

25 - 26 MARCH 2023

DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- [China and Australia](#) held their first formal defence talks in four years, marking a step towards improving bilateral relations between the two. The meeting in Canberra saw both sides exchange views on regional security issues, according to Australia's Department of Defence. The resumption of military talks was a sign that ties between Beijing and Canberra had moved up to a new level, according to Wang Yiwei, an international relations professor at Renmin University in Beijing. However, analysts stated that the talks would not be enough to resolve fundamental issues of disagreement or potential causes of tension, such as China's intentions towards Taiwan and its militarisation of the South China Sea.
- China and Honduras have signed a joint communique establishing [diplomatic relations](#) at the ambassadorial level in continuation to Honduras's President's formal request to establish relations with Beijing, according to a statement released on Sunday. The two countries agreed to develop friendly relations based on the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peaceful coexistence. The communique stated that the government of Honduras recognizes that there is only one China in the world and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. Honduras has also pledged to sever diplomatic relations with Taiwan and no longer develop any official relations or exchanges with the country.
- [Chen Wenging](#), a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, emphasised during an investigation in Beijing on March 24 that political and legal organs in the capital should adhere to the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and thoroughly study and implement Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law. He urged the organs to maintain the security and stability of the capital,

comprehensively promote the work of governing the country according to law, and create a new situation in the political and legal work of the capital. Chen Wenqing also emphasised the need to implement a responsible system for maintaining the security and stability of the capital, combatting and punishing crimes in accordance with the law, managing cyberspace, and bringing the resolution of conflicts and disputes into track with the rule of law. He urged the political and legal team to have higher standards and requirements in political construction, be highly conscious of ideology, politics, and action, and ensure absolute loyalty, purity, and reliability.

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- PetroChina Daqing Oilfield has announced that its cumulative crude oil production has exceeded 2.5 billion tons, accounting for 36 per cent of China's onshore crude oil production. The 64-year-old oil field was discovered in 1959 and has played a significant role in China's self-sufficiency in oil production. Despite facing challenges such as resource replacement and high water cuts, Daqing Oilfield has continued to achieve sustained and stable production through breakthroughs in key development technologies and complete reserve technologies. Today, the oil field still maintains an annual production of more than 30 million tons of crude oil and more than 40 million tons of oil and gas equivalent.
 - Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the 2023 annual meeting of the China Development Forum, emphasising the importance of consensus and cooperation in facilitating global economic recovery. He stated that China will continue to pursue a mutually beneficial and win-win opening strategy, provide new development opportunities, and expand institutional opening up. The forum's theme was "Economic Recovery: Opportunities and Cooperation," and it was hosted by the Development Research Center of the State Council in Beijing.
 - The National Defense Science, Technology and Industry Bureau and the Shanghai
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Municipal People's Government signed a comprehensive strategic cooperation agreement for the 14th Five-Year Plan in Shanghai. The agreement aims to deepen cooperation, improve the layout of national strategic science and technology forces in Shanghai, promote the landing of more innovative platforms, and jointly promote the development of related leading and key industries. Shanghai is a key city in China's national defence science and technology industry and has extensive and in-depth strategic cooperation with the National Defense Science, Technology and Industry Bureau. The agreement will also promote the optimization of the layout of the national defence science and technology industry system and the high-quality development of Shanghai's economy.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Discussions on the restriction of minors in E-Sports hotels spark debate online:** Unannounced visits to many e-sports hotels in Guangzhou resulted in the finding that many minors were indulging in the activity of visiting e-sports hotels which has now become a matter of debate on Chinese social media. The economic prosperity of the e-sports industry has attracted many minors into the loop which has been causing severe distress among parents who claimed such instances were distracting children and minors from their studies. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Public Security, and the Office of the Leading Group for the Protection of Minors of the State Council also recently released a "Notice on

Strengthening the Protection of Minors in E-sports Hotels” for public comments which stated that e-sports hotels Operators should explicitly inform consumers that minors are not allowed in the e-sports area and shall prevent minors from entering the room area as per the rules and regulations laid down in the law.

INDIA WATCH

- China and Australia have held their first formal defence talks in four years, marking a positive step towards mending their previously strained relations. Despite the positive step of resuming talks, deep-seated fears and disagreements continue to underlie the relationship between China and Australia. Given China's significant impact on the global economy and military power, it is essential for other countries to engage with China in a constructive manner. China is the elephant in the room, it will inevitably make its presence felt, whether through economic strength or military might. Ignoring China is not a viable option, and therefore, it is essential to find ways to engage with the country effectively. There is no need for India to be concerned as Australia's decision to resume talks with China is not an indication of a shift towards China. Instead, it is an attempt to stabilise the relationship between the two countries which is also in the strategic interests of India's national security. India, despite having differences and grievances with China, continues to engage with the country on a regular basis and therefore resumption of talks between China and Australia should be seen in the larger interest of the region's stability.

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