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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY
Gautam Tiwari (Research Intern)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Conspiracy theories about Covid-19 pandemic are circulating on Chinese social media:** Conspiracy theories about Covid-19 pandemic are being shared on Chinese's social media. In some of which users are claiming that it is bioweapon against Chinese gene and it is designed to attack their reproductive system and therefore they claim that it is a genocide attack on China.
- **Wechat is reportedly blocking accounts associated with NFT trading:** Following China's prohibition on some forms of Cryptocurrency in the country. WeChat, China's most popular social networking app, has suspended many accounts for promoting non-fungible tokens. Several hundred public accounts on the app were revealed to be frozen.

II. News in China

- China held two multinational meetings to discuss the economic and humanitarian crisis facing Afghanistan in the ancient town of Tunxi in Anhui province. The motto of the meeting was to help Afghanistan achieve peace, stability and development at an early date. Foreign ministers of neighbouring states were invited as well.
- Over the last month, more than 70 Chinese officials have been fired or disciplined as Covid-19 spreads across the country. The most recent Covid-19 outbreak, caused by the highly infectious Omicron virus, has led in over 20,000 illnesses across the country. While health officials recognise that the majority of the illnesses had few or no symptoms, making diagnosis difficult, senior leaders have warned officials that if they are discovered slacking or failing to act quickly, they will face serious penalties.
- In a case of Chinese restrictions on academic freedom, where some Chinese scholars were barred from attending an international conference, some Asian Studies scholars were also barred from presenting their research papers. The conference was organised by the Association for Asian Studies, for emerging scholars as well as senior academics. In one case a Chinese scholar was questioned for hours because Chinese authorities found his title 'incorrect'.
- Australian ambassador to China said that he is deeply concerned, unsatisfied because of denied entry into trial of a former Chinese anchor Cheng Lei. She is accused of illegally supplying state secrets overseas. She might face a sentence ranging from five years to life in jail.
- China is one the top builder and financier of global coal power plants but Zimbabwean company Riozimb is looking for alternative funding for Sengwa coal mine after Xi Jinping announcement that China would stop building overseas coal plants.
- According to a report issued by China and the World Bank, in the past 40 years,

China has taken nearly 800 million people out of poverty, accounting for over 75% of the global.

- After meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that his country is committed to de-escalation with Ukraine. On the other hand Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi reiterated his older position that China is committed to being a supporter of peace between Ukraine and China.
- China is considering additional restrictions on the country's \$30 billion live-streaming business, resuming a regulatory campaign aimed at reining in technology companies and exerting tighter control over the content consumed by its youth.
- Canadian Actor Keanu Reeves' movies were pulled from all of China's streaming platforms because he attended a pro-Tibet concert. Also China's major streamers removed the vast majority of Reeves' filmography from their sites and wiped search results related to his name in China

India Watch

- The third meeting of Afghanistan's neighboring nations' foreign ministers took place in the Chinese city of Tunxi, where ministers discussed strategies to reconstruct Afghanistan. Political, diplomatic, economic, humanitarian, and security help were discussed. India, on the other hand, was not invited to this meeting, but should be wary of the changes there and try to interact with the Taliban to protect its infrastructure.