

3 MAY 2023

DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the complete reopening of China's borders has boosted the country's economic growth prospects, as well as the Asia-Pacific region's short-term growth. In its "Regional Economic Outlook: Asia and Pacific" report, the IMF has predicted that the Asia-Pacific region will contribute 67.4% of the world's economic growth in 2023, with China expected to contribute 34.9%, followed by India at 15.4%. The IMF forecasted that China's economy will expand 5.2% this year, up 0.8 percentage points from its previous forecast, and the recovery is expected to be led by the services industry. The IMF also highlighted that China's economic recovery will have a positive impact on the Asian economy, particularly its tourism-dependent neighbors and those that rely heavily on goods exports to China. However, the IMF noted that China needs to undertake long-term structural economic reforms to maintain its economic competitiveness and address short-term challenges such as the property sector. It also pointed out issues such as lower productivity growth and ageing population. The IMF also predicted that the Asian economy will expand 4.6% this year and 4.4% in 2024, mainly driven by China and India.
- On May 1, the 2nd Beijing-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Music and Art Carnival (Macao) began with an opening concert at the Macau Sightseeing Tower Theater. The Beijing-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Symphony Orchestra and Choir performed classic music works showcasing youth spirit, unity, friendship, and patriotism. More than 10,000 young people from 157 schools in Beijing, Hong Kong, and Macao will participate in the carnival to build a youth art exchange platform and experience traditional Chinese culture. Famous musicians and performers, including Liu Shikun, Lu Siqing, Yao Jue, Wang Jian, and Yang Li, participated in the event as music instructors, and the principal of the High School Attached to

the Central Conservatory of Music and the artistic director of the carnival, Namura, presided over the opening concert.

- During the May Day holiday in 2023, domestic tourism in China experienced a significant recovery with the number of trips and revenue exceeding pre-pandemic levels. The national railway and highway systems saw record passenger volumes, while civil aviation witnessed a recovery in domestic flights, although international flights remained lower. Outbound tourism was gradually recovering, with bookings for air tickets and hotels approaching pre-epidemic levels. Catering sales increased sharply, with a focus on key catering enterprises. Additionally, hotels in third- and fourth-tier cities saw a surge in popularity, with women and post-00s having strong purchasing power. However, the box office of movies did not reach the same level as the same period in 2019.
- A 5.2-magnitude earthquake occurred in Wayao Town, Baoshan city, Yunnan on May 2, causing damage to infrastructure and injuring 9 people, 8 of whom have been discharged from the hospital. The disaster area has been evacuated and people have been moved to safe areas, and relief efforts are underway. The Baoshan City government launched a three-level emergency response and organized more than 2,400 rescue forces to provide aid. The Yunnan Provincial Seismological Bureau, Emergency Department, and Fire Rescue Corps have dispatched expert teams or personnel. The Hangrui Expressway from Dali to Baoshan has resumed normal traffic. Other departments have also taken measures to ensure

smooth communication and tourism bureau has also issued notice to resume tourism in Baoshan which can help the region to get back to normal soon.

- Two-way cargo traffic has resumed at Zhangmu Port in Tibet, one of the largest ports of entry in South Asia, marking a significant step in the construction of Tibet's important gateway to South Asia. The port, situated at China-Nepal border at an altitude of 2300 m was previously forced to close in 2015 due to an earthquake. The resumption of two-way cargo traffic is expected to promote the development of foreign trade industry and prosper the border economy, as well as restore the former prosperity of Zhangmu Port. Before 2015, it facilitated around 90% of China-Nepal trade.
 - Muhammad Ali Raza, a Pakistani doctor, is conducting an experiment on utilizing plastic mulch and drip irrigation in cereal-legume intercropping systems at a water-saving agricultural research station in Zhangye, Gansu. The Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS) has signed cooperation agreements with institutions in Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Malaysia to conduct extensive cooperation in agricultural science and technology. Ma Zhongming, the head of GAAS, researches and promotes soilless cultivation technologies, which are suitable for arid regions and hold great potential for agricultural cooperation with Belt and Road countries. Xiong Youcai, a professor at Lanzhou University, has led a team dedicated to dryland agriculture research and technology promotion since 2011 in East Africa, and his team has launched an
-

international cooperation project involving the efficient utilization and adaptive management of rainwater resources in dryland agriculture in the East African Plateau.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Netizens speak up against the trend of avoiding carbs to lose weight:** Netizens express their concern about the popular trend of avoiding carbohydrates to lose weight, and the negative effects it can have on one's health. With the hashtag #常年不吃碳水的人怎么样了#, several netizens mentioned that while everyone desires beauty, sacrificing one's health for the sake of weight loss is not worth it. Weibo users acknowledged that avoiding carbs can lead to issues such as gastritis, malnutrition, and low blood sugar levels, which can have both physical and psychological consequences. They emphasized that health should always be a top priority, and that having a happiness should take precedence over achieving a certain body type. Users posted messages aimed at encouraging people to prioritize their health and well-being, and to find happiness in being healthy rather than pursuing an unhealthy, unsustainable approach to weight loss. Many users also suggested several diet patterns which can help balance carbohydrates intake as well as assist sustainable weight loss.

INDIA WATCH

- India and China have both adopted two different strategies to deal with the problem of water shortage in agriculture. It is especially important for India as being a

nation that predominantly focuses on agriculture. India, in collaboration with Columbia Water Center, is focusing on promoting climate change resilience and water sustainability while improving farmers' livelihood and food security in three key regions of the country. The programme aims at developing public-private partnerships to provide modern extension services to farmers for climate and market-informed crop choice and irrigation improvements to improve water productivity, income, and climate risk management. Through their collaboration with the Punjab Agricultural University, they are also exploring the practical implications of reducing water use in rice-wheat cropping to achieve sustainable groundwater use and promoting crop diversification and introducing crops that are less water-intensive. Thus, Indian approach is more focused in bringing behavioral changes among farmers supplemented by domestic policy changes. On the other hand, the Chinese approach, is more focused on international cooperation in agricultural science and technology, including soilless cultivation technologies suitable for arid regions, the efficient utilization and adaptive management of rainwater resources in dryland agriculture in the East African Plateau, and the promotion of dryland agriculture research and technology in East Africa. The approach seems to focus more on technology transfer and international collaboration rather than domestic policy changes.

Prepared by: *Bhaavya Gupta* | *Research Intern*
