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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- The National Health Commission of China unveiled a new plan for COVID-19 vaccination. The latest plan is aimed to increase the immunity levels of targeted groups and to reduce infection risks. It targets individuals aged three to seventeen who have not contracted the coronavirus and have not been vaccinated against the coronavirus, as well as the adults who have not contracted the virus but have not received a booster shot or those who have contracted the virus but have not been vaccinated. Three months after being fully vaccinated, the uninfected adults above 18 years old can receive the first booster shots. According to the plan, those who have previously contracted COVID-19 but have not yet received their full vaccination can get their first booster shot.
- According to the report released by the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), China upgraded its first independently developed and constructed ultra-deepwater gas field, Shenhai Yihao, or Deep Sea No. 1, to guarantee safe and stable production during typhoons. In summer and fall, the typhoon frequency is one of the biggest challenges for the ultra-deepwater gas fields. However, according to Liu Xiaogang, the general manager of CNOOC's Hainan subsidiary, the operating condition of Deep Sea No. 1 is now at optimal. Since it became operational in June 2021, Deep Sea No. 1 has produced more than 4.5 billion cubic metres of gas and can operate in depths up to 1500 metres in the sea. This demonstrates the capabilities of China in ultra-deepwater oil and gas drilling which is of utmost significance for the energy security of the country.
- Starting April 11, passengers can buy tickets to travel by train between China and Laos. This is the first international passenger train since such operations could not be carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic. The China State Railway Group said that the passengers can buy tickets starting from 9

AM on 11 April 2023. There is also a smartphone app called the 'LCR Ticket App' which is developed by China. According to official statements, two international passenger train services are expected to operate every day from Thursday. The China-Laos Railway is one of the landmark projects of the Belt and Road Initiative of China.

- The report titled "Review of Cyberattacks from US Intelligence Agencies- Based on Global Cybersecurity Communities' Analyses" released by the China Cybersecurity Industry Alliance highlighted the "malicious behaviour" observed on part of the United States in launching the cyberattacks against other nations. According to the report, the US cyber hegemony poses significant threat and substantial damage. The report is organised based on the time of the event. The report discusses the cyberattacks carried out by the intelligence agencies of the US on critical infrastructures, supply chains and so on. Such actions by the USA impinge on the development of information technology, result in conflict and will ultimately threaten the order in cyberspace.
- The "New Reading of Chinese Culture" series was published by the Sichuan People's Publishing House. The books aim at traditional Chinese literature from a contemporary perspective. According to Li Xuejun, the editor-in-chief of MoveableType Legacy (Beijing) Co Ltd, the goal of the books is to apply ancient wisdom to modern problems. The editor said, attempts have been made to relate

the Song era achievements in areas like politics and education. In his book that discusses ideas like "great harmony" and "being well-off", Gan Chunsong, a professor at the Peking University, said such ideas have evolved through time in Chinese history. These works according to him contribute to the development of culture and represent the contemporary understanding of traditional culture.

- Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng called for more multinational companies and businesses to invest and grow in the Chinese market. At the third China International Consumer Products Expo and the Global Consumption Forum, he talked about China's objective in ensuring high-standards for its opening-up of the economy and market, and increasing the ease of doing business for the foreign entities, and to protect their interests. The Chinese market has been steadily expanding and upgrading. He acknowledged that increasing consumption has become an important driver for promotion of economic development. He said that China focuses on key areas like domestic demand, supply of goods and services, and promotes low-carbon consumption.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **News of two men, detained for issuing a small card, trends on Chinese social media:** #两男子将涉黄小卡片发到警车车窗被拘 and #两男子将涉黄小卡片 trended on Weibo on 11 April 2023. "Ping An Luzhou", a public account of the Public Security Bureau of
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Luzhou, a city in Sichuan province, said that two men were wandering around issuing a 'small card' to every car that passed by. One such car happened to be a police vehicle. The men posted the same card on the window of the police vehicle. The focus is on how this is affecting the perceptions about the city since these yellow-cards carrying 'vulgar' material is found in most of the cars along the street. The Public Security official said they have launched investigations and found out based on the monitoring the time and areas that two young men were distributing small cards or inserting into the window of the parked vehicle. After thorough investigation, the two men were arrested. The two men after their arrest confessed that they joined a part-time job which was to help send out some "small cards" to make money. The easy task and quick way to earn money attracted them. Related cases are still under investigation.

INDIA WATCH

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, several economies around the world were affected due to their dependence on Chinese supply chains. Thus, they started to shift their investments and targeted consumers away from China to countries in Southeast Asia and South Asia. India benefitted a bit from such a shift of focus, with Indian stocks gaining weight. However, such gain was not observed in terms of foreign investments. With China easing regulations to increase foreign direct investments (FDIs) and related investments, India should take note to become an important alternative to China and bank on its relatively cheaper labour and the benefit of

diversification of supply chains. Some experts believe that the Indian economy is the best alternative given its structural evolution compared to the Chinese economy where the historical correlations are essentially broken. The Indian government's push to increase the money supply in the economy and to boost the growth of the national economy is a positive step in the direction towards becoming an alternative to China. Furthermore, with China widening its fault lines with the West, India is presenting itself as a new destination for multinational companies and foreign businesses. Three major problems that prevent India from becoming 'the next China' are the investment risks, policy inwardness and macroeconomic imbalances. Therefore, it can be said that an India with such internal challenges resolved can become a major destination for foreign businesses and MNCs, thus boosting economic growth and national economic development.

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