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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Philanthropy leaves less money to spend on life jackets for two Chinese citizens:** One person named Brother Stone on social media and his friend Zhou crossed the open sea between Guangdong and Hainan using a water bike. Both did not put life jackets on while ferrying through sea for six hours. The duo later said that they wanted to save money by not buying a ferry ticket which would have cost them US\$6. They added that they do philanthropic activities in rural areas which leaves them with less money. In addition to that, they wanted to challenge their physical capacities on the eve of the upcoming new year. Many people expressed their concern on social media platforms about this adventure. One user said “They are too audacious. Without life jackets, they will lose their lives after falling into the sea.” Despite such an exhausting task, the duo credited their will, persistence and they were glad because they did not spend money.

NEWS IN CHINA

- The Party is more powerful and stronger in revolutionary forging, says a review of the Party Central Committee. The report stated that the CPC expresses the need to win the support of people if it wants to remain in power. It was mentioned in the report of the 20th National Congress of the CPC that General Secretary and President Xi Jinping stressed on the importance of strict governance and self revolution. It also said that if China's affairs had to run well then the clue for the same lies in the Party strictly governing and managing itself. The years of President Xi's rule have witnessed some of the strict governing measures such as anti-corruption drive,



political and organisational construction among other things. These measures have been credited to bring a new era of reform and comprehensive and strict governance of the party which made some groundbreaking achievements. The review also stated that, if the party does not resolve intra-party issues which people have protested against, then the party may lose the right to govern sooner or later.

- Chinese state-owned enterprises have a new mantra for 2023. Economic Information Daily reported new development trends of state-owned enterprises such as improving quality, increasing efficiency, stabilising growth and deepening reform. The state owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) is planning to optimise the operating index system of central enterprises. The goal of "one increase, one stability and four improvements" is to promote high quality development, improvement of quality, efficiency and stable growth. The target for operating income was set as 39.4 trillion yuan and total profit of 2.55 trillion yuan for the 2022 by central enterprises.. In the previous year, the development environment at global level was disturbed by the frequent occurrence of COVID-19 pandemic. The SASAC took measures to improve quality and efficiency and comprehensive management to counter the pressure on the Chinese economy. China's financial action watchdog advised increasing production of high value models instead of increasing the output of low value models and asked companies to focus on both online and offline markets. This way, it will also help small and

medium enterprises to deal with their problems.

- China launched its Shijian-23 satellite. The launch was carried out using the Long March-7 carrier rocket. The launch took place at the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site from Hainan Province which is located in South China. The carrier used for the launch is a modified version of the Long March-7 rocket. The launch took place at 6:00 am (Beijing Time) on 9 January. The Shijian -23 satellite will mainly be used for scientific experiments and technical verification. It was the 459th flight of the Long March carrier rocket series.
 - Recently, foreign investment has shown a rise in the Chinese market. Since the zero Covid policy and stringent rules have been relaxed, there has been an increase in foreign investment. The report stated that this confidence of foreign businesses stems from prospects of the Chinese Economy, which will pick up in the first quarter of 2023. As of now, socioeconomic activities are taking place in an orderly manner which is helping in improving the consumption in the market. It was said that China's large-scale market did not lose its advantage despite the slowdown caused by COVID-19 pandemic. China is the largest populous country and second biggest economy in the world. Its middle income group is continuously rising which already comprises 400 million people. This makes China an attractive market for foreign businesses. Furthermore, China has promised that China will continue to open its institutes based on rules, regulations and management. It will also remove some names from the negative list to facilitate
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foreign investment access. In addition to that, China will not only focus on protecting rights and interests of foreign investors according to the law but also create a law based, market oriented world class business environment.

- Recent report states that Henan province in China has 89% of its population COVID-19 affected. Henan is the third most populated province of China. Kan Quancheng, Director of the health commission of Henan province said in a press conference that Henan's COVID-19 infection rate is 89 percent as of 6 January 2023. It means that a total 88.5 million people are infected by the COVID-19 virus. The infection might spread extensively during the Chinese new year period which starts later in January. Many people are expected to travel from urban areas to their hometowns. Official data showed that 34.7 million people traveled domestically on January 7. Official data related to the COVID-19 pandemic said that only 1,20,000 people were infected by COVID-19 virus and 30 died last week after the zero-covid policy was revoked but the ground reality might be far from what the official figures show to the world. Recently, China has altered the definition of deaths caused by COVID-19. The mass testing is also no longer mandatory now. There is a rise in COVID-19 cases after China lifted lockdowns and made quarantine no longer necessary.
- Five pillars of Political and Legal work were discussed in the Central Political and Legal Work Conference which was held in Beijing on 7th and 8th January to set the tone for work in 2023. Pillar one is Advancing fair

justice and unswerving judiciary for people. Focus was given on key matters which would be urgent and small matters which are important to people. Xinhua news agency reported that insistence was put on facts as basis and law as yardstick. Matters related to people's day to day lives such as education, housing, marriage to name a few should be dealt with in accordance with the law. "Implementing the administrative discretion benchmark system" is the second aspect promoted in the conference. It comprises strict regulation of law enforcement agencies and implementation of administrative decision making. The focus of the conference was to make administration a distinctive mark of government at every tier. Third pillar is to promote scientific legislation and timely suggestions in the lawmaking domain. This mainly focuses on bringing the digital domain and emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, digital economy, etc under the rule of law. Rectification of outstanding problems in the field of social security is the fourth pillar. This aspect focuses on maintaining law and order situation, preventing crimes that cause damage to social peace. It is important because it is the foundation of development. The last aspect is to improve the urban and rural grassroot governance system. Conference talked about developing the "Fengqiao Experience (枫桥)" in the new era. Fengqiao is a mythological approach which was used in Mao's era, which essentially means to carry out political and social governance by the people at local level by rectifying reactionary elements. It also talked about promoting a grassroot government which is led by the party organization. Moreover,

rule of virtue, improving social governance, rule of law, peace and happiness of the masses constitute this aspect.

INDIA WATCH

- China Daily reported about a resurgence of the Chinese economy and inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). This article comes at a time when the world is accusing the Chinese government of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) theft and coercion by Chinese authorities to share business related information mandatorily. The world has experienced the dangers of trade overdependence on China and disturbed supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic. This provides an opportunity for India to present itself as a global manufacturing hub. India has already launched several initiatives such as Make In India, PM Gati Shakti Yojana and various other policy interventions to improve ease of doing business and transform itself as a global destination for business and manufacturing which is evident from the fact that India secured 37th position in World Competitiveness Index India received \$83.57 billion of FDI in the financial year 2021-2022. The FDI inflow in 2014 was \$45 billion, there has been a constant increase in FDI since then. In the past seven years India has received total investment worth \$440 billion. Given this impetus, the compelling situation of COVID-19, and China's unfair business policies, many countries are now considering shifting their operations to India and other countries. However, given the steady increase in inbound foreign investment of China, it will not be easy for India to replace China as a preferred destination for FDI in the short period.

India being a democracy, will facilitate other democratic countries to put their trust in the Indian system. Based on these things, India might need to present itself in a unique way where it can demonstrate that doing business with India will be a win-win situation for both the parties.
