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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Chinese netizens have been widely discussing the death of Hu Xinyu:** A 15-year-old boy [Hu Xinyu](#) was recently found dead in a grain warehouse after he went missing for about three months. His death has left many netizens question security of young adolescents and also doubted effectiveness of police investigations. Although the issue has been trending on social media for the past few days, it has renewed interest of many after his body was found. Hashtags like #胡鑫宇事件最新情况, #胡鑫宇最新消息 have been trending on weibo which show that people have become highly involved in this case. Many netizens were curious about why Hu's body was not found before as the grain warehouse was so close to his school from where he went missing in October. Similarly, the school also attracted criticism as they reportedly had 119 security cameras, none of which could track Hu's movements before or after he disappeared. Along with his remains found by a local on 28th January, a voice recorder was also found which has also attracted netizens' attention. A prominent reason of social media attention on this news is that Hu's parents had themselves requested netizens to pressurize authorities to reveal information about Hu's death.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- Chinese [tax collection](#) process has completed digitalization in across the country and now all tax declarations are processed online. The State Administration of Taxation stated that 96% of tax matters and 99% of tax returns in 2022 were processed online. The cross-provincial and remote electronic tax payment mechanism have helped cover all provinces in the



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country. This system has seen a record collection of 57.5 billion Yuan in 2022. The “14th Five Year Plan” has incorporated “Opinions on further Deepening the Reform of Tax Collection and Administration” issued by the Central office and the State office. Lian Qifeng, Director of the Department of Collection, Management and Technology Development of the State Administration of Taxation said that his department will focus on ‘four-fine system’ of precise law enforcement, fine service, precise monitoring and dedicated co-governance.

- While responding to the question on the UK Defence committee’s remark of including India and Japan in “Australia-UK-US Alliance” (AUKUS), China’s Foreign Ministry Spokesperson [Mao Ning](#) dismissed this idea as being a manifestation of ‘cold war mentality.’ She further said that regional forums or bodies should promote peace, development and enhance mutual trust and cooperation among regional countries. There should be no specific targeting of a country. Further Mao Ning said that the ‘AUKUS’ agreement will provoke military confrontation in the name of military cooperation. In addition, she also warned that such behaviour poses risk of nuclear confrontation and increases risk of arms race in the Indo-Pacific region. Such steps might undermine regional peace as well. China expressed its concerns and Mao Ning said that “AUKUS” countries should avoid zero-sum game and abide by their international commitments for peace.
- General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party [Xi Jinping](#), emphasized on accelerating construction of new

development patterns and enhancing the security of development during the second collective study of the Political Bureau of Central Committee. President Xi Jinping said that the establishment of a new development pattern is a strategic decision based on the second centenary goal. The second centenary goal aims to make China a great modern socialist country in all respects and achieve the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts. President Xi stressed on the need to excel in coordinating the expansion of domestic demand and deepening supply-side structural reforms, forming a high level of dynamic balance in which demand and supply are complementary to each other. This study forum also focussed on creating effective investment space and creation of new infrastructure. The meeting also focused on efforts to achieve self-reliance and self-improvement in science and technology.

- A combined brigade of the [Tibet Military Command](#) conducted a reconnaissance exercise in the Himalayas at an altitude of 5,800 meters. Other aspects of this exercise included penetration, orienteering and climbing ice walls. This exercise was aimed to enhance military capability of penetrating behind enemy lines. The unit involved in this exercise used drones to monitor their routes as a part of this exercise was conducted on a glacier too. According to Tian Lianfeng, instructor for this exercise, said that such exercises strengthen soldiers to work in harsh natural environmental situation. The total distance covered in this exercise was 20 kilometres as soldiers carried equipment weighing more than 30 kilograms.
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- Wuhan is likely to surpass Hangzhou to be in the list of China's top ten GDP cities in 2022. Wuhan Investigation Team of the National Bureau of Statistics released the data of economic performance of Wuhan in 2022. As per the unified result of prefectural and municipal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Hubei Province, the GDP of Wuhan is 1886.643 billion yuan. It showed an increase of 4% over last year at constant prices. Primary, Secondary and Tertiary sectors showed growth of 3.2, 7.3 and 2.3 percent respectively. Official data has listed the top ten cities having the highest GDP which are – Shanghai (4465 billion Yuan/\$ 669 billion), Beijing (4161 billion Yuan / \$ 624 billion), Shenzhen (3238 billion Yuan / \$ 485 billion), Chongqing (2912 billion Yuan / \$ 436 billion), Guangzhou, Suzhou, Chengdu, Wuhan, Hangzhou and Nanjing. Compared to the 2021 list, Chongqing has surpassed Guangzhou and has become the fourth richest city in China.

- Chinese New Year has boosted confidence in the cultural tourism sector. People have visited tourist destinations, museums and commercial performances in large numbers during this holiday period. The total number of visitors has crossed the 2019 count. The recent Spring festival has helped to boost the tourism industry as it was badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to data released by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, domestic tourists during the spring festival increased by 23.1 % compared to the previous year, the domestic tourism revenue also increased by 30% compared to the last year's revenue. Some of the most cultural tourism sites visited are Guizhou which is home to

research station on individual level, whilst India's efforts are still limited to regional cooperation and scientific research on climate change. China has sent 12 expeditions to the Arctic till now, and both India and China hold observer status in the Arctic Council. Deeper research in Arctic region related to climate change can also prove useful for both countries as they are also battling for gaining influence in the 'third pole,' which is the Himalayas and its surrounding area, which is essential for both nations owing to its critical role in regional water security, energy, and resources. In the wake of climate change, all three poles hold similar significance for both China and India, as both nations have extensive coastlines, the rising sea level, and changes in other environmental factors are common concerns for both countries and present an opportunity for collaboration.

## INDIA WATCH

- Many military experts believe that Submarine warfare is the most advanced warfare and anti-submarine warfare is the least developed warfare technique. The United States and United Kingdom aim to empower Australia with advanced nuclear-powered submarines through the AUKUS agreement. Trump administration had already made clear that the Indo-Pacific is a new theatre of competition and India is an inalienable part of this region and thus, the USA is eager to invite India to join this grouping. Nuclear powered submarines have the advantage of long endurance and are helpful to execute a strategic surprise in times of crisis. India is also in need of a nuclear submarine; as it currently operates

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only one nuclear powered submarine – INS Arihant. So far, the official US statements have ruled out India and Japan’s entry into the AUKUS. Though India has indigenous program of building nuclear submarines, its progress is still slow. Unlike the QUAD, the AUKUS is a military agreement; if India and Japan join it, it can instantly increase tensions in the Indo-Pacific region. On the other hand, France and India share a deep and reliable defense partnership and it also has a technical knowhow to build sophisticated nuclear submarines. India needs to find a way without being seen as a disruptor in the Indo-Pacific region and at the same time, arm itself with advanced military capabilities.

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