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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's visit to the US:** "A nation capable of fighting (referring to Russia) really fights; they (referring to Japan) could only spray bayonets from their mouths!" commented a Chinese viewer on a [viral video](#) titled "Kishida Fumio bites madly at China and Russia." More than a million people saw the video, and soon after, a wave of anti-Japanese comments started to pour into the comment section. The video criticises the Japanese Prime Minister's comments in the White House about the "China threat" and Russian aggression during his recent visit to the US. This was Prime Minister (PM) Fumio [Kishida's first trip](#) to the United States (US) since being elected in 2021. The former Russian prime minister, Dmitry Medvedev, who is presently the deputy head of the Russian Security Council, was also hailed by Chinese netizens for his extremely critical remarks on the Japanese PM. The Japanese Prime Minister informed US President Joe Biden on Japan's military modernisation and new national security policy. Biden reiterated his support for Japan and claimed that "the United States is fully, thoroughly, completely committed to the alliance" and "commends Japan's bold leadership in fundamentally reinforcing its defence capabilities." Japan has announced its new national security strategy and a huge increase in its military budget and military modernisation in the wake of Chinese and North Korean aggression in the Indo-Pacific region. China, however, sees this new national security strategy of Japan as a blatant provocation in the region.

NEWS IN CHINA

- On Thursday, China launched Zhu Hai Yun, the world's first autonomous seaborne drone carrier, from Zhuhai Gaolan port in the Guangdong Province. The unmanned carrier can manoeuvre independently and be commanded from a distance in open water. The carrier is a pioneer of its type, created by Southern Marine Science and Engineering Guangdong Laboratory (Zhuhai), and is equipped with remote control and autonomous navigation capabilities.
- On Monday, Chinese companies won the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Global Call 2022 award in the categories of, first, agriculture and food, and second, green growth. The UNIDO is a specialised agency of the United Nations that assists countries in economic and industrial development. The prizes were awarded as a result of UNIDO's call for proposals focused on green, low-carbon technology and net zero objectives. The winners in the agricultural and food categories were China State Construction International Holdings Ltd and Tianzhu Textile, whereas the winners in the green growth category were COSCO Shipping Development Co Ltd and Shanghai MS Energy.
- The smartest and most frost-resistant Fuxing bullet train type, the CR400BF-GZ, was put into service on Monday, 16th January, in Heilongjiang Province, Northeast China. The train is an example of cutting-edge technology and is a significant leap for China's high-speed rail technology as it could work under

temperatures as low as -40 degree Celsius.

- China has authorised all-out search and rescue operations in the wake of a chemical factory explosion that occurred on Sunday in the northeastern Liaoning Province of the country. Eight persons are missing, while five have been declared deceased. Around 1:30 pm, the incident happened at the plant's alkylation facility in Panshan County, Liaoning, when maintenance was being conducted there.
- The Ministry of Water Resources reported on Monday that 88 per cent of rural regions in China will have access to tap water by 2023, an increase of one percentage point from the end of 2022. In order to connect urban and rural water delivery and standardise water services, large-scale water supply projects are projected to reach 57 per cent of China's rural population. By 2022, data from the government revealed that 56 per cent of rural regions were covered by the programmes.

INDIA WATCH

- "We urge the U.S. and Japan to abandon the Cold-War mentality and bloc confrontation, fulfill their nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations in good faith, and step up to their role in upholding regional and international peace and stability," said China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin on question of the recent joint statement released by US-Japan Security Consultative Committee ("2+2"), in which the two countries "expressed their persistent worries over China's continuous
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rapid buildup of its nuclear arsenal." China has been a key critic of Japan's new national security plan ever since it was announced last month, arguing that it will cause instability in the region. The strategy reflects Japan's growing vulnerability in respect to its neighbours and details how the country would respond to significant changes in the regional and global security environment. The Japanese government has pointed China and North Korea out as a major challenge to their national security. Recent occurrences like the North Korean missile launch, PLA naval exercises close to disputed seas, and Russian actions in Ukraine compelled Japan to abandon its pacifist position and take a more aggressive military posture. Accordingly, Japan has expanded its military collaboration with India, a significant challenger of China in the Indo-Pacific region. In a first-of-its-kind military exchange between the two nations, Japan also exported stealth antennas to India last year. Japan and India also participate in different joint military exercises, such as "Dharma Guardian," "Malabar Exercise," and the most recent one, "Veer Guardian." Along with their joint military efforts, India and Japan also collaborate on the larger "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" initiative, which supports India's "Security and Growth for All in the Region" policy also. China has accused the US of inciting both Japan and India to act against it, in order to thwart its "peaceful rise." In contrast to the Japanese PM's visit to the US, China's response to the first joint air exercise between Japan and India outside of Tokyo was more diplomatic and calculated. China urged both India and Japan to increase mutual trust in the security sphere

between member states of the region and take action to promote peace and stability. With its eastern front already tense, this divergence in responses demonstrates China's cautious approach toward India. Recent conflicts in the LAC with India have already strained relations between the two countries; adding fuel to the fire by being aggressive further will put China in an unfavourable position of "fighting with two fists," which China will avoid at all costs. Therefore, these developments in India-Japan relations will be carefully watched by China to avoid more pressure on the PLA.
