DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA





ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON CHINA AND ASIA

PREPARED BY Aakanshi Bansal (Research Intern) writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Crackdown on social media freedom in Tibet:** Tibetans in <u>Sichuan's Drago</u> district have been asked to disclose the social media accounts of their family members living abroad. They were told that if they did not submit this information, they would be removed from household records and denied any state assistance they might receive from the government.
- Shanghai trends again: The city of Shanghai is once again trending on Chinese social media today. This time it is not because of the worries and problems caused by the Covid measures, but because of the reopening of the city after 2 months of difficult confinement. On the social media site Weibo, many hashtags related to Shanghai's reopening are trending today. Among them is Shanghai Is Back (# 了 #), which received 700 million clicks Wednesday afternoon. Many social media users have shared their day activities on social networks.

II. News in China

- On June 2, the <u>Yulin City Intermediate People's Court</u> publicly sentenced Yu Zhiping, former Vice Chairman of the CPPCC Laibin of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on charges of accepting bribes, and sentenced him to jail. He was sentenced to 12 years and six months in prison and fined 3 million yuan; the illicit money he received as a bribe was confiscated in accordance with the law and handed over to the State Treasury. Yu Zhiping expressed compliance with the court's ruling and did not appeal.
- As Shanghai residents celebrated the partial end of a gruelling week-long stalemate across the city, <u>businesses</u> in the city called for industrial action to protest the leader's no-COVID policy. China's Xi Jinping called on the government to overturn guilty verdicts against entrepreneurs Ren Zhiqiang and Sun Dawu, as well as punish officials responsible for "breaking the law and ignoring public opinion" under the zeroCOVID policy.
- The <u>State Grid Corporation of China</u> issued eight measures on June 2 to fully serve the stable and healthy development of the economy and society. In particular, increasing investment in the power grid plays a role in stimulating investment. By 2022, investment in the power grid will exceed 500 billion yuan, reaching an all-time high, and is expected to generate more than 1 trillion yuan in social investment. State Grid also said it will actively provide grid-connected services for new energy projects and encourage concurrent construction of supporting grids.
- The <u>monthly trade</u> between the Chinese yuan and the Russian ruble, affected by the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict, has increased significantly by 1067 percent in the past three months. Today, Russia (RT) welcomes China and Russia's abandonment of the dollar.

According to reports, the increase in foreign exchange transactions between China and Russia also shows that Russians are increasingly turning to Chinese goods to replace old Western imports. For China, it is also the latest impetus for the internationalisation of the renminbi.

- The <u>People's Liberation Army</u> (PLA) has increased its activities around Taiwan and in the South China Sea in clear response to the United States' commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. , as well as his support for Taipei. This is the third large-scale military exercise around Taiwan in the past 30 days.
- In a recent speech, Chinese Foreign Minister <u>Wang Yi</u> announced the building of an "Indo-Pacific Community of Common Destiny." In a more recent speech, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced the building of an "Indo-Pacific Community of Common Destiny." Xi's speech linked the prospect with "independent diplomacy".
- On June 1, <u>Ministry of Public Security</u> spokesman Zhang Ming said that in 2021, compared with 2013, the number of child abductions nationwide will decrease by 82.6%, which is of great interest to the public. Less than 20 cases of child theft are recorded, detected and resolved quickly in practice. As part of the "Reunion" campaign organised by the Ministry of Public Security to tackle the backlog of child abduction and trafficking cases, police agencies across the country have hunted down 400 cases of child abduction and trafficking. pending, arrested 1,124 suspects and recovered 11,198 missing people. and kidnap children for years.

India Watch

In a recent speech on China policy, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said China's strategic goal is to reshape the Indo-Pacific order. Indeed, China has not hesitated to achieve this goal. In a 2014 speech, Xi Jinping called on "Asian people to keep Asia safe," an unscrupulous move by Americans in the region. ASEAN's central position aims to attract powers such as China, the United States and Japan, into the ASEAN framework through different layers of multilateral organisations such as the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum. For China, this prospect is an insurance against the possibility that ASEAN countries depend too much on the US side. Xi's speech linked the prospect to "independent diplomacy," meaning that China wants ASEAN countries to pursue different security policies from Washington. China's biggest concern is the US-led military alliance in the Western Pacific. Support for ASEAN centrality contradicts Beijing's long-standing "divide and manage" approach to Southeast Asia.