

## CPC to amend party constitution

The Communist Party of China (CPC) is expected to amend its constitution at the upcoming national congress.

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee deliberated a draft amendment to the constitution at a meeting which was presided over by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, on Monday.

Amending the constitution at the 19th CPC National Congress on the basis of the new situation and tasks would promote the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics and Party building, said a statement issued after the meeting.

It said the amendments should include the key theories and strategic thoughts presented by a work report to be delivered at the 19th CPC National Congress.

The amended constitution should fully represent the latest sinicization of Marxism, the new governance concepts, thoughts and strategies of the CPC Central Committee since the 18th CPC National Congress, as well as the fresh experiences in adhering to and strengthening Party leadership, and in strict Party governance, according to the statement.

It also noted that the amendment should make the CPC more vigorous, stronger and enable it to keep a close connection with the people.

The draft amendment will be submitted to the seventh plenary meeting of the 18th CPC Central Committee, which will be held on Oct. 11.

The CPC constitution was last amended in 2012.

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## Xi's book of anecdotes sells nearly 1.5 million copies

A book of anecdotes as told by Chinese President Xi Jinping has sold nearly 1.5 million copies since it was first published this June.

The book, published by the People's Publishing House, includes over 100 anecdotes taken from hundreds of Xi's speeches and articles, as selected by the People's Daily, the flagship newspaper of the Communist Party of China, and its interpretations of the anecdotes.

"These stories come from history, cultural classics, real life and work," said Kang Zhen, professor of Beijing Normal University. "They demonstrate China's cultural soft power while also offering practical guidance."

The book is not only popular in China, but has also attracted wide attention from overseas media and foreign publishing houses, according to the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television.

Currently, English, Japanese, Russian and Vietnamese versions have been authorized.

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## Shanghai house in road torn down after 14-year battle

A three-story house that had been standing alone in the middle of an arterial road in Shanghai's suburban Songjiang district was torn down in the early morning on Monday after a 14-year dispute.



Images of North Huting Road in Shanghai before and after the three-story house was demolished. [Cao Lei/For China Daily]

Old residential houses surrounding the building were torn down several years ago to widen North Huting Road to four lanes.

The owners of the house—known as a nailhouse—, which describes a building whose owners hold out against developers—didn't reach an agreement for compensation with the relocation authority. So the four lanes, two in each

direction, had to be reduced to two lanes to go around the structure.

Zhang Xinguo, the son-in-law of 89-year-old Xu Jun, who owned the house, said the family paid a big price in their everyday lives for standing their ground.

"It's noisy around the clock and particularly late at night when trucks come and go. My mother-in-law died of a heart attack three years ago," said Xu, who lived in the house with his wife, father-in-law, son's family of three and a married daughter.

Despite the noise, dust and safety risks, there was also tremendous psychological pressure, Xu said, adding that the family moved to a rented apartment nearby on Friday before going to relocation homes offered by the government.

"I didn't take pride in being the one to live in the middle of the road," he said. "There have been three traffic accidents because drivers who were not familiar with the road were not able to make a sudden turn to avoid the building."

Xu said the family didn't want to inconvenience the public but remained in the house since 2003 because they didn't agree with the amount of compensation they were offered.

"In the 1950s when the houses were built, my father-in-law held two certificates to show that the family owned two pieces of land for farmers to build residences on. But the relocation authority said one of them had expired," Xu said.

In the end, family members thought they would not be able to get as much compensation as they had wished, so they agreed to be relocated on Aug 21.

Lu Hui, head of the relocation office of the Jiuliting subdistrict, said representatives talked to the family face to face and by phone dozens of times to try to persuade them to consider the safety and convenience of passing vehicles and pedestrians.

The family was awarded four apartments with a total area of around 400 square meters as compensation. The location of the apartments was not revealed.

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## [September 18 remembered as war's start](#)

A bell rang and a siren went off on Monday at the September 18 Incident History Museum in Shenyang, Liaoning province, to remember the outbreak of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression 86 years ago.

Cui Junguo, who recently retired after serving at the museum for more than

two decades, knows virtually every detail of the incident.

Behind the museum is an expressway linking Harbin with Dalian. More than eight decades ago, it was part of the South Manchuria Railway, where the incident occurred.

On Sept 18, 1931, members of the Japanese Kwantung Army stationed in northeast China blew up a section of the railway near Liutiaohu and falsely accused the Chinese military of doing it.

Using the incident as a pretext, the Japanese bombarded Shenyang and launched its invasion of Northeast China. By January 1932, all three provinces in the region were occupied by Japanese troops.

"It's painful when I hear the siren pierce the sky," said Cui, 60. "It's like you suddenly travel back in time."

The bell was rung 14 times, representing the 14 years during which the Chinese people fought the invaders. The period has been referred to as the darkest days of modern China. More than 80 years have passed, but the memory remains.

"No one in Shenyang gets married on Sept 18," Cui said.

People around China hold events every year to mark major incidents in the Japanese invasion, including the Lugouqiao (Marco Polo Bridge) Incident and the Nanjing Massacre.

"The way you treat history defines your future path," said Wang Jianxue, vice-chairman of the Society for the Study of Modern and Contemporary Chinese Historical Materials.

In late August, the documentary film *Twenty Two*, featuring the stories of 22 so-called comfort women – sex slaves for Japanese troops – became an unexpected hit. It is the first Chinese documentary to surpass 100 million yuan at the box office.

Another documentary, *The Truth of Harbin Unit 731*, was released by Japanese public broadcaster NHK. It revealed crimes committed by Unit 731, a covert biological and chemical warfare research and development unit of the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II. The film triggered heated discussions among Japanese audiences.

"The history seems far away, but it is always with us. Only by remembering it can we ensure the horrors are never repeated," said Su Zhiliang, a professor at Shanghai Normal University.

Cui's daughter became a guide at the museum five years ago.

"It is sort of an inheritance," Cui said. "Telling that part of history is meaningful, and I believe she can do a good job."

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## China launches campaign to protect IPRs of foreign companies

The Chinese government has begun a campaign to protect the intellectual property rights (IPR) of foreign companies.

The campaign will focus on malicious trademark registration and imitation of foreign brands, the Ministry of Commerce said Monday, citing a joint action plan by 12 government departments.

From September to December, the campaign will also target infringement of online IPRs, patent rights and plant variety rights, as well as industrial espionage, according to the plan.

China has promised to improve IPR protection for foreign companies with campaigns against violations and stepping up judicial and administrative protection, according to a guideline on ensuring foreign investment growth released last month by the State Council.

"China has attached great importance to IPR protection and seen visible results," deputy minister of commerce Wang Shouwen told a press conference last month.

China's IPR spending to overseas owners rose to 24 billion U.S. dollars in 2016 from 1.94 billion dollars in 2001, an annualized increase of about 18 percent. In the first half of this year, the amount rose 23 percent year on year to 14.3 billion dollars.