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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

- **TikTok is back in the firing line of the US-China digital rivalry:** FCC commissioner Brendan Carr writes in his letter: ByteDance, situated in Beijing, is the company that owns TikTok. ByteDance is a Communist Party of China front organization, and by law, it must abide by the PCR's (People's Republic of China) surveillance requirements. According to TikTok's privacy statement, the company does not sell user information to outside parties but does reserve the right to utilize it internally for corporate development. Its parent firm, ByteDance, may also utilize that information for internal purposes. TikTok US has frequently refuted allegations that it violated US data privacy laws. It claims that user data is kept on US servers and is not given to ByteDance. However, Carr asserts that these steps fall short of ensuring US users' privacy.
- **3rd Anniversary of 5G licensing:** On the 3rd anniversary of 5G licensing, Meng Pu, Chairman of Qualcomm China, said that 5G has become an important engine and key infrastructure for digital transformation. Qualcomm has a "unified technology roadmap" and is at the intersection of the intelligent interconnection of everything, enterprise digital transformation and key industry development trends. In the future, Qualcomm will continue to use 5G and other innovative technologies as a cloud ladder to create an open innovation ecosystem and accelerate the realization of the beautiful vision of intelligent interconnection between people and everything.

II. News in China

- In China, life expectancy has increased to 77.93 years compared to declining birth rates. Whilst the world's second-largest economy battled a demographic crisis caused by falling birth rates, life expectancy in China climbed by more than 0.6 of a year to 77.93 years. The alarming decline in childbirths and the alarming rise in the elderly population in China created a demographic catastrophe that required the government to build more geriatric care facilities. In 2016, China abolished the strict one-child policy that had been in place for decades and was credited by policymakers with causing the current demographic problem. In an apparent effort to address the unwillingness of couples to have more children due to rising costs, China issued a new Population and Family Planning Law last year that permits Chinese couples to have 3 children.
- A calculated delay has been seen in the decision on sale of the largest chip manufacturer in the UK to a Chinese-owned company. The majority of semiconductors in the world are made in facilities in Taiwan and South Korea, but the sector has gained geopolitical importance as China has begun to make its presence felt on the international scene under its president, Xi Jinping. The global

computer chip shortages brought on by the epidemic have resulted in significant production delays for automobile manufacturers in the UK and elsewhere, as well as for software companies and other industries.

- China is prepared to expand its multilateral collaboration with Russia. Russian Ambassador to China Andrey Denisov was informed by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu that China is eager to expand cooperation with Moscow within multilateral frameworks, including the G20. According to a statement released by the Chinese foreign minister of state on Wednesday, Ma told Denisov at a meeting on Tuesday that China is likewise eager to improve strategic coordination with Russia as well as broaden practical cooperation in other domains.
- As requests to maintain the tariffs mount, President Biden is still considering his options. The White House announced on Tuesday that U.S. President Joe Biden's administration is still considering alternatives over whether to reduce tariffs on Chinese imports in order to reduce inflation as industry pleads to keep the taxes growing. The U.S. Trade Representative's office has received more than 400 requests to maintain tariffs on Chinese imports. Among them is a group of 24 labor unions, ranging from the AFL-CIO to the Air Line Pilots Association, who have asked that the \$370 billion in "Section 301" tariffs imposed on Chinese imports by the previous president Donald Trump be kept in place.
- State-run media and government representatives from China have backed Pakistan's objection to India hosting any G20 events in Jammu & Kashmir in 2023. The Chinese government celebrated the completion of its first significant hydropower project as part of the Silk Road Economic Belt on the Jhelum River, which runs along the border of Punjab and the western portion of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), or what Pakistan refers to as "AJK." China Three Gorges Corporation built the dam. The remarks highlighted Chinese viewpoints on the Kashmir issue, which have only become more pronounced recently, especially since 2019. Beijing declared its opposition to the reorganization in that year and later brought up the subject at the UN.

III. India Watch

- India has a strategic barrier in the form of Beijing's objections to India hosting G20 events in Jammu and Kashmir. Following the meticulous arrangement of the Diamond and Pearl Necklaces, it appears that the region's strategic importance will lead to conflicts on numerous fronts. Aside from the Silk Road Economic Belt, India has a lot to worry about in the region of conflicts, while China urges both nations to resolve disagreements on a multilateral basis, leaving no room for unilateral actions. This stands in stark contrast to China's previous Belt and Road initiative, which crossed Indian territory without India's consent. Pakistan has taken use of its

fulcrum position to put pressure on India, which sees Kashmir as a national problem, by attracting global attention. The three countries' foreign policies all aim to dissuade future aggression in this situation, but the geopolitical landscape may soon be shaped by the partnerships that each state forms.