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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- The Eastern Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted a series of joint military exercises under the theme of "United Sharp Swords" that would span a duration of three days from 8 April to 10 April. This event had marked China's anger despite repeated warnings against Taiwanese high-level officials in undertaking unofficial visits to the United States. The Eastern Command had conducted a three dimensional trial of the PLA forces' capability in seizing dominance to the Taiwan Strait Sea, the Taiwan airspace breach and had also breached Taiwan's critical information domain on Saturday. Reports from the ground highlight that the PLA forces have successfully tested their long-range rocket artillery units and simulated several rounds of precision bombardment on multiple selected Taiwanese Strait targets. On the sea, the Command had mobilised destroyers, frigates and missile boats among many other armed vessels to selected combat zones that surround the Taiwan Straits. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Taiwan had earlier stated on Saturday of its proposed dealing with China in a calm, rational and serious approach. The Ministry had released a statement on Sunday that condemned the exercise as a deliberate move to create tensions across the Taiwan Straits.
- The 2023 Qingdao Digital Culture Application Development Expo has begun in Qingdao, Shandong province. The objective is to present cutting-edge digital cultural apps, experiences, and consumption patterns. This year, the expo took place from April 6 to 9, and offered a variety of displays and events on a variety of subjects, including national cultural big data, cultural sector digitalization, integration of science, technology, culture, and tourism, digital film and television, and online audio-visual. Zhao Hui, who is a well-known cultural specialist and the former director of the China Culture and Tourism Big Data Research Center, was the

speaker. A keynote address on the effects of digital technology on culture and society was also presented.

- In Hubei Province, the maiden Chu culture festival was inaugurated in the city of Jingzhou on 8 April. The objective is to highlight the cultural legacy of the ancient state of Chu. The state of Chu was founded in the pre-Qin era. In a history of more than 800 years, for more than 400 of those years, Jingzhou served as the capital. Jingzhou is thus seen as the birthplace of Chu culture. The Chu kingdom flourished in literature and the arts, as well as in crafts like bronze smelting and silk weaving. During this festival, three Chu cultural travel routes were introduced. A Jingzhou official called Wu Jin said that Jingzhou has been trying to foster exchanges in, the protection of, and innovation of Chu culture in recent years. A significant priority is placed on the transmission and development of Chu culture in Jingzhou.
- Research shows that more than 16,000 Chinese online literary works have made their way onto the global market. According to a paper on China's online literature that was presented at a conference in Shanghai, these works have drawn readers from more than 150 million different nations and areas. Half of such works have translated versions online. In 2018, China published more than 3 million online literary works. The key platforms in the online literature sector generated total revenues of more than 23 billion yuan. Another report released in Hong Kong shows that, about 2,900 Chinese online

literary works had been translated and published on Webnovel as of 2022.

- China continued to object to the nuclear submarine cooperation of the United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), and Australia. The Chinese Embassy in UK said that this cooperation raises the possibility of nuclear proliferation and jeopardises the system of international non-proliferation. The Embassy said it would jeopardise regional peace, stability, and prosperity, exacerbate the resurgence of the Cold War mentality, trigger arms race, and further provoke regional security and military confrontation. The press release from the embassy stated, "The AUKUS cooperation is designed to serve the US geopolitical agenda to introduce group politics and Cold War confrontation into the Asia-Pacific with military deterrence. It is aimed at creating a NATO-replica in the Asia-Pacific, which runs counter to peace and stability in the region". It has also underlined about the transfer of naval nuclear propulsion reactors and weapons-grade highly enriched uranium to a non-nuclear weapon state which would lead to the collapse of the non-proliferation framework.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **China International Consumer Goods Expo to be held in Haikou, Hainan trends on Chinese social media: #探访消博会展馆** trends on Weibo as the China International Consumer Goods Expo is to be held in Haikou, the capital of Hainan province during 10-15 April, 2023. This expo

is expected to demonstrate the opening up of China and the opportunities it provides for the world market. The Consumer Expo is the largest consumer products exhibition and is the first national-level exhibition on consumer products in China. The Qingzhou Radio and Television stated on Weibo that “more than 3,300 brands from more than 60 countries” are expected to participate in the Expo. It will also see the participation of a number of brands as the number of buyers has constantly increased in China. It is observed that the number of participants has increased compared to previous such sessions. Xinhua News Agency posted that the reporter who visited the arena found all the preparatory work is ready (各项筹备工作准备就绪). The cross-border supply and related activities are also facilitated.

compelled to respond to China's aggression in Taiwan strait which may have negative impact on strained India-China relations. Moreover, India may also indirectly help retaliatory forces of the US military by providing assistance due to India's proximity. However, India needs to be cautious about any response to Chinese aggression in Taiwan as India's response can prompt China's escalation of tension on Line of Actual Control (LAC). Thus, India needs to do a balancing act of helping Taiwan's allies without attracting strong reactions from China at the borders.

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INDIA WATCH

- The ongoing military exercises in China have several implications for India in terms of economy and security. Taiwan is the world's largest manufacturer of semiconductors, which will be affected by frequent military exercises that has created constant fear of warlike situation around Taiwan. Moreover, in case of disruption in supply of semiconductors from Taiwan, India may have to rely on China as semiconductors which can increase India's import dependency on China even more. In fact, in light of COVID-19 pandemic, India's imports of monolithic integrated circuits from China has gone up from US\$ 2 billion to US\$ 4 billion within one year. Further, as a member of Quad grouping, India will be
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