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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Beijing Municipal Bureau purges Bureau-level Cadres connected to former Justice Minister Fu Zhenghua:** A Chinese twitter account has posted that the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau launched an operation to remove the “posion of Fu Zhenghua” in which more than 50 leading cadres at the Bureau and department level from the public security team are being “cleared up”. The Organization Department of the municipal Party committee has set 3 requirements for the units receiving the “clearing up”, i.e those in the purview can't enter the organization, can't handle any people or property (cannot handle cases), and can't be promoted. Those in the purview right now are: Gao Yan, Secretary of the Party committee of the police academy, Wang Yi, chief of the public security corps, Shi Zhanping, chief of the Economic Investigation Corps, Wang Yuxia, political commissar of Pinggu branch, Che Yan, political commissar of Shunyi branch, Liu Peng, political commissar of Daxing Branch, Wang Shenyu, deputy director of Haidian Branch, Guo Ping, deputy director of Tongzhou branch, Cao Guodong, deputy director of Daxing Branch, and Sun Changqing, Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission of the Economic Investigation Corps.
- **Four kinds of houses that could not be rented in China:** The National Bureau of Statistics released the statistics of house sale prices in 70 large and medium sized cities, which indicated a shrinking sale price for commercial housing while prices for second and third tier cities remained flat or shrunk. According to the latest set of reforms and regulations, houses built without a construction project planning permit cannot be rented out. Similarly, houses with poor quality infrastructure and dilapidated walls, pipes and other hidden dangers cannot be rented out by landlords. The new rules also prevent houses with excessive formaldehyde and benzene from being rented out because they have an adverse effect on tenants' mental and physical health. To prevent the skyrocketing of rents in cities, the relevant government departments can issue ‘rent guide price’ measures to control rapid price rise.
- **Price of Nucleic test dropped in Beijing:** The Beijing Municipal Medical Insurance Bureau recently issued a notice on reducing the spread of COVID-19, reducing the price of Nucleic Acid tests from 24.8 yuan to 19.7 yuan. The notice also stated that the price is the highest government-guided price and medical institutions are not permitted to price tests above the specified level. Meanwhile, prices for other testing consumables have also been reduced, like nucleic acid detection reagents, extraction reagents and sampling tubes to reduce the pressure on medical institutions.

II. News in China

- As the communist youth league (CYL) will celebrate its centenary year on 5.5.22, it has released statistics that as of December 31, 2021, there were 73.715 million members of the Communist Youth League nationwide. Among them, there are 43.81 million student members, 5.651 million corporate members, 13.274 million township (village) members, 4.602 million members from government agencies and institutions, 4.568 million urban street (community) members, and 1.810 million members of social organizations and other fields. The members of the group are Chinese youth over the age of 14 and under the age of 28, generally school and college going students as well as early stage working youth.
- China's Coast Guard has announced a moratorium on fishing activity in China's major seas: the Bohai Sea, Yellow Sea, East China Sea and South China Sea, to promote sustainable marine fishery development. The moratorium, announced annually since 1999 in the South China Sea, will last 108 days and end on August 16 2022 (SCS) and September 1 2022 (Yellow and Bihai Seas). Provinces like Zhejiang plan to ban the sale of eight kinds of frozen and live fishes from May 8th and Qingdao city in Shandong will hand out conservation subsidies worth 70 million yuan (10 million USD) for the first time, covering 17000 fishermen. The Coast Guard also plans to carry out patrols and other inspections to enforce the moratorium. Vietnam has objected to the unilateral imposition of the moratorium, arguing it covers part of Vietnam's Hoang Sa (Paracel Islands) and Gulf of Tonkin. Other countries like the Philippines also protest the annual ban, arguing the ban is an infringement on the nation's sovereignty.
- After the collapse of a self-made residential facility in Wangcheng district of Changsha city, Hunan on April 29, local officials arrested 9 people including the owner, 3 construction workers and 5 engineers accused of falsifying tests to show the building was structurally safe. The rescue teams have pulled 5 people out from under the debris while another 39 are still missing. Most of the people in the building at the time of collapse were students of the Changsha Medical University, whose parents wrote an open letter pleading for authorities to rescue their children. The eight story building housed a restaurant, a cafe and residences, with tenants making structural modifications to the structure independently. Similar collapses of self-built structures in recent years has focused attention on the poor adherence to safety standards and illegal construction of extra floors. President Xi Jinping called for a search effort 'at all cost' and ordered an investigation into the collapse.
- Shenzhen city is offering 30 million yuan in the form of digital yuan red envelopes to stimulate consumption spending after emerging from a lockdown. The 'red coupons' are part of a larger 500 million yuan campaign in Guangdong to ramp up consumption in the second quarter of 2022. Other cities like Ningbo in Zhejiang, Fuzhou in Fujian and Tianjin in North China are also offering the red coupons,

targeting specific vendors, groups and scenarios. The coupons and consumption stimulus will have a short term effect after retail sales fell by 3.5 % year on year in March, the first contraction since August 2020.

- Beijing has announced tighter restrictions on gathering and travel during the five-day May holiday as COvid-19 cases in the city continue to rise. The city announced restrictions on cultural, sports and entertainment venues, asking them to operate at 50% capacity, shift peak hours and inspect nucleic acid certificates. Catering businesses have been told to suspend dine-in services and switch to take-away, while city officials urge citizens to cook at home and restaurants to make more prepared and semi-prepared dishes. After the holiday period, people who go to work or school are expected to secure a negative nucleic acid test result 48 hours before returning. For entering public places citizens must hold a negative test result not older than 7 days. The city plans to make nucleic acid testing free from May 3.
- The Central Military Commission has approved an amendment to a regulation for servicemen committees that will permit lower ranked officials to supervise senior officials in the military. The PLA Daily reported the development that will take effect from May 1st, which will bring the regulations governing the military in line with Xi Jinping Thought. The PLA Daily highlighted the benefits of reviving the 'red genes' of the Red Army, allowing Xi Jinping to give direct instructions to lower level officers for 'grass roots democracy'. The move is expected to bring economic and political powers of senior officers to the grass roots and prevent corruption.

India Watch

- The Communist Youth League is set to celebrate its 100th year anniversary on 5th May. It is widely believed that 'Little Pink' (a term used to describe young jingoistic Chinese nationalists on the internet who help in building pro-CPC narrative) are members of the CYL. 'Little Pink' are different from the 50-cent army (also known as Wumao) as they are not paid for their online activities whereas 50-cent army is paid to comment and counter narratives that are detrimental for the CPC. Topmost leaders such as Hu Jintao and Li Keqiang and Hu Chunhua have been the First Secretary of the Communist Youth League and this post has been a stepping stone for them. First Secretary is the leader of the Communist youth league and generally an alternate member of the Central Committee. Since 1982, the CYL has produced six Politburo Standing Committee Members and two of the six members have been the General Secretary of the CCP.