting with the establishment of the New China. The determination of the participants in the March is not only proof of their great resolve and mental courage, but also of the strength of their belief in their Communist ideals.*

# Economy stabilizes with 6.7% growth in Q3

The Chinese economy expanded 6.7 percent in the third quarter, showing signs of stabilization, despite facing the challenges of deleveraging.

The Q3 growth remained flat compared to the first half of the year, still within the annual growth rate target of 6.5 to 7 percent set by the Chinese government.

## Growth well on track

“General economic performance was better than expected, making progress and improving in quality,” said Sheng Laiyun, spokesperson with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Other main economic indicators also confirmed the stabilization of the world’s second largest economy.

In the first three quarters, China’s value-added industrial output increased by six percent year-on-year, the same level compared to the first half of the year, largely supported by strong performance in the high-tech and equipment manufacturing sectors.

Fixed-asset investment in the first three quarters rose by 8.2 percent year-on-year, thanks to increased investment in infrastructure and real estate.

Private investment rebounded after weak growth in the previous two quarters, rising by 2.5 percent in the first three quarters.

Retail sales grew 10.4 percent year-on-year in the first three quarters, showing robust domestic consumer demand.

As China is pressing ahead with its growth model reform from an investment-led economy to a consumption-led one, consumption contributed a stunning 71 percent of economic growth, up 13.3 percentage points compared to same time last year.

Meanwhile, the tertiary sector grew 7.6 percent year on year in added value, the fastest among all sectors.

According to Sheng, China is making substantial progress in completing the five key tasks of supply-side reform, but more efforts are needed to upgrade economic structure.

The better than expected economic data has led to a higher forecast for China’s whole-year GDP growth. Many economists said the country will be able to achieve its growth target of 6.5 to 7 percent this year.



China’s economy steadies in the third quarter, with GDP growth staying flat at 6.7 percent.

“We will now raise our 2016 real GDP growth forecast by 0.1 percentage point to 6.6 percent from 6.5 percent, as Q3 growth was stronger than we expected,” said Zhao Yang, chief China economist with Nomura International (Hong Kong) Ltd.

## Challenges ahead but risks under control

While external demands remain weak, surging bank lending has become one of the main factors supporting China’s economic stabilization. However, it also poses risks for debt control.

China’s red-hot real estate market has caused new loans to jump again in September, with housing loans to individuals accounting for a big share.

China’s home sales rose 43.2 percent in the first nine months compared to the same period in 2015. Medium to long-term household loans, most of which can be counted as mortgages, accounted for 60 percent of new loans last quarter, up from 47 percent in the

second quarter and 23 percent in the first.

In an effort to rein in increasing house prices, a dozen of cities have rolled out restrictive measures over the past few months, including higher mortgage down payments and greater home purchase restrictions.

These steps have caused concerns over whether China can manage to balance debt control and economic growth.

The property market restrictions are timely and effective and aim to stem speculative purchases while supporting real demand, with limited impact on the economy, Sheng said.

This round of property tightening will unlikely drag down the headline growth as sharply as we saw from 2010 onwards, as housing investment has remained lukewarm in the past few quarters despite soaring property prices, said Zhou Hao, senior emerging markets economist at Commerzbank, in a research note.

According to Sheng, the real estate industry contributed eight percent of total GDP growth in the first three quarters.



# Flying high: Shenzhou-11 astronaut Chen Dong



Chen Dong

Several weeks ago, Chen Dong was known only by a few. But on Oct. 17, that changed overnight as he became part of the duo of astronauts aboard the Shenzhou-11 spacecraft.

Chen, 38 years old, was born in 1978 to a working-class family in Luoyang City, central China's Henan Province. He joined the Communist Party of China in 1999 and was recruited as an astronaut in 2010. In June this year, he was selected as one of the two-person crew for the Shenzhou-11 manned space mission.

Chen's space dream was sparked by China's first astronaut Yang Liwei. When Chen was first recruited into the Chinese air force in 2003, Yang was carried aloft by the Shenzhou-5 spacecraft. Yang used to be a combat aircraft pilot as Chen was at that time, so he made up his mind to be an astronaut too, with the hope of flying into higher altitudes to find out how it would feel when beyond the atmosphere.

