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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Firefighters awe netizens with their quick thinking:** The earthquake in Sichuan has devastated several villages, which has led to firefighters' race to rescue villagers from the affected areas. [Firefighters](#) had to improvise quickly by cutting trees and tying the tree logs with ropes or iron wires. They made temporary bridges above the fast-flowing river and carried injured villagers with bamboo-made stretchers across the bridge as the dangerous torrents of the river flowed beneath them. Since Tuesday, videos and photographs of these heroic firefighters walking above the raging river have become the most-viewed items on various Chinese social media platforms. Some netizens stated that Chinese military and police officers can always overcome challenges, whether they occur more than 80 years ago or in the future.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- [China's foreign commerce](#) remained strong in the first eight months of the year, indicating that the economy is on a rebound as the government continues to implement policies to boost economic growth and stabilise foreign trade. According to official figures released Wednesday, China's overseas commerce in products increased 10.1 per cent year on year to 27.3 trillion yuan (approximately 3.95 trillion US dollars) in the first eight months. Total foreign commerce in US dollars was 4.19 trillion USD in the first eight months, increasing 9.5 per cent yearly. Exports increased 14.2% year on year to 15.48 trillion yuan. According to the General Administration of Customs (GAC), imports grew 5.2 per cent yearly to 11.82 trillion yuan, resulting in a trade surplus of 3.66 trillion yuan.

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- Three Chinese astronauts, or taikonauts, communicated from space with youngsters from eight African countries via video link on Tuesday, sharing their perspectives on the Shenzhou-14 mission. On a six-month mission in space, the taikonauts Chen Dong, Liu Yang, and Cai Xuzhe shared their experiences and scientific research with the African youth. The main venue of the event, named "Talk with Taikonauts," was hosted at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, with students from Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, and South Africa participating at sub-locations.

- As China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) reported its first imported case of monkeypox, experts have stated that it is unsurprising and pose a low threat to various communities. They further said that it would not pose a danger as long as the cluster infections among the high-risk groups are prevented and strict customs quarantine inspection is conducted. The first patient of the monkeypox virus had reportedly landed from the Philippines. The Hong Kong Society for Infectious Diseases' vice-president, Lam Wilson, told the media on Wednesday that the monkeypox pandemic in certain overseas countries was lessening. Therefore, even if Hong Kong relaxed travel restrictions, there would be minimal chance of a large-scale monkeypox epidemic in the city.

- As the "golden 72 hours" for rescue ticked away on the third day after the 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck Sichuan, Chinese rescue personnel - including firefighters, doctors, and soldiers - raced to

seek for survivors, rescue the injured, and provide essentials for stranded residents. Authorities in Southwest China's Sichuan Province announced on Wednesday afternoon that as of 8 a.m., 10,058 rescue workers, including military, police, firefighters, and medics, and nine helicopters, had been dispatched to check each house and guarantee that no one had been overlooked. The local meteorological authority predicts rainstorms in Luding on Thursday and Friday, and local officials should increase surveillance and warning of landslides and mudslides. Firefighters from the Garze forest fire brigade were among the first to arrive at the Luding epicentre on Monday, racing against the clock to save lives. Soldiers are currently going to the disaster region to provide relief and evacuate civilians who have become stranded. The Xizang Military Command also dispatched cooking trucks to the disaster area, feeding around 2,000 people.

- According to Vice Minister of Civil Affairs Zhan Chengfu, between 2012 and 2021, the average subsistence allowance for Chinese urban and rural residents increased by 1.2 and 2.1 times, respectively, and the basic living standard for people living in extreme poverty exceeded the local subsistence allowance by 1.3 times. According to Zhan, China's social assistance system annually supports over 40 million individuals on subsistence stipends and about 5 million vulnerable people. According to Zhan, the Ministry of Civil Affairs assists in providing sustenance allowances to those who are unable to overcome poverty through their own efforts, and a total of 19.36 million registered underprivileged people have

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been pulled out of poverty.

- On Tuesday, China launched a satellite observation alliance for sustainable development at the 2022 International Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals, intending to fully utilise the benefits and potential of Earth observation from space. The alliance is a non-profit and academic organisation dedicated to scientific research and technological advancement. It can give data services and scientific support for the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Several organisations, including CBAS, the Satellite Application Center for Ecology and Environment under the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, and the China Center for Resources Satellite Data and Application, collaborated to launch it.

## INDIA WATCH

- With its pressure to meet the UN sustainability goals, India has the opportunity to collaborate with China to create a similar alliance to meet the sustainability goals. Moreover, India can scale the sustainability alliance to an international level to get more significant funding and data related to the latest green technology and perhaps invite investments in green technology. If the sustainability alliance becomes successful, it can use the platform to promote soft power and increase investments in science and technology in the country as well. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) can significantly benefit from the alliance as satellite technology will receive more funding from the government. Moreover, developed nations can send their

renowned scientists to help India achieve sustainability goals and increase their goodwill among the countries in the South Asia region. Through this forum, India can help the 'Asian Tigers' in the South East Asian region in the fields of research, science and green technology. India has the golden opportunity to become a leader in sustainable development in the area.

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