

28.06.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Aakanshi Bansal (Research Intern)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Four words that made a stir on Chinese social media today were "the next five years," which netizens perceived as written confirmation that China's present Covid plan will continue for at least another five years:** After the 13th Beijing Municipal Party Congress got underway on June 27, the Chinese state-run Beijing Daily published an online news story on a report given by Cai Qi, the party chairman of Beijing. In light of China's zero-COVID policy, the story focused on what the report indicated about Beijing's ongoing efforts and described Beijing's epidemic prevention strategy as pertaining to "the following five years." Then, those four statements went viral on social media, causing a stir among internet users who took it to mean that China would maintain its existing Covid approach for at least another five years. Many others expressed their shock and fear at the thought of having to live with the current restrictions for such a long time.
- **EAM Jaishankar's speech shared on Weibo:** Excerpts of the speech from EAM Jaishankar's interview at Globsec 2022 Bratislava Forum have been shared widely on Weibo, especially the part of Euro-centric view of Europe and China not needing a precedence from somewhere else on how to engage India.

II. News in China

- This morning (June 28), in the World Expo Center, the 12th Shanghai Committee of the Communist Party of China began its inaugural plenary session. The meeting was attended by 88 regular members of the Municipal Party Committee as well as 16 alternate members. The Twelfth Municipal Party Congress's Presidium assigned Comrade Li Qiang to preside over the plenary session.
- In the first five months of the year, China began work on 120 expressway, national, and provincial highway construction projects with a combined length of more than 3,600 km, an official reported on Monday. According to Zhao Chongjiu, vice minister of transport, the total amount invested in those projects was 182 billion yuan (about 27 billion dollars), and he added that progress on building motorways around the country remained strong.
- On June 22 and 24, the Chinese government held closed-door trials for two supporters of the New Citizens Movement: human rights attorney Ding Jiayi and legal scholar Xu Zhiyong. On March 25, some attendees of the New Citizens Movement Rally demonstrated against the Chinese government in front of the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco. The New Citizens Movement, which supports the peaceful constitutional change of the nation and the transformation of society into a civil society, is championed by Xu Zhiyong. Participants in the New Citizens Movement have engaged in activities like advocating for equal rights in education, demanding that officials reveal property, and talking about social issues for the past

10 or so years.

- On Monday, China launched the Earth observation satellite Gaofen-12 03 into orbit from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. At 11:46 p.m. (Beijing Time), a Long March-4C carrier rocket launched the satellite, which successfully entered its intended orbit. It will be utilized in a variety of sectors, including land surveys, urban planning, road network design, crop yield estimation, and disaster assistance. It was the Long March series carrier rockets' 425th flight mission.
- On June 26, Germany hosted the G7 summit of the Group of Seven Industrialized Nations. That evening, the leaders of the seven nations declared their intention to raise 600 billion US dollars within five years to finance the building of infrastructure in poor nations as a response to China's Belt and Road Initiative. President Biden of the United States highlighted that the goal was not to show "compassion," but rather to show other nations "the real advantages of cooperating with democracies."
- In a meeting with party representatives from "Taiwan Province" who will attend the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Wang Yang, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, placed an emphasis on "anti-independence and promotion of reunification." Due to the controversy surrounding the previous party representative's identification, Lu Li-an, who was born and reared in Taiwan, the Taiwanese authorities also ejected her from the country. According to analysts, Taiwanese who were born in Taiwan are the best candidates for CCP membership.
- According to experts and scientists, a scientific and technological decoupling between China and the United States will reduce academic output, disrupt the global innovation system, and impair the capacity of their scientific communities to work together to explore new horizons and address common problems. They went on to say that despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and political pressure from the U.S. government, scientists from China and the U.S. should continue their mutually beneficial cooperation because the scientific resources and strengths of the two countries are highly complementary in many disciplines.

III. India Watch

- One message stood out loud and clear at the most recent BRICS summit: the alliance is ready to forge its own path toward independence from the West. The BRICS leaders' ideas suggest that the shape of the planet is changing. For instance, President Xi Jinping stated that sanctions weaponize the world economy and that it is incorrect to place "blind reliance in the so-called position of power." However, the most important component of the summit is the potential for Saudi Arabia and Argentina to join the group in addition to Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South

Africa. This would increase the new era of "vertical globalization," which has already started, and further divide the world on a scale unseen since the Cold War. The West might ultimately come out on the short end. BRICS+ would need to strike a balance with other organizations, particularly the Quad and I2U2, a brand-new US-led alliance with members from India, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates that is concentrated on West Asia. India belongs to all three of these groupings, so this may get complex. A new contest to determine who will rule the globe has begun as the conflict in Ukraine escalates. The first shot in this new struggle for world dominance has been fired by BRICS+, but it won't be the last.