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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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## NEWS IN CHINA

- The 45th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship was discussed during a meeting between Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi on Sunday in Beijing. Li urged both parties to review and uphold the treaty's fundamental provisions in order to establish a long-lasting relationship between China and Japan marked by peace and friendship. In order to jointly create a relationship that satisfies the needs of the time, he urged the Japanese side to meet China halfway, improve communication and collaboration, manage disagreements appropriately, avoid disruptive risks, and continue to expand the positive aspects of bilateral relations. Yoshimasa stated that Japan is ready to cooperate with China to put into practice the consensus made by the leaders of the two nations, maintain high-level interactions, and continue dialogue and communication to develop positive and stable bilateral relations.
- Due to ample domestic supplies, high import costs, and concerns about geopolitical risks, China's imports of Australian coal this year are unlikely to return to pre-conflict levels. Despite the restrictions being lifted in January, 38 cargoes containing 3.1 million tons of Australian coal have entered China, and an additional 2.8 million tons are in transit. According to a recent outlook from the Australian Department of Industry, Science and Resources, thermal coal sales to China have "entered a period of structural decline" as the nation reduces its reliance on imports and places more emphasis on domestic production. In 2021-2022, Australia exported resources and energy to China worth A\$140 billion (US\$94 billion), nearly three times more than Japan, the next largest buyer. Australian exports may benefit from Chinese government investments in the steel industry, but the most recent Communist Party conference did not announce any new policies or project additions. Anthony Albanese, the

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Prime Minister of Australia, reaffirmed his country's commitment to working with China and his wish to visit Beijing should he be extended an invitation.

- The launch of the Central Asia train from Kashgar, Xinjiang, China to Tashkent, Uzbekistan marked the successful launch of the Silk Road Economic Belt. The train departed from Kashgar Railway Station, exited the country through the Horgos Port in Xinjiang, and arrives in Uzbekistan in a few days. The Central Asia train has the advantages of fast and efficient operation, safety and convenience, and is less affected by the natural environment. It has created a new route for international trade and logistics into Central Asia, which will further improve the Central Asian train's transportation system and strengthen ties between the Kashgar region and the nations that make up the Silk Road Economic Belt. Han Fei, director of the Kashgar Regional Bureau of Commerce, said the train will promote the circulation of elements, activate import and export trade, and accelerate the formation of a new engine for foreign trade. It will have a positive impact on promoting the industrial development of Kashgar and playing the role of Kashgar as a multimodal international logistics center city. Kashgar Customs has set up a "green channel" and a special window for the Central Asia train to ensure efficient and fast customs clearance. It has also strengthened cooperation with departments such as railways, commerce, and comprehensive bonded areas to ensure smooth connection of all links. Wang Chuanjie, director of Kashgar Customs, said that the opening of the train

will provide a solid foundation for building a commercial and logistics center in southern Xinjiang, and inject new vitality and new impetus into the development of Kashgar's open economy.

- In order to enforce the Yellow River Protection Law, the Ministries of Public Security and Agriculture jointly organized the Bright Sword 2023 Yellow River Fishing Ban Special Law Enforcement Campaign in the provinces of Qinghai, Gansu, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Henan, and Shandong and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. The two departments emphasized that the fishery and fishery administration and public security departments at all levels along the Yellow River must concentrate on three aspects of work: strengthening the law enforcement supervision of enduring fishing bans and regional fishing bans, putting together a dense patrol network, conducting all-element tracking and surveillance, stifling poaching, habitat destruction, and other illegal activities, and waging a protracted battle. To protect the integrity, basin, and system of the Yellow River ecosystem, jointly uphold the fishing ban order, break the "catch, transport, and sale" interest chain, increase the team of fishermen and promote grid management, raise the bar on technical defense, and direct legal fishing, it is necessary to carry out cross-regional and cross-department law enforcement actions. To advance ecological restoration and the protection of aquatic biological resources, breeding and release practices must be scientifically standardized. Release science must also receive more attention from the media in order to stop the introduction of alien species. The Yellow River source area and
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significant upstream waters will impose a year-round fishing ban beginning on April 1, 2022.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Chinese netizens have mixed reaction over national basketball player Li Meng's alleged affair:** Following online allegations of an affair between Li Meng and Zhang Long, one of the coaches of the national women's basketball team, the Chinese Basketball Association ([CBA](#)) is allegedly considering suspending 28-year-old basketball star Li from the national team for a year. Coach Zhang would be dismissed as a result of the scandal, according to the CBA, which oversees both the men's and women's national teams. The public's response to Li's later expulsion and Zhang's affair is conflicted. While some online users believe Zhang's ex-wife committed a sin by publishing Li's nude photos, others believe Li's one-year suspension was warranted. A Baidu blog post in support of the suspension reads, "[The ban] is not only a warning to [Li] personally but also a necessary decision to maintain the discipline of the entire national team and the image of the country." Li, however, was already planning to leave the WCBA and signed with the Washington Mystics. This is the second big scandal to rock the CBA this year, with the Xinjiang Guanghui Flying Tigers leaving the men's league over a contract dispute with their star player.

## INDIA WATCH

- The India-Australia Free Trade Agreement ([IAFTA](#)) is an agreement designed to increase trade and investment between India and Australia by reducing tariffs and other trade barriers and promoting cooperation between the two countries in areas such as science and technology, agriculture, and education. While the agreement may have some indirect effects on the price of coal imports from Australia to India, it is not designed to specifically address the issue of coal import prices for India, as the price of coal is determined by various factors that it does not influence. The IAFTA allows traders to import coal at a slightly discounted cost from Australia, as the 2.5 per cent import duty has been waived. However, this is not likely to significantly impact coal prices, as the cost of Australian coal is comparatively high. In the context of the India-Australia Free Trade Agreement (IAFTA), there are some differences between India and China. Firstly, India has entered into an FTA with Australia, while China has not. Secondly, India is seeking to increase trade and investment with Australia through the IAFTA, while China has a much more extensive trading relationship with Australia. Finally, while India is looking to diversify its energy sources and move towards low-carbon energy sources such as solar and wind, China has been investing heavily in coal and other fossil fuels, which has contributed to its high greenhouse gas emissions. India has several opportunities to improve its economic growth and competitiveness. One way to achieve this is by promoting renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, which have
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seen significant cost declines over the last decade. By investing in renewable energy infrastructure and technology, India can reduce its dependence on imported coal and other fossil fuels, lower its carbon footprint, and become a leader in the global renewable energy market. In addition, India can also focus on increasing domestic production of coal and other resources, as well as promoting energy efficiency measures across various industries. This can help reduce the country's reliance on imports, create jobs, and improve its overall energy security.

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