



Premiere Era

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How Spring Festival is being redefined?

For most Chinese, the weekend's Lantern Festival signaled the end of this year's Spring Festival and the return to real life and work in the New Year. Traditionally, the holidays are celebrated at home with family. Fireworks and the giving of red packets make it the happiest time of year for children. However, modern lifestyles are rewriting how many Chinese celebrates this most important festival.



Digital red packets delight old and young

Hongbao - red envelopes containing lucky money - are traditionally given to children by older relatives. But digital red packets sent through apps has become a way of life, entertaining both grown-ups and children.

A global 'Golden Week'

More than 6 million overseas trips were taken during the holiday and 100 billion yuan (\$14.5 billion) was spent. What's more astounding than the record number of trips is the unexpectedly popular destination in the southernmost part of the world: the Antarctic.



Online shopping: 24/7 Opening

For e-commerce companies, Spring Festival has traditionally been a slack season. Almost every online retail giant launched the "Non-Closing for Spring Festival" campaign this year, which has received an enthusiastic response from consumers.

**China
launches
first train to
London!**



A new freight train service between the Chinese city of Yiwu in Zhejiang province and London opened on Sunday, aimed at cutting the time and cost of moving freight between the two countries.

This new freight train service is being welcomed by industry insiders because the cost of rail freight is half the cost of airfreight and half the time of sea freight. Although the service mainly serves China-UK trade, it will also make stops in Germany and France to serve China-Europe trade.



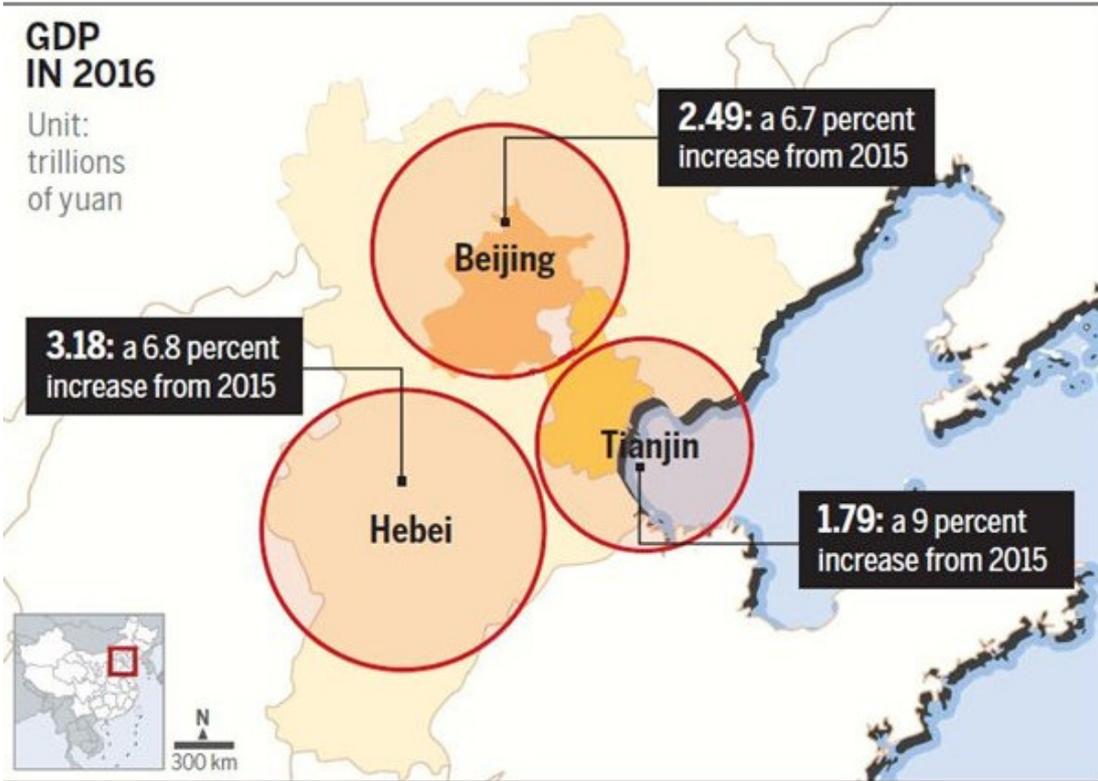
**Foreign trade rises
19.6% in January**

China's exports to markets along the Belt and Road Initiative, including Russia, Malaysia and India, surged in January, indicating that their ongoing industrialization and

infrastructure development continued to stimulate economic exchanges with China, experts said on Wednesday. Exports to the three countries grew 39.1 percent, 22.8 percent and 18.1 percent, respectively, on a year-on-year basis, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Region becomes a hub for growth

Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei province had a combined gross domestic product of 7.46 trillion yuan (\$1.09 trillion) in 2016, accounting for about 10 percent of China's 74.41 trillion yuan GDP.



Integrated Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei creating global city cluster

The integrated and synergetic development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei province—a national strategy preparing the way for the country's next growth engine — is expected to create a global city cluster and fuel the growth of the whole Bohai Bay area in the coming decades, according to China's top economic planner.

"The significance of the Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei synergetic development and integration strategy lies in the fact that it is not only enhancing the growth efficiency and effectiveness of related cities, but also driving the capital region into becoming a world-class city cluster and further boosting the entire Bohai Bay area of North China," Xu Shaoshi, head of the National Development and Reform Commission, said in an interview with China Daily on Sunday.



Premiere (Shanghai) Logistics Ltd.

Address: Room 603/604, No. 28 Xuan Hua Road,

Chang Ning District, Shanghai, China.

Tel: +86 21 32506989

Fax: + 86 21 32505989

E-mail: marketing@sha.premiere-logistics.com

Website: www.premiere-logistics.com