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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- The Cyber Security Review Office of Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) sanctioned American tech giant, [Micron Technology](#) products, under the pretext of “national security risk” on China’s critical infrastructure. After an ongoing investigation on semiconductor chips of Micron since March 2023, finally the verdict was declared. According to the verdict, the products are banned for sale to China’s Critical Information Infrastructure Operations (CIIO) such as telecom, banks, water utilities, gridlines, and other network operated infrastructure that are crucial to nation’s internal security.
- Fitch Ratings released data about the growing [new-energy vehicle](#) (NEV) market as the global automakers look at China as one of the voluminous markets for electric vehicles. The annual growth rate of the Chinese NEV market is projected to become more than 30 per cent in 2023. Other than that, the government of China is also pushing for promoting NEVs in rural areas and pushes for developing cheaper battery material for small electric vehicles segment. The consolidated data shows an output of 2.29 million sold in the first four months of which 2.22 million are sold out.
- China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) Guanlan, China’s [first](#) deep sea floating wind power platform was successfully connected to the Wenchang oil field in Hainan province through a 5-kilometer-long submarine cable. The term ‘Guanlan’ which translates into “watching waves” consists of an installed capacity of 7.25 megawatts and has a total height of 200 meters with a draft weight of 11,000 metric tons. The platform is anchored with nine chains deep into the ocean surface at a depth of 120 meters. The project will generate 22-million-kilowatt hours electricity.
- [Beijing Metro](#) has partnered with Tencent Holdings for a



payment service that can be availed through a quick palm recognition technology. Developed by Tencent, the service is called Weixin Pay and is attached to the WeChat Pay of the users. The Daxing Airport Express Line, a metro station in Beijing, will be installing this palm-recognition device for the users who have enrolled for this service. The scanner will look for surface-level palm prints and hand's veins as a detecting mechanism. The system is developed by Tencent's YouTu artificial intelligence lab.

- Indigenously developed J-16 heavy fighter jets were introduced in the Eastern Theater Command of China, as the routine drills and patrols around Taiwan are increasing. The old legacy aircrafts, J-7 and J-8 fighter jets, lacked the modern technological capabilities necessary for land and aerial combats. The J-16 aircraft stands second to the stealth capable J-20, as it (J-16) is a multirole heavy fighter jet capable of both air combat and land attack. While J-20 has an advantage of a strong payload carrying, it can complement the functionality of J-16 as a combat capable while J-20 can focus on aerial reconnaissance and payload carrying for refueling functionalities that J-16 lacks.
- China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning commented on G7 members regarding the accusations of China's nuclear policy. The G7 members issued the "Hiroshima Vision for Nuclear Disarmament" where China was accused for opacity in the nuclear policymaking of China and the threat of rapid expansion of its nuclear arsenal. Mao Ning points out that G7 nations are not qualified to decide

on China's nuclear policy and claimed that United States holds world's most advance nuclear arsenal and continues to invest in upgrading its "triad". Ming also pointed out that the US has unilaterally walked out of Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Given its proven track record of forward deployment of strategic force, it also provides security umbrella to four other G7 members and risking horizontal proliferation of high enriched uranium under the pretext of Extended Deterrence enjoyed by its East Asian allies, an indirect accusation to Japan.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Are tech companies eavesdropping on its users? Weibo netizens concerned over their privacy:** The Weibo users discuss a likely pattern of eavesdropping through applications in their smartphones. "Just after talking about something with a friend in the morning, all the apps in the afternoon push what you just said in front of your eyes" claims one of the users. Another commentor advised to turn off major permissions to all the apps as a precautionary measure. The hashtag #Does the mobile phone really eavesdrop# had maximum engagement in last 24 hours. Curiosity Lab, a Weibo channel released a video for spreading awareness on how to protect user privacy. The five-minute video contains an experiment where the user is shown chatting with a friend about helmets and suddenly another app prompts pop up ads showing motorcycle helmets and jackets on the screens. The video also showcases a podcast clip of

Antonio Garcia Martinez, a former Facebook product manager and advocate of user privacy who shares his experience as a part of product development team and how social media services are developed in order to maximize advertise revenue which at times, crosses the line of invading into privacy of the users who consume the social media apps. The video is widely circulated in social media and Weibo users are pondering on how to avoid such privacy invasions by the tech products under the guise of better accessibility to the services.

INDIA WATCH

- The semiconductor manufacturing industry in China has made significant progress in achieving greater self-reliance since the sanctions imposed by the Biden administration last year. The US Chips Act 2022, mandated a ban on selling semiconductor products or its raw materials to China. However, China saw this as an opportunity to develop its own industrial capacity for semiconductors. Recently, China achieved self-reliance by successfully developing its own RISC-V capabilities, reducing its dependence on foreign entities such as the worldwide ARM architecture. To ensure national security, it is imperative for India to develop its own capabilities in critical technologies. India still lacks the regulatory framework necessary for establishing a domestic semiconductor industry or at least an institutional mechanism such as a Cybersecurity Review Commission that overlooks what products are being used in the critical information infrastructure of the State. Although India has announced Production Linked Incentive schemes to

encourage semiconductor chip production within the country, there is a shortage of research and development in the field of indigenous semiconductor development. The recent announcement of a semiconductor chip manufacturing plant in Gujarat, a joint venture between Vedanta and Foxconn, though can be considered as a step forward, policymakers need to recognize the significance of semiconductor products, as they are extensively used in military command-and-control systems as India's defense-based research and development organizations rely on foreign companies for these critical products making India vulnerable to western sanctions.

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