



### 20 years on

Events held to mourn victims of tragic Indian Ocean tsunami

[WORLD, PAGE 12](#)

### Manned space missions for 2024 completed

[CHINA, PAGE 7](#)

### Embracing stardom

Encounters in Macao illuminate actress' journey to newfound horizons [LIFE, PAGE 17](#)



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# CHINA

# SHENZHOU COMPLETES 2024 MISSIONS

Year of successful launches another step on way to becoming strong spacefaring nation

By CHINA DAILY

On Nov 16, the successful launch of the Tianzhou 8 cargo spacecraft marked the end of China's 2024 manned space launches.

On April 25, a Long March 2F carrier rocket ignited and ascended from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Northwest China, successfully placing the Shenzhou XVIII manned spaceship carrying three astronauts into its designated orbit.

After reaching the Tiangong space station, Shenzhou XVIII crew members Ye Guangfu, Li Cong and Li Guangsu carried out routine maintenance and reinforcement tasks, and conducted over 90 experiments, including studies on "space fish farming," exploration of organic molecule origins, research on plant stem cell functions, and the exposure characteristics of lubricating materials under space conditions.

On Oct 30, a Long March 2F carrier rocket carrying the Shenzhou XIX manned spacecraft launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. The main tasks of the Shenzhou XIX manned spacecraft included conducting crew rotation with the Shenzhou XVIII crew, a 6-month stay at the space station, carrying out space science and application experiments, performing astronaut extravehicular activities and cargo transfers, installing and retrieving space station debris protection devices, engaging in public education and outreach activities, as well as spaceborne experiments to enhance space station operational efficiency and maximize comprehensive application benefits.

Two manned Shenzhou spacecraft were successfully launched this year, marking a solid step toward the goal of building a strong spacefaring nation. Behind the scenes are the silent dedication and collective efforts of countless aerospace personnel, supported by the comprehensive, systematic and in-depth training and preparation of astronauts.

**Right:** Shenzhou XVIII astronauts Ye Guangfu (left) and Li Guangsu undertake extravehicular training on Jan 15.



Shenzhou XVIII crew members Ye Guangfu (front) and Li Cong train in a simulated cabin on Dec 7, last year. PHOTOS BY XU BU / FOR CHINA DAILY



**From left:** The Shenzhou XIX crew members undertake training for operating core module on Aug 15. Shenzhou XIX astronaut Song Lingdong trains for extravehicular activities.



Shenzhou XVIII crew members pollinate plants at a laboratory on Feb 5.



**From left:** Shenzhou XIX astronaut Song Lingdong trains in a centrifuge on May 9. Shenzhou XVIII astronaut Li Cong prepares for underwater training on March 22.

