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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- The [International Forum](#) on “Chinese Path to Modernisation” was held in Beijing on 27 March 2023. Politicians, experts, and scholars in various fields from 14 countries attended the International Forum on Chinese Path to Modernization and Global Community of Shared Future. They agreed that the Chinese model of modernisation promotes development as well as provides opportunities for the realisation of global development. The discussions involved important topics like a possible cold war or a “hot war” and sustainable development.
- Qin Gang, Foreign Minister and State Councillor and Wang Yi, Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, met with Kao Kim Hourn, the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on 27 March. Qin [said](#) that the year of 2023 marks a decade of China’s proposal to build closer China-ASEAN ties and expressed China’s willingness to carry forward the principles of the UN charter together with ASEAN. Wang Yi [said](#) that both sides should cooperate with each other on common interests. Kao Kim Hourn said that ASEAN too supports China’s initiatives, like the Global Development Initiative as a case in point and that ASEAN is ready to deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership with China.
- The [Boao Forum](#) for Asia Annual Conference 2023 began in Boao, Hainan. It will go on till 31 March 2023. The theme of the conference is “An Uncertain World: Solidarity and Cooperation for Development amid Challenges.” Mao Ning, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson [said](#) in a press conference, that the theme “reflects the shared aspiration of the international community for peace, cooperation and development”. The event centres around [four main topics](#): “Development and Inclusiveness,” “Efficiency and Security,” “Regional and Global,” and “The Present and the Future.” Premier Li Qiang is

expected to attend the opening ceremony and deliver a keynote address at the forum. The Prime Ministers of Singapore, Malaysia, Spain, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Managing Director of the IMF are also slated to attend the conference.

- China's State Council Information Office released a report on the human rights violations in the United States (US) in 2022. According to the report, there is a setback for the human rights situation in the US. The main issues are corruption, racial discrimination, gun violence and polarisation of wealth, the report said. The main contents of the report include- "Dysfunctional Civil Rights Protection System", "Hollowed-out American-style Electoral Democracy", "Growing Racial Discrimination and Inequality", "Worsening Subsistence Crisis among U.S. Underclass", "Historic Retrogression in Women's and Children's Rights", and "Wanton Violation of Other Countries' Human Rights and Trampling on Justice".
- China has launched a project, AI for Science, to promote the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research in science and technology. The project was jointly launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. It focuses on key issues in fields of drug development, gene research and biology breeding. It also aims to promote integration of AI in research, especially in interdisciplinary research.
- China has released a list of major archaeological findings of 2022. Sites dating back to palaeolithic ages have been

excavated in regions of Hubei province. The skull found here is one the most intact of the Homo erectus species found in Eurasian continent. In Zhaojia Xuyao of Shandong, the discovery of specimens helped the study of the significant questions regarding the transition from the Palaeolithic Age to the Neolithic Age. Other important sites include Bicun in Shanxi, Dasongshan in Guizhou, and Gucheng in Jilin. Recently, in Henan, archaeologists have discovered tombs that date back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD) between the ancient city walls. The tombs were in the Songguogucheng site, said Yue Hongbin, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **The Qinglang Regulations trend again as the State Cyberspace Administration holds a press conference: #清朗行动将整治自媒体乱象等问题** has been trending on Chinese social media as the State Cyberspace Administration held a press conference on 28 March to introduce special actions that will focus on regulating social media content, in line with the Qinglang series. They recognised nine issues of top priority which include-rectifying the chaos of "自媒体" (self-media); cracking down on the manipulation of information; regulating the order of network communication in key traffic links; and optimising the business network environment. The netizens are also in support of such actions as one user commented, "Please rectify accounts that provoke wars". Niu Yibing, spokesperson of the Cyberspace Administration of China
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(CAC), said that the profit-making behaviour of “self-media” will be strictly regulated. The focus is mainly on the short videos that spread misleading information or false news. Niu said these videos are easier and faster to spread thus becoming an important carrier of information to the netizens. He said the special operation has three aspects: first, to clean up the misleading short videos, secondly, to crack down on dissemination of short videos that immoral activities, and thirdly, to rectify the short videos that contain wrong and negative content.

INDIA WATCH

- The geostrategic significance of ASEAN is increasing in recent years with the widening discourse on the Indo-Pacific region. The shift in geopolitical narratives also makes ASEAN the fulcrum of the Indo-Pacific region. Some countries in the ASEAN bandwagon with China while some try to balance its rise. The latter group is what has emerged as an area of convergence with India as India tries to find like-minded nations that share common concerns about China and share similar goals. Besides the China factor, ASEAN is important for India given its location and the sea lines of communication (SLOCs) like the Malacca Strait, Sunda Strait, and Lombok Strait that are important for maritime commerce. Given that the nature of relationship has been largely trade ties, India has traditionally pursued Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with ASEAN countries. However, it is important to note that China has also been engaging in similar areas with ASEAN. For example, India is heavily involved in infrastructure investment in

Myanmar, while China too is equally, if not more, invested in infrastructure investments in countries like Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia. Nevertheless, what must be appreciated is India’s soft power and diplomatic approach to cultivating ties with the ASEAN members by leveraging the China threat theory. There has been significant progress in India’s relations with ASEAN, thanks to the Look East-Act East policies and changed outlook of the government. The engagement with ASEAN will also help spur the development of the northeast region of India by enhancing connectivity and infrastructure. To achieve that, India must make efforts to speed up the agreements with ASEAN nations to address issues in trade imbalance, investments, FTAs, and visas, to name a few.

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