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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **PLA soldiers practicing amphibious surfing drills on Chinese beaches in the Taiwan Strait:** Last week in Taipei, Taiwan, a video was shared showing People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers performing an amphibious landing while riding on jet-power surfboards. Recently, the PLA has escalated its preparations for an amphibious assault on Taiwan by coming up with amphibious tanks, hovercraft, landing platform docks, and civilian roll-on roll-off (RoRo) ferries. More recently, seven Chinese civilian car ferries were blotched practicing amphibious landing drills on Chinese beaches in the Taiwan Strait. In the video, soldiers in black wetsuits can be seen carrying large, waterproof rucksacks as they lie prone on the surfboards. The tiny craft is only large enough to hold one man and is self-propelled. One rider can be seen wearing goggles, and the face of another can be seen in another shot as he peers over the board. Netizens noted that these amphibious surfers have short range and exposure to enemy fire.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- On 5th October, the United Nations Security Council discussed the Korean Peninsula Situation at the UN Headquarters in New York, United States. The Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) urged the related parties to remain composed and exercise restraint from making any moves that may escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula. China noted the Democratic People's Republic Korea's (DPRK) missile launch activities and nuclear submarine cooperation carried out by the USA and other

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countries in the region. Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative claimed to deploy strategic assets in the region, and said "These actions are intensifying conflicts, creating tension, and raising the risk of confrontation. The settlement of the peninsula issue is inseparable from a sound political and security environment. It is hoped that the relevant countries will put regional peace and security first and create a favorable environment for peace and stability on the peninsula." China demands the US take concrete actions and display sincerity and address the DPRK's legitimate concerns to develop conditions for the earliest resumption of dialogue.

- The United Nations Human Rights Council held a Western-led debate about the alleged human rights abuse by China against Uyghurs and other Muslims in Xinjiang territory of the country. This motion was voted down in favour of Beijing as it seeks to avoid further scrutiny. It was turned down when a Chinese envoy stated it was taking advantage of the UN Human Rights body to interfere in China's internal affairs and using Xinjiang-related issues to contain China. The motion is the first time that the rights record of a powerful permanent member of the Security Council, China, has been on the council's agenda. This motion has caused divisions and the states were under "enormous pressure" to back China. The defeat - 19 against, 17 for, 11 abstentions - is only the second time in the history of the Security Council that a motion has been rejected and is seen by observers as a setback to both accountability efforts, the West's moral authority on human rights and

credibility of the United Nations itself. Chen Xu, head of the Chinese Mission to the UN defended the motion saying, "The Xinjiang-related issues are by no means human rights issues. They are about counter-terrorism, deradicalization, and anti-separatism." He stated that country-specific motions are developed to serve the political goals of certain Western countries, in the view to disregard their serious human rights violation, such acts ultimately prevent the multilateral institutions to serve their aim and purpose in the international community.

- Farmers in Lancang County, southwest China's Yunnan Province have developed an innovative way of cultivating rice paddy, which experts believe is significant in promoting food security. Farmers realize that the new cultivation method has resulted in a bumper harvest. This method has proven to be a lot easier, as some procedures such as seedling raising and transplanting would not be required. The mechanized system has made farming more convenient and successful, as all steps from sowing, and fertilization to harvesting - are performed on non-irrigated farmland. Another advantage is that this method is conducive to the development of water-efficient agriculture.
  - Chinese researcher Hao Jihua at the University of Science and Technology of China discovers the subglacial ocean of Enceladus, one of the most likely extra-terrestrial planets in our solar system, may be high in dissolved phosphates. They are capable of supporting the origin and reproduction of potential microorganisms. Enceladus is Saturn's second moon, It has
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a surface of thick ice shell also called an “ice moon”. Hao Jinhua and his team have constructed an innovative seawater interaction model that stimulates the seawater chemical environment of the excavation. The researcher referred to Enceladus’s environment as “soda water”, its oceans have existed for more than 100 million years so it is inferred that it is rich in phosphorous.

- Long March 11, a sea-launched carrier rocket was released in the Yellow Sea using the “one arrow and two stars” method to successfully integrate the Weili Space Beidou Low Orbit Navigation Enhancement System S5. This satellite is primarily used to monitor the service performance of the global satellite navigation system in real-time. Compared to the previous sea launches, this process reduces time at sea and merges and optimizes the testing process this shortens the time required to perform the mission.

tougher to put it back on the agenda. This event raised political dilemmas for many underdeveloped countries, they along with many developing countries will see it as an adjustment away from the Western predominance in the UN human rights system. The timing of this motion could be cited as a “serious miscalculation” that coincides with a Western-led motion for action on Russia.

## INDIA WATCH

- India abstained from the UNHRC resolution on the rights situation in China’s Xinjiang. Traditionally, India has voted against or abstained from such country-specific resolutions at the UNHRC. The Indian envoy didn’t explain why it decided to abstain from the draft resolution seeking a debate on the human rights situation in the Xinjiang region. China’s envoy had raised a warning before the vote that the motion would create a precedent for examining other countries’ human rights records. The defeat of such a limited motion, which got stopped short of seeking an investigation, would make it
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