

1 MAY 2023

# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



[writetous.orca@gmail.com](mailto:writetous.orca@gmail.com)

## Explore our other verticals:

- [CiCM Insights](#)
- [Opinion Pieces](#)
- [Issue Briefs](#)
- [Backgrounders](#)
- [Expert Speak](#)
- [Mapping China](#)
- [Infographics](#)
- [Podcast: The ORCA Files](#)
- [Projects](#)

## NEWS IN CHINA

- Zhurong, China's Mars rover, has discovered evidence of liquid water on the red planet. This is the first-time liquid water has been found at low Martian latitudes, where surface temperatures are higher. Researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences have conducted extensive studies on features and material compositions of dunes in the landing area. Qin Xiaoguang, a lead researcher at the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, said that the dune surficial layer rich in hydrated sulphates, hydrated silica, and ferrihydrite led the team to infer that these are formed by liquid saline water. This discovery is important for the design of future exploration strategies for Mars rovers.
- The tourism industry experienced a boom in activity during the holiday for May Day. According to data from China State Railway Group Company, 19.66 million were handled by 12,064 passenger trains on 29 April 2023. Humble Administrator's Garden, a World Culture Heritage Site in Suzhou, has sold out all tickets for Sunday to Tuesday. Around 240 million trips are estimated to be made by the Chinese travellers during the holiday. Overseas trips have also seen an increase with the average daily number of entries and exits from China's border ports speculated to exceed 1.2 million.
- According to the administrative commission of the Liaocheng High-tech Industrial Development Zone, a fire at the Sinochem chemical plant in the city of Liaocheng, Shandong province resulted in five fatalities and one injury. The explosion occurred in the hydrogen peroxide production section of the facility, which was joined by the Sinochem Holdings Co in 2020. The cause of the explosion is currently under investigation by the local authorities.
- According to the statement released by the Guangdong provincial department of public security, the private vehicles

---

from Hong Kong will be allowed into Guangdong province starting from 1 July 2023. This is expected to benefit around 450,000 Hong Kong drivers. The application process for the entry permit can be accessed by residents of Hong Kong from 1 June 2023. This is part of the broader governmental efforts to develop the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The Hong Kong residents will be permitted to stay for a total of 30 days per trip and 180 days in a year.

- The drilling of Asia's deepest oil well in the Tarim Basin of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in Northwest China has begun. The region accounts for more than half of the nation's onshore ultra-deep oil and gas resources. However, the drilling of these reserves is made difficult by the locations of the reserves deep-underground. Sinopec, an oil and gas enterprise based in Beijing, has developed the drilling technologies with the ultra-deep drilling capabilities. The Yuejin 3-3 well is expected to be 9,472 metres deep which will be a breakthrough in the ultra-deep oil and gas exploration. It is a part of the Shendi-1 oil project which consists of 120 ultra-deep wells in the Taklamakan Desert.
- An undersea road tunnel opened in the coastal city Dalian of Liaoning Province. According to Sun Zhu, the deputy chief engineer of Dalian Bay Undersea Tunnel Co. Ltd, this is the first immersed tube undersea tunnel in north China. The tunnel is 5.1 km long and can accommodate a two-way six-lane urban expressway with a speed limit of 60 km per hour. The construction of the tunnel took about four years. By linking the northern and southern

coasts of the Dalian Bay, the tunnel helps reduce the traffic congestion and thus expanding space for development in the city of Dalian.

- The two-way trade between China and Nepal has resumed at Zham, a land port located in the Tibetan city of Xigaze. The resumption of trade was marked by the arrival of three lorries that carried goods that are worth more than 100,000 RMB, at the port from Nepal. The trade was stopped following the earthquake that hit Nepal in 2015. The devastating earthquake had destroyed the roads and bridges causing problems for the logistics. The port partially allowed the goods from Nepal in 2019. Goods worth around 250 million RMB were exported through the port in the first quarter of 2023. Peng Yihao, the deputy Party chief of Xigaze, said that the resumption of trade will help boost foreign trade and aid opening up of Tibet Autonomous Region.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Zibo receives large traffic as a popular destination for barbecue on May Day:** #五一假期关于淄博的五个细节 trended on Weibo as people from all over the country go to Zibo for barbecue on the May Day holiday. Zibo has become increasingly popular as a result of promotional activities online and in several cities in the province of Shandong. This also led to the rise in prices to about 1.5 times of the regular prices. The Chinese netizens say that to retain the traffic Zibo should engage in innovative and sincere actions. There are several perspectives on the hospitality of

---

Zibo and the Shandong province on Weibo. One user with the id @就算永远很远 commented that this is a herd mentality of people going to Zibo just for posting photos on social media, while others stated that the hospitality of Zibo is really good.

## INDIA WATCH

- Traditionally, India and Nepal have enjoyed cordial ties. However, India-Nepal relations have become strained due to Nepal's engagement with China and its increasing influence over Nepali politics. The China factor is a highly visible factor in India-Nepal relations. China's investments in Nepal, both economic and military, allowed it to expand its influence. This resulted in India losing the traditional role of being the primary aid provider to Nepal. China's deepening trade relationship with Nepal has led to the shift in the balance of power in the region. India suffers the pressure of trade competition with China. China's influence in Nepal is only increasing with its economic assistance and investment in infrastructure projects in Nepal. This has raised India's concern given the severe security implications for India. Furthermore, Nepal becoming dependent on China for trade and investment has a great impact on India's role in the region. To address the concerns about trade, security and regional balance of power, India needs to work closely with Nepal to ensure that interests of both sides are undermined by the influence of China. A closer cooperation in trade and investments, and increased diplomatic presence will help deter any negative implications of Chinese influence on Nepal. The China factor has in fact caused a strain

in the bilateral relations of India and Nepal. Another issue in the bilateral relations is that India has been accused of influencing Nepal's domestic affairs. Disputes regarding bilateral issues like water sharing agreements and border disputes must be resolved. Both parties should work together to ensure that their relationship is not hindered by the influence of third parties, such as China.

**Prepared by: Gokireddy Hima Bindu |**  
*Research Intern*

---