

16 FEBRUARY 2023

# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## NEWS IN CHINA

- Iran's president, Ebrahim Raisi, during his visit to China, stated that his country supports the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and is prepared to cooperate with China to uphold international harmony and promote prosperity. Raisi made these comments in a lecture at Peking University, where he was given the honorary title of professor. Raisi also emphasised that by opening up the historic Silk Road, the people of China and Iran have made contributions to the glorious history of deepening interconnectedness and collectively sharing the common prosperity of all people. He stressed the importance of multilateralism by emphasising it as a crucial component of the new world order and a guarantor of justice. According to Raisi, China, by establishing the BRI, is advocating a community with a shared destiny for humanity in order to preserve world peace and promote global growth, demonstrating the emphasis China places on the future common development of humanity. He also emphasized that Iran is adamant about the BRI and hoped that the two nations' synchronised development will undoubtedly help the rest of the world progress towards peace, stability, and development.
- [Drugstores](#) across China are being encouraged to integrate into the reimbursement system for patient services under the medical insurance schemes provided by the government. This will enable patients that are enrolled in the state-led medical insurance schemes to have their expenses incurred at the pharmacy reimbursed by medical insurance funds, stated the National Healthcare Security Administration. All those medicines that are enrolled in the medical insurance catalog will be reimbursed and will have to be prescribed by

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Physicians from registered medical facilities. The Administration also noted that it would tighten its security in order to prevent frauds in the scheme.

- President Xi Jinping congratulated the "China + Five Central Asian Countries" Industry and Investment Cooperation Forum. Xi Jinping emphasised that over the past 30 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the five Central Asian nations, they have steadily built strategic alliances, forged a new path of good-neighbourly friendship and win-win cooperation, and provided a blueprint for a new kind of international relations. In order to promote high-quality regional economic development and create a more cohesive China-Central Asia community with a shared future, Xi emphasised that China is willing to share super-large-scale markets, complete industrial systems, and cutting-edge technologies with Central Asian nations. China is also willing to deepen practical cooperation, achieve mutual benefit, and achieve win-win results. The Industrial and Investment Cooperation Forum "China + Central Asian Five Countries" is held in Shandong Province, with the theme "Mutual Benefit and Win-Win: Working Together to Promote High-Quality Regional Economic Development."
- This year, Chinese provincial governments are hiring more civil servants as they try to stabilise the labour market and take on a record number of recent graduates. According to data gathered by top vocational training providers Office Education Tech and Huatu Education Group, China's 31 provincial-level

jurisdictions will hire more than 190,000 new employees in 2023, an increase of more than 16% year over year. The numbers show that four provinces—namely, Gansu, Inner Mongolia, Yunnan, and Guangxi—will increase intakes by more than 50%. The only places that are lowering recruitment are Shanghai, Jilin, Hunan, Shaanxi, and Tibet. Guangdong, a manufacturing region, is also recruiting the newest civil servants, with recruitment increasing by 15% year on year. After three years of slow economic growth nationwide, with the private sector—which employs more than 80% of people in cities—being hardest hit, Beijing has made stabilising employment a top priority, especially for young people.

- China sent additional aid to crises hit Syria. China's humanitarian aid arrived in Damascus on a plane on Wednesday to assist Syria in recovering from the effects of last week's strong earthquakes. Shi Hongwei, the ambassador of China to Syria, and Moataz Dawji, the assistant minister of Syria's Local Administration and Environment Ministry, were present at the airport to see the humanitarian materials being delivered. Shi informed the media at the airport that the aid consists of 80 tonnes of food supplies, tents, first aid kits, blankets, and medical equipment like respirators and oxygen generators. Shi claimed that despite being thousands of kilometres apart, China and Syria have always been close allies who support one another and watch out for one another.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **A Hong Kong woman insults a server at a local restaurant :-** Around lunchtime
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a woman insulting a server at a local restaurant has received harsh criticism on social media. In the Tsim Sha Tsui neighbourhood of Hong Kong's Kowloon peninsula. A middle-aged woman who was obviously upset pointed at the waiter and shouted, "You'll be a waiter for the rest of your life and get paid minimum wage!". Later that evening, the restaurant shared a video of her outburst along with a statement accusing the woman of prejudice towards those who work in the restaurant business on its Facebook page. The woman is shown in the 23-second video wearing a red shirt and a black leather bag while having her face covered.

## INDIA WATCH

- Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi along with his delegation made his first trip to China since taking office in August 2021. This is the first state visit by an Iranian president to China in the last 20 years. China is the largest trading partner of Iran, in the last 10 months Iran purchased \$12.7 billion worth of goods and services from China and exported \$12.6 billion worth of commodities. According to the Chinese government, Raisi and Chinese President Xi Jinping witnessed the signing of 20 cooperation agreements, including ones for trade and tourism, during his visit. Xi also expressed his support for Iran, which is under intense pressure and sanctions from the US because of its nuclear programme. On the other hand, Iran has been one of India's primary commercial partners over the past few decades and Iran is the main supplier of oil to India. Because of this relationship India benefited in numerous ways. Firstly, Iran favoured India in making

the payment in rupees as opposed to dollars that assisted India in preserving its FOREX holdings. Secondly, Iranian oil prices continued to be lower since shipping oil to India was less expensive due to Iran's close proximity to India. In addition, India also intended to make a strategic investment in Chabahar port, a point of entry for India into Central Asia. Yet because of the current Sino-Iranian alliance, India may lose all of its competitive advantages. All of these issues in Indo-Iranian relations developed as a result of American sanctions against Iran. India was compelled to stop purchasing Iranian oil as a result of these sanctions. China seized the opportunity at the same time and expanded its imports of Iranian oil. While also benefiting greatly particularly at a time when global oil prices are skyrocketing. The Russo-Ukrainian War significantly worsened the situation. However, India can take advantage of the turmoil in Ukraine to reverse the current trend. Since the majority of western countries, including the US, want India to diversify its oil purchases from Russia, India may be able to persuade the US to relax some of its sanctions against Iran and enable India to buy some oil there. India should also persuade Iran to adhere to international standards with regard to its nuclear programme at the same time. India might serve as a go-between for Iran and the West. Commerce, after all, is a crucial factor in the bilateral relationships between any two nations, and India can only maintain some leverage over Iran if it continues to trade with the country; otherwise, China's influence over Iran could grow significantly.

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