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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- President Xi Jinping met with 70 new foreign ambassadors to China and reiterated China's commitment to peaceful development, creating more opportunities for the world, and working with other countries to address global challenges. He welcomed the ambassadors and expressed his hope that they would act as messengers of friendship and bridges of cooperation. Xi talked about China's efforts in combating the COVID-19 pandemic and reaffirmed China's commitment to pursuing a peaceful development path and promoting exchanges of people to build close people-to-people bonds. He also mentioned China's new journey of building a modern socialist country and advancing national rejuvenation through the Chinese path toward modernization.
- Changshu City in Jiangsu Province, China, will start paying the salaries of civil servants and state-owned units in digital RMB from May, according to local financial supervisory authorities. This move follows similar attempts made in multiple Chinese cities since last year, with employees in Taicang City and Xiangcheng District among those receiving digital RMB payments. The use of digital RMB for salary payments is seen as a way to promote the application of the digital currency and cultivate usage habits. Dong Ximiao, chief researcher at Merchants Union Consumer Finance Co, believes there may be more places using digital RMB to distribute salaries in the future.
- Chinese Vice Premier, Ding Xuexiang, gave a speech at the opening ceremony of the 4th United Nations World Data Forum in Hangzhou, China. He highlighted China's achievements in digital economy development and called for a rule of data to implement the Global Development Initiative (GDI) to inject new energy into sustainable development. He proposed a four-point proposal to achieve this, including

upholding true multilateralism and deepening global digital governance, strengthening the application of digital innovation, promoting equitable development, and working together to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also delivered a speech via video link, and Ding met with foreign guests attending the forum before the opening ceremony.

- The Chinese lawmakers of the National People's Congress Standing Committee have started the third reading of a draft law on ecological conservation on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, which specifies requirements regarding ecological conservation and restoration, as well as ecological risk prevention and control. The draft highlights the protection of snow-capped mountains, glaciers and frozen soil, and calls for effective measures to prevent human interference in relevant areas, coordinated with the conservation of adjacent ecosystems. The draft also mandates strengthening the monitoring, early warning, and systematic protection of these natural resources, and specifies stricter penalties for relevant violations.
- China celebrated Space Day with over 400 activities nationwide to highlight the importance and benefits of space science and technology. The China National Space Administration and the Chinese Academy of Sciences released images of Mars obtained during China's first Mars exploration mission, providing a better-quality base map for Mars exploration and scientific research. Technologies inspired by space achievements have been applied

in various fields, including agriculture, where the use of drones has significantly eased the burden of farmers in tasks such as daily feeding of crayfish. The homegrown BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) has been instrumental in transforming agriculture by providing powerful satellite navigation services for more than 100,000 agricultural machines installed with the BDS automatic driving system. China has also launched several satellites for remote sensing, providing high-resolution images of crop growth, soil moisture levels, and other data to monitor pests and diseases and predict crop yields. Additionally, China has successfully bred a variety of seeds, including grains, fruits, and vegetables, contributing to the nation's food security.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **China's new unified real estate registration system announced; trends on Weibo:** China's Natural Resources Minister's announcement that the country had achieved the complete implementation of a unified registration system for real estate trended on Weibo. Minister Wang Guanghua made this announcement during the National Conference on the Registration of Natural Resources and Real Estate Rights held on April 4. This accomplishment follows ten years of efforts in transitioning from decentralisation to unification, covering urban and rural properties, natural resources, and all land spaces. The newly established unified real estate registration system covers all real estate rights, effectively completing China's mission to
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centralise its real estate registration process.

INDIA WATCH

- Agriculture is a crucial component of the Indian economy, as it employs 45 per cent of the workforce and accounts for approximately 15 per cent of the GDP. Nevertheless, low productivity, along with poverty and malnutrition in rural areas, remains a significant challenge. Millions of small-scale farmers struggle to provide for their families, let alone make a profit from their hard work, due to issues such as water scarcity, climate change, and divided land holdings. China on the other hand is making good progress in the agriculture sector. China's space technology is growing and making significant progress in various fields, especially agriculture. This is particularly seen in the case of the homegrown BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), which is greatly in demand. What makes it even more remarkable is that the country – which is so reliant on agriculture for its economy – is using innovative means to enhance and maximise productivity. The BDS is used in several agricultural machines to aid in the processes, including deep ploughing, sowing, rice transplanting, harvesting, plant protection, drying, and straw protection. This has thus ensured the efficiency and productivity of agricultural production; stability of the farmers' income; a wide variety of grain, vegetable, fruit, flower, and grass; and better quality of agricultural output. India has the capacity and capabilities to introduce measures on the same lines as China has introduced to increase farmers' income in the country. The government must take

cues from other countries and introduce policies and measures that can benefit Indian farmers, given that agriculture is a vital aspect of Indian society.

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