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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- The Taiwanese military remains on high alert as the People's Liberation Army (PLA) continues combat training of its air and naval forces near Taiwan Strait. Over 35 PLA warplanes have been detected operating around the island, with 16 crossing the median line in the Taiwan Strait or entering Taiwan's southwest Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). In addition, eight PLA warships have been operating near Taiwan. These activities by the PLA follow the recent three-day 'Joint Sword' exercise. Beijing has justified these war games as necessary actions to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Taiwan is closely monitoring Beijing's plan to impose a no-fly zone north of Taiwan, which, even with a reduced duration, may still overlap with busy flight paths and impact normal flight operations. Taiwan has also implemented no-fly zones in the past during its own missile test-firing activities.
- China's first west to east long-distance pure hydrogen pipeline project was recently launched by Sinopec. The 400-km long pipeline will start at Ulanqab city in Inner Mongolia and ends at Beijing's Yanshan Petrochemicals. The first phase of this pipeline has a capacity to carry 100,000 tons green hydrogen per year, with full capacity estimated at 500,000 tons. It is a part of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei hydrogen energy corridor as it aims to replace existing fossil hydrogen production and bridge gaps between demand and supply of green hydrogen. Currently, long-tube trailers are being used to transport hydrogen at long distances which has a high cost and low efficiency. Globally, more than 5000 km of hydrogen pipelines have been built where China still lags behind.
- According to projections released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday, China's GDP will grow by 5.2 per cent in 2023 and 4.5 per cent in 2024. This is a significant increase from 3 per cent growth achieved in 2022. Given that China's economy is witnessing a swift reopening and a robust

rebound, this would be a significant contribution to global growth. In 2023, the global economy is projected to grow by 2.8 per cent, which is 0.1 per cent less than the prediction from January. The advanced economies' growth rate will drop to 1.3 per cent in 2023 before increasing to 1.4 per cent in 2024. In 2023, India and China are anticipated to contribute 50 per cent of the world's growth.

- Xi Jinping, the General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, President of the State, and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, recently conducted an inspection of the Navy of the Southern Theater Command. During his visit, he emphasized the importance of implementing the spirit of the 20th National Congress, strengthening the military based on the party's thinking, advancing military training and preparations, accelerating transformation and construction, and comprehensively improving the modernization level of the army. Xi Jinping also praised the progress made in the construction of the naval forces in the southern theater since the 18th National Congress of the CPC. Additionally, he emphasized the need to strengthen the party's leadership and party building in the military, promote education on socialism with Chinese characteristics, and focus on talent development and anti-corruption efforts. Xi Jinping urged all levels to address outstanding issues, inspire officers and soldiers, and strive to create a new era in the construction of the navy in the southern theater.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Young Children's actions gain popularity in Mainland China:** Guangnian, a five-year-old boy from Henan province in central China, decided to grow his hair for three years so he could sell hair and donate the money to help children with cancer. He recalled how his classmates called him a girl on his first day of kindergarten and his mother tried to convince him to cut his hair, but he refused. His story has melted the hearts of many internet users in China. In another such incident, a group of five students from Jiangsu province in eastern China have been praised for their generosity after sharing their snacks with a disabled homeless man. A viral video taken by their teacher, surnamed Zhou, showed the children surrounding the man and taking snacks out of their pockets and bags to donate. The story has resonated with many internet users in China, with one commenting that the pupils have golden hearts and another saying it is a heartwarming scene.

INDIA WATCH

- India's approach to hydrogen transportation differs from China's strategy to build new infrastructure. While China is investing in building a 400-km long pure hydrogen transportation pipeline, India's strategy revolves around repurposing existing natural gas pipelines, taking advantage of its low-cost renewable energy generation to prioritize domestic production of green hydrogen. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's
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Independence Day speech in August 2021 signaled the launch of the National Hydrogen Mission, highlighting India's intent to become a global hub for green hydrogen. With its distinct advantage in renewable energy generation, India has the potential to be one of the most competitive producers of green hydrogen in the world. This approach not only promotes green growth and green jobs but also sets an example for the world towards clean energy transition. Additionally, green hydrogen aligns with India's goal of achieving a low-carbon economy and reducing dependence on imports for key commodities like natural gas and petroleum. Repurposing of existing pipelines also enables blending of hydrogen within the existing natural gas networks, accelerating demand creation for green hydrogen in India.

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