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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **The mystery of a missing schoolboy creates concern among netizens:** On Sunday, police in Yanshan county, Shangrao, Jiangxi confirmed that the body of Xinyu Hu, a school student who had mysteriously gone missing in October 2022, had been found in the woods near his school's premises. Netizens on Weibo discussed the case in detail as [hashtags](#) about the case got more than 13 million views in just a few hours. Xinyu's family asked for an autopsy of his body, but the results of the autopsy were not made public. His relatives gave statements questioning why the body had not been found in extensive searches made earlier in the area, which led to speculation on social media.
- **Amidst a box office boom, actors' income becomes a hot topic:** After the success of the TV series 'Hurricane', one of its lead actors, Songwen Zhang, said in an interview that 99.5% of actors in the country live in poverty. This sparked a [debate](#) on Weibo regarding income status of Chinese celebrities. Many users claimed that film revenue was syphoned off by producers or a small number of extremely successful actors, while the background artists do not get due recognition and income. Others claimed that such inequality existed in many industries and criticising the entertainment industry alone was not correct.
- **Film 'Manjianghong' gets into controversy:** The biggest hit on the Chinese box office during the Spring Festival period so far, the film 'Manjianghong' got into various controversies this week. Although the film and

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related merchandise has sold extremely well, the incorrect translation of its name (Full River red) generated criticism online and its producers were accused of tampering with box office sales as well as of plagiarism. Many netizens criticized the English title of the movie as confusing for non-Chinese audience and feared that it may not convey the story shown in the movie. With many popular personalities on Weibo making such accusations, the film's producers have reportedly now sued such individuals for defaming the film.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- Over the weekend, many provincial governments in China issued new policies to help boost consumption growth during the ongoing festive season. The People's Bank of China – China's central bank - announced relending and rediscounting quotas worth 70 billion Yuan as financial support for the recovery of small enterprises, agricultural activities and rural finance. On the backdrop of reviving economic activity and a consumption boom due to the Spring Festival, authorities have been aiming at encouraging consumption and relaxation of loan repayments to stimulate growth. Many provincial governments have also focused on maintaining current employment levels in their provinces as well as to promote businesses by reducing logistics and transportation costs.
- On Saturday, the city of Shanghai released a new action plan for economic recovery known as the 'Shanghai Action Plan for Improving Confidence, Expanding Demand, Stabilising Growth and

Promoting Development' (上海市提信心扩需求稳增长促发展行动方案). The policies included measures to increase employment, investment and trade; ensure financial support for businesses struggling with losses; and provisions to encourage innovation and a good business environment. In a press conference, Shanghai municipal authorities acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic had caused adverse effects on the city's economy and strong policies are needed to achieve economic recovery. Guangdong province, another hub for business in China, also held the Guangdong Provincial High-Quality Development Conference on Saturday. With a special focus on the real estate sector, the forum gathered a community of more than 26,000 industry leaders and government officials to discuss growth strategies. The real estate sector in Guangdong has been volatile in the recent past and thus, require special government incentives for its revival.

- On Saturday, the Chinese Ministry of Finance announced that it has signed a loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank to support sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture in seven different provinces of China. The loan is worth 156.98 million Euros (US\$ 171.1 million) and repayable over a period of 26 years. Projects initiated under the loan will cover areas in the Yellow River basin in the provinces of Shanxi, Shandong, Shaanxi, Henan, Gansu, Qinghai and Ningxia. For the promotion of sustainable agriculture, the loan amount will be invested for the construction of production bases, promotion of the agricultural value chain
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and building of institutional capacity.

- On Saturday, Tao Song, head of the Taiwan Affairs offices of the Communist Party of China's (CPC) Central Committee as well as the State Council, met with Taiwanese leader Hsiu-chu Hung, former chairperson of the Kuomintang Party. At the meeting in Xiamen, Fujian, the two leaders exchanged Chinese Spring Festival greetings. Song stated that the Chinese mainland will continue to support Taiwan's modernisation. Hung said that Taiwan could not be excluded from the cause of Chinese rejuvenation. Hung also noted that China's plans towards Taiwan revealed at the 20th CPC Party Congress will have significant impact on cross-strait relations and reunification process.

- On Saturday, Chinese authorities released the latest figures on the COVID-19 epidemic in the country. Over the past week, the country saw 6,364 deaths from the disease, nearly half of the deaths compared to the previous week. It also noted that most of the deaths were caused due to underlying conditions which were aggravated due to COVID-29 infection. To mitigate this pandemic, China's National Medical Products Administration also approved two domestically developed vaccines for COVID-19, namely Xiannuoxin developed by Simcere Group, the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica and the National Institute of Virology in Wuhan; and VV116 developed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. These two drugs can be administered for the treatment of adult patients with mild symptoms.

- A renowned Chinese author and translator

- Yi Yang died in Tianjin, China on Friday at the age of 103. Yang was known for many original and translated works including 'Wuthering Heights' ('呼啸山庄'). Inspired by foreign movies and writer Ba Jin, she began her publications in 1936 at the age of 17. She also authored several works which were later translated into different languages and thereby, she had an enormous contribution in the development of contemporary Chinese literature.

## INDIA WATCH

- For the promotion of sustainable agriculture in Yellow river basin which is traditionally known for prosperous agriculture, China has recently signed a loan agreement with Asian Development Bank. Recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping himself stressed on the importance of developing future-oriented agriculture in the country. In India, where a majority of the population is still engaged in agriculture due to lack of better employment opportunities, a similar forward-looking approach can help reduce disguised unemployment in the sector and also help to increase agricultural productivity. The above-mentioned Chinese policies rely on government procurement and centralised institutional capacity. Currently, Indian agriculture also relies heavily on institutional supply chains. However, for a country with the geographical and demographic diversity of India, a more localised approach could be better for achieving sustainable agriculture. The government can incentivise regional crops that are grown in specific states or geographies and promote a supply chain network to deliver the produce to the rest of the country.
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Initiatives such as the online National Agricultural Marketplace (e-NAM) can facilitate such specialised supply chains. The intensive subsistence agriculture pattern in India can be made more viable by promoting horticulture and livestock-rearing with the help of government schemes. Encouraging diverse crop production is the key to the success of these efforts. In contrast to Chinese top-down management, India's bottom-up democratic approach should be reflected in agriculture as well through the empowerment of local crops, markets and communities.

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