

25.07.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY
Ridipt Singh (Research Intern)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Wentian Module:** According to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), the launch of its space station's first lab module named Wentian has docked with the Tianhe core module, successfully completing the mission. The module was launched with a Long March 5B rocket from Hainan Island. The module weighs 23 metric tons and is equipped with four scientific cabinets for conducting biotechnological and ecological experiments under changing conditions of gravity. The module will facilitate spacewalks and external experiments through its additional airlock and robotic arm. This successful docking is one in the series of construction of the three-module Tiangong space station by China.
- **Hainan Expo:** the International Consumer Products Expo 2022 will be opening on 25 July in the Hainan Province in Southern China. The Expo is being organized by the Hainan Provincial Bureau of International Economic Development at the Hainan International Convention and Exhibition Center. The Expo will include products from fashion, cosmetics, home appliances, sports, outdoor, food, logistics, electronics, finance, and real estate.
- **UK's biggest threat:** Rishi Sunak, upon the accusation of being weak on Russia and China has promised to take tough action against China if he is elected as Prime Minister. Earlier, Global Times has stated regarding UK elections that Rishi Sunak is the only candidate with a pragmatic view on developing UK-China ties. But Rishi Sunak promised to put a ban on Confucius Institutes to stop the spread of Chinese influence. Further, he stated that education institutions will have to disclose foreign funding sources if it is more than £50,000 (\$60,000). This statement was made in regards to his promise to "kick the CCP out of our universities."

II. News in China

- Amid tensions across the Taiwan Strait, live-fire Han Kuang military drills began with dozens of Taiwan's Indigenous Defence Fighters and US-made F16s flying from the West and Southwest of Taiwan to the Eastern airbases. The military drill simulated the People's Liberation Army's offense which involves warplanes and missiles aimed at the Southwestern airbases of Taiwan. The drill runs for five days and coincides with the Wan An air raid drills. The first two days will be focused on preservation exercises and air defence readiness. Day three will be marked by joint assault operations. The exercise will end with homeland defence on days four and five. Other than that, the Wan An drills will continue for four days across Taiwan and the offshore islands. These air drills will include raids, communication, and systems for early warning of an attack to the authorities and public.
- During a symposium in Beijing held on 24 July 2022, Chinese government officials and scholars commented that guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, China will

continue to foster peace and development. Further comments included the need for other nations to cooperate and work together with China multilaterally for global unity and to counter unilateral hegemony. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi commented that the President's thoughts on the global situation have proven to be efficient during turbulent times in the world. His further comments were regarding the Chinese diplomats spreading Xi Jinping's vision over the past decade and the diplomatic missions calling on other nations to increase cooperation and boost the influence of Chinese philosophy. Vice President of the Party School of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Xie Chuntao highlighted the idea of community building for a shared future. Other notable speakers included Sun Yeli, Deputy Head of the Publicity Department, Lin Shangli, Deputy Director of the Policy Research Office, and Qian Hongshan, Deputy Head of the International Department.

- Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Mainland China as of 24 July, Sunday is 150. According to the [data from the National Health Commission](#), 101 are due to local transmissions and the remaining 49 are caused from overseas. Asymptomatic cases were recorded at 650. 6,473 such asymptomatic patients are currently under medical observation. The cumulative confirmed cases in Mainland China are 228,798 with the death toll at 5,226. Apart from the Mainland, the latest tally of Hong Kong is at 350,500 with 66,625 recoveries and 9,469 deaths, the tally for Macao is at 785 with 445 recoveries and 6 deaths and the tally for Taiwan is at 4,430,583 with 13,742 recoveries and 8,596 deaths.
- Chinese scientists have launched an expedition to conduct scientific investigations in the headwater region of the Lancang and Yangtze rivers in the Qinghai Province. The expedition is being led by the Changjiang River Scientific Research Institute (CRSRI) of Changjiang Water Resources Commission and will investigate the river hydrology, water ecology, soil erosion, glaciers, permafrost of the region, etc. Further investigation will include observation of the carbon stock of wetlands in the headwaters of the Yangtze River. The headwater regions are significant in maintaining the security and protection of water resources, ecosystem, and biodiversity in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau ecosystem. According to Xu Ping, Chief Engineer of the CRSRI, the study will further provide data for projects like the protection of the Yangtze River and the construction of the Sanjiangyuan National Park.
- The General Administration of Customs has announced new measures for the prevention of the [Monkeypox virus](#). The new measures require travelers arriving in China from countries with reported Monkeypox cases to voluntarily declare their contact to the customs department. As per the notice, carriers of vehicles, owners of goods, and containers from other countries who were either infected or suspected of infection need to carry prescribed sanitation treatments.

III. India Watch

- A new squadron of S-400 surface-to-air missile systems will be deployed along the northern borders with China to be operationalized in two or three-months' time. The squadron will boost the Indian armed forces' capability of intercepting and destroying bombers, drones, missiles, and fighter jets. The new squadron is being called as China has increased its aerial activities in the region of Eastern Ladakh. The Chinese fighter planes are often reported to be flying close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) violating the 10 kilometers no-fly zone confidence-building measure. Apart from aerial activities, China has also enhanced runways, shelters, and storage facilities in its air bases like Gargunsa, Hotan, and Shigatse. These enhancements have upgraded their aircraft capabilities for reconnaissance and bombings. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari made a statement regarding the issue saying that the Chinese aerial activities are being closely monitored by the Indian Air Force. He further stated that upon sighting any Chinese aircraft, manned or remotely piloted, too close to the LAC, the Indian Air Force scrambles or puts aircraft on high alert and has been successful in deterring them.