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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

- **Personal information of 1 billion people hacked:** A hacker has breached the data of the Shanghai Police, extracting personal information of 1 billion people. The hacker, masked under the name of 'ChinaDan' posted on the hacker forum that they would sell 23 TB of data for 10 bitcoins (worth \$200,000). This post has grabbed the attention of many on Weibo and WeChat when hashtags of 'data leaked' went trending. People considered this news to be true, however, the validity of this post is yet to be scrutinized.
- **Chen Yong, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee of China Railway Seventh Bureau Group Co investigated:** According to the Central Commission of Disciplinary Inspection (CCDI), SASAC and the Henan Provincial Disciplinary Commission Supervision Commission, Chen Yong, chairman of the board of supervisors of the Group Co., Ltd., China Railway Seventh Bureau (a subsidiary of China Railway Engineering Group Co., Ltd.) is suspected of serious violations of discipline and law, and is currently undergoing disciplinary review.

II. News in China

- On Tuesday, economic officials from China, economic chief Liu He, and the US - Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, held a virtual meeting, discussing future prospects of China amidst the Russia War, and the "macroeconomic situation and the stability of the global industrial chain and supply chain." The response received by the two officials, by the end of the meeting, seemed fruitful as all the issues concerning the impact of Russia's war on the global economy, as well as the Chinese unfair economic practices were discussed. The communication and cooperation between the two big players in the global economy would stabilize the global supply chain.
- Leaders from Asia-Pacific came together in the NATO summit, held last week, to signal their alliance with the US, i.e. the West. According to the analysts, it seems that China is not facing the US but the West. This move is a result of Russia's recent war on Ukraine and the growing aggression of China. The Chinese friendly attitude over this war has significantly hampered its image in the global community, weakening its assertions over claiming ideals of democracy and sovereignty. The partnership of APAC regions with NATO will strengthen the region's security in the climate of the changing behavior of China.
- Hong Kong's new leader - John Lee - has embarked on enacting a legislation which will cater to all the future risks. He says that this would be done as soon as possible but this would require immense legal research. Looking into every possible risk will ensure that no future amendments are held and harsh national security measures are properly looked into. However, one challenge that this could face is to check if "the law could address the most serious national security risks." Lee mentioned that

Hong Kong should look into other countries which have recently introduced national security bills.

- As the world plummets into fragility with the rising North-South gap, created due to the pandemic, it is essential to promote development by keeping it as the center of the international agenda. Xi addressed this issue in a forum, attended by think tanks and the media in Beijing. He called for China's willingness to work with other countries to further the issue of development and pursue inclusivity in dire times like these. The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals will be implemented as a part of this agenda.
- After a 6.2 magnitude earthquake destroyed Afghanistan on June 22, China lent out its support for the displaced people and revival of the cities by providing RMB 50 million. It will coordinate with the Afghan government to provide relief and support to the people. Amongst all the other countries, the amount of support extended by China, by far, is the greatest. The quality and efficiency of its humanitarian aid is said to provide speedy recovery for the destroyed cities. China strongly believes in the power of humanitarian aid and the principle of serving people not just of their country but also of other countries. Their support has won hearts amongst the Afghans.
- Trade between China and Vietnam plummets due to COVID safety measures and China's zero-covid strategies. Imports from Vietnam declined 87% while imports from China reduced to 52.5%. The Ministry of Industry and Trade in Vietnam blamed China for its strict COVID policies which has affected the trade. It is responsible for the delays in customs clearance at the border. Thousands of containers wait for hours at the border to get clearance, something which is yet to resume to its pre-pandemic levels.
- Chinese state-owned firms have recently expressed their interest in building a metro rail network in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Several experts have criticized this initiative as this could be another project for China's debt trap diplomacy. These firms have claimed that after the construction of this rail network, the Bangladeshi authority will have no control over the maintenance of the project. Bangladeshis are averse to the Chinese motive as they acknowledge how crucial the Chittagong port is to China for trade related purposes and having a firm hold over the city could dictate their interests.
- With the recent trial of Canadian-Chinese billionaire, Xiao Jianhua, several Canadian diplomats were denied access to the trial. After missing for five years in Hong Kong since 2017, Xiao was sent to China on Monday for the trial. The details of the investigation as well as the location for the trial were not disclosed, even when diplomats requested the embassy. Xiao is said to have links with the CPC and in 2017, amongst many conglomerates who were investigated and prosecuted, he was one of them.

- With the remarkable development observed in high school education since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Ministry of Education held a press conference on July 5 to address the successes. The number of students admitted to the high school has had a drastic increase of 91.4%. Efforts by the ministry to establish cooperation with 10 provinces with a low level of popularization in the central and western regions has increased the enrollment rate significantly in 10 years from 2012.

III. India Watch

- The Asia-Pacific (APAC) region's significance has recently been acknowledged by NATO. A small NATO is being established in Asia in order to reinforce and widen the influence of the former. Their partnership with NATO is important for the APAC region's security. Incorporating this region and moving it toward the US and Europe rather than the growing relationship between Russia and China is seen as a strategic and advantageous move because the region is made up of democratic countries, a NATO ideal, and is a dynamic center of technological and economic power.