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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

- **Uncovering the fake Russian history on Wikipedia:** Zhemao, daughter of a diplomat stationed in Russia, who married a Russian upon obtaining the Russian citizenship, and has a degree in Russian History, wrote over 206 fake articles in 10 years on Wikipedia. Yifan, when reading the stories, became interested and went deeper to research more on them when he uncovered the truth - that no such thing ever existed. Netizens praised her talent of weaving richly documented stories interconnecting with the real events, and encouraged her to publish a novel for the same. While there are many who have lost their faith in Wikipedia
- **Huawei publishes patents related to "quantum chips and quantum computers":** On June 10, Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. published the invention patent "A quantum chip and quantum computer" with the publication number CN114613758A. The patent abstract shows that the application provides a quantum chip and a quantum computer, which relate to the technical field of quantum computing. It can solve problems such as low yields

II. News in China

- The work to install a new telescope, Mingantu interplanetary scintillation (IPS), has started in the northern grasslands of China. It will harness the solar winds to not just protect the power grids but also monitor astronauts and satellites in space. This telescope is a part of the Meridian Space Weather Monitoring Project - aimed at predicting weather in a better manner. The telescope is said to receive radio waves, which usually get scattered by the solar wind. The measurement of radio waves will help in reconstructing the 3D structure of the solar winds, involving multiple parameters. It would be a challenge to build this 60 million yuan telescope as it will have a large cylindrical antenna, something that has never been built.
- Hong Kong is aiming to utilize the potential of the Greater Bay Area. It is said that it will not be like any other city but will create global innovations and technology powerhouse by connecting Hong Kong, Macau, and nine Guangdong cities for economic advancement of the city. The potential of this area is said to compete with the financial centers of the US, like Silicon Valley. As the city has accepted that their 25 years of integration with the mainland has improved its financial condition, making it capable of securing the largest source of foreign direct investment for China, it believes that it can benefit China further by playing a unique role, as opposed to being like any other city. This move will affect the Westerners as focus is on encouraging Mandarin language and welcoming Chinese talent to flourish.
- China wants to propagate the richness of the Chinese language all across the world. It is aiming to connect foreigners and assist them in learning this language for better communication. With the setting up of the Global Chinese Learning Program,

with over 6 million users from over 180 countries, anyone can learn and excel in Chinese. The language has been incorporated in the national education system in many countries where the medium for education was Chinese. Many books have been published in various languages that explain Chinese ideology and culture.

- In the recent G7 meetings, China's name was denounced and was mentioned 14 times over Russia. The Ukraine invasion led by Russia was the hot topic in this year's session, with nations condemning Moscow's act and putting sanctions. However, China failed to recognize the human rights violations committed by Russia and supported its activities. This was highlighted in the G7 summit and China was asked to "press Russia immediately to comply with the legally binding order of the International Court of Justice. The forum pointed out that China respects human rights and freedom. It is concerned about the Taiwan Strait and aims at restoring peace there. China's attitude towards Russia's actions have had a profound effect on its relations with the G7 members.
- China's 17+1 initiative, launched in 2012 which was aimed at promoting business and investment in the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries, is being affected by the recent Russia-Ukraine Conflict. This year will mark the 10th anniversary for the initiative, however, there are hardly any CEE countries willing to give importance to this. China has been disappointed with the treatment its delegations have been subjected to in these CEE countries, where lower level delegates were appointed or none at all.
- With rising economic downturns brought up by the frequent lockdowns in China, local governments are faced with a challenge to control the spread of the virus. Free mass testing is seen as a viable alternative to lockdowns as it will not disrupt the economy. However, the question of its affordability by the local governments and its long term effects still stand as an issue. The cost of mass nucleic acid testing is said to be 3.16 billion yuan for a period of one month, as estimated by the China Merchant Securities. While a lockdown in Shanghai could cause a loss of 1 trillion yuan in GDP this year.
- China's business environment is flourishing as the number of Chinese private enterprises quadruples in 10 years. The number in 2012 was 10.85 million, while it stands at 44.57 million in 2021. China's belief in the private economy as the stabilizer of growth and employment, promoting innovation, is one of the reasons for the expansion of the private enterprises. This sector has contributed more than 50% of the tax revenue, provided more than 80% of employment, and accounts for 60% of the country's GDP.
- Evergrande Group, property developer, faces a winding-up petition from Top Shine Global Ltd of Intershore Consult (Samoa) Ltd. This is a result of Evergrande's failure to fulfill HKD \$862.5 million as financial obligation. After this petition has been filed, a legal hearing will follow which is to decide the condition of the company. Although

chances for the passing of the petition is less, Evergrande is determined to strongly oppose it and is communicating with the creditors actively.

III. India Watch

- China's image in the CEE countries will tend to worsen as the US has stepped in to mitigate the tensions and support Ukraine. This has made the US as the guarantor of peace in most of the CEE countries, while China is seen as a security and an economic threat, along with its strategic bilateral relationship with Russia. This is likely to affect China's relations with the rest of Europe.