China to improve entry-exit services to attract professionals

China will adjust its entry-exit policies to grant easier entry and residence application in some of its local economic zones, said the country's Ministry of Public Security.

The updated policies will apply to free trade zones in south China's Guangdong Province and southeast China's Fujian Province, as well as economic zones in northeast China's Jilin Province, eastern Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Fujian Provinces.

The revised policies will ensure fast-track permanent residence application procedures for foreigners with official recommendations, support for foreign students' start-ups, accelerated visas and residency application channels for overseas Chinese, among other conveniences.

In 2016, the ministry put in place a series of policies for foreigners working in free trade zones in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces. Seven of them were implemented in more economic zones across the country earlier this year.

<u>Police robots target highway traffic</u> <u>violations in Beijing</u>

On Monday, Beijing traffic police tested a highway patrol robot for handling traffic violations such as illegal parking and driving in the emergency lane, local authorities said.

The device was tested on the city's Airport Expressway. The luggage-sized robot, weighing around 20 kg, operated on the highway barrier at a speed of 5 km per hour. A fully charged battery can power the robot for between five and eight hours, according to a spokesman with the science and technology branch of the Beijing traffic police.

The robotic cop can capture images and videos of illegal parking and driving in the highway emergency lane, then send the evidence back to the police, the spokesman said.

In addition to handling highway traffic violations, the robot can assist traffic police with other routine work.

Car accidents always cause traffic congestion, but they can't stop the robot from arriving at the site as soon as possible and sending back pictures to

help its human counterparts handle the case.

It can also send a voice alert to vehicles in the event of highway congestion, car accidents, road maintenance and bad weather.

Beijing traffic police will use these robots on more highways in the city to strengthen crackdowns on traffic violations and ensure road safety.

<u>Significant milestone achieved on</u> <u>Shanghai-Nantong rail bridge</u>



A ceremony was held to mark a significant milestone in the construction of the Shanghai-Nantong Bridge in the city of Nantong, east China's Jiangsu Province, on Oct. 22. [Photo/Chinanews.com]

A ceremony was held to mark a significant milestone in the construction of the Shanghai-Nantong Bridge in the city of Nantong, east China's Jiangsu Province, on Oct. 22, reports chinanews.com.

Crews have finished building the first arch which will support the massive bridge over the Yangtze River.

The double-decker bridge will eventually run just over 11-kilometers above the Yangtze River.

It will support six lanes of vehicle traffic running in both directions on the top deck.

The lower deck will allow train traffic to run in both directions, providing a key link between Shanghai and the city of Nantong.

Construction on the Shanghai-Nantong Bridge began in March, 2014.

Officials anticipate the bridge will eventually be completed by mid-2022.

Electric buses run on Beijing street

A first batch of 10 electric buses started running on the street of Beijing on Sunday.

The electric bus is 18 meters long, painted with a "China red" theme. It has a large capacity with a lower floor and a wide aisle. The buses are installed with a PM 2.5 filter and a security system, according to Beijing Public Transport.

The electric bus uses a high-power charging pile, which takes only 15 minutes to fully charge the bus. The bus can run 130 kilometers on a single charge.

By the end of this year, at least 4,500 electric buses will be on the capital's streets, according to the Beijing Public Transport.

The number of pure electric vehicles in Beijing has reached 151,500.

<u>Temple requires reservations to visit</u> <u>ancient ginkgo tree</u>

A 1,400-year-old ginkgo tree in an ancient temple in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, has become such a hot tourist attraction that visitors must make online reservations before visiting, Beijing Youth Daily reported.

The Guanyin Zen Temple, built in 628 during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), is 30 kilometers from downtown Xi'an. It is said that Emperor Taizong Li Shimin personally planted the tree.

Staff said the temple used to attract fewer travelers, as Xi'an is home to numerous other historical and cultural relics, but it suddenly gained fame in 2016 because of photos of the tree's magical autumn foliage.

Many domestic and international media outlets published stories and photos of the tree while its leaves formed a perfect golden carpet at the temple. As it gained more attention, visitors flooded in to see the tree for themselves. A record high of 70,000 people a day visited during the peak season, and some had to queue for three to four hours to get in.

As the tree's leaves are now turning yellow, the temple has introduced a cap of 7,200 visitors a day, from Oct. 28 to Dec. 10. The temple opens at 8 in the morning and closes at 5.

Visitors can make reservations online through WeChat, a popular mobile app by Tencent.

A staff member said that elderly visitors may be allowed in, but generally other visitors had to make reservations in advance.