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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

Prepared By: Akhil Thakur | Research Intern



writetous.orca@gmail.com

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **“20th Party Congress: Xi Jinping’s Speech in Five Trending Hashtags.”:** i) Solving Taiwan Issue is Nobody’s Business but China’s. During his speech, Xi discussed Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, emphasizing the importance of adhering to the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and the goal of continuing to promote Taiwan's reunification with the motherland. While emphasizing China's commitment to "peaceful reunification". ii) China Will Never Seek Hegemony or Engage in Expansion. Xi Jinping used this phrase during a speech about China's role in the world, its foreign policy, and how China will always oppose any type of 'Cold War thinking' or hypocritical power politics. III) We’ve Experienced Three Major Events in the Past Decade. The three things of great historical significance for the Party and the people are the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China in 2021; the beginning of a New Era for socialism with Chinese characteristics, which was a major part of the 19th Party Congress; and the achievement of China's goal of eradicating extreme poverty as part of its poverty reduction policy. iv) We Must Prepare Our Military Troops for War. The sentence appeared in the context of China's construction of a "world-class army," with a modern top-tier army being part of China's overall modernization in its "New Era." v) Always Continue the Battle Against Corruption. With corruption being a major threat, the most serious "tumor" endangering the Party's vitality and effectiveness, Xi warned that the fight against corruption must be maintained at all times.

NEWS IN CHINA

- Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua met up with four major Silicon Valley tech companies and made deals worth US\$940 million. Wang responded to U.S. concerns that TSMC's domination of the semiconductor business was a problem. The Biden administration is investing billions of dollars in building domestic production of semiconductors, while also trying to cut off China from advanced chips. Wang said a stable Taiwan Strait was essential for global semiconductor production. She added that if the supply chain was broken the world economy would suffer, including China and the U.S.
 - Chinese official on Monday said that China has been improving its ability to ensure food security over the last decade, with higher annual grain output and stable market operation. "China has ensured that its food supply remains firmly in its own hands," Cong Liang, head of the State Grain and Reserves Administration, told a press conference on the sidelines of the Communist Party of China's 20th National Congress. For seven consecutive years, China's grain output has remained above 650 million tonnes. The figure will reach a new high of 682.85 million tonnes in 2021. China has 128 million hectares of farmland, 700 million tonnes of grain storage capacity in standard warehouses, and 6,000 emergency-responding grain processing enterprises, demonstrating its ability to ensure food security.
 - President Xi Jinping warned that there is zero tolerance in the Communist Party for senior cadres who collude with businesses, pledging the harshest penalties for any offenders. "We must deal seriously with corruption, which is intertwined with political and economic problems," Xi told party delegates at the 20th National Congress in Beijing on Sunday. In recent years, the party's anti-corruption police have arrested dozens of senior officials accused of colluding with business - a crackdown that Xi's comments suggest will continue, if not intensify, as he begins a new five-year term as party leader. Xi made the remarks at the start of the party congress, a twice-every-decade event that is expected to elect a new Central Committee, the Communist Party's top policymaking body, and support a precedent-breaking third term.
 - After Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida reportedly sent a ritual offering to the notorious Yasukuni Shrine, widely seen as a symbol of Japan's militaristic past, China's Foreign Ministry on Monday voiced strong opposition to Japan and urged Tokyo to own up to its commitments on confronting its history of aggression and making a clean break with militarism. Kishida sent the "masakaki" ceremonial tree on the occasion of the shrine's autumn festival on Monday, but is unlikely to pay a visit during the two-day event, according to Japan's Kyodo News. The Yasukuni Shrine honors Japan's infamous Class-A war criminals, who represented Japan's atrocities and militarism during WWII. China has lodged solemn démarches to the Japanese side in response to Japan's negative moves concerning the Yasukuni Shrine, according to Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson for China's FM, at a regular press conference.
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- U.K. Police are looking into the assault on a man who was dragged into the grounds of the Chinese Consulate in the city and beaten by a group of unidentified men over a ripped protest banner. "We are investigating an assault on a man that occurred yesterday outside the Chinese Consulate in Manchester," Greater Manchester Police said in a statement on Monday. The man, in his 30s, was taken to the hospital after suffering "several physical injuries" in the attack, which occurred after 30-40 people gathered in a peaceful protest outside the consulate on the first day of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) 20th National Congress in Beijing.

budget remains for active military personnel and modernisation, leaving considerably less for modernisation, which must be addressed if India is to be prepared to deal with two front wars with two hostile neighbours.

INDIA WATCH

- Xi's comments on modernizing China's army is not a good sign for India, as Indo-China relations are currently strained, particularly following the Galwan clash back in 2020. In fact, modernizing an army of an expanding nation is never a good sign for its neighbours; China has been aggressive toward almost all of its neighbours. China wants to reunify Taiwan and is concerned about a two-front war, as China has recently provoked multiple countries. China ranks first in the number of troops with 2 million active people, while India ranks second with 1.45 million active people. Currently, China is attempting to modernise its army rather than simply expanding it; the PLA has a budget of \$293 billion, ranking second only after the United States, and India ranks third with \$76.6 billion. Moreover, pensions account for 21% of India's defence budget, while the Defense Civil Department consumes about 3.5% and paramilitary forces consume 8%. Only 68% of the
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