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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **A Chinese video blogger went viral with an encouraging story of his great uncle:** As President Xi Jinping prepares to run for a third term at the 20th Party Congress on Sunday, he will boast of the "eradication" of extreme poverty in China by 2020, but studies and rural communities have a different perspective. In the summer of 2022, a Chinese video blogger went viral with an encouraging story of his great uncle, a carpenter who was still working well into his eighties living with an ill grandmother who has no hope to live longer. Government-sponsored employment programmes mostly target younger generations, whereas elderly residents of rural areas are left to eke out an existence on government aid without having enough money for decent medical care. A recent study that was cited by the state news agency Xinhua and released in July 2022 revealed a five-fold increase in suicide incidence among elderly living in rural areas. Elderly living in rural areas are generally vulnerable due to lack of financial security, social isolation, and poor mental health.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- On Saturday, Sun Yeli, the deputy propaganda chief of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China, stated that developing "a suitable approach" for the US and China "to get along" will be the most crucial development in international relations in the ensuing 50 years. "We've never believed in the so-called Thucydides Trap," he remarked, alluding to the belief that a clash between a rising and dominant power is unavoidable. Although the two countries have mutually beneficial trade interests, their relationship has

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- soured, especially after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August. President Xi Jinping will also include foreign affairs and Taiwan issues on the agenda before the 20th Communist Party National Congress concludes on October 22.
  - The opening of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China took place in Beijing's Great Hall of the People on the morning of August 16. President Xi Jinping spoke to Congress on behalf of the 19th Central Committee and delivered a report. It included statements like- the party must never lose its composure and determination and effectively address the particular issues the major parties face. China persistently maintains a peaceful, independent foreign policy that tries to uphold global justice and never seeks hegemony or expansion. It also included that the Chinese Communist Party inspires the people to fight for the country and defend the people's hearts.
  - China has achieved a breakthrough in research and production of high-end equipment in the industry with its homegrown 13.6-megawatt offshore wind turbine that rolled off the production line in East China's Fujian Province. The wind turbine has a diameter of 252 metres and a swept area of 50,000 square metres, equivalent to seven standard soccer fields, making it the greatest single-unit capacity in the Asia-Pacific region. It will reportedly cut annual coal use by 19,000 tonnes and carbon dioxide emissions by 48,000 tonnes. The country's installed hydropower, wind power, and solar power generation capacity; all exceeded 300 million kilowatts in 2017, as per the National Bureau of Statistics.
  - Some Chinese nationals who are still in Ukraine have registered to be evacuated, with the majority doing so through scheduled evacuations, while some are getting ready to leave on their own, citing the dire security issue in Ukraine. The official calls came as the Russia-Ukraine crisis intensified following the attack on the Crimean Bridge earlier this month, which provoked a severe response from Russia, including missile strikes in Ukrainian cities. According to the embassy's WeChat account, 161 people registered on the form the embassy sent out for organised evacuation, while another 27 people registered on the form for self-evacuation. The Chinese Embassy in Ukraine said via its WeChat account that it will provide support and aid in organising pertinent evacuation issues.
  - The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which began on Sunday, has received greetings from the relevant political parties, groups, and individuals in China's Taiwan region. The central committee of the Kuomintang claimed in a statement of congratulations delivered to the CPC Central Committee on Sunday that successful cross-Strait exchanges and cooperation had been achieved based on the 1992 Consensus and resistance to "Taiwan independence". To jointly benefit the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, preserve peace and stability across the Strait, and advance the growth of cross-Strait relations, the Kuomintang Central Committee expressed the hope that both sides should look for
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common ground while putting aside differences.

- On August 16, a Chinese military survey ship, Yuan Wang 5, arrived at the Chinese-built port of Hambantota in Sri Lanka after being delayed for several days due to opposition from India. The ship was initially given permission for a five-day replenishment stay in Hambantota starting on August 11. Sri Lanka is struggling with its worst economic crisis in decades and requires the backing of both India and China. According to a port official, Yuan Wang 5 will now berth for only three days in order to stock up on fuel, food, and other necessities. The Yuan Wang 5 is one of China's newest space tracking vessels, according to foreign security analysts, and is used to track launches of satellites, rockets, and intercontinental ballistic missiles. As per the Pentagon, the People's Liberation Army's Strategic Support Force is in charge of operating the Yuan Wang ships.

## INDIA WATCH

- India expressed its concern about the visit when the Chinese satellite-tracking ship Yuan Wang 5 entered Sri Lanka. The spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry, Wang Wenbin, stated that the Yuan Wang 5 does not interfere with the security or economic interests of any nation and that third parties should refrain from doing so. However, Tamil Nadu raised severe security concerns over increased involvement of People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China. Tamil fishermen had become dissatisfied with the free movement of Chinese people in various areas of northern Sri Lanka,

notably Mullaitheevu, Paruthitheevu, Analaitheevu, Meesalai, and Chavakkacheri. They had expressed concern that the Chinese were stealing their only source of income—the rich sea wealth. Citing sources, the alert claimed that the PLA deployed sophisticated gadgets in the garb of launching sea cucumber farming. All coastal districts in Tamil Nadu have been warned to use their intelligence and step up security around the coast.

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