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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Astronomical Research:** Chinese researcher [Li Zhengyang](#), who has conducted astronomical research in Antarctica has said that carrying out research in extremely low temperatures has been difficult but also rewarding. Li further said that Dome A is the “best site to catch a view of the stars” and that he is proud that it was first visited by the Chinese. Li is a scientist for the Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics and Technology of the National Astronomical Observatories which operates under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Li has twice been to the peak of the inland icecap in Antarctica known as Dome A also called “the inaccessible pole” and had carried out research in extremely low temperatures.
- **China’s Foreign Trade:** According to the [National Bureau of Statistics](#), the foreign trade of China in goods for the month of July increased 16.6% year on year to 3.81 trillion yuan i.e., USD 563 billion.
- **Silk Road International Expo:** In China’s Xi’an, the sixth [Silk Road International Exposition](#) is underway with the agenda of deeper cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative. The theme of the exposition is interconnectivity and integration to foster common progress, shared benefits, and “win-win results”. Participants in the expo are from over 70 different countries. The expo will continue for five days with forums and meetings which would cover topics like smart manufacturing, green development, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

NEWS IN CHINA

- Senators from the United States Congress visited Taiwan as a delegation violating the one-China principle along with the three joint communiqués of the United States and China. [Wu Qian](#), spokesperson for the defense ministry stated that the visit also violates Chinese territorial integrity by conveying a wrong message to the separatist forces who aim for Taiwan's independence. He further stated that it exposes the United States as a spoiler of peace and has made the Taiwan Strait more unstable. In response, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) initiated military patrolling and training exercises both on water and air around Taiwan. The statement further mentioned that "Taiwan is China's Taiwan" and that there should be no intervention from other nations in this issue.
- Factors like developer debt crunch, surplus empty homes, a weak economy, and boycott of mortgages have led to a [drop in home prices](#) for the 11th straight month. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, the 70-city index of home prices showcased a drop of 0.1 % in comparison to June and 1.7 % year over the year. The price for new houses has also dropped in 40 cities and the prices for secondary markets dropped in 51 cities. The new home prices in first-tier cities like Shenzhen, Shanghai, and Beijing, increased by 3.1 % and prices for secondary markets increased 0.9% year on year. In the second-tier cities, the new home prices declined by 0.5% and secondary market prices declined by 2.5% and in the third-tier cities, they declined by 3.2% and 3.9% respectively. As per Yan Yuejin, director of

Shanghai-based E-house China Research and Development Institute, declining home transactions in multiple cities have weakened the prices for homes and more policy relaxation is necessary from local governments for the recovery.

- Several regions in China have reported temperatures above 40 Celsius. Concerned authorities have issued alerts for the high temperature for 25 consecutive days. According to meteorologists, this summer has marked the [strongest heat wave](#) in the past six decades, and such heat waves will become the new normal. This situation has resulted in droughts in many parts of China and the closing of tourist spots. According to experts, this will act as a stimulus for the government to prepare for the new normal by increasing the speed of industrial upgrades and transitioning to renewable sources, and investing in modern agriculture. A red alert was also issued by the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) on Sunday for certain parts of North China's Shaanxi, Northwest China's Xinjiang region, and East China's Jiangsu provinces. According to Sun Shao, a senior research fellow from the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, in comparison with the record-breaking heat wave of 2013, this heat wave came pretty early. He further stated that the situation has come up due to atmospheric circulation patterns more specifically the abnormalities occurring in the Western Pacific subtropical high.

On Monday morning, Vice Chairman of the [Central Military Commission](#) General Xu Qiliang met General Tea Banh, the Minister of National Defense and Deputy Prime

Minister of Cambodia in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. General Qilang highlighted the traditional relationship between Cambodia and China as a time-honored history. He further highlighted citing the changes in the world that the Chinese armed forces will fulfill the Global Security Initiative and the Global Development Initiative which were proposed by President Xi Jinping. China will also be working along with Cambodia in the implementation of the consensus between the two countries regarding building a community of a shared future, deepening pragmatic cooperation, maintaining regional stability, safeguarding common interests, strengthening communication and coordination marking a new chapter in the development of military relations between China and Cambodia. Gen. Tea Banh regarded China as a brother and an iron friend and Cambodia's adherence to the one-China principle. He appreciated China's valuable assistance in the modernization of Cambodia, its armed forces, and in the fight against Covid-19. He further added that Cambodia is willing to work with its Chinese counterparts under the strategic guidance of both countries' leadership in order to strengthen cooperation and deepen the pragmatic exchanges and continuously upgrade relations between the two countries and their militaries. Both leaders also agreed on supporting each other in safeguarding national sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity.

- After Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida along with government officials sent offerings to the [Yasukuni Shrine](#), the Chinese Embassy in Japan lodged serious

representations and has stated that they firmly oppose it. The Yasukuni Shrine is located in the Chiyoda ward in central Tokyo and is open to the public 24 hours a day. The shrine symbolizes the wrong attitude of Japan during the war. As per the Kyodo News Agency, the offering to the shrine was made without the Prime Minister making a visit. Unlike his predecessors, he referred to Japan's wartime actions and said that it "will never again repeat the horrors of war." For the Chinese, this gesture sends a wrong message to the people of Japan and the country's wartime crimes. In a statement from the embassy, China urged Japan to reflect on its history of aggression during the war.

INDIA WATCH

- The heat wave occurring and its subsequent effects in China add imperatives to pace up its transition to renewable energy sources. This is a serious challenge for China as they cannot let go of all fossil-based resources until and unless there are sufficient renewable resources to meet its current needs. In addition, China also needs to take into account that it is a "world factory" that holds the responsibility of large-scale manufacturing essentially playing a critical role in the Global Value Chains (GVCs). If China goes for a quick transition from fossil-based to renewable resources, GVC manufacturing is likely to get disrupted. Therefore, even in dire conditions, China will have to retain its fossil-based resources and slowly transition to green energy considering the manufacturing requirements globally.
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