

03.05.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Ahaana Roy (Research and SM Intern))

writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **'Dead man' in Shanghai found to be alive:** Video footage of a 'dead man' coming back to life has been doing the rounds on Chinese social media. A Shanghai nursing home resident, presumed to be dead, was taken away to the morgue in a body bag. However, he was found to be alive which didn't help in instilling residents' trust in public health authorities.
- **Propaganda posts on another severely wounded Chinese soldier of Galwan emerge:** According to some military observer Weibo accounts, apart from the 4 deceased and 1 seriously injured Regimental Commander Qi Fabao in the Galwan incident, there is one more PLA soldier who was seriously injured, and has started receiving some attention lately. The posts say that the regimental commander was rescued by the PLA soldiers from the hands of Indian army but the battalion commander (Chen Hongjun) and the company commander were besieged by the Indian army. The battalion commander sacrificed his life but the company commander Du Pengfei(杜鹏飞) sustained serious injuries. The Weibo post says that Du Pengfei after sustaining injuries kept himself awake by stuffing sand in his mouth and chewing on a piece of his eye glasses. Chinese media reported that Du Pengfei who won the second class merit, was given a ceremony "thanking him for his outstanding contributions to the country in the army" in his hometown Ruzhou city, Henan (See images 1 and 2). The news report also mentions that "in order to let the frontier hero be free of worries, Ruzhou City, while actively caring for Du Pengfei's family, also provided his wife Xue Shaojuan with a job in the establishment of financial services in accordance with policies and special cases.

II. News in China

- According to data released by the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center of the China National Space Administration, Chinese Mars rover Zhurong traveled more than 1.9 km since it first started operating on the planet. Zhurong touched down on Mars on May 12, 2021 and has captured images and collected rock samples while exploring the planet.
- Days after a residential building collapsed in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province, the ninth survivor was rescued from underneath the rubble. Rescuers were able to rescue the individual 88 hours after the incident took place. A total of 23 people are believed to have been trapped in the building. Public security authorities detained two people, who were suspected of causing a major liability accident as they took part in illegal revamping of the building.
- On Monday, the Chinese mainland reported 368 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases. While Shanghai reported 274 of those 368 confirmed cases, it also reported 5,395 local asymptomatic cases. According to a recent press

conference on epidemic prevention and control, over half of Shanghai is now living in the lower-risk prevention areas. Apart from Shanghai, Beijing reported 41 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases and nine asymptomatic carriers. The city will carry out three rounds of nucleic testing over this week in its 12 districts. The National Health Commission also reported that 4,2713 COVID-19 patients had been discharged after recovery on Monday.

- Chinese scientists and researchers have started a new scientific expedition on the world's highest peak on the China-Nepal border, Mount Qomolangma. The mission will focus on issues such as Asian water-tower change, westerly wind-monsoon synergy and ecosystems and biodiversity. The team will also study environmental changes, changes in greenhouse gas concentration, ecosystem carbon sink functions, and human adaptation to extreme environments against the backdrop of global warming. The expedition is the largest since the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau survey started back in 2017.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday remarked that to realise China's objective of achieving self-reliance in aerospace science and technology, the youth in the aerospace sector must contribute more. This came in response to a letter by a youth team working on space station construction at the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation. President Xi stressed that to build China into an aerospace power, the efforts of people across several generations is essential.
- Omar Al Muthanna, head of the overseas Chinese and Dubai's Community Development Authority's (CDA) Social Regulatory and Licensing Agency commented on the record amount of Chinese Ramadan charity donations and remarked that support by the Chinese mission and the Chinese expatriates in Dubai for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in fighting against COVID-19 showcased Chinese-UAE friendship and cooperation. The Consulate General of China in Dubai, Li Xuhang stated that both countries are committed to multilateralism and that the cooperation between both countries especially during the pandemic has made their friendship firmer.
- In eastern China's Fujian Province, Xiamen, a coastal city saw total exports to Regional Economic Partnership (RCEP) member countries amount to 27.7 billion yuan in the first quarter of 2022. According to Xiamen Customs, the total trade volume of Xiamen with RCEP reached 68.3 billion yuan, which accounted for 33.3% of the city's total foreign trade.
- Jörg Wuttke, President of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, revealed in an interview with the Swiss newspaper Neue Zurich (NZZ) that at a closed-door meeting with top CPC officials, they have made it clear that they know the dangers of the "zero-COVID" policy including the impact on the economy, but they will not change the line of forced zero-clearing until the end of power struggles for the 20th Party Congress. He further says that for the past two years,

the party leadership and the government have been making up the narrative that China has handled the pandemic much better than the Western countries and now that narrative is blowing up.

India Watch

- .China-United Arab Emirates (UAE) relations have become firmer through the pandemic. Both countries have established a comprehensive strategic partnership, have common objectives and are committed to multilateralism. Abu Dhabi's close ties with Beijing are a matter of concern for the United States. The UAE, one of the United States' closest allies, has strengthened its ties with China which can be viewed as a move away from American military capabilities and a move towards safeguarding China's geopolitical interests in the Middle East.
- The CPC's propaganda itself has made the Chinese very afraid of the Omicron variant. The authorities didn't propagate that the Omicron variant was milder, or that other countries had learned to live with the virus. The authorities also spent a year talking down about Western mRNA vaccines. So the CCP has found itself in a dilemma. The leadership cannot admit amidst the upcoming 20th Congress that there is another way to deal with Covid. They also cannot admit that the Europeans are already able to fly on vacation and go back to a normal life to a large extent. They also cannot admit that it makes sense to use an mRNA vaccine in addition to the Chinese vaccine.

Images 1 and 2: Du Pengfei thanked for service

