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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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## NEWS IN CHINA

- The China Merchants Port Holdings Co. Ltd., the Sri Lanka Port Authority, and Access Engineering Group, a Sri Lanka-based company, formally signed on the [South Asia Commercial and Logistics Center Project Agreement](#). All sides jointly agreed to build South Asia's largest logistics complex at Colombo worth US\$ 392 million. The Ports, Shipping and Aviation Minister of Sri Lanka, Nimal Siripalade Silva, hailed the project, saying that it will help Colombo Port become more competitive globally and attract investments. Miao Jianmin, Chairman of China Merchants Group, said that they would look to consolidate cooperation with local companies and further contribute to Sri Lanka's development. It is a port-based warehouse logistics project to be developed with 'build-operation-transfer' model.
- A spokesperson from the National People's Congress (NPC) announced that one of the items on the agenda of an upcoming legislative meeting is the amendment of the [anti-espionage law](#), with new provisions related to cyber-espionage set to be added. The amendment will list cyberattacks by a 'spying entity or its surrogate' as an act of espionage. This development is in line with Beijing's focus on strengthening its anti-espionage framework, in the backdrop of recent espionage cases by foreign agencies potentially targeting China. According to NPC's Legislative Affairs Committee spokesperson Zang Tiewei, the amendment "improves the regulations on cyber espionage and clearly defines cyberattacks, intrusions, interference, control and destruction by foreign spies as espionage activities." The amendment also encourages counter-espionage activities, and calls for technological innovations and increased training in this regard.
- In the Kizilsu Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture of Xinjiang autonomous region, the [first wind turbine of the prefecture](#)

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- was installed this Saturday. In this project worth over 1.2 billion yuan (US\$ 175 million), a total of 38 wind turbines will be installed in the prefecture and connected to the Grid. According to project manager Qu Qiaogang, "Once the project is completed, it will add 200 megawatts to total installed capacity and the annual power generation is estimated to reach 540 million kWh. It can save 164,800 tonnes of standard coal and reduce 450,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year." Notably, all electricity in this prefecture is generated through renewable sources (60% hydropower and 40% solar energy). With this new initiative, China takes another solid step towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.
  - The 2023 edition of the China Internet Media Forum took place at Nanjing, co-hosted by the Central Cyberspace Administration of China, the People's Daily and the Jiangsu Provincial Cyberspace Administration. The theme of this year's forum was "Building an All-Media Communication System and Shaping a New Pattern of Mainstream Public Opinion." This year's forum aimed at discussing new developments in mass media, upcoming issues and challenges, and planning for the way ahead. The forum was attended by CCP members, media leaders, experts, and social media influencers. On the sidelines of the main event, numerous initiatives took place, such as nine sub-forums on select issues, the 'See You at 8' Project Conference, and a series of online themed activities under 'New Journey and Restart.' The sub-forums focused on emerging issues such as data governance, online content, use of cyberspace by new generation and so on.
  - The Ministry of Education, partnering with the provincial government of Hainan, recently issued the Interim Regulations for 'Overseas Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to Run Schools' in Hainan Free Trade Port. The objective of these regulations is to attract world-class educational institutions to Hainan, thereby providing quality education and improving the educational system. The Regulations call for foreign HEIs to set up their campuses in Hainan, for subjects like science, engineering, agriculture, and medicine. While these offshore campuses have to abide by Chinese law, they will have autonomy in terms of school governance, academic management, teacher recruitment and fees. The Regulations also deal with other matters like student exchange, credit system recognition, quality assurance system, etc.
  - Tanzania received its first batch of Chinese tourists post the COVID-19 pandemic this weekend, and they were welcomed by the Director General of the Tanzania Tourist Board, Damasi Mfugale. According to Mfugale, "The Chinese tourists' visit to Tanzania marks a significant milestone in ongoing efforts to strengthen the cultural and economic ties between the two nations." The touring party will visit several landmarks and destinations in the country over the course of 9 days, like the Arusha National Park, the Serengiti National Park, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Lake Victoria, and the city of Zanzibar. The Chinese tourists have come from different regions of the country including Beijing,
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- Shanghai, Xi'an and Chengdu. This visit is a joint initiative of the Shaanxi Continental Culture Company and Tanzania Fashion Tourism, the first Chinese tourist company in Tanzania.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Earth Day trends on Weibo:** The hashtag [#重爱地球中国在行动](#) was doing the rounds on Weibo during the weekend on the occasion of 54th Earth day on April 22. On the occasion of Earth Day, netizens were putting out posts wherein they talked about the importance of protecting the planet, and how they were doing their part in contributing towards saving Earth. The hashtag roughly translates to 'love the planet Earth, China is in action.' The second part of the hashtag indicates that China has been playing an active and leading role in the conservation of the planet. To this regard, Xinhua News Agency, posted on Weibo how China has been active in environmental conservation, and outlined some of the initiatives taken by the government, such as integrated protection and restoration of mountains, rivers, forests, etc., using Chinese wisdom and solutions. Some of the law enforcement authorities also posted videos explaining the importance of protecting environment and China's laws and punishments for violators of these laws.

## INDIA WATCH

- The South Asia Commercial and Logistics Centre will be of immense benefit to Sri Lanka, for it will enable them to become a major logistics hub in the region. It will

also attract economic investment, with a [China Merchants Group](#) spokesperson estimating around US\$ 126 million worth of total investment, along with an upfront payment of US\$ 26 million. As for China, such investments will help them gaining a foothold in the strategically important Indian Ocean Region. Moreover, Sri Lanka is still recovering from the financial crisis, and through such investments and success of such projects may provide Sri Lanka some scope for recovery. India will be wary of such initiatives, for although they cannot dissuade other countries in the neighbourhood from welcoming Chinese investments which are vital for their pressing economic and developmental needs. At the same time, India cannot afford to let the neighbourhood come under the Chinese sway. India needs to balance these initiatives by making investments, like in the form of developmental projects. India was among the first countries to come to Sri Lanka's aid during the [2022 crisis](#) in the form of around US\$ 4 billion as contingency assistance, and supplied petroleum, medicinal drugs and other essential products. India is also working with Sri Lanka to develop the Trincomalee harbour into a major port, and recently, India made the largest foreign investment in the country's ports sector, in the form of the [West Container Terminal](#) project in Colombo. It must be acknowledged, however, that the Chinese presence cannot be completely washed away, for the lesser countries of the South Asian/Indian Ocean Region have their own agency, and that they would not hesitate to welcome aid from Beijing if it suits their immediate needs and interests. However, Chinese

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investments do have the tendency of trapping recipient countries into debt by investing in unprofitable projects (for e.g., Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka), and India can make a difference in this regard by making such investments which are favourable for both sides. In conclusion, the main prerogative for India in Sri Lanka is to wean away Colombo from the Chinese sway through favourable economic investments and developmental aid.

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