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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Tulika Karmakar (Research Intern)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **ByteDance launches Kesong, a new social media app:** Kesong, a new social media app for the young population, will be launched by ByteDance. Famous short video apps like TikTok and Douyin were a product of ByteDance. This new app will be a platform for the users to share their lifestyle and other activities by sharing photos. The features of this app will be more or less like Instagram.
- **Tencent clarifies rumors against online gaming hours for children:** Rumors of young gamers being allowed to spend an hour a day gaming, flooded the social media until Tencent pursued a clarification. It reiterated the rules set forth by the National Press and Publication Administration in August 2021, which states that children under 18 years of age can play only for an hour on online gaming sites during the weekends. This is a move to monitor and keep the activities of the children in check. Tencent has complied with these rules by putting restrictions for the users.

II. News in China

- After China faced one of the biggest financial scandals ever, protestors flooded the streets of Henan forcing the authorities to make the repayments. Depositors with up to 50,000 yuan in their banks are eligible to receive the repayments, which has left others, with more than 50,000 yuan, disappointed. The notice issued by China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) clarifies that accounts which have received high interest from different sources or have been involved in illegal trade practices will not receive the repayment. Enodo Economics, a political forecasting company in London, has said that China will be indebted if it continues to boost its economy and finance the infrastructure through debt.
- The South Korean media has been urged to disseminate positive news regarding China and focus less on the negative side, by Beijing's top envoy. In order to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, Beijing's envoy has requested South Korea to look at China from every perspective - good and bad - instead of standing on the one side. The western approach that the South Korean media has adopted is being criticized in China. Having a good image globally is one of the main agendas of the Chinese government which can further help it to maintain good relations with other states.
- The Work Safety Committee of China's State Council held a national video conference on Monday where the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang addressed the local governments to ensure safety and protection of the citizens amidst the growing number of accidents. In order to prevent any kind of accident from taking place, the premier focused on eliminating safety risks related to self-built commercial housing, use of gas in urban households, and strengthening the risks associated with major

industries like transportation, construction, hazardous chemicals, and mining. Efforts in holding the factors responsible for causing such accidents need to be monitored as well.

- As China faced heavy rainfall this year as compared to last year, it has led to a surge in the hydropower output. China is the world's biggest polluter and has the 2nd biggest economy. Heavy rains store rainwater in the reservoir for hydro generation. A surge in this hydropower will make China meet its climate goals and avoid power shortages. China's reliance on coal has reduced to 60% from 75% in 2010. As a result of this, China has also cut its import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) amidst shortage in imports due the sanctions put on China.
- With new variants of Covid 19's Omicron rising, the zero-covid policy of China comes into question. BA.5 - the new variant - is said to be more infectious and has been observed in many states like the US, Britain, and Australia. It is complicated to prevent transmissions caused due to imported cases. Efforts are being made to quarantine foreign travelers for seven days. Some believe that the zero-covid policy is not working and China should focus on vaccinating the older population.
- Covid 19 has severely left an impact on the bankruptcy of multiple private hospitals. Patient visits have reduced due to stringent government protocols on medical facilities and mobility restrictions. Private hospitals in China were rapidly growing from the past decade until the pandemic caused many to shut down. Due to less patient visits, the benefits of subsidies enjoyed by such hospitals like rent reduction and exemptions during the pandemic too were cut down.
- This Eid al-Adha, a major Islamic festival, local cadres were sent to Xinjiang, to celebrate the festival with the Uyghur population. The cadres brought gifts along with themselves and helped the people in the fields. In videos released by the state media, people were seen singing and dancing with the cadres, enjoying the festival together. The Uyghurs appreciated the state, the Communist Party of China, for making this festival special for them.
- Wang Yi, the Chinese foreign minister, sided with ASEAN in order to protect the future of this region. He stressed on the attempts of the region to divide itself to different groups like AUKUS and the Quad. Wang's remarks spurred criticism amongst the ASEAN members as they saw it as an opportunity for Beijing to enter the SouthEast region and threaten its stability, as well as relations. It has also challenged Chinese actions and principles over the incursions into the South China Sea.

III. India Watch

- The move by the authorities to 'celebrate' Eid with the Uyghur population was perceived as propaganda. It was an attempt to hide the atrocities committed by the state authorities over the Uyghurs. The local cadres are usually assigned with the

task to monitor the activities of the Uyghur muslims and commit human rights violations that the world is aware of. China, now, is trying to create a 'good image' of itself. It however cannot destroy the factual evidence of genocides.