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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



writetous.orca@gmail.com

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NEWS IN CHINA

- CNOOC Guanlan, China's first deep-water floating wind power platform departed from Zhuhai in Guangdong province for installation in Hainan province. The platform, which will be installed 136 kilometres from Wenchang, will supply offshore oil and gas for production. Offshore Oil Engineering Corporation states that CNOOC Guanlan is the country's first floating wind power platform with a working range of more than 100 kilometres from the coast and a water depth of more than 100 metres. The platform has a 7.25-megawatt capacity. The turbine will produce 22 million kilowatt-hours of power per year once it is operating, which is enough to supply 30,000 Chinese people with electricity for a full year. A 5-kilometre-long dynamic sea cable that will be used for oil and gas production will connect the generated power to the offshore oilfield group grid. This will reduce fuel consumption by almost 10 million cubic metres of natural gas and annual carbon dioxide emissions by 22,000 tonnes. According to the organisation, CNOOC Guanlan represents a significant advancement in China's key technology for deep sea floating wind power and a key step towards the green energy era in offshore oil and gas development.
- The China Development Bank has made the decision to launch a special loan programme to help the nation's farmland development and upgrade its agricultural infrastructure. According to the bank, the special programme will offer financial support for more than 40 million mu (or 2.67 million hectares) of land by 2030. As per the press release, the action aims to guarantee the supply of vital agricultural products and speed up agricultural modernisation. The program's funding will be used to promote the use of information technology in the sector, develop new, high-standard farmlands, and enhance existing farmlands. The bank also ensured to keep working in implementing more benevolent credit policies and leverage

development-oriented financial instruments to support farmland development in the future.

- Former mayor of Chongqing, Huang Qifan stated at a high-level annual forum in Beijing attended by various former officials, that China should create high-value industrial clusters to bolster its position in the global supply chain and fend off US-led decoupling while downplaying worries about the relocation of factories to Asian neighbours. He also stated that China's own private companies were largely responsible for the factory exodus, citing the need to re-evaluate strategies to avoid tariff barriers in the midst of the US-China trade war. Huang informed business executives and policymakers at the China Development Forum that the majority of foreign businesses newly registered in Thailand or Vietnam in recent years were Chinese-owned and primarily engaged in labour-intensive industries. He stated that it was "understandable" that these companies, which primarily make tariff-sensitive low-value-added goods like clothing, would make "some adjustments." Huang continued that according to him, this change was "not necessarily bad for China's industrial restructuring" because Beijing prioritises quality GDP growth over quantity. Yi Xiaozhun, a former commerce vice-minister and ex-deputy director general of the World Trade Organization stated in the same forum that no country could set up a completely independent supply chain and decoupling would in no way ensure a secure or competitive supply chain for any nation.
- Fujian's administration has planned to

initiate employment and entrepreneurship programs for recent college graduates. With the number of graduates from colleges and universities in the Fujian province expected to reach 330,000, the Provincial Department of Human Resources and Social Security has actively increased the number of available employment opportunities, enhanced service guarantees, strengthened hardship assistance, and promoted youth employment and entrepreneurship for the development of the region. The government of Fujian Province has stated that it would provide more policy backing, put in place measures like post subsidies, social security subsidies, fee reductions, and deferred payments, and encourage businesses to hire more people in its bid to raise employment in the province. For recent graduates from universities, the administration has promised to specifically focus on implementing policies like student loan reimbursement and bonus points for entrance exams. Apart from such measures, it will also implement preferential policies like guaranteed loans, tax exemptions, and incubation and cultivation in order to encourage young citizens to launch their own businesses, as per the report.

- The All-China Federation of Trade Unions recently released new data under their ninth survey on the status of the national workforce. According to the report, the national workforce status survey is conducted every five years, and the ninth national workforce status survey focused on the 'Chinese working class on a new journey'. The findings from the report stated that there were 84 million labourers
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and 293 million migrant workers and the average age of employees was 38.3 years old, while the average number of years of education was 13.8 years. The workers in the employment sector were mostly formed by truck drivers, online car drivers, couriers, takeaway delivery workers and other groups. These employees were mainly young and middle-aged men, while on the other hand, the proportion of people with agricultural household registration was also relatively high. The average age of industrial workers was stated to be 38.29 years old. The proportion of industrial workers in the tertiary industry was also increasing, but 77.6 per cent of industrial workers were still concentrated in the manufacturing and construction industries. The average number of years of education received by workers in the tertiary industry was 14.5 years, which was higher than the 12.5 years for workers in the primary industry and 13 years for workers in the secondary industry. The finding also revealed that 95.3 per cent of employees were interested in learning new vocational skills and the proportion was particularly prominent among employees aged between 18-40.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Mao's interaction with a Tibetan Buddhist master trends online decades later:** A conversation between Mao Zedong and Sherao Gyatso, a Tibetan Buddhist master, from 1954 in Beijing trended on Chinese social media. The conversation which was a discussion on the concept of Reincarnation between the two was hailed as being very interesting by users.

According to the account, Mao had asked the master how could people believe that there could be reincarnation; to this, the master is said to have indirectly answered the question by asking Mao if he could see tomorrow's sun today, to which Mao replied that he could not. The master then went on to ask if he believed there would be a sun tomorrow. Many comments by users claimed the master to be clever for answering the question in a different way, one user commented that the sun exists in reality with everyone witnessing it, yet which form of reincarnation has been witnessed by anyone, while other users hailed the clever manner of answering a complex phenomenon.

INDIA WATCH

- The term "offshore wind energy" describes the installation of wind farms in bodies of water, mostly in seas. Although offshore wind energy has enormous potential, it is also subject to technical and operational difficulties that make it challenging and expensive to use. Large wind farms placed over water bodies, in any case, will be crucial in India where land is scarce and the population is growing. Offshore wind is still in its infant stages in India, both technologically and in terms of the capacities of key stakeholders. However, given that India has a 7,600 km coastline, the nation has a massive offshore wind power potential of about 127 GW. Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Maharashtra's coasts have already been named by the government as potential locations for offshore wind projects in the nation, whereas, China on the other hand continues to hold the global offshore wind
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capacity leadership position. With 25.6 GW of installed capacity, China increased its position as the world's largest offshore wind market, surpassing the combined capacities of the UK (13.6 GW), Germany (8 GW), and the Netherlands (3 GW). Chinese waters currently host 44 per cent of the world's installed offshore wind capacity. The most important actions taken by the Indian government to promote offshore wind energy are to investigate and encourage the installation of offshore wind farms within the nation's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), including those under the Public-Private Partnership in the most suitable coastal areas. Thus, India's renewable energy bid must prioritise expanding and developing its offshore wind energy infrastructure in order to utilise its unique geographical area as well as cater to its enormous population size.

Prepared by: *Praveen Krishna | Research Intern*
