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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

- **Chinese textbook trends for being ugly:** A Chinese elementary school textbook published by the People's Education Press went viral for having "ugly" illustrations. The hashtag "People's Education Press Math Teaching Material" (#人教版数学教材) trended on social media platforms like Weibo.

II. News in China

- At the opening ceremony of the China International Big Data Industry Expo 2022 which took place in Guiyang, Guizhou Province, a senior official commented on fastening the development of the digital economy. Huang Kunming who is head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee as well as a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee stressed the importance of promoting the digital economy in key industries and remarked on the necessity of integrating the digital economy with that of the real economy. He further outlined that steps should be taken to enhance digital economy governance and further digitisation in public services.
- Wu Qian, spokesman for China's Ministry of National Defense said that on Tuesday, the Chinese and Russian air forces conducted a routine joint strategic air patrol. He stated that this was the fourth patrol jointly conducted by the two countries since 2019, with the aim of testing and boosting coordination and mutual trust between the military forces of the two nations. He also mentioned that this joint patrol was not directed at any third party.
- In an interview with Nikkei, an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, Tom Shugart, remarked that China has set up a model in Xinjiang of an airborne warning and control system (AWACS) plane used by the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF). According to Shugart, the model has been set up by the Chinese to test warheads. This development is aligned with China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) doctrine stressing "system destruction warfare". While Shugart said that he couldn't be sure what the purpose of the mock-up is, he opined that it could be a warning to Japan on issues such as Taiwan and the Senkaku Islands.
- Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong expressed his support for the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative (GDI) in an interview with Nikkei editor-in-chief Tetsuya Iguchi. Lee remarked that China's development is positive for the region; it is the biggest trading partner of most countries in Asia and that Singapore welcomes such opportunities for cooperation and trade. Nonetheless, Lee also mentioned that countries in the Asia-Pacific also want to maintain equally beneficial ties with other major economies like the United States, Japan and the European Union.

- On Thursday, the Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the Acting Governor-General of the Solomon Islands John Patteson Oti met and pledged to further enhance their bilateral ties. Oti expressed his gratitude to China for aiding in the implementation of the Stadium Project, which will be the main stadium for the 2023 Pacific Games. Extending on that note, Wang said that both countries have deepened political mutual trust and cooperation and developed their relations holistically.
- China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region pulled 115.9 billion yuan (about 17.2 billion U.S. dollars) of investment until April of this year. The region signed 2,367 investment projects and is up 27.29 per cent year on year according to the department of commerce in the region. About 3,600 companies have been set up in the Korla Economic and Technological Development Zone.

India Watch

- With China's increasing military buildup in mind, other countries also need to start focusing particularly on their defence policies. Countries like Taiwan, Japan and the United States need to reassess the Chinese military threat and accordingly make preparations to deter Chinese aggression in the region.