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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- Based on the interpretation of [bamboo slips](#) that date back more than 2,000 years from Western Han dynasty, Chinese academics have published the forgotten medical classics that they believe were authored by Bian Que. The slips, which include vital medical material from the school that Bian Que had followed, were discovered in Tianhui Town, Chengdu, in 2012. Archaeologists, traditional Chinese medicine specialists, and specialists in the preservation and restoration of cultural artefacts have worked together for more than ten years to restore 930 bamboo slips containing more than 20,000 Chinese characters. The slips offer unique physical proof of the academic origins of acupuncture and moxibustion in China, two of the country's top intangible cultural legacies in traditional medicine. These documents are now being compiled into a series of 8 medical books called "Tianhui medical slips", which also contains images of slips along with editorial notes.
- A recent report from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs predicts a steady expansion in China's [grain production](#) this year, as the country continues to prioritize ensuring a safe supply of grain and major farm produce. The report forecasts that China's grain output in 2023 will reach 694 million tonnes, with rice and wheat output will remain stable while that of corn and soybean output will increase. Additionally, the report expects a significant increase in the output of rapeseeds, peanuts, and special oil crops, and anticipates a 5.1% growth in China's yearly output of oil crops. The report notes that the increase in income among both urban and rural residents, as well as shifts in food consumption patterns towards fruit and meat, will drive up demand. It concludes by stating that China's ability to ensure a steady and secured supply of grain and major farm produce will continue to improve in 2023, as more diversified food supply chain is being created.

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- On April 21, 2023, Xi Jinping, the General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, chaired the first meeting of the 20th Central Committee for Comprehensively Deepening Reform. In his speech, he emphasized that the comprehensive deepening of reforms should be the fundamental driving force for promoting Chinese-style modernization. The meeting reviewed and approved several opinions, including those on strengthening the position of enterprises in scientific and technological innovation, improving the management of the state-owned economy, and promoting the development of the private economy. Xi Jinping emphasized the need to strengthen the dominant position of enterprises in scientific and technological innovation to achieve scientific and technological self-reliance. It also laid guidelines to encourage private enterprises to participate in major national innovations. The focus on private economy was also noteworthy as Xi talked about removing barriers that restrict private businesses from fair market competition and also to promote growth private personnel engaged in businesses.
 - Foreign investment in China has continued to grow and maintain its attractiveness to foreign investors. From January to March 2023, the actual use of foreign capital in China was 408.45 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 4.9%. Large projects with foreign investment of more than \$100 million accounted for 223.28 billion of investments. China has become one of the most attractive investment destinations in the world. Despite the greater downward pressure on the global economic and trade investment and the uncertainties that are still fermenting, China's economic rebound

provides valuable certainty for an uncertain world economy and broad opportunities for the global business community. China's investments from France and Germany increased by 635.5% and 60.8% respectively, whereas investments from BRI countries increased by 27.8%. Moreover, despite the ongoing US-China trade war, over 60% of American companies under the Chamber of Commerce have shown interest in investing more in China.

- On April 21, Jiading District in Shanghai launched its 2023 World Book Day, Public Library Service Promotion Week along with the 4th Chinese Business School "Storytelling Moment" Challenge. At the event, the "Qin Shouou Commemorative Collection" was released, which is a collection of the works of famous writer Qin Shouou, a native of Jiading. Qin Shouou was a noted literary figure in China for his famous novel 'Qiu Haitang' which portrayed the tragic life of opera actors. The Jiading District Library carried out research on Qin's manuscripts and notes and compiled this anthology after five years of work. The Wojia Study Room, the city's first urban study, was also opened in an immovable cultural relic in the district. It showcases printing and publication culture to the public and currently holds nearly 3,000 books.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- Chinese social media has been buzzing about Zibo barbecue, a type of meat skewers wrapped in a pancake that originated in the small industrial city of Zibo. The popularity of this cuisine on
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social media platforms such as Weibo and Xiaohongshu has resulted in a surge of tourism in Zibo, with the local government capitalizing on this newfound fame by creating special transportation and promoting other attractions in the city. The power of social media to boost a city's tourism potential is not lost on Chinese netizens. Zibo's sudden rise inspired the hashtag 'I speak for the specialties of my hometown' on Weibo. This trend of social media boosting tourism has been seen in other Chinese cities as well, and netizens are now sharing unique dishes from their own hometowns with the hope of similar success. The rise in domestic tourism in China has also been attributed to the relaxing of travel restrictions since the start of this year.

INDIA WATCH

- In the field of medicine, India has a rich tradition of Ayurveda, one of the oldest systems of medicine in the world. Along with that, other medicine texts such as the Charaka Samhita and the Sushruta Samhita, continue to be used today to treat an extensive range of illnesses. Top of Form Both China and India have been pushing for the promotion and utilization of their traditional medicines globally. India has signed MoUs with foreign universities and institutes for setting up AYUSH Academic Chairs and has signed MoUs with 23 countries for cooperation in the field of traditional medicine and homoeopathy. The country also celebrates Ayurveda Day, Unani Day, and Siddha Day, and the International Day of Yoga is celebrated in more than 190 countries. Under the Scheme, the Ministry of AYUSH

deputes AYUSH experts to foreign countries to participate in international meetings, conferences, training programs, seminars, and on special assignments. Financial assistance is provided for presentation of AYUSH related scientific research papers in international conferences, workshops, seminars, etc. On the other hand, China implemented its Fourth National Survey of Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) Resources to establish a comprehensive database on CMM resources to improve their management, protection, development, and utilization. The survey results will boost large-scale planting of medicinal plants, TCM industry growth, and regional economic development. Overall, both countries are focusing on promoting their traditional medicine systems through various measures, including international cooperation, research, education, and publicizing their systems. Thus, both China and India have been making efforts to promote their ancient medicine systems and thereby, strengthen the promotion of their respective civilizations.

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