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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- The [Chinese People's Liberation Army](#) (PLA) expelled a U.S. destroyer when the latter trespassed into Chinese territorial waters off the Xisha Islands in the South China Sea on Thursday according to China's state media. The PLA displayed its readiness to counter foreign provocations, including those from the U.S., which has been ramping up provocations on China's doorstep, attempting to conduct close-in reconnaissance and deny China sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Xisha and Nansha islands according to the press release by the spokesperson at the PLA Southern Theater Command.
- [China and the Philippines](#) began two days of talks to assess their relationship, the first under Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong is leading China's delegation, while Ma. Theresa Lazaro is leading the Philippine delegation. Sun stressed that his government attached "great importance" to the consultations, which are the first since President Marcos Jr. visited China in January. He said that Manila and Beijing needed to follow a consensus reached between Marcos and Chinese President Xi that called for greater cooperation in different fields. The first day of the talks focused on increasing bilateral economic cooperation, while the second day is expected to focus on territorial disputes. The Chinese side will likely raise Beijing's objection to Manila's recent decision to give the American military expanded access on a rotating basis to bases in the Philippines, amid tensions over Taiwan. The talks are taking place weeks after Manila protested a February incident when a Chinese Coast Guard ship allegedly pointed a military-grade laser towards a Philippine Coast Guard vessel in Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal). Manila also protested what it described as the swarming of more than 40 Chinese fishing boats escorted by a China Coast Guard ship and a People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy ship. Duterte launched the

bilateral consultative talks partly to further confidence-building measures in the disputed sea.

- China and Russia have expressed "serious concerns" about US nuclear weapons and bio-military activities and have urged the US to clarify its position and refrain from actions that violate the Biological Weapons Convention. They have also urged the US and close Asian ally Japan to step up their efforts to destroy chemical weapons and called on the world to reduce the risk of nuclear war. The joint statement reaffirmed a deeper partnership on foreign policy, the economy and trade, as well as politics and security, and called for an "objective, impartial and professional" probe into the attack on the Nord Stream undersea pipelines carrying Russian gas to Germany. This could signal more intense efforts from Beijing to counter US pressure on issues ranging from investigating the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic to its refusal to condemn the invasion of Ukraine. Wang Zhengxu, professor of political science at Zhejiang University's school of public administration, said this could put pressure on the US and major NATO countries as well.
- Pony.ai and Baidu's Apollo, two of China's top autonomous vehicle (AV) companies, have received permits from Beijing's local government to operate driverless taxis in Yizhuang, a suburban area in the city's southeastern region. Baidu has launched 10 autonomous taxis running from 7 AM to 10 PM, with a starting price of 18 RMB (2.6 USD) for the first 3 kilometres and 4 RMB (0.7 USD) per kilometre after that. Pony.ai will also operate in the same pilot area and

charge a fixed price generated by algorithms based on distance and traffic information, similar to Uber. Customers in Beijing can order the robot-taxis directly from Baidu or Pony.ai's apps. China has been moving fast to incorporate self-driving cars into the transit infrastructure in its cities, and the first set of regulatory clauses on AVs was passed by the Shenzhen city government in South China.

- UNDP representative Beate Trankmann who was in China this week, stated that the South-South cooperation was essential for developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change, respond to global health crises, and achieve the 17 sustainable development goals. In her piece published in the China Daily, she claimed that China's actions have opened an important window for South-South cooperation, helping countries learn from each other's development examples, international experience, and standards for designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating cooperation outcomes. UNDP provides technical advice to developing countries to formulate policies, strategies and programs in line with international norms and standards, builds a platform for global cooperation for relevant entities, and explores a series of exemplary results of South-South cooperation. In her op-ed, the author stated that UNDP also promotes the sharing of disaster risk management and agricultural knowledge between China and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region and promotes the transfer of renewable energy technology as well among the developing world.
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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **In China, baby panda chewing on a mask causes a debate on social media:** Netizens on social media platforms stated that they saw a panda cub chewing on a mask that fell on the ground at Chengdu Giant Panda Research Base, and then an adult panda walked over and took the panda cub away. The staff of the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Pandas claimed that the breeders should have dealt with the issue while netizens demanded stricter actions against tourists who litter in and around the space where wildlife reside.

INDIA WATCH

- India and China have different approaches towards the adoption of autonomous vehicles (AVs) and self-driving technology. While China has been moving fast to incorporate self-driving cars into the transit infrastructure in its cities, India is still in its infancy stage. China has been investing heavily in AV technology and has set ambitious targets for the adoption of self-driving vehicles. In contrast, India's first startup building affordable fully self-driving cars, Minus Zero, had raised \$1.7 million in seed funding to build extensive autonomous vehicle research and development (R&D) infrastructure and expand the team to get its first vehicle out on the roads by late 2022 to early 2023. Currently, no major player in India is experimenting with autonomous vehicles as the technology is expected to take a longer adoption time due to traffic congestion, complex terrains, and other reasons. Moreover, India and China also

have different perceptions towards AV adoption. While TCM Sundaram, founder and vice chairperson of Chiratae Ventures, who led Minus Zero's seed funding, believed that autonomous vehicles were no more a thing of the future and needed to become a reality soon. China, with its centralized government, has the ability to make sweeping policy changes to pave the way for AV adoption, while India's decentralized political system and diverse demographics make it difficult to enact national-level policies. In summary, while China has taken a more aggressive stance towards AV adoption, India is still in the early stages of development. Thus, both countries face unique challenges and opportunities in their respective paths towards self-driving technology.

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