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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

• Video of Trudeau getting schooled by Xi at G20 Summit goes viral: Chinese President Xi Jinping has given Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau a well-publicized dressingdown, accusing him of leaking to the media the contents of a meeting between the two leaders about alleged Chinese interference in the 2019 federal election. It's also an object lesson in diplomatic communication as Xi was apparently trying to push Canada back towards an earlier Canadian stance that accepted closed-door discussion. Chinese leaders believe they can push Canada around; that is one reason why China feels free to arrest Canadian citizens like Huseyin Celil, "re-educate" Uighurs and thumb its nose at the global human rights system. The confrontation has grabbed attention around the world and sparked debate about the ways diplomatic conversations are communicated to the public.

## **NEWS IN CHINA**

• On November 17, a Chinese intelligence official was found guilty of corporate espionage for stealing trade secrets in the aviation industry. He was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison by a court in Ohio on Wednesday. Xu Yanjun, 42, was an official in the Chinese Ministry of State Security and is the first Chinese spy to be extradited to the United States following his arrest in Belgium in 2018. He was found guilty of attempting to steal designs for an engine fan from Ohiobased GE Aviation. Department of Justice officials said it was part of an organized effort by Beijing to "modernize" its own economy by stealing U.S. technology. The Occurrence of this



- event comes amid an ongoing U.S. campaign to target corporate espionage by Beijing, with two spies arrested last month after seeking information to help Chinese telecoms giant Huawei's defense in a similar case surrounding trade secrets.
- The population rate of national increase (RNI) in 13 Chinese provinces is only of 480,000 people in 2021, the lowest since 1962, states a data released by the National Bureau of Statistics. The country is very close to the warning line of negative population growth. The National Bureau of Statistics listed the death rates, birth rates and RNI of a total of 31 provinces. The Northeast provinces of China Heilongjiang, Liaoning and Jilin, Southwest China's Sichuan and Chongging, North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Shanxi. Hebei and Tianiin. Central China's Hunan and Hubei as well as East China's Jiangsu and Shanghai were in the negative zone. Experts have stated different reasons for different regions to have negative RNI. While the negative RNI in Central and North China's regions mainly resulted from the outflow of young people, and the relatively high urbanization may cause negative RNI in places such as Shanghai, Jiangsu and Tianjin.
- Anthony Albanese, Australian Prime
   Minister, said that his government was
   unlikely to <u>support Taiwan's</u> bid to join the
   Comprehensive and Progressive
   Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership
   (CPTPP) as the trade group was only for
   recognized nation-states. Taiwan filed its
   application to join the 11-member bloc in
   September last year, with several countries,
   including Japan, expressing support for its
- plans. Taiwan filed its application to join the 11-member bloc in September last year, with several countries, including Japan, expressing support for its plans. Albanese made the statement in the margin of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Bangkok, which is open to "economies" including Taiwan. His comments met with criticism from the opposition. The timing of the prime minister's statement just three days after a meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping also provoked suspicion, with Taiwanese reporters at the APEC event following Albanese around asking him whether the two were keeping in touch, per the Liberty Times. Both the Australian opposition and Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) rejected the notion that the CPTPP was only open to internationally recognized states, saying the organization's text about membership mentioned "states or separate customs territories" as potential members. MOFA said it had asked the Australian government to clarify its position in order to avoid any misunderstandings, adding that Australia should "encourage" and "facilitate" nations like Taiwan to join the CPTPP.
- China is considering holding a 3rd Belt and Road Forum for international cooperation.
  said Chinese president Xi Jinping. This would give a new boost to development and prosperity in Asia-Pacific and the wider world. He made the remarks while addressing the 29th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting in Thailand.

## **INDIA WATCH**

• In July, 2022, Chinese espionage links were uncovered in India while probing money laundering. Recent evidence suggests that Chinese corporations are being used as arms of the Chinese state for espionage. The Indian government has been busting spy rings, studying incoming Chinese investments into India;, carrying out tax raids on major Chinese telecom companies;, and cracking down on Chinese mobile apps since 2020. Raids have been carried out on firms like ZTE and Huawei. apart from Vivo and Xiaomi. The availability of cheap and even underpriced products from these firms has given them a significant market share in India. Several Chinese companies are being probed for profiling 'high value' individuals, exfiltrating bulk data, and engaging in large-scale tax evasion. Their goal seems to be to gain a strategic advantage over India's economic and security systems. There are hundreds of small Chinese companies, a web controlled by Chinese nationals with dummy Indian directors and managers, to provide a veil of legitimacy. A probe by the Registrar of Companies revealed that these companies did not physically exist at their registered offices, although the bank accounts were active. They were being operated from abroad. One such company was used to influence Tibetan monks living in India. Luo Sang, a Chinese national, was arrested in 2020. He was sending money in packets to Tibetan monks. The Government of India suspects that the money was provided to Tibetan monks to gather information about the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan governmentin-exile.