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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

- **Unconfirmed reports by Chinese Think Tank on Russian Ukraine war is circulating on Social media:** A report by the China Strategic Think Tank in Beijing has been shared on Chinese social media that states Putin has misjudged the global trend and is under-prepared for the war's impact. Even if he succeeds in preventing Ukraine from joining NATO, Russia will be the de facto loser of this conflict.

II. News in China

- China's Sichuan province has just announced that it will not permit any new coal power plants in the 14th FYP (2021-2025). Projects under construction will still be completed and existing units are encouraged to undertake technology upgrades for efficiency & flexibility. Sichuan has one of the cleanest electricity and energy mixes in China. In 2021, renewable energy installation including hydropower accounted for 44.8% of the total installed power generation capacity and generated nearly 30% of electricity.
- China is looking to set aside its zero COVID policy measures in favour of a more targeted strategy that would be less damaging to the economy. For example, the National Health Commission announced more efficient testing and targeted quarantine protocols. The contrast between zero COVID policy and the new "dynamic clearing" strategy is most visible in the measures adopted in Jilin and Guangdong. The NHC has also stated it would allow companies to resume work if they could meet certain criteria after a week-long "slow living" program.
- The Agricultural bank of China, one of the country's largest commercial banks provided centrally administered state-owned enterprises focused on agriculture with loans worth 1.57 Billion Dollars for the purchase and storage of grain for Autumn. It has pledged to increased its share of financial support for the agricultural sector. Many commercial sectors in China are facing low demand due to zero COVID policy. These developments are aimed at overcoming the low demand and high costs in the agricultural and industrial sectors.
- The harassment of a Uyghur Fulbright scholar who spoke about her brother's detention in China during an event at Cornell University is the latest incident of intimidation by Chinese students in U.S. colleges. When the student was talking about her brother's detention, around 40 Chinese students walked out and some students heckled her. Nikki Haley, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, praised her for speaking out at the event.
- Volkswagen Group China has signed strategic cooperation MOUs with Huayou Cobalt and Tsingshan Group. The main purpose of this MOU is to achieve cost advantages on batteries and secure the supply of raw materials. China is important

market for Volkswagen and accounts for its sixty percent of the company's profits.

III. India Watch

- China is going to organise its first ever peace conference in the Horn of Africa. It will be the first regional peace conference of this type in Africa. This conference is significant for its attempt to bring peace to the region, but experts on African policy are worried that China is not developing its interests beyond trade. China is attempting to make strategic gains by enhancing its influence on the continent to counter western influence. China is also deploying its influence to solve disputes between African countries.
- Sri Lanka is facing its one of its worst economic crisis in recent decades. To overcome the economic distress Sri Lanka has requested financial assistance from China. China has pledged to give at least 1.5 billion USD to Sri Lanka as credit facility and an additional loan of 1 billion USD. The situation is alarming because of India's primacy in the Indian Ocean and China's plans to become the world's biggest navy by 2030. China is attempting to secure ports and bases in the Indian Ocean Region to enhance its power projection capabilities in the region. It is also trying to encircle India through its string of pearls strategy. China has already leased the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka that was secured in 2017. When Sri Lanka was unable to pay the Chinese loan of 1.4 billion USD, it was forced to lease the port for 99 years.