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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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## NEWS IN CHINA

- The [Shanghai Auto Show](#), which runs from April 18 to April 27, will showcase over 100 new car models, including around 70 new electric vehicles (EVs). The exhibition is the first major auto show in China after three years of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The event is expected to attract over 1 million visitors, a nearly 20 per cent increase from the last event in 2021. The show highlights digitalisation, intelligence, and electrification, with the innovative products on display demonstrating the latest technological trends in the auto industry. Major car manufacturers such as Volkswagen and General Motors will display their response to Tesla's Model 3 and Model Y in Shanghai to maintain their market share. Chinese EV start-ups, including Xpeng and Nio, will also unveil their new models to take on Tesla's bestselling Shanghai-made Model Y. Battery-powered vehicles are the only bright spot in China's automotive industry, buoyed by government subsidies and new digital technologies that have attracted millions of young drivers. The price war in the mainland's automotive industry has spurred carmakers to cut prices to woo customers, leading to a dent in their profitability.
- [National Supercomputing Internet Consortium](#) was recently launched at Tianjin under the revamped Science and Technology Ministry. During the launch, several experts from reputed institutions discussed the action plan for this new forum and expressed the need to develop independent supercomputing ecosystem to improve social livelihood and digital economy. During the discussion, experts also touched upon the issue of unbalanced distribution of supercomputing facilities and insufficient promotion of application scenarios due to differences in provincial policies. China also aims to achieve major breakthroughs in supercomputing by 2025 to support high-quality economic development, original scientific innovation and improvement in people's quality of life.

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- China's President Xi Jinping emphasised the need to diversify China's food production and build up the seed industry during his recent domestic trip to Guangdong province. Analysts suggest this will help guarantee the nation's food security, as geopolitical risks hover over the global food trade and higher living standards drive demand for greater food variety and improved nutrition. During his trip, Xi called for parallel efforts to bolster land-based agricultural production and take advantage of marine resources, highlighting the imperative to strengthen marine farming, develop sea-ranching, and build "blue breadbaskets". The seed industry is the foundation for the development of modern agriculture and fisheries, and there are efforts to vigorously develop deep-sea aquaculture equipment and smart fisheries.
  - Central government officials in charge of Hong Kong affairs emphasised the importance of strengthening the special administrative region's ability to safeguard national security during an event for National Security Education Day. They vowed to diligently fulfil their responsibilities of safeguarding national security, guard against emerging risks in the financial and cybersecurity sectors, and enhance residents' initiative in protecting national security. Xia Baolong, head of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, addressed the opening ceremony and said that national security is closely related to Hong Kong's future. John Lee Ka-chiu, chief executive of the HKSAR, cautioned that the city must not underestimate hidden national security threats. Zheng Yanxiong, director of the

Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR, hopes that Hong Kong society will continuously strengthen its ability to safeguard national security to prevent a resurgence of political unrest.

- Uruguay's foreign minister, Francisco Bustillo, recently embarked on a five-day visit to China to strengthen bilateral relations and push forward negotiations on a potential free-trade agreement. Against the backdrop of geopolitical tensions between China and the United States, the visit underscores China's efforts to bolster ties with South America. According to the Chinese foreign ministry, the two sides will engage in in-depth talks on a range of issues, aimed at deepening political mutual trust and practical cooperation. Bustillo's visit has raised hopes for progress on a separate free-trade deal with the Southern Common Market, or Mercosur, of which Uruguay is a member alongside Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. Despite some hurdles, including restrictions on individual Mercosur members making trade deals with other countries without the bloc's consent, China has been actively pursuing closer economic ties with Uruguay, which is China's top trading partner in the region.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Chinese Man Creates AI Version of Deceased Grandmother for Comfort:** A Chinese man named Wu has created an artificial intelligence (AI) version of his late grandmother who died due to COVID-19 in January to bring himself some psychological comfort. Wu, a visual art
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designer, used image software and old photos to create a dynamic image of his grandmother and then trained the AI to mimic her voice tone using recordings of their previous phone conversations. Wu's resurrection of his grandmother using AI technology has sparked a heated discussion on social media. Wu's project has drawn a lot of attention on social media, with some praising the use of AI technology to keep the memory of loved ones alive, while others see it as a denial of the natural cycle of life and death. Wu himself acknowledged that his "resurrecting grandma" project is just for psychological comfort and that the AI can only have simple conversations. The story highlights the ongoing debate over the application of new technology in fields such as grief and bereavement.

has identified the ocean to be the most viable option to maintain and uphold food security. Much of the country is reliant on its Southern and Eastern regions for agricultural needs – a result of greater rainfall distribution over those regions; however, recent droughts as well as floods have strained its food security. Thus, there is a need to diversify and build up aquaculture at par with agriculture. Further, with rising standards of living, there are greater demands for diverse food products and nutritional value. This latter factor is exacerbated by sharp increases in the rates of obesity, which is another driving force in pushing for food security and food diversity.

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## INDIA WATCH

- At the 100th G20 meeting held in Varanasi, there were talks about integrating coarse grains (millets) into Indians' diets on the occasion of International Year of Millets. This would result in a win-win situation as the farmers will see an increase in their income, and food-nutritional security will be established. Moreover, Indian farmers are being increasingly encouraged to switch to more organic methods of agriculture, in a bid to improve the quality of food, improve the quality of the soil, boost the biodiversity in various regions as well as reduce the consumption of synthetic inputs (chemical fertilisers, pesticides and insecticides). Further, this is a sustainable way to meet India's growing demands for food, and is highly beneficial in the long run. China, on the other hand,
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