

Xi calls for building a strong army

China's military should take solid steps toward a strong army as socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, said Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Xi made the remarks when meeting senior military officers in Beijing Thursday.

Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), urged the army to remain true to its original aspiration and keep its mission firmly in mind.

He asked the army to learn and implement the spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress, following the road of building a strong army with Chinese characteristics and promoting the modernization of national defense and the army.

"We should strive to fully transform the people's armed forces into a world-class military by the mid-21st century," Xi said.

Xi said that during the past five years, the CMC has endeavored to build an army that follows the command of the CPC, is capable of winning battles and has a fine style of work.

It has been upholding the Party's absolute leadership over the armed forces, innovating military strategy, governing the army by law and promoting civil-military integration.

Xi praised the 19th CPC National Congress a success, saying that by the year 2020, mechanization will be basically achieved, and the modernization of the national defense and armed forces should be basically completed by 2035.

To study and implement the spirit of the congress is the primary task for the party, the country and the army at present and in the years to come, said Xi.

He urged military officers and soldiers to learn from the report of the congress as well as the Party's Constitution so as to better guide their work.

The President asked the members of the CMC, newly chosen at the first plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, to be keenly aware of the trust bestowed by the Party and people and the expectations of all servicemen and women and spare no effort in their work.

Senior officers, as the backbone of the campaign to build a strong army, should be loyal and obedient to the Party, be good and smart at combat and endeavor to reform, Xi said.

They should be efficient in commanding their forces, strict in discipline and set an example by performing their duty with spirit and diligence, he said.

The armed forces should improve political education and combat training and push forwards all projects of the 13th five-year plan of military development, he said.

Military reform projects should not be delayed and the armed forces should be placed under strict discipline. The armed forces are also urged to plan future work according to the guidelines of the 19th CPC National Congress.

Bullet train research gets on track



Two Fuxing bullet trains are seen at the Tianjin Railway Station in Tianjin, north China, Aug. 21, 2017. [Photo/Xinhua]

China Railway Corp, the national rail operator, launched research on a new bullet train on Wednesday in Shanghai.

The new model, which belongs to the Fuxing bullet train family, will be developed mainly based on China's railway standards and technologies. It will travel at the speed of 250 kilometers per hour.

According to the company's blueprint, a series of new bullet train models in the Fuxing family will be developed to adapt to various environments, reducing manufacture and operation costs and improving energy conservation.

Compared with the in-service Harmony bullet trains, the new models use less energy and feature less noise, as well as a longer service life.

Companies including CSR Qingdao Sifang Co Ltd and CRRC Changchun Railway Vehicles Co Ltd have submitted technology designs for the new model.

The Fuxing bullet train, literally translated as “rejuvenation”, is a bullet train model China developed on its own and put into operation in September.

