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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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## NEWS IN CHINA

- The [Chinese Ambassador to France](#), Lu Shaye, has called on Paris to remove obstacles to Chinese investment and expand bilateral investment, as he revealed a series of deals would be signed during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to China. The two nations would expand their economic partnership in aerospace, nuclear energy, and agriculture, while exploring cooperation in green energy and technology. Lu highlighted that Chinese investment in France was far less than French investment in China and asked Paris to overcome "interference from third parties" to give Chinese companies greater access to the French market. Macron and European Commission chief, Ursula von der Leyen, will lead a business delegation with more than 60 executives from French companies, including Airbus and Electricite de France, during their three-day visit. Macron is expected to discuss Ukraine and pressure Beijing over its position on the Ukraine war. The visit comes as the EU remains divided on its overall approach to China while sharpening its criticism of Beijing-Moscow ties.
- The [northern region](#) of China is experiencing a remarkable upsurge in renewable energy development, specifically in solar and wind power. Once barren and desolate, these areas are now being transformed into bustling hubs for renewable energy, including a mega solar and wind power base in the Kubuqi Desert with an overall capacity of 16 million kilowatts, and a photovoltaic power project in the Tengger Desert with an installed capacity of 1 million kilowatts. China has already launched several large-scale wind power and photovoltaic projects in the desert regions since 2021, with a combined capacity of nearly 100 million kilowatts, and is now planning a second batch of large-scale projects. Inner Mongolia is taking the lead in this transformation, with its abundance of solar resources attracting leading photovoltaic manufacturing enterprises to shape up the whole industrial chain.

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- On Monday, Chinese President Xi Jinping urged Communist Party members to fully implement the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, stressing the importance of this education campaign in helping the Party maintain a close bond with the people, solving prominent problems within the Party, and advance the cause of the Party and the country. The campaign should be an opportunity to further arm all Party members with the Party's new theories and enhance their understanding of Marxism, according to Xi. Efforts should also be made to promote a problem-oriented approach among Party organisations, members, and officials to strengthen the Party's ability to purify, improve, renew, and excel itself, ensuring that the Party always remains the strong leadership core in building socialism with Chinese characteristics. Xi urged the Party committees and leading Party members' groups at all levels to plan, organise, and implement the campaign.

- Premier Li Qiang of the State Council and Russian Prime Minister Mishustin had a phone call on April 4th to discuss their countries' strong and cooperative relationship. This has come just a few days after Xi and Putin rendezvoused. Li Qiang emphasised that China-Russia relations are founded on "non-alignment, non-confrontation, and mutual respect and benefit," which not only advances the development of each country but also promotes international justice. He also stated that China is committed to implementing the consensus reached by the two heads of state, Xi Jinping and Putin, and enhancing practical cooperation

between their governments. Mishustin praised the two countries' strategic partnership and their efforts to ensure global peace and stability. He affirmed Russia's commitment to deepening practical cooperation with China and strengthening their good-neighbourly friendship.

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has released its latest report, forecasting that developing countries in Asia will see an economic growth rate of 4.8 per cent this year and next. China and India are expected to lead the way, with China's economic recovery and India's strong domestic demand driving regional growth. Inflation is expected to moderate overall this year and next, with headline inflation in Asia forecast at 4.2 per cent this year, falling to 3.3 per cent in 2024. However, policymakers need to keep a close eye on price pressures, especially with interest rate hikes by major central banks and high commodity prices weighing on Asia's inflation outlook. The ADB's forecast for future inflation assumes that Brent crude will average \$88 a barrel this year and \$90 next year. The report also highlights new challenges that could hinder regional recovery, such as financial turmoil and an escalation in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.
  - Amid growing concerns that Manila is pivoting more towards Washington, China's top diplomat Wang Yi urged the Philippines to "appropriately manage differences" over the South China Sea. Wang Yi speaking with the former president of the Philippines said "The two sides should not allow maritime issues to
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hinder overall development of bilateral ties” The Philippines accused China of disrupting a Philippine supply mission to the disputed Spratly Islands with lasers, leading to tensions between the two countries. Additionally, China is concerned about the Philippines' plan to allow the US military access to four more bases, bringing the total to nine in the archipelago state. Beijing is worried that an expanded US military presence will compromise its strategic interests in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait. As a response, Beijing has stepped up a diplomatic charm offensive towards its neighbours in recent days, while also calling for joint efforts to manage disputes and eliminate interference to broaden cooperation between the two countries.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Video of Chinese mother teaching her twins about values goes viral:** A video of a Chinese mother teaching her twin daughters about mutual respect has gained widespread attention on social media. In the video, the mother insists that the elder twin, Tangtang, keep the yellow coat she had chosen first, despite her younger sister, Wanwan, throwing a tantrum and demanding to wear it. The mother's message of fairness and mutual respect has resonated with many, especially older siblings. The incident ended with a sweet apology and hug between the twins. Many social media users have praised the mother for encouraging her daughter to stand up for her feelings and not to sacrifice her desires for others.

## INDIA WATCH

- The South China Sea is consequential to India's security as nearly \$200 billion worth of our trade flows through this region. The security and peace of this region is important to India as is to different countries; it is an important sea-lane of communication, and freedom of navigation is critical to India's economic stability. Therefore, it is imperative that India in conjunction with like-minded friendly countries step-up and counter China's hegemony in the region. India must up its ante with the ASEAN nations, in terms of investments and trade. Although there has been a growth in India's engagement with the ASEAN, it needs to do more. India has had various defence deals with the Philippines, including the recently signed USD 375 million deal for BrahMos missile. In order to effectively deal with China's increasing assertiveness in the region, India and the Philippines must enhance their maritime cooperation. By working together, these countries can strengthen their maritime security capabilities and improve their ability to respond to any potential threats from China.

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