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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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NEWS IN CHINA

- Chinese coast guard ships used military grade lasers in the disputed [South China Sea](#). The Philippines registered a protest against China when its boat was fired upon to stop the resupply of Filipino troops. This incident took place after a recent state visit to China by Philippine's President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr. Philippines registered a protest against the Chinese coast guard after the Chinese Foreign Minister termed Philippine vessel movement as "an intrusion without permission." The United States Department also termed Chinese action as "provocative and unsafe and stated that an armed attack on the Philippines would involve the US-Philippines mutual defence treaty.
- The Chinese State Council Information Office held a press conference of "The Authoritative Department Talks Beginning". This press conference saw key tasks of [rural revitalisation](#). The central document of 2023 is the No. 1 document issued by the central government which functions as the guide for work of "agriculture, rural areas and farmers". The document puts emphasis on the construction of a strong agricultural country with supply guarantee, robust scientific and technological equipment, good management system and industrial resilience. It also proposes to promote strong competitiveness in agriculture. This reform seeks to work on three types of lands such as rural contracted land, homesteads and collectively operated construction land.
- The Political and Legal Committee of the [Central Military Commission](#) issued the notice to carry out Military Administrative Litigation Work. The notice said that the development of military administrative work must be guided

by President Xi Jinping's "New Era of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics" and his thoughts on strengthening the army and the rule of law. This notice also puts emphasis on fighting for war and adhering to law-based supervision among other things. It focuses on improving the capability of leading organs at all levels to make decisions. The notice also requires political and legal committees of party committees at all levels to give importance to military administrative litigation to ensure the strategy of governing the military according to law.

- China Compound Eye project entered its second phase of construction. It is a large-scale distributed aperture deep space detection radar project which is being constructed on Zhongzhou Island, Yunyang County. The site covers a total area of more than 300 mou (approximately 50 acres) and will build a 25-30-meter aperture radar to detect and capture imagery of asteroids tens of millions of kilometres away from the Earth. One of its functions is to protect China from asteroid impact defence and planetary science research and is slated to be completed by 2025.
- Farmers in China who are not in the poverty bracket now have a per capita disposable income of \$2,217 in 2022. This number represents the area from which poverty has been eliminated. The said income is 7.5 per cent more than that of last year. This disposable income has also surpassed national per capita disposable income of farmers by 1.2 per cent. This information was shared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. Liu Huanxin, head of the National Rural Revitalisation

Administration said that per capita income of 14,342 yuan helped to get rid of poverty last year. These figures have recorded year on year growth of 14.3 per cent. It is also 8 per cent higher than the growth rate of per capita disposable income of farmers nationwide.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **"China counterattacks after the US cracked down on Huawei" post goes viral:** Weibo user Brother Zhong quoted actions taken by the Chinese government against the US crackdown on Huawei. His post stated that China's antitrust investigation of Qualcomm led to it facing a fine of 6 billion yuan. The orders of Boeing aircraft by Chinese carriers saw a reduction. Furthermore, China also bought less U.S. treasury bonds afterwards. The post also mentions that companies like Apple and Tesla were not hit by the government because they have provided a lot of jobs to Chinese workers. Chinese netizens reacted to this post in multiple ways - some appreciated the analysis, one user commented that more domestic brands should be supported. Another comment mentioned that even if China has reduced orders of Boeing aircraft, India has ordered 500 aircrafts to neutralise the Chinese impact. This post attracted a lot of comments from the social media users.

INDIA WATCH

- The recent laser incident between the Philippines and China has added further tension to Chinese-Philippine relations.
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India has attempted to counter China's string of pearls strategy around India by establishing its own military bases in Singapore, Seychelles and Indonesia. The South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca is important to India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) in the Indo-Pacific. In this regard, India has provided arms to China's maritime neighbour such as the Philippines and tilted the technological advantage in the Philippines' favour. In order to counter China's presence in the Indo-Pacific and ensure there are no chokeholds in its own trade, India is strengthening its relations with some of the ASEAN countries and increasing its military engagement in the area.
