

20.06.22

*DAILY*  
**CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA**



---

**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON  
CHINA AND ASIA**

---

***PREPARED BY***

Kishmish (Research Intern)  
writetous.orca@gmail.com

## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **China wants all comments on social media to be pre-approved before they are published:** On June 17, China's internet regulator, the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), released a draught update on platforms' and content providers' obligations in controlling online comments. One paragraph in particular sticks out: before being published, all internet comments would have to be pre-approved. Users and observers fear that the action will be used to further restrict China's freedom of expression.
- **Huge discounts provided as part of China's annual "618" online shopping :** Festival failed to rekindle the fervour of past years, as younger customers kept a close eye on their finances in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak. The 18th of June, or 618, is one of the most important annual Chinese shopping events. It has been considered as a sign of consumer sentiment improvement in the previous two years, following protracted lockdowns and other Covid-related limitations. This time, though, not so much.

## II. News in China

- Russia becomes China's top oil supplier as a result of the Ukraine conflict. Russian oil imports increased by 55 percent year over year to a new high in May, surpassing Saudi Arabia as China's largest supplier. Despite demand being reduced by Covid limits and a weakening economy, China has increased its purchases of Russian oil. China and Russia stated their relationship had "no bounds" in February. Chinese corporations, like as state-owned Sinopec and state-owned Zhenhua Oil, have expanded their purchases of Russian petroleum in recent months after receiving steep discounts as European and American importers eschewed Russian energy as a result of sanctions related to the country's war in Ukraine.
- China claims victory in its campaign to promote preferred candidates to international organisations. Even while Beijing's efforts in other areas are still falling short, the re-election of a Chinese member to a United Nations maritime panel this week represents a win for Beijing's efforts to get its candidates into positions of international prominence. Tang Yong was re-elected for another five-year term from 2023 to 2028 on Wednesday, after serving as one of 21 members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf since 2017. Since 1997, China has always had a seat on the panel, which decides on claims of considerable economic and political significance.
- China's ethnic affairs bureau has been led by a former environmental protection officer who is known for taking a harsh stance on local interests. On Saturday, Pan Yue, 62, was named party chairman of the National Ethnic Affairs Commission's website. Pan Yue will be the second member of China's main ethnic group to lead

the minority affairs agency. In the position for which he would be accountable, despite reservations about Beijing's handling of various ethnic groups, particularly the Uygurs, he has put a stronger emphasis on integration.

- On June 23, Chinese President Xi Jinping will convene a virtual meeting of BRICS leaders, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. The summit will be place virtually under the subject "Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development," according to an announcement from Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend a virtual summit next week with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa, which will be the first since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Mr. Xi and Mr. Putin spoke on the phone for the second time since the invasion on Wednesday, with Beijing pledging to support Russia's sovereignty and security.
- Domestic tourism in China is likely to go up this summer, supported by high demand from students graduating from college or middle school, as well as the relaxation of COVID-19 interprovincial leisure travel limitations. Ctrip said that searches for "graduate vacations" increased by more than 300 percent week over week from June 6 to 9. In most regions of the country, the national college admission examination ended on June 9. According to Ctrip, towns with several colleges and institutions, such as Wuhan in Hubei province, Chengdu in Sichuan region, and Dalian in Liaoning province, sent the most graduates to tourism locations.

### **III. India Watch**

- According to the Chinese government, the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) grouping will begin an expansion process to accept new developing nation members for the first time. According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Beijing would aggressively encourage BRICS growth and invite additional global partners to join the club. In response to media questioning about Beijing's position on BRICS expansion, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Wang Wenbin issued a comment. "China will continue to engage with BRICS parties to hold in-depth discussions about BRICS expansion and establish norms and procedures based on consensus. We hope that more like-minded partners will join the BRICS family "In a statement, he stated.