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*DAILY*  
**CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA**



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**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON  
CHINA AND ASIA**

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## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **“The collaboration umbrella being sold for 11,100 yuan is not waterproof” hashtag trended on Weibo:** Gucci and Adidas luxury labels attracted attention for selling an umbrella for 11,100 yuan that will not stop rain through it. According to the post it must be used to protect from Sun and for fashion. This product was classified as umbrella initially but then a vague term was used in mandarin.

## II. News in China

- Xi Jinping sent congratulations to the forum of BRICS political parties, think tanks and civil society on May 19. He cited some persisting problems like the vulnerable economic situation worldwide, development gap, climate change and digital governance. He noted BRICS countries should remember their aspirations and try to build cooperative networks for other developing countries to tackle these issues at hand.
- The Telegram is supposedly being blocked citing privacy concerns in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is planning to block the messaging app and the city would eventually move to Chinese apps and their style of censorship. Privacy commissioner Ada Chung showed concern about personal data privacy. In 2021 around 227 notices were issued to 12 online platforms for removal of posts that dealt with personal details.
- Alibaba sold its 28.34 stakes in Paytm Mall, Ant Financials also sold its entire stake. Paytm e-commerce bought these stakes for 42 crores. The company was valued at 100 crores which shows a stark decline as it was valued at around 21,000 crores in 2020.
- Kwessa, the COVID-19 vaccine produced by Consino Biology, China was added in the “Emergency Use List” by WHO. It is the eleventh vaccine legitimised by WHO for emergency use by the advisory group for people above 18 years of age.
- China to buy Russian oil for its strategic reserves. China is in discussions to buy supplies as Europe has banned imports because of Ukrainian war. These talks were held directly by the government and the oil would be used for strategic petroleum reserves. In the wake of Russian invasion, the buyers had stepped away fearing international sanctions.
- US special coordinator Uzra Zeya met Dalai Lama on Thursday in the first such visit during Biden presidency. China criticised the meeting of the American diplomat and Dalai Lama stating it was a violation of Washington’s position that Tibet is a part of China. Chinese contention is that US interfered in its internal affairs.

## India Watch

- China will send special envoy to Brussels to improve its ties with EU. It aims to

upgrade its relationship with European Union. Wu Hongbo, Beijing's special representative for Europe is appointed for this job. Amidst such a push, it is important for India to keep focus on its own FTA negotiations with the EU and make them a success.