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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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## NEWS IN CHINA

- On April 19, Li Zongrong, deputy head of Fengtai District in Beijing briefed about the [fire accident](#) at Changfeng Hospital. The previous day, a fire had broken out in the building of Beijing Chengfeng Hospital. According to the report, this accident has raised the death count to 29, including 26 patients and 1 family member. Upon [investigation](#), it was found that electric sparks due to renovation work had caused this hospital fire. During the course of this mishap, about 29 special working groups were assigned in the hospital to carry out the communication functions with the concerned families. Also, the health department called for 29 ambulances to participate in rescue and evacuation operations. It led to the detainment of 12 members from the Chengfeng Hospital.
- The Ministry of Transport, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of the State Council, completed its inspection of the [bridge connecting Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao](#). This bridge connects the east and west banks of Pearl River estuary, reducing the travel time from Hong Kong International Airport to Zhuhai by 3 hours 15 minutes. Similarly, it reduces the time of travel to 75 minutes from Zhuhai to Kwai Chung Container Terminal in Hong Kong. It acts as a means to build cooperation between the mainland China and the self-autonomous regions of Hong Kong and Macao. Moreover, it highly facilitates the movement of people and goods, between the areas of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Great Bay Area of Macao.
- Under the 14th Five-Year Plan, the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine along with various other ministries and departments, announced the "Implementation Plan for the promotion of [Traditional Chinese Medicine \(TCM\) Culture](#)." The plan suggests emphasising 12 major tasks to

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enhance the cultural activities and supply of the traditional Chinese medicinal products. Primarily, it focuses on advancing this culture through national education in primary and secondary schools by setting up Chinese medicine culture student associations. At the township level, the plan has recommended to build Chinese medicine cultural dissemination platform. This plan serves as an important element for soft power of China, as it aims to promote TCM at global stage Domestically, it also plans to improve awareness and literacy about TCM to about 25 per cent through brand activities of selected TCM companies.

- During Gabonese Republic President Ali-Bongo's China visit, the two sides deliberated on the various aspects and decided to elevate bilateral relations to a "comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership" status. It majorly focused on strengthening the cooperation in the sphere of climate change and environmental protection and the expansion of "Belt and Road Initiative." China, had accepted to provide with required material assistance to promote the South-South cooperation. Notably, the Gabon side has expressed its "adherence to the One-China principle" and considers Taiwan to be an "inalienable part" of China. More importantly, the bilateral talks focused on the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation, in order to heighten the Sino-African strategic partnership and agreed to implement the "Dakar Action Plan (2022-24)" that signifies cooperation in various other fields such as education, health, culture, military etc.

- Amidst the rising demand for water in spring, China's ministry of water resources has announced that irrigation has reached nearly 50 per cent of cultivable land which covers around 2800 large and medium sized irrigation areas. It declared that an aggregate water supply of 15.6 billion cubic metres has been provided to 160 million mu (26 million acres) of land. The ministry has also trained local governments to devise irrigation strategies according to local crop planting pattern and water demand and carefully distribute water based on scientific records. It has also aimed to launch over 500 new irrigation areas out of which 120 projects have already started. This year, ministry of water resources will assist increase in grain production by around 50 billion kg by implementing water conservancy projects, national and provincial water networks which will result in expansion of irrigated cultivable land.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Administrative punishment from the Hangzhou government:** The government of Hangzhou declared that it will publish the full names of the offenders for female passengers who had been molested in subways and buses. The announcement on the government website of Hangzhou trended on Weibo. This news received mixed response from the public; while few believe this act to be inappropriate, most of them recommend the government to publish the names of the accused. One user also argued that announcement of these names is not against human rights of those individuals, but it would rather
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protect human rights of common citizens by warning them against criminals. Many users welcomed this decision as it would act as a deterrent effect for criminals. Some users suggested to publish photos too along with names so as to avoid confusion of similar names.

## INDIA WATCH

- Latest engagements of China with Gabon will have potential implications over the India-Gabon relations. China's efforts to further its bilateral relation to comprehensive strategic partnership, however, has expanded the areas of cooperation between the two countries. Gabon is one of the largest oil producers located in the Sub-Saharan Africa which makes it an important partner for both India and China. With regards to India, the [India-Africa Forum](#) provides necessary framework to operationalize the strategic partnership amongst the countries. The areas of cooperation between India and Gabonese Republic includes trade, economy, maritime and personnel training. Last year, India signed two Memorandum of Understandings with Gabon on training their diplomats and establishing the Joint Consultative Machinery. India-Gabon trade currently stands at around US\$ 1.12 billion and over 50 Indian companies are engaged in Gabon's special economic zone. Moreover, India and Gabon share similar values due to its colonial past where China lags behind. However, China currently has economic might to assist Gabon in its development. Thus, in order to overcome the challenges of Beijing's influence over Gabon, India needs to extend its areas of cooperation from commercial and security to cultural and environment aspects.

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