



**URBAN MAJORITY.** A Chinese woman poses for photos with monkey sculptures outside a shopping mall in Beijing. China is increasingly becoming a nation of town and city dwellers, with more than 55 percent now living in urban areas, according to the government. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

### More than 55 percent of Chinese now live in urban areas

BEIJING (AP) — China is increasingly becoming a nation of town and city dwellers, with more than 55 percent now living in urban areas, according to the government.

China's transformation to a predominantly urban society is key to realizing the government's goals of boosting consumption and raising living standards amid slowing economic growth.

China's vast countryside has lagged far behind urban areas in income growth, public services, and job creation, prompting millions of Chinese to move to the cities. With public services in major urban areas such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou now strained almost to the limit, China is attempting to steer urban growth toward smaller cities with more space to expand.

According to the website of the National Bureau of Statistics, 55.88 percent of the population was urban in 2015, standing at 767.5 million out of a total estimated population of 1.373 billion. As recently as 2010, just 49.68 percent of the population lived in cities and towns, the bureau said.

While the overall population has grown by a relatively small 40 million in the past five years, the proportion age 59 or under has fallen slightly while the percentage of those 60 or over has grown by 2.89 percent to make up 16.15 percent of the population. That is slightly smaller than the 16.52 percent of the population age 14 and under.

That aging trend is set to continue as China's population heads toward its estimated peak of 1.45 billion sometime around 2050, by which time the United Nations estimates the world's population will reach 9.6 billion.

The bureau's data also showed that China already has 34 million more men than women, a gap that's expected to widen as a result of the traditional preference for male children and the aborting of female fetuses.

## Nepal marks anniversary of devastating earthquake

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Government officials, diplomats, and ordinary people gathered at the remains of a fallen iconic tower in the Nepalese capital to mark the anniversary of a devastating earthquake that killed thousands and injured many more in the Himalayan nation.

Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli laid a wreath at the ruins of the Dharahara tower in the heart of Kathmandu. The structure collapsed on April 25 last year, killing 132 people.

"I lost a friend who was working at the top of the tower on that day. I hope he and others are in a good place," said Ram Shrestha. He said he had just stepped out a few minutes before the earthquake to go shopping and survived.

Madhav Newpane, who runs a shop near the tower, witnessed the collapse. He returned on the anniversary with a bouquet of flowers and candles.

"There were many people killed here on that day. I will never be able to forget that day," said Newpane.

Buddhist monks also gathered at the Kathmandu Durbar Square to pray for nearly 9,000 people killed in the earthquake and aftershocks.

Nepal is under criticism for the slow reconstruction of the nearly 1 million houses despite foreign donors already pledging \$4.1 billion in aid.

Millions of people remain homeless.



**EARTHQUAKE ANNIVERSARY.** Nepal's prime minister, Khadga Prasad Oli, top photo, second from right, stands after laying a wreath at the ruins of the Dharahara tower in the heart of Kathmandu, Nepal, on April 24, 2016. Government officials, diplomats, and ordinary people gathered at the remains of the fallen iconic tower in the Nepalese capital to mark the anniversary of the devastating earthquake that killed thousands and injured many more in the Himalayan nation. In the bottom photo, Nepalese people release balloons in memory of those who died in the April 25, 2015 earthquake that killed nearly 9,000 people. (AP Photo/Niranjan Shrestha)

A small group of about 20 protesters dressed in black took to the streets, chanting slogans criticizing the slow pace of rebuilding. Police quickly removed their banner but allowed them to shout anti-government statements.

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			8			3	
		1	3		2		6
2				4			
	6		7			2	
1		4				5	8
	9			5		6	
		4					2
7			5	3	1		
	4		9				

Difficulty level: Hard #83132

**Instructions:** Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to last issue's puzzle

Puzzle #25663 (Medium)

All solutions available at <www.sudoku.com>.

2	4	3	9	8	5	7	1	6
8	9	6	1	2	7	4	3	5
5	7	1	6	4	3	2	8	9
3	1	2	8	6	4	5	9	7
7	8	4	2	5	9	1	6	3
6	5	9	7	3	1	8	4	2
9	3	8	4	7	2	6	5	1
1	6	7	5	9	8	3	2	4
4	2	5	3	1	6	9	7	8

## TED WHEELER: Progressive Policies that Work

Ted Wheeler is an experienced public servant committed to finding real solutions to the challenges facing our neighborhoods. He will work with our communities to find solutions that work for our growing city.

As our mayor, he'll work to:

- Bring good-paying jobs to our community
- Create more affordable housing
- Address the homelessness crisis
- Fix our streets and improve transit
- Build outreach and inclusion in City decisions



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