

NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

22 - 28 June 2026



China Launches New Communication Technology Test Satellite

China successfully launched a new communication technology test satellite aboard a Long March-5 rocket from the Wenchang Space Launch Site in Hainan. The satellite will conduct multi-band and high-speed communication technology validation tests after entering its preset orbit. The mission marks the 650th launch of China's Long March carrier rocket series. **(Xinhua)**

AI Breathes More Emotional Value into Time-Honored Toy Industry

AI-powered toys are emerging as a new growth engine for China's toy industry, combining companionship, education and interactive experiences. A recent industry report forecasts China's AI toy market will reach 85 billion yuan (US\$12.5 billion) by 2030. Industry experts say AI is reshaping traditional toys into smart companions for users of all ages while creating new market opportunities. **(Xinhua)**

Huawei Pioneers Fully Integrated AI Smartphone Operating System

Huawei released the developer beta of HarmonyOS 7, an AI-native operating system featuring spatial computing and an upgraded AI assistant. The company said more than 66 million devices now run HarmonyOS, making it China's second-largest smartphone operating system. Huawei also open-sourced its open Pangu 2.0 large language model. **(China Daily)**

SCO Helps Boost Digital Progress

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) digital forum in Karamay (11-12 June) highlighted progress in infrastructure and industry collaboration. A new digital toolkit was released to support member countries, while the "Tree of SCO" training program has trained over 1,000 participants, strengthening regional digital capacity building and cooperation. **(China Daily)**

World Cup Predictions Become New Battleground for AI

Chinese AI models including Qwen, DeepSeek, Kimi and MiniMax have launched World Cup prediction features, using the tournament to showcase data analysis capabilities. Industry experts said sports forecasting highlights both the potential and limitations of large language models, while reflecting growing competition to deliver practical AI applications. **(China Daily)**