

1.06.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Anushka Gondhalekar (Research Intern)

writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Earthquake in Lushan:** An earthquake of 6.1 occurred in Ya'an City, Lushan County, Sichuan. Four deaths and fourteen injuries have been reported so far. The focal depth of the earthquake is 17 kms.
- **Nutritious soil' company valued at One Billion Yuan:** Seeing the recent trend of 'balcony planting' in China, two graduates from Zhejiang University started an e-commerce company selling soil. After just one year, it has become a leading company in the industry, with daily sales of 100,000 orders.

II. News in China

- Shanghai reported 5 new COVID-19 cases and 10 new asymptomatic cases on Tuesday. The largest makeshift hospital, which received over 174,000 patients, closed down. It had accounted for 27.8% of the total number of COVID-19 patients.
- Service trade in China rose by 21.9 percent year on year to reach 284.4 billion dollars in the first four quarters. Service exports increased by 25.1 percent, while service imports increased by 19.1 percent.
- The PLA's Eastern Theater Command conducted interservice combat readiness patrols near Taiwan in preparedness for US-Taiwan collusion. Senior colonel Shi Yi accused the US of openly and covertly supporting 'Taiwan Independence forces' and added that the PLA will thwart any foreign interference and 'Taiwan Independence attempts'. Tan Kefei, a spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense remarked that 'China firmly opposes any form of official exchanges and military ties between the US and Taiwan.
- State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with King Tupou VI of Tonga in Nuku'alofa. Both sides reiterated their bilateral relations. Tonga reaffirmed its stance on the One-China policy. China expressed intentions to help other developing countries, especially the small and medium-sized ones. Wang Yi spoke about six new platforms China has created for island countries- poverty reduction and development, climate change response, disaster prevention and mitigation, agricultural cooperation, and Juncao (literal meaning: fungus grass) technology. Wang Yi also met with Tongan Prime Minister Huakawa Meliku for the signing ceremony of cooperation documents and held talks with Tongan Foreign Minister Utoikamanu.
- The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has notified 84 apps for failing to comply with rectification requirements. The apps have been warned to complete the rectification by 8th June. India-based OYO Hotels app is on the list.
- China is expanding its Lingshui Air Base located in the South China Sea. It is near Sanya and Yulin naval bases in Hainan. The base hosts an aircraft carrier and has been upgraded to accommodate fighter aircraft. Currently, the west side of the

base is being upgraded.

- China plans to increase pensions by 4%. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the Ministry of Finance has issued the 'Notice on adjusting the basic pension for retirees in 2022'. Emphasis is placed on critical care for elderly retirees and retirees in remote areas. It requires all provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities under the state to formulate implementation plans according to the actual conditions.
- Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian has disputed Japan's claim over the Okinotori Reef. He accused Japan of illegally claiming 700,000 sq kms of the sea. He added that Okinotori is a 'reef', not an 'island'. The remarks responded to Japan's recent submission to the United Nations Commission on the 'Limits of Continental Shelf' and the extension of the shelf south of Okinotori Reef. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroichi Matsuno said that Japan would not respond to Chinese scientific papers which deny Japan's claims.

India Watch

- The 16th round of military talks have been decided upon by India and China. The talk between senior military commanders will try to resolve the disengagement process on the Line of Actual Control. Both sides failed to conclude the 15th round of talks. Complete disengagement can lead to normalcy in India-China relations.
- Meanwhile, Chinese companies, including Xiaomi, ZTE, and Vivo, are under investigation by India. India recently fined Xiaomi Technology for allegedly breaching foreign exchange laws.