

WEEKEND ISSUE
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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
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PREPARED BY

Alshara Reddy (Research Intern)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Operation Code Red:** Chinese social media has seen a rise in discussion of the Henan Depositors Scandal and the new Health Code colours. The question "Who is in charge of changing the Health Code?" became very popular on Weibo. Many accused the local Henan authorities of abusing their authority in an effort to silence the protesters' cries for help. There is no way that this is an oversight or a data error, many people wrote, so the situation ought to be obvious. The Health Commission of Henan Province has now been notified of the case for further investigation.

II. News in China

- China launched two satellites into space on Saturday with a Long March-2C carrier rocket. At 6:57 in the morning (Beijing Time), Siwei 03 and 04 were launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center. With this mission, the Long March carrier rockets accomplished their 427th flight.
- In the second quarter, China's economy grew by 0.4 percent, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). China's major economic indicators fell sharply in April before rebounding in May and June. The broad-based economic recovery occurred after central and local governments implemented a set of pro-economic policies. The State Council unveiled 33 policies in six categories at the end of May in an effort to revive the economy. In June, China's retail sales of consumer goods increased by 3.1 percent over a year and surveyed urban unemployment rate was 5.5 percent, down from 5.9 percent in May. Recent efforts by the government to boost the economy have increased but because of the government's continued adherence to the strict zero-Covid policy aimed at containing the coronavirus, many analysts do not anticipate a swift economic recovery for China.
- The Urumqi International Land Port Area, located in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of northwest China, is well on its way to developing into a significant growth pole that will drive the region's opening up and economic growth. The land port area is a landmark project in the development of the Silk Road Economic Belt's core area. Xinjiang, which is situated in the centre of the ancient Silk Road, is a crucial area in China's Belt and Road Initiative. In the first five months of this year, the region's foreign trade value totaled over 67.4 billion yuan, up 30.9 percent from the same period last year.
- On Saturday, 691 new COVID-19 cases were reported from mainland China, of which 154 were symptomatic and 537 were not. The highest number of locally transmitted cases since May 23 was 580 among the new cases. The majority were found in Gansu and Guangxi.
- On Saturday, the Chinese airline Hainan Airlines started operating direct flights to

Serbia. A welcome ceremony was held at the Nikola Tesla Airport in Belgrade was attended by Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, along with several other officials. The first flight from Beijing arrived on Saturday morning. This flight will benefit cooperation between China and countries throughout the region, strengthening Serbia's position as a regional transport hub.

- Citizens' ID card numbers were compromised, which are considered necessary in China, including COVID-19 tests. As of April 2021, according to security experts, about a billion other people's personal information had been made available online. On a hacker forum, hackers advertised for sale 23 TB of data from the Shanghai police department. China is one of the few nations in the world that mandates complete real-name registration for all online services. This has been a requirement for all foreign visitors since 2013. U.S. citizens are cautioned on the State Department's information page for China that their movements will be watched.
- Jianan Wang of China wins the gold medal in the men's long jump final with a leap of 27 feet, 514 inches. It is China's first long jump gold medal at a world championship.
- Flash floods in southwest and northwest China killed at least a dozen people on Sunday. Rainfall in the worst-affected areas was 98.9 mm in the previous day, nearly double the July average. China's eastern Zhejiang province and Shanghai are both experiencing extreme heat as a result of the rains.

III. India Watch

- India has pushed for the swift withdrawal of troops from all the unresolved conflict zones in eastern Ladakh. The last round of talks between the Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army took place on March 11 at the Chushul-Moldo border crossing point. The 16th round of Corps Commander-level negotiations on the disengagement from tense points along the Line of Control (LAC) held talks on Sunday in Chushul-Moldo, on the Indian side of Ladakh. India and China convened another round of diplomatic discussions to review the present LAC situation and requested for an immediate gathering of senior commanders to help settle the issue, despite the fact that military withdrawal in eastern Ladakh was still not complete. In order to address the unresolved issues along the LAC and achieve complete disengagement from "all friction points along the LAC in the Western Sector in conformity with current bilateral agreements and protocols," both countries have agreed to continue talks through diplomatic and military channels as authorised by their foreign ministers.