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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

- **U.S. President Joe Biden trends on Weibo:** President Biden delivered a speech in Iowa. However, he accidentally referred to Ukraine as China while referring to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Netizens were quick to catch this error, and the topic trended at the #1 position on Weibo.
- **WeChat launches “WeChat Farm”:** Netizens discussed the popularity of WeChat’s new ‘farm’ feature, where users can transform their status into a ‘farm’, with lots of animals. Some netizens could not understand its popularity, while some were content to enjoy the new feature.

II. News in China

- China congratulated Pakistan’s new Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Tuesday. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian remarked that China and Pakistan’s relationship is rock solid and unbreakable. Zhao also emphasized points regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the shared future of the China-Pakistan community.
- The Chinese navy carried out combat drills in the South China Sea. (See Image 1) The guided-missile frigates ‘Huangshan’ and ‘Yuncheng’ were used. Drills consisted of firing rockets, navigation, placement of suspended targets, ship maneuvering, small arms shooting, and gun firing.
- The Shanghai Municipal People’s Government Information Office has said that if any illegal activities like price gouging and problems in the quantity and quality of products are detected in ‘community buying’, the authorities will take action. Steps to standardize the community buying process have been implemented. Community buying has become popular with the advent of strict lockdowns in Shanghai.
- Shanghai has extended its citywide lockdown due to Beijing’s zero-COVID policy pressure. Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan visited Shanghai and emphasized that the grip on the virus should not be relaxed. There have been reports of price gouging, citizens with serious illnesses dying and logistical problems in Shanghai.
- According to the General Administration of Customs, in the first quarter of 2022, China’s imports and exports have expanded by 10.7% to 9.42 trillion yuan. Of which, exports surged 13.4%, while imports rose 7.5%.
- China has slammed the U.S. for politicizing its COVID policy. The U.S. State Department ordered the withdrawal of all non-emergency consular staff from Shanghai. China accused the U.S. of attacking China’s policy and using the pandemic as a pretext for political manipulation.
- Scientists from the Beijing Institute of Quantum Information Science and Tsinghua University have designed a new quantum direct communication system and have

successfully achieved 100 km quantum direct communication. The previous record was only 18 km. The new system is capable of stopping and detecting eavesdropping among other significant new improvements.

- China has successfully received data from the 'Gaofen-3 03' satellite. The remote sensing satellite ground stations received the data at Miyun and Sanya. The Gaofen-3 03 will be networked with the satellites Gaofen-3 and Gaofen-3 02 to form a land-sea radar satellite constellation and capture reliable SAR images.

India Watch

- China supplies almost 70% of the active pharmaceutical materials to the Indian pharma industry. India's reliance on China is at stake due to the frequent border skirmishes and China's tendency to use its trade advantages against countries. India also supplies generic drugs to the USA and hundreds of nations. Hence, to reduce reliance on China, a 'pharma city' has been planned in Hyderabad to manufacture vital raw ingredients for medicines like penicillin and ibuprofen. The dependence on China was exposed in early 2020 when the Hubei province was locked down due to COVID-19. It resulted in missed shipments and shortages, with a 100% surge in API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) prices. However, according to some Indian business tycoons, the dependence on China will 'continue' as the prices are lower in China, and it takes millions of dollars to run a clinical trial.

Image 1: China's naval drill in the South China Sea