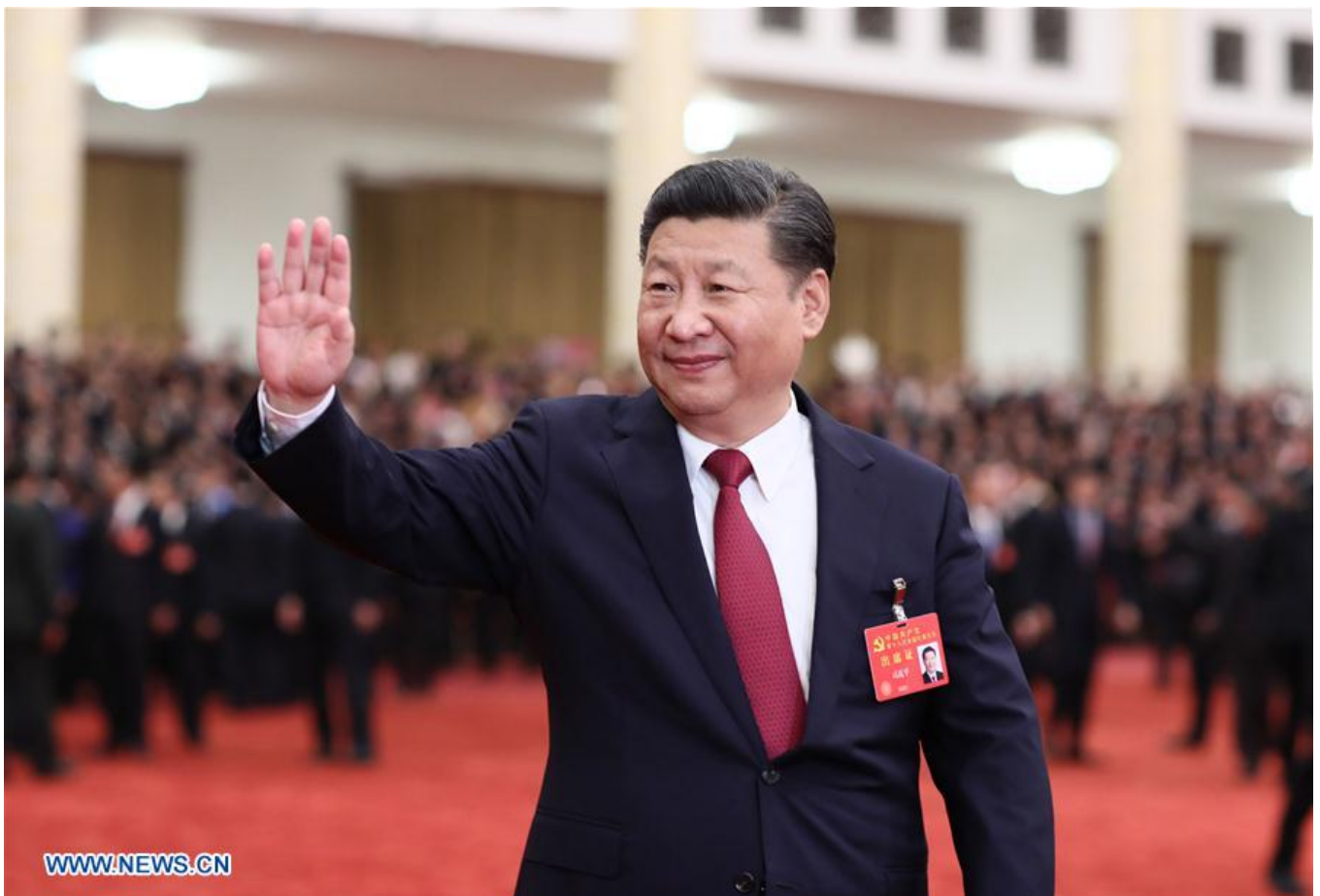
The current Fuxing bullet train runs between Beijing and Shanghai at the speed of 350 km per hour, making it world’s fastest train service.

According to China Railway Corp, the Fuxing train carried 460,000 passengers on the Beijing-Shanghai line in its first full month of operations at 350 km per hour.

China has the world’s largest high-speed rail network, with 22,000 km in operation. About one-third of the country’s high-speed railways were designed to run at a speed of 350 km per hour.

[Xi meets congress delegates](#)

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Wednesday met with more than 2,700 delegates, specially invited delegates and non-voting participants of the 19th CPC National Congress.



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, who is also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, meets with delegates, specially invited delegates and non-voting participants of the 19th CPC National Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 25, 2017. (Xinhua/Lan Hongguang)

Xi is also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Xi was joined by Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng, all newly-elected members of the Standing Committee of the 19th CPC Central Committee Political Bureau, as well as other senior officials including Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhengsheng and Zhang Gaoli.

