



Shanghai Museum welcomed a special group of visitors earlier this week. More than 40 students from six universities in Shanghai and 30 expats visited the exhibition “The Making of China: the Civilizations of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties” and learned about the origins of Chinese civilization. (Read more on P3) — Zhou Anna

## Shanghai doling out 1b yuan worth of digital vouchers to boost consumption

**Huang Yixuan**

SHANGHAI is doling out digital consumption vouchers worth 1 billion yuan (US\$147.5 million) over the coming months to boost consumption and support economic recovery.

The vouchers will be distributed in three batches between late August and late November,

which will cover several major festivals and holidays such as the Mid-Autumn Festival, the National Day holiday and the Singles Day shopping festival.

For each round, every consumer in Shanghai who is over 18 years old can sign up on three major online payment platforms, namely Alipay, WeChat Pay and UnionPay, to

draw straws for the vouchers.

These e-vouchers can be used at online and offline merchants participating in the campaign, covering retail, catering and tourism industries, and can overlap with other discounts and coupons offered by merchants and e-commerce platforms.

## Shanghai's first mRNA vaccine approved for clinical trial

**Cai Wenjun**

A Shanghai-developed COVID-19 mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccine has been approved by the Center for Drug Evaluation under the National Medical Products Administration, and volunteer recruitment for the phase-I clinical trial has wrapped up.

It is Shanghai's first mRNA vaccine approved for clinical trial. The phase-I trial for the vaccine produced by Stemirna Therapeutics is double blind, meaning one group will receive the vaccine and another will receive a placebo. Volunteers are divided into adult group (between 18 and 59) and elderly group (people aged 60 and older).

Phase-I clinical trials are carried out among healthy volunteers to evaluate the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of new drugs.

According to Shen Haifa, Stemirna's chief technology officer, its mRNA vaccine can produce COVID-19 antibodies and activate a person's

own immunity to defend against infection and prevent serious health problems for those who are infected.

For elderly people, researchers will study their immunogenicity — the ability of a vaccine to provoke an immune response in the human body — and immunity durability, which means how long the antibody exists, after receiving the vaccination.

One-hundred-twenty people are taking part in the phase-I clinical trial, who will receive two shots with a 21-day interval. The first shots have already been administered.

The vaccine involves a unique mutation of the Omicron and Delta variants of COVID-19, which can offer effective protection against the current dominant variants, according to the company.

The company said it has built modern vaccine plants in the Pudong New Area, which can produce around 400 million vaccine doses annually.