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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



writetous.orca@gmail.com

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NEWS IN CHINA

- State Councillor and Foreign Minister [Qin Gang](#) attended the fourth meeting of the foreign ministers of the nations that border Afghanistan on April 13 in Samarkand. Qin Gang was accompanied by foreign ministers from Uzbekistan, Russia, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Pakistan. In order to assist Afghanistan in overcoming challenges and achieving steady growth, Qin Gang emphasized the necessity for increased attention and input from the international community, particularly neighbouring nations. Qin mentioned that China is willing to collaborate with other nations to uphold the principles of sincerity, inclusivity, goodwill, and partnership with neighbors, deepen friendship, mutual trust, and integration of interests with neighbouring countries. He called for eradication of terrorism from Afghanistan and deepen regional cooperation for drug control, refugee rehabilitation and cross-border terrorism. He also reiterated that China will continue to support Afghanistan's reconstruction to the best of its ability. The 'Tunxi Initiative' will be put into effect, and all parties have committed to fostering regional connections and strong collaboration. The Samarkand Declaration of the Fourth summit of Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan's Neighbouring Countries was released following the summit.
- As per the [China Marine Economic Statistical Bulletin](#) released by the Ministry of Natural Resources, China's national marine output in 2022 has reached 9.462 trillion Yuan (around US\$ 1.419 trillion), accounting for 7.8% of GDP. It registered a growth of 1.9% over the previous year. This growth has been achieved as a result of increase in consumer demand owing to changes in dietary pattern of Chinese citizens. Due to this, China's overall investments in marine infrastructure has also increased and it is being utilized for marine engineering equipment, construction of cross-sea bridges and underwater tunnels. Similarly, China has become the world's largest shipbuilding country with more emphasis on exports.

Moreover, seven out of top 10 ports globally in terms of cargo throughput are from China. Marine development has also been useful for China's energy security as offshore wind power capacity has increased by 19% in 2022 compared to previous year. Further, China's oil and gas exploration has also achieved beneficial results for China as evident from first self-operated deepwater gas field and proven reserves of natural gas in South China Sea and pearl river basin.

- The 133rd China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, is set to open with a grand ceremony on Friday. The fair, which had been held online due to COVID-19 measures since 2020, will resume on-site activities in Guangzhou, China. Buyers from 226 countries and regions have registered for both offline and online exhibitions, with 53 leading multinationals confirming their attendance. The Canton Fair is expected to boost global trade in goods, help Chinese companies explore international markets, and contribute to the recovery and growth of the Chinese and global economies. With the largest scale in its history, the fair will feature new exhibition sections on smart manufacturing, new energy and intelligent connected vehicles, maternal and infant products, and the "silver-haired" economy for senior citizens. Over 34,933 exhibitors will participate offline, with 39,281 firms will participate online. China's private businesses account for 90.1% of the exhibitors, including leading manufacturing and high-tech enterprises. This year's fair is the largest in its history since 1957 in terms of venue size of nearly 1.5 million m² and number of global participants.

- China's new defense minister Li Shangfu will visit Russia for four days starting Sunday, in the first such visit since the Ukraine war began. The visit is aimed at strengthening strategic trust between China and Russia in the face of mounting geopolitical pressure from the US and its allies. Relations between the two militaries are said to be at a "high point", with new progress made in strategic communication, joint exercises, and practical cooperation. Li's appointment as defense minister and State Councilor has caused concerns about smooth communication due to US sanctions against him in 2018. China has not condemned Russia's aggression in Ukraine but has expressed a desire for peace. Top-level defence communications between China and the US have stalled, with suspicions growing in the US and its allies over China's close relations with Russia. However, China has insisted it has not provided lethal weapons to Russia and has condemned Western efforts to provide military aid to Ukraine. During President Xi Jinping's recent trip to Moscow, China and Russia pledged to hold joint drills and strengthen communication and cooperation between their militaries.

- China has expressed "grave concerns" and lodged protests against Japan's plan to impose export controls on 23 types of semiconductor manufacturing equipment, which is seen as aligning with US technology curbs on China. Chinese Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen urged Japan to respect market rules, abide by WTO rules, and maintain the stability of the global semiconductor industry and supply chains. Japan, on the other hand, expressed willingness to maintain dialogue
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with China and promote bilateral economic and trade relations. China has filed a lawsuit against Japan at the WTO and warned of possible countermeasures if Japan's actions harm China's interests. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang called on Japan not to join the US in chip restrictions, citing potential negative impacts on the Japanese economy and bilateral ties.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **News of man getting injured by a kite line caught the Netizens attention:** A thrilling incident occurred in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, where Mr. Liu borrowed a friend's motorcycle for a ride. While riding, he was unexpectedly strangled by a kite line. Although he was fortunate that his speed was slow, the consequences were still unimaginable. The kite had fallen on a tree on the other side of the road, and its line was stretched across the road. The couple flying the kite apologized, and initially, Mr. Liu didn't think too much of it as he did not feel much difficulty. However, he later discovered that his neck was bleeding and swollen. The kite flyers had already left, and despite calling the police, they were unable to locate them. The hashtag [#男子骑摩托车遭风筝线勒喉受伤](#) # (Man riding a motorcycle was injured by kite line strangling his throat) has been trending on Weibo since. With one comment saying, "I really don't know what to think about putting the kite as an airplane, the kite line is getting sharper and sharper, and it is necessary to control it from the source" and another commenting, "The consequences of such a thing are really unimaginable."

INDIA WATCH

- The [Fourth Meeting](#) of Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan's Neighboring States was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on April 13, 2023. The foreign ministers and senior officials of China, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan attended the meeting. The Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the peaceful, united, sovereign, and independent development of Afghanistan, free from terrorism and drug trafficking. During the earlier meeting of this group in 2022, [TAPI](#) pipeline project, which aims to transport natural gas from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India, was cited as an important project for the reconstruction of Afghanistan under the interim administration of the Taliban. The meeting underscores China and Pakistan's continued support for the Taliban government in Afghanistan as they seek to expand their influence in the country. India's exclusion from the meeting is a cause of concern as India is a critical neighbouring partner invested in peace in Afghanistan. India's stakes in Afghanistan have increased, and its significance in regional affairs has grown as well. This presents an opportune moment for India to shift from a passive stance on Afghanistan to proactive regional diplomacy. [India's stance](#) on the Taliban regime remains unchanged. However, India can leverage the recent initiative for regional security consultation and initiate talks with the other countries involved to actively participate in shaping Afghanistan's future.

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