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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



writetous.orca@gmail.com

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NEWS IN CHINA

- On May 9th, the Ministry of Education, along with relevant departments, held a [video conference](#) on the safety work of the 2023 national college entrance examinations. The aim of the conference was to mobilize and deploy all necessary measures to ensure a safe and successful examination. Secretary of the Party Leadership Group and Minister of the Ministry of Education, Huai Jinpeng, emphasized the need to implement the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and deeply understand the new situation, tasks, and requirements of the college entrance examination work. To ensure a safe and successful examination, Huai Jinpeng proposed five measures: strengthening bottom-line thinking to ensure the safety of test questions and papers; strengthening comprehensive management to prevent mobile phone cheating; deepening the comprehensive reform of the college entrance examination; strengthening emergency response to risks; and strengthening publicity services to solve the concerns of candidates and pass on positive energy. Huai Jinpeng also emphasized the need to improve political capabilities, strengthen organizational leadership and team building, pay close attention to supervision and inspection, and achieve active planning with practical results. Additionally, Tian Yulong, member of the party group and chief engineer of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, requested that local industry and information departments further improve their sense of responsibility and work together with local education departments to ensure the safety of this year's national college entrance examination.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping met with representatives at the [10th Conference](#) for Friendship of Overseas Chinese Associations in Beijing. He expressed a warm welcome on behalf of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, and extended greetings to overseas Chinese around the world.

The conference is an important platform for communication and exchange among major overseas Chinese associations and their leading members around the world. Nearly 500 leading members of overseas Chinese associations from more than 130 countries and regions gathered to enhance communication between China and the world and advance the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

- China's trade sector grew by 8.9 per cent in April, with exports showing a strong growth rate of 16.8 per cent. However, imports slipped by 0.8 per cent, indicating an ongoing domestic recovery. Overall, China's trade has grown by 5.8 per cent in the first four months of the year. Experts believe China's supply chain resilience and increased exports of core parts contribute to the positive trend. The data also highlights China's trade diversification, with rising trade with ASEAN nations and a decline in trade with the US.
- On May 8, Canada declared a consular official of the Chinese Consulate General in Toronto as "persona non grata" based on allegations of "China's interference in Canada's internal affairs," which China strongly denies. China has condemned and protested Canada's actions, stating that it violates international law and the basic norms of international relations, and will take countermeasures. Chinese diplomatic and consular personnel stationed in Canada have always performed their duties in strict accordance with international conventions and bilateral agreements. Canada's actions have damaged the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese

diplomatic and consular personnel, and China will not accept it. China advises Canada to stop its unreasonable provocation and not go down the wrong path, or it will fight back resolutely and forcefully.

- The "Several Provisions on Promoting the Development of Seed Industry in Hainan Free Trade Port" has been implemented in Hainan Province to accelerate the development and utilization of new plant varieties, enhance quarantine procedures for germplasm resources, strengthen biological breeding research, and promote talent development in the seed industry. The provisions include a self-test system for crop variety approval, streamlined quarantine procedures for imported plant varieties, support for innovative biological breeding research, and an open talent introduction mechanism. Additionally, seed trading venues will be constructed in Sanya Yazhou Bay Science and Technology City to facilitate the trading of seeds, breeding animals and poultry, aquatic seeds, and seed intellectual property rights.
 - China's reusable experimental spacecraft successfully completed a 276-day orbital journey and returned to Earth on Monday, marking a major breakthrough in the country's reusable spacecraft technology. The spacecraft was tasked with verifying reusable and in-orbit service technologies, laying a technological foundation for the peaceful use of space. Currently, only China and the United States have reusable spacecraft, which have a wide range of applications, such as conducting space tours, transporting astronauts, resupplying
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space stations, and placing satellites into orbit at a lower cost. Designing and building a reusable spaceship is quite challenging in terms of technology and engineering.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Chinese drama 'The Long Season' touches netizens' hearts:** The Chinese crime drama The Long Season (漫长的季节) has become a hit, with a rating of 9.5 on Douban, a Chinese IMDb-like platform, since its release on April 22. The series follows a train driver, Wang Xiang, who tries to solve the mystery behind a brutal murder that has haunted him and others who worked at the steel plant in a small town in North China for over 20 years. The director, Xin Shuang, has gained recognition for his previous hit crime series, "The Bad Kids," and is hailed as a genius by some on Weibo, with one user writing, "You can find traces of yourself or your family members in every character, as the fate-changing revolution during that era has profoundly impacted each and every one of us." Crime dramas set in the '80s and '90s are popular in China, depicting the struggles of ordinary people during a time of economic and social upheaval. "The Long Season" resonated with fans due to its portrayal of familial relationships and ruminations on fate.

INDIA WATCH

- The Indian and Chinese space programs differ in several ways, including their goals, funding, and approach. In terms of goals, China has clearly stated its aim to become

a world leader in space technology by 2030 and to build a space station. In contrast, India has not expressed any such ambitions or outlined an overarching doctrine. Instead, India has taken a more modest approach, focusing on frugal economics and specific areas of expertise. In terms of funding, China has a much larger budget for space exploration than India. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), China's annual space spending was \$6.1 billion in 2013, while India's was \$1.2 billion. ISRO successfully tested its reusable launch vehicle (RLV) on May 23, 2016. Some more test flights have been planned after which the RLV could be declared operational, potentially bringing down costs further and attracting more global customers. In contrast, China is yet to fly such a rocket. The Global Times erroneously claimed in another article that India had not acquired the capability, like China, to launch satellites in multiple orbits. On September 26, 2016, ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) placed eight satellites in two different orbits in a single flight. In conclusion, while China and India have different approaches to their space programs, they are both making significant progress in space exploration. China is pursuing an ambitious goal of becoming a global space power, while India's focus is on building indigenous capacity for low-cost and reliable satellite launches. India's cost-effective approach to space exploration has enabled it to become a significant player in the global satellite launch market, and its successes have caught the attention of China and the world.

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