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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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NEWS IN CHINA

- The central authorities in China released the first [policy statement](#) of 2023. The "No. 1 central document" for 2023 outlines nine tasks for promoting rural vitalization. The document, released each year, highlights the importance of agriculture and rural areas. The document emphasised grain and agriculture production stability, infrastructure improvement, agricultural science and technology assistance, poverty reduction, and the promotion of high-quality rural enterprises. Furthermore, the document also advocates for increased farmer income, the creation of a harmonious countryside, improved rural governance, and the reinforcement of policy guarantees.
- China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has recognized gene pool of silkworm resources at Southwest University as a national [gene pool](#). The gene pool, established in the 1930s, is the largest in the world and contains about 1,150 samples of living silkworm genetic resources, including those from native and foreign species. It has grown into a thorough gene library of silkworm genetic resources that aids China's scientific research and silkworm business. The study team from Southwest University has finished the first super pan-genome map of silkworms in the world, paving the way for "molecular design breeding" to produce new types that are in line with fresh breeding goals.
- [Wu Yibing](#) made history by being the first mainland Chinese player to win an ATP Tour title at the Dallas Open. Wu won a three-set match against John Isner, preserving four championship points and finishing with 41 winners. Wu's triumph is a career highlight, propelling him to a career-high

world No. 58 on the ATP rankings. He became the first Chinese mainland player in the Open Era to reach an ATP Tour final and defeat world No. 8 and top seed Taylor Fritz of the United States in the semifinals for his maiden Top 10 victory.

- Former Shanghai People's Procuratorate Chief Procurator [Zhang Bencai](#) has been accused of taking bribes. According to the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP), Zhang allegedly exploited his positions of authority to provide favours to others in exchange for substantial quantities of cash and priceless presents.
- Portugal became the first European Union country to purchase made-in-China [metro trains](#). The Porto Metro in Portugal received the first of 18 metro trains made by the Chinese manufacturer CRRC Tangshan. The first train is scheduled to start running in May, and the entire fleet will be delivered by the end of September. The delivery of the trains is seen as a sign of the strategic partnership between China and Portugal. The trains have a top speed of 80 km/h, a capacity of 244 passengers, including 64 seats, and are built using digital technology to comply with European requirements.
- Researchers from China have found a new species of [Begonia](#) in Yunnan Province, China. 'Begonia longlingensis' was discovered in the Xiaoheshan Provincial Nature Reserve in Longling county. After an examination by international Begonia genus experts, the species was confirmed as new. Begonia longlingensis is a perennial plant with yellow stamens and light pink petals that blooms from August

to September. It is related to Begonia wenshanensis, however, the flower and fruit shapes are different.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Survey on why rural elderly unwilling are to go to cities sparks discussion online:** The China Population and Development Research Center has released a survey report titled "Factors Influencing the Health and Family Happiness of the [Elderly in China](#)," which claims that the number of people over the age of 80 in China will quadruple by 2050. This report has piqued the interest of the netizens on Weibo and started a discussion on whether it is wise for the rural elderly to move to cities or not. Some users cited the difficulties the elders from villages will face in the cities, while others presented the costly life of the cities, which makes it difficult for the children of the elders in cities to bear their expenses if they move to the cities. Even though the filial piety index of the children of elders is high in China, other factors, such as the cost of living in cities and their lifestyles, prevent elders from moving to cities with their children.

INDIA WATCH

- China has emerged as a major global player and supplier of mass transit systems, most recently being the supply of metro trains to Portugal, which became the first European Union country to import from China. This growing dominance of China in the mass transit industry, which is critical
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infrastructure, raises serious concerns. According to statistics released by the China Association of Metros, in 2019, China supplied more than 8000 rail transit vehicles to more than 60 countries globally and also made a significant contribution to the modernization of mass transit systems in various other countries, including India. In contrast, India has been slower in investing in mass transit systems, but in recent years it has also ramped up its investment in the mass transit industry, though it is still a fraction of China's initiative. India, through its "Make in India" initiative, is currently focusing primarily on becoming self-reliant in the transport system and then expanding its global outreach. Indigenously built trains like the Vande-Bharat train are examples of India's growing involvement. According to Indian Ministry of Commerce data, India's railway equipment and parts exports were worth \$1.2 billion in 2019-20, a significant increase over the years but still far behind China's exports. The disparities in the economies of the two nations and their investments in research and development are mostly to blame for the gap between them; however, India could close this gap by implementing measures such as promoting private sector involvement in the mass transit industry through Production Linked Incentives (PLI), which will help India's product to be more competitive in international markets; collaborating with other countries in joint ventures to develop sustainable technology for mass transit systems; focusing more on technologies of the future like green technology to reduce the environmental impact of mass transit systems; strengthening the domestic supply chain

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