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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

- **Body positivity trends:** Wang Yu, 28, theatres the famous Tang Dynasty concubine Yang Guifei at a tourist attraction in Xi'an, Shaanxi province. Her videos have been a source of attraction on Chinese social media. People now view her as a figure of body positivity.
- **Invention by amputee trends:** A 30-year-old Chinese amputee, named Liang Kaiyu, who lost his legs in an accident two years back, designed and invented a shining 'Iron Leg' equipped with LED Lights and now has become a viral internet sensation.

II. News in China

- On May 20, the Shanghai Shentong Metro Group said that four subway lines in Shanghai will resume service starting Sunday on the condition that passengers must hold a negative nucleic acid test result within 48 hours for entry. The subway routes comprise Line 3, Line 6, Line 10 and Line 16, some of which link the city's train stations and the downtown areas. Metro trains on these four lines will operate from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm
- As China is about to host annual BRICS Summit, President Xi Jinping called on the BRICS countries to inject stability and positivity into international relations in a period of turbulence and transformation. Xi made the remarks in a video address at the opening session of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on May 19.
- On May 20, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Timor-Leste's counterpart, Jose Ramos-Horta, exchanged messages to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Timor-Leste's restoration of independence and the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Xi remarked that over the past 20 years, Timor-Leste has actively developed its economy and improved people's livelihood, showing great vitality, noting that China and Timor-Leste have a long history of friendship.
- On May 20, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet will visit China from May 23 to 28 at the invitation of the Chinese government.
- On May 20, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin announced that at the invitation of Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will pay an official visit to China from May 21 to 22.
- On May 19, Chinese Foreign Ministry urged the United States to honour its commitment of acknowledging Tibet as part of China and stop interfering in China's internal affairs under the pretext of Tibet-related issues.
- The U.N. Human Rights chief Michelle Bachelet's much delayed and awaited visit to China will be from May 23 to 28, according to the Chinese foreign ministry.

I: lia Watch

- Bachelet will be the first U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit the country since Louise Arbour in 2005. UN has earlier stated that China is alleged to have imprisoned at least a million people of the Uyghurs community and other members of Muslim ethnic minority groups in the Xinjiang. Several reports pertaining to human rights abuses of Muslim minority groups in China have emerged continually, including forced labour. This visit may help in studying these alleged facts.
- Nevertheless, China recently asked Sweden to respect the “religious beliefs” of Muslims and other minority groups while the country itself is listed among the worst human rights abusers in the world by UN Human Rights Watch. According to The Hong Kong Post, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin on April 20 asked Sweden to “earnestly respect” Muslims’ religious beliefs in the wake of anti-Muslim riots on April 15-16. This statement reflects China’s diversion from the principle of non-interference in the internal matters of a country and also dual standard over human rights of the minority communities.