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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Entertainment crackdown continues:** China has cracked down on fandoms trying to get their idols trending on social media through irrational star chasing, celebrity rankings and fundraising. China's broadcast regulator also banned "sissy men", celebrities with "incorrect political views" and "lapsed morals".
- **Citizens defy Netflix bans to watch Korean show:** South Korea's "Squid Game" has reached popularity in China as well, reaching 1.7 billion searches on Weibo, despite Netflix being banned in China. People across China are watching "Squid Game" through third-party websites

II. News in China

- China's anti-US *The Battle at Lake Changjin* sees tremendous success and becomes world's highest grossing film by accumulating \$203 million over major franchise's like James Bond series *No Time to Die's* \$119 million and Marvel's *Venom 2's* \$90.1 million in international markets. The movie depicts China victory over American-led UN forces during the Korean war.
- China's Evergrande Group has become the "most-indebted property developer in the world", owing more than \$300 billion and has failed to make debt payment. This has added to narrative about China looming debt crisis.
- China is taking aggressive steps to crack down on groups and individuals involved in fraud and scam in what can be linked to its debt-threat perceptions. Chinese authorities prohibited the children of these individuals to attend school, foreclosing and destroying their homes as well as those belonging to their relatives, forcing them to return and surrender to Mainland China.
- Whale Cloud, China's pioneering company in digital clouds and technologies, has signed a deal worth USD600 million with Saudi Arabia's Shamas Holding Company. Whale Cloud will bring in technologies such as security smart parking and cloud data to Saudi's Media City.
- China's bid to join the economic multilateral trading network is seeing active focus now. It has promised that should China join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), it will open up and allow "unprecedented levels" of access to its markets.
- Sri Lanka struggles to raise funds for its oil imports, it has turned to China. Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpila will be working with the Chinese ambassador to make an arrangement under which Sri Lanka will buy oil from state-owned corporation on a credit basis.

- The real estate industry is undergoing changes in order to make the model from sustainable and away from the “high leverage, high debt, and high turnover with high risks”. Developing affordable housing will be central in transforming the real estate industry.
- Taiwan’s head of defence department, Qui Guozheng, stated in an interview that situation with Mainland China is at its worst, and that it could have full capability to invade Taiwan by 2025.
- Two asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 were reported in Horgos City.

III. India Watch

- China's *The Battle at Lake Changjin* stars Wu Jing, a Chinese actor famous for portraying 'wolf warrior' roles. Such a vision connects to China's 'wolf warrior diplomacy' under Xi Jinping which has sought aggressive diplomacy by its ambassadors while protecting Chinese interests. A watch of such films and an academic study to understand how China sells nationalism to the public (with a focus on understanding the narrative it builds about powers like US, India, Japan, etc) should be attempted.
- China is seeking to gain entry into CP-TPP actively now, especially as Taiwan has also applied for the same. Should the CP-TPP membership choose Taiwan over China, it would be a huge diplomatic embarrassment and loss for Xi and the CCP. Hence, Beijing is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that it is selected especially as that would effectively altogether cancel any future of Taiwan in the regional pact.
- Even as India signs a USD 700 million port deal in a bid to offset China's influence in the region, it is clear that Sri Lanka-China ties will maintain their growth trajectory. Hence, India's focus on improving ties with its strategic and immediate neighbourhood must hold strong and continuous. China signing a multi-million dollar deal with Saudi Arabia, as well as Sri Lanka turning to China for its oil imports, shows that Beijing's infrastructure focus is regaining momentum post-COVID.