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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

- **Chinese- American Olympics gold medalist slammed:** Nathan Chen, a Chinese American gold medalist in the ongoing Beijing Winter Olympics, was slammed on Weibo as a traitor by the Chinese netizens. Weibo users called Chen 'too white and Americanised', and even told him to 'get out of China' for his anti-China remarks in the past.

II. News in China

- The Indian Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has banned 54 more Chinese apps. These apps were banned citing a threat to national security. The banned apps included mostly video editing and gaming apps operating as clones or shadow apps for the apps that had been banned earlier by the government as per an official from the ministry.
- Amidst the global chip shortage, the top Chinese semiconductor manufacturing company earned record revenue. Despite US sanctions, the sales and profit soared for the Chinese chip maker Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp (SMIC). SMIC has a small share of the chip fabrication sector, which is dominated by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd.
- China and Russia have formed a new Axis which is being termed an "alliance of autocracies". Chinese President Xi Jinping has not left China for the past two years and had not met any foreign leaders till last week when he broke this streak by meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The joint statement reasserted the redistribution of power in the world and critically mentioned 'the US' six times. The Washington Times called the meeting "a bid to make the world safe for dictatorship."
- Xi Jinping seems well placed to secure another five-year term in power in the run-up to the 20th CPC National Party. The more important questions remain- for how long does he plan to stay at the top post? Who will be a potential successor after him? New York Times writes, 'it may work for Mr Xi to keep everyone guessing and could help reinforce loyalty to him yet holding off from designating an heir could magnify anxiety; even rifts in China's elite.'
- Argentina has officially joined the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The official joining via signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was held in Beijing. Argentina's President is on a state visit to China for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games. Although Chinese foreign policy was strained last year due to the pandemic and the related disruption, the Beijing Winter Olympics has been used to kickstart meetings with numerous visiting foreign leaders. Argentina's addition to the BRI has also boosted China's increasing interests in Latin America.

- China aims at completing the Tiangong space station by the end of 2022. It also plans to send at least 140 spacecrafts into orbit through more than 50 space launches this year. The current three-person crew of the Tianhe core module is set to return to Earth in March. In an unprecedented achievement, six months of space stay would be a first for Chinese astronauts. China is the third country to send a human in space and, it has made 207 successful launches between 2016 to 2021.

III. India Watch

- Country's scientific posture and strategic credibility are aptly manifested through technological advancement with political backing.
- China, for the past few years, has stepped up its space program and has planned on finishing the work on its space station. Reports have surfaced claiming that China has tested nuclear-capable hypersonic orbital vehicles. India, with its state-owned Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), has also established itself as a major player in this field with its efficient and accurate space programs and satellite launches. In a first, India has launched a satellite jointly developed by researchers from Taiwan. India's Indian Space Association, which aims to be an advocate and enabler for private and public sector engagement, growth, and capacity building in India's space domain, is a great way forward for India to push its space diplomacy and include, in its space programs, other small nations of the Asian subcontinent and Indo-Pacific region.