



writetous.orca@gmail.com

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

• 'High-quality singlehood better than low-quality marriage' states 38 year old woman's decision to remain single inspires many and rekindles debate over China's marriage craze: A single woman from Liaoning, Northeastern China, trended online after criticising the nation's culture of "marriage as young as possible at any cost." In mainland China, it is common practice to urge and sometimes even force young people to get married. According to a 2016 official survey, the provinces of Henan, Sichuan, and Shandong had the largest number of young people being coerced into marriage by their parents. She stated that she does not believe "marriage is a promised utopia or sanctuary" and would rather live independently and joyfully. In the video, she was seen living a laid-back lifestyle, cooking dishes of her choice in pyjamas, and taking her time arranging her clothes and make-up for social occasions. "I think nowadays women are no longer living in the age of depending on men in marriage, so I find my way to live my life," she said. One person wrote: "I agree with her. As long as we live the way we like, it will be fine." Another critic said, "She is selfish. If many people thought like her, where would the next generations come from?"

NEWS IN CHINA

 President Xi Jinping attended the 17th G20 Summit on November 16 in Bali, Indonesia, and delivered a speech. The "G20 Leaders' Bali Conference Declaration" was adopted at the summit. In his discussion on the topic of digital transformation, Xi Jinping highlighted that the scale of the

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digital economy is currently growing and the global digital transformation is increasing, which has become a significant element affecting the global economic structure. The concept of the digital economy first proposed during China's hosting of the G20 Hangzhou Summit has now fostered more collaboration in adapting to digital transformation. It is hoped that all parties will revitalise digital cooperation so that the advantages of digital economic development can benefit every nation. Building "small courtyards and high walls" to limit scientific cooperation is not in the common interest of the international community, so all countries must uphold multilateralism, strengthen international cooperation, bridge the digital divide, collaborate, and adhere to the drive of innovation to help the post-epidemic recovery.

• Xi Jinping, the Chinese President, will attend the 29th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in his 3 days visit to Bangkok, Thailand from November 17 to 19. Thai politicians and experts have lauded the visit as a "step that would further improve bilateral ties between China and Thailand" as it coincides with the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the two countries' comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. Former Thai Vice Prime Minister Phinij Jarusombat anticipates President Xi's attendance at this year's APEC, as it will have a big impact on global economic growth and China-Thai collaboration. Former Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva also commended China's economic growth, improvements in living standards, and efforts to combat poverty. A Thai expert praised the Belt and Road

Initiative (BRI), expressing the hope that it will open up more new chances for Thailand's future development.

- On Wednesday, China launched a carrier rocket, <u>CERES-1 Y4</u> with a commercial design from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. At 2:20 PM, the rocket CERES-1 Y4 launched five tiny satellites into a sun-synchronous orbit (SSO). The satellites are from the Jilin-1 Gaofen series. By 2025, the series is anticipated to include 138 satellites, making it China's largest commercial observation constellation. It is the first time China has used a rocket with a commercial design to launch a constellation network. The rocket is a four-stage solid-fuel launch vehicle designed by Beijing-based aerospace company Galactic Energy and is adaptable for missions to launch small satellites. With 14 satellites launched into orbit, this is CERES-1's fourth launch mission.
- Beijing convened a press briefing on the prevention and control of the new crown pneumonia outbreak in the afternoon of November 16 to provide an update on the epidemic's current state. The Municipal Center for Disease Control and Prevention's deputy director, Liu Xiaofeng, stated that the new coronavirus is still mutating and that there is still a lot of ambiguity regarding the outbreak. The prevention and control situation is challenging. The survey discovered that some infected people failed to strictly enforce home isolation and nucleic acid testing, did not wear masks in crowded places, and still participated in social activities when symptoms arose, which increased the risk

of epidemic transmission. Liu Xiaofeng emphasised on the importance of nucleic acid testing, home isolation, and health monitoring in case of symptoms while reminding people to use masks in public places.

• The "Regulations on the Administration of Internet Post Comment Services" were recently updated by the State Internet Information Office and will take effect on December 15, 2022. The new "Regulations" are designed to improve the standardisation of the management of Internet comment services, protect public safety and national security, defend the legal rights and interests of individuals and other organisations, and encourage the healthy growth of Internet comment services. New issues in the Internet comment service have evolved as a result of the Internet's rapid growth of new technologies. To solve these issues, 16 new "Regulations" articles like the management obligations of post comment service producers and users, public account producers and operators to adhere to pertinent requirements, etc have been established. Public account producers and operators must tighten their control over comment information content, promptly identify inappropriate information content in comment links, and take appropriate action.

INDIA WATCH

 At the G-20 summit, Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi came face to face with Chinese President Xi Jinping, for the first time after the Galwan valley skirmish in 2020. China reiterated stable relations with

India ahead of the G20 Summit held in Bali, as India would preside over the G20 Summit for a year beginning December 1, 2022. Narendra Modi took over the G20 presidency from Indonesian President Joko Widodo at a time when India is poised to be the world's fastest growing major economy. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Mao Ning expressed optimism ahead of the G-20 Summit that both sides will uphold the significant understandings achieved between the leaders of China and India and encourage healthy and steady growth of their relations. At present, maintaining good ties would be advantageous for both China and India as this would imply working together towards the same goal on enhancing food and energy security, digital transformation, and health at the leaders' level.