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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

Prepared By: Kartikeya Pandey | Research Intern



writetous.orca@gmail.com

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **US warships in China's Eastern Theatre Command:** "If the counter-measures are not thorough, they (US) will become more and more powerful." commented a Chinese viewer on a viral video titled "[US Warships](#) in eastern theatre: All movements are under control..." More than a million people saw the video, and soon after, netizens began to comment in droves. According to the reports, this was the first occasion in 2023 that a US warship passed across the [Taiwan Strait](#). The spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theater Command stressed that they closely monitored, tracked, and kept a high level of alert on the USS Chung-Hoon guided missile destroyer as it passed through the Taiwan Strait. He also emphasised that the Eastern Theatre Command had complete control over all the US vessel's movements. The whole comment section of the video was filled with nationalist comments, but there were also a few sarcastic remarks that were indirect criticisms. The tension between the two countries has been high since the [visit](#) of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan last year. In order to "keep peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," the US has maintained a continual presence in the area as part of its [Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy](#). China, on the other hand, views this as a flagrant provocation and an assault on its sovereignty.

NEWS IN CHINA

- According to the Shaanxi provincial institute of [archaeology](#), three [tombs](#) believed to date back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907) have been [discovered in Xi'an](#), the capital of northwest

China's Shaanxi Province on Thursday, January 12th. The Tang dynasty was a Chinese imperial dynasty that reigned from 618 to 907 AD, with a brief interregnum between 690 and 705 AD. Historians typically consider the Tang to be a pinnacle of Chinese civilisation and a golden age of cosmopolitan culture. The location where these tombs are found was previously the Tang capital Chang'an (present-day Xi'an), which was the world's most populated metropolis at the time. The empire's population is believed to be around 50 million, according to the records found of the time.

- Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba met with Chinese Foreign Minister (FM) Qin Gang in Libreville, the Gabonese capital. The Chinese FM is on a eight day tour to five African countries namely Ethiopia, Gabon, Angola, Benin and Egypt from January 9-16. The focal point of the entire meeting was the core interest and major concerns of both countries. The Chinese FM promoted the idea of modernisation with Chinese characteristics and reiterated China's support for Gabon's growth through China's flagship Belt and Road initiative programme for mutually beneficial cooperation. The president of Gabon also reaffirmed his support for China's development ideology and expressed hope for continued close ties with China. Gabon is an oil-producing country and has the fourth-highest Human Development Index (HDI) in the region (after Mauritius, Seychelles and South Africa) and the fifth-highest GDP at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)per capita in all of Africa (after Seychelles, Mauritius, Equatorial Guinea and Botswana). Gabon

and the Republic of China (ROC) established diplomatic ties in 1960, and later Gabon switched recognition to PRC in Beijing in 1974.

- Long March-2C carrier rocket took its 460th flight on Friday, as China launched its new telecommunication satellite into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province. The APSTAR-6E telecommunication satellite will mainly be used to provide high-throughput communication services for the Southeast Asia region. The Long March 2C rocket (CZ-2C) is a two-stage launch vehicle with a low-Earth orbit carrying a capacity of 4000 kg. The Long March 2C rocket was first successfully launched in September 1982.
 - Nine-time winner of China's Galaxy Award and 2015 Hugo Award winner Liu Cixin is set for another feat as the long-awaited live-action television adaptation of his award-winning novel The Three-Body Problem is all set to premiere on January 15. According to an announcement made via the official social media account of CCTV-8 along with a teaser, the drama, titled "Three-Body," will debut on CCTV-8, the TV drama channel of China's state broadcaster CCTV. The first novel of a science fiction trilogy, "The Three-Body Problem," centres on physicist Ye Wenjie's encounter with the Trisolaran civilisation, which lives in a three-sun system, and the centuries-long conflicts that ensue between humans and the aliens. The forthcoming show's star-studded lineup is led by actors Zhang Luyi and Yu Hewei.
 - China's meteorological authority issued an
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orange alert for a cold wave on Friday, anticipating significant temperature drops, gales, and heavy snow across the country. According to the National Meteorological Center, temperatures in parts of central and eastern China are forecast to drop by 8 to 12 degrees Celsius. The government suggested people dress warmly while going out and be cautious about colds, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disorders and other illnesses. As it is the Spring Festival travel season, the government also advised travellers to plan early to avoid the negative impacts of rain and snow on travel.

INDIA WATCH

- The perceived China challenge to the current, Western-dominated international order spurred the United States (US) to adopt the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy. The core values of this strategy are: freedom of navigation, the rule of law, freedom from coercion, respect for sovereignty and free markets. All regional US allies and partners are sought to be united under the Free and Open Indo-Pacific policy. The rebirth of the "Quad," of which India is also a participant, is only in accordance with this aim. Using the policy of "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" as a bargaining chip, India also tries to capitalise on this alliance from time to time. In line with this, a Task Force of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy was deployed in 2021 for more than two months to South East Asia, the South China Sea, and the Western Pacific in support of India's "Act East" strategy. The Indian Navy's deployment aimed to highlight its operational capabilities, peaceful presence, and solidarity with

friendly nations in order to maintain maritime law and order and to strengthen ties with Indo-Pacific countries. Apart from this, the Indian navy also participates with Chinese adversaries in the region through maritime exercises like JIMEX (Japan and India), Maritime Partnership Exercise (India and Japan), IND-INDO CORPAT (India and Indonesia), Malabar exercise (QUAD) etc. These exercises aim to counter China's rising maritime power and unite like-minded countries in light of potential Chinese maritime assertion. Thus, China sees these "freedom of navigation" and "right of innocent passage" activities in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea as an act of aggression and claims it to violate China's territorial integrity.

providing production-linked incentives to domestic industries which will help the industries to increase their manufacturing capabilities in the long run. This will also help the tech giants of India to counter Chinese supply chains that are currently threatened by various factors such as COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
