

30.05.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Ahana Roy (Research and SM Intern)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **China KFC's new Pokémon toy becomes a hot trend:** KFC's recently introduced three Pokémon toys with kid meals across China. One of them in particular—Psyduck—became a viral hit on social media. Psyduck is known to be a headache-prone stressed Pokémon which used intense psychic energy to overwhelm those around it and Chinese netizens have used Psyduck to express their frustration at lockdowns which started on the Chinese mainland in March.

II. News in China

- Shanghai's deputy mayor Wu Qing announced an action plan to coordinate COVID-19 measures with economic development and speed up economic recovery. In a press conference, Wu stated that the Action Plan of Shanghai for Accelerating Economic Recovery and Revitalization (Action Plan) composed of 50 policies and measures, would abandon the approval system in place for production resumption starting on June 1st, 2022. Shanghai will also promote the resumption of work across all sectors by expanding the extent of subsidies, smoothing transportation channels and stabilising supply chains.
- Niue's Premier and Foreign Minister Dalton Tagelagi and Visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi pledged to deepen bilateral ties on Sunday in Fiji. Wang, who's visiting Fiji as part of his current tour of Pacific island countries and to chair the second China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Monday, stated that China is now Niue's second-largest trading partner and that their strategic bilateral relations are based on mutual respect and benefit have only grown stronger fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. Both sides expressed their appreciation for the friendly Niue-China relationship and jointly pledged continued bilateral cooperation on developing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- Chinese Premier Li Keqiang granted John Lee the official certificate of appointment as the sixth-term chief executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on Monday. With it, Premier Li told Lee that the central government would continue to fully implement the principle of "one country, two systems" under which Hong Kong would be administered with a high degree of autonomy. Lee, who won the chief executive election on May 8, is set to assume office on July 1, 2022.
- China donated 10 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Myanmar on Monday. The handover ceremony took place at the Yangon International Airport in Myanmar between the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Chen Hai and Myanmar's Union Minister for Health Thet Khaing Win. Along with the vaccines, China also donated 13 million COVID-19 vaccine syringes and two mobile laboratory vehicles. China also has other aid projects in place to further strengthen Myanmar's public health system.

- Line 12, the first subway loop line in Wuhan, in central China's Hubei Province, is under construction and will be expanded. The 59.9-km line is the longest subway loop line on the Chinese mainland and will connect Wuhan to the three other towns of Wuchang, Hankou and Hanyang and stretch across seven administrative districts. It will also go under the Yangtze River twice, the Hanjiang River and two lakes. The project is produced by China Railway Tunnel Group and China Railway Engineering Equipment Group.
- On Monday, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the second China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting. He stressed the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Pacific island countries and expressed his appreciation for the Foreign Ministers' Meeting which provides a much-needed platform for both sides to strengthen dialogue and enhance cooperation.

India Watch

- China's aid to Myanmar in the sector of public health can be viewed as part of China's global health diplomacy which is an important part of foreign policy to extend geopolitical influence. China has continued to support projects in Myanmar's Centers for Disease Control, has signed on the establishment of the Myanmar Animal Disease Laboratory aid project and both countries also plan to launch a malaria eradication project along the China-Myanmar border.