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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

- **'Lockdown frustration grows:** foreigner seemingly frustrated with the lockdown, was recorded screaming below his apartment building. Netizens on Weibo were curious to know what he was shouting. Someone translated his voice- "He's saying thank you, send some oil".
- **Netizen comments against media censorship of COVID realities in China:** A viral WeChat blog criticized Chinese journalists for whitewashing the COVID-19 protocols and government's management of situation. Weibo commentators said they are confused and do not know whether to laugh or cry over state media presenting such uplifting news.

II. News in China

- China National Chemical Engineering Group is helping oil rich Kazakhstan to strengthened its petrochemical industry by assisting in constructing country's largest petrochemical complex in Atyrau Region. Once completed, this project will become a pilot project of alignment between BRI and Kazakh proposed Bright Path economic policy. The complex will yield up to 500,000 tons of polypropylene per year, a raw material widely used in mechanical engineering, medicine and electrical engineering.
- Cambodian officials and experts said that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has helped in boosting Cambodia's economy and improving local people's livelihoods. BRI projects in the Southeast Asia comprise Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone, hydropower plants, Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway, new Siem Reap International Airport, Morodok Techo National Stadium, roads and bridges, hospitals, and rural water supply. Vasim Sorya, undersecretary of state and spokesman for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport said that these projects will provide a lot of tangible benefits to the economy and people of Cambodia.
- According to the data released by National Bureau of Statistics, most of the capital goods monitored by the Chinese government registered lower prices in late April than they did in mid-April. Out of 50 major goods supervised by the government, including seamless steel tubes, gasoline, coal, fertilizer and some chemicals, 20 reported rising prices during the period, 28 registered lower prices, while two saw prices remain unchanged, according to the
- Satellite Jilin-1 Kuanfu 01C, together with seven Jilin-1 Gaofen 03D satellites, was lifted from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in the northern province of Shanxi and soon entered the pre-set orbit. The satellite will be useful in providing commercial remote sensing data services for sectors such as land resource, mineral exploration and smart city construction.
- Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian urged the U.S. to stop

cybertheft targeting China and other countries and act as an accountable actor in the cyberspace.

- On May 05, China's permanent representative to the United Nations Zhang Jun gave a statement in the UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine, appealing to the international community to assist in Russia-Ukraine peace negotiations and facilitate the political settlement between the two nations. He said that the priority is to promote ceasefire and cessation of hostilities.

India Watch

- Statement by Cambodia praising the projects for boosting economy and improving local people's livelihoods under BRI reflected its support for the China backed development. However, what is left unseen is the plight of local people due to this development. Creation of the Lower Sesan 2 dam caused displacement of nearly 5,000 people, mostly Indigenous peoples and other ethnic minorities who used to live in the villages along the Sesan and Srepok Rivers, two tributaries of the Mekong River, for generations. The project impacted tens of thousands of other people upstream and downstream of the dam who were depended on its fisheries for food and income. Government did not provide any compensation for losses of income to forest community as they lost the forest products used by them to sustain their livelihood. Since Cambodia has a constitutional monarchy, it is imperative for the ruler to maintain the flow of development in order to sustain his popularity. However, this flow of foreign investment is not only affecting the environment but also human rights of the people. Cambodian authorities did not conduct meaningful evaluations of the project's benefits versus impacts prior to construction and thus local people are suffering.