In 2009, Chen became one of the candidates for China's second batch of astronauts. "My generation is lucky," he said. "All the crucial moments in my life coincided with the major progress of my country."

During Chen's astronaut recruitment process, much to his surprise, it was his idol Yang who interviewed him. Chen said he would never forget the one-hour conversation with Yang. "It made me more determined to pursue my dream," he said. "What would it make me happier than being led into a team under the guidance of my idol?"

But it took another six years for Chen to finally make his debut in space. "It's like a

## Getting to Know **CHINA** through **KEYWORDS**

### The Chinese road:

The Chinese road was paved by the CPC by integrating the basic tenets of Marxism with the realities of China and the specific features of our times.

[More>>](#)

### An all-out effort to enforce strict Party discipline:

Strict discipline has always been part of a great tradition of the CPC.

[More>>](#)

combination of a marathon and a sprint, and you need both perseverance and explosive force at the same time," Chen said.

During the six years, he secluded himself from the outside world and devoted all his time to pick up aerospace knowledge. In just two years' time he had passed all the exams of 58 major courses.

"The selection of Chen was inevitable," said Huang Weifen, deputy chief designer of Astronaut Center of China. In Huang's eyes, Chen excelled in every aspect. He was not only the top scorer from the primary selection to the final; his ability to achieve mastery through a comprehensive study of the subject surprised even the instructors.

"I am the best person for the Shenzhou-11 mission," Chen said. When compared with his peers, especially Ye Guangfu, who completed a European Space Agency (ESA) underground training mission in Italy in July, Chen, while lauding his excellence, said, "Crew members are selected for being the most suitable for each mission."

Chen is now working in space with another one of his idols -- Jing Haipeng, the first Chinese astronaut to have flown on three space missions; Shenzhou-7, Shenzhou-9 and Shenzhou-11. In an interview days before the final launch of Shenzhou-11, Chen said, "I was brought into the space mission team by one of my idols, and I will be in space with another one of my idols. Is there anything luckier and happier?"

Along with Jing, Chen will work for 30 days in the Tiangong-2 space lab. While the space mission itself is daunting, the two astronauts also have to be "good pilots," "good scientists" and even "doctors," "biologists" and "farmers." They even grow vegetables for experiments.

To fulfill the scientific research tasks, Chen and Jing completed more than 3,000 hours of training. The tight schedule left him little time to spend with his five-year-old twin sons. So whenever he was available, he would stay with the kids and tell stories to them.

Astro Boy is the kids' favorite story. Chen told them that their daddy is just like the robot hero, and can fly up high in the sky. Before heading

## Major events in October

### Oct. 1: China hopes better investment conditions in Belarus

**Keywords: Li Keqiang, Belarus**

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said China hopes Belarus can offer more favorable conditions for Chinese investors, when meeting with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in Beijing.

### Oct. 8: Xi encourages more investment in Portugal

**Keywords: Xi Jinping, Portugal**

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa in Beijing, calling for more Chinese investment in Portugal.

### Oct. 19: China, Uruguay to expand cooperation

**Keywords: Li Keqiang, Uruguay**

Premier Li Keqiang met with Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez in Beijing, calling on both sides to expand trade and investment cooperation.

### Oct. 20: Xi, Duterte agree on full improvement of ties

**Keywords: Xi Jinping, S Duterte, Philippines**

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Philippine counterpart Rodrigo Duterte agreed that the two countries will properly handle differences and achieve full improvement and greater progress in bilateral ties.

### Oct. 21: China lays out plan for agricultural modernization by 2020

**Keywords: agriculture, five-year plan**

China aims to achieve "marked progress" in agricultural modernization by 2020, according to a five-year plan released by the State Council.

### Oct. 25: 634 fugitives abroad seized in 'Fox Hunt' campaign

**Keywords: corruption, Fox Hunt**

Thanks to China's "Fox Hunt 2016" campaign, police have 634 fugitives in custody, including 16 listed in an Interpol red notice.

out for the 33-day space mission, Chen said to his twin sons, "Dad is going out for a while. When you look up at the sky and see a shining star, I am probably there, so say hi to me."