

23 - 24 FEBRUARY 2023

# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## NEWS IN CHINA

- According to the Minister of Science and Technology, China had invested roughly 195.1 billion yuan (about US\$28.3 billion) on basic research in 2022, accounting for 6.3% of total R&D expenditure. According to minister Wang Zhigang, China's total R&D expenditure reached 3.09 trillion yuan (about US\$448.2 billion) in 2022, 2.55% of GDP. Hot papers published from China made up 41.7% of all papers published worldwide in 2022, while highly cited articles from China made up 27.3%. Hot papers are those that were published during the last two years and received enough citations in the past two months to rank in the top 0.1 % of peer-reviewed publications. According to Wang, China plays a significant role in both international innovations and providing solutions to world problems. According to the statistics, there were 400,000 high-tech firms in China in 2022, accounting for 68% of all firms' R&D contributions, and 762 of them ranked among the top 2,500 in the world.
- Zhang Yuzhuo, the chairman of the State Council's State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC), stated that "the quality and efficiency of centrally administered SOEs have improved comprehensively, and their vitality and competitiveness have been enhanced across the board." Over the previous ten years, the combined profits of central SOEs have grown from 1.3 trillion yuan (US\$188.3 billion) to 2.6 trillion yuan (US\$377 billion). The central SOEs paid around one-seventh of the nation's overall tax income in taxes and fees. By the end of 2022, the total assets of central SOEs had increased from 31.4 trillion yuan (US\$4.55 trillion) in 2012 to 81 trillion yuan (US\$11.7 trillion). According to Zhang, as a result of the overall layout and structural optimization,

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the core SOEs capacity for scientific and technological innovation has increased greatly. Over the last ten years, central SOEs have spent nearly 6.2 trillion yuan (US\$899 billion) on research and development, with an average annual growth rate of about 10.5%. A total of 91 national important laboratories and 764 national research and development platforms have been constructed.

- The Guangzhou city government in Guangdong, contributed 200 billion yuan (about US\$29 billion) for the establishment of a fund to support initiatives in the semiconductor, new energy, and other high-tech sectors. Prior to the initiative launch, the governments of Beijing, Shenzhen, and Hangzhou recently unveiled a variety of incentives in the fields of science and technology as China revised its epidemic prevention strategies. Guangzhou municipal government recently announced that it would contribute 150 billion yuan to the Guangzhou Industrial Investment Fund of Funds, which focuses on semiconductors, new energy, and advanced manufacturing. Guangzhou has also established 50 billion Yuan (US\$7.25 billion) innovation investment fund to finance early-stage investments in high-tech businesses. In a few years, the fund is expected to grow to a venture capital fund cluster of more than 200 billion yuan, which would offer angel and seed funding for start-up businesses. Prior to this, Anhui and Shaanxi governments had also announced launch of similar funds for advanced manufacturing in the past.
- Ministry of Industry and Information Technology along with other relevant

departments have carried out crackdown against 'black broadcasting' and 'fake base stations.' In 2022, 990 cases of illegal broadcasting were investigated which has reduced by 42% compared to 2021. Similarly, 5 cases of fake base stations and 4 cases of GoIP telecom frauds were also investigated. These cases have endangered air waves as well as people's lives and property. Such cases had increased with more intelligent and sophisticated technologies. However, different departments under the ministry along with ministry of public security have strengthened their efforts to curb such activities which has resulted in the drop in such cases.

- Eastern Theater Command of the PLA Navy conducted five day sea combat drills in the East China Sea. It was a destroyer detachment which participated in combat training. The five destroyers which participated in the drills are Nantong, Hangzhou, Shaoxing, Xiangtan and Jingzhou. The combat operations were performed on sea, air and underwater targets. Exact location of the drill area has not been cited. Along with ships, air elements were also involved in this exercise. Anti submarine drills were also carried out, the exercise saw the deployment of underwater countermeasure equipment.
  - The Chinese Foreign Minister and his Indonesian counterpart hold the fourth meeting of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation between China and Indonesia. Both countries have agreed to bring strategic synergy in their bilateral relations. They have based their bilateral relation on the "Four Wheel Drive" pattern
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which includes cooperation in politics, economy, humanities and maritime affairs. The China-Indonesia ties now incorporate cementing of high level contracts, consolidation of strategic mutual trust, increased coordination of political and security policies and issuing support to each other's core interests and concerns. Indonesia is part of the Belt and Road Initiative under which key projects have been started which are "Regional Comprehensive Economic Corridor and Twin Countries and Twin Parks". The two countries will also push the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea with Association of Southeast Asian Nations' member countries.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **A debate on feminist views became viral in China:** An unprecedented debate on Chinese social media platforms over the nature of feminism in China has been ignited by a contentious online conversation between a prominent Japanese women rights activist and Chinese bloggers. Tens of millions of netizens have reacted to the verbal sparring after a Bili Bili blogger Quan Xixi uploaded a video of herself and two college roommates discussing marriage and feminism with Japanese feminist scholar Chizuko Ueno. All three Chinese interviewers are married and studies from prestigious Beijing university. The interview has received over two million views and 35,000 comments on Bili Bili already and it crossed over 10 million views and remained top in Weibo search list. Many people noted that the three roommates' questions to Ueno, were restricted to marriage that

came from their own experiences and it also embarrassed Professor Ueno. Netizens criticized Quan for "wasting" a chance to converse with a scholar like Ueno. Quan removed the video from her Weibo account after she received backlash and apologised for her unwise questions. Ueno is probably the most well-known feminist scholar in Japan, and she is also regarded as a role model for Chinese women's rights. This incident is important considering recent censorship on discussion concerning women rights in China.

## INDIA WATCH

- According to preliminary figures from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), China's research and development (R&D) expenditures hit 3.09 trillion yuan (\$448 billion) in 2022, a new record high and a 10.4% increase over the previous year. According statistical data from the NBS, the nation's R&D spending now ranks at 12th place among major nations, surpassing even France and the Netherlands. Additionally, China urges financial institutions to provide funding to those facilities and will assist legitimate international R&D. Contrary to this, India spends very less on R&D, and its 0.7% expenditure-to-GDP ratio is extremely low when compared to other major nations and far lower than the global average of 1.8%. In fact, R&D spending to GDP ratio in India has decreased, falling from 0.8% of GDP in 2008-09 to 0.7% in 2017-18. According to data, India has lesser R&D expenditures than the other BRICS countries. Even countries like South Africa spend about 1.2% of their GDP.. The corporate sector's underinvestment in R&D is the primary cause for low investment in R&D. While the corporate sector
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contributes roughly two-thirds of gross domestic spending on research and development (GERD) in advanced countries, Indian corporate only accounts for 37% of GERD. It's also interesting to note that, in contrast to other economies, India's government funds the majority of its R&D expenditures. Indian businesses invested only \$17 billion in R&D in 2015, as opposed to their Chinese and American competitors who invested \$286 billion and \$341 billion, respectively. It is certain that the private sector will play a big part in this situation. Hence, commercial institutions should work together to increase R&D expenditure in order to improve this situation. It will improve India's innovation environment and also facilitate success of initiatives like Atal Tinkering labs at school level. After all, technological innovation is significant in the current environment, and investing in R&D is the only way to make India a technological giant.

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