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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- For the first time, an unmanned dual-rotor chopper was used for transporting material for the annual maintenance of 800-kilowatt ultra-high voltage towers in China's Sichuan province. The domestically made helicopter, has a loading capacity of 200 kilograms and can travel for four and a half hours. The gridline spans 2090 kilometers running from east to west. It starts in Sichuan province and ends in Jiangsu province, forming the most important power transmission line of China's electricity infrastructure. It took 36 trips to complete the transportation of 300 pieces of material with an aggregate weight of 3.75 tons.
- Antiquities worth USD 3.5 million that were looted from China were returned by the New York City authorities to the Chinese mainland. The criminal investigation on Shelby White, an 85-year-old art curator follows the link that the artifact was stolen in 1990 and smuggled out of China. The antiquities were from a seventh-century funerary platform that was carved out using a saw. Out of all antiquities found from White, 89 of them were hailed from 10 different countries and have an aggregate value of USD 69 million, all seized by the authorities during the crackdown.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) secretary-general, Zhang Ming, announced that SCO member countries are carving out a roadmap of using the national currencies of the member nations in mutual settlement followed by a discussion of setting up an SCO Development Bank. Recently, many nations within West Asia have started applying for membership in the SCO as the idea of national currency use in trade is popularising. Iran joined the SCO in 2021, while Saudi Arabia recently joined the SCO in March 2023. Zhang claimed that since the region is facing common issues that are detrimental to each nation's security, the SCO has become a great platform for cooperation that can help in solving the

concerns of the member nations. The remarks were made during a press briefing in Beijing.

- The immigration authorities of China announced complete resuming of customs clearance procedure. The transportation between Hong Kong, Macau to China, that was getting bottlenecked for last few months will quickly take its pace. The post COVID 19 thrill will be witnessed by increased traffic of travelers in the form of students, businesspeople, working professionals. Also, the past measures of health checkup, QR code scanning, body temperature gauging, reporting of past travel histories will also be stopped.
- As a part of defense cooperation, China delivered Type 054A/P frigates to Pakistan that will be commissioned to incumbent frigates of the same class. The joint delivery and commissioning ceremony was commemorated at Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in Shanghai. The two frigates named PNS Tippu Sultan and PNS Shahjahan will be commissioned in the Pakistan Navy, announced by the Pakistan Navy in a press release. The Type 054A/P is a multi-role frigate, equipped with CM-302 surface-to-surface missiles and LY-80 surface-to-air missiles. It also includes an Advanced anti-Submarine Warfare suite and Combat Management System.
- The Large Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) has been cleared by regulatory authorities and will enter into operation. This infrastructure mammoth will be a scientific and technological masterpiece as the facility focuses on cosmic ray observation. The project has been funded

by Chinese Academy of Sciences and the provincial government of Sichuan. The construction of this project began on 2017 and ended in 2021. After two years of solicitation and survey, the observatory has been opened finally.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Weibo netizens demand innovations from mobile phone manufacturers:** From better screens to fast-charging batteries, Weibo users have been discussing multiple mobile phone manufacturers with the pros and cons of different models and types. One of the mobile phones made by Xiaomi was applauded for launching wireless charging before it became popular as “air charging.” On the other hand, some netizens expect Huawei to create better models with longer durability, and longer battery life. Just like these, many other mobile phone manufacturers such as Vivo, Oppo, and Rongmi were being discussed under the hashtag #手机行业还能怎么卷# (How else can the mobile phone industry roll). Other than build quality and functionalities, the aspect of Random Access Memory (RAM), storage capacity, and pricing were also other attributes that were widely discussed in the debate over smartphones.

INDIA WATCH

- In 2017, both India and Pakistan were admitted as members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). For India, joining the SCO provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen its ties with the Central Asian countries, with which it has

had historical connections. India's membership aligns with its policy of fostering peace and stability in the region through an extended neighborhood approach. Within the SCO, India actively participates in the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), a crucial platform in which it engages extensively. As a victim of terrorism, India places significant emphasis on collaboration within the RATS council. It participates in joint investigation groups aimed at combating global drug trafficking networks, particularly since India is geographically located between the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent. Additionally, India regularly organizes seminars within the RATS framework to address shared concerns. China also faces similar challenges in Central Asia as many separatist groups in Xinjiang are said to have links in Central Asia. Thus, India and China exhibit a general consensus within the RATS Council, presenting an avenue for resolving common issues through multilateral cooperation. By leveraging this platform, both countries can work together to tackle shared challenges and promote regional stability.

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