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CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON CHINA AND ASIA

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Blackouts across China:** There have been blackouts across China, due to surging coal and gas prices, including rising demand for electricity which has caused power shortages. People online have been expressing their anger, however, multiple services that monitor censorship online have found that multiple posts have been deleted or censored.
- Chinese man sues Tesla, wins: A Chinese man sued Tesla Inc for fraud and won after the Beijing court found that Tesla had misinterpreted the condition of the second-hand Model S. Han Chao, the man who sued Tesla, posted a copy of the verdict on his Weibo account. Beijing court ordered Tesla to pay upto 1.5 million yuan in damages and refund of the cost.

II. News in China

- Xi Jinping spoke at the 33rd study session of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee where he emphasized the <u>need for biosafety and biosecurity</u>. He called for strengthening biosecurity strategies, and called biosecurity an essential part of national security.
- Book based around Xi Jinping Thought made <u>available digitally for the public</u>.
- Xi's speech on talent and talent fostering <u>received great feedback</u> from leading sci-tech institutions as his speech indicated more autonomy and financial freedom for these institutions.
- The Senate Council approved a plan that would <u>develop a medical security</u> <u>system</u> during 2021-2025. By 2035, this system will be standardized and unified. The security system aims to improve the multilayered medical system, improve medical quality and quality of insurance, improve medical pricing systems, and improve standardized healthcare services.
- <u>Plans for high-tech development</u> in Shanghai have been inked. These will see an increased GDP devoted to R&D to 4.5% by 2025; provide financial services, efficient intellectual property protection; focus on biomedicine and artificial intelligence.
- Wang Yi, Chinese Foreign Minister, attended the <u>China-EU strategic dialogue</u>. The strategic dialogue covered the need for mutual respect and expanding cooperation. China wants to align its BRI with EU's connectivity initiative. China and EU also spoke about human rights, with China willing to conduct dialogue and cooperation, however does not want to be lectured on human rights. Additionally, China does not want interference with its internal affairs. China also spoke about Taiwan, stating that EU must not conduct any official exchanges with Taiwan and reiterated its one-China principle.

- Wang Yi spoke to his <u>counterparts in Malaysia</u>, <u>Mexico and Brunei</u>. To his Malaysian counterpart, he spoke abour BRI and cooperation in areas such as 5G and cloud computing. He promised China's efforts towards vaccine cooperation, and even spoke about the Afghanistan situation. Yi spoke to Mexico about COVID-19 related cooperation and Mexico emphasized on China's one-China policy and non-interference. Speaking to Brunei, Wang Yi stressed on Brunei's role as the rotating chair of ASEAN to deepen relations with ASEAN and China.
- Zhao Kezhi, the Minister of Public Security, met the Cambodian Deputy
 Prime Minister and Interior Minister to <u>cooperate on cracking down</u> on
 telecom fraud, online gambling, implementing drug control and
 strengthening law enforcement.
- Liu Yongtan was <u>awarded the honorary title</u> of "Role Model of Times" for his work on developing radar technology used at sea.

III. India Watch

• 'Comrade' Liu Yongtan's title comes in a bid implement the spirit of General Secretary Jinping's speech at the Central Talent Work Conference. The Central Propaganda Department (CPD) has used a cloud release method to publicize and publish Comrade Liu Yongtan's advanced deeds to the Chinese society, awarding him a "model of the times" "title. Liu Yongtan is a male ofHan nationality from Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, member of the Communist Party of China, academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, professor of Harbin Institute of Technology, expert in radar and signal processing technology and had a huge role to play in building China's new system of sea detection radar theory and technology. Such attempts at manuevering public sentiment and support are common by the CPD and should be carefully monitored by India and like-minded countries.