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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- On Saturday, the [China International Online Literature Week 2023](#) kicked off in Hangzhou. co-sponsored by the Chinese Writers Association of Zhejiang province and the Hangzhou Municipal People's Government, this year's theme is "Colourful and Wonderful World of Asia - The Spread of Chinese Internet Literature in Asia." The programmes lined up for this festival include the releasing of the 'Report on the Development of Chinese Internet Literature in Asia' along with the international forum on online literature, the internet literature industry expo, and the promotion meeting for the international communication of online literature. During the opening ceremony, the Report was released, which showed that more than 16,000 Chinese literary works on the Internet reached more than 150 million users in different regions, such as North America and Asia.
- [Bacalhau](#), the world's first M350 floating, production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) oil production base, was officially delivered to the coastal city of Dalian this weekend. Bacalhau has been jointly developed by Dalian Shipbuilding Industry Company and Mitsui Ocean Development & Engineering Company. This FPSO vessel serves as a high-tech offshore engineering base designed to explore deep sea oilfields, and can process around 220,000 barrels of crude oil per day. It can also undertake preliminary processing such as sediment filtration, oil-gas separation, oily sewage treatment and storage, and loading and unloading crude oil. Bacalhau is 364 m long, 33 m deep, has a beam of 64 m, and a displacement of more than 460 thousand tonnes.
- The [Civic Party](#), one of the major opposition parties in Hong Kong, disbanded on Saturday, with majority of its members voting for the dissolution in the party's general meeting. According to the party's Chairman and Founder, Alan Leong Kah-kit, "the fate of the party was sealed when no members

came forward to run for Chairman or the Executive Committee last year, leaving it without the strong leadership who could organise fundraising.” Civic party was known for its strong advocacy of universal suffrage and rule of law in Hong Kong. The party’s decline began from 2020 onwards, with the implementation of the National Security Law on Hong Kong by Beijing. The following year, 4 core members of the party were charged with subversion, and later, they made an appeal for the party to disband, in order for the other party members to avoid possible prosecution. The Civic Party was formed in 2006, with the aim of becoming an alternative governance force, and gradually, began to adopt a confrontational stance.

- On Sunday, China’s first indigenously-built large aircraft C919 embarked on its first commercial flight. The flight MU9191, operated by China Eastern Airlines, with around 130 passengers on board, took off from Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport, and then arrived at Beijing Capital International Airport, covering the distance in 2 hours 25 minutes. The aircraft is registered as B-919A, with “The World’s First C919” written on the front part of the aircraft. It has 164 seats, 8 in business class and 156 in economy. The C919 programme was launched in 2009, and the aircraft has undergone thorough and rigorous testing, with its maiden test flight in 2017 lasting 1 hour 19 minutes. According to China Eastern Airlines, “The airline plans to operationalize five C919s in 2023, and will decide on adding extra C919s based on actual operating conditions and forward planning linked to the company’s aviation network.”

- On Saturday, the opening ceremony of the Demonstration Labour and Skills Competition for Key Projects 2023 was held in Heilongjiang province. Jia Yumei, Deputy Governor of the Standing Committee of the Provincial People’s Congress and Chairman of the Provincial Federation of Trade Unions, and Yu Jian, Vice-Governor of Heilongjiang province, were among the major guests in the opening ceremony. Jia, in her speech, emphasised on the importance of building the ‘4567’ modern industrial system, particularly the four major economies, which are digital economy, biological economy, winter economy, and the creative design industry. She also talked about the need for promoting enterprises to improve the competition reward and incentive mechanism, and linking the competition results with the promotion of the employees’ technical qualifications, income and treatment, and performance bonuses. Across Heilongjiang, 51,000 such competitions have been held since 2020 which witnessed participation of over 18.78 million employees. It has helped in skill development and economic benefits to participants.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Ya Ya back in Beijing:** On Sunday, Ya Ya, the famous giant panda who came back to China from the United States last month after 20 years, arrived in Beijing, after being airlifted from Shanghai. Thousands of people thronged the Beijing Daxing International Airport to witness its arrival. Ya Ya’s arrival in Beijing became a trending topic on social media platforms like Weibo. In 2003, two pandas, one of which was Ya
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Ya, were given to the United States as part of its panda diplomacy, a way through which China looked to foster positive relationships with other countries. Later on, reports and visuals began to emerge that Ya Ya and the other panda Le Le were mistreated at the Memphis Zoo, where they were kept. This angered Chinese sentiments, for pandas are seen as a national treasure. Further, in February this year, Le Le died due to a heart attack, which made matters even worse for the zoo authorities. Eventually, the zoo announced the Ya Ya would be returning to China, since its agreement with the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens had elapsed. Finally, in April, Ya Ya came back to her home country amid much fanfare and celebrations. In the coming months, Beijing Zoo is expected to attract more tourists who are interested in seeing Ya Ya.

INDIA WATCH

- China has looked to upskill its labour force through initiatives like labour and skill competitions in various sectors, as the latest example from Heilongjiang province shows, which also leads to other positive trickle-down effects. In India too, the Skill India campaign was launched in 2015, with the aim of upskilling the youth so as to enable them to contribute to the economic progress of the country and nation-building. As part of this campaign, numerous policy initiatives were undertaken by the government, such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), which encourages and promotes skill development in the country by way of providing free short-duration skill training, and incentives in the form of monetary

rewards to the youth for skill certification. Skill India started off with the aim of providing adequate training in market-relevant skills to over 40 crore youth in the country by the year 2022. In this year's Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that PMKVY 4.0 will be launched, with the target frame of the next three years. The scheme will emphasise on in-job training, industry partnership, and alignment of courses with the needs of the industries, as well as covering emerging skill sets like coding, AI, robotics, mechatronics, IoT, 3D printing, and drones. Moreover, 30 Skill India International Centres across different states were proposed to be set up, in order to upskill the youth for international opportunities. In conclusion, China aims to tackle declining labour force by upskilling existing employees whereas India has a demographic advantage for which skill development initiatives have been started to optimally utilise this advantage. Thus, both China and India have proactively promoted skills development in the last few years, albeit for different reasons.

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