

6.06.22

*DAILY*  
**CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA**



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**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON  
CHINA AND ASIA**

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## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Fans are inadvertently introduced to the Tiananmen Square Massacre through a Chinese influencer's ice-cream pitch:** On Friday, one of China's most powerful internet influencers stumbled on a political spike while promoting an ice cream product. In the process, he sparked a wave of interest among legions of admirers too young to remember the government's brutal 1989 crackdown on Tiananmen Square protestors.
- **China will complete its investigation into Didi's cybersecurity and ease its prohibition on new customers:** According to the Wall Street Journal, Chinese authorities are wrapping up a year-long investigation into Didi Global Inc, Full Truck Alliance Co, and Kanzhun Ltd, and are planning to lift a prohibition on the companies adding new users as soon as this week.

## II. News in China

- After a PLA fighter jet tries to intimidate an Australian plane, Albanese reaches out to China. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia said his government has contacted Chinese colleagues in Beijing to express its worries over the Australian surveillance plane's collision with a Chinese J-16 fighter jet. The recent incident is the latest in a series of threats made by the Chinese air force and navy against Australian soldiers earlier this year.
- Despite recent relaxation of pandemic regulations in Shanghai, China is not ready to give up its fight against coronavirus epidemics. Shanghai was placed under lockdown in late March as part of the government's zero-COVID policy. In Beijing, several residential neighbourhoods were quarantined, and stores and metro lines were forced to close. The authorities have imposed restrictions on non-essential international travel. Shanghai's lockdown was removed on Wednesday, but there is no indication that China's strict COVID policy would be eased any time soon.
- After the successful launch of a manned spacecraft on Sunday, China hopes to complete construction of its space station this year and enlist the assistance and experience of Russia. China will be the only country with a space station once it is completed. The Russian International Space Station (ISS) is a joint project involving various countries. The China Space Station (CSS) is planned to be a successor to Russia's International Space Station (ISS) as it may become the lone space station to remain in orbit as the ISS departs in the future years, according to observers.
- On Monday, China's Ant Group, a financial technology (fintech) behemoth headed by billionaire Jack Ma, announced the establishment of ANEXT Bank, a digital wholesale bank based in Singapore. The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) has given ANEXT permission to begin operations on June 2, Ant and fully owned ANEXT

- stated in a joint statement. Since Ant's \$37 billion initial public offering was thwarted by Chinese regulators in late 2020, this is one of the company's most significant outside moves.
- China's latest birth numbers, according to an economic history expert, are bogus. China's demographic dilemma, according to the Chinese expert, is worse than official data suggests. According to Kent Deng, an economic history professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science, any development that weakens the People's Liberation Army, such as population decline, will harm the Communist Party's rule in the People's Republic of China (PRC)

## India Watch

- China convened a high-level meeting on RCEP, the world's largest trade treaty, amid the pomp surrounding US President Joe Biden's new Indo-Pacific policy. It occurred only days after the Biden administration unveiled the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, or IPEF, a 13-country collaboration (excluding China) aimed at strengthening the US' political and economic leadership in the Indo-Pacific region. Analysts anticipate China will press ahead with agreed-upon trade pacts and profit on ready-to-go tariffs and market accesses rather than responding to or resisting IPEF, as seen by the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) summit on the southern island of Hainan.