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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Heartwarming picture goes viral showing demographic trend:** On 10th April, a picture of a one-month-old infant with his 105-year-old great-great-grandfather went viral. The hashtag got over 65.805 million views as netizens marveled at the 'one century age difference'. (See Image 1)
- **Complex epidemic prevention prevails:** A video trended on Baidu showing a person carrying a 'radar life detector' at a high-speed exit in Wuxi, which could detect people hiding in trucks. The device was being used to control the spread of the epidemic. The technology only takes 20 seconds to work, and there is no need for the staff to unpack each truck, thereby reducing the wait time. (See Image 2)
- **An oxygen cylinder factory in Shanghai was forced to close:** Many Shanghai citizens reported that their supply of household oxygen cylinders at home was about to be cut off. They could not buy oxygen cylinders anywhere. Investigation revealed that the Shanghai Shenwei Medical Gas Co., which supplies 90% of the cylinders in Shanghai, stopped production and distribution due to some employees testing positive for COVID-19.

II. News in China

- On 8th April, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense reported that four Chinese military aircraft had entered Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ). They appeared in the southwest sector of the ADIZ and were warned to leave. Air defense missile systems have been deployed to monitor the aircraft.
- Intelligence in Taiwan has alleged around 100 Chinese companies have attempted illegal poaching of semiconductor engineers and other tech talents. Chinese companies with false identities are under investigation. These companies allegedly woo new talent with offers of increased salaries. The Taiwanese government has proposed to make the leaking of core technologies a breach of national security law.
- China has vehemently opposed Nancy Pelosi's (Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives) anticipated visit to Taiwan. Calling it a violation of the One-China principle, Zhao commented that the visit would send the wrong message to the Taiwan separatist forces. China has warned the USA to cancel the visit or be faced with firm measures.
- China and New Zealand upgraded their Free Trade Agreement with four new chapters: e-commerce, competition policy, government procurement, environment, and trade. China is New Zealand's largest trading partner, accounting for 30% of New Zealand's exports. Trade between the two nations soared 34.6% to \$24.72 billion in 2021.
- With pressures on the healthcare system due to a severe coronavirus outbreak,

Shanghai has built more than 100 makeshift hospitals with more than 160,000 beds. People with mild or asymptomatic infections are being admitted into these makeshift hospitals. Medical personnel from other provinces have been dispatched to Shanghai to fight the outbreak.

- The Central Cyberspace Administration has launched the 'Qinglang 2022 Comprehensive Algorithm Governance' campaign to investigate and rectify algorithms, focusing on large-scale websites that draw maximum public opinion, illegal information, and abuse of algorithms.
- China conducted an online press conference in retaliation to the public hearing by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security consisting of witnesses from Xinjiang. At the press conference, residents from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region talked about their lives and careers. China alleged that USA's public hearing demonstrated the hypocrisy of the U.S. legal and judicial system. China also denied the U.S.'s allegations of forced labor.
- The Renminbi's (RMB) status as an official reserve currency continues to strengthen. Judging by the IMF's Currency Composition of Official Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER) data, the proportion of RMB in COFER rose again in the fourth quarter of 2021. The proportion of RMB in global foreign exchange reserves rose from 2.66% to 2.79%, ranking fifth in the world. According to the Official Forum of Monetary and Financial Institutions, 30% of the world's central banks plan to increase their RMB reserves in the next 24 months, and 70% plan to increase their holdings in the long term.
- On 9th April, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Serbian Foreign Minister Nikola Selakovic held a phone conversation regarding bilateral ties. Topics covered were: comprehensive strategic partnership, construction of the Budapest-Belgrade Railway in the Novi Sad-Subotica section, operation and development of vital cooperative enterprises, and bilateral free trade agreement.

India Watch

- It has been revealed that India has refused China's proposal to disengage troops from Patrolling Point (PP) 15 in Eastern Ladakh which was presented at the time of Wang Yi's visit. China said if India moved back between PP 16 and PP 17, it would withdraw troops just behind the Line of Actual Control. India rejected the proposal because the LAC and the Chinese claim line intersect at PP 15. Accepting the proposal would have meant that the Indian troops would move several kilometers back.

Image 1: Picture of one-month-old infant with his 105-year-old great-great-grandfather



Image 2: Image of a 'radar life detector' at a high-speed exit in Wuxi,

