

6 OCTOBER 2022

DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

Prepared By: Ishina Das | Research Intern



writetous.orca@gmail.com

Explore our other verticals:

- [CiCM Insights](#)
- [Opinion Pieces](#)
- [Issue Briefs](#)
- [Backgrounders](#)
- [Expert Speak](#)
- [Mapping China](#)
- [Graphs](#)
- [Podcast: The ORCA Files](#)
- [Projects](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Beijing pushes Mandarin; censors Cantonese videos online:** In recent years, Beijing has made every effort to make Mandarin the official dialect of China, while provincial pockets in the Southern districts of the country, Macau and Hong Kong continue to widely speak in Cantonese. This time, however, the new targets of language restriction are popular content creators in the popular short video production app Douyin, the Chinese original of equally popular TikTok. With many Cantonese-speaking creators' videos being censored and live streams cut mid-way due to their usage of “unrecognizable language or texts”, many have voiced frustration over the absurdity of the situation, while some have raised concerns over Beijing’s efforts in suppressing diversity in the nation as Cantonese is a widely spoken dialect in China. However, this isn’t the first time Beijing has laid down language restrictions in South China’s Guangdong province, where Cantonese is widely used along with Mandarin. Previously in 2020, a proposal sent to change the language used in local new channels of Guangdong to Mandarin was met with wide protests, additionally, the same year saw many Cantonese creators of Douyin said the app urged them to use Mandarin. While Douyin does not have any active policy in action that restricts the usage of certain dialects and languages, netizens believe that Chinese social platforms work under immense scrutiny from censors imposed by Beijing and have no way out.

NEWS IN CHINA

- For the first time in history, the Chinese Yuan becomes the most traded currency on the Moscow Stock Exchange on Monday with trading turnover reaching an all-time high of 1.17 billion USD and a reported total of 64,900 transactions using the yuan-ruble pair, as against the previous dollar-ruble pair that held only 29,500 on the same day. The high numbers and growing favor towards Yuan-denominated assets are a depiction of strengthening bilateral ties between Beijing and Moscow, and 2022 has already seen a total trade of 117.2 billion USD, a hike of 31.4% from last year. Apart from Russia, the yuan has been used, increasingly, in global trade and settlements. The growing internalization of the currency can be denoted by data from global payment services, the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) where the Chinese yuan has retained its position as the fifth most active currency for global payments by value in August, where also the overall amount of payment made with yuan jumped by 9.25% from July. As more markets recognize the internationalization of the yuan along with a mass trend of de-dollarization, it is likely that Yuan, in a few years, will be considered one of the top three most used currencies in global trade.
 - As China's economy is facing the worst lows, the consumer-based market economy relying largely on exports has been juggling health security and economic stability but without much significant progress as China has efficiently shown in the last 30 years. Amidst such trying times, the country has been trying to stabilize the economy and has seen many success stories, with growth rates hitting a plateau. Trade between China and EU has shown significant rise this year with Germany being China's biggest foreign partner in the month of August, totaling exports of 9.2 billion euros from Germany and imports of 15.4 billion euros from China, showing significant rises of 2.9% and 2.2% respectively according to provisional data published by the Federal Statistical Office on Wednesday. Despite stagnant growth rates in trade due to the slowing down of the global economy, significant growth rates in bilateral trade can be a good indicator of running supply chains as well as strengthening of bilateral ties of China with the rest of the world, especially the West.
 - As the pandemic induced lockdowns have made the consumer market sluggish, even the long-awaited national holidays couldn't do much to retrieve lost income in the last two years of the pandemic of Chinese companies and entertainment hubs. However, the release of a new movie "Home Coming" has given producers and the Chinese film industry hope that the entertainment industry is still popular amongst the masses. The movie with largely patriotic themes, is a high-octane drama based on the evacuation of Chinese nationals from a war-torn Africa has amassed a large footfall and raked in 820 million yuan or 115 million USD as of Wednesday after just a four-day release period. However, with such high figures, struggles for the cinema industry in China is still high. The national holiday week this year only brought in 1.1 billion yuan in total as against 4.2 billion from last year with
-

-
- “Home Coming” totalling a large share of 62%.
 - The Taiwan Epidemic Command Center on 6th October announced that there were 46,484 new confirmed cases of new coronary pneumonia in Taiwan, including 46,423 local cases and 61 of them being imported. New death toll reached 57 among the confirmed cases, patients ages ranging from 7 months to 90-year-olds. According to the statistics of the command center, as of now, Taiwan has a total of 6,731,939 confirmed cases of new coronary pneumonia, including 35,188 imported cases and 6,696,697 of which are local. The small island nation has seen a total of 11,337 deaths from the disease since 2020.
 - Chinese feminists and activists have some good news in store for them this week. The long awaited trial of Chinese billionaire, founder of JD.com, a law firm, Richard Liu has finally been acquitted for a four year old trial where he was accused of raping a 21 year old student of University of Minnesota, Jingyao Liu. The former has agreed to settle for an undisclosed amount with Ms Liu, earlier this week, prior to the much-awaited trial on 2nd October. The move has been momentous in China where victims find it really hard to win justice from state-backed billionaires and powerful men of society. The case was a part of the China’s #MeToo movement and the recent decision has been seen as a victory for the movement and all Chinese activists and women of the society.
 - Bangladesh has led to the South Asian country hitting a low in otherwise high merchandise export demand in the global markets. Export contractions have hit the lowest in 19 months, in September. China’s economic slow-down and zero-COVID policy has led to 35.6% contraction in India’s exports in April-August period. Disaggregated data available till August showed, among top 50 export destinations of India, exports had declined only to six among in June. In August, exports to key economies significantly shrunk— the United Kingdom (-3.35%), Saudi Arabia (-10.7%), Germany (-4.4%) and South Korea (-16%). The World Trade Organization (WTO) pointed to the global market slowing down to stagnating global trade growth. The volume of world merchandise trade plateaued with year-on-year growth slowing to 3.2% in the first quarter of 2022, down from 5.7% in the fourth quarter of 2021 stated the WTO. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the aftermath of economic slowdown from the last two years due to the pandemic have led to worldwide economic slowdown, and all countries are struggling to bounce back with major economies like the United States and Germany predicting early 2023 recessions.

INDIA WATCH

- A decline in external demand from India’s large exporters, China, Italy and
-