

CHONGQING UNDER SUN ZHENGCAI

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Executive Summary

1. Chongqing is the latest and largest municipality directly under the administration of the central government, and the only one in China's vast central and western regions.
2. After the downfall of Bo Xilai, party secretary of Chongqing between 2007 and 2012, the central leadership sent Zhang Dejiang, then vice premier, as the interim leader to stabilise the scandal-ridden Chongqing.
3. Sun Zhengcai, a new Politburo member at the 18th Party Congress, succeeded Zhang Dejiang in Chongqing in November 2011.
4. To strengthen the party leadership in Chongqing, the central leadership put in place a party committee consisting of one Politburo member, two Central Committee members and two Central Committee alternate members. Such a composition overshadows that of any other provincial leadership.
5. Sun, who was minister of agriculture and then party secretary of Jilin prior to his stint at Chongqing, has demonstrated a down-to-earth working style, in sharp contrast to the high-profile Bo Xilai.
6. Policy-wise, Sun continues but refines what Chongqing has been doing, with possible breakthroughs in some areas.
7. His development agenda and strategy mainly consists of three parts. The first is known as the strategy of "Five Major Functional Areas". It extends the previous strategy of "One Circle, Two Rings" by re-zoning Chongqing into five functional areas, each with distinct development strategies and priorities.
8. The second is the ongoing pilot on rural-urban integrated development. Chongqing has vast rural areas and a large rural-urban development gap. Under Sun, Chongqing hopes to make major breakthroughs in poverty reduction, balanced development, equalisation of basic public services, *hukou* reform, land reform and so on.

9. The third is to make Chongqing a globally oriented city with growing external links. Extensive transport networks have come into shape, including a non-stop container service from Chongqing to Shanghai, the Chongqing-Xinjiang-Europe international railway, and the development of air networks and high-speed train services.
10. Sun, a hopeful for the Politburo Standing Committee at the 19th Party Congress, has one term of five years to demonstrate his leadership capability in Chongqing.