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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- The Sixth Digital Construction Summit held in Fuzhou City of the Fujian Province, began on 27th April. It emphasized on the theme of “accelerating the construction of digital China and promoting Chinese-style modernization.” This summit, with the aim of implementing the “Overall Layout Plan for Digital China Construction,” deliberated on setting up multiple forums, that focuses on Digital Silk Road, smart energy and digital government affairs. Under this summit, the Digital China Construction Achievements Exhibition was held which, displayed the trending technologies and digital applications such as block chain, artificial intelligence and 5G. Essentially, this summit served as a platform for sharing the emerging trends of digitalization in order to construct a Digital China in the upcoming years.
- On April 27, an agreement of strategic cooperation was signed between the Municipal People’s Government of Tianjin and Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Co. Ltd. It mainly focused on the production and deployment of “new energy vehicles, Internet of Vehicles and smart travel” in the City of Tianjin. It was signed in the presence of Chen Miner and Zhang Gong, members of the Municipal Party Committee and Li Shufu, the Chairperson of Geely Holding Group Co. Ltd. This agreement will facilitate the implementation of “Ten-actions,” which is essential for the “high-quality development” of the Tianjin city.
- The three-day conference on 13th China Satellite Navigation, held on April 27, revealed China’s plan to launch up to three satellites to support BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS). China is one among three countries of the world to own the BDS global navigation system, that was independently created and controlled by the former. At present China has 45 satellites in orbit-15 for BDS-2 and 30 for BDS-3, respectively. With the launch of new satellites China tries to enhance the potential of BDS by integrating it with the latest technologies

of artificial intelligence, big data and 5G.

- The Argentine Economy Minister Sergio Massa, agreed to use the RMB (Renminbi), to pay for the Chinese imported goods, holding the value of 1.04 billion US Dollars. It also believed that the use of Chinese currency will increase the import rate Chinese goods in Argentina. This is considered to be an important measure, to strengthen the economic cooperation between China and Argentina, that serves to be core component of their comprehensive strategic partnership.
- On April 27, an earthquake with 3.5 magnitude and focal depth of 8 km hit the south western Province of Sichuan, in the Weiyun County of Nejiang City. The Sichuan Province is witnessing this disaster for the second time in 2023. On January 26, of this year, a 5.6 magnitude earthquake had rocked the Luding County of the Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. Similarly, on September 2022, Luding Country was rocked by 6.8 magnitude earthquake.
- The PLA Daily reported that the Chinese warships namely- Yulin, a guided missile frigate and Chibi- the minesweeper hunter, had departed from the PLA's Southern Theatre Command to take part in the China-Singapore Exercise Maritime Cooperation 2023, that is planned to be held from 28th April to 1st May. On the other end, Singapore Navy's RSS Intrepid- the Formidable class- frigate and RSS Punggol- the Bedok-class mine countermeasure vessel, will take part in these joint military drills. The Chinese warships are also participating in the International Maritime Defense Exhibition

(IMDEX) Asia. This joint military exercise between China and Singapore is believed to improve the security environment of the South China Sea.

- According to the "Minsitry of Defense Release," with the escalation of conflict in Sudan, two Chinese naval vessels of PLA went on a mission to evacuate Chinese personnel from Sudan, yesterday. On April 27, around 678 people were evacuated from the Jeddah Port of Saudi Arabia. The PLA Navy's, Nanning Ship- a guided missile destroyer, Weishanhu- a supply ship and Sanya- a guided missile frigate took part in the emergency evacuation operation in Sudan.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **May 1 Travel Practical Tips trends on Weibo:** After the relaxations of COVID-19 restrictions, the upcoming May Day holiday is predicted to boost the tourist sector of China. Xinhua reports, that around 120 million domestic railway trips are expected between April 27 to May. With the increased preparations to handle crowd and traffic in the respective provinces, the practical tips on fire safety, travel and food is highly discussed in Wiebo. To facilitate its passengers, the Chengdu Metro has extended its operational time 50-60 minutes.

INDIA WATCH

- The 6th Digital Construction Summit of China, exposes the rapid investments of Beijing to expand its digital environment. The Digitalization Programmes of China

will have strategic implications for India, in the spheres of economy, technology and national security. China's introduction of digital yuan via block chain technologies and Digital Silk Road (DSR) initiatives are gradually challenging the efficacy of dollars, which can be evidenced with Argentina and Brazil acceding to use Yuan transactions for Chinese imported goods. In addition to economy, DSR serves as a means for China to deepen its global presence through digital governance. Moreover, Indian companies such as Ola, Flipkart, Zomato, Swiggy and Snapdeal, hold stakes with Chinese companies. Though India had banned Chinese web applications during the Galwan standoff, the digital foot print of Beijing had penetrated deep into the Indian digital market. Over the years, the technological developments of China, in the form of 5G and artificial intelligence, had enhanced the C4ISR (Command, Control, Communication, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) capabilities of the Chinese military by increasing its asymmetry power. This may have impact over the cyber space of India, eventually affecting the national security objectives of India. One of the prominent initiatives from the Indian side is the launch of "Digital India Campaign," that aims to promote the digital infrastructure of India, adapting to the emerging trends in technology. In recent times, with the National Education Policy 2020, India had taken steps to introduce courses such as AI to increase digital literacy among the youths. Yet, there remains an extensive gap between India's initiatives and implementations. For instance, the political institutional framework, to

combat cyber related crimes and attacks, is overseen by multiple ministries, diffusing the efficacy of the cyber security infrastructure of India. To overcome this disparity, India should introduce a separate framework, that solely handles the cyber related issues. Along with this, India should develop the latest security infrastructures to eliminate digital backwardness. Nonetheless, India being a part of Quad and various other multi-lateral forums, should deliberate on enhancing the collaborations regarding the digital security environment. In order to resist and challenge China's digital expansion, India should strengthen its digital power by adapting to the latest technological developments.

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