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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Anisree Suresh (Research Intern, ORCA)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **The death of an unborn baby trends on Weibo:** The video of a pregnant lady who was denied medical access, resulting in miscarriage- continued to anger the netizens on a big scale. Although the covid outbreak in Xi'an was contained, social media overflowed with stories of those who struggled during the two-week lockdown. Police arrested a dozen people being accused of spreading rumours regarding the lockdown and a high-ranking official was fired for his criticism.
- **Praise and Concerns over the extension of High-Speed Rail:** A LinkedIn post highlighted that China's high-speed rail network has reached a total length of 40,000 KM with the inclusion of the network connecting Anqing city of Anhui province with Jiujiang city- operational since December 30th. A netizen posted the ways to make it cost-effective while other showcased concerns over its environmental impacts.

II. News in China

- Xi Jinping sent an audio message to Kazakh president Kassym Jomart Tokayev, praising his decision-making capabilities as a leader at crucial moments and emphasizing that China strongly opposes any forces that destabilize the peaceful life of Kazakh people. Xi also mentioned that China would firmly oppose any external forces that would try to instil 'colour revolutions' and create turmoil in Kazakhstan. China also offered its support to Kazakhstan as a fraternal neighbour and strategic partner. Xi's message came in the context of fuel price related protests which transformed into a rebellion against the government.
- The 14th Five Year Plan for Intellectual Property Talents- issued by the State Intellectual Property Office of China- proposed a plan to exceed the Intellectual Property Talent Team to 1 million by 2025, and to further expand the high-level talent team. The plan also facilitates the optimization of talent structure and talent effectiveness.
- A gas blast occurred in the Fengshan Sub-district office of Wulong District, Chongqing- a southwestern city of China. The blast killed three people, injured nine, and more than 20 people were estimated as trapped in the rubble. The rescuers were able to save 13 people.
- Under the notice issued by the 'Zhengzhou New Coronary Pneumonia Epidemic Prevention and Control' headquarters- the regulations for controlling the epidemic added certain regions of Zhongyuan as medium-risk areas. The notice provided provisions for classified management in high-tech areas to contain the epidemic in Zhengzhou.

- The People's Bank of China issued a 'Draft for Comment' on supporting cross-border RMB (Renminbi) settlements in new formats for foreign trade. This allows the banks to cooperate with payment institutions to provide cross-border settlement services under the existing account for e-commerce and foreign trade market transactions. This will make cross-border receipt and payment services efficient and convenient for the market entities.
- Wang Wenbin, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, remarked during a regular press conference that China will continue to strengthen its exchanges and cooperation with DPRK in various fields including sports. North Korea has decided to remain absent from the Beijing Winter Olympics due to epidemic prevention.
- Zhang Bo, deputy director of the Xi'an Municipal Health Commission, apologized to the people of the city that he failed to properly handle the contradiction between epidemic contradiction and control; and the needs of the masses. The apology came in the backdrop of many incidents of denied health care, and netizens taking the issues to social media to appeal for aid and assistance.

III. India Watch

- Kazakhstan- a Central Asian country sharing borders with Russia and China- plays a significant role in the foreign policies of both countries. The fuel riots in Kazakhstan which escalated to a protest against the government drew the attention of regional players. A tweet by the Kazakh president Tokayev, suggesting 'to kill demonstrators without warning' had further agitated the political scenario. The west sees the protest as a "democratic uprising" against the autocratic regime. Kazakhstan appealed to Moscow for military assistance, while China offer to provide assistance if necessary. China has immense stakes in Kazakhstan's stability related to multiple aspects of security, geopolitics and economics.

