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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Wentian Lab Module trends online:** The space crew of the [Shenzhou-14](#) has successfully assembled and tested an environment control and regenerative life support system within the Wentian module. The system allows recycled use of resources which would assist in the long duration of the in-space mission. The overall system includes six subsequent systems which facilitate regeneration of oxygen, handling of urine and water, removal of carbon dioxide and toxic trace gas, and carbon dioxide reduction. In application, for instance, one sub-system allows the gathering of sweat and breath moisture from the astronauts and through purification, turns them into drinkable water.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- According to China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, after the launch of the Long March 2D, the [Long March Carrier](#) rocket family has set a new record of consecutive and successful space launches. The Long March 2D was launched at 1.37 AM on 20 August from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan province. The rocket then placed a series of Yaogan 35-04 satellites into pre-set orbits. The Long March series has executed 103 successful launches in a period of 27 months breaking the previous record of 102 successful and consecutive launches between 1996 and 2011. The launches included the transportation of 200 spacecraft into orbit which includes a lunar probe, a Mars probe, space station modules, and manned spaceships. According to the press release, the system is meant to conduct scientific experiments, forecast agricultural yields, survey land resources, and assist in disaster prevention and relief.

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- China will be reconstructing the Tanzania-Zambia railway also called Tazara. The project will be the largest foreign aid project undertaken by China in Africa. According to the Chinese embassy in Zambia, the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation has been appointed for carrying out a feasibility study on the project. China funded the project 50 years ago under Chairman Mao Zedong and premier Zhou Enlai. There was desperation from Zambia for this project after Zimbabwe, (then Rhodesia), a white-controlled territory, stood opposing the transfer of power to a black majority in the immediate neighbourhood. After Russia and USA refused to fund the new railway, China stepped in to fund the project. The Tazara project was built between 1970 and 1975 with a cost of around a billion yuan in interest-free loans along with 50,000 Chinese workers. The Chinese workers were involved in building the 1,860 km track stretching from the copper belt of Zambia to Dar es Salaam Port in Tanzania.
  - According to a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the US Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns' remarks about Taiwan have exposed America's hegemonic logic. In an interview with CNN, Nicholas Burns stated that the response from China regarding US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan was an overreaction. The spokesperson further stated that "It would be unfair to say that the U.S. had not been warned about the consequences if the visit took place" since China has earlier lodged representation to the USA regarding the visit and that the USA will have to take responsibility of the consequences. The statement also reiterated the importance of the one-China principle for China and that no foreign power should underestimate the capability of China to defend its territorial integrity.
  - In response to the ongoing heat wave and drought, China has initiated multiple efforts to secure power supply and ease the impact of the heat on the harvest. The Central Meteorological Center (CMC) of China has continued a red alert issue as monitoring stations across China have reported a temperature of 40 Celcius. The power shortage is likely to exert pressure on overall production but the impact will be limited as the heatwave ends. Thermal power plants are the primary source of power generation in China and given that temperatures in certain areas including the northern part of the Yangtze River are dropping, relief in power shortages is expected by the end of August. There is also a concern regarding the impact of the drought on harvest which is 75% of total grain output in China. Further, the Ministry of Water Resources stated that 32.9 million arable lands suffered the impact of the drought. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has suggested that the local governments should continue spraying the water-retaining and drought-resistant agents in areas that lack irrigation systems.
  - China has commissioned two Type 055 10,000 ton-class large destroyers called the Anshan and the Wuxi. The two newly commissioned destroyers have already carried out a series of drills. The destroyers are expected to achieve capability for combat by the end of the year. These ships will be deployed for operations like encircling Japan and patrolling near Alaska
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alongside its sister ships. Anshan and Wuxi were involved in a series of maritime exercises for several days under complex weather conditions organised by a vessel training facility affiliated with the PLA's Northern Theater Command Navy. The drills included formation change, live-fire shooting at both day and night time, anti-submarine warfare, joint air defense, torpedo defense, joint search and rescue, and coordination with vessel-based helicopters. These drills were meant to stimulate battle scenarios. Anshan and Wuxi are equipped with 112-cell missile vertical launch units, have strong situational awareness, and have a displacement of more than 12,000 tons. These features altogether make the two destroyers one of the most powerful warships globally.

region while simultaneously strengthening its land troops in the Himalayan region.

## INDIA WATCH

- The commissioning of Anshan and Wuxi happens amidst multiple developments in the region. In response to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, the PLA has deployed troops to conduct military exercises around Taiwan. On the other hand, India and USA will be conducting joint military exercises near the LAC under the banner of their bilateral military exercises called Yudh Abhyas in October. Amidst the strong Chinese military infrastructure presence and upgraded weapon systems in the Western sector, these exercises are being called out as highly significant. In light of such developments, the induction of the two destroyers is likely to make situations tense for India since China has actively been able to consolidate its naval presence in the
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