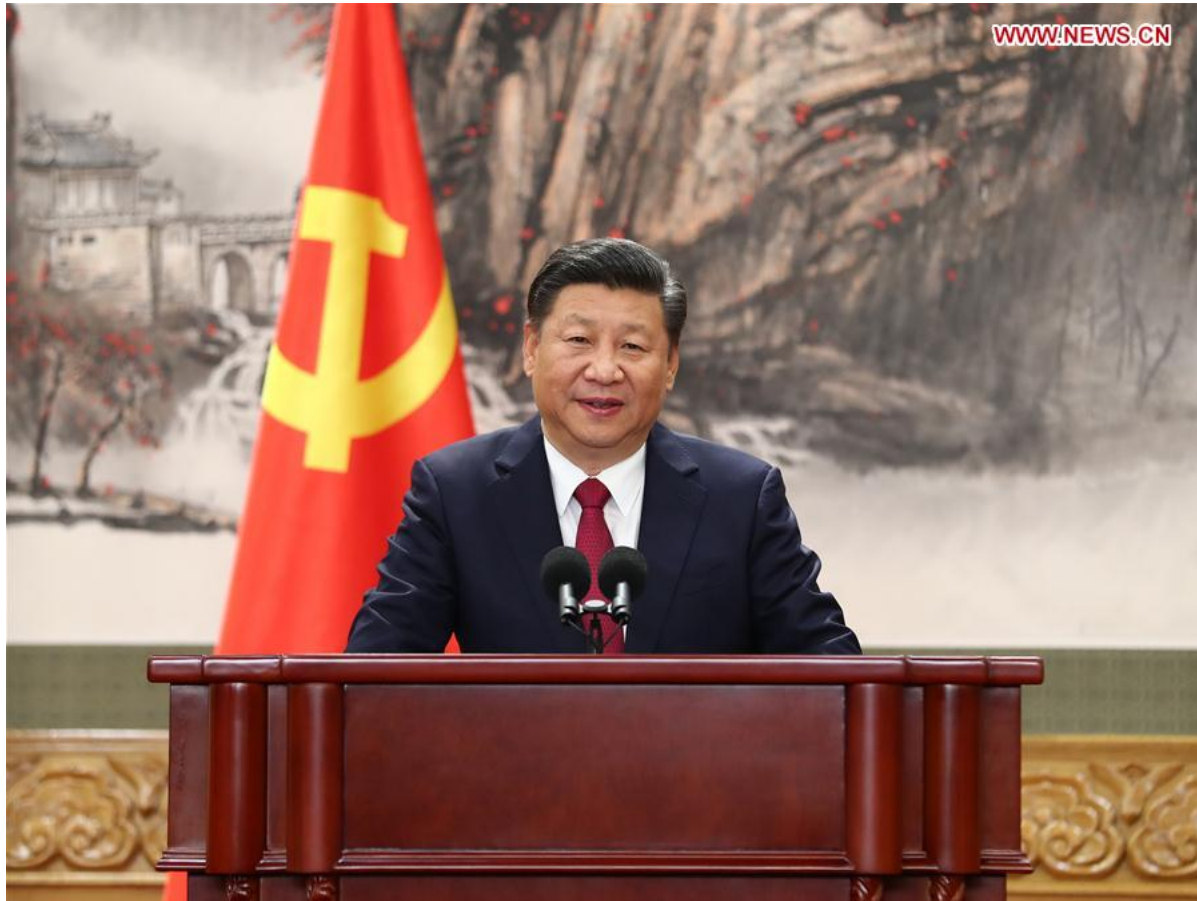
Xi was also joined by former Party and state leaders including Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao, Li Peng, Zhu Rongji, Li Ruihuan, Wu Bangguo, Wen Jiabao, Jia Qinglin, Song Ping, Li Lanqing, Zeng Qinghong, Wu Guanzheng, Li Changchun, He Guoqiang, Liu Yunshan and Wang Qishan.

Xi was greeted by warm applause and posed for group photos with them at the Great Hall of the People.

The 19th CPC National Congress was held from Oct. 18 to 24 in Beijing.

[Xi begins second term with ambitious promises for 'new era'](#)

A dark suit, red tie and familiar air of confidence. Xi Jinping's first public appearance in his second term as helmsman of the world's largest political party brought back memories from five years ago when he first took over the leadership of the Party.



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), speaks when meeting the press at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 25, 2017. Xi Jinping and the other newly-elected members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 19th CPC Central Committee Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng met the press on Wednesday. (Xinhua/Xie Huanchi)

His ambitious roadmap and grand vision for the future, however, suggests a “new era” has dawned.

Addressing journalists shortly after the first plenary session of the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee elected the Political Bureau and its Standing Committee Wednesday morning, Xi described the next five years as a period of “important junctures and signposts.”

“In this new context, we must get a new look and, more importantly, make new accomplishments,” said Xi who was elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee for his second term.

He said the world’s second-largest economy would continue to deepen reform and open itself wider to the world in the next five years.

It will strive for sustainable economic growth, prosperity for all, while working with other nations to “build a global community with a shared future” to make “new and greater contributions to the noble cause of peace and development for all humanity.”

