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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

- **The 1000-strong contest of the PLA's support base in Djibouti:** Over the past few days, nearly 1,000 officers and soldiers have competed in military skills competitions at the PLA's support base in Djibouti. The contestants wore 21-style training uniforms and were fully armed. They first one carried a 200-kilogram rubber boat and ran for 150 meters, and then transported a 20-kilogram ammunition box. The 22 subjects took turns to play, including grenade throwing, war wound rescue, armed cross-country, and live ammunition shooting.
- **Tencent's large-scale cancellation of the Q-coin recharge discount:** Tencent Q coin recharge has cancelled the 30% discount on a large scale, and at the same time on the iOS side "Honor of Kings" recharge will also cancel the extra coupons. Weibo netizens also reported that Q coin recharges for QQ members changed from 5% off and 94% off to 92% and 93% off respectively. The official Bilibili account of King Glory responded that this is a routine adjustment based on business development needs and to provide users with a better experience.

II. News in China

- China's President Xi Jinping spoke out about the Covid-19 situation in Shanghai for the first time in a speech to members of the Politburo Standing Committee. Doubling down on the lockdown and zero-covid policy, Xi directed party cadres and state officials to fight any attempt to distort, question or dismiss the country's zero-covid policy. The meeting with China's top leaders stressed China's unswerving adherence to the dynamic clearance policy and noted the significance of maintaining a high degree of consistency with the central committee in ideological and political actions. Officials were also warned not to oppose or challenge the zero-covid policies and directed to accelerate the pace of epidemic control work to manage sporadic outbreaks.
- The search and rescue operation to rescue survivors from the collapsed building in Changsha was concluded and 53 people were confirmed dead. Ten people were rescued after a weeklong effort to find all the missing and trapped people from the building site. Party Secretary of Hunan, Wu Guiyang and other local officials apologized at a press conference on 6th May, expressed their condolences to all the victims and stated the collapse of the building has "caused huge losses to people's lives". The State Council has established a team to investigate the collapse, headed by the Ministry of emergency Management. The team plans to identify liabilities and suggest punishments, promising that all those responsible for the accident will be held accountable.
- China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian announced that, at the invitation of the South Korean government, President Xi Jinping's special representative and

vice-president, Wang Qishan, will lead a delegation to South Korea to attend the inauguration ceremony of South Korea's President Yoon Suk-Yeol on May 10. The news comes at the same time that South Korea's National Intelligence Service has been admitted as a member of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Center of Excellence (CCDCOE), based in Estonia. South Korea will be the first Asian country to join the grouping. CCDCOE is the world's most authoritative network security organization, established in May 2008. South Korea submitted a letter of intent to join in 2019, and has participated in the world's largest cyber exercise "Lock Shield" hosted by CCDCOE for two consecutive years from 2020.

- A commentary published in the PLA Daily, the newspaper of the armed forces in China, warned of the US Armed Forces potential to dominate outer space through the use of SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet system. Pointing to Starlink's strong military background, the commentary noted that the satellites can be mounted with reconnaissance, navigation and meteorological devices to enhance combat ability in areas such as reconnaissance, communication, navigation and space sheltering. The Starlink program is set to increase the number of satellites from 12,000 to 42,000. The Starlink program has already been deployed in the Russia-Ukraine conflict to offer Ukraine satellite communication devices and the US military has engaged with the company to use Starlink satellites for Army and Air Force use. Concerned with these developments, China has decided to launch its own artificial satellite constellation called GalaxySpace.
- The Health Commission of Guangdong province announced that it has scrapped the province's birth registration policy, which was revised in March and came into force on May 1st 2021. The birth registration certificate would no longer serve as a tool to restrict the number of births, allowing all births outside marriage to be registered as well in the province that has the highest number of births across China. The policy also removes restrictions on couples' household registration permit, part of a wave of measures undertaken since December 2021 to revise the family planning regulations. The efforts stem from the three-child policy, announced in 2021, and the declining number of newborns across provinces in China.

India Watch

- China on 5th May launched the Long March-2D rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shaanxi to send eight commercial satellites into orbit. The rocket carried seven Jilin-1 Gaofen (high-resolution) 03D satellites and one Jilin-1 Kuanfu 01C satellite for the Changguang Satellite Technology (CGST), a subsidiary of the state-owned Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics. CGST is a prominent commercial space company in China, with 54 satellites in orbit that can allegedly revisit any spot above Earth 17 to 20 times a day. The satellites can

provide remote sensing data and services for use in the agriculture sector, oceans, forestry, urban construction and scientific experiments.