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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Dreams of working online from home shatters:** After people are subjected to more than two years of lockdown, they are showing discontent over the internet towards the 'work from system'. Words like 'exhausting' and 'depressing' are trending over the social media to describe this arrangement. The benefits of communication and working for fixed hours is being realized now when working from home has blurred the lines between personal and professional lives as people are seen working for extra hours without realizing. In a survey conducted by 'The Paper' from the users of WeChat, Jinri Toutiao, and The Paper's own site, it was revealed that people are disappointed with working from and want to work remotely as soon as the lockdown ends.
- **Diablo Immortal's account mocked Xi on a Weibo post:** The Chinese leader was compared with Winnie the Pooh on Diablo Immortal's Weibo post which attracted many viewer's attention. Xi has shown a history of banning games that have mocked him and this incident too is in jeopardy. The game has not yet been released in China but is out in the US. There are rumors circulating on the game's potential ban in China. However, there are no claims regarding the same.

II. News in China

- As a result of China's stringent Zero-COVID strategy, which is responsible for putting lockdowns and relying on mass testing to fight against the pandemic, the Chinese economy has slowed down. From small business owners to office employees, people are facing the hard reality of rising debts. The grave effects of the failing economy are being felt the most by the middle class. Due to this, Chinese households too are stepping away from spending money. This has affected the demand for household loans, further indicating the shrinking of balance sheets. The micro- and small-sized enterprises (MSEs) too have been seen declining when compared with last year.
- US President Joe Biden has attempted to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative by raising USD 600 billion by 2027 in global infrastructure investments. The initiative introduced last year, called Build Back Better World, is being remodeled this year into 'The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)'. PGII is an alternative to infrastructure models that sell debt traps, like that of the BRI. Officials claim that this program would be better than BRI in terms of improving the economy and having a lasting effect on the GDP of a country. In five years, Biden is set to raise USD 200 Billion through "grants, federal financing, leveraging private sector investments".
- On Saturday, China launched three major water projects as a part of the national plan that aimed at investing 800 billion Yuan. The three projects launched are - the

floodgate reconstruction project in the lower reaches of the Yellow river, the reservoir project in Hunan, and the river management project in Anhui. China is set to focus on the rural areas this year and the projects that are related to people's livelihood. Lives of 9.32 million people from rural areas were improved when 29.3 billion yuan was invested as a part of construction of rural water supply projects. Emphasizing on water supply projects has been seen to reduce carbon emissions as well.

- With the completion of 25 years of Hong Kong's return to the motherland, Kenneth Fok Kai-kong, member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), claimed how Hong Kong would have been different had it not received the help from the mainland. Hong Kong could prosper and develop under the guidance of the motherland. The enforcement of national security has developed the city in terms of stabilizing the society, and strengthening the electoral system. It has received immense support from the motherland in times of extreme crises like the pandemic, the Asian financial crisis, and the SARS epidemic. The 25th year anniversary proves the principle of 'one country, two systems'.
- In an attempt to exercise democratic principles, Xi has encouraged the use of public opinion and surveys to incorporate what the public feels like. He has claimed to take the suggestions of the general public related to the upcoming 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Public opinion is a way of making the citizens participate in day-to-day functioning and decision making of the government in order to make a better country. More than 8.54 millions suggestions were received over the internet. These suggestions have been incorporated in the Government Work Report.
- Tencent, China's internet giant, has aimed at strengthening its international strategy by launching an all-in-one cloud product. It will sell technology to foreign automakers, further benefiting the domestic market. All the technological aspects of the electric car, from storing data to access to social media for the drivers will be a part of this technology. Tencent has been a dominating platform in China and will attract multiple users as it has already garnered the support of many previously. It is said that BMW and other U.S. automakers are already working with Tencent on this.
- A yellow alert for rainstorms amid the monsoon season has been issued in many parts of China. The country has a four-tier weather warning system, with the red representing the most severe rainstorm, followed by orange, yellow, and blue. It has been advised for citizens to not go out, and airports, railways, and water transportation systems have been warned to issue safety measures. The rains have resulted in economic losses as well. Apart from the rainstorm, a yellow alert has been issued for increasing heat waves as temperatures in some cities are rising.

- As China moves ahead with revising the anti-monopoly law, the Chinese market regulators devise new rules and regulations in order to look into antitrust behavior. Public comment will be sought for proposals of The State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR). Accordingly, businesses will request an antitrust assessment of their mergers if one of the parties' combined worldwide revenue exceeds 12 billion yuan.

III. India Watch

- The criticisms that the Belt and Road Initiative has achieved over the years have been condemned on humanitarian, economic, and security grounds. As a result of this, Biden's new global infrastructure plan, set in a tussle between capitalist vs communist ideals, aims to avoid the debt traps that the state-controlled China has been using in developing countries like Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Nigeria, Kenya, among many others. As a democratic state, the US will focus on funding from private firms as opposed to China that is state-funded.