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DAILY
CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA

ORCA

ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA

PREPARED BY

Siddhant Nair (Research Intern) for Team ORCA
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Netizens criticize COVID outbreak and lack of prevention:** As per Weibo chatter, netizens argue that schools have become a weak link in epidemic prevention and control. As of the 13th, this round of epidemic in Putian has affected 6 schools. Of the 36 students infected, 30 are under 10 years old. In addition, there are also minors infected in the chain of epidemic transmission in Xiamen and Quanzhou.

II. News in China

- Xi Jinping sent a letter to a battalion of the People's Republic Army stationed in the plateau region, thanking them for protecting the sovereignty of their motherland.
- The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology released a report highlighting data such as the growth of Chinese manufacturing sector from 16.98 trillion yuan in 2012 to 26.6 trillion yuan in 2020; more than 40% of Chinese products are ranked at the top of the world; growth of photovoltaic equipment, new energy vehicles, home appliances, and smartphones industries and 400 million 5G terminal connections.
- The 18th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit officially concluded, with nearly 300 billion yuan ($46.59 billion) worth deals being signed.
- SCIO held a press conference where he spoke about promoting high-quality development through set plans and goals over the next five years for the central region.
- The 12th China-US Political Party Leaders Dialogue was held where Song Tao spoke the need to strengthen dialogue and the need to return to stable development. He stated that China is fully willing to work with the US, increase cooperation between the two states and settle differences.
- Wang Yi met the Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Techo Hun Sen and discussed strengthening ties over trade, regional peace and combatting COVID-19 pandemic. Hun Sen reiterated Cambodia's support for China in issues such as Taiwan, Hong Kong and Xinjiang.
- China has pledged USD 270 million in aid to Cambodia and USD 160 million to build the Morodok Techno National Stadium. Wang also met Hor Nam Hong, the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia to discuss cooperation and strength against outside forces.
- The Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong paid an official visit to Wang Yi, during his visit to Cambodia.

- Dalian University of Technology <u>passed a new regulation</u> in the student handbook, banning unmarried students from sexual activities.
- <u>Crackdown on financial institution corruption</u> continues as nearly 20 cadres have been investigated this year.
- <u>COVID-19 outbreak in Fujian</u> grows as dozens of people from across the province have tested positive for the virus, forcing the country on high alert.

III. India Watch

- Following <u>our yesterday's report</u> on India identifying a gap in its air capabilities and investing in locally made early warning systems, <u>Eurasian Times compared</u> China's J-10A fighter and J-10C fighter to India's Mark-1A fighter. The Mark-1A fighter is inferior to the J-10C fighter while "on par" with the J-10A fighter, as per findings by the Eurasian Times. Investing and improving technology via self-dependence like early warning systems is hence a crucial step. Despite gaps, India is increasing the number of bilateral and multilateral <u>military exercises</u> it takes part in. These military exercises are essential in increasing cooperation and trust between countries, while honing combat tactics and skills. India is actively challenging China in different geopolitical arenas, marking itself as an "active player" witih power.
- As China's COVID-19 outbreak grows again, it is important to note that numbers being shared by state media and state departments are most likely not complete. Keeping a tab on social media chatter in this regard becomes crucial, especially before the posts are censored.