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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## NEWS IN CHINA

- Ye Cong, deputy director of the China Ship Scientific Research Centre stated that China will prioritise research and development of deep-sea mining techniques and equipment. As there are a lot of polymetallic nodules on ocean floors that contain rich concentrations of nickel, copper, manganese, and cobalt which are essential to the renewable energy industry. He also stated that a significant portion of the metals mentioned above, which are widely used in Chinese factories, are being imported, whereas Mining them from the seabed will help China to reduce its reliance on foreign suppliers. Internationally, some Western nations have key technologies and the ability to manufacture major hardware required for deep-sea mining, and at least one company has launched experimental commercial mining operations that are expected to recover thousands of metric tonnes of ores per day. China, on the other hand, lags behind in terms of knowledge, technology, and hardware, emphasising the importance of government attention and investment. According to Hu Zhen, a senior researcher at the Wuxi centre and a member of the 14th CPPCC National Committee, ocean exploration and development have become important topics of science and technology, and are closely related to safeguarding a nation's marine interests and international status. He urged the government to expedite its review and approval procedures for major deep-sea hardware research and development, as well as the implementation of the deep-sea station projects.
- China plans to make significant investments in nuclear power this year in order to concentrate on nuclear power and new energy fields. According to its development and business

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plans, China Nuclear Power agency declared that it would invest a total of about 8 billion yuan this year. According to China Nuclear Power, will primarily be used for projects involving nuclear power, nuclear multi-purpose, new energy, individual fixed asset investment projects, capital injection, and acquisition.

- According to industry data, China remained the world's largest logistics market for the seventh consecutive year in 2022. According to the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing, the country's logistics sector generated 12.7 trillion yuan (about 1.82 trillion US dollars) in revenue last year. According to the data, social logistics will be worth 347.6 trillion yuan in 2022. According to the federation, China's top 50 logistics companies generated approximately 2 trillion yuan in revenue last year, and a slew of internationally competitive enterprises have begun to emerge in the market. To create a modern logistics system, China is working on digitalizing its logistics infrastructure, including railways and ports, and promote resource integration in the sector.
- The Office of the National Greening Committee published the "12 China Land Greening Status Communiqué," which revealed that the country currently has 45 million hectares of forest. The communiqué claims that China's scientific greening is still progressing. A total of 383.321 million hectares of afforestation and 4.184 million hectares of grass planting and improvement will be finished nationwide in 2022. The quality of greening is gradually improving as it is simultaneously promoted in urban and

rural areas. 26 cities received the designation of "National Forest City," bringing the total number of such cities in the nation to 218. The construction of national garden cities has taken place in more than 100 cities.

- The first meeting of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference was held via video conference. Qian Keming, a member of the National Committee and a member of the Standing Committee of the Democratic League Central Committee, gave a speech emphasizing the need to increase residents' income and consumption capacity to promote consumption in China. He suggested improving the income distribution system, optimising market supply, meeting consumer demand, improving the commercial circulation system, and expanding e-commerce in rural areas. He also encouraged the development of new consumption formats and models and the construction of a unified national market to promote high-quality and diversified life service industries.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **'Money takes precedence over love':** A viral video on mainland social media has revealed that young Chinese people flock to worship the God of Fortune while defying the God of Marriage. Praying to gods at shrines has become one of the most popular ways for Chinese youth to escape the stresses of everyday life, a recent viral video of a long line outside a temple revealed that one god stands above
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all others. On March 5, a young woman captured video of large numbers of individuals lining up to enter the God of Fortune's hall at the Baotong Temple in central China's Hubei province. In contrast, she claimed that few people visited the nearby hall of the God of Marriage, despite the temple's reputation for bringing people good luck in marriage. The woman surnamed Zhang found the scene amusing and stated, "Making money is more important for us young people." The trend coincides with a recent decline in China's marriage rate, which some young people welcome. Many people are putting off marriage due to the exorbitant costs of marriage and raising a family, as well as the increasing complexity of getting divorced.

- **Hong Kong primary student finds it difficult to handle school stress:** A [video](#) of a primary school student in Hong Kong lamenting to her mother about academic pressure as they ride the city's subway system together has sparked a heated debate on social media. The girl shares some insightful and moving observations with her mother on a crowded Mass Transit Railway (MTR) train about the negative effects of excessive academic pressure on Hong Kong schoolchildren. The faces of the speakers are hidden in the five-minute video clip. "I'm not feeling well anymore, and it's a struggle to go to school every day," she says at the start of the video. During the conversation, the girl says "I'm really struggling" at least ten times. "You don't give me space every day, and now you're getting in the way of my time," she says to her mother. You're not letting me watch anything right now. You're no longer

interested in me. You can tell me to leave right now." "I'll give you space after a couple of days," her mother responds. The girl concludes by saying "You adults are all the same and haven't changed," and "Surviving in this world is a struggle!". The video has created quite a stir on Hong Kong's social media.

## INDIA WATCH

- India has long been interested in the search for minerals in the deep sea, like other countries, such as China. The Indian government recently approved a "Deep Ocean Mission" to explore the ocean for resources and develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources, which gave it a significant boost. But the move towards deep seabed mining has also rekindled worries about potential harm to marine biodiversity that many environmental organisations have been raising. The mission will emphasize on creating ocean climate change advisory services to aid in the development of offshore energy, coastal tourism, the exploration and preservation of deep-sea biodiversity, and an advanced marine station for ocean biology. According to the government, about 95% of the deep ocean is still unexplored, making the mission essential to ensuring India's mineral and energy security. The ocean serves as a "major economic factor in supporting blue economy & trade. In addition to it, if the International Seabed Authority (ISA) develops a commercial aspect, it would be convenient for various countries including India to aid in the exploration of deep-sea minerals and energy, which is a priority area for the blue economy.