“The CPC, meanwhile, will become a mighty and nationwide force driving

China's development and progress, and rid itself of any virus that erodes the Party's fabric," he said.

"We should never entertain the idea of taking a breather or halting our steps," Xi told 1.3 billion Chinese in the televised address.

That sense of mission and resolve echoed Xi's words in November 2012.

Five years ago when Xi strode into the Great Hall of the People as the Party's top leader, he had inherited a slowing economy, widening wealth gap and widespread corruption.

To counter these problems, Xi promised a long list of "supply-side structural reform," including defusing the debt bomb and phasing out obsolete industry.

He has also launched the most thorough anti-corruption campaign in Chinese history, giving sharper teeth to the Party's discipline agency, and worked to upgrade the Party's governance of the country.

Xi's unparalleled determination and resolve paid off. Between 2013 and 2016, China's GDP expanded by an average annual rate of 7.2 percent, compared to 4 percent growth in developing economies, and just 2.5 percent for the world.

The number of people living in poverty dropped to 43.35 million at the end of 2016, from nearly 100 million at the end of 2012.

Overwhelming momentum has been gained in the fight against corruption, sweeping reform launched across the military, and China-led projects – such as Belt and Road Initiative – reflected in UN documents.

These "historical changes" have led many to ask the same question. What might China achieve next with Xi at the helm?

The next five years will be a critical time for the CPC, which boasts more than 89 million members, to realize the vision of China's development that Xi has set out.

China has set 2020 as the target year to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects – or Xiaokang – just one year before the CPC celebrates its 100th anniversary.

But Xi's impact on China's future may run much further than this.



Xi Jinping(C), general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and the other newly-elected members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 19th CPC Central Committee Li Keqiang (3rd R), Li Zhanshu (3rd L), Wang Yang (2nd R), Wang Huning (2nd L), Zhao Leji (1st R) and Han Zheng, meet the press at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 25, 2017. (Xinhua/Li Tao)

Last week, Xi declared that Chinese socialism had entered a “new era” and spelled out a two-stage development plan for the country to become a “great modern socialist country” by the middle of the century.

China will build on the foundation created by the “moderately prosperous society” with another 15 years of hard work, to ensure that socialist modernization is “basically realized by 2035.”

By the mid-21st century, China will become “a global leader in terms of composite national strength and international influence,” Xi told more than 2,300 applauding delegates.

This means China has set a higher goal for about 30 years from now, and its modernization drive is picking up speed.

It also means for the first time in human history, over 1 billion people will be lifted into modernity at one time.

“With decades of hard work, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era,” Xi told reporters Wednesday.

“The Chinese people should certainly take pride in the unprecedented progress the nation has made over the past several decades, which has raised living standards in China and in other countries as well,” said Robert Daly, director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States at the

Woodrow Wilson Center.

“China’s rise fully justifies the announcement of a ‘new era,’ both for China and for the world,” he said.

Students tracked by facial recognition

Facial recognition is becoming increasingly common in China, where it has been installed at ATM machines and KFC restaurants. Now the technology has arrived in university classrooms to track student attendance.

Shen Hao, a professor with Communication University of China, is using facial recognition to keep track of more than 300 students.

Before every class, Shen activates a new attendance system on his tablet computer. Students stand in front of the screen to have their photos taken and matched with those in the school’s database.

The system is based on facial recognition technology from Chinese Internet giant Baidu’s open AI platform.

Currently, the platform has offered more than 80 different technological services to the public, helping developers like Shen develop their own applications.

“The traditional way of tracking attendance is through a roll call. The new system saves time and reduces the workload of teachers,” said Shen.

Students have joked that facial recognition is harsh as it doesn’t allow for skipping classes. “But they support the technology to enter colleges,” said Cui Yuqin, a student majoring in data journalism with the university.

China’s Forward-looking Industry Institute said the facial recognition market in China surpassed 1 billion yuan (US\$150 million) in 2016 and is expected to hit 5.1 billion yuan by 2021.

Beijing’s Temple of Heaven has used the technology in toilets to deter toilet paper theft. In east China’s Jinan, traffic police installed facial scanners at intersections to catch and shame jaywalkers, and a Beijing university uses the technology to guard its dormitories.